

Sustainability Investment Expo 2024: Private sector drives green change for sustainable Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the second edition of the Sustainability Investment Expo (SIE 2024) is underway here at Pak-China Friendship Centre, the event features a variety of eco-friendly initiatives from the private sector aimed at creating a greener Pakistan.

With the theme "Pioneering Solutions for Climate Resilience," the expo was inaugurated by Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman.

"SIE is not just an expo, but a knowledge base," said Sherry Rehman. "This event is a vital platform for raising awareness and driving change. It is essential to empower the private sector, whose innovation and commitment will be key to addressing the climate challenges we face."

The event featured a variety of stalls from the local and international companies, along with startups and small businesses committed to sustainable technologies, renewable energy solutions, and environmentally friendly practices.

One of the key highlights was the participation of green tech startups, which showcased cutting-edge products like biodegradable packaging and en-

ergy-efficient appliances. "We believe that the private sector holds the key to a sustainable future," said Hafsa Syed, a representative of ECO Gen, focusing on eco-friendly projects.

"We have started a number of initiatives like EcoGen: recycling waste into fertilizer, and Evenger is a unique platform aimed at teaching children sustainable habits," Syed said.

Sustainability was also at the forefront for companies like Roshan Packages Limited (RPL), which has been a pioneer in reducing paper waste. Waseem Mufti, Marketing Manager at RPL, stated, "We're committed to sustainability from day one, reusing and recycling paper products for packaging. Events like this give us the opportunity to connect with like-minded investors who support our vision for a greener future."

A Forest Officer from Ministry of Climate Change, Muhammad Hashim at expo said, "We are displaying various initiatives of the government under the 'Green Pakistan Programme' at our stall. We are implementing a range of initiatives to increase biodiversity and promote conservation. These interventions include tree plantations and strate-

gies for protecting various ecosystems."

The expo highlighting the crucial role of private enterprises in achieving Pakistan's sustainability goals. Companies like Hutchison Ports Pakistan are also leading by example. Naveed Qureshi, Assistant General Manager (AGM) at Hutchison Ports, talking to APP said, "Our electric and hybrid cranes are part of our broader effort to reduce emissions, and we are set to introduce e-trucks in Pakistan as well."

"We are committed to the UN SDGs, delivering on our promise for a resilient and thriving Pakistan by planting 1 million mangroves in partnership with WWF by 2030," he said.

Addressing the alarming issue of plastic waste, 'Green Plastic Private Limited' has developed an innovative solution by manufacturing plastic bags from potato peels. Maria Qayyum, the company's Chief Operational Officer, explained, "By using organic materials like potato peels, we are reducing single-use plastic pollution and organic waste at the same time. We currently produce 20 bags a day manually, and our aim is to scale this up to make a larger environmental impact."



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director PTDC Aftab Ur Rehman posing for a group photograph along with participants during an International conference on the Tourism Potential of Pakistan, at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.

Kashmiris on both sides of LoC observe Jammu Martyrs Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and around the world observed Jammu Martyrs' Day on Wednesday in memory of the tens of thousands of Muslims who were brutally massacred in Jammu on November 6, 1947.

The day observed every year served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the martyrs and reinforced the Kashmiri people's commitment to their struggle for self-determination.

In early November 1947, hundreds of thousands of Muslims were killed by Dogra forces, the Indian Army, and Hindu extremists while attempting to migrate to Pakistan. This massacre, considered one of the first major cases of ethnic cleansing after World War II, aimed to alter the demographics of Jammu and Kashmir by eliminating the Muslim population in the Jammu region.

In Pakistan as well as Azad Jammu and Kashmir, a series of events including anti-India demonstrations, seminars, and special prayer meetings have been organized to pay homage to the Jammu martyrs. The day began with prayers in mosques across AJK, seeking the early liberation of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and for the prosperity

of Pakistan and AJK. Quran Khawani sessions and gatherings are being held by social, political, and religious organizations to honor the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people.

