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PM invites Qatari businessmen to invest in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure

DOHA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met a delegation of the Qatar Businessmen Association (QBA) where he highlighted numerous opportunities in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure, and finance sectors, presenting the country as an attractive investment destination.

The QBA delegation, led by Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani, comprised leading Qatari business figures, each representing influential sectors within Qatar's economy. The meeting was held during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's two-day official visit to Qatar aimed at discussing deepening economic ties and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

The meeting brought together key representatives from Pakistan and influential members of Qatar's business community, emphasizing shared goals for strengthening trade, investment, and

economic partnerships. Notable QBA members present included Vice Chairman & CEO of Al Mana Group Saad Bin Omar Bin Hamad Al-Mana; Executive Director of Mannai Corporation Khalid Ahmed Al Mannai; Chairman MENA & Chief Country Officer of Deutsche Bank Salah Mohammed Jaidah; Chairman of Mansoor Jassim Al Thani Group Sheikh Mansoor bin Jassim Al Thani; CEO of Blue Salon Nabil Abu Issa; and Director of Sendian Group Yousuf Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud.

Each of these delegates expressed interest in Pakistan's economic landscape, particularly in upcoming projects in energy, technology, and infrastructure development.

During the meeting, both sides explored potential collaborations that could drive job creation, innovation, and sustainable development in both countries.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with a delegation of Qatar Businessmen Association.

Energy Minister takes important decisions in Sindh Coal Authority meeting

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Friday made important decisions in the Sindh Coal Authority (SCA) meeting held under his chairmanship.

Director General SCA Haq Nawaz Shar, MD Tharcoal Energy Board Tariq Ali Shah and other officers also participated in the meeting, said a statement. The minister said the TharLodges managed by the SCA will be outsourced for the quality and best accommodation and food facilities for local and foreign investors in Thar. However, he said that its ownership will remain with the Sindh government.

The minister directed Energy Department Mosaad Ahmed Khan to review all the legal points

in this regard and submit his suggestions. He added that a Rules and Regulation Committee should be established for the promotion and recruitment of employees and to ensure merit and transparency.

He said that the problems related to SCA's budget and other aspects will be resolved and added that there is a need to work on coal bracketing.

Nasir Shah directed that Thar Airport is the pride of the Sindh government and the country's first provincial-level airport and further improve it and standardize the services. The services of Civil Aviation Authority experts should be taken and the high authorities of civil aviation should be contacted in this regard, he said.

CS Sindh chairs meeting on strengthening surveillance, Law and Order, and public safety

Government decides to launched crackdown on tinted windows, arms display, and fake number plates

Independent Report KARACHI: Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah, chaired a high-level meeting to review law and

sued directives to the Home Department to formulate a comprehensive communication strategy to raise public awareness



order concerns and discuss the strengthening of surveillance and monitoring strategies to enhance public safety across the province.

The meeting addressed critical issues, including the proliferation of fake number plates, unauthorized tinted vehicle glasses, and the display of arms, emphasizing the need to curb these illegal activities to improve overall public security.

During the session, the Chief Secretary is-

and ensure compliance with law-and-order regulations.

This strategic plan will engage the public, providing essential guidelines to promote lawful conduct and foster community safety.

Additionally, the Chief Secretary highlighted the importance of vigilant neighborhood surveillance and instructed officials to develop an expanded system for monitoring activities in local communities.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with a delegation of Qatar Businessmen Association.

Murad informs Canadian envoy of Sindh govt initiative for upgrading city infrastructure

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his meeting on Friday with the Canadian High Commissioner Ms Leslie Scanlon, said that the provincial government, through the Karachi transformation project, was improving the infrastructure to make the city liveable and attractive for investment.

The meeting also included the Director General for South Asia in Ottawa, Canada, Marie Louise Hannan, and Daniel Arsenault, the Political, Economic, and Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy. The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Secretary, Raheem Shaikh.

During the meeting, Scanlon remarked that Karachi is a beautiful megapolis with abundant investment opportunities. She noted that Canadian food chains currently operating in Islamabad and Lahore plan to open franchises in Karachi.

Shah emphasized that Karachi is the industrial hub of the country, and both the provincial and federal governments are working to establish more special economic zones. He mentioned that the city's infrastructure, including industrial areas, is being developed using resources from the World Bank's Karachi Transformation Project, along with Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives.

Murad Shah outlined several key infrastructure projects, including the completion of the Malir Expressway, the dualization of the Northern Bypass, and the construction of a road connecting the Seaport to the Korangi Causeway, which will link to the Malir Expressway. Additionally, he mentioned the opening of a new link road that connects the National Highway with the Motorway,

facilitating easier transportation of goods to the interior of the country. During the discussion, the Chief Minister highlighted the government's investment in seawater desalination for drinking water and the treatment of domestic waste to meet both domestic and industrial needs. They also addressed issues of marine and environmental pollution, with Shah stating that treatment plants are being established to responsibly discharge treated sewage and industrial waste into the sea.

He shared that his government planted millions of mangroves along the coastline, enabling the earning of carbon credits, and expressed plans for the development of another deep-sea port at Ketu Bandar.

Regarding the coal-fired power plant in Thar, Shah said that international environmental protection standards have been adopted to produce energy

from coal, which has made Thar coal the cheapest energy source in the country. Repeating question about electricity costs, Shah informed Ms Scanlon that industrialists are dissatisfied with the current electricity prices. He added that the federal government is working to control power prices, while the Sindh government plans to install two power plants—one with a capacity of 352 MW each in Karachi and Hyderabad—and is seeking private partners for electricity procurement.

He invited Canadian companies to invest in power distribution, water projects, and education. The Canadian ambassador confirmed that their companies are also exploring investment opportunities in Karachi.

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Govt committed to provide more resources for Balochistan's development: Ahsan Iqbal

Planning Minister reviews progress on transfer of Pak-PWD projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Friday said that the Federal Government was committed to utilizing all resources for the development of the Balochistan province.

