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CM directs Economic zone authority to attract, facilitate investment

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has decided to activate the Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) in order to attract investment, facilitate investors, and ensure proper development at the Special Economic Zone.

"We have nine notified special economic zones, including those under the provincial and federal government as well as the private sector, but all of them need to be more productive with necessary facilities.

This he said while presiding over a meeting of the SEZA board at CM House on Tuesday. It was attended by Secretary Energy Musadiq Khan, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Livestock Kazim Jatoi, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Burro, Asif Juma, CEO SEZ Faisal Mujteeb, Rehan Mujtaba, Faizan Ghori and others.

Shah said that the SEZA was responsible for preparing zone applications, selecting developers, and coordinating with federal and provincial authorities to develop infrastructure. "It has to facilitate the availability of public utilities to zone enterprises as a development plan but all this would be possible when it would appoint professionals to carry forward its business," he said.

The meeting was told that there were nine notified special economic zones, SITE Larkana, in Sindh, including Khairpur, Dhabeji, BinQasim Industrial Park, Korangi Creek Industrial Park and Nausheroferoze Industrial Park of the federal government and Service Long March, PFB, Armstrong of the private sector.

The chief minister said that the SEZA has to work hard to attract investment in all these economic zones and the Khairpur Special Economic has a complete infrastructure that needs to be made fully functional, he said and directed the SEZA to assess the requirements and issues of all the economic zones so that they could be addressed for the strengthening of the economy of the country. The CM approved the proposal for the appointment of professionals, such as manager Accounts & Finance, Manager Admin & HR, Manager IT and Operations and Manager legal.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Possibility of heavy rains across province Govt completes preparations to deal with any emergency situation, says Sharjeel

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced the possibility of heavy rains across the province until August 31. The Sindh government has completed its preparations to deal with any emergency situation, and the public is urged to cooperate with authorities in the event of any sudden developments. In a statement, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that a rain emergency cell has been established at the Chief Minister's House. In view of the monsoon rains, the Sindh government has appointed in-charges in 30 districts across the province. The Sindh Chief Minister has directed all ministers, advisers, special assistants, and divisional commissioners to remain alert and active.

Senior Minister Memon also mentioned that there is a risk of flooding in coastal areas. Fishermen have been instructed not to venture into the sea. Necessary machinery has been provided to towns for drainage, and the KMC and Water Board have already improved the drainage system. He added that local bodies and elected representatives of the People's Party, including UC Chairmen, have been instructed to coordinate with the relevant administrations. Additionally, the embankments along Hamal Lake to Manchar Lake are being reinforced, and monitoring of weak points is ongoing.

To meet contemporary demands Sardar emphasizes need to modernize college education in Sindh

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh's Minister for Education and Mineral Development, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, has emphasized the need to modernize college education in Sindh to meet contemporary demands. He stressed that colleges must introduce skill-based education, information technology, Fine Arts lecturers, and other new subjects to enable students to make informed career choices with confidence. He made these remarks while presiding over a meeting regarding the Department of College Education in Karachi today. The meeting was attended by Secretary of Colleges Asif Ikram, Director General of Colleges Navaid Rab Siddiqui, Chief Engineer of Colleges Asim Hussain, Director of Development



that there are 372 colleges in Sindh, comprising 131 male, 152 female, and 89 co-educational institutions. The Sindh Electronic Centralized College Admission Program (SECCAP) is fully operational for online applications, with the deadline extended to August 31, 2024. Out of 355,577 available seats, 203,852 applications have been received, with 111,043 male and 92,809 female applications approved. Admissions have been granted in disciplines such as Pre-Medical, Pre-Engineering, Computer Science, Commerce.

CM directs IGP to arrest journo Bachal Ghanjo's killers immediately

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has taken notice of the killing of a journalist in an attack by bandits of kacha in Ghotki area of the Sindh province.

The CM has expressed his grief and sorrow over journalist Muhammad Bachal Ghanjo's killing. Murad directed the IGP Sindh to arrest immediately the killers of martyred journalist Muhammad Bachal Ghanjo. The operation against dacoits should be made more effective, he directed.

Governor invites Iranian businessmen to invest capital under SIFC

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has invited Iranian investors to invest their capital under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a platform presented by the Chief of the Army Staff for the economic stability of the country. According to a spokesman, Governor Sindh said this while addressing Iranian businessmen here at the Iranian Consulate late Monday night.

Governor Kamran Tessori said like investors from other countries, Iranian businessmen could invest their capital under SIFC and get benefits from the initiative.

Journalist Bachal Ghancho assassinated in Mirpur Mathelo

Independent Report
MIRPUR MATHELO: Unidentified armed men shot and killed journalist Bachal Ghancho in the Raunti area of Mirpur Mathelo. Ghancho, a representative of a private news channel, was attacked while on his way to his agricultural land.

He was shot multiple times and died on the spot. His body was shifted to the Taluka Hospital in Ubauro for necessary procedures and later handed over to his heirs.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the board meeting of the Special Economic Zone Authority at CM House.

Governor hosts ceremony in honour of Arshad Nadeem

KARACHI (APP): A special ceremony was held at the Governor House in honour of Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem on Tuesday.

The event was attended by consuls general from various countries, including China, Turkey, Iran, Qatar, and Bangladesh. The ceremony also saw the participation of the victorious Under-15 football team.

Addressing the event, Governor Kamran Tessori announced the inclusion of sports in the Governor's Initiative.

He emphasized his commitment to providing all possible support and assistance to sports activities across the province.

The governor also mentioned that gold medalist Arshad Nadeem and his coach would play an active role in supporting these efforts.

Governor Tessori further announced the organization of a marathon in Karachi in January, which he described as the largest event of its kind. He highlighted the success of IT initiatives, with many individuals earning between \$300 to \$600 per month after completing IT courses, and expressed his intention to similarly elevate sports in the province.

In recognition of the Under-15 football team's achievement, Governor Tessori announced a reward of one million rupees, a motorcycle for each player, and an additional one lakh rupees for each member of the team. He expressed his hope that the team would continue to bring honour to the country through their dedication and hard work.

During the ceremony, Governor Sindh presented a gold necklace to Arshad Nadeem.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori addresses the participants of a reception in honor of the Olympian Arshad Nadeem at Governor House.

Sindh started IT training program for 10,000 youth: Nasir Shah

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Energy and Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Tuesday, said that Sindh government has started an IT training program for 10,000 youth to equip them with emerging job-oriented technologies.

The scope of the program will be enhanced to 100,000 youth in a gradual manner, the minister stated while addressing during visit of the 25th ITCN Asia 2024 International IT and Telecom Show, Exhibition and Conference and later talking to media at Expo Center Karachi.