Kashmiri activists and leaders describe the Jammu massacre as a dark chapter in human history and a glaring example of Hindutva-inspired violence aimed at Kashmiris. They argue that the tragic events of 1947 continue to resonate, as atrocities in IIOJK persist under the current BJP-led government in India. Activists contend that Hindutva forces seek to replicate the demographic changes attempted in Jammu by suppressing the Kashmiri Muslim population through systematic genocide and policies designed to dilute their political and cultural identity.

Civil society organizations have been urging the international community to intervene and hold the Indian government accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Many believe that the ongoing violence and denial of self-determination are rooted in the unresolved issue of Jammu and Kashmir's status.

any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for my citizens, IG said.

IG Rizvi further directed the officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office. IG directed all SDPOs and SHOs to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues.

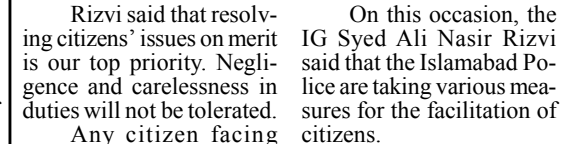
IG Rizvi says: Redressal of public grievances top priority

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery (open court) at the Central Police Office (CPO) on Wednesday.

An official told APP that, during the khuli katchery, he listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives to senior police officers on the spot for timely resolution of their concerns.

On this occasion, the IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens.

Any citizen facing



ISLAMABAD: A group of people, including police officers, in a meeting or discussion.

Judge Humayun Dilawar case: AD Anti Corruption circle KP sent to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has sent Umar Siddique Assistant Director (AD) Anti Corruption Circle KP to jail on judicial remand in Judge Humayun Dilawar case.

Case related to social media campaign against judge Humayun Dilawar came up for hearing in district and sessions court Wednesday.

The accused AD Anti Corruption Circle Umar Siddique was presented in the court on completion of 4 days physical remand.

Umar Siddique requested for suspension of remand.

The police expelled out all the employees of Anti Corruption KP department from kutchery.

Malik Akhtar Awan advocate argued that all the employees have come along with me with record. They have been expelled out by DSP Security from kutchery. Will justice be like this. Government employees have not come here to fight with any one. Decision is not being given on the application for suspension of remand since two days.

FIA requested for sending accused Umar Siddique to jail on judicial remand.



ISLAMABAD: A school van overloaded, posing a high risk to the lives of students and violating traffic laws in the Alipur area of the Federal Capital.

Int'l Day for 'Preventing exploitation of Enforcement in War & Armed Conflict' observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Like other parts of the world the country celebrated the International Day for Preventing the exploitation of the Enforcement in War and Armed Conflict on November 6.

Though humanity has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage.

Furthermore, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has found that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, whether high-value resources such as timber, diamonds, gold and oil, or

scarcely resources such as fertile land and water. Conflicts involving natural resources have also been found to be twice as likely to relapse. The United Nations attaches great importance to ensuring that action on the environment is part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace building strategies, because there can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed. On 5 November 2001, the UN General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (A/RES/56/4). On 27 May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.15, which recognized the role of healthy ecosystems and sustainably managed resources.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam presenting a souvenir to Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, during his visit to her office.

IWMB empowers frontline rangers with digital skills for enhanced conservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Research and Planning section of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) on Wednesday conducted an empowering training session aimed at equipping frontline rangers with digital skills. This initiative enables rangers to report real-time field observations directly to the Conservation Manager, a step designed to streamline conservation efforts in Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

The training session introduced the rangers to digital tools that facilitate efficient reporting on wildlife sightings, habitat changes, and any threats to biodiversity within

MHNP.

With new digital capabilities, the rangers can now log and share critical information instantaneously, reducing response times and enabling IWMB to act swiftly on issues such as poaching, forest fires, and illegal encroachments.

"This training is a game-changer for our team. It empowers our rangers to collect and share data faster, ensuring that we can respond to issues as they arise," said IWMB spokesperson Umar Bilal.

Talking to APP, he said the rangers also learned best practices for utilizing these tools while maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of their observations.

Muqam says; Sacrifices of Kashmiris will not go in vain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Wednesday expressed the resolve that the sacrifices and blood of Kashmiris, particularly Martyrs of Jammu, will not go in vain.