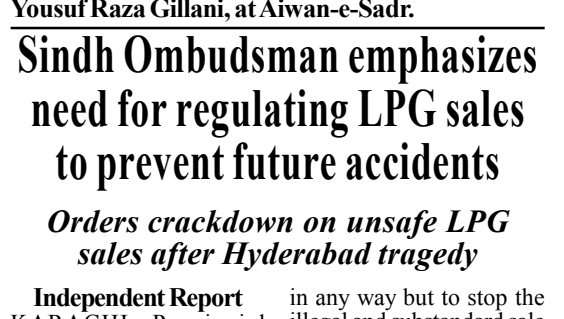
Responding to a question during the ongoing 343rd session of the Upper House, he informed that a total of 200 PSDP projects were underway in Balochistan, with an estimated cost of 1429 billion rupees. He said an amount of 130 billion rupees had been earmarked for the PSDP in 2024-25 while more allocation of funds would be ensured for the uplift of the Balochistan projects.

However, he stressed the importance of improving the administrative capacity of provinces for better service delivery of funds and resources after allocations. Meanwhile, Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain replying to a question told the House that restructuring of the Utility Stores Corporation was underway to make it more viable in terms of business and its day-to-day operations.

The Minister said that during the restructuring, the rights of the utility Stores' employees would be safeguarded. Ahsan Iqbal here on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on the transfer of Pak Public Works Department (Pak PWD) projects to provincial governments under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). The meeting was briefed by the Additional Secretary of Housing and Works on the progress of the project transfer, according to press release issued by planning ministry.

According to the update, all Pak PWD projects allocated to Punjab have been successfully handed over to the provincial government. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need to expedite the transfer process for other provinces, directing that the transfer to Sindh be completed within the next five days.

"Efforts must be made to ensure the remaining work in Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is completed by next week," he said while underscoring the importance of timely collaboration between federal and provincial entities.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, called on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Sindh Ombudsman emphasizes need for regulating LPG sales to prevent future accidents

Orders crackdown on unsafe LPG sales after Hyderabad tragedy

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Muhammad Sohail Rajput

has said that LPG is a basic necessity of daily life, the sale of which cannot be completely banned, however, illegal and substandard sale of LPG is harmful to human lives and properties.

He said this during the hearing of the Suo-moto in any way but to stop the illegal and substandard sale of LPG. He directed the concerned agencies to keep a close watch on the illegal sale of LPG and stop its supply through unsafe and substandard cylinders.

He urged OGRA to issue a comprehensive SOP on sale of standard LPG and amend its rules and regulations to empower Deputy Commissioners against illegal and substandard sale of LPG.

On this occasion, Secretary Ombudsman Sindh Mansoor Abbas Rizvi, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, DIG Police Syed Asad Raza, OGRA and officers of related local bodies were also present.

Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Muhammad Sohail Rajput said that our aim is not to block LPG gas

to empower Deputy Commissioners against illegal and substandard sale of LPG.

He also directed the OGRA officials to take up the issue of manufacturing of small cylinders with the Punjab government to stop the manufacture of small cylinders which are dangerous to human lives.

The Ombudsman of Sindh also directed the commissioners to take effective measures.

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Sindh Governor condemns Mastung blast

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has strongly condemned the blast occurred in Balochistan's Mastung area.

He expressed grief and sorrow over the deaths and injuries of many people, including innocent children, in the blast.

The Sindh Governor prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased, elevation of ranks, and patience for the bereaved families, while praying for the speedy recovery of the injured.

He also expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.

Naqvi strongly condemns explosion in Mastung

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday strongly condemned an explosion near Civil Hospital Chowk in Mastung, which claimed the lives of three children and a police officer.

In a statement, he expressed his deep sorrow over the death of children and a police officer and shared his heartfelt condolences, standing in solidarity with the bereaved families.

He denounced the incident, saying, "No words are enough to condemn the incident of targeting innocent children."

He described the attack as an "act of brutality," adding that "targeting children is a heinous crime that no one should tolerate."

The Interior Minister made it clear that those responsible for such horrific acts should face no leniency. "The beasts who play with the lives of innocent children do not deserve any compassion," he stated.

In a message of support, Minister Naqvi assured the families of the martyrs that the government stands with them in this painful time.

He also extended prayers for the swift recovery of the injured, emphasizing the government's commitment to bring the perpetrators to justice.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting to review the progress on the transfer of Pak Public Works Department (Pak PWD) projects to provincial governments under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in Islamabad.

Diwali celebrations spectacular display of fireworks Governor House

KARACHI (APP): A grand Diwali celebrations were held here at the Sindh Governor House with the participation of a large number of people belonging to the Hindu community, international artists already present in the city to participate in the World Cultural Festival, Consuls General of different countries, and the Gold Medalist of world bodybuilding event 'Mr. Universe Competition' Ramiz Ibrahim.

Governor Sindh also cut the cake with the Hindu community representatives. In the ceremony, a spectacular display of fireworks was also performed.

Addressing the Diwali festival, Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori said that Diwali is one of the festivals celebrated internationally before the arrival of the New Year, which is considered a symbol of joy, love, and happiness for the Hindu community.

He congratulated the Hindu community on the festival of Diwali.

He said Pakistan is a bouquet, we all are its beautiful flowers and this bouquet will always be fragrant."

He said that minorities have equal rights in Pakistan. Minorities, especially the Hindu community, are standing side by side in national development. I pay tribute to them for their role, Governor said.

He said that every person living in Pakistan irrespective of their religion is a resident of this state and everyone is equal in the eyes of the State and no discrimination will be allowed based on religion.

In the ceremony, Governor Sindh also gave the gold medal to Rameez Ibrahim and the traditional gift of a shawl, Jinnah cap, and medals to all the international artists participating in the World Cultural Festival. Mr. Universe gold medalist Ramiz Ibrahim named his gold medal after the Governor of Sindh.



LARKANA: Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sohail Anwar Khan Syal is listening the problems of citizens during open court program held at Syal House in Larkana.

SC (Practice & Procedure) Amendment Ordinance, laid in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024 (Ordinance No. VIII of 2024) was laid in the Senate on Friday.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar laid before the Senate the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024 (Ordinance No. VIII of 2024), as required by clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Deputy Chairman Senate referred the bill to the concerned standing committee.

ATC provides copies of GHQ attack case to PTI founder and indictment on Nov 8

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Amjid Ali Shah of Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi has provided copies of GHQ attack case to PTI founder Imran Khan but the copies could not be provided to former foreign minister Shah Mehmood being in Lahore jail.

These copies will be distributed among the remaining accused.

The copies of case have been provided to 102 accused including former chairman PTI in Adiala jail.

