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Donald Trump elected 47th President of America in stunning comeback

Jubilant Trump pledges to heal America's wounds, end scourge of wars; America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump has been elected the 47th president of the United States capping a remarkable comeback four years after he was voted out of the White House and ushering in a new American leadership likely to test democratic institutions at home and relations abroad.

Trump, 78, recaptured the White House on Wednesday by securing more than the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency, Edison Research projected, following a campaign of dark rhetoric that deepened the polarization in the country.

The former president's

victory in the swing state of Wisconsin pushed him over the threshold.

"America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate," Trump said early on Wednesday to a roaring crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in Florida. Trump's political career had appeared to be over after his false claims of election fraud led a mob of supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in a failed bid to overturn his 2020 defeat.

But he swept away challengers inside his Republican Party and then beat Democratic candidate Kamala Harris by capitaliz-

ing on voter concerns about high prices and what Trump claimed, without evidence, was a rise in crime due to illegal immigration.

Harris did not speak to supporters who had gathered at her alma mater Howard University. Her campaign co-chair, Cedric Richmond, briefly addressed the crowd after midnight, saying Harris would speak publicly later on Wednesday. "We still have votes to count," he said. Republicans won a US Senate majority, but neither party appeared to have an edge in the fight for control of the House of Representatives where Republicans currently hold a narrow majority.

PM Shehbaz greets Trump on US election win

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday congratulated the president-elect of the United States of America Donald Trump on his "historic" victory for a second term.

"Congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump on his historic victory for a second term," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that he looked forward to working closely with the incoming Administration to further strengthen and broaden the Pakistan-U.S. partnership.

Meanwhile, incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has also felicitated the Republican on his election win.

"The will of the American people held against all odds," he wrote on X.

The former prime minister hoped that Trump would push for peace, human rights and democracy globally.



Donald Trump is accompanied by family members as he addresses supporters.

Sindh cabinet orders reconduct of MDCAT test, approves Rs6.63bn for damaged roads

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh cabinet on Wednesday gave approval to a number of key projects for the uplift of various sectors.

As per details, the cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved Rs6.63 billion for the construction of six damaged roads, approved Rs232.14 million for IBA Sukkur to reconduct MDCAT, approved the establishment of the Sindh Job Portal, directed the IT department to implement E-stamping within six months, and extended the contract period for teaching faculty members of Khairpur Medical College.

The meeting was held at CM House and attended by provincial ministers, advisors, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, and concerned secretaries.

At the outset, the cabinet approved the decisions of the cabinet subcommittee headed by Minister of Energy Nasir Shah. Under

the decisions, Rs 81.9 million were approved for the payment of salaries and other liabilities of the employees of the defunct Larkana Development Authority who have already been sent to the surplus pool. The cabinet approved Rs 68.043 million for the Jamshoro Electrification Programme, and Rs 4 million for the organisation of the Literary Conference at Frere Hall.

MDCAT: The cabinet approved Rs232.14 million for the re-conduct of the MDCAT by IBA Sukkur, which will take place within the next six weeks. The Chief Minister directed the Health Department to establish Vigilance Committees in collaboration with the PMDC.

Additionally, he instructed the Secretary of the Universities and Boards (U&Bs) to ensure that examination boards announce results at least one month before the MDCAT in the future, as mandated by the court.

The Chief Minister said that, in accordance with the court order, the test will be based on the syllabus that has already been taught in the province.

Mulakattiar Road to Nooriabad via Jhimpir Fly overbridge, over three km Sujawal city Carriageway.

Sanghar Chhotiyariyan Road to Chhotiyariyan Dam along with approaches road. The project cost is Rs1.25 billion.

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RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir meeting with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman during his visit to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

COAS, Saudi Crown Prince discuss bilateral cooperation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir who is currently on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, met Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh.

The Crown Prince extended a warm welcome to the Army Chief upon his arrival at the Royal Palace.

They engaged in a comprehensive discussion on a range of issues of mutual interest, including regional peace, defence and security cooperation, and strategies for enhancing bilateral relations. The Army Chief expressed his gratitude to the Crown Prince

for his steadfast support for Pakistan and acknowledged his significant role in fostering peace and stability across the region.

He also separately met Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid Bin Salman. During the meeting, the two sides vowed to further strengthen cooperation in the domain of defence and security.

Meetings were also held with Assistant Minister of Defence Engineer Talal Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Chief of General Staff of Royal Saudi Armed Forces Air Chief Marshal Fayyadh Bin Hamed Bin Raqeeb Al Ruwaili.

PM terms security of Chinese nationals as topmost priority

Visits Chinese embassy to condemn firing on Chinese nationals in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the Chinese Embassy to condemn the firing incident, in Karachi yesterday, in which Chinese nationals were injured and assured exemplary punishment to those involved in the incident.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the prime minister said that he came to condemn the yesterday's attack on Chinese nationals and to inquire after the health of those injured in the incident.

The prime minister assured the Chinese ambassador that those responsible in the incident would be apprehended soon and would be awarded exemplary punishment, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He further informed the Chinese ambassador that he was personally supervising the process of arresting those involved in the incident and bringing them to justice.

Moreover, he had directed to provide the best medical facilities to the Chinese citizens injured in the incident, he said.

Lt. Gen retired Hassan Azhar Hayat calls on Governor Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Head of the Green Tourism Pakistan former Corps Commander Peshawar Lt. General @ Hassan Azhar Hayat called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori here at Governor House on Wednesday.

According to spokesman of the Governor House, Green Tourism, environment-friendly initiatives and other matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. Governor Kamran Tessori said work on green tourism in the province is necessary as many places in Sindh have an importance for tourism which attract tourists.

Economy-friendly tourism is one of the top priorities of the present government, Governor said and added that initiatives of Green Tourism Private Limited are commendable.

Lt. General () Hassan Azhar Hayat said work was underway for the improvement of the environment under Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

PIA denies selling 10 aircraft engines

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) issued a statement dismissing the claims made by the Society of Aircraft Engineers (SAEP) regarding the sale of 10 aircraft engines at cheap prices.

PIA spokesperson dismissed the allegations made by the newly elected body of SAEP, describing it as 'regrettable'.

The spokesperson clarified that there is no truth to the selling of ten aircraft engines at low prices. He added that the engines mentioned are totally "inefficient" and their sale is being conducted through a tender following all standard rules and regulations. The spokesperson emphasised that the sale of unusable engines is a routine practice in the aviation industry, with full compliance with public procurement laws. The revenue from this sale will be used to purchase spare parts for aircraft.

The spokesperson added that PIA's pension and provident funds have already been transferred to PIA Holding Company.



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

Commissioner Karachi decides to beautify Shahrah-e-Faisal, Shahrah-e-Quaiden

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqi chaired a meeting on Wednesday at his office and decided to beautify Shahrah-e-Faisal and Shahrah-e-Quaiden in the first phase, as part of the government's plan to enhance all major roads in the city.