In his message on Jammu Martyrs' Day, being observed Wednesday, he paid homage to the martyrs saying that the Kashmiris have rendered matchless sacrifices for Pakistan.

Amir Muqam said the Indian army in their nexus with Dogra Army and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh martyred three hundred thousand Kashmiris.



ISLAMABAD: A women sanitary worker provide biometric verification for attendance at sector G-7, in the Federal Capital. Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to extend biometric attendance system outside for sanitary workers.

CDA, FIA collaborate to tackle human trafficking

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move to combat human trafficking in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, met with Director Anti-Human Smuggling Wing Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Saqib Sultan Mehmood, to strategize efforts against Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

This high-level meeting, attended by officials from ICT departments, aimed at establishing clear targets and action plans to address the pressing issue.

A primary focus of the discussion centered on findings from the 2024 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report released by the U.S. Department of State.

During the briefing, the FIA Director highlighted the urgency of decisive action to prevent Pakistan from being placed on the TIP Watch List.

He stressed that proactive measures are essential to uphold Pakistan's reputation and international standing on human rights issues.

Commissioner Randhawa emphasized the commitment of Islamabad's authorities to tackle all forms of human trafficking, including forced begging and bonded labour.

He issued directives for the immediate convening of the District Vigilance Committee for ICT, tasked with implementing key recommendations from the TIP report.

NA speaker pays tribute to Jammu martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Wednesday paid homage to the martyrs of Jammu, observing November 6, 1947, as a solemn reminder of the "dark day" in history.

In his message, Ayaz Sadiq commemorated the sacrifice of over 200,000 unarmoured Kashmiris, who were tragically killed by the forces of Maharaja Hari Singh while migrating to Pakistan.

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and around the world are observing Jammu Martyrs' Day today to reaffirm their commitment to the martyrs' mission for self-determination.



ISLAMABAD: A group of people, including a man in a white shirt, standing together.

Suleiman, key suspect in recent bank robberies, killed in police custody

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police came under gunfire on Wednesday while transporting key suspect, Suleiman, for the recovery of stolen items related to recent bank robberies.

A police spokesperson told APP that, the attack occurred near Golarhar Mor when three armed assailants, riding a motorcycle, opened fire on the police team as they were on route to recover stolen items.

He said, that the police officers, wearing bullet-proof vests, were unharmed in the attack. However,

Suleiman, also known as Salo Bhai, who was in police custody, sustained severe gunshot wounds and was rushed to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), where he later succumbed to his injuries.

He said that, Suleiman had been arrested earlier in connection with a series of bank robberies and was being transported for the recovery of stolen valuables. After the shooting, police teams launched an operation to apprehend the gunman responsible for the attack," a police spokesperson said,

PTF hosts annual event to foster educational excellence

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Teachers Forum (PTF) is set to host its prestigious annual event on Friday on strengthening educational standards and supporting teachers nationwide.

According to the details, the event will be held on Friday, 8th November 2024, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in Islamabad.

This year's gathering will bring together esteemed figures in Pakistan's education and public service sectors, including prominent policymakers and international representatives.

True success lies in serving others: Sohail

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Jamia Masjid Riaz-ul-Jannah and Islamic Complex, and renowned philanthropist Dr. Sohail Majid Sheikh, said Wednesday that service to humanity and uplifting the less fortunate remain his foremost goals.

In an exclusive interview with APP, he shared that his dedication to helping others is rooted in his deep love for religion and respect for saints.

"As a community, we must support each other; humanity teaches us to care for those in need," he said.

He said that for the past 12 years, he has provided free medical care to pilgrims in Iran and Iraq, assisting people from over 20 countries.

Additionally, since 2008, he has taken on the

task of providing free education to orphans, underprivileged children, and children of martyrs at a college in Rawat.

"With the support of the Nisar Fatima Amin Foundation (NFA), we offer full educational support, including books, uniforms, school bags and meals," he added.

He further said that these efforts ensure students receive quality education without financial burden.

Dr. Sohail urged youth to carry forward the spirit of service, reminding them that true success lies in supporting one another.

"Helping others is the real message of humanity," he said, encouraging young people to work with pure intentions and embrace compassion.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers busy planting large trees at greenbelt along the 6th Avenue Underpass, Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.

