

# Independent

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## Sindh govt implements steps to combat extremism, radicalisation: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that government has implemented measures to combat extremism and terrorism by intelligence sharing and coordinated operations with the help of law enforcement agencies.

He addressed to the participants of National and Security & War Course-25 included 240 officers of Armed forces, Civil servants and military officers from 24 friendly countries led by Chief Instructor Major General Mohammad Akhtar.

Provincial Ministers Sharjeel Memon, Sardar Shah, Nasir Shah Saeed Ghani, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, Chairman P&D Najma Shah, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Secretary to CM

Raheem Shaikh and other provincial secretaries also attended the program.

Shah stated that the Sindh government has implemented various initiatives to strengthen the police force. These initiatives include training programs and infrastructure development. He mentioned specific initiatives such as the upgrading of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and Special Branch, as well as the launch of the Karachi Safe City Project.

Additionally, he highlighted the Sindh Smart Surveillance System (S4) project, which involves the installation of ANPR and facial recognition cameras at 40 toll plazas in Sindh.

The CM revealed that the investigation cost has been increased, and police stations have been allocated a direct budget of Rs4.8 billion.



QUETTA: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses the Balochistan High Court Bar Association, focusing on key legal and political issues in the provincial capital.

## Core inflation decreases to 6.9%

## PM vows further relief as inflation slows at lowest in last four years in Sept

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed his satisfaction at the slowing down of price-hike which now clocked in at the lowest 6.9 percent when compared with run-away digits in the last 44 months.

The prime minister lauded the government's economic team for capping the headline inflation which now clocked in at 6.9 percent on a year-on-year basis in September 2024.

The price hike had nosedived in the month of August this year at one digit 9.6pc for the first time in the last 34 months, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) index reading remained at the lowest in September this year bringing the spiraling inflation to record low in the last 44 months.

"With the grace of Allah Almighty, the promises made with the public have started yielding results. With inflation rate at 6.9pc, the common man will get relief," the press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister further observed that with continuous reduction in the petroleum prices, the public was getting relief, whereas after interest rate slide, the business activities would get a spur.

He also expressed his satisfaction at the achievement of target of bringing the inflation rate to 7 percent in 2024 ahead of next year.

The prime minister said that from the day first, they had accorded priority to the measures aimed at providing relief to public, adding that machinations of those who wished Pakistan ramming into default, had been foiled.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi meets with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazal ur Rehman in Federal Capital.

## Naqvi meets Maulana Fazl, seeks cooperation on constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD (Online): Inside story of meeting between Maulana Fazlur Rehman and interior minister Mohsin Naqvi has come to open. Maulana Fazlur Rehman has sought time on the matter of constitutional amendments.

According to sources interior minister appealed to Maulana Fazlur Rehman to cooperate with government. Mohsin Naqvi requested Maulana Fazlur Rehman to sit with government and listen government stance on the matter of constitutional amendment.

Interior minister conveyed the message of President Asif Ali Zardari to Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Sources disclosed Maulana Fazlur Rehman

has sought time for consideration and consultation with party. Meeting is likely to take place again in the next few days.

Earlier Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reached residence of Maulana Fazlur Rehman to meet him.

Mohsin Naqvi congratulated Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidri on being elected unopposed as JUI-F Amir and JUI-F secretary general respectively.

Mohsin Naqvi said the role played by Maulana Fazlur Rehman for supremacy of parliament and promotion of democratic norms is appreciable. He is prudent, far sighted and visionary politician.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah addresses the participants of National Security and War Course-25 led by Chief Instructor Major General Akhtar, during ceremony held at CM House in Karachi.

## Iran launches ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv, warns of crushing response to any Israeli retaliation

Says attack in retaliation to killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah as well as that of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh

### Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv on Tuesday in retaliation to the Israeli campaign against Tehran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon and the killing of its chief and that of Hamas.

Alarms sounded across Israel and explosions could be heard in Jerusalem and the Jordan River valley after Israelis piled into bomb shelters. Reporters on state television lay flat on the ground during live broadcasts.

Reuters journalists saw missiles intercepted in the airspace of neighbouring Jordan. Israeli media reports said as many as 100 missiles had been

launched. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the missile attack under way was in response to the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah last week as well as that of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

"In response to the martyrdom of [Hamas leader] Ismail Haniyeh, Hassan Nasrallah and [Guards commander] Nilforooshan, we targeted the heart of the occupied territories (Israel)," the Guards said in a statement reported by the Fars news agency.

The Guards threatened to carry out "crushing attacks" against regional Israel if it retaliated after the missile attack.

"If the Zionist regime reacts to Iranian operations, it will face crushing attacks," the Guard said.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave the order to launch missiles at Israel, a senior Iranian official told Reuters, adding that Tehran "is fully ready for any retaliation".

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York posted on X that the attack on Israel is a "legal, rational, and legitimate response to the terrorist acts."

"Should the Zionist regime dare to respond or commit further acts of malevolence, a subsequent and crushing response will ensue. Regional states and the

Zionists' supporters are advised to part ways with the regime," the mission wrote.

Meanwhile, United States President Joe Biden has convened national security meeting to discuss Iranian missile attack against Israel.

"We discussed how the United States is prepared to help Israel defend against these attacks, and protect American personnel in the region," Biden said in a statement on X.

Israel has shut down air travel in and out of the country, and Iraq, which lies directly to the east of Israel's easterly neighbour Jordan, has shut down its air space, Reuters reports.

## Rights, civil society activists support Constitutional Court proposal

KARACHI (APP): Human rights activists, civil society representatives and politicians termed the establishment of the Constitutional Court an indispensable to maintain the balance of power among all state institutions.

Lawyers' representatives, civil society and human rights activists attended the discussion organized by Human Rights Cell of Pakistan People's Party at Sindh Assembly's committee room here Tuesday.

Provincial president PPP Sindh Nisar Khuhro while presiding over the program, said like Federal Shariat Court, Constitutional Court should be established to resolve constitutional issues of the country.

## Justice Naem Afghan replaces Justice Munib in Article 63-A case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court (SC) Tuesday formed a 'new larger bench' to hear review petition regarding interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution of Pakistan.

The decision was reportedly taken during a meeting of Practice and Procedure Committee headed by CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa. The new bench will be led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and it includes Justices Ameenuddin, Jamal Mandokhel, Mazhar Alam Miankhalil, and Justice Naem Afghan.

## Annular solar eclipse will not be visible in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): The annular solar eclipse on October 2 and 3 will be visible in most of South America and from South in North America, Pacific, Atlantic and Antarctica.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday, the annular solar eclipse will not be visible in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: The Head of Mission of World Health Organisation in Pakistan Dr. Lou Dapeng presenting a certificate of elimination of TRACHOMA as a public health problem from Pakistan to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## October 18 rally will demonstrate that people stand with PPP: Talpur

Under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, millions of people will gather on October 18 to pay their respects to the martyrs of Karsaz

### Independent Report

KARACHI: An important meeting of the People's Party was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Faryal Talpur, the Central

members from the Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, and Shaheed Benazirabad divisions, senators, and district officials, were in attendance.



President of the PPP Ladies Wing and an MPA. During the meeting, preparations for the grand public jalsa in Hyderabad, commemorating the anniversary of the tragedy, were reviewed.