This initiative aims to improve the city's conditions and provide better civic amenities. To achieve this, the Karachi Municipal Corporation, KDA, Cantonment Boards, Solid Waste Management Board, and Town Administrations will work together to beautify these key roads.

The commissioner emphasized that all relevant organizations must fulfill their responsibilities. A detailed briefing was given on beautifying different roads. It was decided that Shahrah-e-Faisal, Shahrah-

e-Quaid, and Marine Promenade would be beautified in the first phase, and a survey has been completed.

The meeting also decided that the KMC and KDA would work together, with other organizations like the Solid Waste Management Board, Cantonment Board, Town Administration, and others providing cooperation and assistance. A 15-day deadline was set to complete the beautification work.

The meeting was attended among others by the Municipal Commissioner Municipal Corporation Afzal Zaidi, Additional Commissioner Karachi-II Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah, Director General KDA, Deputy Commissioner West Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Deputy Commissioner Malir Irfan Salam, Deputy Commissioner South Altaf Sario.

Police files terrorism charges against guard for attacking Chinese nationals

KARACHI (INP): The police authorities have filed terrorism charges against a security guard accused of opening fire on four Chinese nationals at a textile mill in Karachi, injuring two.

The attack took place at Liberty Textile Mill in the SITE Industrial Area, according to a police report.

The Chinese nationals — identified as Wang Xing Zhong, Zheng Luwen, Zhou Baolin and Wei Sixian — were at the mill to install new machinery. They reportedly arrived daily in a bulletproof vehicle with security provided by a private firm and the Special Protection Unit (SPU) of Sindh Police.

NEPRA cuts Rs 1.28 per unit in power tariff for September

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday notified Rs 1.28 per unit reduction in power tariff in fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for month of September under monthly mechanism.

The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has sought 71 paise reduction in power tariff for the said month, said a notification issue here.

The NEPRA conducted hearing on October 30 on the petition filed by the CPPA-G.

Two Pakistan-origin candidates win US elections

WASHINGTON: Two Pakistani-American Democratic candidates, Salman Bhojani and Suleman Lalani, have made history by securing their second consecutive term in the Texas State House elections.

Bhojani, who first entered the assembly in 2022, has focused on vital issues like healthcare, education, and business development while advocating for immigrant rights. His victory is seen as a key

milestone in South Asian American political representation.

Suleman Lalani successfully defended his seat in the Texas State Assembly, winning 56.1% of the vote with 32,141 votes against Republican Lee Simmons, who garnered 43.9% with 25,197 votes.

Meanwhile, Republican Aaron Bashir, the only Pakistani-American candidate running for Congress, faced a setback in Pennsylvania, losing a tight congressional race.



KARACHI: Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Resolution submitted in Sindh PA against demolition orders for 1100 shops

JI demands compensation, alternative for affectedes before demolition

KARACHI (INP): MPA Muhammad Farooq has submitted a resolution in the Sindh Assembly, seeking withdrawal of orders to demolish 1,100 shops in Karachi.

The document also resolved to provide alternative shops to the affectedes in the same area before demolition of the said shops.

The resolution also sought stern legal action against those involved in selling these shops to the shopkeepers.

According to the document, more than 1100 shops were erected on a nullah located along Shafiqpur in New Karachi to 7000 Road.

It read that the shopkeepers are residents of surrounding neighborhoods. The demolition orders were

issued for the 1100 shops after three decades.

During the past 30 long years, no authority took any action against those involved and now after three decades it was quite inappropriate to snatch livelihood of 1100 shopkeepers through a stroke of pen, said the resolution.

The document suggested that several KMC markets were established and abandoned in the past, currently serving as dens and shelters for drug addicts. It proposed that the affected shopkeepers should be relocated to those KMC markets in the area after renovation, so they can continue providing for their families and to avoid any further agony for their family members.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong during his visit of the Chinese Embassy.

Workers to be provided medical, financial benefits through Benazir Mazdoor Card: Minister

Independent Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI) in partnership with the Karachi Press Club launched an

awareness campaign regarding the Benazir Mazdoor Card.



Addressing the event, Labour and Human Resources Minister Shahid Abdul Salam Thameem highlighted that the Benazir Mazdoor Card offers medical and financial benefits to

workers. He shared that SESSI currently provides services through 42 dispensaries and five major hospitals, with no limit on medical benefits,

and in cases where services are not available, costs incurred at private hospitals are reimbursed. The Minister further announced plans to establish a cancer hospital soon and confirmed the inauguration of a modern hospital in Sukkur on November 11.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Rushed legislation

The law minister and defence minister had noise-blocking headphones snapped on as they rushed through half a dozen pieces of important legislation on Monday evening.

It was a fitting metaphor for the manner in which the ruling parties have lately gone about conducting legislative business. Six bills were introduced in and passed by the National Assembly and Senate in record time to extend the tenure of the armed forces chiefs to five years, with the possibility of another five-year extension, and to increase the number of judges in the Islamabad High Court and Supreme Court.

It seems pointless to ask why the government saw it appropriate to bulldoze these bills: for all its stress on 'supremacy of parliament', the ruling coalition has, thus far, wasted no opportunity to reiterate where its allegiances truly lie. Perhaps if the opposition had been allowed to have its say, some respect for the legislature may have been salvaged.

The decision to extend the military chiefs' service tenure as well as the tenure of their extensions to five years came as a surprise. Though government representatives were later at great pains to explain, on national media, how wonderful the decision was for Pakistan as it would put to rest the frequent intrigues that chase the appointment of an army chief, one wonders why they did not say so in parliament when the legislation was tabled.

Indeed, the speed with which all legislative business was concluded — in 24 minutes in the National Assembly and 16 minutes in the Senate — suggested that the justifications may have been an afterthought. A five-year tenure for services chiefs may indeed create some positive externalities — especially in terms of stability and continuity of policy within the armed forces — but it is difficult to understand why service extensions, which are, in any case, supposed to be granted in special circumstances only, also needed to be extended for the length of another full tenure.

Lastly, it defies understanding why the government now wants to pack so many more judges into the higher courts, especially after the superior judiciary has been rendered nearly toothless after the 26th Amendment. It is a documented fact that the backlog of court cases, often cited by this government as the reason for its repeated interference in the judicial structure, is disproportionately higher at the lower levels of the judiciary.

Yet, no legislation has been brought to remedy this dysfunction, while the powers of superior courts continue to be diluted on the pretext. Indeed, the government's legislative agenda has so far seemed focused less on 'actual problems' and more on 'our problems'. When this will change, is anybody's guess. One hopes our lawmakers are now feeling more secure in their positions, and a redirection of priorities will come soon.

Type 2 eyewash

Naeem Sadiq

Eyewash arrangements are usually required at two locations: in industry, to provide emergency eye decontamination when a worker's eyes are exposed to harmful chemicals, dust or material; and in politics, to throw dust into the eyes of the people by repeatedly hurling misleading or illusive statements, plans or promises at them.

While the first is classified as a desirable 'emergency control', the second, or Type 2 eyewash is considered deceptive and detrimental. This article endeavours to explain how Type 2 eyewash has come to be accepted as a 'standard operating procedure' and how to treat this malaise.

