

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 202 Rabi-ul-Awwal 06, 1445 AH Wednesday September 11, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Police enters into Parliament house, arrest several MNAs of PTI

National Assembly speaker vows action over PTI leaders' arrests; Summons Islamabad police chief, DIG, SSP with details of cases against assembly members; Says no compromise on dignity of Parliament; PTI vows nationwide protests after leaders arrested in late-night crackdown; ATC grants 8-day physical remand for PTI leaders in Islamabad rally case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Police has entered into parliament house and arrested several MNAs of PTI.

According to sources inside lights of National Assembly (NA) were switched off and police personnel in plain clothes entered into parliament house. The police personnel took position outside parliament house. Masked men took PTI MNAs into their custody from within parliament house. Nasim Shah too was arrested.

PTI leaders Sheikh Waqas Akram, Aamir

Dogar, Zain Qureshi, Ahmad Chatha, Yousuf Khan, Zubair Khan MNA from south Waziristan and others were arrested.

Sources added the security personnel who were with these PTI leaders were also arrested. Security personnel were there outside parliament service centre. On the other hand information are there Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has reached KP House. Naem Panjutha said he would leave for Peshawar along with KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur.

Meanwhile Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has taken notice of the late-night raid on the Parliament House, vowing to hold those responsible accountable. Speaking during Tuesday's session of the National Assembly, Sadiq said that 'no one will remain silent about the incident and that decisive action will be taken.'

"We will take action on last night's incident and address it seriously," Sadiq said, adding that he had requested all video footage to identify the responsible parties.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah honored women members of provincial assembly (MPAs) by standing from his seat during the assembly session, held at Sindh Assembly building in Karachi.

Sindh Energy Dept supports IIEEP Fair: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Tuesday said that provincial Energy department stands fully committed to support the IIEEP Fair.

"We will work closely along with our support departments in the ministries of Investment, Planning and Development to ensure robust participation and engagement during the three days of the fair," said Nasir Shah while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition.

He added that his presence at the fair demonstrate the provincial government's commitment to facilitating business-to-government interactions

and driving growth in the energy sector.

"During the fair, relevant departments of my ministry are available to engage with international and local visitors and exhibitors to apprise initiative aims to showcase our ongoing and upcoming projects across rural and urban Sindh, inviting investment and fostering joint ventures and partnerships that will contribute significantly to our economic development," the Minister added.

The minister said that the IIEEP's contributions will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts to meet the nation's energy challenges and enhance industrial efficiency.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

CPK delegation meets Additional IGP Karachi

KARACHI (APP): A 14-member delegation from Community Policing Karachi, led by its Chief Murad Soni, met with Additional IGP - Karachi, Javed Akhtar Odho, to discuss various issues related to law enforcement and public safety in the city.

The delegation included Deputy Chiefs Amir Chottani and Aqeel Iqbal, along with other notable members such as Zeeshan Haris, Dr. Farah, Taimur Mustafa, and others, said a news release on Tuesday.

They expressed their satisfaction with the police's efforts to maintain peace and security in the city.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted crime-related challenges in various areas and dis-

cussed them in detail with the police chief, who assured them that these issues would be resolved on a priority basis.

CPK Chief Murad Soni also suggested upgrading the city's CCTV cameras and enhancing technical support, proposals that the Additional IGP promised to consider.

Additional IGP Javed Akhtar Odho emphasized that the police force is undergoing modernization, with ongoing efforts on the Safe City Project and updates to the S-4 Project.

The meeting concluded with the delegation assuring the police chief of continued cooperation and expressing their best wishes for the future.

Interior Minister meets ANP President Senator Aimal Wali Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest and the overall situation of the country were discussed. Both leaders also talked about measures for establishment of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Naqvi said that terrorism is condemnable in all its forms, and the national narrative against terrorism is the voice of Pakistan. He emphasized that everyone needs to be united against the terrorism.

He stated that Awami National Party has bravely fought against terrorism. He also paid homage to the martyrs of Awami National Party, who embraced martyrdom in the war against terrorism.

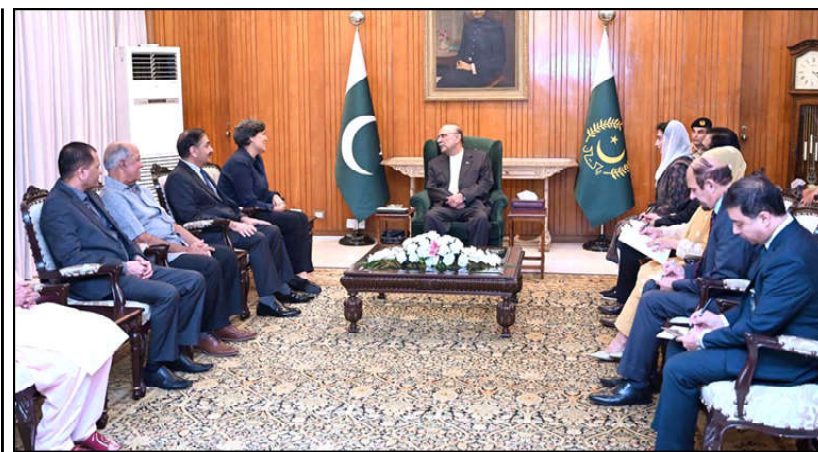
Imran Khan 'closes doors' to negotiations with all stakeholders

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has announced that negotiations with any party, including the Establishment, will be closed.

Speaking to journalists at Adiala Jail on Tuesday, the PTI founder said he had authorised six party leaders to talk to the Establishment. Regarding the Lahore rally, Imran Khan said that whether permission is granted or not, the PTI would hold the rally in Lahore on Sept 21.

When asked about KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's speech in the Islamabad rally, the PTI founder responded that CM Gandapur represented the sentiments of the nation, and he stood with him.

Replying to another query, the former prime minister responded that those apologising for Gandapur's statement were cowards and should not be in the party.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dr. A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, led by the Chairperson of the Trust, Dr. Dina Khan, call on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Governor Tessori given Ethio-Pak Fraternity Award

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Tuesday given the Ethio-Pak Fraternity Award at the Ethiopian Culture Show held at the Governor's House.

The Ethiopian Ambassador/Special Envoy Dr. Jamal Baker presented the highest Ethio-Pak Fraternity Award to the Sindh Governor for his outstanding services in strengthening bilateral relations, a

Governor House communique said on Tuesday.

The Ambassador of Ethiopia praised the role of the Governor of Sindh in the promotion of bilateral public relations and said that the award had been given for the highest services in the stabilization of bilateral relations. The Governor of Sindh played an important role in starting Ethiopian Airlines.

Sale of items used in production, consumption of drugs banned

KARACHI (APP): On the instructions of Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi has issued a notification prohibiting all items used in drug consumption.

According to the notification, Section 144 has been imposed on the sale of wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, and ceramic pipes, roach clips, bong, marijuana pipes, and other

related items.

