

# Independent

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## CM Murad says: Marble City reflects Sindh govt's commitment to sustainable industrial uplift

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Marble City Karachi reflects the Sindh government's commitment to sustainable industrial development, economic growth, and job creation, signalling a brighter future for the province's marble and granite sector.

This he said while presiding over a joint meeting of the Sindh Investment Department, its subsidiary organisation - Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC) and private partners - Kainatt Enterprises & Hassan Constructions.

The meeting and signing ceremony were held at CM House and were attended by CM Special Assistant Qasim Naveed,

Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Industries Yaseen Shar, Secretary Investment Khurram Shahzad, CEO Sindh Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) Zeerat Shafiqat, Azeem Uqaili, and others.

Private partners - Asim Siddiqui, Churchil Shafiqat and others also attended the meeting.

In a major step towards industrial and economic growth, the Sindh government has signed a concession agreement for Marble City Karachi, a state-of-the-art industrial zone designed to revolutionise marble and granite production, the CM said and added that the project, managed by the Sindh Economic Zones Management Company

(SEZMC), is strategically located in Karachi, Pakistan's primary trade and industrial hub.

Special Assistant to CM on Investment Syed Qasim Naveed briefing the CM said that with its proximity to the Port of Karachi, Jinnah International Airport, and key national highways, Marble City Karachi promises unmatched connectivity for businesses targeting both domestic and international markets. He added that the project boasts modern infrastructure, utilities, and robust security, including 24/7 surveillance, secure perimeters, and comprehensive emergency management systems, ensuring a safe and productive environment for investors and workers alike.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with others witness the signing ceremony of the Concession agreement between Sindh Government and private partners Kainatt Enterprises and Hassan Constructions for the development of Marble City, at CM House in Karachi..

## Intention to weak country not unacceptable, unbearable & intolerable: Nasir Shah

SUKKUR (APP): Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that political parties organize demonstrations to record their protests.

Since PTI has already recorded their protest, he said adding that if their intention is to weaken the country, it is unacceptable, unbearable and intolerable.

He said that Pakistan comes first; if Pakistan exists, then we exist. He said that the Pakistan Peoples Party supports peaceful protests, but the PTI's track record is worse. He stated this while talking to

the media during the ceremony of the first OGDCL National Case Writing Competition at IBA University Sukkur on Monday.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said that people were misled through social media, they didn't do any work. When PTI was in government, their performance was such that 23 by-elections were held, they lost 19 of them, but they were successful in creating false narratives, he added.

The Minister said that the Jewish lobby strongly supported them and they were previously against America, but now they have sat with them, he said.

Shah said that when the results of the last general elections came and PTI's numbers were higher, the Pakistan Peoples Party supported them and invited them to form a government, but their stubbornness persisted.

On the issue of the new canals, he said that Pakistan Peoples Party is a national party, and they won't compromise on anything related to Sindh, especially water, which is a matter of survival.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Prisons Minister, Ali Hassan Zardari interacts with prisoners during his surprise visit at Central Jail to review the facilities in the jail, in Hyderabad.

## Construction work on roads ongoing in various areas of Karachi: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, stated that construction work on roads is ongoing in various areas of Karachi and road resurfacing is being carried out near the PSO petrol pump, Kemari Gate No. 2, in Shireen Jinnah Colony to provide convenience to the local residents.

These are the changing and improving views of Karachi that are visible to the citizens today, and this progress will continue, said a statement on Monday.

He said that the Karachi Metropolitan

Corporation (KMC), is restoring the city's vibrancy and lights, and work is visible in every district, proving that when intentions are right and the desire to work is strong, resources and authority never become obstacles.

He said that efforts are being made to complete the ongoing development projects in Karachi in a timely manner to provide better convenience for citizens' commute. Due to heavy traffic in Shireen Jinnah Colony, the road conditions were worrying, and there were issues of traffic jams, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A view of Rangers personals stand on closed road to PTI protest in twin cities.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at PAF Nur Khan Air Base.

## First round of PTI-govt talks ends inconclusively PTI convoys enter Islamabad amid violent clashes with police

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: PTI convoys led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Opposition Leader, Omar Ayub, entered Islamabad on the call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan.

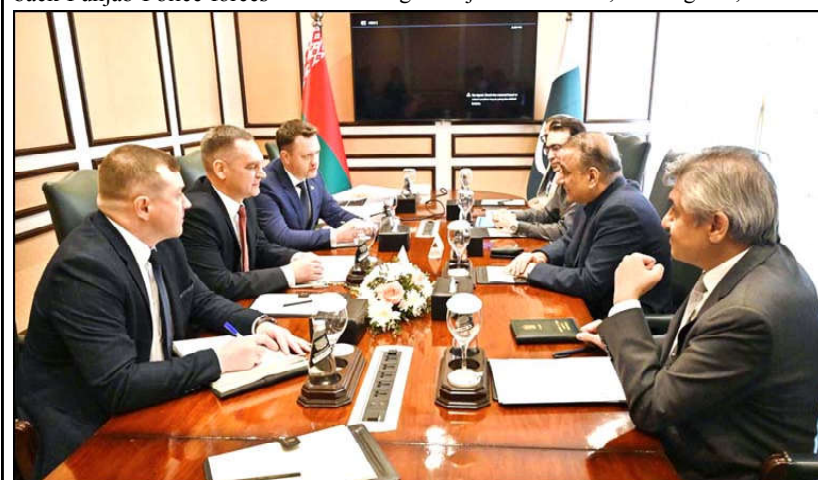
The convoys, originating from the Hazara Interchange, are heading towards D-Chowk in Islamabad. As the convoys advanced, they encountered heavy resistance from the police at the Ghazi Brotha Bridge, where intense shelling was reported.

Despite the police crackdown, Omar Ayub's convoy managed to push back Punjab Police forces

at the Hazara Interchange. Ali Amin Gandapur, who is leading the Hazara Division convoy, played a crucial role in helping the convoy break through the police barricades.

After overcoming the police blockade, the convoys continued their journey, with vehicles stretching over two kilometers as they moved forward. On the Hazara Motorway, PTI supporters successfully forced police to retreat, with reports of violent clashes and heavy stonепelling. Several police personnel were injured in the scuffles, and two officers were severely wounded and transferred to hospitals.

Among the injured officers were DSPs Chaudhry Zulfiqar and Shahid Gilani, as well as ASI Tabassum. DSP Zulfiqar suffered significant injuries to his back and legs during the confrontation. A police constable has died from severe injuries, and over 70 officers were injured during violent clashes with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters in Islamabad. Constable Mubashir, 46, succumbed to head injuries after PTI protesters allegedly attacked police personnel near Hakla. The injured officer was rushed to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Hassan Abdal, where he later pronounced dead. Mubashir is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan meeting with Minister of Transport and Communications Belarus H.E. Alexey Lyakhnovich.