On May 8, 2024, the prime minister, in a state of excitement, launched a fiery Type 2 eyewash, saying, "Today, with iron conviction... we will handle the challenge of 26 million out-of-school children. I declare from this moment an Emergency in Education all over Pakistan". Four months later, on Sept 8, 2024, jolted by International Literacy Day (and having forgotten what he said earlier), he launched the same imaginary educational emergency. These outbursts weren't based on prior research, thought or planning. Such emotional eruptions are not known for improving school enrolment numbers.

Type 2 eyewashes are typically launched by announcing a 'week' or a 'drive' — for example, a 'cleanliness', 'anti-beggary', 'ban-the-plastic-bag' or 'austerity' drive. The 'austerity drives', however, get the prize for the best optical illusions. Consider, three austerity drives that were launched in the last 14 months, ie, the National Austerity Committee, a committee on the reduc-

tion of government expenditure, and the Committee on Rightsizing of the Federal Government. All they did was to recommend reducing government departments from 53 to 52.

Taking advantage of this smokescreen, the Punjab government decided to dent the exchequer by its wasteful expenditure of Rs617m — even before the arrival of IMF money — on the purchase of 79 new luxury vehicles. This uncontrolled binge came only after similar luxury vehicles worth Rs180m had already been purchased for the Punjab Assembly two months earlier.

Not to be left behind, the Sindh government, in September 2024, decided to spend Rs2 billion on buying luxury double-cabin 4x4 vehicles to cushion the tired haunches of its 138 assistant commissioners and commissioners. It appears as if 'austerity drives' are designed to accelerate official extravagance with renewed vengeance — akin to dropping a heavy cargo of luxury vehicles on a sinking ship.

What are some practical ways of reinventing leaders' craving to deliver the next salvo of Type 2 eyewash? The first piece of advice for those seeking this treatment is to keep the upper and lower lip tightly glued together for as long as possible. Be brief and use facts, instead of emotions or potboilers.

Spend at least as much time on thinking, reading, planning and organising as on making a speech. Next, learn to differentiate between wishes, facts and hot air. Say only what you really mean, what you can actually do, and what you may have already done. Avoid platitudes like 'this will be the last IMF programme in Pakistan's history'. Even high school kids

can easily see through the cavity of this misused announcement.

The best way to avoid Type 2 eyewash is to be aware of what constitutes an eyewash. Invariably, it is composed of hollow slogans, rusted clichés, 'austerity drives', emotional waffle, false promises or a mixture of all these.

It is helpful to remember that these are negative motives, with chronic harmful effects in the long run.

They are used only to look good, to appease, to fool, and to buy time. A good strategy to avoid this eyewash is to frequently pa--use and reflect on the ratio of the wheat and chaff in one's statements and actions. Frequently stepping down from the Type 2 eyewash treadmill and going for a long walk can help restore one's perspective.

Besides its medical benefits, a long, solitary walk is an excellent opportunity to introspect on what one is trying to accomplish. One must constantly ask as to whether the unending, pretentious rhetoric is backed by facts or is mere eyewash. A simple litmus test for an 'austerity drive' is one's willingness to stop the purchase of all new luxury vehicles and withdraw all 150,000 or so already issued government vehicles, their 5m litres of free fuel per month, their 150,000 drivers and their misuse. If you are not willing, be sure, you are into big-time Type 2 eyewash.

If the answer is 'yes', you are an upright leader who will be remembered for recovering the pilfered funds and hopefully returning them to their rightful owners — the sanitation workers, security guards, coal miners and the railway coolies of Pakistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

True Brits

Mahir Ali

There are ways in which Kemi Badenoch's advent as Britain's opposition leader, at the helm of the Conservative Party, can be seen as a remarkable progression. A black Tory leader is decidedly an advance for a party that has long relied on anti-immigrant sentiment as a core value for its electoral support.

The Labour Party has consistently boasted more ethnically diverse MPs since 1987, and by 2019 more than half of its parliamentary representation consisted of women. But it has never had a female leader, and its front bench has been dominated by white men in both government and opposition. The Conservatives, by contrast, can lay claim to three female prime ministers, an Asian PM (via Kenya and Tanzania), and currently an opposition leader who was born in Wimbledon but grew up in Nigeria, and considers herself a first-generation immigrant.

As a student in England more than 40 years ago, I struggled to understand why any Briton from an ethnic background would be attracted to the Tories. The Labour alternative was problematic in many ways, but did it not point to a relatively brighter future for ethnic minorities and the working class? I was gobsmacked in the early 1980s when a purported Pakistani community leader in Oxford — a charming host, working class by profession — turned out to be a Tory by nature. I cannot certify whether the cause lay in his political ignorance or his illiteracy. After all, certain conservative social values were endemic among early immigrants from South Asia. But, after arriving in the promised land, how could they possibly be oblivious to

the race and class divide of the society in which they found themselves?

Many of the early Caribbean immigrants recognised soon that the imagined yellow brick road was just a dirt track. It took longer for the South Asians. Some of them were radicalised by the racist experience, while others fell in line with the established order of their former colonial masters. The latter tendency has been reflected among most of those who typified both the ethnic diversity and ideological perversity of recent Tory front benches.

That's no excuse for Labour skipping on the diversity while more or less matching the perversity of the Conservatives. This aspect has been particularly evident since Keir Starmer, under false pretences, acquired the Labour leadership and initially focused on expelling potential adversaries — mainly critics of Israel's inevitable descent into open genocide, including his predecessor Jeremy Corbyn. It's worth noting that Labour got fewer votes this year, when it won by a landslide, than it did in 2019, when it lost by a landslide. It suggests the British electorate is more attuned to the ideological ebbs and flows than one might assume.

Under Corbyn, Labour was for a while Europe's largest political party in terms of membership. In his leadership bid, Starmer vowed to adhere to the party's fairly popular manifesto, but steadily stepped away from potentially progressive leanings as opposition leader and PM, losing little time in expelling Corbyn and several of his anti-Zionist supporters from the party. Starmer's attachment to the Zionist Netanyahu regime and its genocidal inclinations is reflected in the doubling of US special forces flights to Israel from a British base in Cyprus. What are the chances that any of the culprits on either side of the Atlantic will ever be prosecuted for war crimes? After it emerged that 100 or so Labour activists had volunteered in their spare time to door-knock for Kamala Harris and that Donald Trump was upset, Starmer was desperate to claim that it wouldn't affect his subservience to a future Trump administration.

Badenoch, for all her 'anti-woke' posturing and selective opposition to fellow immigrants who don't measure up to the atrocious 'values' she holds dear, is unlikely to ever replace Starmer, unpopular as he may be after a budget that sufficiently assuages the IMF's concerns with its trickle-down tendencies while pumping more resources into defence than healthcare, education or broader welfare. The tax raises won't trouble the very rich, including his hitherto ATM Lord Waleed Alli, but nor will they benefit the working-class victims of his neoliberal predilections.