During the meeting, the provincial leadership of the People's Party, including provincial ministers, elected assembly

Among them were PPP Sindh President Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Provincial General Secretary Waqar Mehdi, Provincial Ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Nasir Hussain Shah, Jam Khan Shoro, PPP Information Secretary Aajiz Dhamrah, and others.



Lt. Gen. Muhammad Ali, III (M) (Retd) assumed charge of the Office of Federal Secretary Defense at Rawalpindi.

## Pakistan needs reforms in judicial system: Our struggle for constitutional amendment not for current Chief Justice, Qazi Faez Isa, asserts Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Chairman PPP pledges to fulfil mission of martyr Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto regarding judicial reforms and constitutional courts; says have no problem about who sits in constitutional court

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has categorically stated that so far, his party had agreed to the government's proposal for the formation of a federal constitutional court.

The Chairman PPP said that he has to fulfil the mission of his martyr mother, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto regarding the judicial reforms and constitutional courts that otherwise part of the charter of democracy (CoD) signed then.

He said that we restored the constitution through CoD and it was the objective behind the struggle waged by his martyr mother.

He said that we just want implementation on the CoD. He said that we would accept what the constitution says. He said that it is responsibility of the judiciary to follow the constitution and law. He said that over the time and experience, he learnt that how difficult is to get justice in the country. He said that the country needs reforms in its judicial system.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori condoling with Consul General of Iran Hassan Nooriyan on martyrdom of Allama Syed Hassan Nasrullah and Brig. General Abbas Nilforooshan.

## Pakistan-Malaysia relations based on common values, mutual respect: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said the roots of Pakistan-Malaysia relations are based on common values, mutual respect and enduring friendship.

Governor Tessori said this while speaking at the ceremony organized on the occasion of 67th Independence Day of Malaysia as chief guest here at Malaysian Consulate the other day.

According to Governor House spokesman, Governor Sindh felicitated the people of Malaysia on the Independence Day.

On arrival, the Consul General of Malaysia Herman Hardynata Ahmad received the Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at the Consulate.

Kamran Tessori said that the exchange of information technology helping the two countries to understand culture and tourism of both the countries.

In Pakistan, all possible help, support and the assistance is being provided to domestic as well foreign investors under the SIFC project in Pakistan, Governor said, adding that he would soon visit Malaysia to extend invitation to Malaysian investors and the business persons to take benefit by investing in Pakistan.

Consul General of other countries posted in Karachi and other dignitaries were also present on this occasion and later a cake was cut on the occasion of Malaysia's Independence Day.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tatar addresses a Press conference in Islamabad.

## Secretary Railways and Chief Secretary Sindh discuss progress on Thar Coal Railway and ML-1 Projects

Thar Coal Railway to be operational by October 2025, Says Secretary Railways

### Independent Report

KARACHI: A meeting on Tuesday was held between Federal Secretary Railways, Mazhar Ali Shah, and Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah, to discuss various railway projects, including ML-1 and the Thar Coal Railway Line. During the meeting, Secretary Railways provided a briefing on the progress of the Thar Coal Railway project. He stated that the Thar Coal Railway would become operational by October 2025. The railway network will have the capacity to transport 10 million tons of coal annually, facilitating the supply of affordable energy to power projects



across the country. Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah, emphasized the importance of the Thar Coal Railway Line, stating that it would allow for the transportation of coal from Thar to Port Qasim, Lucky, and other power plants. He added that utilizing the full potential of Thar coal would bring economic benefits to the country and help reduce electricity prices by replacing imported coal with locally sourced Thar coal.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Punitive tax plan

The government is desperate to increase its abysmally low tax collection to meet the stringent revenue conditions of the new \$7bn funding programme approved by the IMF recently.

In order to meet the tax target, the FBR has worked out a new compliance and enforcement plan, which primarily relies on punitive actions against tax evaders and cheaters. The authorities hope that it will compel existing taxpayers to stop underreporting their taxable incomes and incentivise non-filers to become taxpayers in order to avoid restrictions on their use of cash for travel, and the purchase of property, cars and financial instruments. The political and financial leadership appears to be enthusiastic about the new strategy, owing to its promise of achieving the desired results in the near term by narrowing the tax gap of Rs7.1tr — representing tax evasion and corruption — without the need to pursue tedious reforms. On the basis of this plan, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced on Sunday the government's "war on cash" as part of the strategy to tap into over the Rs9.3tr in circulation and maximise revenue potential. According to him, non-filers and under-filers are evading taxes amounting to around Rs1.3tr at the individual level. When it comes to circumventing real tax reforms to broaden the tax base, the new 'transformation plan' does not deviate from previous strategies.

There is a broad consensus among tax experts and economists that Pakistan's tax system is complicated, unfair, inequitable, corrupt, and inefficient — enough to discourage people from filing. The experience of other countries has established that broad-based, low-rate taxes provide the least incentives for people to evade, avoid and underreport taxable incomes. India, for example, has significantly increased its direct income tax collection as a ratio of the economy by streamlining its tax regime, offering reduced rates, and curbing exemptions. In addition to increased monitoring and compliance, and the expansion of the formalisation of the economy through technology, initiatives such as incentivised lower tax rates for corporations and individuals who forgo exemptions have been implemented, aligning with the agenda to simplify taxation. It is no wonder that India's direct tax-to-GDP ratio reached a record high of 6.5pc in the fiscal year 2023-24. This increase is attributed to growth in income tax collections rather than corporate tax collections. The Indian experience shows that tax compliance can be ensured only through a combination of incentives and the fear of punishment. However, the strategy developed by the FBR to boost compliance rates appears to rely solely on enforcement through punitive actions against tax evaders and cheaters, without actually reforming the complicated tax regime.

Hence, most tax experts — unlike the minister — have little confidence in the plan as a viable strategy that will help Pakistan overcome its tax woes.

## Burying democracy

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Pakistan's democracy is an endangered species now, long hunted by uniformed elements. But it seems that now a deal has been struck to make it an extinct species, after which it may be buried at sea so that those who love it can't find its remains and erect a tomb as that may spark its 'reincarnation' later.

Arguably, no civilian era has witnessed greater assaults on democracy than this one: delayed, then badly rigged polls; large-scale politicisation of key state entities; open disregard of Supreme Court verdicts; domination by the establishment; and now, a no-holds-barred assault on both the Constitution and the judiciary.

It is widely acknowledged that the primary entity behind this state of affairs is the deep state. However, as unabashed implementers, the PML-N and PPP are now widely criticised as perhaps the most culpable parties with dubious intent in our history. In fact, many observers would go so far as to argue that they aren't so much political entities now as extensions of the security apparatus.

We have long seen the assault on democracy. Oddly, what we are now seeing is virtual suicide by democracy. Both the PML-N and PPP say they are swallowing all this as bitter pills to cure the nation of the PTI's ills. However, the prescribed pills may contain ingredients injurious not only to democracy but to these parties as well. In the end, only Sherlock Holmes may then deduce if it was suicide or murder that eliminated democ-

racy.

The cure is undeniably worse than the ills. I was a strong critic of the PTI when it ruled at the centre. I am ready to critique it if it rules like it did again as well as the powers that be if they target the PML-N or PPP again. It is evident that the 2018-22 period damaged democracy more than 2008-18. It is even clearer that the current era's damage far exceeds that inflicted under the PTI. But many anchors still talk more of the out-of-power PTI's ills than the bigger ones of the incumbents.