The information and communication technology has turned the world into a global village and Sindh government, on the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, was taking various measures for training of the youth in job oriented latest technologies, he said and informed that IT training program was part of those endeavors.

Nasir Shah appreciated the organizers of the event and termed the exhibition as a ray of hope for the youth.

He expressed pleasure that more than 25 thousand youth and businessmen have visited the exhibition on the opening day. Our youth is talented and future of Pakistan is bright, he added.

CS commends PNRA for its diligent efforts in regulating nuclear safety across province

Independent Report
KARACHI: A delegation of the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) led by Muhammad Qayyum Khan, DG (I&E), Hafiz Muhammad Zubair Arif, Director RNSD-III, Muhammad Nadeem, Head RSD Asad Mehmood Akhtar called on Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Asif Hyder Shah here on Tuesday. The PNRA delegation briefed Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Hyder Shah.

The meeting, which focused on improving coordination among relevant agencies, was attended by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Director General Rescue 1122, DG SEPA, Deputy Commissioner Keamari, and other key stakeholders. The PNRA delegation provided a comprehensive overview of their ongoing regulatory activities, emphasizing the importance of maintaining high safety standards and effective coordination among all involved entities. They discussed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and other safety protocols developed in accordance with international standards.

Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Hyder Shah, commended the PNRA for its diligent efforts in regulating nuclear safety across the province.

Cabinet approves Rs 20 b for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, Rs 1.95 bln for Reko Diq security

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal cabinet to tackle the recent terrorist incidents across country has approved Rs20 billion for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam on Tuesday.

Held with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in chair, the cabinet meeting discussed a six-point agenda which also focused on economic and political situation of the country.

The federal cabinet also approved Rs 1.95 billion for FC Balochistan to ensure the security of the Reko Diq project.

Additionally, the cabinet reduced its expenses and approved recommendations from the Right Sizing Committee to cut costs further.

Decisions made in recent ECC meeting were also approved by the cabinet.

No leniency or talks with terrorists; nation united to root out terrorism: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday categorically announced that the government would neither hold any talks nor show any leniency to the terrorists who were poised to disrupt the country's journey towards progress.

"The time has come to eliminate terrorism. The sacrifices being rendered for the cause will never be squandered. We need to move forward with firm resolve. There is no question of any weakness. We are open to talks with those who believe in the supremacy of Pakistan's constitution and respect its flag. But there can be no leniency or talks with those who are enemies in the guise of friends. This is a clear message. There are no two opinions on this," the prime minister said addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him.

The prime minister began his remarks by reiterating the condemnation of the terror incidents held in different parts of the country during the last couple of days killing dozens of citizens and the officers and personnel of the security forces.

The cabinet members also offered Fateha for the victims of terror incidents and Rana Afzaal, the brother of Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, who passed away on Monday. The prime minister said that it was no secret that the terrorists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operating from Afghanistan were behind these terrorist attacks.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for further strengthening strategic cooperation with China

President Zardari confers Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) award on Chinese

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has said that China is a trusted and great friend of Pakistan, and both countries need to further strengthen strategic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two sides.

He said that both countries enjoyed historic relations, spanning over seven decades, and affirmed Pakistan's resolve to stand with China in view of the changing global scenario.

The president expressed these views while talking to the visiting Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, who along with his delegation, called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming the Chinese commander, the president underscored the need for further enhancing military and defence cooperation, people-to-people contacts, and cultural linkages to bring the two countries further closer.

He said that Pakistan was encouraging the learning of the Chinese language which would greatly help promote people-to-people ties.

The president remarked that China Pakistan Economic Corridor was his initiative, envisioned during his previous tenure as the President of Pakistan.

He said that enemies of Pakistan and China did not want their bilateral relations to flourish, adding the two countries should work closely to overcome shared challenges.



KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah meeting with Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House.

Administration alert to cope with situation during rain in city: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said that all administrative and municipal staff, along with pumps and other machinery, will continue to serve the people on roads during the rainfall in metropolis.

The Mayor appealed to citizens to support the administration in their drainage efforts during the current spell of rain, said a statement. Murtaza said that there was a heavy rain for about half an hour in the city, with varying amounts of rainfall at different locations, estimated to be around 50 millimeters. The rain has now stopped, however, if it further rain, the staff is on alert, he added.

The Mayor Karachi said most major roads are now clear, though some areas had stagnant water which has been cleared, and KMC teams are still present there. According to the meteorological department's forecast, this rain spell is expected to continue in Karachi for the next few days, he added. He emphasized that by supporting each other and adopting better strategies, the city can be kept clean and well-maintained.

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation had completed pre-emptive preparations for drainage before the onset of the current rain spell.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Balochistan attacks

Bad news keeps coming from Balochistan. Since Sunday night, in a series of coordinated militant attacks across the province, over 70 people, including security personnel, the assailants and ordinary citizens, have lost their lives.

Starting with the execution-style killing of 23 travellers in Musakhail, the terrorists blew up a railway bridge in Bolan, set several vehicles on fire at a Levies station in Mastung, and gunned down 11 people in Kalat before raiding an FC camp in Bela. This has been the most widespread assault in years. The separatist terrorist outfit BLA has claimed responsibility, maintaining that it had seized control of a big portion of the FC camp and most highways.

ISPR asserted that the security forces and law-enforcement agencies responded immediately to these criminal attacks, especially in Musakhail, Kalat and Lasbela, and killed 21 terrorists in ensuing clearance operations. However, it also said that 10 security forces soldiers and four LEAs personnel were martyred during the operation. These horrific attacks suggest that Baloch militants have intensified their violent campaign against the state and security forces. The army has vowed to bring the "instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts to justice".

Balochistan has been in turmoil for many decades. The last two decades, especially following the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti in an army operation, have seen the emergence of several armed secessionist groups. Strong evidence is said to link some of them to India and other neighbouring countries, who are opposed to the idea of a secure Pakistan.

These groups have targeted security forces, public installations, Chinese interests, unarmed Punjabi workers in Balochistan, and politicians who, as opposed to the militants, believe in a democratic struggle for the political and economic rights of the Baloch. Their violent acts and the killing of innocent people must be strongly condemned. The intensity of these attacks should put the whole country, especially its military and political guardians, on alert. That said, although kinetic action against those who target the province so mercilessly is necessary, the civil and security leadership must look deeper into the Balochistan question and identify the factors that have intensified the tension between the Baloch and the state. The reasons behind this wave of disaffection that have led young middle-class men and women to protest are well-known; they pertain to human rights violations, poor socioeconomic conditions, and the denial of political rights. These factors provide a fertile recruiting ground for terrorist groups on the lookout for angry, frustrated elements to join their ranks. The centre cannot ignore Baloch voices anymore, especially those who condemn violence and want peace and genuine efforts for change. It is only by listening to and cooperating with the people of Balochistan that the terrorists can be eliminated.

