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Gory tale of 2014-like sit-in not to be allowed to repeat at any cost: PM

Says nobody will be allowed to sabotage country's economic gains; Pakistan to sign agreements worth \$2 billion with Saudi Arabia; Federal cabinet approves setting up of PM Relief Fund for Palestine, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, calling the recent protest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf a replica of the 2014 sit-in by the party, vowed that "gory tale" would not be allowed to repeat at any cost.

"Such incidents are a replica of 2014-15 incidents when a sit-in was staged for months and was not called off despite the announcement of the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan without bothering about its impact on the country's image and national economy... We will not allow it to be repeated. We will not tolerate it at any

rate, at any cost. This is my promise. I will not let it happen," the prime minister in his opening remarks at the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him. The prime minister drew cabinet members' attention to an attack that took place near Karachi airport killing two Chinese engineers and injuring another, despite the government's all-out efforts to ensure their security. He apprised the meeting of his telephonic conversation with the Chinese ambassador in Islamabad and also a consolatory visit to the Chinese embassy where he reiterated his government's assurance to

leave no stone unturned to make the security of Chinese national "unreachable."

Referring to the PTI protest, the prime minister said that the allegations were hurled against the government and attempts were made to create chaos at a time when the Chinese Premier was about to pay a bilateral visit and a Saudi delegation was also scheduled to visit Pakistan and MoUs and agreements worth \$2 billion are expected to be signed.

The cabinet meeting offered Fateha for the security personnel martyred in different terrorist incidents.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with a delegation of Peoples Party (PPP) held in Islamabad.

Growers to be incentivised during Rabi crops for better yield: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a joint meeting of the agriculture and irrigation departments said that he has allocated Rs8 billion in the budget for the development of the agriculture sector through Benazir Hari Card.

"The Rabi season is starting; therefore, the growers be incentivised so that they could grow wheat as a bumper crop apart from other Rabi crops."

The meeting was held here at CM House on Tuesday. It was attended by Minister P&D Nasir Shah, Minister Agriculture Mohammad Bux Mahar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Burro, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi and Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh. Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro and Secretary Food Khalid Shaikh attended the meeting through a video link.

CM said that Rs 8.00 billion has been allocated to

support growers, particularly the small ones through the Benazir Hari Card.

Mr Shah said that during the 2022 floods, Sindh had 4 million acres of standing kharif crop, and the crop was damaged even more, covering 3.6 million acres. He added that the total loss during the floods amounted to Rs 421 billion. "We are working to revitalize the agriculture sector and introduce new crops to reduce reliance on imported agricultural products," he said.

The CM decided that the agriculture department would guide the growers to grow those crops which could be exported. "We are exporting rice and mostly import pulses," he said adding that pulses have a vast market domestically and even for export.

He directed the agriculture department to analyse the market for crops, especially those that are imported by the federal government, to advise local farmers to grow these crops instead.

PPP delegation calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discussed important national and political issues.

The delegation included Syed Naveed Qamar, a Member of the National Assembly, Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, President Asif Ali Zardari's role in the All Parties Conference (APC) and strengthening of democracy in the country was appreciated. The meeting also discussed in detail the joint working group for Pakistan's assistance to the Palestinians. The participation of all political parties in the APC convened on Monday for the Palestinians was welcomed. The entire Pakistani nation was united to help their unarmed Palestinian brothers and sisters who were victims of the Israeli atrocities.

Govt accepts Maulana Fazl proposals on matter of constitutional amendments

Zardari, Nawaz Sharif assure Maulana Fazlur Rehman to take him along with them

ISLAMABAD (Online): Government has accepted proposals of Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the matter of constitutional amendments. According to parliamentary sources decision has been taken to summon session of both of the houses of parliament after SCO summit conference.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman will hand over his draft on constitutional amendments to government team within two or three days. Legal team of PPP and PML-N will share their draft with JUI-F.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman has shown his conditional willingness on the establishment of constitutional court. Amendments on the procedure of appointment of judges and other matters will be brought later. In the first phase amendment will be brought regarding formation of constitutional court and powers of its judges.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif have assured Maulana Fazlur Rehman to take him along with them. It has also been decided that joint draft of proposed constitutional amendment will be given priority. The inside story of big meetings of stalwarts at Aiwan-e-Sadr has come to light.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Ishaq Dar were present in the meeting in Aiwan-e-Sadr.

According to sources consultation was made on constitutional amendment, overall political situation of the country and SCO conference during the meeting.



KARACHI: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman, Mufti Taqi Usmani, Mufti Muneeb Rehman, Siraj-ul-Haq and others joints hands to express solidarity on stage during the National Palestine Conference on the completion of one year of Israeli brutality organized by Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith Pakistan, held at Shahr-e-Quaideen road in Karachi.

Dharejo directs officers to expedite work on CETPs

Independent Report
KARACHI: Provincial minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has directed the officers to expedite work on Combined Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) so that waste materials of industries may be disposed of properly. This he said while presiding over a meeting here in his office.

On this occasion Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Shar Balooh, MD SITE Ghazanfar Ali Qadri and other officers were also present. The meeting was informed that CETP in SITE Kotri. (Successfully Operational while work was in progress in SITE Sukkur, in SITE Hyderabad, in SITE Nooriabad and CETPs for Karachi Region Haroonabad for SITE Manghopir Karachi, Maripur for KPT Industrial area, CETP Ahsanabad for SITE Superhighway, CETP Mehmoobad for Korangi Industrial area and CETP Malir for Landhi industrial area.

Provincial minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that functioning of these Combined Effluent Treatment Plants would ensure safe disposal of industrial waste and protect the environment and might be used for agriculture purposes.

He emphasized that due to the traffic pressure on the bridge, it was essential to carry out immediate repairs and resurfacing to alleviate traffic congestion and other issues. This bridge is located in a densely populated area of South District and is widely used by citizens, particularly business people, for daily commutes, he added.

He said that considering the needs of the citizens, the infrastructure restoration and development work is being carried out swiftly, and immediate solutions will be provided for any bridges or underpasses facing issues in other parts of the city.

While visiting the newly constructed road leading to Mewa Shah Qabrustan, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab reviewed the quality of work and the construction of road.

neering department to ensure that there is no compromise on the quality of work and that no payments are made for substandard work and the concerned contractors should be blacklisted in such cases.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab assessed the resurfacing and other development work on the Jinnah Bridge, providing necessary instructions to the officials on-site.

According to the Rescue 1122 team, the accident occurred near the Kot Abdul Malik Interchange on the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway.

A Toyota Wagon was reportedly hit by an unknown vehicle, causing the Wagon to go out of control and crash into a tree on the side of the road. The impact of the collision proved fatal for 5 individuals who were traveling in the van as they were pronounced dead at the scene. Ten other passengers in the van sustained serious injuries and were immediately transported to the hospital by the Rescue 1122 team for medical treatment.

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KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of Agriculture Department, at CM House in Karachi.

SVI hosts two-day Islamabad Non-Proliferation Conference 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Islamabad, hosted Islamabad Non-Proliferation Conference 2024, a two-day international event bringing together a distinguished group of scholars and experts from around the world.