The PML-N acts servile fearing that higher powers may dump it for the PPP. The latter does so hoping they do. It's a race to the bottom among them and some judicial elements. At this point, it is hard to see who is ahead. But no one wins a race to the bottom: everyone loses. Nature has its own way of nixing plots. It would be sweet justice if no unjust elements get unjust extensions.

But even this may be small sanction for moves against democracy. To keep a rigged regime from falling fairly under a new judicial command, the PPP and PML-N, which gave us some sterling laws such as the 1973 Constitution and the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, are now, ironically, willing to maim their own creation.

This goes beyond violating one clause as they did in delaying the polls. The no-trust vote against the PTI was also carried out for petty gains against public gains.

However, few appear to be actively opposing these anti-democratic moves. In fact, it would seem that certain sections of the

media and the legal community, who have fought past assaults, are also toeing the line of those responsible for the current assault on democracy. Many in civil society are muted, seeing it as intra-elite wars. But it is possible that once they succeed in nixing the PTI, they will use their enhanced control to nix progressive periphery causes as well. One must proactively resist any attempt to subdue the judiciary, even if it is not championing many progressive causes at present.

A lawyer's movement is not yet here. But will we see a movement in the judiciary that triggers it, as in 2007? Supreme Court judges had blocked Gen Pervez Musharraf's illegal emergency, leading to their house arrest and dismissal, only to be reinstated later. If we reach a point where judges feel that they have no choice but to write joint letters, recuse themselves from benches made under controversial new procedures, etc, the blame for all of this will fall on the establishment and the political rulers of the day.

Legitimacy is the glue that binds states and ensures progress. It was never allowed to grow much here and is being further eroded now. Such state-led lawlessness can only undermine state foundations and have a severe impact on security and the rule of law via increased terrorism, crime, extremism and external threats.

But do our rulers understand this truth? For decades, our ability to become a normal, progressive nation has been stifled. Can a hapless victim gasping desperately break the state's chokehold? -- Courtesy Dawn

## Power is knowledge?

Nazir A. Jomezai

Knowledge empowers individuals, but societal and educational power structures shape what knowledge is accessible and valued. A complex relationship exists between power and knowledge, encompassing curriculum design, assessment, and teaching. We must understand the dichotomy between 'knowledge is power' — where knowledge grants power — and 'power is knowledge,' where power produces knowledge. Thus, knowledge is both a means to acquire power and a medium to sustain it, shaped by the societal power dynamics.

The curriculum serves as a powerful medium for both expressing and reinforcing power. The knowledge embedded in curricula primarily reflects the perspectives, priorities, and values of those in power. This knowledge may emphasise certain historical narratives while excluding others.

Even after independence, many post-colonial countries' educational curricula still reflect the colonial powers' cultural, historical, and linguistic heritage of colonial powers. In some African countries, the curricula emphasise European literature and history, while ignoring local knowledge systems, languages, and cultural practices. This perpetuates cultural hegemony by elevating the knowledge and values of the dominant culture above local ones, thereby marginalising local knowledge and sustaining colonial power relations.

Similarly, in Pakistan, the focus on certain sects or ethnic groups marginalises others, including non-Muslims, the poor, girls, and women. This control over knowledge directly influences what students learn, how they think, and ultimately how they perceive their

place in society.

Learning design and assessment can become powerful tools for reinforcing dominant societal values and power structures. In a competitive education system, children may learn that success lies in surpassing others and that individual achievement takes precedence over teamwork or collective well-being. This mindset can foster a preference for individualism and wealth over community and social responsibility.

Given its central role in the power-knowledge nexus, curriculum reform often becomes a battleground where various groups compete to define what knowledge is legitimate and valuable. These struggles reveal the power dynamics of education, as well as the potential for curricula to be a tool for social justice or otherwise.

Assessment practices further determine the value of knowledge. High-stake tests are examples of coerced standards. Assessment often prioritises memorisation over creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence, perpetuating a narrow definition of intelligence and success. This marginalises students' intellectual potential and reinforces social stratification, as wealthier students typically have access to more resources that better prepare them for such tests.

Assessments frequently act as gatekeepers to further educational opportunities, professional careers, and social mobility.

Entrance exams for prestigious institutes serve as critical gatekeeping tools.

They typically demand specific knowledge and skills, more accessible to students from affluent backgrounds who can afford private tutoring and test preparation resources. Such assess-

ments reinforce social stratification by offering greater opportunities to those already in positions of power, thereby perpetuating existing inequalities.

Teachers act as intermediaries between curricula, assessment, and students. They wield power in shaping the delivery, interpretation, and internalisation of knowledge by students. However, teachers themselves operate within a broader power structure defined by educational policies, standards, and societal expectations.

A teacher's ability to either challenge or reinforce dominant narratives in the classroom can greatly influence students' critical thinking and worldview. For instance, a teacher who encourages students to question and critically analyse the dominant social values can empower students to recognise and challenge inequities.

Conversely, a teacher who rigidly follows the prescribed curriculum without encouraging critical discussion may unintentionally uphold existing power dynamics. These examples illustrate a complex and multifaceted relationship between knowledge and power. The societal landscape defines power as either a means to liberty or suppression.

It is crucial to acknowledge that knowledge is neither neutral nor apolitical; it is shaped by power relations.

Therefore, those who control knowledge — whether through curriculum design, assessment, or pedagogical practices — wield significant power over individuals and society. The challenge is to craft educational systems that are more equitable and inclusive and allow a diverse range of knowledge to be recognised and valued, thereby democratising power and education. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### ADB delegation meets Ahsan to discuss transport infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Transport Sector Group, Chen Chen, on Tuesday met Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal to discuss Pakistan's transport infrastructure development.

The ADB delegation comprised senior officers and specialists from the Transport Sector Group, while the Ministry of Planning was represented by Member for Infrastructure Waqas Anwar and senior infrastructure department officials, said a news release.

The meeting focused on the ADB's ongoing support for Pakistan's transport sector, future development plans, and the challenges facing the sector.

During the meeting, the minister emphasized the importance of road and rail connectivity projects, noting that the country was in the process of finalizing a comprehensive regional connectivity multi-modal plan.

He welcomed the ADB's input in this regard, stating that it would greatly enhance the work already completed by Pakistan.

While discussing the 2022 floods, the minister highlighted that Pakistan suffered \$30 billion in damages.

Ahsan Iqbal lamented the inadequate international response, noting that critical programmes in education, health, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) had to be repurposed to address flood

relief efforts.

The minister stressed that Pakistan should not bear the brunt of conventional financing losses due to the disasters, particularly as it did not receive sufficient support from nations responsible for exacerbating climate change.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed Pakistan's strong interest in enhancing the capacity of its railways through modern technology and emphasized the need for prioritizing connectivity projects that align with the National Agenda Reforms.

He also urged the revival and review of several key projects related to railways, transport, and maritime infrastructure that had been approved in 2018 but were stalled under the previous government.

### BISP, SBP to develop new banking model for payment disbursement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) are jointly working on the development of a new banking model for the disbursement of payments to over 9.3 million BISP beneficiaries.

In a Zoom meeting, Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmed and Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Saleemullah discussed the progress of the new banking model.

The Deputy Governor SBP assured full cooperation to streamline and improve the payment process.

He informed that SBP was ready to develop a pilot and BISP has to finalize the internal mechanics of the implementation strategy.



