



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Bad air**

A recent report by the Air Quality Life Index delivers a sobering message for South Asia on its air pollution outlook.

Though the report highlights an 18pc decline in air pollution in 2022, attributed largely to above-normal rainfall, it also underscores the grim reality that air pollution remains the most significant external threat to public health in the region — including Pakistan. It highlights that South Asia continues to grapple with dangerously high levels of air pollution and that, despite the recent decline, the region still accounts for a staggering 45pc of total life years lost due to pollution. It paints a worrying picture: if the World Health Organisation's air quality guidelines were met, the average person in South Asia would gain 3.5 years in life expectancy. In Pakistan, the situation is equally alarming. While the report notes a 10pc decline in particulate matter levels in 2022, the average resident's life expectancy is still reduced by 3.3 years due to air pollution. In cities like Peshawar and Lahore, where pollution levels are even higher, life expectancy is shortened by over five years.

One of the most striking aspects of the AQLI report is its focus on inequality. It reveals that people living in the most polluted areas breathe air that is six times more polluted than those in the least polluted areas. Consequently, their life expectancy is reduced by an average of 2.7 years. This inequality in pollution exposure reflects broader socioeconomic disparities and underscores the need for targeted interventions in the most affected regions.

This report should ring alarm bells for our leaders, but instead this subject is largely met with indifference. The increase in the number of vehicles and the reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation have been major contributors to the country's pollution crisis. Since the early 2000s, the number of vehicles has quadrupled, while electricity generation from fossil fuels in Pakistan and neighbouring countries has tripled from 1998 to 2017. Without significant policy changes, the demand for energy and the corresponding pollution levels are likely to rise further, exacerbating the public health crisis. In the past, citizens' attempts to report high pollution with independent monitors have been met with criticism and denial. The government must take stock of this report and make long-term policy decisions to protect the future of its citizens. In the landmark Shehla Zia case, the Supreme Court declared the right to a healthy environment to be part of the fundamental constitutional rights of all citizens. While the state has taken initiatives like installing more pollution monitors and shutting down factories during high-pollution periods, they need to be part of a broader, more comprehensive strategy that includes promoting electric vehicles, transitioning to cleaner technologies in industries and enforcing stricter emissions standards.

**The VNSA threat**

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Modern states are faced with numerous traditional and non-traditional security challenges, including threats from Violent Non-State Actors (VNSAs). VNSAs are usually defined as groups that employ violence and propagate and support extremism for the furtherance of their ideological or political objectives. Since most of today's armed conflicts take place within states, the VNSA phenomenon can also be described as 'the enemy within'.

VNSAs either attract volunteers or recruit activists by force. They have a hierarchy and command structure that usually operates outside state control or influence. Where a chain of command is absent, VNSAs exist as loosely organised groups. In exceptional situations, some VNSAs control territory and have established parallel administrative control. Some VNSAs may have clearly defined political objectives, while others operate in ambiguity. Some are active in rural areas, while others are mainly in urban areas. Groups active in urban areas require more sophistication and proficiency. A few groups prefer targeting the military, while others prefer civilians. Some groups appoint women in important roles; in others, they serve in support roles.

VNSAs can take full advantage of the weaknesses in a state's internal and external security policies and may derive their strength from neighbouring or powerful states. Some groups exert considerable influence on the daily lives and activities of the people within their territory. For example, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the Philippines,

the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in South Sudan have wielded considerable influence in the past.

However, the scale of territorial control is not the sole factor determining the success of such groups. Even without territorial control, VNSAs may be able to cause great disturbances or create disorder. A group may not aim to change the regime but merely to destabilise the state. On the other hand, territorial control enables a group to exploit resources, indulge in illegal businesses, and introduce speedy and inexpensive justice, improved health facilities, and environmental protection standards. In a few instances, VNSAs have tried to redistribute wealth, protect local people, and offer basic social services. The introduction of the concept of 'revolutionary justice' provides a sense of protection to common folk and improves support for VNSAs within the community.

VNSAs influence the distribution and exploitation of local resources and individual identities. Upon joining the group, individuals adopt an alias or a nom de guerre, ensuring their protection and gaining a new identity at the expense of their family identity. The organisational identity of members assumes priority, especially for young members, who may feel more valued and elevated within their new family. As members of this new family, they adopt new norms, values, and behaviour patterns.