Advisor National Command Authority (NCA), Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmed Kidwai and Advisor, NCA, Lt. Gen. Sarfaraz Sattar.

The participants included prominent international scholars from Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the



The conference aimed at fostering constructive dialogue on global strategic issues and share Pakistan's policy perspectives, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Russian Academy of Sciences (MEMORAS), Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS), Russia, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), China, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, US, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), UK, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University), Saint Petersburg State University, Shanghai University, Peking University, University at Albany, State University of New York.

Thaheem says Sindh government taking serious steps to resolve issues faced by employees

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Labour and Human Resources, Shahid Abdul Salam Thaheem, has assured that the Sindh government is taking serious steps to resolve the issues faced by employees, with a particular focus on addressing the problems of Sindh Employees' Social Security Institution (SESSI) staff. Speaking during a meeting with a delegation of SESSI's Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA), led by People's Labour Bureau Sindh President Habibuddin Junaidi,

the minister emphasized that SESSI employees' concerns would be handled on a priority basis.

The delegation informed the minister about the ongoing challenges faced by SESSI employees, particularly the gas disconnection at the staff colony of Social Security Landhi Hospital, which has persisted for over a month, causing severe hardship for the families living there. Taking immediate notice, Thaheem assured the delegation that efforts would be made to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

ECP orders vote recount in Karachi's NA-231

KARACHI (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday ordered the recounting of the votes in four polling stations of Karachi's NA-231-Malir (III).

An independent candidate backed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Khalid Mehmoob Ali filed a plea against the victory of Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) Abdul Hakim Baloch who won the seat by 389 votes in the 8th February's general elections.

Accepting the plea of the PTI-backed independent candidate, the ECP ordered the recounting of votes in four polling stations.

Indian intelligence 'agent' arrested in Karachi; weapons seized

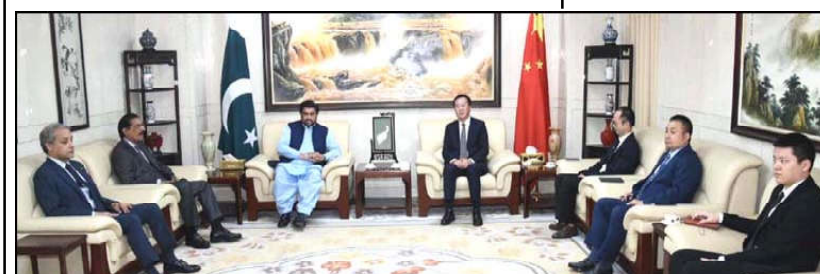
KARACHI (INP): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) in Karachi claims to have arrested a man suspected of being an agent for the Indian intelligence agency, RAW, during an operation in the Maripur area.

The arrested individual, identified as Muhammad Saleem, was apprehended in an intelligence-based operation from Macchli Chowranghi on Manora Road, and a large cache of weapons, explosive materials and documents were recovered from his possession.

According to SIU officials, the operation led to the seizure of hand grenades, a launcher, 9mm pistols, and several fake service cards from various departments.



KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah presiding over a high level meeting.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori condoling with Chinese Consul General on killing of Chinese nationals in terror attack.

Nasir Hussain Shah says All systems of power department should be made online, modern technology

Strict crackdown should be taken against those who fake wiring test report and WCR of Power Department

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Energy, Development and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that a strict crackdown should be taken against those who fake the wiring test report and Work Completion Report (WCR) of the Power Department and cases should be registered against the involved persons should be arrested.

In this regard, a team should be formed of the officers of the Power Department and the Police Department, which will be jointly responsible for crackdown monitoring and action. He expressed these views on the occasion of a high-level meeting of the Power Department of the Energy Department. Secretary Energy Mosaadiq Ahmad Khan, Director General Power Nand Lal Sharma, Additional Secretary Mehboob Ali Syal and Electric Inspectors of all divisions participated on this occasion. It was told in

the meeting that the work commission report and wiring test report submitted to K-Electric by the power department for the consumers are being prepared faked at many places in Karachi. In which fake seals and fake signatures of the relevant officers of the Power Department are being forged, while K-Electric is not being verified by the Power Department despite drawing attention to it.

It was told in the meeting that the issuance of certificates by the Energy Department is necessary for the life and property of consumers, fire and safety, but the issuance of fake certificates is a very serious safety and security risk for consumers. It was also informed in the meeting that since 2003 the annual inspection work has been stopped due to which the incidents of fire in domestic, commercial and factories are increasing day by day due to substandard electrical installation.

MQM's Afaq Ahmad writes to COAS for security for Sindh industrialists

KARACHI (INP): Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) Chairman Afaq Ahmad has written a letter to Army Chief General Asim Munir in which he has requested him to provide security to the industrialists and traders of Sindh in the wake of threats from Sindh nationalists.

In the letter, he has told the army chief that these nationalists, enjoying the patronage of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), threaten industrialists and traders of the province. "Renowned businessman Aqeel Karim Dhedhi too has received threats from these people on social media," Afaq writes.

Five killed, 10 injured in Motorway accident

SHEIKHUPURA (APP): A tragic car accident near the Islamabad Motorway has resulted in the death of 5 people and left 10 others seriously injured on Tuesday.

According to the Rescue 1122 team, the accident occurred near the Kot Abdul Malik Interchange on the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway.

A Toyota Wagon was reportedly hit by an unknown vehicle, causing the Wagon to go out of control and crash into a tree on the side of the road. The impact of the collision proved fatal for 5 individuals who were traveling in the van as they were pronounced dead at the scene. Ten other passengers in the van sustained serious injuries and were immediately transported to the hospital by the Rescue 1122 team for medical treatment.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Terrorism upsurge

A string of deadly incidents of terrorism in different parts of the country over the weekend illustrates the multifaceted nature of the militant threat that confronts Pakistan.

It also highlights the fact that the state cannot afford major security lapses. While there was initial confusion about the nature of the powerful blast near Karachi airport late on Sunday, it is now clear that it was a terrorist attack. At least three people have been confirmed killed in the incident, including two Chinese nationals. The foreigners were apparently the target of this terrorist attack as a convoy of Chinese workers was passing through the area. The banned Baloch Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for the atrocity, saying that its Majeed Brigade carried out the attack.

Meanwhile, a number of security personnel were martyred in KP and Balochistan on Saturday. Thirteen army and FC personnel were martyred during separate clashes with militants in North Waziristan and Kurram, while three security men lost their lives in a roadside bomb attack in Kalat.

The Karachi bombing should send alarm bells ringing in the corridors of power. It comes only a week before high-ranking foreign dignitaries from various states are due to gather in Islamabad for the SCO summit. It may well be that the Chinese nationals were targeted to sabotage the SCO event.