Station House Officers (SHOs) of the concerned police stations are authorized to register cases against violators under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that this ban was an important step in the ongoing war against drug abuse in Sindh.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori honoured with the "Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Award" by Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula in a ceremony held here at Governor House

Sindh govt approves 12 new high-yield crop varieties to boost agriculture

KARACHI (APP): In a significant move towards boosting agricultural productivity, the Sindh government has approved 12 innovative crop varieties including cotton, wheat, mustard, and ber developed by the province's leading agricultural scientists.

During the 36th pivotal meeting of the Sindh Seed Council, chaired by the Sindh Minister for Agriculture Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar these crop varieties were introduced.

The council approved key varieties such as CRS 644, CRS 674, CRS 682, the latest BT 2021, and Mian Resham non-BT cotton, as well as IV-3, Urooj 22, Akbar 19, Subhani 21, and a new pasta wheat variety. Mustard variety Kizola and ber variety Lemai Golo also received approval.

Farmers voiced strong

concerns during the meeting, highlighting the financial devastation caused by substandard rice seeds from a province, leading to millions in losses for Sindh's farmers. Taking swift action, Minister Mahar ordered a thorough investigation and demanded an immediate report on the issue.

Mahar acknowledged that while there have been improvements in the agricultural sector, more needs to be done to address existing weaknesses. "We will only approve new crop varieties after thorough consultations with farmers," he said, emphasizing the government's commitment to farmers' welfare.

Mahar also announced the upcoming Seed Act, which aims to curb counterfeit agricultural products and hold fraudulent companies accountable.



ISLAMABAD: Kevin Piccoli, Deputy Director in the Office of International Affairs at the US Commodity Future Trading Commission (CFTC) called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division.

Bilawal meets Ambassador Zaidong

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday visited the Chinese Embassy and held a meeting with Ambassador Jiang Zaidong.

The discussions between the two sides focused on deepening the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China, besides further enhancing trade and economic cooperation, said a news release.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was accompanied by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab.

PM, MNAs discuss country's political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members of the National Assembly Mohammad Siddique Khan Baloch and Abdul Rehman Kanjo met Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to address issues concerning their constituencies.

During the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was also discussed, a Prime Minister Office press release stated.

Meanwhile Member of the National Assembly Rashid Akbar Nawani and Member of the Punjab Assembly Saeed Akbar Nawani called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to discuss issues pertaining to their constituencies.

Modi likely to skip SCO meeting in Islamabad, claims Indian media

ISLAMABAD (INP): India has expressed its willingness to participate online in the upcoming meeting of trade ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), scheduled to be held in Islamabad on Thursday.

As the preparations for the high-level meeting continue, senior officials from SCO member countries are currently engaged in discussions to finalize the agenda for the trade ministers' meeting, sources said. These deliberations are expected to continue into the following day to ensure a comprehensive agenda is set.

The SCO serves as a critical platform for cooperation among its member states, which include China, Russia, India, and Pakistan, among others.

PTI loses another seat in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lost another seat won in the February 8 general elections after a vote recount.

According to details, PTI's Sarbuland Khan lost to Asif Moosa of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from Sindh Assembly constituency PS-112 after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) held a vote recount. After a notification issued by the ECP, PPP's Asif Moosa took oath as a member of the Sindh Assembly. After the revised results, PPP's Asif Moosa secured the seat with 11,724 followed by PTI's Sarbuland Khan who bagged 9,943 votes.

President hails services of A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, assures full support

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari commending the services of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan Hospital Trust in providing free medical and healthcare services to the deprived and marginalized section of the society has assured his full support to the Trust.

He was talking to a delegation of Dr. A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, led by Dr. Dina Khan, daughter of Mohsin-e-Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan (Late), which called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.

MNA Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present during the meeting attended by the Trustees namely Mr. Habib-ur-Rehman, Raja Arshad Mehmood and Advisor Chaudhry Gulam Yasir Abbas.

Dr. Dina Khan briefed

the President about the role of the hospital in the provision of medical services to the people. She also apprised the President about certain problems being faced by the Trust and highlighted that some former trustees had committed financial embezzlement and had misused the accounts of the Trust.

President Zardari said that the entire nation was indebted to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan for his services to the nation and that their issues would be resolved.

The president commended the working of A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, and appreciated the generous donations by the people for the noble cause of providing much-needed free health services to the underprivileged.



ISLAMABAD: Members of National Assembly Muhammad Siddique Khan Baloch and Abdul Rahman Khan Kanjo call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Minister for ensuring safe disposal of industrial waste

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Industry and Commerce Jam

Ikramullah Dharejo, taking notice of media reports about disposing of industrial waste in sewerage drains in an unsafe manner, on Tuesday directed the factory owners to ensure safe disposal of industrial waste.

The Sindh minister, in a statement on Tuesday, maintained that the unsafe disposal of industrial waste was not only adding up to the environmental pollution but those irresponsible practices were

also causing diseases.

The minister for industries and commerce also directed MD Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE) to require factory owners of disposing of industrial waste in a safe manner.

Dharejo while warning the factory owners who were disposing of industrial waste in an unsafe manner, stressed that the environmentally hazardous activities otherwise strict action would be taken against them as per the law.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Japanese Ambassador, WADA Mitsuhito during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Anti-polio campaign continues in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi, as the head of the Polio Task Force, is personally supervising the anti-polio campaign in the metropolitan.

He visited District South on Tuesday, and reviewed the ongoing anti-polio campaign. He met with polio teams and spoke with them.

He said that the role of polio teams was crucial in the efforts to eradicate polio from the country.

He said that anti-polio is a national cause and they should work with a spirit of national service. Deputy Commissioner South, Altaf Sario, briefed the Commissioner about the anti-polio campaign in District South.

He said that the campaign was successfully ongoing in the district. On the first day of the campaign, 49,408 children under the age of

five were administered polio drops in the district.

The Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the officials of the city administration in the struggle to eradicate polio from the country.

The Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure that the target of administering polio drops to children is achieved.

Meanwhile, Coordinator of Polio Task Force, Saud Yaqoob, briefed the Commissioner about the progress of first day of the campaign.

He said that on the first day, 524,926 children under the age of five were administered polio drops in Karachi.

The campaign will continue until September 15. In the current anti-polio campaign, more than 2.7 million children will be administered polio drops.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Delayed bailout

Is Pakistan's new bailout deal with the IMF in trouble? Is the Fund's Executive Board deliberately stalling the approval of the \$7bn Extended Fund Facility agreed between Islamabad and the IMF mission on July 15? Are there any geopolitical factors at play?

These are the thoughts that come to mind after Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's fresh critique of the IMF amid delays in disbursement of the much-needed funds by the lender of last resort. Speaking at a Defence Day function in London, the minister mostly recounted his personal experiences of having worked with the Washington-based agency for the revival of a previous 2019 funding plan as the country's finance czar.

In a way, Mr Dar questioned the intentions of the Fund towards Pakistan as he narrated how the agency had continued to stall its financing for eight months, despite completion of the programme review. The lender had eventually substituted that package with a short-term loan of \$3bn to help Pakistan avert looming sovereign default last year, weeks before a caretaker administration was installed to hold elections.