The copies have already been provided to Umar Ayub, Zartaj Gul, Raja Basharat, Sadaqat Abbasi, Raja Rashid Hafeez, Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi, Sheikh Rashid and Col (Retd) Ajmal Sabir.

The copies of case have yet to be provided to 23 accused persons.

All the accused will be indicted after distribution of copies of case among them. All the accused will be indicted on November 8.

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12th Edition of IDEAS-2024 scheduled to be held at Karachi Expo Centre

Independent Report KARACHI: IDEAS is a biennial held event & last exhibition held in 2022.

The four days exhibition will include a number of activities and events including an impressive inauguration ceremony, International Seminar on topics related to defence industries, B2B/B2G meetings and a tri services Karachi Show at Nishan-e-Pakistan, sea view for visiting foreign dignities as well as for

people of Karachi. A continuous success story since year 2000; this year IDEAS is likely to surpass all previous editions participation; in terms of number of defence exhibitors and foreign delegates attending the event.

IDEAS-2024 is truly one of the largest defence exhibition of region; where exhibitors from around the world showcase their defence related products and equipment.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Seeking investment

Saudi Arabia has agreed to increase its promised investment in Pakistan by another \$600m to \$2.8bn, with Riyadh signing seven more MoUs during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's just-concluded visit to that country.

A Saudi delegation, led by the Saudi investment minister, had concluded 27 MoUs worth \$2.2bn in Islamabad last month. The decision to boost the volume of Saudi investment in Pakistan was made after Mr Sharif's "very productive" meetings in Riyadh. According to the Saudis, some of the MoUs have resulted in exports from Pakistan in agriculture and other sectors. After his Saudi visit, the premier reached Doha to woo Qatari investors to Pakistan. For over a year, Pakistan has been chasing official and private investments in state-owned enterprises, agriculture, oil and gas exploration, the aviation industry, mining and other sectors of the economy. Initially, we were told that three friendly Gulf nations — Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar — had pledged to invest \$25bn each in Pakistan over the next five years. The previous Shehbaz Sharif government also set up the military-backed Special Investment Facilitation Council to provide 'prospective' Gulf investors some comfort on policy consistency.

As time passed, Islamabad continued to adjust its Gulf investment expectations downward to more realistic levels. Even then, only a fraction of what was promised has actually flowed into Pakistan: a small Emirati investment in Karachi's port infrastructure and the Saudi acquisition of shareholding in a Pakistani oil marketing company. Contrary to officials' claims, no Qatari or other investors from these countries have shown an interest in PIA or Islamabad airport, which the government is struggling to disinvest. In fact, the Saudi announcement to increase its promised investment in Pakistan coincided with all but one bidder pulling back from the process of the airline's sale. Potential Chinese investment under CPEC's second phase also appears a distant possibility because of security concerns. China is upset not only over the terrorist attacks against its nationals working in Pakistan but also the narrative built around the power plants set up under the CPEC plan. The one-sided revisions in their contracts being imposed on private power producers and their vilification is not helping investor confidence either. With our investment climate deteriorating amid a worsening balance-of-payments crisis and political instability, we have seen several foreign companies exit the Pakistani market in recent years. We can appreciate the PM touring one country after another to sell Pakistan's 'unrealised economic potential' to bring in the foreign investment needed to shore up our shaky international reserves and accelerate economic growth. But these efforts will be fruitless unless he first focuses on crucial structural and policy reforms in areas that directly affect investors. Indeed, policy consistency and sanctity of contracts top the list of these reforms.

Language tyranny

Zubeida Mustafa

Since an education emergency was declared in Pakistan — for the second time — education has entered the public discourse with a bang. Seminars are being held frequently while the media has been addressing the issue much more than before. But nothing is changing on the ground. In this bleak scenario, comes a heart-warming announcement.

Baela Raza Jamil, the dynamic CEO of Idara-i-Taaleem-o-Agahi (ITA) has been awarded the Global Education Medal for the Asian region. It is to Baela's credit that she is one of the rare ones in the education sector in Pakistan who has walked the talk and her undertakings have had an impact on millions.

She launched the Pakistan Learning Festival that has been an informal learning experience for thousands of children since 2011. She set up ASER (Pakistan) in 2008 to test children's learning outcome all over the country. Of late, she has made her debut as a publisher of children's books. What is important is her inclusive approach vis-à-vis the indigenous languages in her scheme of things.

It is unfortunate that Baela's recommendations on various educational problems have failed to move our policymakers with whom she has constantly engaged. An issue that has bothered her for decades now — Baela understands my concern — is that of the language of education. It appears that government, society, educationists, school managers and even parents have joined hands to 'tyrannise' the child and sacrifice the joys of childhood at the 'altar of the English language'.

Some government

functionaries and academics now discreetly concede that an overwhelming majority of teachers are not proficient in English and that affects their pedagogic performance. Yet no initiative has been taken to change the ambivalent language policy that is in place.

Neither is there any advocacy campaign to create awareness of the stupidity of imposing the English language on young children in the initial phase of their schooling. Not being familiar with it they are overawed by it. If the mother tongue or the language of the environment is used in early childhood and a few years of primary education, children will find school to be a friendly and welcoming place. The transition to another language will be painless when the change-over is gradual and takes place at an appropriate stage when the student is psychologically and mentally ready for it.

There is something seriously wrong with the hybrid pedagogy which allows the teacher to speak in Urdu, while the books are in English, and the students are expected to speak, read and write in English. This pattern will continue until the language factor is taken into account. It may be added that the child will be dumbed and will rote learn and never be able to think critically.

The fact is that we are regressing. Until last year, Sindh had, relatively speaking, a sane language in education policy.

the medium of instruction in all public sector schools was Sindhi and Urdu in areas inhabited by Sindhi and Urdu speakers respectively. Each community learned the other's language as a compulsory second language. The private schools, how-

ever, were inadvicably left to their own devices.

Today, under the unwritten orders of a district education officer, English is the medium of instruction in specified public sector schools in District South of Karachi. We shall never know about the disastrous impact of this policy because the ever-obliging examination board is infamously producing desired results that are not a valid assessment of candidates.

As a consequence, education has lost all credibility. The focus is now on quantity. The 26 million out-of-school children in Pakistan have become a scourge for the country.

Pa-radoxically in this dismal scenario, language — the divider between the rich and the poor — finds no mention. And it will not. Our neoliberals and their backers know very well that the fast-growing inequity in our society has been spawned by our market-driven education system in which the rich attend upscale elite schools while the poor go to the tottering public sector and low-fee private institutions which cannot teach English.