Social resources, such as shared beliefs, expectations and norms within certain ethnic, religious, cultural, and ideological groups can recruit 'high-commitment' individuals. On the other hand, the opportunity to exploit economic resources, such as by extracting natural resources, taxation, criminal activity, or external patronage, may attract 'low-commitment' individuals seeking short-term personal gain. This creates a distinction between 'activist' and 'opportunistic' groups. For example, the PKK may be classified as an activist group, while the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone can be characterised as an opportunist group.

The operational presence of VNSAs within states raises questions about the efficacy of the state apparatus and indicates the need for introspection. Such circumstances warrant a national-level kinetic option or regional or international military action. Globalisation has strengthened VNSAs, as planning, training, financing, facilitation, and targeting operations are now conducted in different parts of the world. Besides employing a coercive approach, states must also opt for an inclusive approach where appropriate. Deradicalisation and reintegration should be top priorities. A living state has to be protective and humane. It must act as a shield for innocent citizens, protecting them from extremists.

Globalisation, technology, and innovation have enabled VNSAs to be innovative, keeping themselves unpredictable and testing the patience of states, governments, and people. Without cooperation among states, the use of technology, and an active role of the public in countering narratives, defeating VNSAs will remain an elusive dream. -- Courtesy Dawn

**SCO's ambitions**

Huma Yusuf

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi last week told the Senate that the coordinated attacks across Balochistan were aimed at subverting the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting, which Pakistan will host this October. Linking the militant attacks to the SCO highlights how high stakes the upcoming meet is for Islamabad. But how significant is the SCO in Pakistan's broader foreign policy landscape?

The focus on the Balochistan attacks' implications for the SCO is largely driven by bilateral India-Pakistan dynamics, as Islamabad wants to hear back from Delhi regarding India's attendance. India has not attended any Saarc meetings in Pakistan since 2016, and any high-level participation in the SCO meet would be a major departure from Delhi's current approach to non-engagement.

Whether or not India shows up, regional terrorism is likely to be top of the agenda. The SCO, after all, has its roots in security cooperation, fighting what the organisation terms are the 'three evil forces': terrorism, separatism and religious extremism.

In recent years, security and counterterrorism discussions have focused on Afghanistan's role in fuelling regional terrorism. Afghanistan is an observer at the SCO, but the Afghan Taliban-led government has not been invited to meetings, as members disagree about how to engage the country. They agree, however, that stability and effective counterterrorism in Afghanistan is a top priority for the wider region. Given that our Foreign Office just declined an Afghan Taliban offer to

mediate with the TTP, one can expect robust discussions on how to tackle Afghanistan-based militant groups at the summit.

The Balochistan attacks will feature too. India has often made veiled statements about Pakistan's role in regional terrorism at SCO forums. Given longstanding concerns about India's backing of Baloch militant groups, Islamabad will take the opportunity to land a reverse blow.

But this is also why the SCO is unlikely to be more than a talking shop. While it is growing in size and significance, frequently framed as a Eurasian counterpoint to Nato, it is too plagued by tensions among its members to take meaningful strides as a bloc. Beyond the India-Pakistan rivalry, there's the India-China dynamic, with New Delhi still wary of throwing its support behind a Beijing-led enterprise.

The simmering tensions don't end there. There are sectarian tensions (say, between Iran and Afghanistan), and the underlying resentment among Central Asian states who feel increasingly sidelined as the SCO evolves from a small, security-focused regional grouping to a geopolitical platform with Eurasian and anti-Western ambitions (Belarus became a member in July; dialogue partner Turkmenistan is considering membership despite its Nato links; and the SCO itself is eyeing simpatico countries like Hungary as potential members to further extend the organisation's reach into Europe).

As it grows, the SCO has sought to expand its scope beyond regional security by floating plans for increased connectivity, joint energy infrastructure, banking platforms to enable local currency transaction (and so reduce members' dependence on the

dollar) and boosting regional trade. But the economic competitive dynamics between China and India, and China's reluctance to share its tech know-how with Russia, keeping it in the position of a captive consumer rather than a rival producer, continue to curtail these economic aspirations.