While the unexpected delay in the new IMF programme's approval is already causing anxiety in the markets, the timing of Mr Dar's tirade against the lender is quite confusing. Whether or not it is linked to the current status of the new bailout, it will likely add to existing uncertainties around the early disbursement of fresh IMF funds. More so because the Fund, going by the information Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has divulged to the public in piecemeal fashion, seems to be consistently changing the goalsposts.

Or should we assume that the government has yet to fully reveal the conditions agreed with it in the staff-level agreement? Apparently, the delays in the confirmation of the debt rollovers by China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as well as the failure to arrange for fresh funds to cover the external financing gap of \$2bn for the present fiscal year, are the main reasons for the delayed approval of the IMF Board. Nonetheless, if Mr Dar, who was apparently not given his favourite portfolio in the present administration due to the mistrust between him and the IMF, is to be believed, the Fund might deliberately be deferring disbursements to the country owing to geopolitical reasons — even if this appears to be a far-fetched conclusion.

There are already speculations that the Western powers do not want Pakistan to use IMF funds to pay back the Chinese debt, and that the lender has asked Islamabad to, like Sri Lanka, first secure debt relief from Beijing, before it finally releases the promised funds. It is, therefore, crucial for the government and finance minister to clear the confusion rather than let growing uncertainty continue to grip the markets.

The master key

Gulmina Bilal
Ahmad

As both young and old hunt for better employment opportunities, it is worth reflecting on these wise words: "If education is the key, technical-vocational education is the master key." Or, in today's digital age, the master code, too. The job market is constantly in flux, with major changes in skills required for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Understandably, there is an emphasis on IT skills. However, we must not overlook (a) the consistent demand for traditional trades and (b) the changing nature and skill set of traditional trades. Both domestic and international markets still rely heavily on skilled labour, such as masons, plumbers, carpenters, and electricians. These professions remain vital globally and have been evolving simultaneously. For example, plumbers no longer work exclusively with traditional systems; they must now be familiar with smart home technologies, which demand new skills. Similarly, the job descriptions for carpenters and electricians have expanded, integrating smart technology and energy-efficient practices.

The common perception is that a lot of experience is needed, particularly for overseas jobs. However, data indicates that mid-level experience is in highest demand internationally, with about 52 per cent of employers seeking mid-level experience. Fresh graduates and workers with limited experience follow at 30pc, while only 18pc of the international market demands highly experienced workers. Domestically, the pattern is similar, with 71pc seek-

ing mid-level experience, 29pc entry-level, and less than 1pc high-level expertise.

Interestingly, vocational trades — certified through various trade programmes — are the most sought-after skill sets in both markets. In the national labour market, 65pc of jobs require trade certification, while internationally, this figure rises to 68pc. In contrast, diploma-level qualifications in health services have a smaller but notable demand: 7pc domestically and 16pc internationally. Engineering diplomas are more valued nationally (16pc) than internationally (5pc). Meanwhile, the demand for BTech degrees is 8pc internationally but only 1pc at home. These figures are from 2017, and work is underway to obtain current figures, but the indicative pattern remains the same.

Speaking of patterns, an unsurprising one is that males dominate demand in both domestic and global markets. Internationally, 98pc of skilled labour demand is for men. Domestically, the divide is slightly smaller but still substantial, with 89pc of the demand for male workers, 9pc for both genders and only 2pc specifically for women.

Despite these stark figures, the proportion of women in the annual supply of skilled workers is around 39pc. This raises critical questions about the underutilisation of female workers, especially considering the investments made in their technical and vocational education. Strategies for integrating women into the skilled labour market is a top reform need.

The demand for skilled labour also varies across different sectors. Internationally, the construction sector leads the way, account-

ing for 55pc of demand, followed by maintenance and repair (17pc), services (11pc), and manufacturing (8pc). Domestically, manufacturing is the dominant sector (33pc), followed by services (27pc) and construction (16pc). These discrepancies between national and international markets indicate a skills gap in local economies.

Understanding these trends can help us prioritise the right skills development programmes. For instance, driving and electricians' work are among the most in-demand trades, yet the supply of qualified workers in these fields lags far behind. Take driving, for example, where there is a demand for 82,015 workers, yet only 5,785 individuals are available to meet this need. Similarly, there are considerable gaps in fields such as mechanics, masonry, welding, and machine operation, many of which are either underrepresented in current vocational training programmes or completely absent from Pakistan's TVET system.

The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission has a critical role in addressing these imbalances and ensuring that the supply of skilled workers matches the demands of the national and international markets. The focus is currently on supply chain adjustments, gender inclusion and adaptation to economic transitions. More importantly, we need provincial and district-level programmes tailored to meet the specific needs of local economies. The bottom line is to ensure that vocational training is not a one-size-fits-all approach, but is, instead, sensitive to regional demands. -- Courtesy Dawn

Learning focus

Nazir A. Jomezai

With rapid industrial and technological advancements, the educational landscape has evolved to a great extent. But maximum efforts are being made to align the educational system with the needs and demands of the industrial sector. This industry-education alignment concentrates on skill-based education, a standardised curriculum and assessment, alongside homogeneous or one-size-fits-all global education reform initiatives.

The transformation in industrial trends generates new skills, which leads to new educational goals and learning milestones, making it more of an employment-oriented education system that requires graduates for industrial production. Although job security is the state's responsibility, learning has now become a means to an end — make investment to get returns on investment in the form of a job. Individuals are responsible for both success and failure as well as job attainment.

But the controlled purpose of learning prevents a broader understanding of and participation in a social-ecological framework. Education has fundamentally become a private good, determined by the need and satisfaction of private desires rather than a tool of societal progress and evolution.

Educational researcher Gert Biesta has used the term 'learnification' for marketised learning, which favours data-intensive practices. Learning has also become unidimensional in the areas of policy, research and practice; 'what' is learnt and 'why' it is learnt are obscured as the purpose is limited to excelling in a particular skill set and on being beneficial for in-

dustrial production.

In learnification, the primary focus is on a procedural array of policies and practices, individual learning and measurable outcomes. But the datification of learning for its development and outcomes is the norm in the post-digital era. The most relevant examples are standardised exams, uniform learning designs and pedagogies with grades or scores being the focal point of parental, societal and industrial goals, which drive the economic success of education providers. Quantification is the only measure of learning and success in the education system.

By categorising learning as an easily quantifiable sphere, we overlook the wider functions of education, such as critical thinking, individual growth, social engagement and societal well-being. Consequently, a large number of exam toppers are hardly a reflection of social advancement, even in basic forms such as abiding by traffic laws and being punctual.

The instructional practices simply transfer a standardised curriculum to passive learners — a monologue-oriented curriculum with stratified capital resources ignores the ground realities of a diverse educational landscape, yet expects all learners to excel equally. Our pedagogies prepare students for exams rather than nurture them as drivers of social change.

In the same learnification landscape, our policies and educational management remain more administrative than academic, trapped in superficial measures of quantification such as staff attendance through biometric attendance systems. Instead, it should analyse and nourish the academic rigour, contribution to

learning improvements and social benefits.

