

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091

Vol: 05. No. 292 Rabi-ul-Sani 08, 1445 AH Tuesday October 24, 2023

Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

May 9 vandalism: SC declares civilians' trial in army courts as null and void

In a 4-1 majority ruling, court says trial of May 9 suspects will be conducted in ordinary courts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has nullified the trial of civilians in military courts.

Announcing the reserved judgment on Monday, the SC accepted the petition filed against the trial in military courts. The SC said in short order the trial of those accused in May 9 incidents will be carried out in civilian courts.

The court declared both the sub sections of section 2-1(D) of official secret act are contrary to constitution. The court also declared clause 4 (59) of official secret act (4) 59.

The SC said in its order the cases against the accused be run in criminal

courts keeping in view the nature of the offences of the accused. Decision was announced with 4-1 majority.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Mazhar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik rejected the trial of civilians in military courts with consensus. Justice Yahya Afridi differed from the majority decision.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan raised the most important legal and constitutional points remarking tell us those who were tried in military courts in the past were common citizens or terrorists. Constitution provides guarantee to general citizens for protection

of their basic rights. A five members larger bench of SC led by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazhar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik took up the case for hearing Monday.

At the inception of hearing the Attorney General (AG) while addressing the court said "I will talk about making or not making constitutional amendment with reference to establishment of military courts."

I will talk about this point why the constitutional amendment is not needed in this case.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Maqbool Baqar chairing a joint meeting of Sindh Revenue Board, Sindh Employees Social Security Institution and Workers Welfare Board.

Education not an option but a necessity, says army chief

COAS felicitates NUST graduates, underscores their responsibility to figure out challenges faced by country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir Monday felicitated the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) graduates on successfully accomplishing their goal and remarked that it was now in-

tervention Ceremony" conferred medals upon distinction holders.

The annual convocation week of the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) commenced here at the University's main campus, an Inter Services Public



Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Bachelor's, Master's and PhD students received degrees during the course of convocation week. Degrees are being awarded to over 3500 graduates from all NUST Schools at the main campus in the 7 core disciplines.

12th death anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto observed

LARKANA (APP): The 12th death anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto wife of former Prime Minister and Founder Chairman of PPP Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was observed here on Monday with a renewed commitment to continue the struggle for protecting democracy.

Qura'an Khawani and fateha Khawani were held in every corner of the country for the departed soul of Begum Nusrat Bhutto. People from all walks of life in their messages on the occasion paid rich tributes to Begum Nusrat Bhutto for her services to the progress and prosperity of Pakistan and protecting the democracy in the country.

On this occasion, Qura'an Khawani was held at the Bhutto House Naudero and Garhi Khuda

Bux Bhutto (Larkana).

District President PPP Larkana and former MNA Khurshed Ahmed Junejo, District General Secretary of PPP Larkana and Chairman District Council Larkana Aijaz Ahmed Leghari, Khair Muhammad Shaikh, Mayor LMC Anwar Ali Nawaz Lohar, Imran Jatoi, Muhammad Saleem Soomro, Ex-MNA Nasibaan Channa, Mrs. Faryal Brohi, Dr. Sakina Gaad, Basheeraan Mohil, Shabiraan Jokhio, Zubaida Soomro, Ibrahim Khoso, Ghulam Mustafa Leghari, Nooruddin Abro, Mazhar Ali Khan Junejo, elected representatives, leaders and workers of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) also participated in the Quran Khawani and Fateha Khawani.

IRP Area Manager calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Area Manager of Islamic Relief Pakistan (IRP) Mahboob Ali called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Monday.

They discussed the measures for the welfare of the people through Islamic teachings and projects pertaining to the services to humanity. The Governor lauded the role of the IRP in working for the poor people.

He said that the IRP was also endeavouring to end unemployment in the region.

Court disposes of NAB reference against Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Monday disposed of a reference against former finance minister Ishaq Dar pertaining to holding assets beyond known sources of income.

AC Judge Muhammad Bashir announced the verdict on a petition of former minister.

At the outset of hearing, National Accountability Bureau Prosecutor Afzal Qureshi adopted the stance that no evidence had been found against the accused in the said reference, and the trial could not be proceeded in such circumstances.

At this, the judge asked the NAB prosecutor to give this statement in writing.

The court subsequently disposed of the reference against Ishaq Dar.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab exchanges views with Peoples Party Karachi Division Secretary Record and Events, Naveed Bhatti and others during meeting held at his office in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses a Press Conference.

CM Baqar orders inquiries against SRB, labour dept for failing to recover Rs16bn

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has ordered two separate inquiries against the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) and Labour Department for their failure to act against the non-compliance of Sindh Workers Welfare Fund and Sindh Workers Participation Fund and the failure, of DG Labour, to register Industrial Units respectively.