Who benefits from this class-ridden system? Of course the neo-liberals, who thrive in the globalised world of today. We cannot say we have not been warned. One has to read Robert Phillipson (Linguistic Imperialism), Paulo Freire (Pedagogy of the Oppressed), Antonio Gramsci's views on language and education, and of course, Dr Maria Montessori (The Absorbent Mind).

Those in a position of power have also managed to create a paradoxical condition of coercion and consent that ensures that there is no public resistance to the language policy in vogue. — Courtesy Dawn

Anti-polio efforts in Gaza

Muhammad Moazzam Tauheed

Polio remains endemic in only two countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Despite global efforts, both nations still struggle with transmission, driven by misinformation, rumours, and conspiracy theories. Claims that the polio vaccine causes infertility or is part of foreign plots have fuelled vaccine hesitancy, preventing parents from vaccinating their children and delaying eradication. Anti-vaccine narratives, often spread by groups with local influence, lead many to refuse vaccinations, putting entire communities at risk.

In contrast, regions that have successfully eradicated polio, such as Africa, Europe, and the Americas, do not experience the health crises predicted by conspiracy theorists. Instead, these countries benefit from healthier populations, free from the dangers of polio-induced paralysis.

Despite ongoing conflict, public health efforts in Gaza have managed to overcome vaccine opposition. In July, after reports emerged of polio strains found in Gaza due to damage to infrastructure and the destructive effects of war, the Israeli army began vaccinating soldiers in Gaza to prevent the spread of polio. Meanwhile, Palestinian officials, organisations, and resistance factions encouraged the public to vaccinate and reject conspiracy theories. Palestinians, despite longstanding oppression and political challenges, have prioritised public health by supporting vaccinations.

Reports from independent sources, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, indicate that Israeli actions have hindered vaccination efforts

in Gaza. Nevertheless, both Palestinians and Israelis acknowledge the importance of polio prevention.

This raises a critical question: if Palestinians facing severe challenges can overcome scepticism and embrace polio vaccination, why does hesitancy persist in Pakistan and Afghanistan? Global eradication efforts have demonstrated the power of vaccination, reducing polio cases by over 99 per cent worldwide. Both the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and the oral polio vaccine (OPV) are proven safe and effective, with extremely rare complications.

Nations that have eradicated polio do not face the health crises feared by anti-vaccine groups. Instead, they reap the benefits of a polio-free population, while unvaccinated communities continue to suffer from polio's devastating impact. Given these facts, it is essential to ask: if polio-free regions thrive without the feared complications, what continues to fuel vaccine hesitancy in Pakistan and Afghanistan? Vaccine resistance remains a significant barrier, leaving children vulnerable to this preventable disease.

The presence of polio in these countries underscores the urgent need to combat misinformation and prioritise the people's well-being. Addressing vaccine hesitancy requires tackling deep-seated mistrust and educational gaps.

Education is critical in forming a foundation for accepting public health initiatives.

Despite facing occupation, an environment of apartheid, and conflict, the Palestinian territories maintain a high literacy rate of nearly 97 per cent, comparable to developed countries. In contrast,

literacy rates in Afghanistan and Pakistan are 37pc and 62pc, respectively.

Gender disparity in education is minimal in the Palestinian territories, where education for girls is robust, and female literacy nearly equals male literacy. However, in Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly in the rural areas, significant gender gaps persist. This educational disparity also affects public health.

Palestinian families actively supported and participated in the polio vaccination campaign, with the World Health Organisation noting that Gaza's polio vaccinations exceeded targets. In contrast, efforts in both Pakistan and Afghanistan encounter numerous challenges, which include misinformation and logistical issues. Beyond delivering vaccines, it is crucial to improve sanitation, access to clean water, and nutrition to bolster immunity and reduce vulnerability to polio.

Combating vaccine hesitancy demands dismantling myths and conspiracy theories. In Pakistan, the government enforces strict tax policies, penalising non-filers and even blocking phone SIM cards. However, similar measures are not applied to polio campaigns. Incentivising families who vaccinate and penalising refusals may improve campaign outcomes.

Public health campaigns can succeed even in conflict zones when focused on protecting the population. By following Gaza's example, Pakistan and Afghanistan can strengthen their efforts, dispel misinformation, and ultimately join the ranks of nations that have eradicated polio. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

5 key MoUs with Saudi Arabia now concrete contracts, create jobs: Dr Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik is optimistic about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed with Saudi Arabia, predicting significant outcomes where around five of these MOUs have evolved into concrete contracts and transactions, which will likely boost employment and investment opportunities.

In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he said Pakistan's economy has received a significant boost of \$2.2 billion thanks to five Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed with Saudi Arabia,

which have now become concrete contracts.

This development is expected to bring in substantial investments and create new job opportunities in various sectors, including industry, agriculture, IT, education, health, petroleum, mining, energy and food, he mentioned.

Dr. Musadik Malik further stated that some opponent had previously mocked the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with Saudi Arabia,

suggesting it was merely a routine practice with little tangible outcome. However, he emphasized that this time would be

different.

"Now, people will see that these are not just MOUs on paper but actual transactions and investments materializing," Dr. Malik asserted.

He highlighted that around five of the MOUs have already translated into concrete contracts and transactions, paving the way for increased employment and investment opportunities in Pakistan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a long-standing "brotherly" relationship, sharing common interests, values and a shared foreign policy outlook, particularly in regional and international events, he added.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships, GFS Ruby, Tucapel, PH Giang Minh, KS Camellia, Ginga Hawk and Sevilla Knutsen scheduled to load/offload Containers, Rice, Steel Coil, Chemicals, and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on Friday.

Meanwhile, three more ships, Singapore Bulker, Hafnia Topaz, and MT Bolan scheduled to load/offload Rice and Gas oil are also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them five ships, GFS Ruby, Tucapel, KS Camellia, Zarrar Hanif, and Arkas are expected to sail on Friday. Cargo volume of 189,543 tonnes, comprising 151,032 tonnes import cargo and 38,511 tonnes of export cargo carried in 2,327 Containers (1,600 TEUs Imports & 1,637 TEUs Export).



RIYADH: PAK Saudi Minister for investment Sh. Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz and Abdul Aleem Khan held meeting Musadaq Malik & senior officials joined.