## Nisar Khuhro reviews arrangements for PPP's Foundation Day

HYDERABAD (INP): President Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Nisar Ahmed Khuhro along with PPP's Information Secretary Senator Aajiz Dhamrah and General Secretary PPP Hyderabad district Waseem Rajput jointly presided over a meeting to review the arrangements for 'Youm-e-Tasees' (anniversary of the Foundation Day) of Pakistan Peoples Party.

Speaking at the occasion, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro said that PPP would organize multiple programmes and seminars in all districts and district level on its foundation day to be celebrated on 30th November so that workers of Pakistan People's Party and people could meet and educated

about the struggle of the Party for the cause of democracy. Nisar Khuhro urged Nazims of All Union Councils, Town Chairmen, District Council Chairmen, MNAs and MPAs to fully participate in gatherings of Youm-e-Tasees. The Party leaders also exchanged their views about the programmes chalked out for the Foundation Day.

On this occasion, fataha was also offered for Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Muhatarma Benazir Bhutto, Mir Murtaza Bhutto and other martyrs of the Party. Azhar Siyal, Altaf Jatoi, Engineer Sikandar Hayat, Amin Shaikh and other workers were also present on the occasion.

## Sindh Governor terms violence against women a global issue

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said we have to pledge to take effective measures against women oppression.

In his message on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, he said that, currently, violence against women was a serious global problem. The governor said that strict measures were being taken against physical, emotional, sexual and economic violence against women in the province.

## Over a dozen flights called off, delayed at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): More than a dozen international and domestic flights have been cancelled or delayed at Karachi Airport due to technical and operational reasons. According to flight schedule, Karachi to Dubai Emirates flight EK-609 has been cancelled while IranAir flight IR-813 from Karachi to Tehran was also suspended.

Moreover, Karachi to Lahore SereneAir flight ER-524,522 has also suspended while Karachi to Islamabad SereneAir flight ER-504,502 was also cancelled. Further, Karachi to Islamabad AirSial flight PF-125 was cancelled while Karachi to Islamabad AirSial flight PF-123 has been delayed.

## Belarus President arrives in Islamabad on three-day official visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on Monday arrived in Islamabad on his three-day official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The Belarus President arrived at the Nur Khan Airbase, Rawalpindi where he was received by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, Minister for Interior, Senator Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, and other senior officials.

Children dressed in traditional attire presented bouquets of flowers to the President of Belarus.

During his visit, President Lukashenko will hold

extensive talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discuss areas of bilateral cooperation and engagement. Moreover, several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) will also be signed during the visit.

Belarusian President's visit reflects the strong and growing partnership between Pakistan and Belarus.

Meanwhile PM Shehbaz Sharif in his post on X said Pakistan and Belarus enjoy strong fraternal relations and "we will work together to further strengthen these ties".

"Delighted to welcome my dear friend Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of Republic of Belarus to Islamabad. Looking forward to our discussions during this important visit," he added.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

## Sharjeel Inam Memon Says PTI's politics of chaos hurting the public

Sharjeel Memon criticizes KP gov't use of resources in protests

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh's Senior Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that there are attempts to create chaos and anarchy in the country. He emphasized that when governments are elected, their responsibility is to serve the people and address the needs of their constituencies. The priority of elected governments should be to fulfill the expectations of the people. As soon as the Pakistan People's Party's Sindh government assumed power, the Chief Minister of Sindh, along with his entire team, received clear instructions from Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari to

honor the promises made to the people during the elections.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Sindh's Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that the public is not concerned about political positioning; they are only worried about having their problems solved in this era of inflation. Businesspeople, farmers, laborers, and people from all walks of life in the country are seeking relief. As soon as the Pakistan People's Party's Sindh government took office, they began issuing Kisan Cards to support farmers.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Irena Gancheva, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Judicial Commission forms Constitutional Bench in SHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Judicial Commission of Pakistan has constituted a nine-member Constitutional Bench within the High Court of Sindh for a period of two months. Pakistan's cuisine The Bench will be headed by Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha and will be comprising Justice Salim Jessar, Justice Omar Sial, Justice Yousaf Ali Syeed, Justice Abdul Mubeen Lakho, Justice Zulfikar Ali Sangi, Justice Ms. Sana Akram Minhas, Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro and Justice Arbab Ali Hakro.

Following extensive and thoughtful exchange of views, the Commission considered the formation of the Constitutional Bench in Sindh High Court and approved the names of the judges with a majority of 11 to 4.

Meeting of the Judicial Commission was held Monday under the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the Supreme Court premises on a one point agenda of formation of the Constitutional Bench in Sindh High Court. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan and Chairman of the Judicial Commission Justice Yahya Afridi and attended by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar (via video link), Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Anti-women state

Globally, women are tormented by the worst tools of exploitation: rape, sexual abuse, GBV, IPV, and more are among the most pervasive human rights violations that strip females of bodily autonomy. Unicef estimates show that over 370m women and girls today have endured rape or sexual violence before the age of 18. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the launch of the 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women' campaign, which focuses on the upsurge in crimes against women and the revival of obligations as well as demands action from policymakers, Pakistan looks back on a harrowing crime graph. The human rights ministry states that in the last three years, 63,000 cases of violence against women were reported; unfortunately, most cases do not come to light. In August, the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan was alarmed by the escalation in GBV nationwide; its report, Unveiling Shadows: An Overview of Gender-Based Violence Cases, 2023, exposed an 81pc rise in the backlog of unresolved GBV cases.

While it is true that GBV incidents surge in times of conflict and socioeconomic distress, the blame for an odious state of affairs lies at the door of successive governments who did little to build protective systems, or counter patriarchal narratives. This, alongside a corrupt, feeble and prejudiced criminal justice system, has resulted in an environment where a rape occurs every two minutes due to a pathetic 3pc conviction rate. The JPC study shows a conviction rate of 5pc and a high acquittal rate of 64pc. Additionally, a slew of pro-women laws to curtail excesses against females and protect their inheritance, with ensuring amendments in several decrees, such as a mandatory prison term for honour killing, were rendered lifeless by the state's inability to end impunity. The toxic machismo in assemblies ensured that a few were watered down: Sindh raised the marriageable age of females from 16 to 18 years through the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2014, but KP and Punjab maintained the age of marriage at 16 years. Balochistan continues with the colonial Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.

Culture wars cannot be fought over women's bodies. Violence — the daily reality of rural and urban women — has placed Pakistan among the most dangerous countries for females. This silent epidemic, a sobering commentary on the hold of misogynistic power structures that prevent equity and diversification, has to be acknowledged. Women parliamentarians need to unite for greater female representation in parliament and agitate for women's education and stringent application of the laws. Orthodox elements, operating in consonance with the state to dilute the national discourse on women empowerment, must be defused. Without justice, the social contract between women and the state will unravel.

## Protecting women

Van Nguyen

As Pakistan embraces the digital age, women face a troubling new reality: technology-facilitated violence.