In his book, The New Cold War, Robin Niblett argues that China and Russia are making overtures across the Global South because they are seeking to build international appetite for their autocratic political systems. In this context, part of the driver for growing and empowering a multilateral grouping such as the SCO could be to create forums where autocratic approaches — such as the suppression of free speech and dissent or limits to judicial independence in the name of national security — are normalised. There is a danger that the SCO becomes a grouping of countries seeking to walk away, hand in hand, from democratic principles.

This is a scenario that Pakistan — an ostensible, multiethnic, multi-linguistic, religiously diverse and youth-oriented democracy — should seek to avoid, particularly in its current chairmanship of the SCO HOG council.

It could do that by opting to veer the discussion away from security considerations alone, to include human rights considerations in discussions about Afghanistan. What, for instance, are the SCO members going to do about the latest Afghan Taliban edicts that seek to erase women from the public sphere entirely? Without tackling fundamental topics such as human dignity and prosperity, the SCO will only ever get so far. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Denmark wants to invest in Pakistan's mining industry**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Denmark on Monday expressed its commitment to investing in and modernizing Pakistan's mining industry during a high-level meeting.

The interest was expressed by a delegation of FL Smidth headed by the CEO Mikko Keto including Chris Reinbold, president of Mining Products, Iqar Hussain, global key account project manager during a meeting with Federal Ministers Dr Musadik Malik, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem Khan, Jam

Kamal Khan, said a news release.

The Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Jakob Linulf, was also in attendance.

FL Smidth, a leading global supplier of technology and services to the mining and cement industries, has been active in Pakistan for over three decades.

The company has played a significant role in the development of the country's cement industry, having supplied approximately 60-70% of the cement plants in

Pakistan.

In 2017, FL Smidth expanded its operations by opening an after-sales service office in Islamabad, employing a local workforce to provide comprehensive services to cement plants across the country. The company is now looking to extend its expertise to Pakistan's mining sector.

Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, welcomed the Danish delegation and highlighted the government's focus on the mining sector. He said that

the partnership with FL Smidth would go beyond financial investment, including the transfer of technology, training, capacity building, and introducing new ways of thinking.

He also mentioned the government's strategy to establish small industrial clusters to enhance competitiveness.

Jakob Linulf, the Danish Ambassador, said that Pakistan holds a significant place on Denmark's agenda, with growing momentum for collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers Dr. Musadik Malik, Abdul Aleem Khan, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Jam Kamal held a meeting with CEO of FL Smidth Mikko Keto and Danish Ambassador H.E. Jakob Linulf.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi is called on by representative delegation of UK-Pakistan Trade & Investment Board at Governor House.

**Finance Minister holds review meeting with Pak, Kuwait Investment Company**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The finance minister commended Pak-Kuwait Investment Company for its strategic contributions to Pakistan's economy, especially in sectors vital to the nation's long-term development.

He specifically acknowledged PKIC's proactive approach to integrating Islamic finance into its operations, noting that this approach not only aligns with Pakistan's development priorities but also resonates with the broader goals of ethical and sustainable growth.

On the occasion, Saad

ur Rehman Khan provided an overview of PKIC's current portfolio, highlighting the PKIC's initiatives in the real estate sector leveraging Islamic finance structures to fund major infrastructure projects addressing Pakistan's investment needs while ensuring that investment activities adhere to Islamic principles, thereby attracting a broader range of investors.

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**Rana Tanveer assures stable sugar prices amid surplus stock**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday chaired a meeting of the Sugary Advisory Board (SAB) that reviewed the availability of the commodity stock and its price.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, a news release said.

The government reaffirmed its benchmark condition for the retail price of sugar for export,

ensuring a stable market price.

According to reports, the average retail price of sugar has decreased by Rs 2 per kilogram, and the market price remained steady.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said there was a surplus stock of sugar in the country, and any price increase would be unacceptable.

The government's commitment to maintaining stable sugar prices aims to protect consumers' interests and prevent price hikes.