Renowned scholar and cultural critic Henry Giroux, therefore, terms such standardisation and quantification of education as 'neoliberal pedagogical terrorism', as it curtails any collective struggle to preserve education as the process of creating critical citizens who contribute to social advancement. Instead, it has a corporate drive for efficiency through standardisation, rigid testing and accountability methods and privatisation.

While the number of out-of-school children is becoming a national crisis, those in school are left with poor learning.

Moreover, unemployment and the rapid growth in population have become key reasons for the increase in school dropouts.

Societies such as Pakistan, unfortunately, fall into this learnification trap, which is asymmetrical to their societal and structural fabrication. Hence, the country faces mass joblessness. The state offers extensions in the employment age limit as a remedy, which further increases the unemployment rate. What is important is a shift in the purpose of learning; it must move away from corporate or industrial uplift and job-oriented perspective to societal well-being, with bottom-up education for productive learners as opposed to passive ones.

Education should not only produce skilled human capital but also nurture them holistically to address diverse societal needs so that they can contribute to the collective social good. Potential learners need to be sensible human beings, responsible citizens and drivers of social changes. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Over Rs153 billion tax refunds disbursed to exporters, ensuring market liquidity: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday told the Upper House of the Parliament that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has provided over Rs153 billion tax refunds to the exporters ensuring market liquidity.

He was responding during the Questions and Answers session to a supplementary query of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada amid the seventh meeting of the 342nd Senate Session here with Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan Nasar in chair.

Senator Zeeshan Khanzada of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in his

query noted that the trade policy imposed in 2019 had expired in 2024 and no new policy and the government stance was shared so far.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb responded that the federal government through FBR had expedited refunds and over Rs52 billion were dispersed to the exporters on July 1st, the first day of the fiscal year 2024.

He said the federal government was focussing on diversification of exports into agriculture and information and technology (IT) as these two sectors were real channels and levers of growth and a comprehensive policy was in place.

The Finance Minister

in response to another query, said the question is pertinent and agriculture was the real lever of growth in Pakistan that saved the country economically through its 6% growth rate during the past fiscal year that averted default risk.

He assured the mover that the federal government would increase the financing for agriculture sector with large- and small-scale farmer financing including livestock and dairy financing as the latter comprised 60% of country's agriculture sector GDP.

"We are trying to promote dairy and livestock financing through banks and the point of the Member is well noted," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the K-Electric leadership to discuss energy sector reforms and renewable energy transition.

Trade Policy 2025 to be announced soon: Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce and Trade Jam Kamal Khan has said the government was working to announce the Trade Policy 2025 which would be presented to the standing committees of the Parliament soon.

Replying to the questions of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the 342nd session of the question and answer session of the House, he said the government was committed to facilitating trade and industry and expanding exports.

Kamal said that the

incumbent government was determined to bring institutional and structural reforms, enhance regional connectivity, and diversify exports to ensure sustainable growth and stabilise the economy.

Jam Kamal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has conducted several meetings with relevant ministries and stakeholders to deliberate upon a range of issues so that a comprehensive strategy could be framed to do away with all the challenges being faced by the business and industry in Pakistan.

He said that the textile sector, which constitutes the major portion of the country's exports, was under stress and we are considering different options for developing the sector.

Kamal informed that the present government had appointed a competent Head of the National Compliance Center on September 1. He told the House that textiles and apparel exports slightly increased by 0.93 per cent in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 as compared with FY 2022-23.

Govt. committed to promote Islamic banking in country: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik Tuesday informed the National Assembly that the government is committed to promote Islamic banking in the country. In response to a Calling Attention Notice in the House, he said that the government plans to launch new Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion under Islamic Finance this month.

He explained that two schemes under the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) were launched in July 2023, involving Rs 70 billion in instruments, though these schemes were later suspended.

The minister high-

lighted that Islamic financial instruments are asset-backed, with certificates issued against tangible assets. In 2023, certificates worth Rs 80 billion were issued against assets such as the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and Islamabad Metro.

He said that the government has identified new assets valued at Rs 1,000 billion and has secured the necessary approvals to proceed. Consequently, Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion will be issued this month.

The minister also reported a 30 per cent increase in Islamic banking accounts and announced plans to issue new certificates based on the recently identified assets.

Businessmen can make Pakistan an economic power: Dr Gohar Ejaz

LAHORE (APP): While stressing upon the unity of business community, Patron-in-Chief APTMA and former caretaker federal minister Dr Gohar Ejaz has said that the business leadership has the potential to make Pakistan an economic power. He was speaking at a reception organized in the honour of PIAF Founders LBF Alliance candidates on Tuesday where APTMA North extended all out support to the PIAF Founders LBF Alliance in the upcoming Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) elections 2024-26. Patron-in-Chief United Business Group (UBG) S M Tanveer was also present.

Dr Gohar Ejaz said a country can only be powerful if it has strong army and a strong economy. Pakistan has a strong army and the business community is dreaming of securing a strong economy by forging alliances right from the FPCCI to Chambers and Associations. He said the country's exports would have been US \$60 billion today had the business community decided to forge unity 10 years back. He said the business community has a new leadership in the form of S M Tanveer who has united the business community countrywide and secured two-thirds majority in the FPCCI.

Sohail Pasha elected chairman PTEA unopposed

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has elected Sohail Pasha as unopposed Chairman of PTEA, whereas Mahmood Ahmad and Ameer Ahmed were elected uncontested Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. Earlier, twenty-four members were also elected unopposed for the Executive Committee seats of PTEA for the next two-year term. Member PTEA Election Commission Rana Javed Akhtar, declaring unofficial results, said here on Tuesday that only three nomination papers were received for the office Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Association.

Chinese delegation from Shandong CCI visits LCCI

LAHORE (APP): A high-level delegation from the Shandong Chamber of Commerce & Industry, China, visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) here Tuesday. LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt presented the address of welcome to the delegation led by Li Chong. Shahbaz Siddique, Convener of the Standing Committee on "Pak-China Business Relations", was also present.

The LCCI Vice President praised the consistent interest of Chinese trade missions in engaging with the LCCI, recognizing it as a pivotal hub for enhancing bilateral trade relations. He

specifically acknowledged the vital role of Li Chong and his delegation in exploring business opportunities that could further strengthen the economic ties between the two nations.

Adnan Khalid Butt underscored the importance of mutual cooperation in various sectors, including Minerals, Steel Structures, Gold Mines, Salt Mines, Construction and Medical Equipment. He emphasized that the Pakistani business community is eager to collaborate with Chinese enterprises in these fields, with the aim of fostering long-term partnerships that could lead to significant economic growth.

Rupee gains 09 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 09 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.61 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.85 and Rs 280.45 respectively.

CCP enforces 'Competition Law', Rs 27 million in penalties recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has successfully recovered Rs27 million in penalties from Reliance Paints and Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) by exercising its authority under Section 40(2)(a) of the Competition Act, 2010, through the attachment of their bank accounts.

