

# Independent

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## Baqar directs for implementation of Rs 32000 wage, immediate action against tanker mafia

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar has directed the Secretary of Labour Department to implement Rs 32000 the minimum labour wage and directed the Deputy Commissioner of District Korangi for action against tanker mafia within two hours. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of the Sindh Labour Department and a

29-member delegation of Piler led by its Executive Director Karamat Ali at the Chief Minister's House here on Sunday. The delegation of Piler discussed labour issues with the chief minister. The delegation told him that the welfare of the workers had been affected due to the continuous transfers and postings in the labor department. On that the Caretaker Chief Minister

directed the labour department from making unnecessary appointments and transfers. He was informed that 25000 minimum wage was still in effect. The delegation said that the minimum wage was announced to be Rs 32000, which has not yet been implemented. The chief minister directed the Secretary Labour to implement the minimum wage Rs 32,000 through the circulation of

the Cabinet. He was informed that the women were discriminated in industries and they were either laid-off or fired at age 45. The Caretaker CM was also informed that the female workers were paid less than male workers. The chief minister directed the Labor Secretary to end the discrimination against women and submit a report.



A 29-member delegation of Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research led by Executive Director Karamat Ali called on Chief Minister Sindh Maqbool Baqar in Karachi.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and others offering dua in memory of Palestinians martyred in Israeli attacks at Governor House.

## Bilawal pays tributes to Nusrat Bhutto on her 12th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Madar-e-Jamhuriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto was a metaphor of compassion, patience and courage, who never hesitated to sacrifice for the sake of Pakistan's democracy and the people. According to a press release, he, in his message on the 12th death anniversary of Begum Nusrat

Bhutto, paid tribute to her and said that Madar-e-Jamhuriat was a visionary women leader, who led a historic movement against a dictator to restore political and democratic rights to the people of Pakistan. "After the judicial assassination of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, as long as health allowed her, Begum Bhutto continued to fight for people's rights and never sat down silently for a single day," he added.

## Solangi clarifies about live coverage of PML-N rally by PTV

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday gave an explanation on the live coverage of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz public meeting in Lahore. In a statement on the social networking site X, he said that PTV had only three days ago, on the 16th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy covered live the speeches of all the leaders, including Bilawal Bhutto.

It should be noted that Nawaz Sharif's address from the rally last night was broadcast live by almost all TV channels, including PTV. However, PTV's live broadcast of Nawaz Sharif's rally was criticized by some persons on social media.

## Pakistan's coastal areas not to be impacted by VSCS: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Sunday indicated that there will be no impact of the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) over Southwest Arabian Sea in any of the Pakistan's coastal area. The PMD, which is continuously monitoring the situation said that the Severe Cyclonic Storm (SCS) "TEJ" over Southwest Arabian Sea moved further north-westward during last 12 hours, intensified rapidly into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) and now lies centred around Latitude 12.5°N and Longitude 55.2°E at a distance of about 530km south-southeast of Salalah (Oman), 1600km southwest of Gwadar and 1850km southwest of Karachi.

## Aneeq urges Muslim nations to halt Israeli commercial flights in their airspace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Sunday urged the Muslim world to come together and take a stand for the cause of Palestine.

Addressing a conference titled 'Unity of Ummah and Palestine Issue', organized by the Ahl-e-Haram - a religious organization, he emphasized that true believers should unite and support the oppressed. Minister Aneeq highlighted the importance of Muslim solidarity with the Palestinian people, as several Western leaders extended their support to Israel. He questioned where the Muslim world's unwavering commitment to justice had gone.

He said the European Union's decision to halt immediate aid to Palestine

raised concerns about who would take a stand against Israeli aggression. He said seven hospitals in Gaza had been closed, and the rest lacked basic facilities. Minister Aneeq called upon Muslim nations to immediately suspend Israeli commercial flights in their airspace, besides urging the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to go beyond condemnation and take decisive action.

Prominent religious leaders, including Mufi Gulzar Ahmed Naemi, Maulana Dr. Sher Muhammad Sialvi, Maulana Kashif Gulzar Naemi, Ayesha Syed, Zubaida Khatun, Pir Syed Saadat Ali Shah, and Allama Shabbir Maismi, stressed the need for Muslim countries to unite and support the Palestinian cause while setting aside their differences.

They commended the Palestinians' unwavering determination and resistance, as the oppressed people continue to fight for justice, not only for the entire Muslim world, but for the entire Muslim world. They called to boycott Israeli products and international organizations to take note of Israeli aggression echoed throughout the speeches.

Despite overwhelming media propaganda, Palestinian youth managed to expose the dark side of Israeli technology and the inhumane acts committed by Israeli forces, they added. They asked the leadership of Muslim countries to put their extravagant lifestyles on hold and make all-out efforts to stop the ongoing Israeli aggression causing death and destruction in the Gaza Strip.

## 55 killed in late-night Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip

GAZA/JERUSALEM/WASHINGTON (Online): The Israeli army has announced to step up attacks ahead of the planned ground operation in Gaza.

At least 55 people were killed in late-night Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip, as the Israeli army issued a warning to Palestinians to move from northern Gaza to southern areas, warning them that they would become a "terrorist organization" if they stayed there they can be considered a companion of Hamas.

On the other hand, UN agencies have warned of the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza.

According to media reports, after Israel announced the escalation of attacks on Gaza, Hamas has

said that around 55 people were killed in late-night Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip. In response to Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, Israel has continued to carry out severe attacks on Gaza. Last night, more than 55 Palestinians were martyred as a result of Israel's bombardment.

The statement issued by the government added that more than 30 houses were destroyed in the Israeli attacks within a few hours after the Israeli army spokesman announced the increase in attacks.

Syrian state media, citing military sources, reported that Israeli strikes had disabled two of Syria's main airports, with the Ministry of Transport diverting flights to Latakia.

## Pakistan to host All Flags Together event to showcase cultural diplomacy, UN unity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is set to host the second edition of the All Flags Together (AFT) event on Thursday, November 2, at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) premises. The event would be organized by Devcom-Pakistan in collaboration with the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture and the PNCA.

The AFT event is a daylong celebration of cultural diplomacy and UN unity. It will feature a range of activities, including a youth conference, an interactive panel discussion with experts, international food stalls, an art and craft exhibition, and a showcase of organizations' work, as per a news release on Sunday. The event is expected to draw over ten thousand participants, including diplomats, UN officials, youth, and citizens. It is a free-entry event, but registration is required.

Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan, Munir Ahmed emphasized that the AFT event is intended to support UN organizations and member states in their efforts to protect human rights, preserve cultural heritage, and promote peace through interfaith harmony, democracy, and development.

He stated, "Unity and understanding are essential in commemorating the UN day annually on October 24th to celebrate the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945." The AFT event is designed as a daylong concept to bring together diplomats, expatriates, development and UN organizations, and local residents to foster cohesive and collaborative efforts in bridging the gap of bilateral and multilateral cultural understanding, Ahmed noted.



Trucks carrying humanitarian aid entering Gaza at Rafah crossing.

**REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**DAYS REMAINING**

**08**

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## Delay in general election seems to manipulate polls results: Kundi

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Faisal Karim Kundi has said that a planned effort to manipulate the general elections seems to be behind reason for delay in polls.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he was of the view that the general elections should not be postponed on desire of a couple of political parties. Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized that the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decisions should be in line with the constitution, rather than influenced by the preferences of a select few.

## MQM-P organizes rally to express solidarity with Palestinians

HYDERABAD (APP): The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) organized a rally here on Sunday to express solidarity with Palestinians and to condemn the brutal war mongering of Israel.

Speaking on the occasion, the party's senior deputy convener, Syed Mutaqam Kamal, observed that despite all their political differences, the people of Pakistan unflinchingly support their Palestinian brothers and sisters as they face savage attacks by Israel. "The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said Muslims are like one body of a person," he said to underline the significance of unity among Muslims. He deplored that

unarmed Palestinians, even children, women, and elderly persons, were being killed with impunity by Israel as the global community watched with no remorse.

"There is no water or electricity, and even the hospitals are being bombed," he bemoaned. Kamal warned that if the Muslim Ummah and the organizations championing human rights did not play their part, the cruelty of Israel would not stop. He praised Palestinians for sacrificing their lives to protect Baitul Muqadas, where he said the Holy Prophet (PBUH) had led Namaz, which was offered by all the prophets.

## PIA's financial crisis cancels dozens flights

KARACHI (Online): Due to the financial crisis of National Airline (PIA), 25 flights from all over the country have been canceled today (Sunday).

16 flights from Karachi to different airports have been cancelled. Three Islamabad Karachi flights PK 300, PK 308 and PK 340 have been cancelled. Two Islamabad Karachi flights PK 301 and PK 369 have been canceled while Two Lahore to Karachi flights PK 303 have been cancelled. Three flights PK 302, PK 304 and PK 306 from Karachi to Lahore have been cancelled while 6 flights to and from Karachi to Gwadar, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad have been cancelled.

## Nine suspects of May 9 tragedy approaches SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): The matter of trial of civilians in the military court, the nine suspects of the May 9 incident have approached the Supreme Court.

Written petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court. In the petitions, the stand has been taken that the accused in the custody of the military authority became disgusted with the Supreme Court proceedings.

The military detainees have requested the Supreme Court for a trial in a military court.



HYDERABAD: Leaders and members of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Hyderabad press club.

## Pakistan suggests reforms in UNSC to end Gaza, other global clashes

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan has stressed the need to revive the two-state solution to the Palestinian crisis for durable peace in the region at the United Nations.

Speaking in a debate on the contributions of regional mechanisms for peace and security in the Security Council, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram said the two-state solution is the only option for a durable peace in the Holy Land.

He expressed the hope that after the Security Council's failure, the General Assembly will take action and demand an immediate ceasefire; full, unhindered, and sustainable humanitarian access to the suffering people in Gaza, and ensure that they are not displaced within or outside Gaza.

Speaking about the Security Council's shortcomings, Munir Akram said these arise mainly due to the veto power of the five permanent members.

He expressed the

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Closer to midnight**

For a world already in flames, a fresh nuclear arms race would be an unmitigated catastrophe. Yet the growing gulf between Russia and the US — fuelled primarily by the Ukraine crisis — means that cooperation on nuclear arms reduction has practically stalled, with both states eyeing each other with suspicion. A significant recent development in this regard came in the shape of Russia's State Duma voting to revoke Moscow's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. As the name of the 1996 document suggests, it seeks to prevent the testing of atomic weapons worldwide. All nuclear powers have largely respected the status quo, with no tests in decades, with the exception of North Korea, which tested devices in 2017. Russia has not tested nuclear weapons since the end of the Soviet Union. But with growing tension between Moscow and Washington, there is a danger that either state could alter its nuclear posture. Russia is believed to possess the world's largest stockpile of nukes, followed by the US. However, Washington has little moral ground to criticise the Russians on the CTBT move as unlike Moscow, it never ratified the treaty. Earlier this year, Russia also withdrew from the bilateral New START treaty it had signed with America.

While there is no need for panic, both Russia and the US need to give top priority to maintaining the nuclear status quo, and preferably one day reducing their massive stockpiles. During the Cold War there were too many instances where a nuclear exchange was closely averted.

The current global situation is just as — if not more — unstable, which means that efforts at arms control and preventing the resumption of nuclear testing should be redoubled by the international community. Pakistan also lives in a 'nuclear neighbourhood', and renewed arms tests may further vitiate the situation in South Asia. Therefore, instead of rolling back nuclear protocols, these must be strengthened by all states.



**By Qamar Bashir**  
Press Secretary to the President (Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

The tables turned swiftly and unexpectedly against Imran Khan and the PTI. Nawaz Sharif, who had been in self-imposed exile in London for over four years, was transformed from a declared absconder and disqualified for life from electoral contests into a free man. His arrival was marked with grand receptions by associates, loyal followers, and the public, symbolizing a night of celebration and a day of hope across the country. In a remarkable public address, he assured the establishment that he harbors no intentions of seeking political revenge. While outlining his economic agenda, he pledged to continue with his prior policies, likely with the same team. When discussing foreign policy, he emphasized the futility of maintaining an antagonistic stance toward neighboring nations. Instead, he advocated for breaking the cycle of dependency and harnessing Pakistan's abundant natural, divine, and human resources for progress and prosperity. Although not explicitly stated, he alluded to the consequences of those responsible for his downfall three times and warned against a repeat scenario for the fourth time. His confident demeanor, the warm reception at the airport, official protocols, and exuberance conveyed a resounding message: Nawaz Sharif has returned to the political

arena with renewed vigor, especially with his potential challengers neutralized.