The Chinese embassy has not minced its words, demanding that Pakistan “thoroughly investigate the attack [and] severely punish the perpetrators”, and has called upon the state to protect Chinese citizens and projects in the country. This is the second major incident targeting Chinese nationals this year after the Bisham attack in March, in which five foreigners were killed. Simply put, Pakistan cannot afford such acts of terrorism as the economy begins a long journey of recovery, and the country re-engages with the world by hosting bilateral and multilateral exchanges. The Karachi airport is supposed to be a highly secure location, guarded by civil LEAs, and surrounded by military installations. A thorough probe is therefore very much required to uncover how terrorists were able to strike at such a sensitive location. Moreover, the attacks in Karachi and in KP and Balochistan illustrate how varied the militant threat is: ranging from separatist groups to religiously inspired fighters. Instead of crushing the political opposition, all arms of the state — including the administration and the security establishment — need to fully devote their energies to eliminating the terrorist threat from the country. In the short term, this can be achieved through intelligence-based operations that pre-empt violent actors from carrying out their malevolent designs. Economic recovery and national development will be impossible to achieve unless these terrorist threats are addressed. Therefore, the state needs to go beyond rhetoric and take meaningful steps in this regard.

Water for some

Danyal Adam Khan

In 2024, the fact that almost half of Pakistan’s urban population must go without access to water has to be one of the biggest service delivery disasters in the history of our country.

The stark inequity is best framed through a comparison of two statistics. On one hand, a recent ADB report on sustainable urbanisation claims that 43 per cent of the country’s urban population does not have access to water. On the other, every study tells us that groundwater in our cities has been depleting at an alarming rate—such as 1.7 metres per annum in Islamabad, according to UN Habitat. This means water is being used up rapidly, just as half of us live without it.

Broadly speaking, there are three direct ways in which climate change manifests itself in cities: air quality, temperature, and either a scarcity or an excess of water. With each of these elements, there is a disproportionate impact on lower socioeconomic classes, which is exacerbated by a mismanagement of available resources. In other words, climate change may be giving rise to new problems, but these are based on inequities we have already created.

One thing is absolutely fundamental to understanding this: the problem of cities and climate change is multifaceted and has to be addressed holistically, instead of through isolated project-based interventions. For instance, the major cause of urban flooding is an excessive concretisation of cities, which is a direct result of flawed land-use policies, as well as a crippling reliance on private vehicles which forces us to pave highways everywhere.

concretisation also happens to be linked to groundwater depletion, since it increases surface run-off and doesn’t allow rainwater to permeate.

The highways, in turn, are a by-product of the rampant privatisation and commodification of land which has made us a nation of housing societies. Buying up (often forcibly) land on the outskirts of cities means they need to be connected to the urban core with superhighways and untenable sprawl. The cars that then reluctantly ply these in the absence of public transport not only cause congestion, but are the biggest source of carbon emissions in cities and a major contributor to the urban heat island effect.

Importantly, these private housing societies are often not provided water connections by municipal authorities, but rather use boreholes to freely pump out of a mutual water table, just like affluent households in the urban core. And if the state does not have the capacity to provide water, it certainly has no capacity to regulate unchecked usage through private boreholes. It all comes full circle.

In every scenario, it is the poorest segment of urban society which is made to suffer the biggest burden.

This segment makes up a disproportionate amount of the 43pc of our urban population without water, 67pc without solid waste management, 18pc without sanitation, and 57pc residing in slums.

Many in the development sector point to how much Pakistani cities lose out by not recovering cost for the municipal facilities they provide, such as water. They claim that this results in low-quality pub-

lic services in exchange for a massive subsidy burden on the government. There is an element of truth to this. It is impractical to believe, for example, that we can go on for long without charging for water use—especially given our consumption habits in the face of per capita scarcity.

But instead of jumping on the privatisation bandwagon, it is important to remember that water is not only a fundamental human right, it also has no alternative. Any model we adopt, as a result, has to be equitable and redistributive. This means the state is compelled to provide a certain amount of water (according to an internationally agreed minimum requirement) free of charge. Doing otherwise would not only be criminal, but would also create even more perverse incentives to cheat the system.

So what are the alternatives? A possible three-step solution could look something like this: 1) invest in an urban water-metering system, without which we are blind to how much is being consumed, and where; 2) charge a progressive tax on excess usage above the minimum provision; 3) use these funds to extend the water and sanitation network to full coverage, repair dilapidated infrastructure, and invest in rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.

The status quo is a result of too little regulation, not too much of it. Without it, we will continue to live in a situation where the privileged pump out water without cost or accountability, and the marginalised are pushed further into a state of perpetual deprivation. When no rules apply and no system exists, everyone loses in a race to the bottom. -- Courtesy Dawn

The AMR hazard

Arif Azad

Last month, the antimicrobial resistance agenda received a significant policy and research boost. At a high-level UN General Assembly meeting on AMR, member states pledged to double down on AMR containment efforts with guarantees and increased funding. The meeting, eight years after the first one in 2016, provided a political push to a coordinated global response to the agenda.

AMR, a multifaceted global threat, is affecting humans, animals, the environment, agriculture and food. Its wider effects are discernible in higher mortality rates, additional expenditure for health systems, compromised health gains from surgical procedures due to infections, economic losses, low productivity and rising poverty caused by the exorbitant healthcare costs associated with AMR. A credible estimate predicts that 28 million could become poor due to the high rates of AMR; of those affected, 26m are likely to live in low-income countries.

These figures, along with a study published in The Lancet in mid-September, present a grim picture: the study estimated 1.91m deaths, which can be attributed to AMR, and 8.22m deaths associated with AMR by 2050. The report shows South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean as the worst-hit regions. The research also shows an over 50 per cent decrease in AMR-related deaths among under five-year-olds.

At the other end, mortalities rose by over 80pc in the over 70-year-old age bracket. The study forecasts 39m deaths from AMR between 2025 to 2050. The latest estimates are far higher than the original estimate of 10m deaths

by 2050, which was predicted in the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2014. The new statistics should force us to take notice of the magnitude of the AMR threat—the report identifies South Asia as the hotspot.

An earlier study conducted by the US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation showed that in Pakistan there were 59,200 deaths directly attributable to AMR with 221,300 deaths linked with AMR in 2019. In South Asia, new AMR mortality-related figures for Pakistan are likely to be higher than in other regional countries.

The two aspects of AMR devastation must prompt the authorities to strategise and implement measures on a war footing to reduce the scale of the rapidly growing AMR crisis.

The aforementioned meeting did indicate that there is an existing global alignment around AMR as evidenced in the adoption of the political declaration. The declaration, which was the most significant outcome of the high-level gathering, lays tremendous emphasis on framing and implementing national action plans on AMR.

Most countries have formed their plans in line with the World Health Organisation’s global action plans and many are in the NAP revision process, including Pakistan. Yet implementation challenges have so far been exacerbated by funding shortfalls and the lack of sustained political will.

However, with the adoption of the political declaration, political will and funding pledges seem to have aligned well. The declaration also sets a target of 60pc of the national action plans being funded and evaluated by 2030,

along with the intention to update the global action plan by 2026.

Moreover, the head of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, Barba-dos Prime Minister Mia Amor Southy laun-ched a funding appeal of \$100m for the national action plans. The political declaration also sets the target of a 10pc reduction in AMR-related deaths by 2030. More importantly, given the intertwined nature of the AMR threat, a multisectoral and collaborative approach under the umbrella of One Health, steered by the Quad-ripartite arrangement, has been reinforced. The combined One Health work will be further accelerated and coordinated through a collaborative approach and increased funding appropriation.