Badenoch has revived Priti Patel's political prospects — and the likes of the even more vicious Suella Braverman, Sajid Javid and James Cleverly (who lost the leadership contest by relying too hard on the fellow idiots that populate his party) are waiting in the wings. It's unlikely, though, that anyone is betting much on her prospects of replacing Starmer as PM at the next election. As the sixth Tory leader in eight years, she might not last long enough. On the other hand, who knows what will ensue if Starmer proceeds with his self-immolation more rapidly than one expects. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

FM Aurangzeb highlights economic improvement, urges continued reforms

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, stated that Pakistan is experiencing macroeconomic improvements due to the government's policies. While addressing the 8th Edition of the Future Summit at a local hotel on Wednesday, he highlighted the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to reduce the interest rate by 2.5%, noting that the country is on track to meet its financial targets for the first four months of the fiscal year. The Karachi Interbank Offer Rate (KIBOR) stands at 13%, with food inflation decreasing significantly.

The Minister emphasized that Pakistan's fiscal deficit and current account have remained stable, while remittances have contributed to stabilizing the domestic currency. Additionally, foreign exchange reserves have improved, and inflation has declined. The State Bank of Pakistan has also cut its base interest rate, providing further support. "These are the foundations on which we can rebuild our economy," the Minister said, noting that Pakistan's credit rating has improved and is expected to see further gains this year. Muhammad Aurangzeb underscored the importance of reducing the KIBOR ahead of the policy rate cut, making it more affordable for the

private sector to access loans. He acknowledged challenges but reaffirmed the government's commitment to making difficult decisions, particularly regarding tax and energy reforms, and restructuring government institutions.

The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue stressed the need to reform the pension system and highlighted the critical role of technology in governance to increase transparency, reduce corruption, and enhance service delivery. "If reforms were easy, they would have been done years ago," he said, urging the private sector to boost productivity and continue expanding their businesses.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani inspecting the new hybrid varieties of tunnel cultivated vegetables during his visit to Private Seed Company Model Farm.

PFC hosts reception for Sikh delegation

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) hosted a reception for a 50-member Sikh delegation from Jamrood Club Silicon Valley, California (US), here on Wednesday.

PFC Chief Executive Officer Main Kashif Ashfaq, speaking at the reception, said Pakistan could earn billions of dollars foreign exchange by promoting religious tourism. He said that being the birthplace of Babba Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, Pakistan is home to several revered Sikh sites, including the famous Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib, and the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur.

These sites attract thousands of foreign and local pilgrims annually, especially after the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor in 2019, which allows Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit without a visa.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 282 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 282.88 points, a negative change of 0.31 percent, closing at 92,021.44 points as compared to 92,304.32 points on the last trading day.

A total of 889,166,479 shares were traded during the day as compared to 752,664,527 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30.474 billion against Rs. 32.27 billion on the last trading day. As many as 452 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 201 of them recorded gains and 200 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 88,684,180 shares at Rs 6.21 per share, Energycio PK with 71,639,690 shares at Rs 4.11 per share and Power Cement with 39,151,188 shares at Rs.7.20 per share.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain is addressing an unveiling exhibition ceremony of models of electric bikes at Engineering Development Board.

Rana Tanveer says: Govt to setup 10,000 EV charging stations by 2030

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday unveiled the government plan to transform the transportation landscape by setting up 10,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations by 2030.

Addressing an "exhibition of electric bike models" organized by the Engineering Development Board (EDB), he emphasized the government's commitment to reducing fuel

dependency, cutting carbon emissions, and promoting cleaner, sustainable transportation.

With growing private sector interest and government-backed incentives, this push toward electric mobility is poised to significantly benefit both the economy and the environment.

The ministers said around 31 companies have expressed interest in investing in electric vehicles in Pakistan while 2 companies were granted

permission to manufacture electric vehicles.

He said "Pakistan is now in a position to export three-wheelers". The minister highlighted some key initiatives to promote electric vehicles across the country. He said that manufacturing activities will soon begin by private companies, boosting the industry. He said that the government would launch the second electric vehicle policy by November 30 to promote eco-friendly transportation.

\$10 Pak mangoes sold for \$120 in Dubai after repackaging

DUBAI: The UAE Consul General Bakht Atiq Al-Rumaiti has highlighted Pakistan's potential to enhance the value and reach of its mango industry through value addition.

Speaking at the Future Summit in Karachi, Al-Rumaiti noted that investors from the UAE receive facilitation upon arrival, but Pakistani investors face challenges such as visa issues and additional expenses.

He emphasized the need to provide ease for investors wherever possible. Al-Rumaiti remarked that Pakistan has an excellent mango crop, which is in high demand in Dubai. He pointed out that Pakistani mangoes are sold in Dubai for \$10 but, after repackaging, are sold at \$120. This underscores the need for value addition in Pakistan's agricultural sector, which requires collective effort from both government and stakeholders.

Gold prices decrease by Rs.1,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs.282,200 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs.283,200 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.857 to Rs.241,941 from Rs.242,798 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.221,780 from Rs.222,565, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Shaza Fatima says: IT, data role vital for sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said that the Information Technology and data are transformative forces driving sustainable development and socio-economic growth. IT provides accurate, real-time data on water resources, climate patterns and agricultural needs, she said while addressing Parliamentary Dialogue Session on "Inclusive Policy Reforms for Improved Water and Food Security in a Changing Climate".

She said data empowers policymakers to make informed decisions that are responsive to real-time challenges. By leveraging IT, policymakers can create data-driven, inclusive policies that promote sustainable water and food security, she added. Shaza Fatima said that water security and its proper usage is being ensured through technology, adding that technology is also being used in agriculture sector today. She said the Ministry of IT & Telecom launched initiatives to enhance IT adoption, making data more open and accessible for improved public services.



FAISALABAD: Farmers use a thresher to harvest rice crops in the field, efficiently separating grain from the stalk in the field.

Eman Shah says: PM approves 100 MW solar power project to address electricity crisis in GB

GILGIT (APP): Special Assistant for Information of Gilgit-Baltistan Eman Shah has announced that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has approved a 100 MW solar power project to help address the severe electricity crisis in Gilgit-Baltistan. The project is expected to be completed within a year with the Prime Minister scheduled to inaugurate it next year. Addressing a press conference during his visit to Gilgit-Baltistan on Wednesday, he said that the Prime Minister was briefed on various Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects and the challenges they face. "PM

directed Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal to visit Gilgit next week to assess the projects and resolve any obstacles, Eman Shah said.

He added that the Prime Minister also announced that Gilgit-Baltistan would receive 40 percent of its federal budget allocation in July and the remaining 60 percent in January. He said in support of local educational institutions, the Prime Minister approved endowment funds of 500 million PKR each for Baltistan University and Karakoram International University to secure their financial stability.

Governor Kundi urges for opening seven western border points with Afghanistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday stressed the importance of opening the seven western border points crossings with Afghanistan in order to enhance regional trade and connectivity, particularly through the Central Asia Corridor.