Rana Tanveer says: EV's policy to be announced on Nov 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Food Security, Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday told the Senate that the Electric Vehicle (EV) policy would be announced on November 30 to promote local manufacturing of EVs and ensure a sustainable transport system.

Replying to the question of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the 343rd session of the Upper House, the minister informed that the Engineering Development Board mandated for issuance of vehicles assembling and

manufacturing certificates had issued 51 certificates to produce two and three-wheeler EVs (motorcycles and rickshaws) in Pakistan.

He added that for the manufacturing of EV 4-wheeler, licences had been issued to two companies including Eco Green Motors Pvt Ltd and Regal Automobile Pvt Ltd.

The minister informed that 40 sites had been selected for setting up the Charging stations on the Motorway and a viable and acceptable electricity tariff had been fixed on which work would be started soon.

New policy being devised to boost local mobile phone exports, NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly was informed on Friday that a new policy for Mobile Device Manufacturing and Export is being devised to boost the exports of locally manufactured mobile phones.

In response to a question from MQM's Aminul Haq, Parliamentary Secretary for Industries and Production Shahid Usman informed the lower house of Parliament that 93 per cent of mobile handsets are assembled locally, highlighting the country's substantial domestic production capacity.

He noted that almost all major brands have set up local assembly operations, which has contributed to the industry's growth.

During the question hour, Parliamentary Secretary for Railways Muhammad Usman Awaizi informed the House that 820 new high-capacity wagons are being introduced to enhance the freight-carrying capacity of Pakistan Railways.

He also mentioned that the Thar-Coal connectivity project is in progress and will greatly benefit the railway freight sector.

Ali Pervaiz Malik says: Govt initiatives restore confidence of industrialists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik has said that the government's measures have restored the confidence of industrialists.

Responding to the calling attention notice of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the upper house meeting on Friday, he said, due to the government, the kibar rate has fallen to 13.5 per cent

and as the inflation is decreasing, the interest rate is also decreasing.

Earlier, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada termed the recent reduction in the interest rate by the State Bank as insufficient and submitted a notice to draw the government's attention to this matter.

He said that when the dollar rate increases, everything becomes expensive. "We should give concessions to our industries on electricity

and raw materials and reduce interest rates. We have to adopt long-term policies. A tariff policy will also have to be made", he added.

The government, Khanzada aid, should prepare an electric vehicle policy, adding, measures should be taken to support the industries. Along with foreign investment, local industrialists should also be encouraged and interest rate should be reduced, he suggested.

PSX turns bullish, gains 1,893 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Friday, gaining 1,893.08 points, a positive change of 2.13 per cent, closing at 90,859.85 points as compared to 88,966.77 points on last trading day.

A total of 465,865,841 shares were traded during the day as compared to 546,274,609 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23.089 billion against Rs24.117 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 430 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 220 of them recorded gains and 156 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 54 companies remained unchanged.

Atif Ikram says: Industries struggling to maintain their competitive edge in global markets

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Friday urged the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to reduce interest rates by at least 500 basis points in its upcoming meeting on November 4, 2024.

"With inflation easing to 6.9% in September and expected to remain between 6.0% and 7.0% for October, Pakistan's inflation is now at favourable levels.

This has created an unreasonably high real interest rate of 10.5% against the current 17.5% policy rate," he said.

"Industries are struggling to maintain their competitive edge in global markets, threatening export revenue and millions of livelihoods," he added.

According to him, global oil prices have plummeted to record lows, with Brent at around \$72 per barrel, significantly reducing Pakistan's import bill burden.

He believes this unique opportunity must be leveraged to benefit the industrial sector.

He further urged the government to restore the Freight Subsidy at a higher rate to meet GOP target prorata, i.e., 1.5 to 2% instead of 1%.



QUETTA: Chairperson Balochistan Revenue Authority Noor-ul-Haq Baloch meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

SECP alerts public to surge in number of fraudulent trading platforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) warns the public regarding a surge in fraudulent investment schemes being promoted on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

These schemes are falsely presented as legitimate investment advisory services or training courses with the intent to deceive people into investing their money in these fraudulent schemes, said a press release issued on Friday.

These schemes offer extraordinary profits with minimal risk, offering so-called "insider tips" in exchange for membership fees or investment via the advertised platforms. To appear credible, the fraudsters frequently misuse the names, images, and logos of well-known business professionals, reputable companies, SECP, and the Pakistan Stock Exchange. Since August 2024, the SECP has been issuing public warnings to caution the public against these fraudulent schemes. Additionally, a pop-up warning message has been deployed on the SECP's

KP Governor says: KP gov't focuses on Politics not governance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Friday that the KP government has prioritized political activities over addressing the province's pressing issues.

LHC indicates for 2 days home work from home, closure of schools for 2-day

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has given indication for two days work from home in offices, closure of schools for two days and suspension of all commercial activities on Sunday in a week in view of smog.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of social activists of Christian Community meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

KP gov't signs agreement for independent power transmission line

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has signed an agreement with a private company to lay down its own power transmission line. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has become the first province in the country to undertake this initiative.

ANF seizes 45 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations recovered over 45 kg drugs worth Rs 4.5 million and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Friday.

SACM reviews Zakat dept's performance

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) Punjab for Zakat and Ushr Rashid Iqbal Nasrullah visited Administrator Zakat Punjab office and reviewed the performance of the department, here on Friday.

CM greets Hindu community on Diwali

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has extended heartfelt greetings to the Hindu community on the occasion of Diwali. In her message, she remarked, "The lamp of Diwali awakens love".

Nawaz Sharif's Green Tractor Scheme re-launched after 12 years: CM Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched Green Tractor Program by conducting digital balloting, here on Friday. Rs 10 lakh subsidy will be given on each tractor to 9,500 farmers under the scheme.



LARKANA: Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sohail Anwar Khan Siyal is listening the problems of citizens during open court program held at Siyal House in Larkana.