Development first?

Syed Sikander Mehdi

Even a cursory review of discussions in Pakistan on the subject suggests that a desperate search for a shortcut to development has been going on for decades. How to attain fast-paced development seems to be the main concern of policymakers and institutions, and not what kind of development and development for whom.

Enthusiasts support the idea of 'development first' and 'development at any cost'. Some suggest, directly or indirectly, that democracy and freedom can wait and a 'transitional government' — a sort of national government, a government run by technocrats, a strong autocratic government — should be established for a period of 10 to 20 years to deliver. The Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean, South Korean, and, until recently, the Bangladeshi models of development have been cited to justify authoritarian governance and market the narrative of development without freedom.

In the case of Bangladesh, the events following the Dhaka University students' protest against the quota system in government jobs, which led to the toppling of Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's government earlier this month, clearly show that development without freedom is no guarantee of political stability and sustainable development.

Since it emerged as a sovereign country in 1971, Bangladesh has passed through many storms and evolved like a number of other post-colonial societies. Pre-1971, the eastern wing

struggled for equal rights and democracy. However, on attaining statehood, it drifted away from its cherished goals. By and large, its post-independence history remains overshadowed by authoritarian governance, mob violence, successful and unsuccessful military coups, the assassination of political leaders — including Bangladesh's founder Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members in August 1975 and Lt-Gen Ziaur Rahman, the sixth president of Bangladesh, in May 1981 — stifling of the media, rigged elections and rampant corruption. A country created in the name of democracy, freedom, and prosperity for all ended up as a typical Third World country.

However, the long and uninterrupted autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina Wajed from 2009 to 2024 did transform the country into a roaring economic success. Small wonder, then, that the rise of the country as one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia was noticed worldwide.

What was less noticed, however, was its medieval style of politics. The new history of Bangladesh, written on the premises of the universities, colleges and schools of Dhaka and other cities and towns, and on the streets and paddy fields of the country, has revealed that spectacular development without freedom is akin to building a gigantic building structure on a very weak foundation.

In less than a few weeks, the pyramid of power and economy was brought down by a popular uprising. This uprising was not led by any towering opposition leader, nor by the front-ranking, military-

supported Bangladesh Nationalist Party, nor by prominent social reformers and civil society leaders, including Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, who now heads the post-Hasina Wajed government. Led by little-known student leaders, this historic movement rejected the idea of development without freedom.

Amartya Sen, leading Indian economist and Nobel laureate, published an important study in 1999. This study, which is titled 'Development as Freedom', exercised considerable influence on the international discourse on development and change. In this study, he puts forward the idea that development is freedom, because it increases the freedom of choice.

The idea of development at any cost, and the Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean, South Korean and, later, the Bangladeshi model of development, seem to have impressed many development experts and policymakers in Pakistan. The viewpoint is quite widespread that rapid development should be attained even if freedoms and rights have to be sacrificed. Being fascinated by the authoritarian brand, many pay little attention to the consequences of the rapidly spreading fascist tendencies in various societies around the world. Worse still, it is little noticed and much less appreciated that countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and US, and several others, have been enjoying sustainable development because of the blending of democracy, freedom, rule of law and development in their political, economic and social system. — Courtesy Dawn

Man and microbe

Naseem Salahuddin

The human body consists of trillions of individually living cells that breathe, fight, attack, die, rejuvenate, and replenish. The human cell is a world in itself, with a nucleus housing a DNA coil stretching out to construct protein-building enzymes, which are the building blocks of all organs. Each organ has a defined role and is responsible for its survival. The human body is a marvel of engineering and must be respected.

As an analogy, the microscopic bacterium is a single cell that, too, is a world in itself. Although it has no nucleus, it has its factory of particles whose primary function is to replicate by breaking itself into two, two into four, four into 16, and exponentially into millions — all within minutes. They inhabit our entire gut, from the mouth to the end of the five metres of convoluted intestine. The bugs live their own lives, not harming the host. But, if annoyed by unwholesome ingredients or unwanted competitors, they may revolt.

The battle between humans and microbes is an example of the arms race inherent in biological systems. If vandals threaten a household, the reaction will be to strengthen the walls and lock all entrances. If the intruders have guns, citizens will procure weapons. It is the hour of survival of the fittest.

The bacterium has comparable prowess. If the common bacterium called *Staphylococcus aureus* penetrates the skin, it may cause boils, abscesses, or septicemia, and must be destroyed with antibiotics. In the 1940s, penicillin containing a chemical ring of beta-lactam eliminated the Staph. With pro-

longed use and under pressure, the Staph started to produce an enzyme called beta-lactamase that destroyed penicillin. Scientists strengthened penicillin by adding a radical, but the resilient Staph counteracted with protein PBP2a that resisted the robust antibiotic called methicillin. The battle between Staph and methicillin continues, but Staph is coming ahead.

The same saga unfolds combat between antibiotics and the typhoid-causing *Salmonella*, the powerful *E. coli*, and its close cousins *Pseudomonas* and *Enterobacter*, that thrive in wet areas in hospitals and produce enzymes that destroy antibiotics. These tenacious bugs stick to equipment or the hands of doctors and nurses and are transmitted to sick patients, who get sicker with infection in the blood or internal organs. A few years back, infectious disease physicians could destroy bad bugs with conventional antibiotics and restore the patient's health. Today, we play Russian roulette: if the lab reports resistant bacteria, new generations of antibiotics costing Rs5,000-20,000 a day for two to four weeks in a hospital may or may not save the patient's life. No new drug molecules are in the pipeline in the world of pharmaceuticals. Treating deadly microbes is a game of thrones.

Other devious microbes that defy lifesaving drugs, like tuberculosis bacteria and fungi, invade an already weakened body and elude treatment with older drugs. Newer drugs are enormously expensive and toxic, and the humble sufferer has little choice between living and dying. As population and poverty increase in direct propor-

tion, multidrug-resistant TB is spreading more fiercely than ever to the marginalised population who can hardly afford nutritious meals and drugs at a monthly Rs20,000 for nine months or longer, in addition to frequent expensive tests.