MOSCOW: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan addressing Pakistan-Russia Trade and Investment Forum, in Moscow.

### Senate body on Petroleum rejects PMDC privatization

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum on Tuesday rejected the proposed privatization of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), voicing concerns over potential job losses.

Chaired by Senator Umer Farooq, the committee warned of the risk to 5,000 jobs if privatization proceeds. Senator Manzoor Ahmed questioned the need for privatization, asserting that PMDC has been profitable over the past three years and urging the government to prioritize local employees. He argued that

the corporation should not be privatized if it is not incurring losses.

In response, the Petroleum Authority clarified that PMDC's inclusion in the privatization list aligns with the SOES Act 2023, and the decision was made by the cabinet. The PMDC remains fully owned by the Federation, although concerns were raised by Senator Ahmed, who pointed out that the land was leased rather than owned outright by the Federation.

He also highlighted the need for modernization of PMDC's outdated machinery, which has contributed

to 80 fatalities over five years. Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri raised the issue of provincial consultation, questioning how the Federation could privatize land belonging to the provinces without their input. The Secretary of Petroleum clarified that only the corporate entity, not the leased land, was being privatized, and that further clarity would emerge once a financial advisor was appointed.

The committee also reviewed delays in the gas supply project for Gulistan Tehsil in Qilla Abdullah, which was inaugurated in 2015.

### Secy for expediting construction of new model bazaars in 13 districts

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Industries Secretary Ehsan Bhutta has instructed the Punjab Model Bazaars Management Company (PMBMC) to expedite the construction of new model bazaars in 13 districts, including Muzaffargarh, Chinot and Jhelum. The land for these projects has already been transferred free of cost by the government, the Secretary said and stressed the need to fast-track all remaining formalities to initiate construction without delay.

Model Bazaars CEO Naveed Rafiqat Ahmad said that Model Bazaars are a key source of relief for the general public, providing essential goods at prices lower than government-notified rates. The secretary directed the CEO to personally oversee the process, ensuring that all necessary steps are completed as per the government's instructions. "This project is a priority for the government, and we aim to establish these Model Bazaars at the earliest to benefit the public."

### Kamran elected as chairman APTMA

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) congratulated Mian Kamran Arshad on his election as Chairman of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). Dr Yusuf Zafar, vice president of the PCCC, expressed hope for Arshad's leadership.

He highlighted that Arshad's experience was crucial for the cotton and textile sectors. Dr Zafar also stressed the importance of settling Rs 3.5 billion owed in cotton cess.

### NA body urges IT Ministry to accelerate 5G spectrum auction

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information Technology & Telecommunication Tuesday expressed serious concerns over the slow progress of the 5G spectrum auction and directed the Ministry of IT to expedite the hiring of consultants.

The meeting, chaired by Syed Amin ul Haque, MNA, emphasized the need for swift action to meet the 2025 target for launching 5G services.

Recognizing the necessity for comprehensive reforms in the telecom sector, the committee stressed the importance of involving all stakeholders in the design of the auction, spec-

trum valuation, and the development of appropriate 5G models. "The timely completion of the auction is seen as critical to Pakistan's technological advancement," it added.

The committee also raised concerns about the unresolved property dispute between PTCL and Etisalat, which had lingered for 18 years.

The ministry informed the committee that a special task force, led by the Finance Minister, had been established by the Prime Minister to address the issue, with progress being made towards a resolution, and its detailed report on any final decisions was awaited.



ISLAMABAD: An elderly vendor patiently awaits customers, offering eco-friendly shopping bags at the weekly Bazaar in Federal Capital.

### LCCI President vows to resolve traders' issues, unveils action plan

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad here Tuesday chaired a detailed meeting with the delegations of traders and assured to help resolve their concerns while outlining a strategic roadmap to foster a more favorable business environment in the region.

The meeting was attended by the LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman, Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, representatives from various market associations. This interaction marks a significant

step in the new LCCI leadership's efforts to build trust and strengthen the Chamber's role as a mediator between traders and government authorities. The LCCI President assured them that resolving their issues would be at the forefront on his agenda. He acknowledged the challenges that traders have been facing. Mian Abuzar Shad added that he fully understands the gravity of the challenges traders face on a daily basis. He said that Lahore Chamber would actively work to create a more enabling environment for traders.



KARACHI: Technician busy in repairing work of batteries to earn his livelihood for support his family, as demand of batteries in city during hot weather of summer season and high tariff of electricity bills, at his workplace located on Garden area in Karachi.

### Objections raised on big consignment of rice exported to EU

ISLAMABAD (Online): Objections have been raised on a big consignment of rice exported to Europe this year. The consignment of rice valued Rs over 120 billion is feared to be returned to Pakistan.

Sources said the rice which have been objected were exported from January to June this year.

It is feared that export of Pakistani rice can be banned. In 45 varieties of exported basmati rice, dangerous pesticide was found.

Minister Economic EU wrote several letters regarding objections to Pakistani authorities. Prime Minister constituted high level committee to probe into the matter.



## Governor Punjab says: Role of youth imperative for country's development

RAWALPINDI (APP): The challenges being faced by the country can be countered by inculcating youth in national affairs. The young graduates must contribute their role in practical fields for the country's prosperity and stability.

This was remarked by the Governor Punjab, Sadar Saleem Haider Khan while delivering his speech at the 1st Convocation of the Rawalpindi Woman University (RWU), which was held here on Tuesday. He said that everyone should value the country which has the honor of being the sole nuclear country in the Islamic world.

"Our enemy wants to create division among us on the basis of ethnicity, but together we will not allow anyone to succeed in such a malicious conspiracy against the country", he said.

The governor while congratulating the graduating students highlighted the responsibilities they would have to render in their future. He underlined the need for collaborative efforts by all the stakeholders towards improvement in diverse fields including the national economy.

The governor stressed

for further enhancing the women's role in national development and said "The majority position holders in the university education are our daughters which is encouraging towards creating gender equity in the society".

He extended his felicitations to the parents of the graduating students saying it was a special day for them.

"Parents have surely faced the difficulties and sacrificed to get their daughters graduated today. I salute and present my tribute to them", he said and urged the students to generously respond to their parents in the days to come. He further urged the parents to allow and encourage their daughters to contribute their efforts for the country's peace and stability.

The governor also expressed his pleasure of attending the event for being the first chancellor on the university's first convocation. He hoped for the further flourishing of the university in future.

In his address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) informed the audience that HEC's journey to take higher educa-

tion at new heights since 2002 has been successful. He said that are 265 universities in Pakistan with 13% students' access rate as compared to that of in 2002 having 51 universities with an access rate of 2.1%. He further highlighted that presently 48% of the total students in the universities were female students which was 32% in 2002. Moreover, 40,000 research papers are published each year, which were only 865 per year in 2002, he added.

Dr. Mukhtar highlighted that financial crisis, reduced funds to the universities and provincial devolution of the higher education were the main challenging areas to be redressed to further explore the young talent.

"The total budget of all universities of Pak is less than that of a single university of any other country", he said.

The chairman further underlined the need to start a special period in the university classes regarding ethics and social norms.

"Misuse of technologies like mobiles has contributed much in wrongdoing instead of fruitful results", he said and urged the teachers to produce virtue professionals.



**PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Information & Public Relations of KP Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif and Administrator China Window Amjad Aziz, along with other officials cutting cake during China 75th National Day Celebration at China Window.**

## Salman chairs emergency meeting to address rising dengue cases in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Tuesday chaired an emergency meeting of the Technical Working Group in the Department of Primary and Secondary Health Care in response to the increasing cases of dengue. Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir participated in meeting via video link, while Health Advisor Major General (Retired) Azhar Mehmood Kayani attended the meeting in person at the

Health Department. During the meeting, Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewed the latest dengue situation across the province. Experts presented their suggestions to control the spread of dengue.

Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasized that the Technical Working Group should immediately determine the causes of death due to dengue in Rawalpindi and assess the severity of the disease in treated patients.

## PPP decides launching protest movement against KP Govt

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to launch a protest movement against the provincial government of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) in the province.

Addressing a press conference here at Peshawar Press Club (PPC) on Tuesday, President PPP KP chapter Syed Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha said that in first instance, a protest demonstration would be staged in front of the provincial assembly.

## CM message on International Day for Older Persons

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Tuesday the Punjab government was improving old homes for senior citizens. In her message on International Day for Older Persons, she said that elderly people living in old home have also had the blessing of Hajj.

The CM said elders were a reflection of our past, a light for the present and a lesson for the future, adding that elders were the lamps in whose light generations grow.

"Elders have made our present possible by giving their youthful energies. Elderly people of Pakistan are our true asset. I pay them rich tribute", she added.

The CM said the life experiences and observations of elders were like a treasure for us. Respecting elders is a part of our beliefs and civilization, she said and added, "It is our duty to take care of rights of elderly and to create facilities for them that they deserve."

The chief minister appealed to the citizens that never forget your elders, rather give them the respect and status they deserve. Only those societies rise that value their elders.



**GUJRANWALA: Chief Minister Directorate for Evaluation, Feedback, Inspection and Monitoring (DEFIM) Chairperson, Brigadier (Retd) Babar Ala Uddin addresses to media persons during press conference, in Gujranwala.**

## Mir Murtaza Bhutto murder case: SHC criticizes Police for delays in report submission

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) has once again adjourned the hearing on appeals in the Mir Murtaza Bhutto murder case, expressing dissatisfaction with delays in submitting reports.

During the session, the court issued a show-cause notice to SSP East for failing to provide a report on deceased accused individuals. The defense lawyers informed the court that Wajid Durrani and Rai Tahir, key accused in the case, could not appear due to illness. The court, however, questioned whether illness or Supreme Court assignments could excuse their absence.

The court was also informed that four other accused—Shahid Hayat, Shabbir Qaimkhan, Agha Jameel, and Masood Sharif—had passed away, further complicating the case.

Justice Nimat Phalputo expressed frustration, noting that the appeals have been pending since 2010. The court has now adjourned the hearing until November 7.

## Pakistani devotee of patriotic songs has collected 5,000 recordings

KARACHI (INP): Absar Ahmed placed the large vinyl disc on a vintage Dansette phonograph and lowered the stylus onto the record as the sound of a decades-old Pakistani patriotic song began to fill the room.

Ahmed, a 36-year-old broadcaster and researcher, was three years old when he fell in love with the iconic 1987 song "Dil Dil Pakistan," becoming a devotee and going on to collect more than 5,000 patriotic songs, or "milli naghmas" as they are called in Urdu. The songs span decades, and Ahmed's collection has them in dozens of languages and formats, including cassette tapes, CDs, and vinyl

records. Ahmed has also authored two books on national songs, "Yeh Naghma Pakistan Kay" and "Har Taan Pakistan."

"I started collecting cassettes in 1996 when I bought my first cassette," Ahmed told Arab News. "By 1999, I properly began gathering milli naghmas and at that time." Many recordings have fallen into Ahmed's lap as his reputation as a collector has spread. Others he has had to research, find and buy, traveling across Pakistan just to get his hands on a particular vinyl disc or a set of spool tapes. But many hundreds of songs he has recorded directly from

radio or TV. "I would record every national song that was broadcasted on radio or television. I always kept a cassette in my tape recorder, ready to record any milli naghma that played on Radio Pakistan," Ahmed said, referring to the country's state broadcaster. "This treasure, this collection of sounds from Pakistan, has been safely preserved and it is now part of my record collection."

A significant part of Ahmed's collection is in the Bengali language as many Pakistani patriotic songs were sung by Bengali artists when present-day Bangladesh used to be a

part of Pakistan before it seceded after the 1971 war. Mufeez Rahman, an official who worked at Radio Pakistan's Dhaka Station, had protected the records from rioters in 1971, Ahmed said. In 2014, he contacted the Pakistani collector after learning about his collection through the Internet. "I can't even imagine how I found these," Ahmed said. "They were no longer available anywhere else but before his death, he [Rahman] made sure to pass them on to me."

One of Ahmed's most notable finds is the first Indian national song recorded in 1911, "Tarana-e-Milli," based on a poem by the legendary Allama Muhammad Iqbal, widely regarded as having animated the impulse for the Pakistan Movement and who would go on to become the national poet of Pakistan after the country's creation out of India in 1947.

The 1911 version was sung by Ustad Pyare Sahib, a revered singer from the Indian city of Kolkata, who migrated to Karachi after the partition of the subcontinent.

"I was able to obtain the audio of this song in a digital format, which was given to me by someone who had the gramophone record although it later broke."

## Jacobabad police foil motorcycle theft ring, arrest ringleader

JACOBABAD: In a successful operation, Jacobabad police apprehended the leader of a notorious motorcycle theft ring, Intiaz alias Kararu, following a police encounter near Chacho Shah Bilawal.

The ringleader, along with his accomplices, was involved in various motorcycle theft and snatching incidents. Police recovered five stolen motorcycles and a TT pistol from Police Encounter.

# International News

## Israel launches ground invasion of Lebanon, saying 'targeted raids' aimed at Hezbollah

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Israel said its troops had launched raids inside Lebanon on Tuesday, starting its widely expected ground operations after two weeks of devastating airstrikes against Hezbollah's command structure and weapons sites.

The Israeli military said the operations in Lebanon began on Monday night and involved paratroopers and commandos from the elite 98th division, which was deployed to the northern front two weeks ago from Gaza where they had been fighting for months.

It claimed its air force and artillery supported ground troops engaged in "limited, localised, and targeted ground raids" against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon villages that it insisted posed "an immediate threat to Israeli commu-

nities in northern Israel". In the past 24 hours, at least 95 people had been killed and 172 wounded in Israeli strikes on Lebanon's southern regions, the eastern Bekaa Valley, and Beirut, Lebanon's health ministry said early on Tuesday.

Israel has dealt heavy blows to Hezbollah, allegedly Iran's most powerful Middle East proxy, assassinating its leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut last week, eliminating a towering figure who turned it into Lebanon's top military and political force.

Despite its biggest successes against Hezbollah in decades, Israel has indicated it is primed for a full-fledged invasion of Lebanon with the stated aim of enabling thousands of its citizens who fled Hezbollah rockets to safely return to their communities near the northern border.

A Lebanese security source told Reuters that Is-

raeli units had crossed into Lebanon overnight for reconnaissance and probing operations.

Lebanese troops also pulled back from positions along the border, the source added. Lebanese army spokesperson did not confirm or deny the movement.

Lebanon's army has historically stayed on the sidelines of major conflicts with Israel, and in the last year of hostilities has not fired on the Israeli military.