These recoveries are part of the CCP's broader strategy to enforce its mandate of ensuring a level playing field across all sectors, demonstrating its commit-

ment to tackling anti-competitive practices, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Over the past year, the CCP has recovered a total of PKR 69 million in penalties, accounting for 25% of the total amount recovered since the Commission's establishment in 2007.

This significant progress underscores the CCP's ongoing vigilance and effectiveness in promoting fair competition and protecting consumer interests.



Asad Isalm Mahni, Additional Secretary Ministry for Industry and Production, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO NPO in a group photo with the participants of the International Workshop.

Maryam seeks five-year vision reports from parliamentary secretaries

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday held a meeting with Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, and Administrative Secretaries to streamline government affairs.

The CM directed the authorities concerned to invite parliamentary secretaries concerned to the departmental meetings. She also directed parliamentary secretaries to get details of the projects from their respective departments, and sought five-year vision reports from them.

In her address, the CM emphasized the equal status of parliamentary secretaries, acknowledging their pivotal role in implementing government policies. She underscored the necessity of collective effort, stating, "No one person can run this govern-

ment alone; everyone has to work together."

CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted Punjab's potential as noted by Chinese investors and criticized previous administrations for their inefficiency, which she claims undermined development. She remarked on the extensive work achieved during Shehbaz Sharif's tenure, noting that the progress had been significantly disrupted.

The chief minister highlighted recent achievements, including a decline in inflation and improvements in food prices. She said that the price of flour in Punjab is significantly lower compared to other provinces.

She announced several initiatives: the distribution of Kisan Cards, a Rs 10 lakh subsidy for green tractors, and the 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar Programme,' which

offers loans for home construction. She also mentioned relief measures in electricity bills and the launch of Minority Cards.

The CM stressed the importance of fieldwork to address public issues and the ongoing improvement in bureaucratic performance through a new KPI (key performance indicator) system. She urged her team to embrace their responsibilities in public service and announced plans to distribute sweets for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him).

Senior Provincial Minister Mairiyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries attended the meeting. Provincial Secretaries and other relevant officers were also present.

CM KP's derogatory remarks against journalists, women face widespread criticism

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister's recent disparaging remarks directed at journalists and women, along with attempts to exert undue pressure on the state institutions including judiciary, have been met with broad condemnation across the province. The unjustified and provocative remarks made by CM KP during a public meeting in Islamabad were described as "irrational" by politicians and civil society and demanded of Gandapur tender unconditional apology over his tirade against media professionals and CM Punjab.

Ikhtiar Wali Khan, the Information Secretary for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in KP criticized Gandapur's attack on the media, emphasizing that the press had played a crucial role in promoting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's popularity during

the 2018 general elections when other political parties were completely sidelined, paving the way for PTI founder to get majority and became the prime minister of Pakistan.

Declaring the PTI's Islamabad rally as a complete failure, the PMLN leader strongly condemned Gandapur's illogical statement pertaining to forceful release of the PTI founder, adding such premature and provocative statements were aimed to place undue pressure on state institutions, including the judiciary.

He urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo moto notice of Gandapur's derogatory remarks, highlighting PTI's pattern of pressuring institutions when favorable judgments are not secured. The PML-N leader stressed that legal proceedings cannot be influenced through public rallies or agitation.

Four killed, two injured in road mishap at Shangla

SHANGLA (APP): Four persons were killed and two injured when a passenger jeep plunged into deep ravine near Leko Kamar area Tehsil Chakaisar, Shangla.

Four persons including Jamshaid Ali, Imran, Izat Sayed and Umar Farooq were killed in the incident and two sustained injuries.

Mills workers receive financial aid of Rs 4.6m

FAISALABAD (APP): The Labour Welfare Department west region distributed financial aid of Rs 4.6 million among workers of a textile mills from Punjab Workers Welfare Fund, here on Tuesday.

Director Labour West Ghulam Shabir Kalyar gave the cheques to workers by visiting Crescent Textile Mills.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the 14th BoGs meeting of Edwards College at Governor House.

Kundi chairs BoGs meeting expresses dissatisfaction over delay in minutes

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday presided over the 14th Board of Governors meeting of Edwards College at the Governor House.

Governor expressed dissatisfaction with the unnecessary delay in the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, saying that stringent action would be taken in case of further delays in the preparation and approval of minutes from past meetings.

The meeting included a detailed review of the progress on the decisions taken during the last Board of Governors meeting.

A proposal was presented to reduce unnecessary expenses and increase the number of scholarships for students. Under the proposal, 14 students from merged districts will receive 100 percent scholarships. Additionally, the proposal included five scholarships for disabled students, three for Hafiz-e-Quran students, and three for transgender students.

The discussion also covered the appointment of a permanent Principal for the college. The Governor emphasized that relevant rules and procedures should be reviewed for this appointment. Governor Kundi directed that a proposal be prepared for establishing branches of Edwards College in Abbottabad and Dera Ismail Khan.

He also announced plans to hold a meeting with students and faculty to gather suggestions for the overall improvement of the college.

The Governor instructed to expedite work on meeting minutes and other related matters.

Special guests at the meeting included CEO of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute Shakil Durrani and renowned educationist Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Bishop Peshawar Sarfraz Humphrey Peter.

Minister holds PEF 88th BoD meeting

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat chaired the 88th meeting of Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) Board of Directors (BoDs) at the PEF head office, here on Tuesday.

Member Chief Minister's Task Force Muzammil Mehmood participated as a new board member while Secretary Schools Education Khalid Nazir Wattoo, Secretary Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Syed Haider Iqbal, Education Expert Asma Waziri, Direc-

tor STEM, University of Education Dr. Intizar Hussain Butt, Assistant Chief, Planning and Development Department Dr. Saima Malik, Deputy Secretary Technical, Social Welfare Department Muhammad Itfikhhar Hussain Bhatti, Additional Finance Secretary Meer Raza and Technocrat Dr. Basit Khan attended the meeting.

During the session, Malik Shoaib Awan was elected as the new Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation.



LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat, Vice Chancellor Uzma Qureshi, DG Rescue Dr. Rizwan Naseer inaugurating the Life Saver program on the occasion of World First Aid Day at Lahore College for Women University.

KP to contact Center over financial issues in tribal districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to contact the Center and prepared a document with regard to financial problems of the Merged Districts of the province.

According to official sources, the KP government has once again decided to contact the Federal Government for assistance in resolving the financial issues of the tribal districts.

A document written in this regard has demanded establishment of a special 10-year grant with a name of "Pakistan Building Grant" to address the monetary issues of the merged tribal districts.

The document seeking a solution to the financial problems in merged districts urged the Federal Government to include these districts in 7th NFC Award and recalculate and reassess its shares.

The provincial government was also seeking to send this document to the NFC as it was a constitutional forum.

In this document, the KP government has written that after the merger, tribal districts have been nearly deprived of the development projects as these districts were obtaining an amount of Rs865 billion less than the Baluchistan and other provinces of the country.

Minister assures to resolve problems of LG employees on priority basis

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Local Government, Elections and Development Arshad Ayub Khan on Tuesday said that the problems being faced by the employees of Local Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be resolved as soon as possible.