Sadly, the trend of irrational antibiotics use by doctors originates in medical colleges, where the professor teaches in overcrowded classrooms, wards and clinics, leaving no room for arriving at logical diagnoses, and doctors are left to be brainwashed by pharmaceutical reps who promote their products, offering incentives that influence prescribing habits. Diagnostic laboratories either do not exist or are inept; roadside stores sell medicines randomly. Self-treatment, driven by the desire for quick solutions and without proper medical guidance, is another significant factor. Consequently, drug resistance is rising rapidly and poses a serious public health threat.

Addressing antimicrobial resistance requires a multifaceted approach. Antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals and clinics are crucial in guiding the appropriate use of antibiotics. By avoiding antibiotics against viral infections and limiting their use to treat only disease-causing bacteria, we may prolong their effectiveness for many decades.

AMR is not just an individual, local, or national issue. It is a serious global threat. We can only hope to manage and mitigate its impact through concerted action at all levels — individual, institutional, and international. As part of this global community, each of us is responsible for stanching the tide of further resistance by exercising caution in using antibiotics. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Ahsan calls for utilizing China's expertise, technology in agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister to China, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the importance of leveraging China's expertise and technological advancements in Pakistan's agriculture sector, once considered the backbone of the national economy.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding the recent visit of the Prime

Minister to China, according to a news release.

During the meeting, participants discussed the possibility of sending provincial experts from the agriculture sector to China for further development and knowledge exchange.

Ahsan Iqbal said the exchange of trade delegations would help build trust between the private sectors of the two

countries, adding Pakistan would raise the issue of easing visa procedures for its entrepreneurs with the Chinese embassy.

He also mentioned that Pakistan was utilizing all available resources to ensure the safety of Chinese investors and officials.

The minister reiterated the federal government's commitment to providing all possible facilities to private

investors and taking necessary steps to remove obstacles hindering foreign investment, ensuring a conducive environment for trade and investment.

He directed the relevant authorities to complete and submit a framework for the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan within a week, outlining the standards and outcomes required for the quality and success of industrial sectors.



Chairman Prime Minister's Steering Committee on Gem & Stones and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting in Islamabad.



MULTAN: Farmer women busy in cutting grass in the field for their animals.

PSO reports profit of Rs. 15.9 billion in FY24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Management has also announced a dividend of PKR 10/- per share, representing a 100% payout for the financial year 2023-24.

Furthermore, PSO's subsidiary, PRL, delivered a robust performance with a profit after tax of PKR 4.1 billion and gross revenue of PKR 403.6 billion. On a consolidated basis, the group achieved a profit after tax of PKR 18.3 billion, translating to an Earnings Per Share (EPS) of PKR 39.

In the intensely competitive white oil market, the company expanded its market share to 51.6% share, exceeding its previous record and solidifying its position as the market leader.

PSX loses 486 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 486.82 points on Tuesday, showing a negative change of 0.62 percent, closing at 78,084.24 points against 78,571.06 points on the last working day.

A total of 591,511,522 shares were traded during the day as compared to 512,337,206 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17.177 billion against Rs 18.894 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 163 of them recorded gains and 222 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 74,333,884 shares at Rs 11.57 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 47,382,319 shares at Rs.1.26 per share and Energycico PK with 43,914,580 shares at Rs 3.98 per share.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.56.87 per share price, closing at Rs 625.57, whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with a Rs 50.90 rise in its per share price.

Government pledges to lead the country towards progress: Ali Pervaiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Thursday that the government pledged its commitment to steering the country towards progress.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the government, took difficult economic measures to put the country on the right track.

He said we are making significant progress and will soon overcome the relevant issues.

Pak apparel exports to China increase by 5% in 2024

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's exports of men's and women's apparel to China have been increased by approximately five percent reaching over \$18.03 million in the first seven months of the year, said the latest data from General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Commercial Councillor at the Pakistan Embassy in

Regarding the International Monetary Fund, the Minister said positive news is expected in the coming days.

IMF is a necessary component to pull the country out of the economic quagmire, he added.

He said the government is doing all the efforts to support low-income electricity users. The federal government has given protection up to 200 units in consultation with IMF.

Beijing, Ghulam Qadir highlighted the growing popularity of Pakistani apparel in China, attributing this trend to the superior quality and competitive pricing of the products.

He also emphasized Pakistan's strategic advantage in land trade with China, coupled with the zero-tariff benefits under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA).

Govt maintains zero tolerance policy towards power pilferage: Awais

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Tuesday reiterated that the Federal Government and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) had maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards electricity theft and their facilitators.

Presiding over a high level meeting at Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) headquarters, he emphasized the importance of 100% recovery of dues from both government and private consumers.

He stressed that any delay in this process would not be tolerated and that the entire relief distribution would be closely monitored to ensure

transparency in this regard. Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari further highlighted that consumers were the most valuable asset of any organization, and the provision of quality and timely services, accurate meter readings, and prompt bill delivery ought to be ensured.

He also mentioned that the complete eradication of electricity theft was possible through adopting modern technology in the power sector.

PM orders to hold consultation with traders at all levels: Naem Mir

LAHORE (APP): Tajir Dost Scheme Chief Coordinator Naem Mir said on Tuesday that Prime Minister had ordered to hold consultation with traders at all levels. According to official sources, the Federal Board of Revenue Chairman had invited representatives of traders for dialogue at 3:00 pm today. He said, "We want to hold consultation with traders organizations before issuing new amended SRO."

Export of footwear increases 2.62% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of footwear from the country witnessed an increase of 2.62 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year.

The country exported footwear worth US\$ 11.793 million during July 2024 as opposed to the export of US\$ 11.491 million during July 2023, showing growth of 2.62 percent, according to the

data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear witnessed a decrease of 1.24 percent, from US\$ 9.570 million to US\$ 9.452 million during the month under review.

The canvas footwear exports also decreased by 43.64 percent by going down from US\$ 0.286 million last year to US\$ 0.161 million, the PBS data revealed.

CM orders payments via Himmat Cards by September 15

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the care of deserving special persons is responsibility of the state. The CM participated in a ceremony to sign an MoU (memorandum of understanding) between Department of Social Welfare and Bank of Punjab for the issuance of Himmat Cards (ATM Cards) to 65,000 special people across Punjab, through which Rs 10,500 will be paid to them every quarter.