**RCCI organizes 'Hum Se Hai Pakistan'**

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a spirit of national pride and recognition of the vital role of women in Pakistan's development and progress, the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has organized the event titled, "Hum Se Hai Pakistan - Celebrating Independence Day 2024" at the chamber house.

According to the details, Beenish Fatima, Chief Traffic Officer of City Traffic Police, was the chief guest on the

occasion. Several distinguished personalities, including Kanwal Cheema, Founder and CEO of My Impact Meter, Abida Malik, President of Behbud Association and Awaiz Manzoor Tarar, Additional Director General RDA also attended the event.

These notable figures, along with other esteemed guests, were welcomed by RCCI President Saqib Rafiq and Group Leader Sohail Altaf.

**Senate body told Initiatives undertaken to enhance country's water storage**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources on Monday apprised that the ministry has undertaken initiatives to increase the country's water storage and the share of hydropower generation in the overall energy mix.

The committee which met with Shahadat Awan in the Chair was further told that as of now, there are six ongoing projects being financed by the Federal Government. These

projects include Diamer Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, Nai Gaj Dam, Kachhi Canal Project, and Dasu Hydropower Project.

The installed capacity of Diamer Basha Dam is 4500 MW and it will be completed in December 2029, while the installed capacity of Mohmand Dam is 800 MW and it will be completed in December 2025. Briefing the

Committee, Secretary for the Ministry of Water Resources, Syed Ali Murtaza said that the focus is on the development of the country's water resources and six entities were assigned to the ministry, namely WAPDA, IRSA, Federal Flood Commission, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), CEA, and Pakistan Commission for Indus Water (PCIW).

**Public transport fares reduced by 2 percent**

SARGODHA (APP): In a move to provide relief to the public following the government's decision to reduce the prices of petroleum products, the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA), Malik Muhammad Tahir, held a meeting with public and goods transporters on Monday. During the meeting, it was agreed to immediately reduce fares by two percent. The Secretary of the RTA stated that since the government has reduced the rates of diesel and petrol, transporters should also reduce their fares accordingly.

**Punjab internship program launched for Agricultural graduates**

SARGODHA (APP): In a significant move to enhance the agricultural sector in Punjab, the provincial government has initiated an Agriculture Transformation Program aimed at providing internships to young agricultural graduates. As many as 41 selected candidates from the district received their one-year internship offer letters during a ceremony led by Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) of Pakistan Muslim League-

N Rana Munawar Ghous Khan and Assistant Commissioner Sargodha Amina Ehsan Tarar on Monday.

The ceremony was attended by Agriculture department officials, including Director of Agriculture Shahid Hussain and Deputy Director Masood Saqib. The PML-N MPA Rana Munawar Ghous congratulated the selected agricultural graduates while emphasizing the dual benefits of the program.



Consider case of Aafia Siddiqui as case of army chief extension in service: IHC asks AAG

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while rejecting plea of Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Dogal for giving 5 weeks more time in Dr Aafia Siddiqui case who is imprisoned in US jail has remarked "consider it this is case of extension in army chief service. "When Dr Aafia Siddiqui returns any day to Pakistan then you should all apologize to her collectively. Let the history write one US lawyer contested this case free, these remarks were given by Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan during the hearing of petition related to release and return of Dr Aafia Siddiqui to Pakistan Monday Imran Shafiq counsel for petitioner Fouzia Siddiqui and amicus curiae Zainab Janjua appeared in the court as well. Clive Smith who is counsel for Fouzia Siddiqui in US appeared in the court through video link. The court remarked



NAUNDERO: Taluka Education Officer (TEO), Abdul Qayyum Kartio and Head Mistress Khadija Khuhro are distributing free textbooks among the primary students during the Free textbook distribution ceremony held at Government Boys Primary School-01, in Naundero.