Talking to a delegation of Local Government Employees Federation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, he said that establishing a building control authority was a top priority of the provincial government for improving

parcs, said a press release issued here.

The Minister said that the KP government was bringing reforms in the local and district institutions and making the departments digitised to strengthen the institutions and eliminate corruption.

He said that through mutual consultation, reforms and transparency would be brought in all the government institutions. Earlier, the General Secretary Local Government Employees Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Salman Khan Hoti informed the Minister about problems of the employees.

ATC declares 2 PTI leaders as POs in May-9 case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday declared two leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as proclaimed offenders (POs) in a case of torching police vehicles in Gulberg during the May 9 violence. The court declared the accused, Mian Aslam Iqbal and Khurram Shahzad, as proclaimed offenders. The investigating officer of Gulberg Police Station had filed the application for declaring the accused proclaimed offenders. The officer stated that extensive efforts were made to arrest the accused, but they could not be apprehended as they had gone into hiding to

International News

UN chief calls the death and destruction in Gaza the worst he's seen

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. chief said that the United Nations has offered to monitor any cease-fire in Gaza and demanded an end to the worst death and destruction he has seen in his more than seven-year tenure.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that it's "unrealistic" to think the U.N. could play a role in Gaza's future, either by administering the territory or providing a peacekeeping force, because Israel is unlikely to accept a U.N. role.

But he said "the U.N. will be available to support any cease-fire." The United Nations has had a military monitoring mission in the Middle East, known as UNTSO, since 1948, and "from our side, this was one of the hypotheses that

we've put on the table," he said.

"Of course, we'll be ready to do whatever the international community asked for us," Guterres said. "The question is whether the parties would accept it, and in particular whether Israel would accept it."

Israel's military assault on Gaza, triggered by Hamas' attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, has stretched for 11 months, with recent cease-fire talks failing to reach a breakthrough and violence in the West Bank reaching new highs.

Stressing the urgency of a cease-fire now, Guterres said: "The level of suffering we are witnessing in Gaza is unprecedented in my mandate as secretary-general of the United Nations. I've never seen such a level of death and destruc-

tion as we are seeing in Gaza in the last few months."

The war has killed over 40,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, part of Gaza's Hamas government, does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count though it says about half of the dead have been women and children. Israel says at least 17,000 militants are among the dead.

The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon reacted to Guterres' comments saying, "It is disappointing to see the U.N. advocate for a cease-fire without mentioning the hostages and without condemning Hamas."



Palestinians inspect the site following Israeli strikes on a tent camp sheltering displaced people, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, at the Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

China announces joint naval, air drills with Russia

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's Defense Ministry on Monday announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine. The ministry said the "Northern United-2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details.

It said the naval and air drills aimed to improve strategic cooperation between the two countries and "strengthen their ability to jointly deal with security threats." The notice also said the two navies would cruise together in the Pacific, the fifth time they have done so, and together take part in Russia's "Great Ocean-24" exercise. No details were given. China has refused to criticize Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year, and blamed the U.S. and NATO for provoking President Vladimir Putin.

Its war with Sudan's army has created the world's largest hunger and internal displacement crises, killing tens of thousands of civilians and destroying most of Sudan's infrastructure and economy. Emergency Lawyers said the army had killed at least four people in al-Souki, a town near Sennar, during airstrikes.

UN convoy in Gaza released after being detained by Israel

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: A convoy of United Nations vehicles and staff detained for more than eight hours by Israel in northern Gaza on Monday has been released, the head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said.

The Israeli military said on Monday it detained the convoy after receiving intelligence indicating that a number of "Palestinian suspects" were aboard and that it wanted to question them.

Bangladesh to seek Hasina's extradition from India

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's war crimes tribunal is to seek the extradition of ousted leader Sheikh Hasina from neighbouring India, its chief prosecutor has said, accusing her of carrying out "massacres".

Weeks of student-led demonstrations in Bangladesh escalated into mass protests last month, with Hasina quitting as prime minister and fleeing by helicopter to old ally India on August 5, ending her iron-fisted 15-year rule.

Ukraine attacks Russia with 144 drones, killing one and closing airports

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Ukraine on Tuesday struck Moscow and western Russia in one of its biggest ever drone attacks, killing at least one woman, wrecking dozens of homes and forcing the closure of major airports in the capital, Russian officials said.

Ukraine launched swarms of attack drones over the world's biggest nuclear power. Russia said it destroyed at least 20 over the Moscow region, which has a population of over 21 million, and 124 more over eight other regions.

Three of Moscow's four airports were closed for air traffic following the attacks, Russia's aviation authority Rosaviatsia said.

A major road leading to the capital was partially closed. The drone attacks damaged at least two high-rise apartment buildings in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow region, setting flats on fire, Moscow's governor Andrei Vorobyov said.

A 46-year-old woman died and three people were injured in Ramenskoye, Vorobyov said. He added that 43 people were evacuated to temporary accommodation centres.

Social media videos showed flames bursting out of windows of a multi-story residential building, saying that dozens of flats were damaged in the Ramenskoye district.

Israeli defense chief says a temporary truce with Hamas is possible

Monitoring Desk
TEL AVIV: Israel's defense minister says the window is closing on an opportunity to reach a temporary cease-fire deal with the Hamas militant group that he believes could also bring calm to the country's volatile northern border with Lebanon.

Speaking to reporters, Yoav Gallant said that conditions are ripe for at least a six-week pause in fighting that would include the release of many of the hostages held in Gaza. However, he would not commit to a permanent end to the fighting, as Hamas has demanded, raising questions about the feasibility of a deal.

"Israel should achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages," he said. After that period, he said, "we maintain the right to operate and achieve our goals—including the destruction of Hamas."

The United States, along with mediators Egypt and Qatar, has been

working for months to broker a cease-fire to end the devastating war between Israel and Hamas. A main area of disagreement has been Hamas' demand for an end to the nearly year-old war and a full withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has raised a new sticking point in recent weeks, saying that Israel must remain stationed in a strategic corridor along Gaza's border with Egypt indefinitely.

Gallant has been quoted in Israeli media as saying that Israel could withdraw from the corridor for six weeks — to allow hostages to go free without risking Israel's security. The two men reportedly got into a heated shouting match at a recent Cabinet meeting where ministers overwhelmingly sided with Netanyahu.

US and Britain accuse Iran of sending Russia missiles to use in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The United States and Britain formally accused Iran on Tuesday of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use in the war in Ukraine and will take measures to punish those involved.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking alongside British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during a visit to London, said that sanctions would be announced later Tuesday.

"Russia has now received shipments of these ballistic missiles and will likely use them within weeks in Ukraine, against Ukrainians," Blinken said. "The supply of Iranian missiles enables Russia to use more of its arsenal for targets that are further from the front line." It comes as Blinken and Lammy are preparing to make a joint visit

Wednesday to Ukraine, where they will meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other senior officials to discuss bolstering the country's defenses. The Kremlin is trying to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has claimed hundreds of miles of territory in Russia's Kursk region.