He expressed these views during a meeting with delegates of National Defence University (NDU), the 26th National Security Workshop visited Governor House Peshawar, led by Major General Muhammad Raza Aizad, Director General of

the Institute of Strategic Studies and Research Analysis. The workshop, which brings together participants from various sectors, included members of parliament, academics, bureaucrats, business community leaders, and representatives from civil society.

Upon their arrival, the participants were welcomed by the Governor of KP, Faisal Karim Kundi. The Governor briefed the delegation about the constitutional responsibilities and historical significance of the Governor House.

During the meeting, the

participants raised various questions concerning the province, including the situation in the newly merged districts, issues related to higher education, natural resources, and other important matters.

In his remarks, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi highlighted the unique position of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to its geographical location, especially its proximity to the Afghanistan border.

"The province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is distinct from other provinces due to its location along the Afghan border," said Kundi.



GILGIT: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaques of groundbreakings and inaugurations of various development projects in Gilgit Baltistan.

CM KP launches 3rd phase of Drugs Free Peshawar program

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday launched the third phase of the "Drug-Free Peshawar" program, under which 2,000 drug-addicts would be rehabilitated.

The provincial government has released substantial funds of Rs. 320 million for this purpose. Under this program, individuals suffering from drug addiction will be shifted to rehabilitation centers, where they would

be provided with quality treatment and facilities. Additionally, an extensive awareness campaign has also been launched in educational institutions aimed at educating the young generation about the devastating consequences of drugs addiction. As part of this awareness campaign, a seminar and awareness walk were held on Wednesday at the University of Peshawar, led by the Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur himself.

KP initiates interest free Ehsas Loan Scheme

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has taken a public friendly step and completed all the action points to commence interest free Ehsas Loan Scheme.

A meeting regarding interest-free Ehsas loan scheme was held in the Civil Secretariat under the chairmanship of Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Finance Muzammil Aslam here on Wednesday.

Minister Housing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr

Amjad Ali, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Technical Education and Vocational Training Tufail Anjum and Secretary Zakat Nazir Hussain Shah and relevant stakeholders participated in the meeting.

The meeting was informed that under the interest-free Ehsas loan scheme, loans will be provided for up to five years, while interest-free loans will be given for small business and house building purposes.

KP Governor administers oath to Fakhar

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday administered oath to new cabinet member Syed Fakhar Jahan here at the governor house.

KP Chief Minister Ali Amin, members of the provincial cabinet, MPAs, Inspector General of Police, Commissioner Peshawar Division, heads of administrative departments and other political and social personalities attended the oath taking ceremony.

Later, Kundi congratulated Syed Fakhar Jahan as the provincial minister and expressed good wishes.

Governor KP flays attack on Chinese nationals

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Wednesday expressed deep concern and sorrow over the attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi, calling it a highly distressing incident. The Governor termed the attack on Chinese citizens as "extremely alarming" and emphasized that such acts of violence were part of a broader conspiracy by anti-Pakistan forces.

Punjab Governor says: Zardari, Bilawal have a key role in forming the coalition government

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that increasing the term of the Army Chief from three years to five years was the need of the hour. Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto have a key role in forming the coalition government. He said this while talking to the media and attending a reception given by Pakistan Peoples' Party leader Malik Rashid in Lahore today. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the functioning of a coalition government is necessary for

the development and stability of the country. He said that due to political stability in the country, there has been economic improvement, inflation has currently reached single digits, if this system runs for five years, the situation will improve further. Governor Punjab said that Bilawal Bhutto played an important role in the twenty-sixth constitutional amendment. He said that the increase in the number of judges will benefit the common man. It is very important to dispense justice to the people on time.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi administer oath to Syed Jahan as Provincial Minister in the Oath taking ceremony at Governor House. Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur also attended the ceremony.

Minister inaugurates EMIS for merged areas

PESHAWAR (APP): In a significant step towards the digitization of education in the merged areas, Provincial Minister for Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Wednesday inaugurated the Education Management Information System (EMIS) at the Merged Areas Education Foundation (MAEF).

This system will fully digitize community schools, providing access to essential information such as school details, teacher attendance, and exam data.

Speaking at the event,

the Minister highlighted the importance of digitization in streamlining educational management and improving decision-making.

He noted that the EMIS would eventually be integrated with other management systems to help identify gaps and inform new educational initiatives tailored to the needs of students in the merged districts.

"The introduction of EMIS will allow us to monitor critical factors such as teacher requirements, student dropout rates, and school facilities more effectively."



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said talking to the media and attending a reception given by Pakistan Peoples' Party leader Malik Rashid in Lahore.

CM visits Governor House, discusses provincial issues with Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, and Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, held a meeting on Wednesday at the Governor House to discuss the province's law and order situation, as well as several other key issues and rights of the province.

During the meeting, both leaders agreed that ensuring peace was crucial for the economic development of the province. They expressed their commitment to working together to address security concerns and

secure resources from the federal government to maintain peace. The discussion also touched on promoting tourism and other matters of public interest in the province.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assured that he would engage with the federal government to resolve any issues related to the provincial government, acting as the province's representative. Earlier, Chief Minister Gandapur arrived at the Governor House to attend the oath-taking ceremony of a new provincial minister Syed Fakhar Jahan.

Cashier embezzled Rs 4.2 million

FAISALABAD (APP): A cashier at a private business embezzled Rs 4.2 million during cash handling in Rail Bazar police limits.

A police report said on Wednesday that Saqib reported to the police that Shafique, a cashier at his business point, had embezzled Rs 4.2 million from business. The police registered a case against the accused and started investigation. Separately, unidentified accused took away a laptop and cash from a shop of Ali in Bano Market in Kotwali police limits.

Meanwhile, robbers snatched cash, cell phone and other valuables from a woman, Huzafa in Sultani Chowk, Ghulam Muhammad Abad.

Separately, unidentified thieves took away a motorcycle of Arshad from the courtyard of the District Courts in Civil Lines police limits while thieves stormed into a house of Anwar in Mohala Usman Town in Ghulam Muhammad Abad and took away mobiles, cash and a water pump.

The police registered separate cases and started investigation.

International News

Israel strikes on Lebanon kill 30 people around Baalbek, says governor

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israeli strikes on Lebanon killed at least 30 people around the eastern city of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley on Wednesday, according to the regional governor, and at dusk more strikes hit Beirut's southern suburbs.

Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah have exchanged fire for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war but fighting has dramatically escalated since late September, with Israeli troops intensifying bombing on swathes of Lebanon's south and east and making ground incursions into border villages.

Around 20 Israeli strikes on the Baalbek-Hermel governorate killed 30 people and wounded 35, governor Bachir Khodr said on X. The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

Israeli strikes have also battered Hezbollah strongholds in the southern

suburbs of the capital Beirut. At least four strikes targeted the area on Wednesday after the Israeli military ordered residents to evacuate from several locations.

There was no immediate report on casualties or details on what was hit. The attack happened shortly after Hezbollah secretary general Naim Qassem said he did not believe that "political action" would bring about an end to hostilities.