Emirates doubles connectivity, offering access to 1,700 global cities

KARACHI (INP): In the past year, Emirates has significantly expanded its global reach, doubling the number of cities it offers beyond its own network, unlocking travel opportunities to nearly 1,700 additional cities. This expansion has enabled over 61,000 passengers to seamlessly connect on the shared networks of Emirates and its partners every week. Emirates has achieved this growth by forging new partnerships and deepening existing ones across the transport ecosystem. The airline now collaborates with 162 partners, including 31 codeshare, 118 interline, and 13 rail and helicopter service partners, spanning over 100 countries. This extensive network provides travelers with enhanced connectivity, seamless single-ticket itineraries, improved baggage transfers, frequent flyer benefits, and lounge access, ensuring a smooth travel experience at every touchpoint. For customers of partner airlines, popular destinations are more accessible through Emirates' extensive network of over 140 destinations, offering seamless connectivity at Dubai International Airport (DXB) and industry-leading experiences both on the ground and in the air. In the last year alone, Emirates launched 16 new partnerships, including codeshares with Avianca and Batik Air Malaysia, and finalized interline agreements with airlines such as KAM Air, Sri Lankan Airlines, Condor, Flynas, and Kenya Airways.

Federal, provincial govts and mayor responsible for miseries of Karachiites: Monem Zafar

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar has said that Karachiites have been facing immense problems, including infrastructure, water and power crises because of corruption and mismanagement on part of the federal government and the provincial government and the illegitimate mayor. The JI leader expressed these views while addressing a large number of party workers at a reception held in his honour at Karachi's district west. Speaking on the occasion, the JI leader further said that the nearby Hub Dam was overflowing, whereas at the same time, the adjoining districts of Karachi, West and Kemari, were facing acute shortage of water. He further said that the situation evolved to that level because the government was sheltering the water tankers mafia. Highlighting the failures on part of the Pakistan People Party's government in Sindh, he said that street crimes and narcotics businesses have been skyrocketing in Karachi and other parts of Sindh. He further said that in this backdrop, the JI has been raising voice for Karachi and Karachiites. The JI has not only been running the Karachi Rights Movement and Haq Do Awam Ko campaign but has also launched the country wide membership drive. He further said that Karachiites have expressed their trust in the JI during the local government elections as well as the general elections. He added that the PPP had lost all the moral grounds to rule as its mandate in both the city council and the provincial assemblies were fake.

Larkana Police launches crack down against criminals

SUKKUR (APP): In a bold move, the Larkana Range Police on Sunday night launched an operation against criminals near Pathan Wah and Jahan Wah in Salg Shikarpur, following strict instructions from Deputy Inspector General of Police Larkana Range, Nasir Aftab Pathan. During the operation, a fierce exchange of fire ensued, resulting in the injury of police officer Ghoram Ali, son of Moja Khan Jakhriani. The officer was hit by a bullet and is currently receiving medical treatment. Upon receiving news of the encounter, DIG Police Range Larkana immediately communicated with SSP Shikarpur and Jacobabad, directing them to send additional personnel and an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) to the scene. He emphasized the need to bring the accused to justice, stating that society must be freed from criminal elements. The operation is part of a larger crackdown on the hideouts, dens, and robberies of Marfani tribes in the area. A significant number of range police personnel, led by SSP Jacobabad Syed Saleem Shah, are currently conducting operations against the criminals in Shikarpur district. According to medical reports, the injured police officer's condition is out of danger.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing a meeting of CCoSOEs at the Finance Division.

Ahsan suggests holding int'l summit to establish strong S&T, economic development linkage

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday highlighted the key role of science and technology (S&T) and engineers in the economic development of the country. Accordingly, he suggested convening an international S&T Summit to invite the world's top scientists and researchers, aiming to find ways to establish a strong link between the science and technology sector and national economic development. Addressing a symposium, the minister said today the country has thousands of Ph.Ds in the S&T and engineering sectors due to the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) initiative, the "Teachers Researchers Overseas Scholarship Scheme," which was initiated in 1998 under Vision-2010. At that time, the number of S&T Ph.D holders stood at around 350. He explained that under the scheme, the government had offered 5,000 overseas and indigenous scholarships to brilliant students, resulting in a significant increase in human resource development, particularly in the S&T and engineering sectors.