Digital platforms, intended to open opportunities in education, employment, and civic engagement, have also become instruments for gender-based abuse. This threat — from cyber harassment and stalking to deepfake pornography — is more than a personal affront; it is an assault on women's digital freedom, mental well-being, and societal participation, demanding urgent and targeted reforms to reclaim online spaces for all.

This rise in technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) against women mirrors a troubling global trend that intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic as women increasingly turned to digital platforms for work, education, and social connection. This surge in abuse has exposed critical gaps in legal protections, calling for urgent regulatory reform.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, 85 per cent of women worldwide report experiencing some form of online harassment, with rates even higher in the Asia-Pacific region at 88pc. In Pakistan, this issue is acute: nearly 90pc of harassment complaints received by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) are filed by women, according to the Digital Rights Foundation. This abuse impedes women's access to education, employment, and political engagement: 70pc of female students report harassment, with 20pc considering dropping out while 45pc of working women face online abuse, with 15pc leaving their jobs as a result. Women in public office face triple the

online abuse of men, with 67pc contemplating leaving politics altogether. These statistics underscore the critical need for comprehensive protections to ensure women's safety in digital spaces.

The psychological and social toll of these attacks is profound. Victims report depression, anxiety, and isolation, leading many to withdraw from online spaces, which further impacts their social and professional lives. For young women, TFGBV can disrupt their education and discourage them from pursuing careers in fields such as STEM or public service.

Pakistan's Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), 2016, was introduced to address cybercrimes, yet its provisions fall short of adequately addressing TFGBV. While the Act includes clauses aimed at protecting personal dignity and privacy, it lacks explicit provisions for TFGBV and suffers from limited enforcement capacity. The FIA's Cyber Crime Wing, tasked with enforcing the Act, operates only 15 cybercrime stations with 144 officers nationwide to serve a population exceeding 240 million.

Additionally, the requirement for victims to file complaints in person discourages many women, particularly in rural areas, from reporting incidents of online violence. Peca also lacks a transnational mandate to require social media companies to share data necessary for prosecuting offenders, allowing perpetrators to act with relative impunity.

Addressing TFGBV in Pakistan requires a collaborative approach that engages governments, technology companies, feminist organisations, and digital rights advocates.

First, legal reforms

are essential. A comprehensive legal framework with specific provisions for TFGBV is needed to address current ambiguities, with laws regularly updated to keep pace with technological advances. Equally essential is strengthening enforcement by equipping the FIA's Cybercrime Wing with adequate resources, providing gender-sensitivity training, in-creasing cybercrime stations, and eliminating the in-person reporting requirement.

Collaboration with technology companies is also vital to ensure social media platforms adhere to local regulations. Platforms should be re-quired to share data necessary for investigations and implement transparent, gender-sensitive content moderation to curb abusive content. Le-averaging AI to flag harmful content can further enhance these efforts.

Providing victims with accessible support services is crucial. Strengthening referral systems to offer counselling, legal assistance, and digital literacy training can empower women to navigate the legal landscape and protect themselves online. Public awareness campaigns are also key to educating communities about TFGBV, fostering greater understanding of its impacts, and promoting proactive responses.

Addressing TFGBV is not just about safeguarding victims — it's about realising a Pakistan where digital opportunities are equally available to all. By creating a digital space that is inclusive, safe, and empowering, we unlock the full potential of women's contributions to Pakistan's progress, ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey towards a just and equitable society. — Courtesy Dawn

## The greatest asset

Huma Yusuf

It's not easy being a child in Pakistan. Just this past week, children across the country have endured the following: some caught polio; some were targeted in sectarian violence; millions were exposed to toxic levels of air pollution; some were dragged out of their school vans at gunpoint and kidnapped; millions had to stay away from their schools due to environmental degradation and political instability.

And that's aside from the systemic issues. Twenty-six million children are permanently out of school; 70 per cent of all 10-year-olds cannot read or understand basic texts. According to 2018 data, Pakistan has one of the highest rates of child malnutrition in the developing world, with 33pc of children underweight and 44pc stunted. Almost 800,000 are severely wasted, says Unicef. Meanwhile, climate shocks, including droughts, floods and heatwaves, are affecting Pakistani children, undermining their access to food, healthcare and education. And this challenge will be exacerbated as the number of children affected by climate crises will increase fourfold by 2050.

This is the baseline for Pakistani children in a world that is not going to be kind to them over the coming decades, as made clear in The Future of Childhood in a Changing World, a new Unicef report. We cannot ignore this demographic. By the 2050s, Pakistan will be among the four countries that is home to one-third of the world's children, along with India, China and Nigeria. We will have 129m children, comprising 32.9pc of the population (around 5.5pc of the global child population). Indeed, Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world where

the percentage of children in the population remains stable — rather than reduces — over the coming decades.

There will be some differences in the state of childhood over the next quarter century, however. The report captures these in the form of 'megatrends' set to define childhood through the 2050s: demographic transitions, climate and environmental crises, and the growing prevalence of frontier technologies.

Here's what this means for us: more Pakistani children will live in urban settings, which bring different pressures ranging from heatwaves to severe inequality (for example, the report points out that urban children in the poorest quintile are twice as likely to die before they turn five than children in the richest quintile). More children will also migrate (internally or abroad), and so endure the challenges of displacement and dislocation, including issues ranging from food insecurity to family disruption. And more will be the victim of environmental hazards. The severe toll of this over the coming years is best understood by considering a contemporary — and currently horribly relevant — data point: that air pollution is the second leading risk factor for death in children younger than five years.

Much of the report focuses on the potentially transformative role of new technologies: "Connectivity and digital skills, when used correctly in learning environments, could equip millions for future jobs, boosting economies and breaking generational cycles of inequality. AI and neurotechnology could drive transformations in education and healthcare." But the re-

port is quick to recognise that technological advances and resulting advantages will not be evenly spread. Today, over 95pc of people in high-income countries have an internet connection, compared to 26pc in low-income countries. Poor investment in digital infrastructure, lack of funding, and growing obsessions with limiting internet permissions means that this digital gap will not be addressed anytime soon, and may in fact worsen.

Pakistan is not currently on a trajectory to reap the benefits of neurotechnologies or artificial intelligence. Instead, our youth will be subject to their pitfalls — surveillance, exploitation, manipulation and discrimination. The spread of AI will only worsen the digital divide experienced by young Pakistanis, particularly those who are already marginalised on the basis of language, ethnicity or gender.

Some may remember how at the turn of the century Pakistan was in a thrall to fantasies about how the country would reap its demographic dividend. Two decades in, we know that the predicament of our youth will be dire — much as described at the outset of this piece, possibly worse — unless significant additional investment is made in education, healthcare, job creation, climate resilience and adaptation, digital literacy and infrastructure, and maternal and infant health. Instead of prioritising these, our state is squandering its resources on quashing political opposition and stifling free speech. In the name of national security, we are forgetting to secure the nation's greatest asset and treasure — its children. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Tanveer for promoting industrial, agricultural trade ties with Belarus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Monday highlighted the importance of expanding bilateral trade relations with Belarus specially in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The minister stressed the need to explore ways and means to increase the industrial cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields.