He said there could be a road to indirect negotiations if Israel stopped its attacks. "When the enemy decides to stop the aggression, there is a path for negotiations that we have clearly defined - indirect negotiations through the Lebanese state and Speaker (of parliament Nabih) Berrni," said Qassem.

More than 3,000 people have been killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon over the last year, the vast majority in the past six

weeks. Lebanese rescuers scoured a destroyed apartment building in the town of Barja south of Beirut for bodies or any survivors after an Israeli strike on Tuesday evening that killed 20 people there, Lebanon's health ministry said.

Moussa Zahran, who lived on one of the upper floors of the building, returned to sift through the ruins of his home. His burned feet were wrapped in gauze and his son and wife were in hospital after being wounded in the strike.

"These rocks that you see here weigh 100 kilos, they fell on a 13 kilo kid," he said, referring to his son and the apartment wall that had collapsed onto him during the strike.

It was not immediately clear if the strike targeted a member of Hezbollah. There was no evacuation warning ahead of the air raid.



Civil defense members work at a site damaged in the aftermath of an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Barja, Lebanon.

China braces for continued superpower rivalry as Trump claims victory

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China will work with the US on the basis of mutual respect, it said on Wednesday as Donald Trump closed in on victory in the presidential election, but strategists said Beijing was bracing for bitter superpower rivalry over trade, technology and security issues.

"Our policy towards the US is consistent," foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular press conference in Beijing, when asked how Trump returning to the Oval Office would affect US-China

relations. "We will continue to view and handle China-US relations in accordance with the principles of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and win-win cooperation," she added.

Chinese strategists however said they expected more fiery rhetoric and potentially crippling tariffs from Trump, although some said his isolationist foreign policy could give Beijing a vacuum to expand its global influence.

"Beijing anticipated a close race in the US election."

Asian currencies tumble as projected Trump win propels dollar

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Singapore's dollar and Thailand's baht slid the most among Asian currencies on Wednesday, while the Mexican peso hit a two-year low as the dollar surged on projections that Republican Donald Trump had won the US presidential election.

The Singapore dollar was last down 1.3 per cent at a three-month low and set for its worst session since August 2015. Thailand's baht slumped as much as 1.9pc to a two-month low, in its biggest one-day drop since February 2023. The dollar was set for its biggest daily rise since March 2020 against major peers, and US Treasury yields also soared to multi-month peaks. Fox News projected that Trump has won the US presidency defeating Democrat Kamala Harris, and Republicans took control of at least one chamber of Congress.

China warns soldiers against online dating

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: In an unusual warning, China's navy told young officers and personnel that they could get ensnared by online dating scams and virtual gambling if they let down their guard, exposing themselves to security risks and undermining the military.

Addressing those born from 1990 who are "becoming the core of the army", the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy said in a social media post that young soldiers.

Afghan opium cultivation bounces and shifts two years after ban, UN says

Monitoring Desk
VIENNA: Opium poppy production in Afghanistan, long the world's dominant supplier of the raw material for heroin, has risen by a fifth in the second full year since the Taliban banned it but remains a fraction of pre-ban levels, a UN report said on Wednesday.

The Taliban's supreme spiritual leader banned the cultivation of narcotics in April 2022.

Russia floats idea of 'reset' with United States after Trump declares victory

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: New opportunities to reset relations between Moscow and Washington have opened up, the influential head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund said on Wednesday after Donald Trump declared victory in the US presidential election. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 triggered the biggest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis when the Soviet Union and the US came close to nuclear war.

Both Russian and US diplomats say relations between the world's two largest nuclear powers have

only been worse during the depths of the Cold War. Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of Russia's sovereign wealth fund and a senior figure in Russia's political elite, said that Trump's team had won the presidency and the Senate "despite a large-scale disinformation campaign directed against them".

"Their convincing victory shows that ordinary Americans are tired of the unprecedented lies, incompetence, and malice of the Biden administration," said Dmitriev, a former Goldman Sachs banker who has previously had contacts with the Trump team.



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during a ceremony to receive diplomatic credentials from newly appointed foreign ambassadors at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Russia.

Iran's currency falls to an all-time low as Trump clinches the US presidency

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's currency fell on Wednesday to an all-time low as Donald Trump clinched the U.S. presidency again, signaling new challenges ahead for Tehran as it remains locked in the wars raging in the Middle East.

The rial traded at 703,000 rials to the dollar, traders in Tehran said, breaking through the record before recovering slightly later in the day to 696,150 to \$1.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the rally but Iran's Central Bank has

in the past flooded the market with more hard currencies as an attempt to improve the rate.

The slide comes as the rial already faces considerable woes over its sharp slide in value — and as the mood on the streets of Tehran among some darkened.

"One-hundred percent he will intensify the sanctions," said Amir Aghaeian, a 22-year-old student. "Things that are not in our favor will be worse. Our economy and social situation will surely get worse."

US will continue Taiwan-friendly approach after election, senior Taiwan official says

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: The United States will continue its friendly approach towards Taiwan after the presidential election and Taiwan will work to prevent China "making trouble" during the transition, a senior Taiwanese security official said on Wednesday.

US President Donald Trump has made comments on the campaign trail that Taiwan should pay to be protected and also accused the island of stealing American semiconductor business.

Democratically-governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, has faced a sustained military pressure campaign from Beijing over the past five years, including four major rounds of war games

in the past two years. Earlier, speaking to reporters in parliament, Taiwan National Security Bureau Director-General Tsai Ming-yen noted the election's outcome was still unknown.

"On relations across the Taiwan Strait we believe that the United States will continue its current approach of constraining China and being friendly to Taiwan," he said.

Taiwan will continue communication with the current administration focusing on key issues for cooperation "in the next phase" and work with international partners to exchange information on China's intentions and military movements during the transition, Tsai added.

Leaders from key countries to skip climate summit

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: World leaders from major economies including the United States, the European Union and Brazil are planning to skip this year's United Nations climate change summit, known as COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will not attend the COP29 climate summit because of political developments in Brussels, a Commission spokesperson said on Tuesday.

There, EU lawmakers are vetting the members of her new European Commission, who will lead EU policymaking for the next five years. "The Commission is in a transition phase and the president will therefore focus on her institutional duties," the spokesperson said.

Murad discusses \$1.3bn ADB portfolio, Bank to assist Sindh for TP4

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah met with Ms Emma Fan, the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to discuss a \$1.3 billion development portfolio.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister highlighted his government's development priorities and explored opportunities to enhance collaboration between the ADB and the provincial government.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Chairman P&D Najam Shah and Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh. The ADB Deputy Country Director Asad Aleem also attended the meeting along with his Country Director.

Red Line: The CM and the ADB Country head discussed the BRT Red Line and agreed to speed up the ongoing work on the corridor.

Mr Shah said that the BRT Red Line project will contribute to developing a sustainable urban transport system in Karachi through the delivery of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor, focusing on accessibility and

people's mobility needs. He added that to improve the quality of public transport in Karachi by constricting the 26.6 km corridor and associated facilities, directly benefiting 1.5 million people.