The chief minister directed the authorities concerned to start payment through Himmat cards by September 15. She said: "Special people are very special to us." CM Maryam Nawaz was apprised that Himmat Cards will be issued to 40,000 people in phase-I and to 25,000 people in phase-II. She was also briefed that a 30 per cent quota had been reserved for women in the issuance of Himmat Card to deserving special persons. She was briefed that a

dedicated helpline 1312 has been set up for the assistance of deserving special persons. The MoU was signed by Secretary Social Welfare Javed Akhtar Mahmood and President Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood. Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shaikat Butt, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Chairman P&D Nabil Awan, DG Social Welfare Amna Munir and other relevant officers were also present.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman talking to media persons along with Traders Organization regarding countrywide shutter down strike during his visit to protest camp.

KP govt announces Rs 10 mln for families of Balochistan martyrs

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has announced a compensation amount of Rs 10 million each to the families of those martyred in recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan. The announcement was made on the directives of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to show solidarity with the people of Punjab and martyrs. Muzammil Aslam, Advisor to the Chief Minister for Finance, said that the provincial government deeply sympathizes with the families of the martyrs. He emphasized that both the

government and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who have faced the scourge of terrorism, fully understand the pain and suffering caused by such tragic incidents. He said that the party's leadership strongly condemned the terrorist attacks and expressed their sorrow and solidarity with the affected families, underscoring their commitment to stand by them during this difficult time. Muzammil Aslam said that terrorist incidents in North Waziristan have also claimed the lives of five individuals.

New Election Commissioner KP welcomed with luncheon party

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Shamshad Khan and newly appointed Provincial Election Commissioner Saeed Gul on Tuesday arranged a luncheon wherein all the officers of the Provincial Election Commission KP headquarters were in attendance. The KP Election Commission Officers said during the function the Provincial Election Commissioner appreciated the services of Shamshad Khan.

Two youths killed over issue in Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two youths were shot dead over a dispute in the vicinity of Yar Hussain police station in Swabi district, police informed on Tuesday. Police said the accused called the victims into an empty house and later shot them dead. The dead were identified as Jalal and Adnan, police said and added that both the victims were 22-years-old. The Yar Hussain police have registered a case on the complaint of the brother of the deceased Jalal and started investigation to nab.

SMBR says: Comprehensive flood management plan to be developed across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed highlighted the need for a detailed plan to enhance drainage infrastructure and address urban flooding from heavy rains, aiming to minimize inconvenience to residents. Presiding over a crucial meeting held at the Board of Revenue here on Tuesday, he directed all commissioners and local

governments to submit comprehensive reports regarding the statistics of union councils across Punjab. Attendees included Secretary Irrigation Wasif Khurshid, Secretary Local Government Board Rizwan Nazir, Commissioner Lahore Zaid bin Maqsood, Additional Secretary Housing and Urban Development Umar Farooq, commissioners from across Punjab.



ABBOTTABAD: Mayor of Abbottabad, Sardar Shuja Nabi exchanging views with Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan during meeting held in Abbottabad.

LHC RWP bench Court cannot issue directives on assumptions

RAWALPINDI (Online): Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf of Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench has remarked during hearing of petition against detention of deputy superintendent Adiala jail Rawalpindi the petitioner has no authentic information and the court cannot issue directives to any one on the basis of assumptions. He further remarked "The case has been registered and there is no such thing therein. Tell the court Muhammad Akram is in whose custody. The court while declaring reply of CPO Rawalpindi unsatisfactory summoned him again on

August 29. The petitioner along with her son and counsel Imaan Mazaari was present in the court during hearing of case Tuesday. The counsel for the petitioner told the court deputy superintendent is missing since August 14 and police as well as any other institution is not providing any information of any sort. We suspect Muhammad Akram is in the custody of intelligence agencies. The court inquired Muhammad Akram is in the custody of which agency so that the court may issue directive to some one because we can issue no directives on the basis of assumptions.

CS KP shows solidarity with martyrs families

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Tuesday expressed profound sympathies with families of four security personnel who embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation against terrorists in Tirah valley of Khyber District.

In his message, the Chief Secretary KP expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and prayed for high places in Heaven for the souls of the martyrs. He also prayed for fortitude to the affected families to bear the loss with patience.

Two killed, three injured in traffic accident

MULTAN (APP): Two persons of the same family were killed and three others sustained injuries in a traffic accident that occurred near Kheera Chowk area of Multan, tv channels reporting Rescue sources quoted on Tuesday. According to details, a rashly driven bus hit the two wheeler near Kheera chowk area.

AJK Govt channels funds to grassroots to improve public services

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq on Tuesday highlighted the government's focus on completing development projects promptly and making funds accessible at the grassroots level to enhance public services. During a review meeting with District Officers in Kuttan Colony, Neelum Valley, the prime minister urged department heads to prioritize public service and perform their duties with dedication. He stressed that the benefits of allocated funds should reach the community. The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing hydropower

projects in AJK within the given timeframe and assured that appointments of administrative officers would be made based on merit to promote good governance. He also highlighted plans to upgrade road infrastructure to boost tourism and create local job opportunities. The prime minister instructed the Electricity Department to improve revenue collection, noting that only 22% of residents in Neelum pay their electricity bills, despite affordable rates. He emphasized the need for community cooperation in timely payments of electricity and water bills and called for actions against defaulters.



LAHORE: Members of Professors and Lecturers Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Lahore press club.

Gul Hasan Sheikh says Better treatment facilities should be provided to patients in time

Independent Report MIRPUR MATHELO: Better treatment facilities should be provided to the patients in time and the supply of free medicines should be ensured, Regional Director of Ombudsman Ghotki Gul Hasan Sheikh expressed these thoughts on the occasion of visiting Taluk Hospital Daharki. On the instructions of Chief Sindh Muhammad Sohail Rajput, he visited

Taluka Hospital Daharki, on this occasion, the director of ombudsman inspected the hospital medical room, X-ray machine room and other departments. They should be properly treated and properly cared for and no negligence or negligence should be done, on this occasion MS Dr. Fida Hussain Kalwar informed about the facilities available in the hospital.

International News

Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 18, including 8 children, Palestinians say

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 18 people, including eight children. The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said three children and their mother were killed in an airstrike late Monday in the Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City. It said three other people were missing after the strike. Another strike late Monday hit a building in downtown Gaza City, killing a child, three women and a man, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. In southern

Gaza, a strike on a home early Tuesday killed five people, including a man, his three children as young as 3 years old and a woman, according to a casualty list provided by Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where the bodies were taken. Another airstrike early Tuesday flattened a home west of Khan Younis, killing at least four people, including a child, according to Nasser Hospital, where the dead were taken. Footage shared online showed residents digging through the rubble. A man carried a wounded child to an ambulance, while two others carried a dead body wrapped in a blanket.