"There is a need for effective utilization of their capabilities to find solutions to our issues, engaging them in university laboratories," he said, citing examples of developed nations, including America and European countries, that relied on solving issues—whether related to the corporate sector or national level—through laboratories under professors. "Unfortunately, Pakistan is totally disconnected in this area despite repeated attempts and having internationally acknowledged human resources," he observed. Ahsan Iqbal mentioned that the country faced numerous challenges related to agriculture, health and climate change, and there should be regular ideas from university labs to address these issues effectively. "We are all aware of our national problems," the minister said, adding that the government's 5Es framework focused on environmental and climate change, food and water security. He said the government has established a unit in the Ministry of Planning to monitor and evaluate ministries' Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) regularly, under the 5Es framework.

Ombudsman office Sukkur disposes of complaints

SUKKUR (APP): The Federal Ombudsman regional office in Sukkur has disposed of dozens of complaints against the federal departments and provided relief to the applicants. Incharge, Federal Ombudsman regional office in Sukkur, Sayed Mahmood Ali Shah on Monday had conducted investigation into applications submitted to his office against the federal departments including SEPCO, Sui Gas, Passport Office, GPO, NPB, Pakistan Railways and others. Relief was provided to applicants after conducting hearing into the applications.

August marks deadliest month of 2024 amid rising violence in Balochistan: PICSS

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti-State violence in Pakistan witnessed a complex trend in August, with an alarming rise in violence in Balochistan, while most other provinces showed signs of improvement. According to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), August 2024 was the deadliest month of the year, with 254 people killed, including 92 civilians, 54 security personnel, and 108 militants. Additionally, 150 individuals were injured, including 88 civilians, 35 security personnel, and 27 militants. PICSS reported that the majority of these casualties resulted from 83 militant attacks, which claimed 175 lives, including 92 civilians, 47 security personnel, and 36 militants, and left 123 people injured—88 civilians and 35 security personnel. Security operations during the month led to 79 fatalities, including 72 militants and seven security personnel, and 27 militants were injured. Furthermore, security forces arrested 12 suspected militants, while militants kidnapped at least nine individuals, including a serving Lt. Colonel of the Pakistan Army and an Assistant Commissioner.

Customs seize drugs worth Rs 2.25 million in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Customs authorities successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs into Pakistan via the International Mail Office (IMO) at Jinnah International Airport Karachi. Acting on credible intelligence, the Customs team, led by Collector Adeem Khan and supported by ADC Muhammad Faysal Khan and AC Sharjeel Abbas Wasan, detained a suspicious EMS parcel labeled as 'Fresh Galangal (Thai Ginger)' originating from Bangkok, Thailand. The parcel was subjected to examination and a lab test which revealed that the package contained 500 grams of Marijuana (Cannabis), valued at approximately Rs 2.25 million. The parcel was sent to Muhammad Usama Mahmood, a resident of Gulistan-e-Johar, Karachi. An FIR has been lodged against the recipient, and efforts are underway to apprehend individuals involved in the smuggling operation.

Mayor to take measures for Eid Milad-un-Nabi

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh here on Monday directed the concerned authorities to take measures for peaceful observing of Eid Milad-un-Nabi congregations. Talking to a delegation of Seerat-ul-Nabi conference committee, he said that best arrangements would be made for 12 Rabi Awwal and full proof of security will be provided to congregations. Mayor said that Eid Milad-un-Nabi would be celebrated with religious harmony. He said that different areas inside the Sukkur city would be deo-rated including clock tower, Minara Road, Bander Road, Airow Chowk, Barrage road, Queence Road and adjacent markets. He also said that necessary instructions have been conveyed to Water and Sanitation Services of the SMC and SSP Sukkur for providing security and cleaning routes of congregations.

Three crushed to death by speeding bus in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): At least three people were killed after a speeding passenger bus ran over several motorcyclists in Karachi's Site area on Monday. According to details, the tragic traffic incident occurred on Monday near Bhawani Chali in Karachi, where a speeding passenger bus ran over multiple motorcyclists, killing three people on the spot and injuring five others. Soon after the incident, rescue teams arrived at the scene, and transported the deceased and the injured to the hospital. The bus driver fled the scene after the incident. Initially, the accident was attributed to the bus's brakes failing.