In a remarkable turn of events, a fate that appeared nearly impossible just a few months ago was transformed into a potential reality. The same strategy that was once employed to turn the judiciary, laws, and constitution against Nawaz Sharif was now used in reverse, effectively altering the constitutional landscape and institutions to his advantage. This remarkable shift allowed him to return from exile, fully energized and free of any charges, akin to a rebirth.

Nawaz Sharif, who had been a vocal and staunch opponent of the Establishment, had consistently held them responsible for engineering his removal in 2017. He accused them of colluding with the judiciary to convict him in multiple corruption cases, leading to his lifetime disqualification from politics and subsequent exile in London. Surprisingly, the enduring animosity was set aside, and both sides forgave and forgot. The Establishment, despite its longstanding enmity, became Nawaz Sharif's proponents, facilitators, and supporters in his journey back to power. This once again exemplifies that, much like in international relations, in domestic politics, there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies. This seemingly implausible turn of events was achieved through the unwavering determination, resilience, intelligence, and leadership of Maryam Nawaz, and none other. Her steadfast narrative, echoed by all PML(N) leaders without exception, maintained that their leader had been innocent from the very outset. They contended that during Nawaz Sharif's tenure, the country had made significant progress and was poised for remarkable growth. They argued that a dubious plan was concocted as an experiment to elevate Imran Khan to power. To pave the way for his ascent, baseless and frivolous cases were fabricated against Nawaz Sharif. Ultimately, through collu-

sion and subjugation of the judiciary, he was unseated, imprisoned, and disqualified for life on charges that belied constitutional and legal principles, effectively casting aside the foundations of justice.

Their demand is straightforward: the reversal of all unconstitutional, unlawful, and arbitrary actions that had been used to remove Nawaz Sharif from power. They seek to rectify the injustices committed against him and the nation, restoring him to the same position from which he was ousted. Moreover, they call for an examination of all omissions and commissions that facilitated the rise of the PTI and the placement of Imran Khan in power. This once seemingly impossible and unattainable narrative was gradually woven into reality through the sheer merit of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who displayed remarkable grit, tenacity, courage, and determination even in the face of daunting and formidable adversity. She orchestrated the political landscape with exceptional finesse, strategically positioning her power players and leveraging them effectively and intelligently. Her moves were marked by mastery, precision, and creativity, all executed at the right moments with strength and meticulous calibration to achieve the desired outcomes.

First, she succeeded in fully exonerating her father, Nawaz Sharif, while confining Imran Khan to a political cage, dismantling his party, removing him from the mainstream media, ensnaring him in numerous legal entanglements, and rendering his return seemingly impossible — much like how Nawaz Sharif's return appeared infeasible just days ago.

Once she had silenced Imran Khan, she adeptly shaped public opinion, maintained the core party leadership largely intact with a few notable exceptions, managed to keep the establishment content, curtailed her father's outbursts against the establishment, adroitly manipulated the media landscape, and kept potential contenders for the

premiership at bay.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif was well aware that her father's once-impossible return to Pakistan was riddled with uncertainties and complicated by legal issues, with a looming risk of his arrest shortly after setting foot in the country. This apprehension was explicitly articulated by the caretaker interior minister, who initially stated that Nawaz Sharif, being a convicted individual, was likely to be apprehended upon his return. However, following a stern rebuke from PML(N) leadership and reprimand from the establishment, the minister promptly retracted his initial statement.

One of the primary challenges Maryam Nawaz Sharif faced was gaining the support of a truncated parliament, which consisted of numerous parties, some of which had a history of intense rivalry with the PML(N), particularly the PPP. Maryam strategically utilized parliament to pass crucial laws, including the Supreme Court Practices and Procedure Act of 2023, which provided her father with an opportunity to appeal his conviction and lifetime disqualification. She was well aware that these laws could not supersede or bypass the constitution, but this was a necessary step to pave the way for Nawaz Sharif's return. Collaborating closely with the establishment, Maryam secured a safe return for her father, facilitated his protective bail, and set the stage for his reentry into politics and a potential fourth term as Prime Minister.

In exchange for this favor, the PML(N) granted the establishment an extensive range of powers, legitimizing their involvement in civilian matters. This involved appointing both active and retired military officers to key civilian positions and providing legal cover for their roles in financial and economic disciplines. The Official Secrets (Amendment) Act, 2023 broadens the definition of national security breaches and grants intelligence agencies the authority to conduct raids and detain indi-

viduals. The Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act, 2023 allows the military's intelligence agencies to search individuals or places without a warrant and criminalizes defamation of the armed forces. The National Security Act, 2023 establishes a National Security Council and provides the government with the power to detain those deemed threats to national security. The amendments to the Board of Investment Act, 2023 include involving the army chief in trade and investment decisions, and the National Logistics Corporation Act, 2023 gives the army a monopoly on logistical support. The E-Safety Bill, 2023 addresses online offenses, while the Cantonments (Amendment) Bill, 2023 refines existing frameworks. In tandem with these efforts, Maryam successfully lobbied for a significant softening of the Accountability Law, leading to the dismissal of numerous NAB cases against her family, including allegations of financial corruption, money laundering, and misuse of public funds. This led to the exoneration of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the dismissal of a seven-year prison sentence and a substantial fine for Maryam herself, and the clearance of Suleman Shehbaz in a money laundering case. A reinvestigation by the FIA also found Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza "innocent" in another money laundering case. These calculated moves were instrumental in achieving her objectives.

Simultaneously, while skillfully negotiating with the establishment, Maryam engaged in a determined campaign against a non-compliant judiciary. She openly defied the Supreme Court's directive to hold Punjab Assembly elections within 90 days of dissolution, effectively sowing divisions among Supreme Court judges and emboldening other stakeholders to disregard the court's orders. This strategic maneuver created a pretext for delaying the elections, ensuring that the PML(N) could participate

when fully prepared and in a position of strength, aligning with Maryam's political objectives.

The Pakistani government employed a multi-faceted approach to manipulate the media landscape in favor of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N) and against Imran Khan. This strategy included media censorship through various coercive tactics, offering financial incentives to compliant outlets, appointing PML-N sympathizers to key media positions, legally harassing critical journalists, and even resorting to violence and intimidation. As a result, the media's bias in favor of the PML-N was palpable in their coverage of Imran Khan, often depicting him negatively while downplaying or ignoring stories critical of the PML-N.