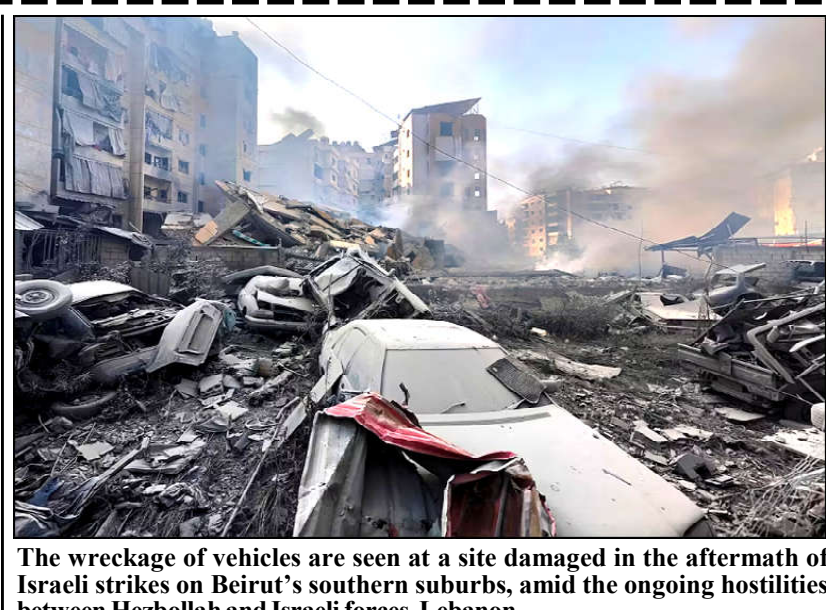
Health minister says: Shift public hospitals to solar energy on the cards

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique announced on Friday that the government was planning to shift all public hospitals in the province to solar energy. Presiding over the 16th syndicate meeting of Rawalpindi Medical University, he highlighted government's commitment to promoting high-quality research in medical universities and ensuring transparency in financial operations.

International News

At least 46 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, hospital hit, says Gaza ministry

CAIRO: At least 46 Palestinians were killed in Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip mostly in the north where one attack hit a hospital, torching medical supplies and disrupting operations, the enclave's health officials said. Israel's military has accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas of using Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya for military purposes and said "dozens of terrorists" have been hiding there.



The wreckage of vehicles are seen at a site damaged in the aftermath of Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, Lebanon.

New Hezbollah leader says will accept ceasefire with Israel if terms 'suitable'

BEIRUT: Hezbollah's new leader Naim Qassem on Wednesday said the group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal has yet to be presented. Qassem, who was named Hezbollah secretary-general on Tuesday, did not explicitly link a Lebanon ceasefire to an end to fighting in Gaza, a position previously held by the Iran-backed group.

North Korea's Choe accuses US and South Korea of plotting a nuclear strike against her country

MOSCOW: North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, in a Moscow meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, accused the United States and South Korea of plotting a nuclear strike against her country. She did not provide evidence to back her assertion, but spoke of regular consultations between Washington and Seoul at which she alleged such plotting took place.

North Korea will back Russia until victory in Ukraine, foreign minister says

MOSCOW: North Korea will back Russia until it achieves victory in the Ukraine war, Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said on Friday at talks in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. "Our traditional, historically friendly relations, which have travelled the tested path of history, today ... are rising to a new level of relations of invincible military comradeship," she told Lavrov.

Russia fines Google more than all money in the world

MOSCOW: Russia has fined Google an eye-popping 20 undecillion rubles (\$2.5 decillion) for removing Russian state-run and government YouTube channels in the wake of the country's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. In other words, Google faces a \$2.5 trillion fine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the huge sum, which he said he couldn't pronounce, was symbolic. Russian news agency TASS reported that Google owes Russia a 36-figure sum for violating the country's administrative offences code by banning YouTube channels.

Americans helping Ukraine's war efforts say the US hasn't done enough

KHARKIV: Each time U.S. philanthropist Amed Khan returns to Ukraine, he begins by offering condolences for those killed in the war since his last trip. Over the past two and a half years, his group has provided over \$50 million in aid to civilians and soldiers fighting to survive Russia's invasion. For Khan, a U.S. government official turned philanthropist, those he supports are like family. He travels to meet them on the front lines and in war-torn cities.

Trump's remarks about women kick up firestorm

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump found himself at the centre of a firestorm on Thursday over sexist comments he made at a campaign rally—the latest in a string of lewd and contemptuous comments about women from the former president and his surrogates. "I want to protect the women of our country... whether the women like it or not," Trump said on Wednesday, recalling his stand on abortion. The remarks drew condemnation from women across the political spectrum led by his White House rival Kamala Harris.

Brazil federal police concludes probe into Braskem salt mining disaster

SAO PAULO: Brazil's federal police said on Friday that 20 people have been formally accused following an investigation into a sinking ground disaster related to salt mining activities in Maceio, where petrochemicals firm Braskem has been active for decades. The police did not name the company, or those who were formally accused after concluding its investigation.

Lebanon PM says hopes for ceasefire with Israel in 'coming hours or days'

BEIRUT: Lebanon's prime minister said US envoy Amos Hochstein had signalled during a phone call Wednesday that a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war was possible before US elections are held on November 5. "The call today with Hochstein suggested to me that perhaps we could reach a ceasefire in the coming days, before the fifth" of November, Najib Mikati said in a televised interview with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed. Hochstein was heading to Israel on Wednesday to discuss conditions for a ceasefire with Hezbollah, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. Hezbollah's new leader Naim Qassem on Wednesday said the group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal has yet to be presented.

ECC approves supplementary grant of Rs 1.8bn for overhaul of engines of 2 VVIP aircrafts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Friday. The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Governor SBP (virtual) and Chairman SECP (virtual), along with Federal Secretaries and senior officers from the concerned Ministries and Divisions.

The ECC considered a proposal from the Ministry of National Food Security & Research for allocation of domestic and imported wheat stocks of PASSCO among wheat-deficient agencies/regions for Food Year 2024-25. The ECC discussed the issue threadbare and decided that domestic and imported wheat would be allocated and released by PASSCO based on allocation ratio decided by ECC on 1st February 2024, till full disposal of imported wheat stock, and all seven wheat-deficient agencies/regions would lift the wheat as per their committed demand during the Food Year 2024-25.

The ECC however directed that the wheat to be picked up by agencies/regions be tested beforehand for purpose of quality and fitness for consumption. The ECC considered and approved a proposal from the Ministry of Interior for grant of a Technical Supplementary Grant amounting to Rs. 252.711 million against the same amount surrendered by the Ministry of Housing and Works, for allocation to Capital Development Authority to ensure uninterrupted provision of civic services at the Prime Minister's Office (Public), Prime Minister's Office Internal and Prime Minister's Staff Colony.