"If both the organizations- the SRB and the DG Labour, had taken timely action the recovery of Rs16.4 billion for workers fund could have been ensured."

This he said while presiding over a joint meeting of SRB, SSSI and Workers Welfare Board attended by Minister Law Omar Soomro, Advocate General Hassan Akbar, PSCM

Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Labour Shariq Ahmad, Chairman SRB Wasif Memon, Secretary Law Ali Ahmad Baloch, Commissioner SSSI Saleem Khuro, Secretary Workers Welfare Board and others.

Chairman SRB Wasif Memon told the CM that the missing amount of the fund payers- Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) and Workers Participation Fund (WPF) have been updated in the ledger of the Nazir of the Sindh High Court and now the Nazir ledger reflects that there were 39 cases who have deposited Rs19.29 billion against which Rs 6.75 billion and now the total amount has come to 26.03 billion.

The CM said that the 78 non-compliant litigant fund payers have been issued 19 show-cause notices by raising demand of Rs

35.97 billion in which the Sindh component would come to Rs 7 billion.

He said that there were 54 industrial units that owed Rs 3,106 billion. At this, the CM questioned that no action had been taken against them. The SRB team said that they have now issued them show-cause notices.

The CM expressing his displeasure ordered a high-level inquiry against SRB to unearth the motives behind the lethargy.

"These are the funds meant for workers but due to vested interest the industrial units are given favour at the cost of the welfare of the workers which is not acceptable at any cost," the CM said. The CM said that there were 127 defaulting units that owed Rs13.4 billion in the head of workers' welfare and participation funds.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses during the ceremony regarding the completion of 50 years of the Constitution of Pakistan under the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan held in Islamabad.

'Election delayed is election denied': Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Despite the Supreme Court's dismissal of the possibility of holding the general elections in the 90-day period defined by the Constitution, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari reiterated his demand for the polls at the earliest, saying that delaying the election is to deny them.

"The elections delayed are election denied," Bilawal said while addressing the golden jubilee of the Constitution of Pakistan in an event organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Monday.

Bilawal, the former foreign minister, once again sought the election schedule and provision of a "level playing field" for all the political parties.

Recalling the lawyers' movement of 2009 for the restoration of the judiciary, he said it was a seminal incident in the history of Pakistan's judiciary that had a profound impact on the relations between the judiciary and parliament.

Without naming him, Bilawal quoted a leading lawyer and member of the movement for the restoration of the former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, as saying that "the 2009 restoration of the judiciary as a result of public pressure had resulted in judges prone to arrogance and a bar prone to violence".

The former minister further said that in the 2013 general election, the judiciary under Chaudhry became a partisan actor with clear favourites in the polls, and the same happened in the 2018 elections.

No respite to foreigners after final deadline

ISLAMABAD (Online): Only 8 days left for all illegal foreigners to leave Pakistan. By October 31st, the evacuation of illegal persons from Pakistan is inevitable.

A final decision has been taken not to provide even one more day's respite to illegal residents.

Illegal residents will not be given any concession by law enforcement agencies after October 31st.

Security agencies have announced that actions will be taken in all areas where illegal foreigners live to ensure evacuation of illegal persons after October 31st.

Actions will also be taken against those persons who will shelter them.

14 new Corona cases reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials have said that 14 new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country.

As per data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.66 percent while no patient was in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus while 2,112 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination said that the government had strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan.

Chinese investment to prove stimulant for Pakistan's economic growth: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that the Chinese investment expected under the newly signed 20 MoUs would prove to be a stimulant for Pakistan's economic growth.

Addressing a press conference about his recent visit to China, the prime minister said 20 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed and hoped that the upcoming government would ensure consistency of the policy.

The prime minister, along with a high-level delegation visited China from October 16-20, mainly to attend the Belt and Road Forum where he also held bilateral meetings with Chi-

nese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

During the visit, the two sides signed 20 agreements and MoUs, covering cooperation on the BRI, infrastructure, mining, industry, green and low-carbon development, health, space cooperation, digital economy, development cooperation and export of agricultural products to China.

"The signing of 20 MoUs was very encouraging. This is after a long time that the MoUs in such a huge number were signed with China..."

We have brought along three guiding principles of coordination, cooperation and consultation with us," he remarked.

Balochistan CM advisor meets Sindh Governor, CM

KARACHI (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan Shania Khan called on Governor Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori here on Monday.



They discussed inter-provincial coordination, exchange of delegations and cultural relations.