Having brought her father back safely, Maryam has now set the stage for Nawaz Sharif to make his move. However, the path ahead is riddled with complexities, and the outcome remains uncertain. Nawaz Sharif, who has had a tumultuous history with the Pakistani military, having been ousted from power on three occasions, will need to tread carefully and find common ground with the military if he aims to secure a fourth term as Prime Minister. Addressing Pakistan's pressing economic challenges, including high inflation and a growing debt burden, will be paramount in improving the lives of ordinary citizens. The deeply divided political landscape in Pakistan necessitates Sharif to build a broad coalition, reaching out to opposition parties and finding consensus on a range of issues. Moreover, considering his age and past health issues, Sharif's physical well-being will be a critical factor in managing the demands of the office. In the face of these multifaceted challenges, Nawaz Sharif's future as Prime Minister hinges on his ability to unite the nation and effectively navigate these complexities. Failure to do so could once again lead to his removal from office by the military, mirroring his past experiences.

**Commerce News**

**Businessmen for easing import as Afghan transit trade thru Pak rises to \$7.3b**

LAHORE (INP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has suggested the government to reduce the tariff rates on smuggling prone items to the lowest level to curb smuggling, as Afghanistan's imports through Pakistan under the transit trade facility has gone up nearly two-thirds to \$7.3 billion in the last fiscal year.

The FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the total elimination of smuggling only through administrative measures at the borders was difficult and the remedy lies in reducing incentive for smuggling by reducing tariff rates.

Smuggling is eating vitals of Pakistan economic fabrics and needs to be curbed through fiscal and administrative measures.

It renders industrial products uncompetitive and discourages legal imports thus make colossal losses to the trade, industry and government exchequer. Despite efforts of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with limited resources cannot control smuggling form boarders of Iran and Afghanistan. This will result in higher government revenue, provide impetus to local trade/ industry and generate employment opportunities.



ISLAMABAD: New elected acting President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce presenting a shield to Secretary General Central Tanzeem Tajir Pakistan Syed Abdul Qayyum Agha during his visit of Chamber.



HYDERABAD: Flour Mills Owners Social Welfare Association leader, Hajji Muhammad Memon addresses to media persons during press conference held at Hyderabad press club.

**Ali Sheikh terms counter steps vital as debt escalates rapidly to Rs64tr**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Presidential candidate of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) for the upcoming polls of 2024 Muhammad Ali Sheikh has called for taking corrective measures as rapid escalation in debt is widely seen as unsustainable, yet serious steps are now vital to curb this alarming trajectory, by keeping check on government

expenditure and high cost of debt servicing, as the federal government debt has surged to a staggering Rs64 trillion. Quoting the State Bank of Pakistan report, the FPCCI Presidential candidate nominated by the BMP, said that the federal government's debt has soared by Rs14.5 trillion, constituting a substantial 29.2% rise compared to the same period last year.

**Authorities directed to make Rawat vegetable & fruit market functional**

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta has directed the authorities to make vegetable and fruit market in Rawat fully functional on October 23, Monday. He said the land had been allocated for establishment of vegetable and fruit market in Rawat.

**LCCI, carpet association ink MoU to improve relations**

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster stronger trade relations, here at PCMEA office on Sunday. The agreement was signed during a visit by LCCI President Kashif Anwar to the PCMEA where the association's Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf welcomed him. Kashif Anwar also

visited the Carpet Training Institute (CTI) and observed the intricate process of handcrafting carpets. During the visit, LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted the importance of robust trade relations between various trade organizations and chambers. He emphasized the need for effective collaboration in an ever-evolving global economic landscape. Kashif Anwar noted the increase in business costs, particularly related to utilities.

**IFC goes operational at Hattar SEZ**

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) inaugurated an Industrial Facilitation Centre (IFC) at Hattar Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to facilitate industrialists and investors in resolution of their problems. The IFC was inaugurated by the KP Caretaker Minister for

Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr Aamir Abdullah, the other day, said a press release issued here on Sunday. Besides, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP-EZDMC Javed Iqbal Khattak, members Board of Director (BoD) and officials of the company, a large number of industrialists and local investors were also present on the occasion.

**Pakistani delegation to visit Kyrgyzstan, fostering bilateral trade and collaboration**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said a high-level Pak delegation of pharmaceutical and surgical instruments will visit Kyrgyzstan on November 6 for three days to explore the possibilities of investment avenues, joint ventures, promotion of bilateral trade and collaboration. Talking to a delegation of exporters led by Ms Maheen he said this

initiative signifies our commitment to enhancing economic cooperation and fostering meaningful relationships, said a news release here. He said he firmly believed that by working together, we can tap into the immense potential that exists in the pharmaceutical and surgical instruments sectors. Collaborative efforts in these areas can lead to the exchange of knowledge, technology, and resources,

ultimately benefiting both our economies. He said an upcoming significant event holds the promise of strengthening the ties between the two Muslim countries and fostering mutual prosperity. The delegation comprises exporters and investors who are eager to engage with Kyrgyz counterparts to identify synergies and establish fruitful partnerships, he added.

**Al-Raziq Trust oath-taking at SCCI**

SIALKOT (APP): An oath-taking ceremony of the "Al-Raziq Trust" Sialkot, a charitable organization established for public welfare, was held at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). Vice President (VP) Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Amer Majeed Sheikh and Chairman AirSial Fazal Jilani participated in the swearing-in ceremony as the special guests.

**Banking Mohtasib provides Rs 972.33 million relief to banking customers**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Banking Mohtasib Pakistan provided monetary relief of an amount of Rs 972.33 million to the banking customers by disposing 18,431 complaints during the first nine months of the current calendar year. From 1st January to 30th September, the Mohtasib received 21,852 complaints, including 5,810 from Prime Minister's Portal.

With a view to protecting the people from fraudulent activities which are rampant now a days, Mohtasib, Sirajuddin Aziz emphasized upon the banking customers not to disclose their personal and financial credentials to any third person. On receipt of suspicious calls, they should immediately approach the nearest branch of their bank or contact the helpline of the bank, he added.

# Akbar Chowk flyover project to be open for traffic in November: CM Naqvi

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a visit to Akbar Chowk flyover project here on Sunday, announced that the facility would be opened for traffic by mid of November.