Palestinian health officials do not say whether those killed in Israeli strikes are civilians or fighters. Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and accuses Hamas of putting them in danger by fighting in residential areas. But the military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children. Gaza's Health Ministry says Israel's offensive has killed over 40,000 people in Gaza. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people.



Iran's new foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, welcomes Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani ahead of their meeting in Tehran.

Zuckerberg says Biden admin pressured Meta to 'censor' Covid-19 content

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the Biden administration had pressured the company to "censor" Covid-19 content during the pandemic, apparently referring to White House requests to take down misinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines. In a letter dated Aug 26, Zuckerberg told the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee

that he regretted not speaking up about this pressure earlier, as well as other decisions he had made as the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp around removing certain content. In July 2021, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said social media platforms like Facebook "are killing people" for allowing misinformation about coronavirus vaccines to be posted on its platform.

Taliban promise to enforce morality law 'gently'

Monitoring Desk KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said on Monday a recently ratified morality law would be enforced "gently", after the international community and Afghans voiced concern over new restrictions. Women must cover completely and not raise their voices in public, according to a 35-article law announced on Wednesday by the justice ministry. It imposes wide-ranging stipulations from behaviour to dress and social interactions.

No intention to increase ME tensions, says Iran

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran does not seek to increase Middle East tensions, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani, adding that its response to the killing of the Hamas chief in Tehran would be "definite and calculated". Iran blames Israel for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on July 31, which Araqchi was quoted by Iran's state media as saying was "an unforgivable violation of Iran's security and sovereignty".

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill 5 in second day of major strikes

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russia launched missile and drone attacks targeting scores of Ukrainian regions and killing at least five people, officials said on Tuesday, a day after Moscow's biggest air attack of the war on its neighbour. Two people were killed when a hotel was "wiped out" by a missile in the central city of Kryvyi Rih, regional officials said. Three died in drone attacks on the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday that Kyiv would retaliate against Russia for its attacks. He asked allies to consider joint air defence operations and provide long-range capabilities after Russia pummeled Ukrainian energy infrastructure

with more than 200 missiles and drones on Monday. During Tuesday's attack, Ukraine downed five out of 10 incoming missiles and 60 out of 81 drones, the air force said. The Ukrainian air force lost track of 10 more drones that have likely come down somewhere on its territory, it said. It said that one more crossed into Belarusian territory; 10 more were still flying around in Ukraine's airspace on Tuesday morning. The Russian defence ministry said its forces had carried out a high-precision weapon strike on Ukraine overnight, the Interfax news agency reported. Moscow denies targeting civilians since launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, although thousands have been killed.

UN forced to halt humanitarian operations in Gaza

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations said on Monday it had been forced to halt its humanitarian operations in Gaza due to a new Israeli evacuation order for the Deir al-Balah area, a senior UN official said. "We are not operating today. As of this morning, we're not operating in Gaza," the official said, adding that since the start of the war the UN has sometimes had to "delay or take a pause." "This is not a decision that we're saying we're stopping to operate, but practically we cannot operate," the official said. According to the official, the UN "had relocated most of our personnel in our operations" to Deir al-Balah following a Rafah evacuation order several months ago. The Israeli military had told people on Sunday to "evacuate immediately." "We need to find

solutions," the UN official said. "And if it means that we need to anchor down for 24-48 hours and reset, we do that. But we're not leaving." "Right now the challenge is to find a place where we can reset and effectively operate." Israel's military struck the Gaza Strip on Monday a day after truce talks in Cairo coincided with a major but brief cross-border escalation involving Hezbollah in Lebanon. In the latest flare-up between Israel and Hamas-ally Hezbollah, the Lebanese group on Sunday launched rockets and drones in retaliation for a top commander's killing as Israel carried out air raids the military said thwarted a larger attack. Israel swiftly revoked a state of emergency declared early on Sunday, and Hezbollah said its operation was "completed".

Iran's supreme leader opens door to negotiations with United States over Tehran's nuclear program

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader opened the door Tuesday to renewed negotiations with the United States over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear program, telling its civilian government there was "no barrier" to engaging with its "enemy." Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and renewed his warnings that America wasn't to be trusted. But his comments mirror those around the time of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran's nuclear program greatly curtailed in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Yet it remains unclear just how

much room Pezeshkian will have to maneuver, particularly as tensions remain high in the wider Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war. "We do not have to pin our hope to the enemy. For our plans, we should not wait for approval by the enemies," Khamenei said in a video broadcast by state television. "It is not contradictory to engage the same enemy in some places, there's no barrier." Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, also warned Pezeshkian's Cabinet, "Do not trust the enemy." Khamenei, 85, has occasionally urged talks with the U.S. after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal.

India's green energy wind drive hits desert herders hard

Monitoring Desk JAISALMER: Whirring wind turbines in India's Thar desert supply critical green energy for the world's most populous nation, but those living in their shadows say it comes at their expense. It illustrates the hard balance faced as India, the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, scrambles to boost its non-fossil fuel capacity to stem the rising impacts of climate change. "The big companies have come here and built the windmills, but they're useless to us," said 65-year-old livestock herder Nena Ram, describing an age-old farming system upended by the giant turbines.

Indian police fire teargas at hundreds protesting over Kolkata doctor's rape, murder

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Police in India fired teargas and water cannon to disperse hundreds of protesters marching in the eastern city of Kolkata on Tuesday to demand the resignation of a top state minister in the wake of a gruesome rape and murder of a trainee doctor. Protesters led by university students broke through the iron barricades set up on the route of their march to the West Bengal state secretariat, television footage showed, resulting in a baton charge by the po-

lice, who had earlier declared the protest illegal. The August 9 attack on the 31-year-old doctor has caused nationwide outrage, similar to the widespread protests witnessed after a 2012 gang-rape of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in New Delhi, with campaigners saying women continue to suffer from high levels of sexual violence despite tougher laws. A police volunteer has been arrested for the crime and the federal police have taken over the investigation.

President calls for addressing Balochistan's security challenges

PM for identification, strict action against terrorists involved in Balochistan's incidents

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday stressed upon taking of all possible steps to improve security situation in Balochistan and called for effective measures for complete elimination of terrorists.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti who called on him to discuss the security and law and order situation in the province, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was briefed on the recent incidents of terrorism in Balochistan and discussed proposals for maintaining law and order in the province.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for taking of all possible steps to improve law and order situation in Balochistan province, besides identification of terrorists and initiation of strict action against them.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti called on the prime minister to brief him on the security and overall situation in the province, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister said that yesterday's terrorist attacks in Balochistan were cowardly acts which could not be justified, adding the brave security forces foiled the designs of terrorists by sacrificing their lives.