The governor said that development of the provinces was top priority of the federation.

He said that the provinces would develop by funding from the federation.

Tessori said that the provinces could get benefit from the experiences of each other.

The advisor said that cooperation of the federation in Balochistan was appreciable.

Meeting 90-day deadline for elections no longer possible: CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Monday observed that it was "not possible" to meet the 90-day deadline for holding elections and lamented the lack of preparations of the petitioners.

The CJP passed the observation while hearing the petitions seeking timely elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the assemblies. The CJP is leading a three-member bench comprising himself, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan on the matter.

The pleas were filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and others to ensure that polls in the country are held within the stipulated time period.

At the outset of the hearing, CJP Isa asked the SCBA when they had filed the petition and questioned why it was not listed for a hearing at once.

He also asked the lawyer to give his arguments based on facts and lamented the petitioners' lack of preparation. When SCBA lawyer Abid Zuberi started to speak about the 2017 census, the CJP observed that the counsel was not speaking on facts.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Interior Minister, Brigadier(R) Haris Nawaz along with Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

PTI chairman, Qureshi indicted in cipher case

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Abul Hasanat of Special Court established under Official secret act has indicted PTI chairman Imran Khan and his co-accused former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case.

Chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi signed the documents related to indictment. However the both have pleaded not guilty and negated the charges leveled against them. The court issued summons to the witnesses for regular trial of the case

besides adjourning the hearing of the case till October 27 to record the evidences.

Both the accused, Shah Khawar advocate counsel for FIA, other state counsels, Usman Riaz Gul, Umair Niazi, Khalid Yousif counsels for chairman PTI and Taimoor Malik and Raja Qamar counsels for Shah Mehmood Qureshi were present in the court.

The counsels for the accused while opposing the indictment once again during the hearing of the case took the plea there is no substance in the allegations.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Past perfect

In Pakistan, antiquity has been at odds with the politics of ideology and identity, leading to a partisan concept of culture based on dominance. Therefore, Thursday's judgement by a division bench of the Sindh High Court's Hyderabad circuit on the preservation of Nagarparkar's Karoonjhar Hills and their "protection in conformity with international guidelines" was momentous as it endorsed the range as a well of heritage. The order stated that "the entire range of Karoonjhar Hills is one monument under the law and cannot be divided into pieces and portions". The court also called for the resurrection of every Jain temple in its original form and that statues declared as world heritage be made available.

Sindh's forgotten ties with Jainism nestle in the depths of Nagarparkar and Karoonjhar Hills, a range which some archaeologists say is nearly three billion years old. Nourished by the lost Hakra river, the area thrives as a cultural hub in the Chalcolithic and Paleolithic ages. The pink granite stretch, once known as Kinro, is still encrusted with magnificence: Bodhesar, Sadhro, Ambaji, Virawah temples, the Gorri Jain Mandir and a Bodhesar mosque. Almost six kilometres from central Nagarparkar stands a complex of three Bodhesar Jain temples built in 1375 AD and in 1449 AD; two have domes carved from Karoonjhar stone and the third is in complete decay. While the higher Bodhesar temple, with an uneven stone stairwell, was said to be by the Gulf of Sindhu, Bodhesar talao and a white marble mosque built in 1505 are at the foot of the hills. Such relics, and the remains of the fifth-century Parinagar Fort, which connected Karoonjhar to the sea, illustrate how sacred the slopes were to Jains. The least we can do today is to ensure that all beautiful residues of the past do not fade away as besides monetary rewards, such vestige reconnects us to our humane, accepting selves — an invaluable inheritance for future generations.

Slow turn of the tide



Zarrar Khuhro

We can see genocide unfold on our phones; scenes of horror dominate our social media feeds as we see images of murdered children and entire families wiped out as Israel converts the concentration camp that was Gaza into an extermination camp.

In this decades-old murderous project, Israel has the support of the entire Western establishment. America not only dispatched a carrier force to protect its ally, but is also leveraging all diplomatic support it can muster and financing Israel's murderous campaign, while being unable to pay for healthcare for its own citizens. The UK, obediently in tow, is doing the same albeit on a smaller scale, while France, that bastion of liberty, banned pro-Palestinian protests along with Germany which has once again decided to dump the burden of its historical guilt over the Holocaust onto Palestinian shoulders. The very existence of Palestine is criminalised in that bastion of freedom and liberty, and the police have been seen beating peace activists regardless of their colour or creed. The irony is lost on these governments, who otherwise spare no effort when lecturing the rest of this benighted globe.

In doing so, they are provided cover fire by Western media, which goes out of its way to conflate all Palestinians with Hamas and not just swallows Israel's lies but also repeats them ad nauseam until — they fervently hope — the lie becomes truth.