The operation into Lebanon represents an escalation of the conflict in the Middle East between Israel and allegedly Iran-backed fighters that now threatens to suck in the US and Iran.

Local residents in the Lebanese border town of Aita al-Shaab reported heavy shelling and the sound of helicopters and drones overhead.

## US sees indications of imminent Iranian missile attack on Israel

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The United States has indications that Iran is preparing to imminently launch a ballistic missile attack against Israel that could be at least as large as a strike that Tehran staged earlier this year, US officials said on Tuesday. The United States is actively supporting preparations to defend Israel against a new Iranian missile attack, a senior White House official said.

"A direct military attack from Iran against Israel will carry severe consequences for Iran," the official said. A second US official said that the Iranian strike could be as large or potentially bigger than the one on April 14 in which Tehran launched more than 300 missiles and drones. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately

respond to a request for comment.

The April attack - the first-ever direct Iranian strike on Israel - was in retaliation for what Iran called an Israeli strike on its Damascus consulate that killed seven Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps officers, including two senior commanders.

It caused only modest damage inside Israel due to air defense interceptions not only by Israel but also by the United States, Britain, and other allies in the region. The US warning of a looming Iranian strike followed Israel's announcement that its forces staged raids into southern Lebanon in a limited incursion as it pursues two weeks of strikes against Hezbollah militants that have killed the Iran-backed group's leader and senior commanders.

## Indian doctors resume strike over colleague's rape and murder

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Indian doctors in Kolkata said on Tuesday they had resumed a strike to protest against the brutal rape and murder of a colleague because their demands for hospital safety improvements had not been met.

The discovery of the 31-year-old's bloodied body at a state-run hospital in the eastern city in August rekindled nationwide anger at the chronic issue of violence against women. Doctors briefly returned to limited work in emergency departments last month but decided at a union meeting to cease work again. Union spokesman Aniket Mahato said the West Bengal state government had failed to deliver on its promises to upgrade lighting, CCTV cameras, and other security measures in hospitals.



**President Xi Jinping and ex-premier Wen Jiabao attend the national day reception at the Great Hall of People.**

## School bus fire in Thailand kills at least 23

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: At least 23 people died in Thailand when a school bus carrying more than 40 students and teachers on a field trip caught fire on the outskirts of the capital Bangkok, police said on Tuesday.

Twenty-three bodies have been identified, Trairong Phiwpan, forensic science commissioner told reporters, with an investigation on the causes underway.

Sixteen students and three teachers were sent to a hospital for treatment, Transport Minister Suriya

Juangroongruangkit said. Images posted on social media and carried by local news outlets showed thick grey smoke pouring out of the bus, parts of which were still on fire.

The blaze was later extinguished. A Reuters photographer saw fire trucks, police, and rescue vehicles parked around the blackened vehicle, with a cluster of firefighters at the entrance.

"Teachers told us that the fire ignited very quickly," acting police chief Kittirat Phanphet told a press conference.

## Drone boat hits ship in Red Sea as missile strikes another in likely assaults by Yemen Houthi rebels

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: An explosive-loaded drone crashed into one ship Tuesday in the Red Sea as a missile exploded against another, the British military and private security officials said, marking the latest suspected attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels. The attacks likely are the rebels' first assaults on commercial shipping in weeks as the Israel-Hamas war threatens to become a regional conflict.

They come as Israeli ground forces entered Lebanon after days of Israeli airstrikes that killed

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and other top officials, and earlier explosions of sabotaged electronic devices used by the Shiite militia. The Houthis threatened "escalating military operations" targeting Israel on Monday after they apparently shot down a U.S. military drone flying over Yemen. The first attack took place some 110 kilometers (70 miles) off the port city of Hodeida. A captain on a ship saw four "splashes" near his vessel, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said in a warning.

## Russia calls on Israel to withdraw troops from Lebanon

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia on Tuesday called on Israel to withdraw troops from Lebanon, warning that the attack would lead to a further escalation of violence in the Middle East. Israel said commando and paratroop units launched raids into Lebanon on Tuesday as part of a "limited" ground incursion, while Iran-backed Hezbollah said it had fired a barrage of missiles into Israel, including at its spy agency near Tel Aviv.

## Putin orders conscription of 133,000 servicemen in Russia's autumn draft

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the conscription of 133,000 new servicemen in Russia's autumn draft that starts Oct. 1 and goes until the end of the year, according to a Kremlin decree published on Monday. The decree, published in Russian state-run newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta, calls to carry out the draft of citizens "aged 18 to 30 years, who are not in the reserve and are subject to conscription in accordance with the Federal Law.

## China's Xi calls for Taiwan reunification in national day speech

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: On the eve of the 75th Foundation Day of the Republic of China, President Xi Jinping has reiterated his call for China to "reunite" with Taiwan, saying that achieving complete national reunification is the common aspiration of the Chinese people. "It is an irreversible trend, a matter of justice, and it is in accordance with the popular will. No one can stop the march of history," President Xi said during his address to thousands of people who had gathered for a banquet celebrating 75 years of the People's Republic.

The People's Republic of China was founded on October 1, 1949, after the

Communist army defeated nationalist Kuomintang for-c-es at the end of a civil war lasting two decades. The defeated nationalists fled to Taiwan. "Taiwan is sacred territory for China. People on both sides of the Taiwan Strait have blood ties, and these family ties will always be stronger than others," Xi said. Xi also used his speech to call for opposition to the "separatist activities". Earlier, US President Joe Biden approved \$567 million in military assistance for Taiwan.

The United States does not officially recognize Taiwan diplomatically, it is Taipei's key partner and major provider of weapons.

## Gaza children 'extremely impacted' by war: UNICEF

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Nearly a year of devastating war has left Gaza's 2.4 million people enduring a humanitarian tragedy, with children in the besieged territory the most vulnerable, a UNICEF official told AFP in an interview.

Jonathan Crickx, the UN agency's spokesman for the Palestinian territories, has returned this month from a week-long mission to Gaza, still heavily impacted even as Israel shifts its military focus to Lebanon.

He talked to AFP about the plight of Gaza's children, who have not had a single day of education since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7.

"You see children who are not allowed to have the life of normal children, no education, no play, no joy," Crickx said.

"The faces of these children are... so sad." Most children he saw in the war-battered Palestinian territory were helping their family as they no longer had classes to attend. "So, you see a lot of

children carrying these dirty yellow plastic jerrycans" with up to 25 litres of water, he said.

"I've seen children pushing these jerrycans with a broken wheelchair, trying to bring water, which is one of the major issues... in the Gaza Strip."

Crickx said it was heartbreaking to see children, some as young as five or six, trying to find food for their families.

They are "walking in huge piles of garbage and trying to get whatever they can," he said.

"These children are extremely impacted by the violence and the bombings and insecurity they have been through for a year." Crickx vividly remembers his conversation with Ahmad, a 10-year-old Gazan boy who lived with his family in a displacement camp in southern Gaza.

The boy's uncle had died a horrific death, Crickx said.

Ahmad "was saying things that a 10-year-old should not tell you, how the body was in pieces, how the head was far away".



## PPP HRC holds dialogue to join grand national consensus bid for 26th Amendment

KARACHI (INP): In a bid to build grand national consensus for the upcoming 26th Constitutional Amendment being piloted by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PPP's Human Rights Cell PPP HRC organized a dialogue with Civil society in Karachi to solicit their input for the proposed amendment, which included judicial reforms.