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. He said that the judicial murder of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was recognized after many years. The history has been corrected, but we have lost a great leader. Governor Punjab said that Bilawal Bhutto has the abilities of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He said that there is a deadlock in the agreements with the government, adding that decisions in this regard will be made upon the return of the leadership from abroad. Governor Punjab said that the mandate of the PPP has always been stolen. He said that the PPP has never shaken hands from under the table. Governor Punjab said that the PPP has taken a bitter sip for the country. He said that the workers of the PPP are the asset of the party, the doors of the Governor House are always open for the youth. Governor Punjab added that the PPP welcomes the newly elected President of the United States.



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.

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, book demand, student and 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," said Tarakai. "Additionally, the launch of the Education Card will ensure that students benefit from provincial educational incentives, including scholarships."

The minister also commended the Merged Areas Education Foundation for its remarkable achievements under the leadership of Managing Director Mahmood Ameen Allah, acknowledging the foundation's role in expanding educational access and launching innovative programs. He revealed that several new initiatives aimed at increasing literacy rates and improving education in the merged areas are in the pipeline and will be rolled out soon with the MAEF's support.



LAHORE: Senior Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb announces important issues regarding heavy smog in Lahore during a Press conference.

Punjab schools closed till November 17 amid smog crisis

LAHORE (INP): To combat the ongoing health concerns, the Punjab government has ordered the closure of all schools (primary to 12th grade) until November 17.

According to senior Punjab minister, high schools in Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Multan have been closed until November 17. Additionally, 50% of staff in government and private offices will work remotely, and all official meetings will be held online. Due to increasing smog levels in Punjab, half of the staff at both government and private offices will work from home, while several schools have been closed in affected cities.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb further said that schools will arrange online classes for students during this period. Addressing a press conference, Maryam Aurangzeb noted that the burning of crop residue is contributing significantly to the smog. While there is a ban on plastic bags, violations continue to occur. She mentioned that despite schools being closed for primary-level students, parents are taking children to shopping malls and entertainment areas. She also announced that the use of masks would now be mandatory. Maryam Aurangzeb explained that winds from India's Rajasthan and other regions have affected Multan and Gujranwala. The Air Quality Index in Lahore was recorded above 1,000 today, and the intensity of the smog is expected to continue for the next 10 days. The senior minister also confirmed that 50% of staff in government and private offices would work from home.



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

Maryam introduces special historic reward package for wheat farmers

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has introduced a special historic reward package for the wheat farmers, under which 1,000 tractors worth billions of rupees would be given for cultivating wheat on 25 acres and more area while on 12.5 to 25 acres of wheat cultivation 1,000 laser land leveler would be provided to farmers through a transparent balloting. Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani shared this information while presiding over the wheat cultivation meeting at the Commissioner's Office, Lahore. While giving a briefing, the minister was told that this year, the target of wheat cultivation in Lahore division has been set at 133,000 acres and to achieving it all resources and means are being used. Facilitation is being provided to the farmers as per wheat action plan. Special teams are monitoring with the support of district administration for supply of quality fertilizers, seeds and pesticides in the market. Mega farmer gathering and exhibition plots are being prepared to guide the farmers. Regular meetings of divisional and district committees are being held. Apart from this, linkages with Agriculture and Irrigation Department have been further improved to ensure water supply for wheat crop. An effective awareness campaign through print, electronic and social media is also ongoing. The provincial minister for Agriculture said that this year, the support of wheat cultivation in Punjab province has been set at 1 crore and 65 acres, the achievement of which is indispensable for the country's food security.

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, Huzaifa 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.

ANF seizes over 20 kg drugs in three operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting three operations recovered over 20 kg drugs worth Rs 1.8 million and arrested two accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation, 1.2 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near a university on Lalazar Road in Rawalpindi. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In another operation, 11.155 kg hashish was recovered from Kohat and 7.200 kg hashish and 1 kg ice were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near East Bypass in Karachi.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for health Khawaja Salman Rafique offering Dua after provision of latest equipments for eyes related diseases.