During a meeting with Belarusian delegation, which was led by Minister for Industries Aliaksandr Yafimua, Rana Tanveer said Pakistan has considerable export potential with Belarus for items like inflatable footballs, articles of bedding and similar stuffed items, sports and outdoor games equipment, footwear, rubber, plastic and metal products, said a news release.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their

commitment to advancing the partnership between Pakistan and Belarus in multifaceted areas.

Highlighting the trade potential, Minister Yafimua shared that Belarus imports goods worth \$17.2 billion annually, noting that Pakistan's current share in this trade is not reflective of its true export potential.

He said that Pakistani products will be given space in the Belarusian market. He identified key products that Pakistan could export to Belarus, including inflatable footballs, bedding items, sports and outdoor equipment, footwear, and rubber, plastic, and metal goods. Rana Tanveer discussed cooperation in the field of agricultural machinery and tractor manufacturing plants, following which the delegation showed keen interest in the production

of agricultural machinery and establishing tractor plants besides technology transfer under Joint Ventures (JVs).

The minister extended invitation to the Belarusian counterpart to start a pilot project on agricultural productivity enhancement in Pakistan.

Similarly, he said M/s Millat Group dealing with agricultural machinery wanted a JV for manufacturing agricultural equipments in Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides also deliberated on the prospects of Belarusian investment and JVs in the area of electric vehicles (EVs).

Rana Tanveer said that around thirty-one companies have issued manufacturing licenses by the Engineering Development Board (EDB) enabling them to produce two/three-wheeler EVs in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Belarusian Minister Alexey Kushnarenko witness the signing of 8 MoUs/Agreements at the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum 2024.

### Finance Minister stresses Reforms in DAC to promote transparency, good governance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday visited the office of the Auditor-General of Pakistan (AGP) where he expressed his appreciation for the work being done by the DAGP, the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of Pakistan, stressing the importance of reforms in ensuring transparency and accountability in government finances.

The Finance Minister took keen interest in the professional work carried out by the Department of the Auditor-General of Pakistan and emphasized upon reforms in the paradigm of Department Accounts Committee, making the Principal Accounting Officers pay heed to the audit recommendations timely for promotion of transparency and good governance.

### PQG, ILMA university sign MoU to enhance talent pool in Islamic finance industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pak-Qatar Group (PQG), Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ILMA University, marking a significant step towards enhancing the talent pool in the Islamic finance industry.

The partnership aims to address Pakistan's capacity constraints in Islamic finance and Takaful by leveraging ILMA

University's pool of professionals with expertise in business and technology said a news release issued here on Monday. This collaboration will enable Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited to enhance its service quality by inducting skilled talent from ILMA University across relevant fields. Kamran Ali Khan, Head of Human Resources and Training at Pak-Qatar Group expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration.

### Gold prices dip Rs.4,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased further by Rs 4,300 and was sold at Rs 278,400 on Monday against its sale at Rs 182,700. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went down by Rs.3,657 to Rs.238,683 from Rs. 242,370 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold decreased to Rs 218,793 from Rs 222,172.

The price of per tola gold declined by Rs 50 to Rs 3,400 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs 42.87 to Rs 2,914.95.

### SNGPL disconnects 186 connections

LAHORE (APP): A crackdown against illegal gas usage continues as the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) disconnected 186 connections in various regions, including Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Islamabad. In addition to the disconnections, a fine of Rs 7 million was imposed on people.

### CM Punjab, ADB official discuss development projects

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with Country Director for Pakistan Resident Mission of Asian Development Bank, Dr. Emma Xiaojin Fan, to discuss ongoing development projects, strengthening of the economy, providing cooperation for improving basic infrastructure along with enhancing cooperation in agriculture, health, education, environmental cooperation and digital development.

Matters pertaining to the 'Jalapur Irrigation Project' and 'Clean Energy' came under discussion. Country Director Asian

Development Bank Dr. Emma Xiaojin Fan, appreciated steps being taken by the Punjab government for women empowerment and other public welfare initiatives.

The Chief Minister appreciated financial and technical support of Asian Development Bank in various projects of Punjab. She said, "ADB's is playing a pivotal role in prosperity of the people and restoration of the national economy."

She added, "The Punjab government is moving forward under a comprehensive plan to attain socio-economic development."



KARACHI: A stockbroker monitors share prices during a trading session at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's KSE-100 index gained 1,519.24 points, or 1.55%, to reach 99,317.47 points.

### Total amount deposited in Roshan Digital Accounts reaches near \$9 billion

KARACHI (APP): The number of Roshan Digital Accounts has reached 757,587 with an addition of over 11000 new accounts by the end of October 2024 while the total amount funded in the RDAs so far reached near \$9 billion.

According to the statistics issued by the State Bank of Pakistan, Non residents Pakistanis seeking to undertake banking, payment and investment activities in the country opened 757,587 Roshan Digital

Accounts till October 2024 and the accumulative amount received in the accounts totaled as \$ 8,953 million.

The total RDA deposits, on the current monthly growth rate, would easily cross the \$9 billion mark in November 2024. As many as, 11,336 new Roshan Digital Accounts were opened and \$ 204 million has been received in the month of October 24 by Non residents Pakistanis.

### Successful organization of IDEAS Expo termed important milestone for Pakistan's defence

KARACHI (INP): Javed Jilani, Senior Vice Chairman of Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) has termed the successful organization of Ideas Exhibition 2024 as an important milestone for Pakistan's defence, industrial and technological development.

He paid tribute to Army Chief General Asim Munir and his team and said that their leadership and vision made this big event possible.

He said that this exhibition has highlighted the strong and peaceful identity of Pakistan across the world, but it also showcased the independence and capabilities of the country's defence system at the global level. This exhibition made it clear that Pakistan is in the field of advanced defence technology and cre-

ativity.

He said that such events open up new avenues for trade and defence cooperation with Pakistan in the international community. At the exhibition, delegations from all over the world showcased the latest weapons, technologies, and equipment.

Javed Jilani said that such events have a positive impact on the economy of Pakistan and play an important role in promoting the country's industry. This increases the confidence of international buyers and they also prefer to participate in other trade and agricultural exhibitions in Pakistan.

The contacts between traders and international buyers increase which is beneficial in the economic development of the country.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Apollon D, Han Ren, OM Singapore, Amir Gas and Alba Gas scheduled to load/offload, Containers, Rice, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, and Oil Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile four more ships, America, Chemroad Wing, Hafnia Precision, and Hafnia Eagle carrying Containers, Chemicals and Gas oil also arrived at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim during the same period. Nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Aqua 1 and Singapore Bulker left the port on Monday morning and three more ships, Amir Gas, OM Singapore and Apollon-D are expected to sail on today afternoon.



## CM Punjab says: Govt committed to safeguarding women's rights

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the protection of women is a top priority for the Punjab government, which remains fully committed to safeguarding their rights and ensuring their well-being.