As Pakistan is likely to be one of the worst affected countries in the South Asian region, the AMR threat is a real and present danger, which has been growing imperceptibly over many decades. Against this bleak backdrop, there is an urgent need for sharper focus on AMR control and containment programmes through accelerated and consistent political commitment and enhanced funding. This assumes special significance in light of the new research, which presents an escalated level of the AMR threat, as well as the political declaration, which puts political weight behind containment and control measures.

Therefore, the need for urgent action cannot be underestimated. The revised national action plan forms the foundation for incentivised, speedy planning on AMR with political resolve and dedicated resources. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SMEs sector holds \$40-\$60b export potential: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that the Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) had the potential of \$40-60 billion export in the next 3 to 5 years.

Speaking at the ‘Export-led Economy – Race to \$100 billion’ ceremony, along with Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, he said that the government would facilitate SMEs sector to achieve this potential target.

The minister reaffirmed the government commitment to significantly increasing

exports, setting an ambitious target of \$100 billion within eight years.

He stressed that achieving this target within eight years, would be beneficial, but in case of missing, it would pose significant challenges.

Ahsan emphasized the need to enhance production and leverage key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and information technology, mining, manpower and creative industries to drive growth.

In order to increase the exports, the government would collaborate with the relevant department/

ministries to develop a dashboard, outlining a clear road-map for growth in these sectors, he added.

Similarly, he said that only 70 out of 500 companies on the Karachi Stock Exchange generated exports of around \$10,000, and big KSE companies earned billions in profit without contributing to dollar exports.

To address this, he suggested for working on policies and incentives to encourage the private sector to contribute to the country’s exports.

Jam Kamal Khan attributed Pakistan’s export decline to various factors, including high

interest rates, production costs, COVID-19, and the Ukraine conflict.

However, he highlighted that the government had formulated a strategy to increase the country exports to \$60 billion.

He said that inflation and interest rates had come down consistently while the global investors were interested in investing in Pakistan. “Investors confidence has restored after International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme”, he remarked.

“In the past, the focus was on textiles, now the focus is on pharmaceutical exports”, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with a group of investors led by Barclays at the Finance Division.



Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan at the event of Innovation Lab on Achieving \$100 Billion Exports Target organized by MoPDSI here in Islamabad.

‘Indonesia-South, Central Asia business Forum’ yields transactions worth \$8.33b

ISLAMABAD (APP): At the end of the Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA), worth \$ 8.33 billion in business and investment are expected in Indonesia through different 50 trade and investment deals in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA), organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta on October 7, 2024, concluded with remarkable outcomes.

This extraordinary achievement follows a series of events under the “Road to INASCA” initiative that began earlier this year.

The forum successfully secured 50 business and investment deals, amounting to \$ 8.33 billion.

The business delegations from different chambers of Commerce from Pakistan and other South and Central Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan participated in INASCA and promoted trilateral economic integration between Indonesia and the countries of these two regions.

Businessmen from various business sectors of Pakistan, including textile, oil consumption, and IT and technology sectors, have signed various agreements in INASCA.

Delegation of Hutchison Ports Company calls on Qaiser Sheikh

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation from Hutchison Ports Company met with Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh to explore opportunities for expanding their operations at the South Asian Port Terminal within Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Secretary Maritime Affairs Syed Zafar Ali Shah and

Additional Secretary Umar Zafar Sheikh, according to a press release here on Tuesday.

During the discussions, the minister welcomed the Hutchison delegation and expressed the Ministry’s unwavering support for their business initiatives. He emphasized the importance of effective terminal operations and assured the delegates of the government’s commitment to facilitating growth in the maritime sector.

LCCI welcomes govt moves to lower energy costs

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Tuesday appreciated the government’s proactive measures to review annual agreements with IPPs (Independent Power Producers) aimed at bringing down per unit electricity cost.

“This initiative is seen as a crucial response to the long-standing

demand of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry regarding high cost of electricity that has hit the businesses, particularly the manufacturing and export sectors,” said LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry while talking to various groups of businessmen here.

Concrete strategy in place to meet future energy demands: Awais

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday said that concrete strategy has been put into place to meet the future energy’s demands of the country.

“As energy always plays a key role in economy of the country so generation, transmission and distribution system of energy sector is being revamped on modern lines,” he said while addressing a function here at National University of

Science and Technology (NUST).

He said the environment friendly renewable energy was also being promoted in the country adding that around 17,000 megawatts (MW) were going to be added to the system by 2034.

Generation, transmission and distribution were all part of the power sector but in the past the generation part has not been added in healthy manner means at least cost methodology. However, he said we were committed to adding

generation on least cost methodology basis in the future.

He said issues with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) were being resolved amicably adding that he is grateful to IPPs for their cooperation to revise the contract condition.

He was of the views that the power has to be generated by the private sector and there should not be a single purchasers like Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) in the country.

PSX stays bullish, gains 753 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 753.68 more points, a positive change of 0.89 percent, reaching 85,663.98 points against 84,910.30 points on the last trading day. A total of 506,565,368 shares were traded during the day as compared to 449,507,635 shares the previous trading day.

Punjab to establish electric bus terminals, depots: SMBR

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member of the Punjab Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabeel Javed has said that efforts are being made to provide affordable and environmentally friendly transport for the public.

He said this while chairing a meeting here on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Colonies Member Abdul Waheed Malik, Secretary

Transport Ahmad Javed Qazi, Additional Secretary Mass Transit Authority Ayesha Mumtaz, ADC (Revenue) Lahore Habib Butt, and MD Mass Transit Authority Kanwar Anwar Ali.

During the meeting, SMBR Nabeel Javed announced that the Punjab Board of Revenue has allocated 41 kanals of land in Faisalabad.

CM chairs 17th cabinet meeting, approves historic program of collective weddings

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over 17th meeting of the provincial cabinet in which the largest historical program of collective weddings in Punjab was approved.

The project of group marriage of 3,000 girls from poor families was approved across Punjab. Rs. 100,000 as wed money will be given to the bride through ATM card. As many as 13 items including furniture, clothes, dinner sets will be gifted.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to increase the scope of collective marriages.

The Cabinet approved allotment of one lakh acres of land to

landless farmers on lease for three and five years for the purpose of temporary cultivation across Punjab. In the meeting, e-bus service scheme was approved in Punjab, under which 27 buses will arrive in the first phase. 1.2 MW solar panels will be installed in the parking lot of e-buses for charging purpose. As many as 680 e-buses will be functional across Punjab by the end of the current year.