The CM inspected various sections of flyover. One side of the flyover has been completed. Naqvi inspected the construction work on the project and ordered for early completion and restoration of the College Road as well. He ordered for completing the asphalt work on the bridge at the earliest.

he added. Talks about privatisation of schools is baseless, he said. The CM said that not only he himself but ministers and the chief secretary were also conducting visits. "It is my foremost priority to ensure well-being of people. We will ensure timely completion of development projects," he promised. The construction and repair work of 100 hospitals across Punjab would be completed by January 31, he said and added that measures were being taken for improvement of 750 police stations. Special attention was being paid to completion of development projects.



**GILGIT:** VC Karakoram International University Attaullah Shah and Director Gilgit Institute of Nuclear Medicine Oncology and Radiotherapy Dr. Asif Jilani signing MOU between KIU and GINOR at KIU.

## All set to celebrate 76<sup>th</sup> Founding Day of AJK govt on October 24

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): All is set to celebrate the 76<sup>th</sup> Founding Day of the emergence of Azad government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir on October 24, Tuesday, with a great enthusiasm and devotion coupled with the renewal of pledge to continue Kashmir freedom struggle till it reaches its logical end through liberation of the Indian Illegally occupied part of the internationally-acknowledged disputed

Himalayan State, besides to lend all of due contributions for the progress and prosperity of the liberated territory. This year too, the anniversary of the emergence of the AJK government is being observed when India, through her shameful, forced, sinister unlawful act of August 5, four years ago, scrapped the special status of the internationally-acknowledged disputed Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir.

## PDMA prepares winter contingency planning

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Provincial Disasters Management Authority is preparing a winter contingency plan, Director General Planning PDMA, Jannat Gul Afridi said here on Sunday. The purpose of preparing a comprehensive strategy is to reduce the risk of disasters and provide timely response, the Director General told media men.

District administration, provincial line departments, federal departments, golf program, humanitarian partners are being included in the plan, DG PDMA said. Planning is being done to deal with the possible threats of snowfall, rains, landslides and other natural calamities in winter and to reduce the losses, he said.

PDMA is providing funds and relief materials to all district administrations, DGP PDMA Jannat Gul Afridi informed. The responsibilities of all institutions including PDMA have increased more than before, Jannat Gul Afridi said.



**LAHORE:** Begum Governor Punjab Ayesha Baligh in a group photo with women living in the Old Age Home at Governor House

## CM orders completing civil works by Dec 31

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Agriculture, Food & Drug Authority's head office on Sunday and inspected finishing work, being carried out at different sections on various floors of the building.

He also inspected the equipment purchased for the labs and directed to complete civil work on the building with a high quality. Mohsin Naqvi assigned a deadline to complete 100 per cent work on the whole building by December 31. He also presided over a meeting at the Authority's Head Office and was given a briefing about matters pertaining to human resource and purchase of machinery.

## Actors, celebrities express solidarity with Palestinians on social media

**LAHORE (APP):** Pakistani and international actors and celebrities on Sunday expressed their support for Palestinian people and children on social media.

said Palestinians are the bravest people on planet earth. "Zero support and the entire world against them. My God, I am terrified for the little children about to lose their lives", she wrote on X. The most popular singer of Pakistan music industry, Atif Aslam, won the hearts of his fans by donating Rs15 million to the victims of Gaza.

Showbiz stars of Pakistan, including Armeena Khan, Dananeer Mobeen, Saba Qamar and Yumna Zaidi took to social media and expressed solidarity with Palestine. Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Pakistani star Saba Qamar wrote, "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free! InshaAllah". In her social media post, actor Armeena Khan

## ANF seizes 106 kg drugs in 11 operations

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 106 kg drugs and arrested 13 accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Sunday.

He informed that 504 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of a passenger, arrested at Islamabad International Airport. The accused, a resident of Wahari, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-771.

## Mayor Inaugurates new carpeted road in Qasimabad

**HYDERABAD (APP):** Mayor of Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro has inaugurated the construction work of a new carpeted road from Al Raheem Villas to Suleman Pathan Goth of UC-147 Qasimabad.

According to the information provided by the municipal department, a cost of 923.11 million rupees will be spent on the project. Kashif Shoro on the occasion, said that the journey of development will continue following the advice of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and we will continue to lay the net of more development works.

## Govt to focus on technical, experimental education

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs, Science, and Information Technology, Dr. Najibullah Khan Marwat, said on Sunday that teachers of scientific subjects should focus on technical and experimental education away from traditions.

essential for students to acquire in today's era. In the current race for technology, it is imperative to give special attention to science and information technology education, he said. He said science and technology education have become the backbone of the economic stability and development of the country.

Through this, the students can enlighten the name of the country and the nation in science and technology, he added. Without the hard work of teachers in educational institutions, students cannot play a significant role in learning science and technology, which are

Caretaker Provincial Minister expressed these views while addressing the ceremony of a two-day capacity-building training workshop for teachers and lecturers of different educational institutions of science subjects at Roots Millennium School Peshawar.



**PESHAWAR:** Employees of reading Hospital are demonstrating outside the press in support of their demands.

## PEDO a major source of income as billions annually for province

**PESHAWAR (APP):** The energy projects will have proved to be a game changer for the stability and development of the economy in the province, KP Caretaker Advisor for Power, Energy, and Mineral Development, Dr Sarfaraz Ali Shah, said while chairing a high-level meeting.

of annual income of billions of rupees, he said. Under the supervision of PEDO, work is currently underway on 42 energy projects for transmission lines, including hydro and solar power, he said.

After the completion of these projects, they will prove to be a game changer for the stability and development of the province's economy in the future. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development and Transmission and Grid Company (KPT&GC) has been established for the first time in order to improve the electricity system in the province.