In her message on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women being celebrated on Monday, the CM said the honor of mothers, sisters and daughters is a part of our social traditions and religious values. "Women are my red line, violence or cruelty against them is absolutely not tolerable" she said.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif exchanging views with Dr. Emma Fan, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Pakistan during meeting held in Lahore.

## KU issues admission lists for academic session 2025

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi on Monday uploaded the admission lists for the academic session 2025 and informed the students to submit admission fees from December 09 to 17, 2024.

According to KU in-charge of the Directorate of Admissions Professor Dr Saima Akhtar, the admission lists for BS (Morning Program), Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm-D Morning and Evening), Doctor of Physical Therapy, BE, and

BE(d) (Hons) programs have been released.

She mentioned that students whose names appear on these lists can submit their admission fees from December 9 to 17, 2024, between 10 am and 3 pm.

Students should print the enrollment fee voucher and enrollment form from their online portal and get their documents verified at the admission committee counters to be set up in the gymnasium hall at the University of Karachi.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of Ulema Mashaikh led by Pir Nazim Hussain Shah at Governor House.

## Punjab Governor says: Islam teaches us lesson of peace and security

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the visit of the Belarus delegation to Pakistan for economic improvement and unfortunately the capital is once again under attack. He said that the call for protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf at this time is tantamount to anti-nationalism. Governor Punjab said that the PTI is demanded to avoid the politics of sit-ins and sit at the negotiating table, which is the country's improvement. He said that whenever there is improvement in the

country's economy and other sectors, PTI sometimes attacks the federation under the guise of sit-ins and sometimes protests. Punjab Governor said that Bushra Bibi has made a statement against the country that has supported Pakistan in every difficult time. He said that I ask Bushra Bibi not to attack the country's security for politics. Punjab Governor said that Saudi Arabia has always considered Pakistan its second home and Saudi Arabia's role in

rescheduling a loan of Rs 3 trillion is important.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan further said that the Ulema Mashaikh have always played a full role for the security of the country. He said that the religion of Islam teaches us the lesson of peace and security. Punjab Governor said that terrorism in the country is a big obstacle to peace and security.

He said that to eradicate terrorism from the country, we have to create unity and consensus in our ranks.

## Azma Bokhari says: Police officer martyred, 70 others injured by 'Tehreek-e-Fasad'

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari has condemned actions of "Tehreek-e-Fasad", accusing the group of martyring a police officer and severely injuring 70 other officers.

At a press conference at the DGPR, she said, "Bushra Bibi, this is not a jungle where you can act like a 'Sultana Daku' to free your husband." Azma Bokhari said that Bushra Bibi was inciting Pashtuns to attack the state, leading armed mobs, and adding a religious veneer to their aggression with chants of "Allah-ho- Akbar". She criticized her for posing as a guardian of Islamic values

while lacking even basic knowledge, such as properly reciting "Durood Sharif". Azma Bokhari asserted that the PTI and its armed factions were seeking casualties to advance their disruptive political agenda. "Life continues as normal across Punjab. Not even a bird has stirred here," she said and emphasized that commercial and social activities remain uninterrupted in the province.

Azma Bokhari condemned continued violence by "Tehreek-e-Fasad" on the second day of unrest, which included torching police vehicles and attacking officers.



KARACHI: Rescue operation is underway after boat overturned into deep waters, near Ibrahim Hyderi in Karachi.

## Nawabshah Pacer won first match in under 20 sports festival

HYDERABAD (APP): The Under-20 Sports Festival continued on the consecutive second day with outstanding competitions in various sports at Bilawal Sports Complex.

A cricket match between Nawab Shah Pacer and Skrand Striker was held at Bilawal Sports Complex, the Nawab Shah Pacer's team set a target of 198 runs for Skrand Striker's team however the Skrand Striker's team was all out for 67 runs and Nawab Shah Pacer won the first match, the winning team was awarded a trophy on this occasion.

Hockey competitions were held at Askari Hockey Stadium Nawabshah. In the first match, the GBHS Society team won the match by defeating Afzal Shah High School team by 6-0. In the second match, the Shah Waliullah School team defeated QUEST School by three goals to two. While in the third match, the Municipal High School team defeated DC High School by scoring 6 goals, DC High School team could score 2 goals.

## Five cops among seven injured in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): An attack on a police picket in Tank district left at least seven people including five policemen injured, police informed on Monday. The miscreants attacked Gul Imam police checkpoint with heavy arms, leaving seven people injured. The injured included five policemen and two drivers of the poultry-carrying vehicles.

The injured were shifted to Tank hospital from where two the injured were referred to Dera Ismail Khan in critical condition. Large police force reached the area soon after the incident and started a search operation to nab the involved.

## All set to launch "Suthra Punjab" Program on 3 Dec

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government is set to launch a new, standardized and sustainable solid waste management system under the "Maryam Nawaz ka Punjab, Sathra Punjab" programme. The event will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif scheduled to be held on December 3, 2024.

Preparations for the event were finalized in a meeting chaired by the Provincial Minister for Local Government,

## Four killed, two injured in Bahawalpur tanker accident

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Four persons including three children were killed and two others sustained injuries in a tanker accident that hit a house near Pull Sadiqabad area of Bahawalpur district, TV channels quoting police reported on Monday.

According to initial reports, a rashly-driven tanker hit a house located near Pull Sadiqabad area of Bahawalpur district. As a result, three children and a driver of the water tanker died on the spot. The two other persons were also injured in the same incident.

# International News

## Iran's Khamenei calls for death sentence for Israeli leaders

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: The supreme leader of Iran, which backs the Hamas and Hezbollah militants fighting Israel in Gaza and Lebanon, said on Monday that death sentences should be issued for Israeli leaders, not arrest warrants.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was commenting on a decision by the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants on Thursday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defence chief and a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri.

"They issued an arrest warrant, that's not enough... Death sentence must be issued for those criminal leaders", Khamenei said, referring to the Israeli leaders.

In their decision, the ICC judges said there were reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant were criminally responsible for acts including murder, persecution and starvation as a weapon of war as part of a "wide-spread and systematic attack against the civilian population of Gaza".

The decision was met with outrage in Israel, which called it shameful and absurd.

Gaza residents expressed hope it would help end the violence and bring those responsible for war crimes to justice.

Israel has rejected the jurisdiction of the Hague-based court and denies war crimes in Gaza.

The warrant for a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri, lists charges of mass killings during the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel that triggered the war on the long-blockaded Palestinian enclave, and also charges of rape and the taking of hostages.

Israel has said it killed Masri, also known as Mohammed Deif, in an airstrike in July but Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied this.



Civil defense members and people work at a damaged site in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Beirut's Basta neighbourhood, Lebanon.

## Iran to hold nuclear talks with three European powers

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran said that it would hold nuclear talks in the coming days with the three European countries that initiated a ceasefire resolution against it adopted by the UN's atomic watchdog.