The consultative dialogue was held at Sindh Assembly's Committee Room where Nisar Khuhro President PPP Sindh, Minister Saeed Ghani General Secretary PPP HRC Malaika Raza, MNA Nafisa Shah, Senator Zameer Ghumro and former Sindh HR minister Surendar Valasai addressed various concerns raised during the session.

Nisar Khuhro said that the amendment being pursued by the PPP Chairman was overdue as it was the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto to have a constitutional court to cater to the needs of interpretation of the Constitution and save the huge time Supreme Court spending on political and constitutional matters. "Judicial activism needs to be aligned with the expectations of the poor litigants instead of treading on warring political narratives," he said.

Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani deliberated on the history of judiciary where in

lowed a dictator to amend the Constitution for three days and the CJP had the audacity to talk about the Constitution's protection. Another CJP demolished people's homes, while his predecessor reportedly gave decisions under the instructions of his mother in law to favour PTI.

Dr Nafisa Shah said that around 80 democratic countries in the world have separate Constitutional Courts to adjudicate constitutional matters and disputes. She appreciated Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for leading the national debate on the 26th Amendment.

Senator Zamir Ghumro gave a detailed presentation about the needs for the Constitutional Amendment and gave answers to the questions by civil society members present there.

He said that 26th Constitutional Amendment was part of the unfinished agenda of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) orchestrated by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto together with different political parties in 2006.

Malaika Raza acknowledged the vital role of civil society in shaping public policy and emphasised the PPP's commitment to inclusivity and transparency.

"We appreciate the insights and concerns shared by civil society members."



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with Renowned Islamic Philosopher Dr. Zakir Abdul Karim Naik at Parliament House.

## Like Trachoma, PM urges sustained efforts to eliminate polio, hepatitis from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed the urgent need to eradicate polio and hepatitis in the country through sustained efforts, similar to the successful elimination of Trachoma, a contagious eye infection that causes inflammation on the inner eyelids.

Speaking at a function where Dr Lou Dapeng, Head of Mission for the World Health Organization in Pakistan, presented a Trachoma-free Pakistan certificate to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said that the certificate symbolized the dedication of the Health Ministry and other

stakeholders in the effort to eliminate the disease.

Trachoma is a disease caused by infection by the Chlamydia trachomatis bacterium and can result in irreversible blindness if left untreated.

This achievement marks a significant milestone in public health.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to sustain their hard work and dedication, emphasizing that such efforts could elevate Pakistan to new heights of excellence, as long as they were prepared to tackle the challenges ahead.

He recalled that during his tenure as Punjab chief minister, he initiated

effective programmes to combat the diseases, and hoped that the same would continue under the current leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and in other provinces as well. He offered the cooperation of Federal Government in that regard.

PM Shehbaz appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Health Ministry, provincial governments, NGOs, experts, and other departments in eradicating Trachoma, which had helped save the sight of hundreds.

He instructed the relevant authorities to take preventive measures, and establish effective supervision and checks and bal-

ances to stop reemergence of the disease in the country.

He also directed the authorities to leverage existing technical capacity and expertise, urging field officers, doctors and others to collaborate effectively to achieve success in all areas of life, just as they did in eliminating Trachoma.

He thanked Dr Mukhtar Ahmed Berath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination and his team and urged them to promptly complete the projects developed at the federal level to benefit the people.

## Sindh CM invites Chinese investors to invest in electric buses, bikes, waste-to-energy

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a meeting with a delegation of Chinese investors led by Chairman Belt and Road (B&R) Group Mr. Wan Xiaowu here Tuesday, agreed to facilitate private Chinese investment in the city.

The CM was assisted by Minister P&D and Energy Nasir Shah, Minister Local Govt Saeed Ghani, Chairman P&D Najam Shah and Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh.

The chief minister said that his government would welcome Chinese public and private firms to invest directly in the projects of their choice or strike a Public-Private partnership with the Sindh government.

The Chairman B&R

said that over 12 different top Chinese firms were interested in investing in Karachi, particularly in waste-to-energy, wastewater treatment, desalination water plant, manufacturing of Electric buses, and kits to convert patrol motorcycles on electric energy and reconstructions of the sewerage system of the city.

The CM said that his government would provide all necessary facilities to the Chinese firms to set up their plants.

The CM and the Chairman of B&R Group agreed to have another sitting with the Planning & Development department and Board of Investment to select the project and negotiate so that work could be initiated.



Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, Chaudhary Salik Hussain, at the inauguration ceremony of Pakistan School International Branch in Oman.

## Delegation of Private Schools Association calls on Education Minister

SUKKUR (APP): A delegation from the Joint Action Committee of Private Schools Associations Sindh, led by Syed Danesh Zaman, met with Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah to discuss pressing issues faced by private schools and the committee's 10-point Charter of Demands.

A five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case.

Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhal and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan were part of the bench.

iftab Ahmed Tabi, and Haris Hussain. The Minister expressed agreement with most points in the charter and assured the delegation of his full cooperation and prompt resolution of the issues. Syed Danesh Zaman also invited the minister to the "All Sindh Grand School Convention 2024," which the minister accepted, said a release.

This meeting marks a significant step towards addressing the concerns of private schools in Sindh and ensuring quality education for students.

## SWM project in final stages of approval: Mayor

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Mayor, Mirpurkhas, Abdul Rauf Ghori on Tuesday said that the Solid Waste Management (SWM) project was in the final stages of approval, which would help make the city clean, beautiful and green.

He stated this while addressing the performance ceremony organized by the Central Association of Traders here.

The mayor further said that during the recent monsoon rains, 400 mm of rain water was drained out from the city, which was a difficult challenge, but the Municipal Corporation and his team deal the challenge in befitting way.

A bus service for the people has been started in the city on public demand, he said, adding that very soon a bus service would

be started from Khipro bus stand to Mirpurkhas bus terminal.

Abdul Rauf Ghori said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was committed to serve people.

Earlier, President of the Central Association of Traders, Abdul Jabbar Khan, said that this event had been organized in honor of those who had served the people of Mirpurkhas and said that in the recent rains, Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori was the only one in the field along with his team.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mirpurkhas, Dr. Rashid Masood Khan spoke about the performance of the district administration, the information department of Mirpurkhas, and problems of people and media.



HYDERABAD: Pakistani Sunni Tehreek Provincial President Imran Suhrawardy speaking at a press conference at HPC.

## AC Larkana fines transporters for overcharging

LARKANA (APP): The local administration on Tuesday launched a crackdown on transporters who had been overcharging commuters despite a significant reduction in oil prices.

A team headed by assistant commissioner Raja Khan Qureshi accompanied by the Secretary RTA, Traffic Sergeant and motorway Police stopped public transport vehicles plying on different routes of Larkana and asked the passengers about fares charged from them.

Several passengers told the official that the coaches had received exorbitant fares from them in violation of the official fare list.

A passenger told the

Assistant Commissioner Larkana the drivers had also fixed additional seats in their coaches, making the journey uncomfortable for commuters. The AC fine imposed on the spot for overcharging.

AC Raja Qureshi warned the Coaches owners and also ordered traffic wardens to issue heavy fine imposed on them.

He warned the drivers to follow the fare list issued by the regional transport authority otherwise action would be taken against them.

AC also went to markets in Sabzi Mandi, and Gajan pur Chowck of Larkana and checked the prices of daily use commodities.