It is a major source

# International News

## US dispatches Mideast military assets, Israel pounds Gaza, targets in Syria, Lebanon

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Concerns about the risk of the Israel-Hamas war mushrooming into a wider Middle East conflict rose on Sunday with the U.S. sending more military assets to the region as Israel pummelled Gaza overnight and hit Hamas supporters in Lebanon and Syria. Gaza's Health Ministry said 266 Palestinians, including 117 children, had been killed by Israeli air strikes in the past 24 hours in the enclave, to which Israel laid "total siege" after a deadly mass infiltration into Israel by Hamas gunmen on Oct. 7. In neighbouring Syria - where Hamas's main regional backer Iran has a military presence - Israeli missiles hit Damascus and

Aleppo international airports early on Sunday, putting both out of service and killing two workers, Syrian state media said. Along Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where Iran-backed Hezbollah has skirmished increasingly with Israeli forces in support of Hamas, the Israeli military said it struck several Hezbollah targets overnight, including what it called a compound from which a missile had been fired at one of its drones. In later incidents, Israeli forces struck three groups of fighters who launched or were preparing to launch anti-armour missiles across the border, the military said, adding that it also shot down a drone approaching from within Leba-

non. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken cautioned Lebanon's caretaker prime minister that the Lebanese population would be affected if his country were drawn into the Israel-Hamas war, the State Department said. With violence around its heavily guarded borders increasing, Israel on Sunday added 14 communities close to Lebanon and Syria to its evacuation plan in the north of the country. Israel began unrelenting air strikes on Gaza to its southwest after Hamas militants breached the border and carried out a shock rampage through nearby communities, killing 1,400 people, mainly civilians, and taking 212 hostages back to Gaza.



**Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas delivers a speech during the summit in Cairo.**

## China, Philippines trade accusations over South China Sea clash

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China and the Philippines traded accusations over a collision in disputed waters of the South China Sea as Chinese vessels blocked Philippine boats supplying forces there on Sunday in the latest of a series of maritime confrontations.

The two countries have had numerous run-ins in the South China Sea in recent months, especially in the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, part of the Spratly Islands. The Philippines has sent supplies to troops stationed on a rusted World War Two-era transport ship used as an outpost on

the shoal, prompting China's coastguard to repeatedly deploy vessels to block the resupply missions. In the incident early on Sunday, China's coastguard said there had been a "slight collision" between one of its ships and the Philippine boat while the coastguard was "lawfully" blocking the boat from transporting "illegal construction materials" to the warship.

Manila responded by condemning "in the strongest degree" the "dangerous blocking manoeuvres" of the Chinese vessel. China's "dangerous, irresponsible and illegal actions" were "in violation of

Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction", Manila's Task Force for the West Philippine Sea said in a statement. Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea, including parts of the exclusive economic zones of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 said China's claims had no legal basis. The United States expressed support for the Philippines, denouncing China's "disruption of a legal Philippine resupply mission". "We stand with our

## China says it uncovered another spying case in US

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's top spy agency said on Sunday a Chinese citizen who worked for a defense institute had been accused of spying for the United States and his case had been transferred to a court in the southwestern city of Chengdu for trial. The case is the latest to underscore Beijing's heightened commitment to national security, its expanded anti-spying laws and crackdown on domestic corruption.

in 2013 as a visiting scholar to a U.S. university, where he was coerced into revealing Chinese state secrets. China's Ministry of State Security released a statement with the report on its WeChat social media account on Sunday, saying "espionage activities go hand in hand with deception, temptation, and conspiracy." The university was not named in the statement or media report. CCTV said a U.S. professor close to Hou introduced him to someone who claimed to be an employee of a consulting company, but was actually an American "intelligence officer" using the company as his cover, CCTV said.



**Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks to the media during a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra.**

## Turkiye sends humanitarian aid plane to Egypt for Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Turkiye sent a plane with a medical team and supplies to Egypt on Sunday carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza, Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said.

"Our team will determine the necessary medicine, medical supplies and devices for the people of Gaza and carry out feasibility studies of field hospitals to be set up at Egypt's El Arish Airport and Rafah Border Crossing." Koca said in a post late on Saturday.

Rafah is the main route in and out of the Gaza Strip that is not controlled by Israel, which has said it will allow no aid to enter from its territory until Hamas releases the hostages it took during its attack on Oct. 7. It says aid can enter through Egypt provided supplies do not end up in the hands of Hamas.

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**A couple and their dog are rescued by a coastguard team from a flooded street in Brechin, Scotland.**

## US, UK back Canada in dispute with India over diplomats

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States and Britain have urged New Delhi not to insist Canada reduce its diplomatic presence in India and expressed concern after Ottawa pulled out 41 diplomats amid a dispute over the murder of a Sikh separatist. Canada has alleged Indian involvement in the June murder in a Vancouver suburb of Canadian citizen and Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, whom India called a "terrorist." India denies the allegation.

"We are concerned by the departure of Canadian diplomats from India, in response to the Indian government's demand of Canada to significantly reduce its diplomatic presence in India," US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said. Washington has said it took Canada's allegations seriously and, along with London, urged India to cooperate with Canada in the murder probe even as Western powers have been reluctant to openly condemn India.

## Trump fined \$5,000 for violating gag order

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: The New York judge presiding over Donald Trump's civil fraud trial fined the former US president \$5,000 on Friday for not complying with a partial gag order and threatened him with possible jail time for future violations.

Judge Arthur Engoron ordered the 77-year-old Trump to pay the fine within the next 10 days to the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. "Make no mistake: future violations, whether intentional or unintentional, will subject the violator to far more severe sanctions," Engoron said in a court filing. "(These) may include, but are not limited to, steeper financial penalties, holding Donald Trump in contempt of court, and possibly imprisoning him pursuant to New York Judiciary Law," the judge added. Engoron slapped a limited gag order on the former president on Oct 3 after he insulted the judge's principal law clerk in a social media post.

## India says relations with Canada passing through difficult phase

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India on Sunday said its relationship with Canada is passing through a difficult phase and there had been "continued interference" by Canadian personnel in New Delhi's internal affairs.

British Columbia. India denies the allegation. "The relationship right now is going through a difficult phase. But I do want to say the problems we have are with a certain segment of Canadian politics and the policies which flow from that," India's foreign affairs minister S. Jaishankar said at an event.

The Indian government is angry that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last month suggested Indian agents might have been involved in the June murder of a Sikh separatist leader in

## Russia's FM Lavrov to visit Tehran on Monday - RIA

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit Iran's capital Tehran on Monday, state-run RIA news agency reported, citing ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova. Lavrov said on Thursday there was serious risk that the Gaza conflict will become regional, and Russia is in contact with Turkey over the matter, the Interfax news agency reported.

# Ashrafi calls for global support for Palestine, unity among Muslims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi unequivocally expressed support for Palestine and called on the global community to acknowledge the rights of the Palestinian people.

He, addressing a recent conference organized to express solidarity with Palestinian people under the auspicious of Pakistan Ulema Council here, raised questions about the alleged military aggression in Syria and Lebanon and said Pakistan stood with Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, and Syria, in case of any aggression from Israel.

Ashrafi hinted that if this war continued, it would not be confined to Egypt and Lebanon, it would ultimately engulf the entire world.