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. "Opening all border crossings with Afghanistan will not only improve trade but also enhance economic activity in the region, benefiting Central Asia."

Governor Kundi also expressed concerns about the challenges faced by the merged tribal districts, which have been significantly affected by years of conflict. He said that while these areas were integrated into the province, they have yet to receive their due rights and benefits. "The tribal areas were merged into the province, but they have not been given their rightful share," Kundi said. "For years, we have extended hospitality to our Afghan brothers, and now we must make visa processes easier and establish joint markets with Afghanistan and Iran."

Kundi also addressed several key issues affecting the province, including energy, natural resources, and the importance of resolving conflicts.



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

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): 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. In his statement, Governor Kundi said that the attack was a deliberate attempt to destabilize the peaceful relationship between Pakistan and China. He added that the people of Pakistan were deeply saddened by the tragic killings and shared the grief of the Chinese community. "The Pakistani public stands in solidarity with China and condemns this heinous act."

Two killed as pickup hits motorcycle in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): Two people riding a motorcycle were killed when a pickup van hit their two-wheeler in Tank district on Wednesday. Police said the incident occurred in Khargi area of FR Tank where two friends riding a motorbike were killed when hit by a pickup van. Police shifted bodies of both the youth to Jandola Hospital for identification and medico legal procedure.

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. Provincial cabinet members Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Muzammil Aslam, members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, government officials, heads of provincial universities, faculty members, religious scholars and a large number of students attended the seminar. Addressing the seminar, the chief minister emphasized the provincial government's zero-tolerance policy against drugs abuse, stating that "relevant departments and institutions have been directed to intensify actions against those involved in drug trafficking". He urged the concerned departments to target the "big fish" and make them an example, regardless of their influence. He added that drug trafficking is a heinous crime deserving the strictest punishment.



KHANEWAL: Renowned religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jameel conducts a joint prayer for the late Khizar Hayyat Hiraj as Chairman Senate/Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani meets MNA Raza Hayyat Hiraj to condole the death of his father.

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. Speaking at the meeting, Advisor on Finance Muzammil Aslam said that Ehsas Loan Scheme will create new business opportunities while making the people employed and poverty eradication will be possible in the province. He said the Akhuwat Organization was supporting the provision of the Ehsas loan scheme to the public.

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.



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

Pak-Uzbekistan bilateral trade volume stand at \$400 mln in last FY 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is \$400 million in last FY 2023, which is less than its potential in different sectors of economy. Recently, Federal Commerce Minister, Jam Kamal Khan has visited Uzbekistan and addressed the 'Uzbek-Pakistani Business Forum' and 9th Intergovernmental Economic Cooperation meeting on Economic Cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan to promote mutual economic and trade relations between the two countries. These forums served as a dynamic platform for strengthening bilateral economic partnerships and facilitating business-to-business (B2B) interactions. The forums witnessed

participation, with 25 Pakistani companies from diverse sectors engaging in discussions with over 100 representatives from leading Uzbek enterprises. These B2B meetings spanned a variety of industries, including textiles, food processing, engineering, and logistics, underscoring the shared commitment of both nations to explore collaborative business opportunities. During the Business Forum, nearly 100 B2B meetings took place, allowing companies from both sides to explore new ventures, discuss potential partnerships, and establish meaningful trade connections. The sessions aimed to promote investment and mutual growth by leveraging the economic strengths of both countries.

Pakistan's first Sider honey shipment heads to Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's First Sider honey shipment heads to Malaysia, according to the Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan's vision leads towards this export milestone. Demonstrating the effectiveness of strategic leadership in enhancing Pakistan's export portfolio, Jam Kamal Khan has overseen a significant breakthrough with the export of the first consignment of Sider honey from Tarnab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to Malaysia, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. The achievement of this milestone is a direct result of the minister's relentless focus on promoting Pakistani agricultural products in the global market. Minister Jam Kamal Khan's vision has been the driving force behind initiatives that have positioned Pakistan as a serious contender on the international stage. The Minister's proactive policies culminated in the success of FoodAg 2024, an event that showcased Pakistan's agricultural capabilities. The Trade Mission at the High Commission of Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur, operating under the minister's directive, played a critical role in facilitating connections between Malaysian companies and Pakistani producers. This effort was notably evident during the Second International Agriculture and Food Exhibition.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Naya Pul are block road and burn tires as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and high inflated electricity bills, at Naya Pul road in Hyderabad.