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said the meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of Iran, France, Germany and the United Kingdom would take place on Friday.

"A range of regional and international issues and topics, including the issues of Palestine and Lebanon, as well as the nuclear issue, will be discussed," the

## Taiwan reports Chinese balloon, first time in six months

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry on Monday reported that a Chinese balloon had been detected over the sea to Taiwan's north, the first time since April it has reported such an incident in what Taipei views as part of a pattern of harassment by Beijing.

Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, complained that in the weeks leading up to its presidential election in January Chinese balloon activity took place at an "unprecedented scale".

It described the incidents as part of a Chinese pressure campaign - so-called grey-zone warfare designed to exhaust a foe using irregular tactics without open combat.

Taiwan strongly objects to China's sovereignty claims and says only the island's people can decide their future.

The ministry, in its regular morning update on Chinese military activities over the previous 24 hours, said the single balloon was detected at 6:21 p.m. (10:21 GMT) on Sunday 60 nautical miles (111 km) to the north of Taiwan's Keelung port. It then vanished some two hours later, having flown at an altitude of 33,000 ft (10,000 metres), but without crossing Taiwan itself.

## Russia will not intimidate us with cyberthreats, UK minister tells NATO

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUCHAREST: A hard-right critic of NATO who has praised Russia is set to face a centre-right opposition leader in a presidential election run-off in Romania that could undermine its pro-Western stance after a shock outcome in the first-round vote. Independent hard-right politician Calin Georgescu, 62, won 22.94% of votes in Sunday's voting, the electoral authority said. Centre-right contender Elena Lasconi, leader of the opposition Save Romania Union, lay second with 19.18%.

The outcome was a huge shock as pre-election opinion polls had made Social Democrat Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu the frontrunner. Ciolacu said he would resign as party leader following the result but would remain in the role of prime minister until a parliamentary election scheduled on Dec. 1.

The candidate of the centre-right Liberals, Ciolacu's coalition partners, also failed to secure a place in the election run-off, which will be on Dec. 8.

Campaigning focused largely on the soaring cost of living in Romania, which is a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance and has the EU's biggest share of people at risk of poverty.

"I have voted for the wronged, the humiliated, those who feel they do not matter in this world," Georgescu said on Sunday. "Today, the vote is a prayer for the nation."

## NATO and Ukraine to hold emergency talks after Russia's attack with new hypersonic missile

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: NATO and Ukraine will hold emergency talks Tuesday after Russia attacked a central city with an experimental, hypersonic ballistic missile that escalated the nearly 33-month-old war. The conflict is "entering a decisive phase," Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Friday, and "taking on very dramatic dimensions."

Ukraine's parliament canceled a session as security was tightened following Thursday's Russian strike on a military facility in the city of Dnipro. In a stark warning to the West, President Vladimir Putin said in a nationally televised speech that the attack with the intermediate-range Oreshnik missile was in retaliation for Kyiv's use of U.S. and British longer-range missiles capable of striking deeper into Russian territory. Putin said Western air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile.

Ukrainian military officials said the missile that hit Dnipro had reached a speed of Mach 11 and carried six nonnuclear warheads each releasing six submunitions.

Speaking Friday to military and weapons industries officials, Putin said Russia is launching production of the Oreshnik.

Testing the missile will continue, "including in combat, depending on the situation and the character of security threats created for Russia," Putin said, noting there is "a stockpile of such systems ready for use." Putin said that while it isn't an intercontinental missile, it's so powerful that the use of several of them fitted with conventional warheads in one attack could be as devastating as a strike with strategic — or nuclear — weapons.

Gen. Sergei Karakayev, head of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, said the Oreshnik could reach targets across Europe and be fitted with nuclear or conventional warheads, echoing Putin's claim that even with conventional warheads.

## Trump's mass deportation plan could end up hurting economic growth

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump's hardline immigration proposals — including a controversial mass deportation plan — could prove economically damaging, analysts say, with US sectors that rely heavily on foreign workers like agriculture and construction especially hard hit.

US authorities estimate that there are around 11 million unauthorised people living in the United States, the vast majority of whom come from Mexico.

Around 8.3m unauthorised people were in the labour force in 2022, according to a recent estimate from the Pew Research Center. That was equivalent to just under five per cent of the overall workforce.

"Today our cities are flooded with illegal aliens," Trump said on the campaign trail earlier this year, adding: "Americans are being squeezed out of the labour force and their jobs are taken."

The reality, however, is more complex; many of the sectors that could be the hardest-hit have long struggled to attract US workers.

"The construction and agriculture industries would lose at least one in eight workers, while in hospitality, about one in 14 workers would be deported due to their undocumented status," the non-profit American Immigration Council (AIC) said in a recent report on Trump's deportation plans.

## Maximum term demanded in French rapetrial for husband who drugged wife

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French prosecutors said on Monday they were seeking the maximum 20-year jail term for the man charged with enlisting dozens of strangers to rape his heavily-sedated wife, in a trial that has shaken France.

Dominique Pelicot has since September been in the dock in the southern city of Avignon with 49 other men for organising the rapes and sexual abuse of his now ex-wife Gisele Pelicot. One man is being tried in absentia.

The case has shocked a France still working through its version of the #MeToo movement, with a prosecutor telling the court that the trial needed to herald a fundamental change in relations between men and women.



## Sindh CM reviews city projects, seeks date-wise completion deadlines

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a review meeting of three important projects of the city - Karimabad Underpass, Korangi Causeway Bridge and Malir Expressway directed the local government department to submit him a date completion plan.

"Why is this ordinate delay being faced in completing the projects when the allocated funds have been released well in time?" he questioned the local government department. He directed them to submit to him date wise completion plan for the three projects.

The meeting was held at CM House on Monday and was attended by Minister Local Govt Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi Murtaga Wahab, PSCM Agha Wasif, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Projects PDs Niaz Soomro, Zulfiqar Abro, Member P&D Sikandar.

The Karimabad Underpass project has been

initiated by the Sindh government through KDA.

During the briefing, the CM was told that the underpass is a Rs3.8 billion project. The length of the underpass is 1080 meters of which 300 meters have been completed. Out of 212 precast Girders, 151 have been completed and overall the physical progress of the project is 35 per cent.

The chief minister directed the local government department to provide a proper and effective drainage system to the underpass so that rainwater may not accumulate in it.

To a question, CM Shah was told that a Roundabout in front of Meena Bazaar and Bazaar-e-Faisla was being developed to regulate the traffic movement. The chief minister directed Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani and Mayor Karachi to expedite the construction work, which was causing problems in the flow of traffic.