Murad said that the project was Pakistan's first BRT operating on Bio-methane from cattle waste, improving the city's environment and financial sustainability.

It was pointed out that the physical progress of Lot -I was 18.37 per cent, and Lot II 16.06 per cent.

Sindh Secondary Education Project: Mr Shah and Ms Fan also discussed the Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project (SSEIP), designed for the construction of 160 secondary school blocks in existing primary schools across 10 districts of the province to bridge the gap between primary and post-primary education.

The project also aimed to improve teaching capacity in five key subjects (English, mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics) and strengthen the

secondary education examination system through an Optical Mark Reader (OMR) machine to enhance the quality of secondary education. It is a Rs13.1 billion project.

Discussing the physical progress of the project, the meeting was informed that all civil works contracts for 117 schools had been awarded (Dec '23 - Apr May '24), and construction is underway. The CM stated that training for 2,630 teachers has been planned for early Dec 2024. He added that the training manuals completed examination reforms, SLO-based examinations, workshops for 400 examiners/paper setters in 5 key subjects were completed, and delivery of OMR equipment was accomplished.

Emergency Flood Assistance Project: Another project the CM and ADB country chief discussed was the Emergency Flood Assistance Project (EFAP). Under EFAP, September 2022's flooded/rain-affected roads are being taken up for improvement/rehabilitation in 18 districts of the province.



GILGIT: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a special meeting of the Gilgit Baltistan Cabinet.

PM Shehbaz announces 100MW power supply for GB, Rs1 bln endowment fund

GILGIT (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday announced the immediate power supply of 100 megawatts for Gilgit Baltistan and a Rs1 billion endowment fund for the universities students.

The prime minister, who chaired the special meeting of the GB cabinet during his daylong visit here, expressed satisfaction and pleasure over the timely completion of Bubar Model Village, which he earlier inaugurated, to provide housing facility to the people affected by flood in 2022.

He instructed the GB administration to establish educational institutions, playgrounds, power transmission and other facilities in Ghizer district.

Besides announcing an immediate power supply of 100 megawatts to GB, the prime minister an-

nounced Rs 1 billion merit-based endowment fund for the students of Baltistan University and Karakorum University.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the GB cabinet members that the federal government would establish Daanish Schools in GB, on the pattern of Punjab province. He said that his government was actively working for the uplift and welfare of the GB people.

He recalled that while being Punjab chief minister, his government had given a Rs1 billion gift to uplift GB's education sector.

He said that the provincial governments' cooperation with the federal government for the economic stability was significant.

The prime minister told the participants that stock exchange has crossed the 92,000 mark and the

increase in remittances, tax return filers and reduction in inflation were pleasant developments for national economy.

He lauded the role of all provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and GB in the national development and highlighted his government's special focus on the uplift of GB, merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The prime minister said that the federal government was taking measures to promote tourism in GB as Qatari government had also expressed interest to invest in tourism there.

Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Attaullah Tarar, Amir Muqam and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, members of the GB cabinet and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Housing and works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Governor of Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, and others cutting the cake during the Victory Day ceremony of Azerbaijan at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

Delegation of KfW Bank visits NTDC HQ, 220kV GIS Ghazi Road Substation

KARACHI (INP): A mission from KfW Development Bank Germany visited the NTDC Headquarters at WAPDA House Lahore and 220kV GIS NTDC Ghazi Road Substation Lahore for meetings with NTDC teams and consultants working on KfW-financed projects. The delegation comprised of Ms. Esther Gravenkotter, Head of Division for Energy & Finance (Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan), Constantin Dellis, Portfolio Manager, Aftab Ahmad, Technical Expert and Abrar Ahmad, Senior Sector Specialist for Energy & Climate. During the meetings at WAPDA House, NTDC team was led by Rasheed A. Bhutto, Deputy Managing Director (AD&M).

The discussions focused on the progress of the 220kV Ghara Grid Station Project in district Thatta, Sindh, including upcoming steps such as the submission of bids by pre-qualified bidders and the subsequent evaluation process.

The mission also discussed 500 kV Chakwal Grid Station Project. The status of the Livelihood Restoration Plan for the 500kV Chakwal Grid Station Project was also reviewed. The meetings also covered plans for utilizing the Accompanying Measures Grants.

The participants of the meetings from NTDC included Engr. Sohail Mumtaz Bajwa, General Manager (HR), Engr. Saqib Shamim, Chief Engineer (PMU), Engr. Iqbal Haider, Chief Engineer (PD Multan) and Engr. Adnan Zahid, Project Director EHV Islamabad, along with their respective teams. Later, the delegation also visited the KfW funded 220kV Grid Station Ghazi Road in Lahore. During the visit, Deputy Manager (Asset Management) 220kV Grid Station Muhammad Mohsin gave a detailed presentation on critical role of the substation in supporting growing energy needs of LESCO region and enhancing regional power reliability.

Delegation of Journalist's visits GIMS

SUKKUR (APP): A 12 member delegation of the Parliamentary Reporters Association Islamabad on Wednesday visited Khairpur and toured the Pir Abdul Qadir Shah Jillani Institute of Medical Sciences Gambat.

During the visit, the institute's executive director, Captain (Retd) Dr. Raheem Bakhsh Bhatti, showed them various hospital departments and explained that the institute operates with funds provided by the Sindh government.

He added that they are providing health facilities particularly performing liver transplants without discrimination.

Street crime claims another life in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Street criminals claim yet another life in Defense area of Karachi.

According to the rescue sources, a man was shot dead during a robbery attempt on Defense's 26th Street.

Eyewitnesses reported that the victim, identified as Muhammad Saeed, had withdrawn cash and was standing aside after noticing someone approaching.

The assailants, riding a motorcycle attempted to rob him, the deceased however opted to resist, as a result, the robbers fired 4-5 shots as they fled the scene of the crime.

A total number of 105 people have fallen victim to the rampant street crime in Karachi this year.

One killed in Karachi firing

KARACHI (APP): One person was killed in a firing incident that took place outside of the bank, TV channels quoting police reported on Wednesday.

According to details, a man identified as Saeed was coming out from a bank when unknown outlaws tried to snatch the amount from the citizen. During resistance, the robbers opened fire and killed the man on the spot.

Police after receiving information rushed to the site and shifted the dead body to nearby hospital. The police have also started search operation to trace the culprits.

Thar mining projects affecting ecosystem in area; Obhayo Junejo

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Thar Citizen Forum, Obhayo Junejo, said on Wednesday that mining projects in Thar were affecting the ecosystem of the region.

Addressing the press conference here at the National Press Club, he said that the waste material from coal, china clay and salt mining was released in the open areas, which not only contaminated the underground water but also brought health issues to the lives of humans and animals and also affected the cultivation process.

He also highlighted the

unemployment situation in Thar and said that although several development projects were underway, people from other regions hired instead of local residents.

There were three power plants of 2640 MW installed on the coal of Thar, but people of the region had been deprived of the facility of electricity, Junejo said.