## All know what is happening in SC, nothing is happening behind the scene: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Review appeal regarding interpretation of article 63 A was heard in the Supreme Court (SC) A larger bench of SC headed over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing. CJP remarked at the inception of hearing Justice Munib Akhtar was requested to join the bench but he maintained his old stance.

The CJP remarked every one knows at present what is happening in SC. Nothing is going in behind

the closed door in SC. PPP counsel Farooq H Naik said we have appeared voluntarily. Our roll be also got signed. At the inception of hearing advocate Ali Zafar requested he wants to raise objections over bench.

The CJP remarked you should return to your seat. We will hear you later.

After hearing Shahzad Shaikat, Barrister Ali Zafar and Farooq H Naek, the chief justice remarked that the court would hear the remaining lawyers tomorrow and adjourned the hearing.

ing. APP adds: The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of a review petition pertaining to the interpretation of Article 63A of the Constitution till Wednesday.

A five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhal and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan were part of the bench.

## MDCAT results challenged in Sindh High Court

KARACHI (INP): Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) results have been challenged in Sindh High Court by the affected students.

The provincial government, Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC), Dao Medical College and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have been teamed up in the petition.

The petitioner lawyer Nawaz Dahri submitted in the petition that the test paper of September 22 was already out on social media while more than 160 out of 200 questions were on social media and several students have secured full 200 marks.

## Regional Ombudsman conducts hearing on complaints against SSGC & SEPCO

SUKKUR (APP): In order to address public grievances, the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat on Monday conducted a hearing on complaints filed against Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) at Regional Office Larkana.

The Regional Head of the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat, Regional Office Sukkur Syed Mahmood Ali Shah, presided over the hearing and listened attentively to the complaints of the affected citizens.

## British-Born Pakistani actress Shafina Patel Shah arrives in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Acclaimed British-born Pakistani actress and model Shafina Patel Shah has arrived in Karachi for a private visit, accompanied by her close friend Ali Saqlain, a distinguished advertiser and social personality. Ali Saqlain, a prominent figure in Karachi's social scene, played host to Shafina during her visit, showcasing the city's vibrant culture and hospitality. The duo was spotted visiting iconic landmarks, hotels, and engaging with business leaders, artists, and social personalities.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and other diplomats expressing solidarity with Consul General Herman Hardynata Ahmad during a ceremony on eve of 67th Independence Day of Malaysia.

## Life of mother, child to be secured under health support program: DC

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. Rashid Masood Khan said that the life of mother and child would be secured through the health support program of mother and child.

Chairing a meeting related to the Social Protection Authority program in his office here Tuesday, he said that under this program, the delivery of the pregnant mother would be secured so that a healthy child could be born.

He directed District Coordinator, Social Protection Authority, Humayun Sheikh to ensure transparency in the program.

On this occasion, Humayun Sheikh said that the mother and child health support program under Sindh Social Support Authority program

was running in 16 districts of Sindh and in 78 health facility centers of PPHI in the district.

Under the program, he said that pregnant women would be provided with 16 check-up visits and 300,000 rupees cash for the birth of the child, adding that under the program 257,0047 pregnant women would be benefited. An aid worth Rs 2,730,000 would be provided to mothers under the program, he added.

District Manager PPHI A Miss Samia Khan, PPHIB District Manager Colonel (Rtd) Farooq Ahmed, Nutrition Program District Coordinator Mukesh Kumar, Assistant Director Nadra Faisal Ahmed and officers of the concerned departments attended the meeting.

## PIA flight makes 'emergency landing' at Karachi airport

KARACHI (INP): A Dubai-bound Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight made an emergency landing at the Karachi International Airport due to a technical fault.

According to sources in aviation, the PIA flight PK-283 made an emergency landing after an indication of fire in the cargo compartment. The PIA flight with 170 passengers on board was safely landed at the Karachi airport by the pilot. Earlier, on August 27, an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 cargo plane en route from Addis Ababa city to Ahmedabad, India, made an emergency landing at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport.

## Akbar, Tariq, Saifullah shine as Zone VI lift PCB Senior Inter District Title

KARACHI (INP): Regional Cricket Association Zone VI beat Regional Cricket Association Zone V by an innings and 73 runs to win the title of PCB Senior Inter-District Cricket Tournament Karachi Region. At KCCA Stadium, Zone V won the toss and elected to bat first, scoring only 95 runs in 26 overs in the first innings.

Ibadur Rahman and Wasim Ahmed scored 19 runs each. off-spinner Saifullah and left-arm leg-spinner Tariq Khan bowled devastatingly, taking 4-4 wickets for 19 and 24 runs respectively, while Raza-ul-Hasan took 2 wickets.



KARACHI: Asolar panel warehouse caught fire in Karachi's Hawkes Bay area on Tuesday. Rescue teams, along with more than 8 fire brigade trucks, reached the site to extinguish the fire.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah in meeting with a delegation of Chinese investors, led by Chairman of the Belt and Road Initiative, Wan Xiaowu, held at CM House in Karachi.

## KMC head office roof

KARACHI (APP): Solar panels have been installed at the roof of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation head office to provide electricity through solar energy, on the direction of Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

According to a spokesperson for the KMC, the installation of solar panels, inverters, structures, and wiring at the KMC building is being carried out at a cost of Rs 20 million.

Under the project a total of 259 solar plates have been installed on the rooftop of the KMC building, which will generate approximately 650 to 700 units of electricity daily.

After the completion of the project in the next fifteen days, the offices within the KMC building will have access to solar energy for their electricity needs during the day.

The daily electricity requirement of the KMC building is estimated to be around 400 kilowatts. Initially, the completion of the solar project will provide

30 percent of the building's total electricity needs from solar energy.

The installed solar system on the historic KMC building's rooftop has a capacity of 150 kilowatts, which will be gradually increased. Additionally, the solar energy system installed at the KMC building is being connected to K-Electric's grid, allowing KMC to sell excess electricity generated by its solar system to K-Electric during holidays.

A license has also been obtained from NEPRA for the installation of the solar system at the KMC building.

The private company working on the project has previously completed the installation of solar panels at the Kidney Hill site.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has stated that, in addition to the old KMC building, solar energy systems will also be installed at three more buildings of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation to generate electricity.



HYDERABAD: Staffer busy in removing illegal huts during anti-encroachment operation in Lutfabad no 10.

## Provincial Advisor on Livestock chairs meeting regarding 20-year Livestock Breeding Program

KARACHI (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam chaired an important meeting regarding the 20-year Livestock Breeding Program in which a detailed briefing was given on breeding policy by the Livestock Department. Dr. Abdul Manan Khokhar briefed the Provincial Advisor about all ongoing projects including the upcoming Livestock Bank in the 20-year program, said a statement on Tuesday.

Syed Najmi Alam said that it was necessary to establish veterinary posts on the borders of Sindh to check the animals coming from other provinces and ban the entry of sick ani-

mals. He said "registration and enumeration of livestock farms should be expedited so that we can implement the program to increase milk and meat production on a priority basis."

During the briefing, the Advisor was informed that "we have 1400 trainees ready in the Breeding Program and we need more trainees to utilize their skills so that we can start this program across the province up to the Union Council level." He said that "we have to give priority to breeding of animals in our country instead of breeding of animals from foreign countries because we can produce good breeds of all the animals of Sindh by enabling labor and genetic lab."