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Sindh Governor inaugurates ITCN Asia-2024 Expo

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the 25th edition of the ITCN Asia 2024 Expo. The three-day event features 500 stalls set up by various national and international companies. The expo has attracted 80,000 registrations, with 25,000 participants attending on the first day.

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited several stalls and reviewed IT products on display. He emphasized that the event serves as a unique platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and exploring the latest trends in technology. He further added that the event would provide valuable insights into the future of technology.

Governor Tessori expressed his commitment to making the province a hub for information technology, stating that significant efforts are already underway. Currently, 50,000 young individuals are enrolled in advanced IT courses at Governor House. Plans are in place to expand these courses to Hyderabad and, eventually, to the entire province. Later, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori also visited the B2B Business Corporate Lounge set up under the ITCN, where the organizers briefed him on its features and objectives.

Info Minister urges parties to avoid politicizing terrorism

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has urged political parties to refrain from doing politics on the issue of terrorism.

Responding to a point of order in the National Assembly, he said we have requested Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur to establish a Counter Terrorism Department in the province at the earliest.

He said there should also be safe city initiatives to combat terrorism. Attaullah Tarar also paid rich tribute to the sacrifices of the security forces and the law enforcement agencies in establishing order in the motherland.

Sindh to terminate absconding school teachers

KARACHI (APP): In a major development, the Sindh education department has decided to terminate school teachers who have been absconding from government schools across Karachi. According to the details, the decision has been made to help boost the education standards and ensure that ghost teachers don't receive salaries. The Sindh education department has directed the District and Taluka Education Officers have been directed to submit a final list of such school teachers within two days. The department said despite repeated warnings, these absconding teachers have failed to contact the relevant officers.

China, US pledge support to Pakistan against terrorism

Chinese spokesperson says Beijing will continue giving staunch support to Islamabad against terrorism

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): As the country continues to reel under back-to-back terrorist attacks, the United States and China came out in support of the country, strongly condemning the latest militant forays in Balochistan and pledging support to Pakistan in countering terrorism.

Balochistan witnessed one of the deadliest attacks on Monday that left more than 50 dead, including civilians, police and military personnel in a single day.

The attacks sent shock waves across the country, drawing condemnations from the government and foreign countries. Condemning the militant attacks, Pakistan's long-time regional ally China extended its support and expressed deep grief over the dastardly attacks in the southwest resource-rich province, home to major China-led projects such as a port and a gold and copper mine.

A spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said at a regular press briefing on Tuesday that Beijing strongly condemns the attacks in Pakistan and will continue to give strong support to the country in anti-terrorism action.

"China stands firm against all forms of terrorism. We will continue giving staunch support to Pakistan in its effort to advance counter-terrorism operations, uphold social solidarity and stability, and protect the safety of the people," Lin Jian said.



LAHORE: Funeral prayer of Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi Shaheed, who embraced martyrdom during terrorist attacks in different areas of Balochistan, were offered with full military honours, at Lahore Garrison.

Four soldiers embrace martyrdom 25 terrorists including ringleader killed in Tirah valley IBOs: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, these operations were based on robust intelligence that had resulted into major setbacks to Fitna Al Khwarij and its affiliates. During these daring and highly successful IBOs being conducted since 20 August 2024, the security forces had so far successfully neutralized twenty-five Khwarij including Khwarij ring leader Abuzar alias Saddam, who was killed, while eleven Khwarij were injured.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Four soldiers of Pakistan Army, amid demonstration of valour in fighting terrorists, on Tuesday embraced martyrdom while 25 khwarij were killed including ringleader Abuzar alias Saddam in different extensive intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Tirah, Khyber District against Fitna-Al-Khwarji and so called Laskar-e-Islam and Jamat-ul-Ahrar, conducted by the security forces.

According to the Inter



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurates the 25th Expo of ITCN Asia-2024.

Commissioner directs DCs to take action against unregistered LPG dealers

SUKKUR (APP): Divisional Commissioner Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi on Tuesday directed the Deputy Commissioners of Sukkur, Khairpur and Ghotki districts to take action against unregistered LPG dealers.

Operating Procedures (SOPs). Concurrently, enforcement actions should be taken against illegal oil sellers, resulting in the sealing of their premises.

Sukkur Deputy Commissioner Dr. MB Raja Dharejo briefed the meeting that six FIRs have been lodged against individuals involved in illegal oil sales in Sukkur district as crackdowns continue. Deputy Commissioner Khairpur, Syed Ahmed Fawad Shah said that action has been initiated against illegal LPG dealers in Khairpur district who are not complying with SOPs. Many shopkeepers have also been fined, he added.

Gohar denies existence of any forward bloc

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, stated that despite various challenges, PTI members remained united, and there was no forward bloc within the party.

Speaking to the media after a hearing on PTI's intra-party election case at the Election Commission, Khan mentioned that the party submitted documents for the intra-party elections on March 8 for the third time but has yet to receive a certificate.

Sindh High Court orders removal of encroachments in Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Sindh High Court Circuit Bench in Mirpurkhas on Tuesday issued a detailed decision to remove encroachments from public places including green belts, parks and footpaths.

According to details, the Sindh High Court directed the authorities to submit a report within three weeks. The judgment came in response to a petition filed by Advocate Kanji Mal Meghwar, a renowned Supreme Court lawyer. The court ordered the restoration of the green belt from Chandni Chowk to Jarwari Chowk and the removal of commercial activities from the area.

Driver killed, 12 injured in road accident

HYDERABAD (APP): A car traveling from Karachi to Shikarpur collided with a passenger van on the National Highway Bypass near the Dr. Bahadur Khan Dahri petrol pump in Daultapur. The car driver, Muhammad Qasim 50 died on the spot, while 12 passengers, including a woman and a child, were seriously injured. Seven of the injured are in critical condition.

According to the Motorway Police, the accident occurred when a speeding car traveling from Karachi to Shikarpur collided with a passenger van traveling from Moro to Nawabshah.

Larkana police arrest 6 suspects

LARKANA (APP): The Larkana police on Tuesday arrested six suspects during a crackdown on criminal activities, recovering weapons, a stolen motorcycle, and various spare parts. According to the police, Dari police arrested accused Faiz Muhammad Memon, in connection with Gambit Police murder case, and Imran Mughiri, a scrap dealer, along with the stolen motorcycle and spare parts. Similarly, Garhi Khudabakhsh Bhutto police arrested the undercover suspect Ulha Dayo Bhutto, in murder case.