Briefing the CM about the construction of the Bridge at Korangi Cause-

way, it was disclosed that the project had been launched for Rs6.4 billion. The project is scheduled to be completed on 31 January 25, which may not be met. At this, the CM directed Minister Local Govt Saeed Ghani to personally monitor the progress of the bridge so that it could be completed in time. The CM was told that out of 400 Piles, 300 have been completed and out of 600 Girders 504 completed. The overall progress of the project is 30 per cent. The CM was told that the Malir Expressway was a 38.889 km project from Jam Sadiq to Kathore Bridge. The construction of the first segment from Jam Sadiq Bridge to Shah Faisal will be completed by December 25, 2024. At this, the CM directed the local government department to reconstruct the road from Shah Faisal to Airport.

"I want you to submit detailed date-wise completion dates of all three projects and then I won't tolerate any delay," he said categorically.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah reviews progress on key Karachi projects: Karimabad Underpass, Korangi Causeway Bridge and Malir Expressway, at CM House in Karachi.

## Pak-Belarus bilateral trade potential needs to be enhanced through trade diversification: Commerce Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Monday said the current trade volume between Pakistan and Belarus does not reflect the potential of the two countries' economic capability, and both countries need to diversify their trade with each other capitalizing on the potential of their strong sectors.

All economic sectors are open to foreign investment and priority sectors for foreign investment include energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, manu-

facturing, minerals, ICT, agriculture, and many more, the minister said.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan said this while addressing the 'Pakistan Belarus Business Forum' along with the Minister for Energy of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Aleksei Kushnarenko here and a large number of business leaders participated in the forum.

The minister said that eight B2B MoUs/Contracts will be signed during the Forum that reflects the complementarity of bilat-

eral trade and these will pave the way forward for more to happen.

He said that it is a great honour for me to co-chair the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum with Mr Aleksei Kushnarenko, Minister of Energy, the Republic of Belarus.

We also co-chaired the 7th Session of the Pakistan-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission held on 25-26 September 2024 in Islamabad. And I feel happy to share that the majority of the decisions we took in the JMC are materializing.

## PM orders to identify, bring to justice those involved in policeman's martyrdom

Shehbaz Sharif extended his condolences to the family of Constable Mubashir Shaheed, prayed for officer's soul

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned the killing of a policeman by those elements who came to protest.

The prime minister expressed his condolence to the bereaved family of constable Mubashir Shaheed and prayed for his high ranks, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister directed for immediate identification of those involved in the incident and bringing them to justice.

He also directed to provide the best medical facilities to the police personnel injured as a result of stone pelting and violence stoked by the protesters.

The attack on police personnel in the name of so-called peaceful protest was condemnable, the prime minister said, adding

the police personnel and law enforcement personnel were on their duty to maintain law and order.

He said the perpetrators involved in May 09 riots were once again resorting to violent acts and they had destroyed the life of 46-year-old shaheed constable Mubashir and his family.

The entire nation, including him, paid tribute to constable Mubashir Shaheed, he added. The prime minister said that whenever the country moved on path of progress, these miscreants resorted to acts of burning and laying siege throughout the country. He further said that constable Mubashir was martyred by a clique that was an enemy of the country's development, adding the act of so-called peaceful protesters by injuring and murdering policemen was condemnable.



HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner, Zain-ul-Abidin Memon talks with media persons after anti encroachment operation against private school, nearby Radio Pakistan Building in Hyderabad.

## DC chairs meeting of District Reform Oversight Committee

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shaheed Benazirabad Shahryar Gul Memon chaired a meeting of the District Reform Oversight Committee of the Education Department at the DC Office on Monday.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said that the schools in the district where there are excess course books should be returned so that they can be given to other schools where they are needed. He said that the headmasters of all schools should give a certificate that they do not have excess books.

The DC said that recitation and singing of the national anthem in the assembly should be ensured at all schools, especially primary schools. He said that awareness should be raised among the children of primary schools to highlight the importance of cleanliness so that children are aware of maintaining cleanliness in schools and streets.

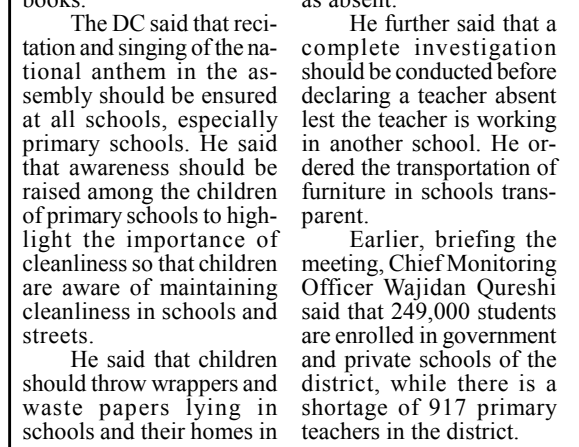
He said that children should throw wrappers and waste papers lying in schools and their homes in

the dustbin. He added that an admission campaign shall be launched in the areas where there are more out-of-school children. Representatives of the District Council and Municipalities should be invited to the meeting, he directed.

The DC expressed his concern by describing the data of teachers' attendance and absence provided by the Chief Monitoring Officer as incomplete and said that teachers who have retired or died are still present in the data of the monitoring officers and are being shown as absent.

He further said that a complete investigation should be conducted before declaring a teacher absent lest the teacher is working in another school. He ordered the transportation of furniture in schools transparent.

Earlier, briefing the meeting, Chief Monitoring Officer Wajidan Qureshi said that 249,000 students are enrolled in government and private schools of the district, while there is a shortage of 917 primary teachers in the district.



SUKKUR (INP): A gang of bandits attacked a police check post in katcha area of Gidpur near Panu Aqil leaving a policeman dead and another injured.

Police officials said that a police contingent has been in hot pursuit of bandits' gang, who fled from the scene after attack on police post.

The dead body of deceased policeman shifted to Panu Aqil Taluka hospital for postmortem and injured policeman has been transferred to the health facility for medical attention.

Sindh's home minister Zia Laraj while taking notice of bandits' attack on policemen in Sukkur's katcha area has summoned details of the incident from SSP Sukkur.

The minister has also directed the police official to visit home of the martyred policeman for condolence. He also directed the SSP Sukkur to ensure proper medical treatment of the injured policeman.

He also urged for further boosting the operation against bandits and conducting raids over the hide-outs of dacoits to get rid of them.

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She mentioned that students whose names appear on these lists can submit their admission fees from December 9 to 17, 2024, between 10 am and 3 pm.

Students should print the enrollment fee voucher and enrollment form from their online portal and get their documents verified at the admission committee

counters to be set up in the gymnasium hall at the University of Karachi.

She said that the admission fees can only be submitted in cash at the Bank Alfalah Islamic center located in the KU Gym and no other banks are authorized to collect the admission fees.

Additionally, Professor Dr Saima mentioned that students unsatisfied with the admission lists can submit their claim forms through their online portal from November 27 to 29, 2024.

She added that students are advised to submit claim forms only if they meet the closing percentage, test score, and departmental eligibility criteria issued by the University of Karachi. For more information, students can visit [www.uokadmission.edu.pk](http://www.uokadmission.edu.pk) where all relevant details are available.



Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami addressing the course members of National Security & War Course (NSWC) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

## 4000 habitual offenders to be monitored via electronic tagging in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, was informed in a meeting that in the initial phase of implementing the Sindh Habitual Offenders Monitoring Act 2022, four thousand habitual criminals will be monitored through electronic tagging devices.

During the meeting at the Central Police Office (CPO) in Karachi, the IGP was briefed that the identification and monitoring of habitual offenders will be determined by the court. Additionally, the advertisement for the procurement of e-tagging devices was released on November 11.

Participants were informed that the monitoring process will initially

start at the police station level and later be expanded to divisions, zones, and CPOs.

Addressing the meeting, IGP Sindh emphasized that the legal definition of a habitual offender is clear in the constitution and laws. He stressed the importance of all SSPs, SPs Investigations, and relevant investigating officers ensuring that data on habitual criminals is accurately compiled, while closely monitoring those in custody. He directed that proper identification of habitual offenders should be established, and their records should be systematically maintained.

He also highlighted the need for ensuring the registration of the accused's identity cards

and centralizing this system. Furthermore, comprehensive efforts must be made to raise awareness and provide training at the grassroots level for the installation, use, and monitoring of the devices.

IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon instructed that a training and awareness program be organized for police officers and officials regarding the use of the monitoring devices.

He expressed optimism that monitoring habitual criminals would help alleviate the pressure on prisons.

The meeting was attended by DIGPs of Crime and Investigation Branch, CIA, Training, Headquarters, IT, and other senior police officials.

## PPP Sindh Information Secretary Hosts Luncheon for British Deputy High Commissioner

HYDERABAD (APP): A luncheon was hosted in honour of British Deputy High Commissioner at Karachi, Sarah Mooney at the Hyderabad Gymkhana by PPP Sindh Information Secretary, Aajiz Dhamrah.

According to a press release issued on Monday, Aajiz Dhamrah briefed the Deputy High Commissioner on the vision of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and highlighted the party's commitment to eradicate poverty and work for human welfare.

He stated that all PPP representatives were dedicated to fulfilling these objectives. British Deputy High Commissioner Sarah Mooney appreciated Dhamrah's efforts and assured her support for continued cooperation.

The event was also attended by the leader of PPP ladies wing and MPA Hina Dastgir, PPP Hyderabad District General Secretary Waseem Rajput, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh Abdul Jabbar Khan, Acting Mayor Sagheer Ahmed Qureshi, Tariq Bajari, Fida Hussain Dhakan and Daniyal Abro.

Later, Aajiz Dhamrah and Hina Dastgir presented traditional Sindhi gifts, including an English translation of the poetry of renowned Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai to the Deputy High Commissioner, who expressed her delight at the gesture.

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## Nation has rejected politics of 'chaos and anarchy': Tarar

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday called out the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for pursuing the politics of "chaos and anarchy", citing its violent conspiracy of May 9 arson.

Talking to the media at the Nur Khan Airbase, the minister said the people of Pakistan wanted the politics of progress and welfare which is manifested by the people-friendly initiatives of the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## Gilani reaches Saudi Arabia on five-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, leading a delegation on Monday reached Saudi Arabia on a five-day official visit.

According to a news release, upon arrival, the delegation was warmly received by the Speaker of the Shura Council Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Al-Sheikh.

"Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share historic and brotherly relations," said the Chairman of the Senate.

He expressed pride in the enduring friendship between the two nations, adding, "The bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will continue to grow stronger with time."

## DG Sindh Food Authority emphasizes media collaboration for food safety

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Police arrested more than 1200 suspects involved in various crimes across the city last week.

According to a police spokesperson on Monday, 19 encounters took place between police and criminals, resulting in the death of one robber.

Additionally, 25 suspects, including 20 injured robbers, were arrested. Police also seized 22 illegal weapons and 14 motorcycles from those apprehended.

The arrests were made in Karachi's East, West, and South Zones, with a total of 1,267 individuals taken into custody.

In an ongoing anti-drug operation, police recovered 84,384 kg of hashish and 1,514 grams of ice and heroin.

Independent Report

KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority (SFA), Muzamil Hussain Halepoto, visited the Karachi Press Club (KPC) and held a meeting with its President, Saeed Sarbazi, Secretary, Shoaib Ahmed, and members of the Governing Body. The visit aimed to strengthen collaboration between SFA and the media for creating public awareness about food safety and ensuring accountability in the food sector. During the meeting, DG SFA highlighted the Authority's proactive measures against food adulteration and unhygienic practices. He elaborated on the decisive actions taken against loose oil sales, milk adulteration, and expired food products. He assured that SFA is unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding public health.

Muzamil Hussain Halepoto emphasized that SFA's operations span across all districts of Sindh, with a strong focus on inclusivity and empowerment. He shared that women play a pivotal role in the Authority, leading SFA teams in seven districts of the province. He further informed the press about SFA's advancements in food testing infrastructure. "We currently have three functional laboratories in Karachi, Jamshoro, and Sukkur, and three additional labs will become operational in the coming days," he stated. The DG also announced SFA's plans to enhance scientific research and policy-making by forming specialized panels. A Scientific Panel on Loose Oil has already been notified, and its first meeting resulted in a recommendation to ban the sale of loose oil due to health concerns.



HYDERABAD: Anti encroachment operation in progress removed illegal encroachment during anti encroachment drive under the supervision of Municipal Department, at Miran Mohammed Shah Road in Hyderabad.



KARACHI: Jamate-Islami (JI) Women Wing Secretary General, Dr. Humaira Tariq addresses to media persons during press conference on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, at Karachi press club.

## DPEC meeting held to strategize upcoming polio campaign in Matiari

HYDERABAD (APP): The District Polio Eradication Committee (DPEC) convened a meeting to discuss strategies for the upcoming polio campaign, scheduled from December 16 to 22, 2024.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Yousif Shaikh and attended by SSP Faisal Bashir Memon, District Health Officer (DHO) Pir Ghulam Hussain and other officials from across the district.

According to a handout issued on Monday, the meeting aimed to devise an effective strategy for the upcoming polio campaign and the mid-campaign review.

Officials from the health, police, education, social welfare and other

departments participated in the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner instructed all departments to collaborate closely and raise awareness among the public to ensure the campaign's success.

SSP Faisal Bashir Memon assured stringent security measures during the campaign, while DHO Pir Ghulam Hussain highlighted the readiness of healthcare staff and the availability of vaccines.

The meeting featured a detailed discussion on measures to eradicate polio and protect children from the disease. Officials pledged full cooperation to resolve any challenges during the campaign, demonstrating their commitment to achieve a polio-free district.

## IGHDS organizes day for end violence against women

SUKKUR (APP): The Inter Global Human Development Society (IGHDS) marked international day for end violence against women at local hotel on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Coordination Officer IGHDS Nosheen said that trends in trafficking are gradually changing, adding that women and children are used by the traffickers for smuggling of goods or drugs across the border. While recommendation to end violence against women, she stated including formulation of a national policy.