He called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to provide a roadmap for the Palestinian cause urging everyone to break their silence, warning that "if Palestinian children are targeted today, it may be children from other regions tomorrow." With the Presidency of the OIC now in the hands of Saudi Arabia, he expressed hope that it would take concrete steps to support Palestine.

He mentioned that Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir reiterated Pakistan's position in the Corps Commander Conference the other day, reemphasizing their unwavering support for Palestine. Highlighting the enduring blockade of Gaza, he said it had been a prison for sixteen years raising questions about the incident on October 7, which he attributed to the denial of Palestinian due rights.

Ashrafi called for international human rights organizations to investigate the hospital attack in Gaza, stressing that the suffering of Muslim children remained unseen. He emphasized that children were children, regardless of their origins expressing concerns over

America's intention to cover up this disastrous incident.

He acknowledged improved relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and Syria and Arab nations. He reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining unity within the Ummah, rejecting any sectarian division. "We will not allow anyone to divide the Muslim Ummah based on the Shia-Sunni divide," he stated. He emphasized the importance of global unity among Muslims and discouraged any division, highlighting the need to stand up against imperialism and extremist groups that aimed to divide and weaken the Muslim Ummah.



KARACHI: A large number of people participating in a rally to support Palestinians near Tower area.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Sindh Premier League ceremony at Governor House.

## ECP asks citizens to register themselves as voters by Wednesday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked all eligible voters to get themselves registered as the process for registration of new voters, correction of their particulars and transfer of votes will close on Wednesday.

According to the ECP official, the facilitation desks operated by the Election Commission in both Islamabad and its district-level offices are actively engaged in accomplishing this assignment.

He urged people to

register or rectify discrepancies in the voter lists to ensure their alignment with their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) data by October 25, 2023.

The Election Commission invoked the Elections Act, 2017 to freeze the voter lists on July 20, 2023. In order to simplify the process for the public, the lists were then unfrozen from September 28 to October 25, 2023, allowing all eligible individuals to either register, withdraw or rectify their information.

## NCSW urges CJP to initiate effective measures to combat violence against women

ISLAMABAD (INP): Nilofar Bakhtiar, the chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), has urged the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) to take action to prevent the increasing incidents of violence against women.

In a letter to the CJP, the NCSW chairperson appealed for immediate and effective measures to reduce gender-based violence. Bakhtiar emphasised the need to protect the lives of the victims of these atrocities, mentioning incidents like the murder of Noor Muqaddam as a serious concern for women's safety and well-being in Pakistan.

She also stressed that the only way to end this cycle of violence and atrocities was by ensuring immediate judicial accountability and delivering swift justice.

## ECP enlists one million officers for upcoming general election duty

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is gearing up for the upcoming general elections and plans to enlist nearly one million individuals to fill essential roles for the elections.

According to preliminary estimates, "There will be approximately 700,000 polling staff members, and the count may increase to around 900,000 to 1 million when including security personnel. The final number will be confirmed once the Election Schedule is announced," the ECP sources told on Sunday.

A list of presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling staff has been compiled, with a total of 10,7361 officers set to be deployed nationwide.

In Punjab, approximately 54,706 presiding officers, 310,968 assistant presiding officers, and 160,445 polling staff will be assigned election duties. In the province, a sum total of 526,123 officers will be appointed.

## Palestine envoy lauded China for promoting peace in Palestine, Israel talks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting Ambassador of Palestine Nader Al Turk has lauded China for showing its readiness to play a constructive role in easing tensions between Palestine and Israel and promoting peace talks.

Addressing a webinar titled, "War Crimes Gaza: The impact, consequences, and international response & responsibility", the envoy called out the "double standards" of the so-called civilised world and international organisations responsible of ruthless killings of innocent children, women and elderly men living in Gaza, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The webinar was jointly hosted by the Center of South Asia and International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad and the Institute of Legal Studies Lahore.

Nader shared the perpetual miseries of Palestinians and called for immediate justice in terms of two state solution, guarantor of durable peace and stability in the Middle East a rest of the world.

He urged to regional countries and the Muslim world to come forward to stop Israel from state terrorism and indiscriminate bombardment on civilian

## 282 MW clean, green energy to be added to national grid by 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least 282 megawatts (MW) of clean and green energy will be added to the national grid system through solar, wind, and biomass by 2024.

Sharing details of the projects, official sources said that out of a total of 282 MW, 150 MW would be added to the system through solar, 100 MW through wind while remaining 32 MW from biomass.

They said that 150 MW through three solar projects including 50 MW Meridian Energy (Pvt) Ltd, HND Energy (Pvt) Ltd, and Helios Power (Pvt) Ltd was likely to start supplying electricity in the next month. Similarly, 50 MW each Independent Power Producers (IPPs) wind projects- Western Energy (Pvt) Ltd and Transatlantic Energy (Pvt) Ltd were in different stages of development, they said. They said that 32 MW Shah Taj Sugar Mills Ltd based on biomass would start generating by January 2024.

## SC to hear Civilian's military trial case today, Federal govt file separate petition

ISLAMABAD (Online): The hearing of the case against the trial in the military courts will be held on Monday.

A five-member larger bench headed by Justice Ejaz-ul-Ahsan will hold a hearing today at 11:30 on Monday.

Registrar's Office has issued notices to all parties.

A five-member bench consisting of Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Syed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha A. Malik, headed by Justice Ejaz-ul-Ahsan, will hold the hearing.

Federal government, On the other hand, filed a separate petition in which it has been stated that the trial of civilians has started in military courts.

In the miscellaneous application of the federal government, it has been stated that 102 persons were arrested in the light of the incidents of May 9 and 10 and trial was started in the military courts for the right of justice of these persons, while the trial is being conducted keeping in mind the interest of the detained persons.

The miscellaneous petition further states that those found not guilty during the trial in the military courts will be acquitted and the trial in the military courts will be subject to the judgment of the pending case in the Supreme Court. The petition further states that those who are found guilty after a trial in military courts will receive minor punishments, those involved in the incidents of May 9 and 10 who have been imprisoned according to the crime will be released, while those who have been sentenced to prison after a military trial will be released according to law. Convicted persons can approach the relevant forum against the corresponding punishments, petition.

## Unnecessary, costly DISCOs Board meetings, AG Office wants records

ISLAMABAD (Online): The expenditure of millions of rupees on unnecessary meetings of Discos Board, Auditor General Office has called for all the records.