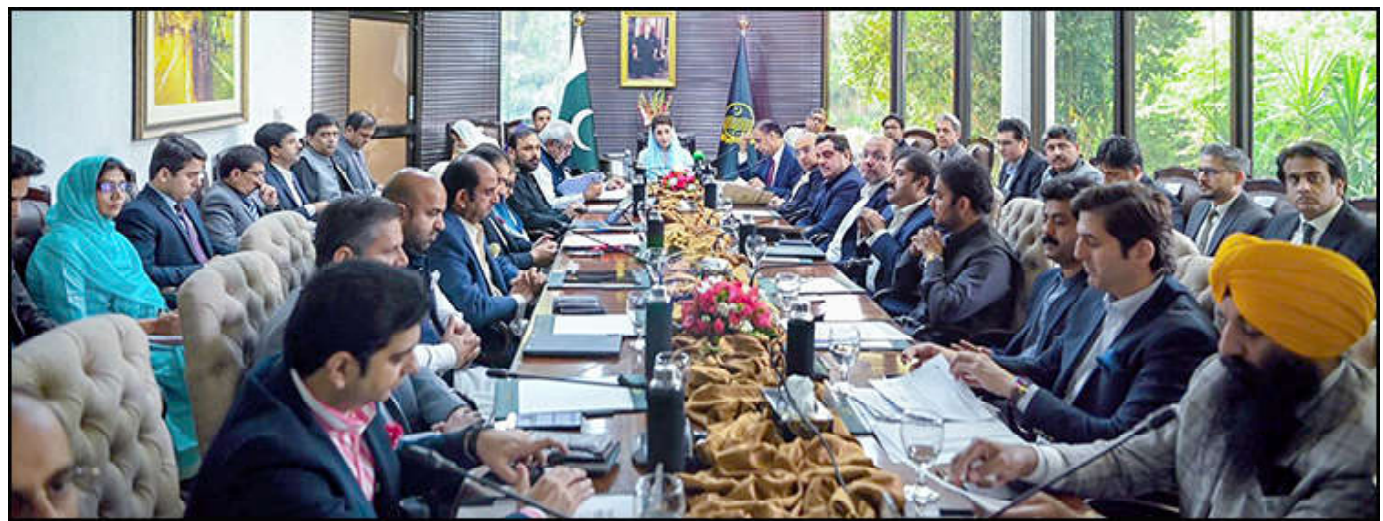
The Chief Minister sought the 'Electric Taxi Service Plan' in Lahore. Maryam Nawaz Sharif ordered strict monitoring of flour and chicken prices across the province.

It was informed in the briefing that 170,000 farmers in Punjab received

Kisan cards. Kisan cards were issued to 267,000 farmers. Around 1.1 million farmers applied for obtaining Kisan card. As many as 1-2 million applications were received for Green Tractor Scheme. Scrutiny of 700,000 applicants for green tractors has been completed.

Approval was granted to transfer funds to the Housing Department to construct 839 houses of New Pakistan Housing Scheme in Raiwind, Chiniot and Sargodha.

Age relaxation of five years has been approved for promotion to the posts of Inspector, Sub-Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspector.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the 17th Provincial Cabinet meeting.

Constitution to be strengthened through amendment: Governor

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said on Tuesday the constitution was a supreme document which would be strengthened through constitutional amendment.

Addressing the District Bar Association (DBA), he said amendments would be made after due process of consultation with all stakeholders including lawyers. He said that PPP wanted a strategic balance between judicial and

parliamentary party with a focused vision to strengthen the democracy. He said that all decisions must be made on merit and there should be no room to speculate decisions on the basis of bench formulation. He said that his party had offered unprecedented sacrifices for the independence of judiciary. "I was in forefront of the movement for the restoration of former chief justice Ifikhar Chaudhry", he said and added that upon his restoration, Ifikhar Chaudhry smartly ignored the lawyers as well as political parties.

KP Govt takes important decisions for security of Chinese nationals

PESHAWAR (APP): A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, on Tuesday at the Chief Minister's House and took stock of the security arrangements for Chinese nationals and other foreigners working in the province, in the context of the recent terrorist attack on a convoy of Chinese engineers in Karachi.

Important decisions were made after detailed deliberations on the

future course of action to ensure foolproof security for Chinese nationals working on various development projects in the province.

The Chief Secretary, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police, Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Muhammad Abid Majeed, and other senior officials attended the meeting. Divisional commissioners and regional police officers also attended the meeting via

video link. In the meeting, it was decided to immediately purchase additional vehicles required for the security of Chinese nationals.

If necessary, helicopters, including those of the provincial government, and hired helicopters, would be utilized for their movement, the meeting decided.

The Chief Minister said that the provincial government highly values China's cooperation in the development of the province.



FAISALABAD: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan is addressing the lawyer's community at the auditorium of District Bar Association (DBA) Faisalabad.

Efforts underway to empower Youth: Rana

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that all resources were being utilised to empower the youth under the Youth Program.

Addressing the Girls Cricket Camp 2024 at Government Graduate College Rawalpindi on Tuesday, he said that PMYP will provide a platform to the youth in educational institutions so that

they can demonstrate their talent on merit.

Rana said that the country's economy has stabilized and positive indicators show the remarkable achievements of the present government in every sector.

The Chairman PMYP added that Pakistan's hockey had won medals after 12 years in international competitions while Arshad Nadeem got an opportunity to come forward from the Punjab Youth Festival.

ANF recovers 37.183 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 37 kg drugs worth Rs 6.8 million and arrested 13 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that a special campaign was launched to net drug dealers supplying drugs to students of educational institutions. In an operation, 4 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a university in Hyderabad. 500 grams ice was recovered from an accused netted near a university on Old Shajab Road, Multan.

667 grams opium and 1.128 kg hashish were recovered near a university in Faisalabad and an accused was arrested during the operation.

310 grams hashish was recovered from a drug dealer nabbed near a college located on Pindi Road, Kohat.

Salman chairs meeting regarding Children's heart surgery program

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Tuesday chaired an important meeting regarding the Chief Minister's Children's Heart Surgery Program at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education. Parliamentary Secretary Ruslana Lodhi also attended the meeting.

Punjab Health Secretary Azmat Mehmud Khan, Special Secretary for Development Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Additional

Secretary Dr. Waheed, Vice Chancellor of the University of Child Health Sciences Prof. Masood Sadiq, CEO of the Punjab Health Initiative Management Company Dr. Ali Razaq, and Nosheeb, Director at the Punjab Information Technology Board, were present.

During the meeting, Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewed the Chief Minister's Children's Heart Surgery Program in detail, with a briefing provided by the PITB.

Dengue claims another life, cases mounts to 2143

RAWALPINDI (APP): One more patient died on Tuesday in Rawalpindi as dengue fever is continuously increasing as total dengue patients recorded till date are 2143 since January 2024.

Ruaqayya Amir 26 passed away at Holly Family Hospital.

The deceased belonged to Dhoke Munshi, was declared by the District Health Authority as died of Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS). Total casualties after the recent death have reached six in Rawalpindi.

Parliamentary secretary visits LDA Citizen Facilitation Center

LAHORE (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Housing Barrister Sultan Bajwa made an unexpected visit to the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Citizen Facilitation Center on Tuesday.

During the visit, LDA DG Tahir Farooq briefed him on the ongoing reforms at the facility and provided updates on the progress of daily applications received. DG Farooq assured that the processing of shifted files

was being completed within 48 hours and emphasized the LDA's focus on improving service delivery at the center. He mentioned plans to soon reactivate a call center to gather citizen feedback.

Barrister Bajwa interacted with citizens present at the center, receiving their feedback on the quality of services, particularly appreciating the timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

International News

Hezbollah rockets hit Haifa as Israel steps up bombings in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel's third largest city Haifa on Monday as Israeli forces looked poised to expand ground raids into south Lebanon on the first anniversary of the Gaza war, which has spread conflict across the Middle East.