The accusations about Iranian missiles could embolden Zelenskyy to further ramp up pressure on the U.S. and other allies to allow Ukraine to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks. President Joe Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles across the border into Russia in self-defense but largely limited the distance over concerns about further escalating the conflict.

Nine migrants perish off Senegal's coast

Monitoring Desk
MBOUR: At least nine people died after their boat sank off the coast of Senegal, the navy said on Monday, in the latest migration-linked tragedy to occur off West Africa.

The pirogue, which was "involved in irregular emigration", capsized on Sunday off the coast of the western town of Mbour, the navy said in a post on X.

The navy said it had launched a search involving three vessels and a Spanish maritime patrol aircraft. "Nine lifeless bodies were discovered and three survivors identified. An unknown number of people have been rescued by local fishermen", it said, without giving the number of missing.

The search is ongoing along the coast. Onlookers and relatives of the victims gathered on the shore for news of the missing.

RSF paramilitaries kill 31 in Sudanese city of Sennar, activists say

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: At least 31 people have been killed and 100 wounded since the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces renewed an assault on the city of Sennar in southeastern Sudan on Sunday, a legal activist group said.

Several parts of the city including the main market have been targeted by RSF artillery fire, said Emergency Lawyers, which has monitored civilian deaths and other humanitarian violations.

The progress of the RSF, which already controls

Pak calls for mechanisms enabling UN peacekeepers to foster peace among conflicting parties

UNITED NATIONS sador Akram said Pakistan has a long and close involvement with United Nations peace operations. Pakistan, he said, is host to one of the first United Nations missions — the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which was established in 1949 to monitor the ceasefire along the line of control (LoC) in disputed Jammu and Kashmir.

For its part, Pakistan has also deployed 230,000 peacekeepers in 46 missions and has lost 181 peacekeepers in the service of international peace and security, Ambassador Akram added. In today's day and age, he said, United Nations peacekeeping missions find themselves facing new and growing challenges, including violence and chaos spread by terrorists, involvement of organized criminal networks in illegal extraction of resources and criminal activities; external interventions in local conflicts; limitations imposed on the resources for UN peacekeeping and erosion of unified support from member States.

The Pakistani envoy said that peacekeeping missions should also put greater emphasis on promoting local peace arrangements at the community level to reduce violence, citing the successful efforts of the Pakistani peacekeepers in restive Abyei, an area disputed by South Sudan and the Sudan, Monday's Council meeting was organized by Slovenia as the rotating President of the UN Security Council for the month of September.

At the outset, Amba-



KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Spokesman, Sardar Abdul Rahim along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Functional House in Karachi.

Pak Army gives befitting reply to unprovoked Afghan Taliban aggression at Pak-Afghan border

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Army killed at least 16 Afghan Taliban as they responded strongly to unprovoked aggression along the Pakistan-Afghan border.

As per details, Afghan Taliban opened unprovoked fire at Pak-Afghan border on September 7, which lasted till September 9 evening.

Pakistani Army responded strongly to the unprovoked firing from Afghanistan and killed 16 Taliban fighters, while 27

were injured, according to security sources.

Two Taliban tanks were destroyed during the clash.

Security sources have reiterated Pakistan's stance on border security, emphasizing that any unprovoked aggression will be met with a robust response.

The military's swift and effective retaliation underscores its commitment to defending the nation's borders against external threats.

DC Larkana visits various developments schemes

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa visited the various development schemes of Public Health Engineering Larkana Division, District Highways Larkana and Provincial Buildings in Neo Dero and Ratodero of Larkana and also reviewed the quality of the materials used in these schemes on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner Larkana directed the officials to complete the ongoing schemes within the stipulated time so that the

public can benefit from these schemes. He said that special care should be taken of the materials used in these development schemes. In this regard, no shortcoming will be tolerated. He said that these schemes are for the benefit of the public and they should be completed as soon as possible. During the visit, Deputy Commissioner Larkana was also briefed by officials about the schemes through maps. Officials of concerned departments were also present during the visit.



KARACHI: A large number of vehicles stuck in traffic jam during protest demonstration of residents of Punjab Colony against prolong electricity load shedding in their area, at Mai Kolachi Road in Karachi.

Passing-out parade held at PTS Larkana

LARKANA (APP): The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP), Larkana Range Muhammad Nasir Aftab has urged upon the police officials that they should come forward, realize their responsibilities and meet the challenges with their professional qualities and try to their best to curb the crime in their areas where they will be posted.

This he said while addressing the Police trainees at 53rd Passing-Out Parade of Police Training School (PTS), at parade Ground of PTS Larkana on Tuesday.

He also called upon the police officials that they should realize their moral and legal obligations

and provide justice to the common-man at gross-root level as well as behave with the common-man politely and safeguard the properties, lives and honour of the people without any discrimination.

He said that in order to keep the writ of law and whatever you have learned in the training face the criminals as well as terrorists and safeguard the lives and properties of the people at gross root level. He also asked the Police officials that they should behave politely with the people and proved themselves as true Pakistanis and work for the solidarity and integrity of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding over the meeting of Treasury & Opposition Members in National Assembly at Parliament House.

President Zardari says Following Quaid's guiding principles vital for a strong, prosperous Pakistan PM calls on nation to renew commitment for building Pakistan as per Quaid's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the nation to follow Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's principles of "unity, faith and discipline" emphasising their significance as a beacon for the country's development.

"I am sure that by acting upon his (Quaid-e-Azam) teachings and advice, we can make Pakistan strong and prosperous," the president said in his message to the nation on the

occasion of the 76th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah annually observed on September 11.

Paying tribute to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president said that the Pakistani nation was indebted to him for his efforts and contribution to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent where they could live with dignity and exercise their political, cultural, and religious rights.

Calling him a visionary leader, who united the Muslims of India under one banner, the president said the whole nation was proud of Quaid-e-Azam's untiring struggle and unwavering commitment to the right to self-determination that shaped the destiny of millions of Muslims.

"Quaid-e-Azam's vision for Pakistan was fundamentally democratic as he firmly believed in a state where all citizens, irrespective of religion, would be

Polio eradication requires serious efforts: DC

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jamshoro Riaz Hussain Wassan on Tuesday said that the eradication of polio was possible, but it requires collective effort and dedication to make the anti-polio campaign more successful than ever.

Speaking on the second day of the anti-polio campaign at Union Council Nango Line, Union Council Kotri and UC HM Shoro on Tuesday, he urged polio workers to remain vigilant and avoid any negligence in their duties. He highlighted the importance of achieving better results through diligent efforts, not only to make Sindh but the entire country polio-free.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that through hard work, we can eliminate polio and protect our children from lifelong disabilities.

Commissioner Karachi reviews measures to control prices of essential food items

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi on Tuesday chaired a meeting at his office to review measures for control of prices of essential food items.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners in person and Assistant Commissioners via video link. They presented the details of violation of official prices of commodities and informed about the actions taken against profiteers.

Additional Commissioner-I Ghulam Mehdi Shah, Additional Commissioner-II Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Rabia Syed, Assistant Commissioner General Hazim Bangwar and others were present in the meet-

ing. The Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner East to make the role of Market Committee for making auction system transparent.

The Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner East to activate the market committee and ensure the posted Assistant Commissioner plays its role as a monitor so that prices are fixed appropriately and citizens can get fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices.

The meeting also reviewed the campaign against encroachments causing traffic congestion in the city.

The Deputy Commissioners informed about the actions taken against encroachments in their respective districts.

Bill to increase number of SC judges tabled in NA

ISLAMABAD (INP): "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2024" aimed to increase the number of apex court's judges from 17 to 23, in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

The bill was introduced by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) lawmaker Daniyal Chaudhry.

As per "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024", the total number of judges, including the Chief Justice, will increase from 17 to 23.

The bill sought amendment in the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997.

It should be mentioned here that the total number of judges in the apex court other than the Chief Justice is 16.

The government did not raise any objections to the bill.

Woman murdered by ex-husband for demanding Haq Mehr

KARACHI (INP): A man killed his former wife for demanding Haq Mehr in the limits of Quaidabad police station Karachi.

According to police, when Fatima's body was found yesterday, her murder was portrayed as a suicide.

However, she did not commit suicide rather was killed by her ex-husband for demanding Haq Mehr (a mandatory gift or token of respect given by the husband to the wife at the time of marriage).

However, the former husband of deceased Fatima, identified as Nauman, has been arrested by the police.

The victim's ex-husband killed the woman by strangulating her with a cloth.

All set for Eid Miladun Nabi celebrations

SUKKUR (APP): All set for celebrate Eid Miladun Nabi on the 12th of Rabiul Awwal across the northern Sindh to mark the birthday of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) with religious fervour and enthusiasm.

The Sukkur city is being decorated beautifully under the directives of Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh to celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) in a befitting manner. The roads, streets and buildings in Sukkur district are going to be embellished by the faithful with colourful lights and bunting.

Several programmes have been chalked out to celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) with great reverence and devotion. Different Naat committees in the Khairpur and Ghotki districts will organising Naat competitions to celebrate the 12th Rabiul Awwal.

Four drug dealers nabbed; ice, hashish recovered

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Excise and Narcotics Control Department on Tuesday claimed to have arrested four drug dealers and recovered hashish, ice and heroin from their possession.

A team of Excise Narcotics Control Department led by Excise Inspector Allan Khan Abbasi, conducted an operation in Tando Adam Road near Railway Gate in Tando Walhar, arresting three drug peddlers: Ali Akbar, Tahir Baloch, and Many alias Manu, according to a communique here.

The team recovered 154 grams of ice from Ali Akbar, 244 grams of ice from Tahir Baloch, and 160 grams of heroin from Many alias Manu.

In another operation, Excise Narcotics Control Sukkur, under the leadership of Excise Inspector Qamar Syal, arrested drug dealer Qurban Ali Brohi near Khadim Pump in Rohri.

SRSO installs latrines at tent city in Badin

SUKKUR (APP): Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) has installed 10 pit latrines at the Tent City in village Faiz Muhammad Samjeo, UC Dharkdo, taluka Shaheed Fazul Raho, district Badin on the request of the district administration and the SRSO-fostered Village Organization (VO).

According to a release issued here on Tuesday, the Tent City was established by the administration to provide shelter and essential services to families affected by the recent rain-drain floods.

The VO volunteers from Village Faiz Muhammad Samejo worked tirelessly to install the latrines, providing basic WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities to the temporarily displaced families.



KARACHI: Members of Pakistan Punjabi Organization are holding protest demonstration against target killing of Punjabis in Balochistan, held at Karachi press club.

DC inspects vaccination process of Anti-polio campaign

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Raja MB Dharejo on Tuesday visited various designated polio vaccination spots during second day and inspected the ongoing inoculation process.

He visited toll plazas and hospitals to witness the vaccination process of children. He also listened to the problems of polio workers and assured them of cooperation.

DC Dharejo also urged transporters to cooperate with polio workers deputed on toll plaza Sukkur for vaccination.

DC Larkana for full proof security arrangements on Eid Milad un Nabi

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Larkana Sharjeel Noor Channa along with Assistant Commissioner Ratodero Kainat Shaikh and other official visited Neodero and Ratodero's routes of processions on 12 Rabi Awwal (Eid ul Melad).

DC instructed the relevant officials that cleanliness and lighting arrangements should be ensured on the routes of the processions and full-proof security arrangements should also be made during the processions to avoid any untoward incident.

He said that the administration and the scholars should cooperate with each other.



HYDERABAD: A view of Makrani para submerged with rain water after recent rainfall.

PTI introduced tradition of vendetta in politics: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership had introduced the tradition of confrontation and vendetta in politics.

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister strongly condemned the PTI leaders, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for their abusive outburst against national institutions, woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangjani meeting.

He said the PTI leaders had been repeatedly asked to be careful in their dealing with other political parties as it was a question of time which ultimately changed.

The minister said that Gandapur vented out his

anger against institutions, Maryam Nawaz and the journalist community and used abusive language.

There were empty seats on his right side in the House as only a few opposition members had turned up after the failed meeting, he added.

Tarar said in the past, the instructions for the production order for any detained opposition member used to come from the Prime Minister's House instead of the custodian of this august House. It was the PTI's founder on whose directives the production orders were issued, he added.

He said Faryal Talpur was sent to the jail from hospital on the 'Chand Raat' (eve of Eid) only to give mental torture to her brother. Similarly, Maryam Nawaz who had secured bail in a case, was again arrested in the presence of her father, he said.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah interacts with former Chief Minister Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah during the assembly session, held at Sindh Assembly building in Karachi.

Divisional Commissioner directs inspection of polio campaign

MIRPURKHAS (APP): To ensure no lapses in the polio campaign, revenue officers across the division have been tasked with monitoring the performance of the polio teams and the progress of the vaccination drive.

The Divisional Commissioner has instructed that the polio campaign should be closely monitored to ensure that no child is left out of the vaccination. Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner of Shujaabad Taluka, Mehwish Ejaz also inspected the polio campaign in her jurisdiction and administered polio drops to children.

Committed efforts needed to eradicate polio: DC Jamshoro

JAMSHORO (INP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jamshoro Riaz Hussain Wassan said that committed efforts are needed to eradicate polio and it is vital to make the anti-polio campaign more successful than ever for achieved the targets.

This was stated by him while speaking on the second day of the anti-polio campaign at Union Council Nango Line, Union Council Kotri and UC HM



LARKANA: Members of Primary Teachers Association (PTA) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Anisa Memon visits schools in Matiari

HYDERABAD (APP): Girls Primary School Seekhat and Government Boys Primary School Seekhat. They inspected classrooms and other sections of the schools.

During her visit, Anisa Memon emphasized that quality education was essential for a better future, stating that education was the only tool to tackle future challenges. She highlighted the significance of schools in shaping the foundation of the future and assured that the Siraj Institute of Sindh Studies would play a vital role in improving the quality of schools in Sindh.

She also announced the provision of libraries to schools and training for teachers. Addressing the students, she encouraged them to make education the central focus of their lives, as it was the only path to a successful future.