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. 32.827 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.

Tareen mill to purchase sugarcane at Rs 400 maund price

MULTAN (APP): Business tycoon Jahangir Khan Tareen has announced that his sugar mills will purchase sugarcane at the rate of Rs 400 per maund. According to a press release issued here on Wednesday, he said: "A prosperous farmer means a prosperous nation." He pledged that his sugar mills would ensure prompt payments to growers. Pakistan Kissan Ittehad Chairman Khalid Mahmood Khokhar expressed gratitude to Tareen, acknowledging the rate as favourable compared to offers from other mill owners.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addresses the 8th Edition of The Future Summit, discussing Pakistan's economic prospects and future financial strategies.

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.

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.

Delegation of KfW Bank visits NTDC headquarters

LAHORE (APP): A mission from KfW Development Bank Germany visited the NTDC (National Transmission and Dispatch Company) Headquarters and 220kV GIS NTDC Ghazi Road Substation 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 here 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.



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

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. Leader of the delegation, Ranjeet Singh Kahloon, praised the Pakistani government's recognition of the potential, highlighting its investment in infrastructure and facilities to make religious tourism more accessible to foreign Sikh communities. Initiatives include improved transport links, accommodations, and the preservation of historical gurdwaras. This commitment to religious tourism not only strengthens Pakistan.

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 and evidence-based policymaking. She said the rapid advancement in Pakistan's IT sector underscores its critical role in securing the nation's economic future. She said Ministry of IT is committed to fostering innovation, digital transformation and economic growth.



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.

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

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: The UAE Consul General Bakhit 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. Al-Rumaiti also highlighted that food security is a top priority in the region, adding that many Pakistanis in Dubai often prefer Pakistani mangoes as gifts for their families. He further explained that while the UAE has shifted its focus to economic growth rather than political issues.



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.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, MSC Raina, Maersk Detroit, Karam-14, Maya Gas-1, Olympic Sea and Ellire, scheduled to load/offload Container, Cement, LPG, Fuel oil and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal, FOTCO Oil Terminal and Multi-Purpose Terminal 3 & 4 respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile three more ships, Marathopolis, Khairpur and EVA Pearl are carrying Container, Mogs and Chemicals are also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours. Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them edible oil carrier 'Asia Liberty' left the port on today morning, while five more ships, MSC Raina, Maersk Detroit, Maya Gas-1, Morning and African Finfoot are expected to sail on today after noon. Cargo volume of 212,525 tonnes, comprising 135,067 tonnes imports cargo and 77,458 tonnes export cargo carried in 7,380 Containers (5,050 TEUs Imports & 2,330 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Meezan Bank inks agreement to join ITFC to support private sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's leading Islamic bank has signed a new strategic partnership with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, under the ITFC Letter of Credit (LC) Confirmation product. This product facilitates trade flow by allowing exporters and issuing banks to gain assurance from ITFC to secure payment and thus eliminate credit risks, said a news release. It will support private sector clients, including SMEs, by working with local banks in Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries to facilitate various import transactions. The agreement was signed by Nazeem Noordali, Chief Operating Officer of ITFC, and Syed Amir Ali, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Meezan Bank, in the presence of executives from both sides. Meezan Bank is the first bank in

Pakistan to partner with ITFC for the LC Confirmation facility. This Islamic trade facility will enable Meezan Bank to extend geographical coverage by leveraging the ITFC network, both in member and non-member countries. It will also enable the Bank to handle longer term LC Confirmation transactions (6 to 12 months). Syed Amir Ali Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Meezan Bank, highlighted the impact of this cooperation saying: "Today marks a significant milestone in our business relationship with ITFC as we solidify our partnership. This arrangement reinforces our Bank's commitment to reliability, stability, and financial excellence. The Letter of Credit Confirmation Agreement strengthens our position in the market, enabling us to capitalize on new opportunities and facilitate international Islamic trade."