Except no one is buying it this time. The Arab world has not seen this kind of outpouring since the Arab Spring, a tide of people calling out not only Israel but also (if carefully) the impotence of their own governments.

Across the Western world tens of thousands of unapologetic, outspoken protesters are showing the world that while their states may stand with Israel, vast numbers of people stand with Palestine.

One reason for this is how badly Western narratives and Western media stand exposed; multibillion-dollar media giants are dragged across the coals and fact-checked by ordinary people armed only with keyboards and a conscience, and star anchors — so convinced of their powers to convince — splutter and rage as their one-sided narrative is picked apart. Despite the attempts by social media companies to censor, throttle and shadowban, the volume and scale of pro-Palestinian and anti-genocide content is too much to curtail.

Even in the US, that one inviolable bastion of Israel, the tide is slowly turning. Over the last week Jewish-American activists have led pro-peace protests that have surrounded the White House and the residence of Vice President Kamala Harris demanding an immediate ceasefire. Marching into the Capitol, young activists and wizened rabbis — many of whom had lost loved ones at the hands of the Nazis — were arrested in their hundreds, but not before delivering a powerful message that they would not allow the state of Israel, abetted by their own country, to weaponise the Holocaust and carry out genocide in the name of the Jewish people. That should send a collective shiver down the spines of traditional Jewish-American

organisations like the Anti-Defamation League and AIPAC, who can surely see these challenges to their self-proclaimed right to speak for all of American Jewry and are aghast that their propaganda is no longer working.

This is a sea change as far as America is concerned, and is only one of many examples of people who had hitherto stayed quiet now speaking out in a clear and united voice; similar sentiments echoed when comedian Dave Chapel echoed cries of 'Free Palestine' at his sold-out show in Boston. The shift is generational and racial; an NPR poll conducted last week shows that while the majority (65 per cent) of Americans — Republicans and Democrats — want the US to publicly support Israel, that percentage drops to 48pc when it comes to Generation Z, and 51pc when it comes to non-whites. The change isn't limited to the streets and social media; a day after the Capitol protests and arrests, Muslim and Jewish Congressional staffers wrote an open letter to their Congressmen and women bosses calling for an immediate ceasefire, although the pervasiveness of fear of retaliation is so great that the signees had to remain anonymous. It's not just the staffers; thus far at least 16 Congress members have called for a ceasefire and perhaps they will add Congressman Justin Amash, who says several of his relatives murdered in Israel's bombing of the Saint Porphyry Church in Gaza, to their number.

The list goes on, and a day will come when the tide will turn completely despite the pervasive power of Israel and its allies. But that day is not today, when Israeli warplanes massacre children to the applause of Western capitals. The time of justice will come, but not now; now is the time of monsters. — Courtesy Dawn

International Law: Bridging the Divide of Legitimacy

By Ayesha Rafiq

The ongoing debate regarding whether international law qualifies as "true law" hinges upon the interpretation of the term "law" itself. This dispute, as Professor Glanville L. Williams astutely noted, largely revolves around semantics. Advocates of the position held by figures like Hobbes, Austin, and Pufendorf contend that law derives from sovereign command, enforced by superior political authority, thereby excluding international law from the realm of law. Conversely, those who embrace a broader definition of law assert that it cannot be confined solely to rules dictated by political authority, allowing international law to be recognized as a legitimate branch of jurisprudence.

Austin's proposition that law is the product of a command from a supreme political authority, backed by coercive enforcement, faces criticism. This narrow definition, as pointed out by Professor Oppenheim, fails to account for the unwritten or customary law within municipal legal systems. It is a stark reality that no community or state exists solely on written laws.

Instead, law is better defined as "a body of rules of human conduct within a community, which, by the consent of its community, shall be enforced by external power."

This perspective, shared by scholars like Brierly and Professor Hart, challenges Austin's conception of law. Several compelling arguments support the notion that international law qualifies as true law: Historical jurisprudence demonstrates that various communities have

established legal systems even without formal legislative authorities. This practice highlights the adaptability and inclusiveness of law as a concept. States routinely acknowledge international law as binding upon them, even when they infringe upon its principles. This recognition underscores the legal character of international law in the eyes of the international community. States, when involved in international disputes, consistently reference the provisions, duties, precedents, and opinions of jurists grounded in international law, reinforcing its legal status. In some states, including the United States and the United Kingdom, international law is integrated into their domestic legal frameworks, further validating its legal character.

Additionally, the establishment of institutions like the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which decides disputes in accordance with international law, affirms the legality of international law. International conferences and conventions treat international law as genuine law, emphasizing its importance in global governance.