Iran-backed Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, the Palestinian group fighting Israel in Gaza, said it targeted a military base south of Haifa with 'Fadi 1' rockets and launched another strike on Tiberias, 65km away.

Hezbollah said it also targeted areas north of Haifa with rockets later in the day.

Israel's military said around 135 projectiles had entered Israeli territory on Monday. Ten people were reported injured in the

Haifa area and two others further south in central Israel.

Israel's military said the air force was carrying out extensive bombings of Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon, and that two Israeli soldiers were killed in the border-area combat.

Lebanon's health ministry said 10 firefighters were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a municipal building in the town of Bint Jbeil.

The Israeli military has described its ground operation as "localised, limited and targeted" but it has steadily increased in scale since it began last week.

On Monday, the military said soldiers from its 91st Division had moved into southern Lebanon.

Also on Monday, around 100 Israeli fighters carried out a wave of

strikes, hitting 120 targets in southern Lebanon within the space of an hour, including Radwan special forces units, Hezbollah's rocket force and its intelligence directorate. "This operation follows a series of strikes aimed at degrading Hezbollah's command, control, and firing capabilities, as well as assisting ground forces in achieving their operational goals," the military said in a statement.

An Israeli military statement said five rockets were launched towards Haifa from Lebanon and interceptors were fired at them. "Fallen projectiles were identified in the area. The incident is under review."

It said 15 other rockets were fired inland at Tiberias in Israel's northern Galilee region, some of which were shot down.

Floods, landslides leave 15 dead in Meghalaya

Monitoring Desk
GUWAHATI: At least 15 people have been killed in floods and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in India's northeastern state of Meghalaya over the last four days, officials said on Monday.

More rain is expected in parts of the state through this week, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting "isolated heavy rainfall".

The weather department classifies rainfall between 64.5 mm and 115.5 mm as "heavy". Those killed include seven members of a single family who were buried alive in the South Garo Hills district, two people whose vehicle was swept away by floodwaters, and a man killed by a falling tree.

"The situation is better now as the weather

has cleared, and all bodies have been retrieved," Sanjay Goyal, commissioner and secretary of the state Revenue and Disaster Management Department, said. The affected population of 17,000 people from about 165 villages has been shifted to relief camps, he said.

The death toll from floods in the northern parts of neighbouring Bangladesh, which shares a border with Meghalaya, rose to six on Sunday. However, with no rain during the night, officials said the situation is improving and floodwaters are slowly receding.

"People are already starting to leave the shelters and return to their homes" said Torofdar Mahmudur Rahman, the district administrator of Sherpur.

Russian shelling kills one, wounds six in Sloviansk in eastern Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian shelling killed one person and wounded six others in the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk, a town near the front line of the 2-1/2-year-old war that Russia's military hopes to capture.

Vadym Filashkin, governor of Donetsk region, said on the Telegram messaging app that the shelling damaged six multi-storey apartment buildings, an administrative building and a business site.

Pictures posted online showed dwellings with shattered windows and damage to facades.

Filashkin said two children were among the injured, including a 2-year-old. Russian forces have been advancing slowly through Donetsk region in recent weeks, with the heaviest fighting gripping areas near the town of Pokrovsk, further south.



Myanmar's Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Aung Kyaw Moe, Philippines' Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro, Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Thailand's Foreign Minister Maris Sangiamponga, Vietnam's Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son, Laos' Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, Brunei's Second Minister of Foreign.

UNICEF chief warns Gaza kids face 'post-generational challenges'

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: After a year of military operations between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, the head of UNICEF warned that children there will face "post-generational challenges" due to the conflict.

"If you look at Gaza really through the eyes of a child, it is a hellscape," UNICEF's executive director Catherine Russell told CBS News' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, noting the toll of family deaths and displacements, as well as ongoing lack of food and clean water.

"They are so traumatized by what's happening," Russell said of the kids. "Even if we can get more supplies in there, the trauma that these children are suffering is going to have lifetime and even post-generational challenges for them." The fighting started on Oct 7, 2023, when Hamas fighters killed 1,200 civilians and took about 250 hostages in Israel.

Bangladesh's interim leader Yunus says no elections before reforms

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim leader has refused to give a timeframe for elections following the ouster of his autocratic predecessor, saying in an interview published Tuesday that reforms are needed before polls.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus was appointed the country's "chief advisor" after the student-led uprising that toppled ex-premier Sheikh Hasina in August.

The 84-year-old microfinance pioneer is

US restructures Afghan diplomacy team

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US State Department has announced a significant restructuring of its diplomatic strategy towards Afghanistan, appointing three senior officials to manage different aspects of its policy.

The move replaces the singular role previously held by Thomas West, the outgoing US Special Representative for Afghanistan. The new structure reflects the Biden administration's continued focus on Afghanistan, especially in light of ongoing security concerns following the Taliban's resurgence.

Son of Osama bin Laden deported from France, barred from returning

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: A son of Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden was deported on Tuesday from France, where he lived for years painting landscapes in a Normandy village, and barred from returning after posting comments on social media deemed to have glorified terrorism. Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said he had signed an order banning Omar bin Laden from France and that he had previously been deported.

Israel says senior Hezbollah official probably dead, Hezbollah backs truce efforts

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israel's defence minister said on Tuesday it appeared the replacement for slain Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah had been "eliminated", in what would be another big blow for the Iran-backed group in Lebanon.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant made the announcement about Hashem Safieddine as Israel began ground operations in southwest Lebanon, expanding its incursions to a new zone, and as Hezbollah left the door open to a negotiated ceasefire.

Safieddine, a top Hezbollah official, was widely expected to succeed Nasrallah. Safieddine has not been heard from publicly since an Israeli airstrike late last week.

"Hezbollah is an organization without a head. Nasrallah was eliminated, his replacement was probably also eliminated," Gallant told officers at the Israeli military's northern command centre, in a brief video segment distributed by the military. "There's no one to make decisions, no one to act," he said, without providing further details. Like Nasrallah, Safieddine is a cleric who followed a descent from Islam's Prophet Mohammed. His physical resemblance to Nasrallah, who led the Lebanese Shi'ite group for more than three decades.

Pope Francis slams world's 'shameful inability' to stop Israel-Hamas war

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis criticised on Monday what he called the "shameful inability" of the international community to end the war in the Middle East, one year after Hamas' devastating attack on Israel.

"A year ago, the fuse of hatred was lit; it did not sputter, but exploded in a spiral of violence," he said in an open letter to Catholics in the region.

"It seems that few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace," he wrote.

"Violence never brings peace. History proves this, yet years and years of conflict seem to have taught us nothing."

Francis, who has also made Monday a day of fasting and prayers for peace for Catholics globally, has spoken more openly in recent weeks about the Hamas-Israel conflict, and has become more vocal in his criticism of Israel's mili-

tary campaign.

On Sept 29, the 87-year-old pontiff criticised Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon that killed Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as well as non-combatants, suggesting the airstrikes went "beyond morality".

Earlier in September, the pope called Israel's actions in Lebanon "unacceptable" and urged the international community to do everything possible to halt the fighting.