He also focused on the lack of road safety measures in Thar and said, "Due to the lack of safety systems in Thar, there are more road accidents and other incidents."

SMUTA's new cabinet elected unopposed

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Madressatul Islam University Teachers' Association's (SMUTA) new cabinet for year 2024-25 elected unopposed on Wednesday.

The SMUTA had announced its annual elections for the tenure of 2024-2025, and the faculty showed confidence in the nominated candidates, then the Election Commissioner announced six member cabinet of the SMUTA successful. Asif Hussain Samo was elected president, Quratulain Nazeer Ahmed, vice president, Wafa Mansoor Burro, general secretary, Syed Azeem Inam, joint secretary, Inayatullah Magi, finance secretary and Syeda Wajiha Naim press secretary.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh chairing a session of Sustainable Development Conference.

Sindh Govt unveils ambitious city master plan to boost development

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Government of Sindh is spearheading an innovative City Master Plan aimed at transforming divisional headquarters cities into thriving developed cities.

Mirpurkhas, Umakot, and Mithi (Tharparkar) are among the cities slated for development under this initiative.

Divisional Commissioner Mirpurkhas Faisal Ahmed Uqeli, along with District Council Chairman Mir Anwar Ali Khan Talpur and Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghorji on Wednesday outlined the plan's objectives at a recent meeting.

The master plan will focus on essential services, including housing and social services, enhancing access to quality healthcare and education, upgrading water supply, sewerage, drainage, and transportation systems

and establishing business centers and stimulating local economic activity.

According to the details, the plan will cover 22 union councils across three tehsils of Mirpurkhas, Hussain Bakhsh Mari, and two town committees of Shujabad. With a 20-year planning horizon until 2037, the initiative seeks to connect Mirpurkhas city with other developed cities, benefiting the local population.

During the meeting, it was also decided that sub-committees will be formed under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas and Mayor to ensure effective implementation. Key stakeholders, including Arif Khan Bhurgari, Additional Commissioner Dr. Ali Nawaz Bhoot, and representatives from various departments, participated in the meeting.

Mayor Karachi should adopt modern methods to avoid failures

By Nazir Siyal

KARACHI: There is no proper cleanliness and removal of Garbage from every nook and corner, despite collection of millions of Municipal taxes in the electricity Bills.

A large number of metropolitan citizens have claimed that there is hue and cry over the failures of Complaint cell 1128 and Municipal services particularly removable of garbage and no proper cleanliness in the streets and read.

The citizens have criticized an old method adopted by KMC 1128 number was a collection tactics, same as the water board number.

Abro inspects disbursement of cash process

SUKKUR (APP): Zonal Director, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Sukkur, Zulfiqar Ali Abro on Wednesday, visited the different talukas of the Larkana and discussed the existing situation and inspected the disbursement of cash process to the beneficiaries.

Officials of BISP were also present on the occasion.

During the visit, Abro was also briefed about efforts being made to engage area elders and local government representatives to get support. He also listened to the problems and concerns of staff.

Qaiser says: Maritime sector facilitates imports of 430,000 metric tons used clothing in FY 2023-2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, said more than 430,000 metric tons of used clothing arrived in Pakistan in FY2023-24 with the support of our port and shipping infrastructure.

Addressing a conference 'National Policy Dialogue on Circularity and Used Textile Trade in Pakistan' acknowledged the support of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the European Union (EU) for their collaboration in the Circularity and Used Textiles Trade Project.

The Minister emphasized the vital role of Pakistan's maritime infrastructure in facilitating the import of second-hand textiles. He added that he recognizes that the efficient handling of these imports

is essential for supporting local economies, job creation, and textile recycling efforts.

The Federal Minister further said that the ministry is focused on improving port efficiency and container management to streamline the processing of these goods, ensuring that shipments are processed in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The minister also outlined its ongoing efforts to develop waste sorting hubs for textile recycling, a key step in managing textile waste and reducing the environmental impact of global textile trade.

Additionally, he said that we are committed to implementing regulations that will limit pollutants from textile shipments, particularly harmful chemicals, to protect marine ecosystems and ensure sustainable shipping practices.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Country Director of Asian Development Bank, Emma Fan during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Commissioner Mirpurkhas chairs meeting to address rainwater drainage issues

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Mirpur Khas Divisional Commissioner Faisal Ahmad Uqeli on Wednesday led a crucial meeting to address rainwater drainage issues, emphasizing the need for a robust strategy based on past experiences.

The gathering, held at the Commissioner's Committee Hall, brought together top officials, including District Council Chairman Mir Anwar Ali Khan Talpur, Additional Commissioner Dr. Ali Nawaz Bhut, and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood Khan.

During the meeting,

Commissioner Uqeli praised the successful drainage efforts during the last monsoon, attributing it to effective coordination. On this occasion, he directed Assistant Commissioners to identify weak embankments of natural waterways, to conduct tehsil-level committee meetings with stakeholders. He also instructed to submit reports to the Deputy Commissioner within 10 days.

The meeting was aimed to strengthen embankments, enhance sanitation, and improve Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD) functionality.

ADC chairs meeting of district vigilance committee

NAWABSHAH (APP): A meeting of the District Vigilance Committee established by the Sindh government to prevent forced labour, human trafficking and help the victims was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Shaheed Benazirabad Nawab Samir Laghari.

Addressing the meeting Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Sameer Laghari said that laws have been established by the Sindh government to prevent child labor and human trafficking, which should be implemented in all cases.

He further said that legal action will be taken against those who violate the laws made by the government.

ADC while giving instructions to the committee members said that they should prevent human trafficking, forced labor of children in the public and take steps to create awareness about laws and regulations enacted by the government while working with labor organizations to create awareness about the existing government laws and regulations for the welfare and protection of workers to ensure that they are entitled to their rights.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Blood Transfusion Authority (SBTA) Secretary, Dr. Durenaz Jamal addresses during Public Awareness Campaign for Thalassemia Prevention organized by Preen Rasool Thalassemia Care Trust in Hyderabad.

Sindh Agri-versity, UBL launch experimental project to strengthen seed quality

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandjoam, in partnership with United Bank Limited (UBL), has launched an experimental wheat seed sowing project, marking another milestone in their collaborative efforts to enhance agricultural productivity and seed quality for Sindh's farmers.

This initiative is part of a larger project titled Research Project for Developing Improved Varieties of Cotton and Wheat Seeds, which aims to provide certified, high-yield wheat and cotton seeds that are resilient to climate stressors.

The inauguration took place at Latif Farm, on Wednesday, hosted by the Seed Development and Production Centre (SPDC), with SAU's Dean of the Faculty of Crop Production, Dr. Inayatullah Rajper, and UBL's Zonal Manager, Syed Arif Ali Shah, presiding over the event.

During his address, Dr. Inayatullah Rajper emphasized that SAU experts, collaborating closely with UBL, have dedicated the last two years to developing climate-adaptive seed varieties to tackle the issue of seed quality in Sindh's agriculture sector.