Four suspects arrested with weapons in Karachi search operation

KARACHI (INP): Police arrested four suspects along with firearms during a search operation in Khamiso Goth, Karachi. Reports indicate that there was an exchange of gunfire between the police and the suspects in the New Karachi Industrial Area. Additionally, two other suspicious individuals were taken into custody during house-to-house searches and transferred to the police station. The operation aimed to target drug dealers and criminals. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Central Zeeshan Siddiqui stated that the operation was conducted to locate criminal elements, and the details of the suspicious individuals were verified.

CCoSOEs deliberates on management, strategic direction of key SOEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday presided over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) that focused on various critical issues related to the management and strategic direction of key SOEs. The meeting was attended among others by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, SBP Governor, SECP Chairman, TCP Chairman, PQA Chairman, federal secretaries, and other senior officials from the relevant ministries and divisions, a news release said. The committee discussed a summary of the Ministry of Commerce regarding the plan to reinvigorate the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP). It was decided that given the peculiar nature of the entity, TCP may be categorized as an essential SOE under the SOEs Policy, 2023. It was further decided that a detailed financial plan of the entity should be prepared, which should address the question of settlement of its liabilities. The committee also considered and approved a summary of the Finance Division regarding the appointment of two Independent Directors on the Board of the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of Pakistan.

Sindh will be made FMD vaccine free by June 2025: Najmi Alam

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Advisor for Livestock Syed Najmi Alam presides over a meeting of the Board of Directors of Sindh Institute of Animal Health held in his office, in which several projects were approved after discussing various agendas. Meeting approved the preparation of the foot and mouth vaccine and passed it through different stages. Najmi Alam on annual funds of directed that considering the lack of research funds, separate funds should be allocated and the department should be active for research work. In the meeting, it was approved to prepare the dog bite vaccine along with various vaccines. Syed Najmi Alam directed the department to work diligently on various products and submit them for final approval through laboratory stages. He said that



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Water from Manchar lake being released in Indus river: DC Jamshoro

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jamshoro Riaz Hussain Wassan on Monday said 18,000 cusecs water is being released from the Manchar lake near Sehwan to the Indus River through Arhal canal's head and tail regulators. Accompanied by the irrigation officers, the DC visited the lake, canals and distributaries to review the flood situation. He said that water from the lake was being released in the river through 8 gates at the canal's head regulator and 5 gates at its tail regulator. He apprised that the level of the Indus was currently at 117 Reduced Level (RL) which happened to be below the lake's level at 123 RL. "There is no imminent threat of flooding in Manchar," he asserted. The DC also inspected the work of restoration of the embankments of Main Nara Valley Drain (MNV) from the Zero Point to the Indus link in Dadu district.

DC visits District Health office Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahriyar Gul Memon, visited the District Health Office Nawabshah and Taluka Hospital Sakrand today to review the ongoing training of polio teams. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner received information from polio supervisors, UC in-charges, lady health workers, and polio teams about the ongoing training. Deputy Commissioner Shahriyar Gul Memon, while giving instructions to the health department officials, said that during the special anti-polio campaign starting from September 9 in the two tehseils of Sakrand and Qazi Ahmed, 100% target should be achieved to administer polio drops to children to make the campaign successful.

Seminar titled "Protection from Harassment" held at SBBU

HYDERABAD (APP): A seminar titled "Protection from Harassment" was held at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Shaheed Benazirabad. The seminar was chaired by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muddad Ali Shah. Speaking the seminar Federal Ombudsman Secretary Syeda Sabah Shah said that eliminating incidents of sexual harassment against women is our top priority, for which we need to establish an inquiry committee in every institution, as well as raise awareness among employees. She added that a code of conduct is being implemented in this regard. Sabah Shah further said that no laborer can harass women now, and violators will face punishment and fines under the law. Creating an environment of respect and dignity for women working in government and private institutions is the responsibility of every institution. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muddad Ali Shah said that society can only progress when it respects women, and we need to trust our sisters and daughters and support them at every turn in life. He added that harassing women at the workplace is a criminal offense, and women should contact the university's inquiry team. During the presentation, the Assistant Law Officer of the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat said that the purpose of this institution is to provide a better environment for women so that they can confidently play their role.



HYDERABAD: Flood affected people of Golarchi area are living under the open sky at roadside makeshift houses as they are waiting for government relief after destruction due to flash flooded caused by recent heavy downpour of monsoon season, near Hyderabad.