The ECC considered and approved grant of a Technical Supplementary Grant to the tune of Rs. 1.8 billion to the Ministry of Defence for overhaul of engines of two VVIP aircraft being utilized for state duties with the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The ECC also took up and approved a proposal of Ministry of Interior for provision of Rs. 2.939 billion as Technical Supplementary Grant to Director General Immigration & Passports for purchase of two e-Passport Personalization systems and six desktop personalization machines for uninterrupted and smooth official business of the Directorate in the public interest.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the participants of the 36th Senior Management Course (SMC) from the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), Karachi called on the Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Acting President for adopting international best practices to improve governance

Calls for digital governance, data-driven decision-making for better service-delivery

ISLAMABAD (Online): Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has called for adopting international best practices, focusing on innovation, and using the latest technology to improve governance in Pakistan. He underscored the need for embracing digital governance, data-driven decision-making, and using artificial intelligence to improve service delivery. The Acting President expressed these views while talking to the participants of the 36th Senior Management Course of the National Institute of Management, Karachi, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-

Sadr, Friday. Addressing the participants, the Acting President highlighted that Pakistan faced multiple challenges, including economic issues, high inflation, rising population, unemployment, climate change, and social justice. He said that bureaucracy needed to play a proactive and constructive role to help address various challenges faced by the country. He emphasized the need to position Pakistan internationally as a competitive and forward-thinking nation, while also ensuring that every citizen benefited from the fruits of our

politics. Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that bureaucracy should build strong networks, both within the government and with external stakeholders, to find sustainable solutions to Pakistan's socio-economic problems. He stated that civil servants were required to be problem solvers, innovators, and leaders who could help the governments steer the country out of its present socio-economic and governance challenges. The Acting President advised the bureaucrats to adopt a service-oriented attitude, adding that government service required empathy, humility, and a genu-

ine desire to improve the lives of others. He said that the world was constantly evolving, and civil servants needed to evolve with it. He said that civil servants should seek out knowledge, equip themselves with the latest skills and tools, stay informed about global trends and developments, and continue refining their skills. "You must adopt ethical governance and treat the public humanely", he added. Replying to a question, the Acting President said that provinces had been given more rights and funds after the 18th Amendment and the NFC Award.

Balochistan CM strongly condemns bomb blast 7 including five schoolchildren & policeman martyred, 20 others injured in Mastung bomb blast

Acting president, PM resolve to root out terrorism as Mastung blast kills children, policeman

QUETTA (APP): Seven people, including five schoolchildren and a policeman, have been martyred and 20 others sustained injuries in a bomb blast near Girls High School at Civil Hospital Chowk in Mastung district of Balochistan on Friday morning.

According to police, five schoolchildren, a policeman and a wayfarer were among the dead. The injured were being treated at Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital and Mastung District Headquarters Hospital, with 11 of them later shifted to the Quetta Trauma Centre.

As per the report, the blast occurred near a police van at a chowk near the Civil Hospital and a girls'

school which targeted a police vehicle near Civil Hospital Chowk. Police and Rescue teams reached the site soon after the blast and shifted the injured and the dead to the DHQ Hospital.

Hospital sources said that the policeman and three children were dead, while three injured succumbed to their wounds during treatment.

A police mobile van was destroyed in the blast while several other vehicles and rickshaws were damaged. Meanwhile, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti condemned the blast expressing grief over the loss of lives. He extended condolences to the relatives of the martyred policeman and schoolchildren.



QUETTA: A view of damage vehicle at blast site near a school in Balochistan's Mastung district, killed five people, including three children and a police officer, according to security officials.

Commissioner visits Basic Health Unit, polio transit and fix point of Skrand

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider today visited Basic Health Unit Hamal Faqir Polio Transit and Fix Point of Tehsil Skrand, EPI Center, UC 1, 2 Skrand and Rural of Tehsil Qazi Ahmed. On this occasion Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider said that the district administration, health department and polio teams should continue to work with the same spirit, God willing. It is not far when Paki-

stan will also become a polio-free country. Commissioner while giving instructions to the officials of the health department said that during the national anti-polio campaign, they should ensure that no child is deprived of the polio vaccine. Special attention should be given to the work, he added that in the meetings held on a daily basis in the evening, the problems encountered during the national anti-polio campaign should be reviewed and these problems should be solved.

Regional Ombudsman directs opening of closes dispensary

LARKANA (APP): On the direction of the Regional Ombudsman, a dispensary that had been closed for 12 years was reopened on Friday in Gadhani village, Larkana.

Villager Javed Ahmed Khokhar filed a complaint with the Ombudsman Regional office stating that the government-built dispensary had been closed and was being occupied by individuals who had constructed a house on the premises. The Regional Director

of the Ombudsman Larkana, Akbar Jagirani took swift action to resolve the issue. He ensured that the necessary legal requirements were fulfilled, leading to the dispensary's reopening on the same day, in collaboration with the PPHI District Manager. From day one, the dispensary has started to serve the community, providing essential health services to the poor villagers. This initiative will greatly benefit many residents in the area.



KARACHI: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President, Haleem Adil Sheikh addresses to media persons during press conference, at Insaf House in Karachi.

Diwali celebration brings communities together in Sanghar

HYDERABAD (APP): As per other parts of the country, the Hindu community in Sanghar District celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights, with great enthusiasm.

A special event, organized by PPP leader Rajesh Kumar Harsadani at the Harsadani House in Sanghar, witnessed the presence of prominent officials, political figures, and local community leaders.

Among the attendees were Sanghar Deputy Commissioner Dr. Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja, District Council Chairman Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurassani, Senior Superintendent of Police Sanghar Ghulam Nabi Keerio, Deputy Director Informa-

tion Zafar Ali Mangi, Municipal Chairman Rashid Islam Mughal, Assistant Commissioner Sanghar Shafiq Ahmed Arisar, and DSP Long Khan Shar, along with a large number of people from the political, social, and business communities. Speaking to the media, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Imran Khawaja emphasized the importance of Diwali as a festival of joy and harmony. "By participating in each other's festivals, we strengthen the spirit of religious unity and share happiness across communities," he said, highlighting the tradition of interfaith harmony in Sindh, which has been celebrated for centuries.