Sindh Sports minister reviews arrangements for National Games

KARACHI (APP): A country wide torch rally from Karachi to Peshawar-Gilgit will be organized in connection with the National Games while secretariat for the games to be set up at KMC Sports Complex, Sindh Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Baksh Mahar, said on Tuesday.

He was presiding over a meeting held here to review arrangements with attendance of Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Sports Secretary Jalaluddin Mahar, Chief Engineer Aslam Mahar, General Secretary of Sindh Olympics Association Ahmed Ali Rajput, Asghar Baloch and others, said a statement issued here.

The meeting reviewed in detail arrangements related to the number of players, accommodation, transport, and the decoration of various places in the city of Karachi for promotion of the National Games.

It is pertinent to mention that Sindh sports minister has proposed to hold the National Games at the end of January or the beginning of February 2025.

Sardar Muhammad Baksh Mahar, addressing the meeting, said that Pakistan National Games would be setting grounds for more than 35 games including the archery, athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, body building, boxing, cycling, fencing, football, hockey, kabaddi, karate, swimming, shooting and other games.



Civil and military dignitaries visiting PNS YARMOOK at Muscat, Oman.

DC directs Assistant Commissioners to stay in field, monitor rainfall situation

HYDERABAD (APP): Acting on the special directives of the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Sindh, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abideen Memon has instructed all Assistant Commissioners and Mukhtiarkars of the district to remain in the field with their staff.

They have been directed to monitor the rainfall situation in their respective areas continuously and regularly visit pumping stations to minimise the difficulties faced by the public during the ongoing rains. He also urged the relevant officers to work closely with the local municipal bodies in their respective talukas.

Following his instructions,

DIG conducts interviews for 138 post of IOs

HYDERABAD (APP): On the instructions of IG Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, a meeting of the (IO) Investigation Officer Selection Board was held at the SBA Range Office under the chairmanship of DIG Shaheed Benazirabad Range Pervez Ahmed Chandio.

In the meeting, interviews were conducted for 138 posts of IOs, including inspectors, sub-inspectors, and assistant sub-inspectors who wished to work in Shaheed Benazirabad Range.

Two street criminals arrested, arms, ammo recovered

KARACHI (INP): In a joint intelligence-based operation, Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police apprehended two alleged street criminals in Hussainabad, Federal B. Area. A Rangers spokesperson stated on Tuesday that the suspects, identified as Muhammad Afzal and Anas, were caught with a 30-bore pistol, ammunition, a motorcycle, a mobile phone, and cash.

During initial interrogation, the suspects confessed to being involved in multiple robberies across North Nazimabad and Gulberg Town. The arrested individuals, along with the recovered weapons and other items, have been handed over to the police for further legal action.

DDMA meeting held, relevant departments directed to stay alert

HYDERABAD (APP): During the ongoing rains spells a meeting of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Mattiari was held on Tuesday.

During the meeting, all departments, including municipal bodies, public health engineering, health, and irrigation were directed to remain vigilant and ensure coordinated communication to address any emergency, while the public was advised to contact the Central Control Room established at the DC Office through the phone numbers 0229240733, 0229240755 and 0222760929.

According to a hand-out, Deputy Commissioner



HYDERABAD: Members of All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union are holding protest rally against privatization of electricity companies, in Hyderabad.

Focal Person, DC, Mayor visit different areas, review post-rain arrangements

HYDERABAD (APP): The focal person for rain emergency in Hyderabad and the special assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh Abdul Jabbar Khan, along with officials of the Hyderabad Water and Sewerage Corporation, visited various pumping stations in Latifabad to review the progress of drainage operations. Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain ul Abideen Memon and Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro also conducted a city tour following heavy rainfall. According to a handout, they inspected the Tulusi Das pumping station, Badin Stop, Qasimabad and other areas to assess the situation of rain water. They emphasized the need to keep the machinery operational using emergency in case of power outages and stated that the adequate supply of fuel for this purpose was already ensured.

Regarding power outages, the DC and Mayor met with HESCO Chief Roshan Ali Otho at the Alamdar chowk grid station, Qasimabad. They informed him about the post-rain difficulties of the public and stressed the urgent need for electricity restoration to prevent disruptions in drainage operations. The Municipal Commissioner of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Jam Zahoor Ahmed Lakhan, Zahid Khemti.

Mayor Larkana chairs rain emergency meeting

LARKANA (APP): Mayor Larkana Advocate Anwar Ali Lohar chairs a meeting in connection with the rain emergency here at Municipal Corporation on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by PPP District Larkana President Khair Muhammad Sheikh, Deputy Mayor Muhammad Amin Sheikh, Larkana City Chairman of the four town committees of Empire, Dari, Sachal and Hydari, Waqar Ali Bhutto, Shahrukh Anwar Syal, Sarfaraz Hussain Kokar and Abdul Haq Khawar, including Municipal Commissioner Larkana Javed Ahmed Abbasi, Member Municipal Corporation Larkana Sher Mohammad Leghari, Abdul Bari Abbasi, Vice Chairman Zafar Ali Shah, Azhar Bhutto, sanitation staff in-charge Prakash Pawani, engineer Qurban Abaro, disposal staff in-charge Zubair Ahmed Abro and municipal staff participated.

On this occasion, Mayor Larkana Advocate Anwar Ali Lohar directed the municipal staff to implement the rain emergency and said that immediately after the implementation of the rain emergency, the drains of different areas of the city should be cleaned and the disposal machines should be kept active. During the upcoming rains, rainwater can be disposed of through disposal machines.



LARKANA: Mayor Larkana, Anwar Ali Lohar presides over the meeting regarding Rain Emergency held at Conference Hall Municipal Corporation in Larkana.

Domestic, foreign flights across Pakistan disrupted due to heavy rain

KARACHI (INP): Heavy rain and administrative challenges have resulted in significant delays in the arrival and departure of over 30 flights across Pakistan.

Passengers faced considerable disruptions as flight schedules were impacted at various airports, including Karachi, Islamabad, and Lahore.

A notable delay occurred with a foreign airline's flight SV-701 from Jeddah, which was held up for two and a half hours. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) also reported multiple delays, including PK-302 from Karachi to Lahore, which was delayed by two hours. Another PIA flight, PK-300 from Islamabad to Karachi, was scheduled to depart at 11am, experiencing a delay of the same duration.

International flights were not spared, with the Karachi-Istanbul Flight TK-709 delayed by three hours, now rescheduled to depart at 9am. Additionally, PK-744 from Madinah was delayed by four hours, affecting travellers returning to Karachi.

The PIA flight PK-768 from Jeddah to Quetta arrived an hour and 15 minutes late.