Standing Committee Energy also seems unhappy with the performance of the board members.

Instead of including experts in the boards of electricity distribution companies, which were formed to improve the performance of the DISCOs, the appointment of members on political grounds has made them a huge financial burden for the DISCOs. 28.4 million rupees were spent on the meetings of HESCO and FESCO boards and the DISCOs could not get any benefit. According to the documents released by the Auditor General, expenses of 24.1 million rupees have been incurred on the meetings of HESCO board members, while no decisions have been taken in these meetings

to improve the performance of the discos. According to the documents, the HESCO board meeting was called 7 days before without issuing the agenda and the expenses in excess of the budget allocated for the board have been incurred while the board has also failed to take steps to get the company out of losses.

Board members of Faisalabad Electric Supply Corporation (FESCO) started holding two meetings on same day without any agenda and millions of rupees were received in the name of TADA, about which the Auditor General Office requested all the record. It should be noted that the Senate Standing Committee on Energy has also expressed its serious concern over the poor performance of the boards of DISCOs and many questions have been raised in the meeting regarding the qualifications of the board members.

## Nawaz Sharif's legal prepares to acquire relief from courts

ISLAMABAD (Online): The legal team of Muslim League (N) leader Nawaz Sharif has completed all the preliminary steps to get relief in various cases.

These applications include Avenfield, Flagship, Al-Azizia Steel Mills Reference, Tosha Khana and other cases.

Sources told that there are strong possibilities of getting relief from the legal preparations that have been made to get relief in the three cases.

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) will adopt a policy of not giving any evidence and other arguments against Nawaz Sharif in any case, sources

Sources close to the lawyers wing of PML-N claimed that the legal aspects of Mian Nawaz Sharif's lifelong disqualification are also being discussed with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

## Sirajul Haq questions government's response to Turbat killings

SHUJAABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq expressed deep concern over the alarming surge in crimes across Pakistan on Sunday, stating that incidents involving shedding the blood of the weak, burning the houses of the vulnerable and kidnapping anyone's daughter had become disturbingly common in the country.

The JI chief conveyed these views during his visit to the residence of a victim of the Turbat shooting.

He argued that there was a severe lack of protection for the rights of the vulnerable in the country, and questioned the government's response to the Turbat killings. On Oct 14, unidentified gunmen killed six construction workers and injured two others in a pre-dawn attack on their camp near Turbat in Balochistan's Kech district.

## Fawad Chaudhry meets Tareen

LAHORE (APP): Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry met Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen on Sunday. IPP Information Secretary Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan told APP that Aun Chaudhry was also part of the meeting. She said the meeting discussed political situation in the country and the upcoming general election. Sources said Fawad Chaudhry would become active in politics from the IPP platform now after keeping in low profile for many months.

## Former Special Assistant to CM Sindh Javed Nayab Leghari met Chairman Safoora Town Rashid Khakheli at his office

Independent Report KARACHI: Former Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh and President municipal services to the residents of safoora town and hope he will do it easily.

Chairman Safoora us. He Assured him that public service has been the speciality of The Pakistan People's Party and we will



KARACHI: Members of Drama Production Houses shouting slogans during protest rally against Israeli aggression in Palestine, outside press club, in Provincial Capital.

## AJK and Balochistan youth for cooperation on Social media begins

MIRPIR (AJK): (APP): Prominent social activist and lecturer at Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences, Ms. Urooj Khan, called on President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday.

Ms Khan briefed the AJK President on this occasion about the ongoing cooperation between the students and youth of Balochistan and Azad Kashmir in social and cultural fields.

Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that it was gratifying to note that the youth of Balochistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir were working together to foster cooperation in different fields of life. Referring to the dire human rights situation in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the President said that it was imperative that the educated youth of Baluchistan also play their role in highlighting the Kashmir issue and exposing Indian atrocities in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the office orders issued here on Sunday, Sub Inspectors Ayaz Hussain, Muhammad Arif Jarwar, Qurban Ali Qambrani, Mazhar Ali Naich and Assistant Sub Inspectors Muhammad Hassan Vighio and Shahid Chawli were among those suspended and demoted.

"... due to their involvement in patronizing organized crime and collecting extortion from narcotics sellers as per information report pending inquiry into their conduct."

## DIG suspends, reverts 19 cops for alleged collusion with organized crime

HYDERABAD (APP): DIG Hyderabad Tariq Razzak Dharejo has demoted and suspended 19 cops posted in 3 districts of the Hyderabad Police Range under charges of their alleged connivance with organized crime.

According to the office orders issued here on Sunday, Sub Inspectors Ayaz Hussain, Muhammad Arif Jarwar, Qurban Ali Qambrani, Mazhar Ali Naich and Assistant Sub Inspectors Muhammad Hassan Vighio and Shahid Chawli were among those suspended and demoted.

"... due to their involvement in patronizing organized crime and collecting extortion from narcotics sellers as per information report pending inquiry into their conduct."



Sindh Youth Wing Pakistan People's Party Javed Nayab Leghari met Chairman TMC Safoora Rashid Khakheli at his office.



Sindh Youth Wing Pakistan People's Party Javed Nayab Leghari met Chairman TMC Safoora Rashid Khakheli at his office. He expressed that Chairman Rashid Khakheli has ability for provision of town expressed happiness on the arrival of former Special Assistant Chief Minister Sindh and President Sindh Youth Wing People's Party Javed Nayab Leghari and said that his arrival is a place of encouragement for not hesitate in providing municipal services to the people keeping in view the vision of Shaheed Rani Benazir Bhutto and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and will make TMC Safoora an ideal town of Karachi city.

## Sanjrani to attend Int'l Symposium in Beijing as Chief Guest

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has been specially invited by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to attend the International Symposium to commemorate the 10th anniversary of China's Principle of Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit, and Inclusiveness in Neighborhood Diplomacy proposed by President Xi Jinping.

The event, to be held on October 24, 2023, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, will feature Chairman Senate as a distinguished Chief

Guest. Sadiq Sanjrani will grace the opening ceremony and address the gathering, contributing to the discourse on strengthening diplomatic ties among neighboring nations.

The Senate Chairman's presence at this Symposium is expected to strengthen the bonds of friendship, mutual trust, and mutually beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and China. In addition to his participation in the Symposium, the Chairman will meet his counterpart in China, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.