Global partnerships and new technologies shine at 17th Food Asia International Expo in Karachi

Pakistan's food industry gains momentum with \$10 million in deals at Food Asia 2023

Independent Report KARACHI: The 17th edition of the Plastic Packaging, Corrugated, and Food Asia International exhibition and conferences recorded over \$10 million business deals between foreign and local companies in different segments, according to the organizers. Various exhibiting companies from Vietnam, Thailand, Turkey, China, and Iran have received overwhelming responses from local delegates and visitors in the food and allied sectors, signing different business deals and MoUs for strategic partnerships in the future. Director Ecommerce Gateway Uzair Nizam said the participation of foreign

ties within the food sector. He added that new packaging technologies will help develop the local food producers, enabling them to export their made-in-Pakistan products to various countries and earn precious foreign exchange. President Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan, Dr. Khurshed Nizam, said food security is an essential matter for every country and nation to achieve a self-sustainable level on a priority basis. Without technology and innovation, the development of the food and allied sectors remains out of the question; however, the event continues to contribute a significant role in providing a platform to all stakeholders for developing the food and allied sectors at an advanced level in Pakistan, he added.

He reviewed development projects and other initiatives being taken by the Sukkur Municipal Corporation under public welfare schemes. SMC officials present in the meeting were instructed to streamline the sanitation system of the city and ensure that those who do not maintain hygiene around their commercial establishments follow sanitation rules to avoid legal proceedings.



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PTI, JI slams govt for increasing petrol, diesel prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaat-e-Islami have strongly criticised the government for increasing the price of petroleum commodities, stating that it would further increase the burden on the already inflation-hit masses.

Hours after surge in the petroleum prices, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on

Friday demanded cut in the petroleum products prices. In a statement, the JI said the petrol price has been reduced below \$67 barrel internationally while stressing that the government should also lower the petrol by Rs30.

He criticised the government for imposing petroleum levy of Rs60 by saying that it was unfair that the people had to pay extra money for the purchase of oil.

Brick prices in Mirpurkhas set for overhaul as committee forms

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner Dr Rashid Masood Khan on Friday chaired a meeting at Darbar Hall, bringing together the Kiln Association, brick kiln owners, and key officials, in order to regulate the brick industry in Mirpurkhas. The meeting resulted in the formation of a committee tasked with surveying brick kilns and submitting a report within three days to determine fair rates for bricks.

The committee comprises representatives from the Bureau of Supply, concerned assistant commissioners, relevant authorities, and department officers. Their primary objective is to ensure brick kilns operate within environmental laws and regulations.

Environmental concerns took center stage during the meeting, with Assistant Director Abdul Aziz Maher emphasizing the need for eco-friendly brick production. He stressed that burning old clothes and shoes must be avoided to prevent pollution.

KARACHI: National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) General Secretary, Nasir Mansoor addresses to media persons during press conference, at Karachi press club.

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KARACHI: National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) General Secretary, Nasir Mansoor addresses to media persons during press conference, at Karachi press club.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah meets with Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F) provincial leadership, including President Maulana Abdul Qayoom Haleji and Secretary General Allama Rashid Mahmood Soomro at CM House.

Senate committee okays increase in SC judges to 25 amidst debate

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice has approved a proposal to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the current count to 25, including one Chief Justice and 24 judges. The committee members debated on the rational to increase judges' number in the apex court as there treasury benches members advocated need for additional judges to manage the high case backlog in the Supreme Court.

Senator Hamid Khan and Senator Kamran Murtaza opposed the increase, with Senator Murtaza arguing that recent vacancies were strategic and that the Supreme Court should be consulted on the

necessity of more judges. Senator Hamid Khan raised concerns over financial constraints and suggested focusing on the efficiency of existing resources, particularly as Pakistan faces economic challenges.

On the other hand, Senator Shahadat Awan voiced strong support, noting that with an estimated 60,000 pending cases, at least 21 judges are essential.

Senator Abdul Qadir further argued that Pakistan's growing population and rising crime rates necessitate a larger judiciary, pointing out that the current number of judges remains unchanged since 1995. He highlighted that vacancies persist in the provincial high courts as well.

SSP held Khuli Katchehry, resolved public complaints

SUKKUR (APP): Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sukkur, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh here on Friday held an open court in his office to address public complaints.

The SSP issued directives to the officers concerned to take action and submit detailed reports on the complaints submitted by the citizens. He said that negligence on the part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated.

Open Courts' were being held to provide the citizens immediate relief and address their complaints besides it also helped improve standards of policing, he said and issued orders to the officers to complete inquiries and send reports within the given time frame. All-out efforts should be made to ensure the dispensation of speedy justice purely on merit to the people and improve service delivery standards in the district, he added.

AC checks prices of essential commodities

SUKKUR (APP): On the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr MB Raja Dharejo, the Assistant Commissioner City, Sobia Palak Rao on Friday visited different markets and checked prices of daily use items including vegetables, fruit, kiriyana and groceries.

Assistant Commissioner on the occasion directed shop-keepers to sell essential items at government fixed prices and no profiteering and hoarding would be tolerated at any cost.

The AC spent more than two hours in markets to review the prices of essential items being provided to the citizens. She also talked to the consumers and inquired from them about the rates and quality of daily-use items.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Jamiat Ulama Pakistan (JUP) are holding protest rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and expressing unity with the innocent people of Palestine, in Hyderabad.

SAU highlights pioneering research in Advanced Bone Healing Treatments for pets

HYDERABAD (APP): Dr. Fateh Marri, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agricultural University (SAU) Tandojam, underscored the importance of pioneering research in treating pet diseases, with a focus on bone-related issues in domestic animals.

Speaking at a Ph.D. seminar by scholar Abdul Salam Khoso from the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Dr. Fateh Marri commended the scholar's study, titled, "Experimental Studies Using Two Different Bone Graft Materials with Mechanical Support to Assess Femoral Critical Sized De-

fect Healing in Dogs," aimed at innovating effective treatments for bone fractures in pets.

Dr. Fateh Marri noted the rise in pet ownership in urban areas and highlighted the pressing need for expertise in addressing fractures in animals, particularly in dogs, which frequently suffer bone injuries. He emphasized that Abdul Salam Khoso's research offers valuable insights and advancements in specialized surgical treatments for pets.

Presenting his study, Abdul Salam Khoso explained his objective of finding the most effective approach for bone fracture treatment in pets.