In his letter on Monday, Francis directly addressed Gazans: "I am with you, the people of Gaza, long embattled and in dire straits. You are in my thoughts and prayers daily," he wrote.

"I am with you, who have been forced to leave your homes, to abandon schooling and work and to find a place of refuge from the bombing. ... I am with you, who are afraid to look up for fear of fire raining down from the skies," he said.

PM seeks plan over relief assistance programme for Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for formulation of mechanism within three days, on part of the government, on aid assistance programme for Palestine.

The prime minister chaired a meeting on the progress of dispatching relief items to Gaza and Palestine, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister stressed that they have to galvanize as a nation to help the Palestinian brothers who were facing oppression of occupied Zionist forces.

He also asked for involvement of country's leading NGOs in the relief activities and added that

participation of educational institutions from the public and private sectors should be ensured in this activity.

The prime minister further underlined that more students from Gaza should be provided educational facilities in Pakistan.

The meeting was briefed that since October 2023, Pakistan had dispatched 10 consignments of medicines, food items, clothing and other relief items worth 1810 tons to Palestine. The prime minister said that the government was bringing back 71 Pakistani nationals stranded in Lebanon via Damascus while steps were being taken to bring back more Pakistani citizens from war-hit areas.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a Federal Cabinet Meeting.

FM tells foreign investors Won't let go focus on ensuring structural reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said Tuesday that the government was focused on ensuring that Pakistan stays on the course of structural reforms in core sectors of economy, including energy, SOEs, privatization, taxation and rightsizing of government.

He said that in the past Pakistan has been seen as a single-tranche country but time has come to remove this perception and implement the structural benchmarks agreed under the programme with the IMF to

ensure permanence to the macroeconomic stability. He made this observation while talking to a group of investors led by Barclays, who called on the Minister at Finance Division.

The Minister briefed the delegation on various policy interventions and initiatives implemented during the last 12 months to reform the economy and also gave them an overview of the growth and macroeconomic stability in key economic indicators, including twin deficits, stable currency, foreign exchange reserves, and inflation that remained "a big story

throughout the year".

The Minister said the current macroeconomic stability was an outcome of a successful conclusion of nine-month IMF Stand-by Agreement, initiated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and implemented with discipline, rigour and vigour by the caretaker administration, paving the way for a larger and longer EFF to bring permanence to the macroeconomic stability and implement structural reforms.

He highlighted a positive outcome of the macroeconomic stability for Pakistan was its ability to not only clear the Letters of Credit and Import backlogs by May and June last year, but also clear the payments of profits and dividends close to \$ 2 billion to foreign investors.

He said the new fiscal year had started on a clean slate and noted the continuation of macroeconomic stability in the first quarter with current account deficit remaining under control due to strong remittances, healthy RDA flows and exports showing positive trends in terms of diversification and a higher delta in IT exports and services as per August figures.

Ahsan Iqbal lauds govt entities for bringing down inflation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday lauded the efforts of various government entities in bringing down the rate of inflation.

The inflation remained continuously on decline during the current fiscal year and stood at 44-months lowest level of 6.9% in September 2024 as compared to 31.4% in September 2023, according to press release issued by planning division.

Chairing the meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee, the minister said, a remarkable deceleration in food inflation was observed, showing decrease in urban food inflation to 1.7% from 33.9% over the year, whereas rural food inflation flowed in negative (-0.9%) as compared to 35.4% in the same month last year. He said, the prices of wheat flour and petrol (super) decreased significantly

by 37.1% and 20% over the corresponding month of last year.

Earlier, representatives of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) gave a detailed presentation on inflation situation in Pakistan and also highlighted a significant disparity between the prices of various food items and those in the open market.

The PBS highlighted large gaps in the wholesale and retail prices of some essential commodities in each province and at national level. It was also observed that the decrease in POL prices has not been effectively translated to transport services, which the minister said was matter of concern.

He directed provincial governments to take immediate steps to reduce transport, wholesale, and retail prices and emphasized that the government was taking strong measures to provide maximum relief to the common man.



KARACHI: Consul General of Turkiye Jamal Sango photographed with Board of Directors of Employees Federation of Pakistan Majeed Aziz, Syed Hasnain Mazhar, Humayun Nazir, Mehmood Arshad, Maria Shabbir and Commissioner Office Kousar Ahmed.

SHC dismisses petition against municipal tax collection in electricity Bills

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) Tuesday dismissed a petition challenging municipal tax collection in electricity bills by K-Electric (KE).

SHC heard the plea against collection of tax collection in the electricity bills.

The Sindh High Court in its verdict said the tax collection is imposed under the Finance Act and questioned whether the petitioners had challenged the act itself.

At this juncture, K-Electric's lawyer argued that the advance income tax does not apply to residential consumers who already pay income tax. He further

clarified that electricity is a sellable commodity and, like other goods, is subject to taxation.

Regarding fuel adjustments, the lawyer explained that these are regulated according to fuel prices and often implemented months later, which could be unfair to tenants.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) assesses and approves fuel adjustments for a specific period, ensuring fair regulation of electricity charges.

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is collecting a municipal tax in K-Electric (KE) bills from July.

DC vows to take strict action against shopkeepers involved in milk adulteration

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Khairpur, Syed Ahmed Fawad on Tuesday directed the officials concerned to take action against those involved in milk adulteration.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding the pricing, quality, and availability of milk in accordance with official rates in the district.

The meeting was attended by officials of the food department, Agricultural and Revenue and representatives from the dairy association.

The DC Khairpur said that regular inspection should be carried out by the officials concerned to ensure that the citizens received milk of standard quality at reasonable prices.

He also directed that the milk vehicles entering the district should be examined in the laboratory and in case of any adulteration, the milk should be discarded and legal action should be taken against the violators.

The meeting also discussed maintaining milk prices according to the official rate list and ensuring its quality.

DC chairs a meeting for eradication of Polio

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr Raja MB Dharejo on Tuesday said district Sukkur had demonstrated better performance in comparison to other districts of the province regarding eradication of polio. He said this while presiding over a meeting at the DC office to review performance and arrangements of upcoming Polio campaign which will be launched on Oct 28 across the Sukkur district.

The DC said that the eradication of polio is the top priority of the Sindh government. He said that efforts are underway to achieve 100 percent coverage so that polio disease can be eradicated from the district.

Saudi Arabia's aid to Pakistan reaches \$12.75 bln, supporting 247 development projects: Al-Baiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) on Tuesday reaffirmed its commitment to humanitarian support in Pakistan with the signing of joint cooperation programmes and implementation contracts for various educational, health, recovery, and rehabilitation projects.

During the signing ceremony, Assistant Supervisor General of Operations at KSRelief, Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Baiz, conveyed the greetings of KSRelief General Supervisor, Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Rabeah, who could not attend the event due to urgent com-

mitments.

He expressed gratitude on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, emphasizing the strong humanitarian efforts led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Al-Baiz highlighted KSRelief's significant global contributions, noting that since its establishment in 2015, the organization has implemented 3,068 projects in over 102 countries, with financial aid exceeding \$7 billion. He said KSRelief has also partnered with 450 organizations worldwide, positioning

Saudi Arabia as a major force in global humanitarian, relief, and development assistance.

Al-Baiz announced the launch of new projects in Pakistan worth \$14.2 million. These initiatives include the reconstruction of four high schools in Bagh and Poonch, Azad Kashmir, and the establishment of 300 schools under the National Human Development Commission, targeting remote areas lacking public education facilities. He said 22 service facilities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir, and Punjab will be rehabilitated, including schools, water stations, and health centers.

Aurangzeb says: Single-day strike may cause Rs190 b loss to national economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that a single-day strike might cause cumulative losses of around Rs 190 billion to the national economy.

Addressing a press briefing, the minister said that the Ministry of Finance's Economic Wing had formally calculated the adverse impact, taking in account losses in gross domestic product, tax revenue, law enforcement costs, business and export losses, foreign direct invest-

ment flow, and information technology. He said the social sector had also been affected, with hospitals, construction workers, street vendors, and taxi drivers adversely impacted.

Approximately 0.8 million people in Islamabad did suffer for over the last 2-3 days, he added.

Currently, Pakistan's total GDP stood at Rs 124 trillion, with Q2 estimates at Rs 32 trillion on that basis the Economic Wing estimated losses, he said. The government was focusing from stability towards growth side, he added.

Meeting held to foster greater collaboration between DHRD, SHRC and TIC

Independent Report
KARACHI: A significant meeting was held on Tuesday at the office of the Secretary, Human Rights Department, and Sindh, to foster greater collaboration between the Directorate of Human Rights Department, the Sindh Human Rights Commission, and the Treaty Implementation Cell (TIC). Chaired by the Mrs. Tahseen Fatima Secretary, Human Rights Department, the meeting was attended by Iqbal Ahmad Detho, chairman Sindh Human Rights Commission, Agha Fakhar Hussain, Director Human Rights

Department, and Jameel Junejo, Executive Coordinator of TIC, and other senior officials.

The agenda for the meeting focused on streamlining efforts to strengthen human rights governance in Sindh, with discussions on improving policy frameworks, enhancing monitoring mechanisms, and ensuring compliance with international treaties. Key strategies were discussed to boost coordination between the three entities, paving the way for more effective human rights interventions across the province.



KARACHI: Secretary Human Rights Department Tahseen Fatima presiding over a meeting.

A Pakistani scientist to moderate a Halal session in Azerbaijan

KARACHI (INP): A well-known Pakistani scientist will moderate the session titled "Halal Standardization: Issues and Challenges in the Azerbaijan Halal Business and Tourism (AZHAB) Forum" being held on October 8-9 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

A spokesman of the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, said that Prof. Dr. Musharraf, a professor at the HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, ICCBS, University of Karachi, has already left for Azerbaijan to attend the forum. According to the spokesman, this event aims to foster collaboration, share knowledge, showcase the products, and promote ethical and sustainable practices in the Halal industry.

It is pertinent to mention here that Prof. Musharraf is playing a pivotal role in the Halal Certification, Testing, and Research Services (HCTRS), working under the HEJ Research Institute of Chemis-

try, University of Karachi.

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) just selected Prof. Musharraf as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC).

BASR, University of Karachi, has recently awarded him a degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.). It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Musharraf made significant and promising contributions to establishing a modern mass spectrometry research laboratory in Pakistan. He made a significant contribution to biomarker research using metabolomics and proteomics approaches.

Most importantly, he has established a strong network with the clinicians of different hospitals around the globe to address human health issues, particularly cancer and ?-thalassemia.

He is the author of over 260 publications (journal cumulative impact factor over 1100, h-index = 38) published in peer-reviewed journals; several book chapters, reviews, and edited books.

DIG Prisons visits district Jails, inspects facilities

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Prisons Sukkur Region Aslam Malik on Tuesday inspected District Jails Jacobabad and Shikarpur.

Superintendent of Jails and other official of the both Jails were also present on the occasion.

The DIG inspected the surroundings of the jails warden's mess, warden lines, waiting rooms and meeting sheds.

He met prisoners and inquired about their problems. Though arrangements were fine but even then he directed to further improve security, discipline and facilities provided to the in-mates in the jails.

No ECP meeting scheduled for today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has categorically denied the media reports claiming a meeting of the Commission is scheduled for tomorrow, on Wednesday.

The spokesperson for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) clarified "no meeting of the Election Commission is summoned on Wednesday" and that any reports suggesting otherwise are completely baseless and false.

SBP enhances limit of financing for SMEs

KARACHI (INP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has decided to enhance financing limit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

According to a statement issued by State Bank of Pakistan on Tuesday, small businesses will now be able to obtain loan worth Rs100 million while medium business enterprises can get loan worth Rs500 million. The State Bank allowed commercial banks, direct financing institutions (DFIs) to deduct amount from liquidated assets.

DC chairs meeting regarding upcoming anti polio campaign

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Sheriyan Gul Memon chaired a meeting today at the DC Office's Darbar Hall to review arrangements for the upcoming national anti-polio campaign starting October 28.

The meeting also assessed the previous anti-polio campaign's performance.

DC emphasized the need for increased focus on the upcoming campaign, especially after polio samples tested positive in Nawabshah. He stressed

that better micro-planning, polio team training, and monitoring are crucial for achieving better results.

Deputy Commissioner instructed health department officials to submit a report on the first day of the campaign, covering refusal cases.

District Health Officer Dr. Asadullah Dahri and Focal Person for Polio Dr. Allah Bakhsh Rajpar informed the meeting that the campaign aims to administer polio drops to 420,756 children under five years old in the district.



HYDERABAD: Bilawal Medical College Neurosurgeon, Dr. Peer Asad Aziz addresses to media persons during press conference regarding awareness against Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida Day, at Hyderabad press club.

VC SAU underscores role of agricultural engineers in canal irrigation systems

HYDERABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam Dr Fateh Marri underscored the pivotal role of agricultural engineers in understanding canal irrigation systems and ensuring the efficient supply of water to crops through precise crop water requirement calculations.

According to the SAU spokesperson, addressing a dinner reception held in honour of the newly elected members of the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Dr Mari emphasized the need for recognizing and utilizing the expertise of agricultural engineers in key sec-

tors such as irrigation and farm infrastructure to meet the demands of modern agriculture.

He further said that education was rapidly transforming, making the role of engineers essential in all fields.

Agricultural engineers, in particular, should be acknowledged for their significant contributions to sustainable farming practices.

Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodhi, Vice Chancellor of NED University of Engineering and Technology Karachi, and newly elected Vice Chairman of PEC, pledged that the PEC would address the challenges faced by engineers.

Misbehaving with CJP PTI affiliated lawyer Kazmi sent to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (Online): Lawyer Mustafain Kazmi who had misbehaved with Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faiz Isa has been sent to jail on judicial remand. Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain of Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad sent PTI affiliated lawyer Mustafain Kazmi to jail on judicial remand at the request of investigating officer of the case took the plea more physical remand of Mustafain Kazmi is not needed. Hadi Ali Chatha and Iman Mazaris counsels for Mustafain Kazmi appeared in the court.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in preparing the design on the bangles with the help of machine at their workplace.