The United Nations, founded on principles of international law, explicitly recognizes its role in establishing justice and upholding treaty obligations.

Although international law lacks centralized enforcement, it still operates with sanctions.

These include the use of force under certain circumstances, international enforcement actions, and the authority of international organizations to impose sanctions in

line with their constituent treaties. Public opinion plays a crucial role in enforcing international law, as nations hesitate to violate it in the face of international condemnation.

Critics often cite the frequent violations of international law as evidence against its legitimacy. However, such violations are not unique to international law; they occur in municipal law as well. The frequency of violations should not undermine the status of international law as law. In both contexts, it is the strength of the enforcement mechanism that determines the extent of adherence.

In conclusion, international law possesses the characteristics of law when viewed within its unique context. While it operates in a decentralized system and lacks the efficiency of state legislative machinery, it is as strong and effective as possible given its parameters. Critics should recognize that international law is not meant to replicate municipal law entirely; rather, it functions effectively within its distinctive setting.

As Louis Henkin wisely noted, "much of the misunderstandings of international law is due to failure to recognize law where it exists."

Indeed, international law not only exists but also exerts a substantial influence on the conduct of international affairs in our complex and interconnected world.

Writer is (Student of National Defense University (NDU), Pursuing a Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS), Islamabad, Pakistan.)

Commerce News

PM for accelerated steps to trickle down impacts of reduced oil prices to common man

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate steps for trickling down the impact of reduced prices of the petroleum products to the common man.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting to discuss the impact of oil prices' reduction on commodities' rates,

instructed that the effect of reduction of petrol price by 12.38 percent and diesel by 4.7 percent should be trickled down to the common man at the earliest.

He said Rs 41 billion had been saved due to the stability in dollar rate and reduction in petroleum prices, and the relief would be extended to the common man. The meeting was apprised of the recent oil prices reduction and

outcomes of operation against power theft and smuggling.

It was told that due to the reduced petroleum prices, inflation had come down by 1.7 percent which was the highest during the last one year.

The prime minister appreciated the administration for taking steps to reduce oil prices and dollar rate, curb smuggling and transmitting

their impacts to the common man.

He instructed the relevant authorities to strictly deal with the hoarders and profiteers, and viewed that the operation against power theft and smuggling had benefited the consumers.

He said 18 percent reduction of wheat price and sugar by 16 percent in Balochistan was welcoming.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a briefing on decline in prices of essential items as a result of reduction in the prices of petroleum products.



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Secretary Power Gilgit-Baltistan and Chairman of Nor Hydro are signing the memorandum of understanding for the solar energy project started with the cooperation of Norway, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan and ambassador of Norway is also present.

Mian Zahid Hussain Nawaz will bring equilibrium to political climate

ISLAMABAD (PR): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the business community is pinning high hopes on the return of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

His return will result in balanced politics, which will result in political

stability that will help the people and the economy, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that in spite of jail, exile, and other difficulties, the former prime minister did not try to incite the public in his speech, nor did he talk about any kind of revenge, which is a proof of his political insight.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the former prime minister did not make any tall claims or vowed to jail the opponents.

PSX stays bullish, gains 338 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 338.96 points, a positive change of 0.67 per cent, closing at 51,070.83 points against 50,731.87 points the previous day. A total of 364,070,705 shares valuing Rs.15.930 billion were traded during the day as compared to 430,052,557 shares valuing Rs.14.611 billion the previous day. As many as 352 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 171 of them recorded gains and 150 sustained losses.

Pakistan, France discuss investment opportunities in key sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Caretaker Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar met with French Ambassador Nicolas Galey on Monday to discuss issues of mutual interest, including investment opportunities in key sectors such as railways, motorways, and shipping.

Tarar highlighted the country's democratic stability and bright future, while Galey expressed confidence in the Pakistani market and pledged to

attract more French investment.

Shahid Ashraf Tarar further said that the democratic stability in Pakistan has continued since 2008 and its future is bright. Some of the specific investment opportunities discussed include: A new railway line from Kohat to Kharlachi to connect with Afghanistan, the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway M-6, and the expansion of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.

President HCSTSI appeals SSGC authorities to resolve gas supply related issues

HYDERABAD (APP): The President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani has appealed to the Chairperson and Managing Director of Sui Southern Gas Company to resolve the issues of gas supply with low pressure and unscheduled management in Hyderabad.

The citizens particularly the industrialists of Hyderabad are suffering hardship due to gas pressure reduction and unscheduled gas

management, he said in a statement issued here on Monday.

The HCSTSI President expressed annoyance over the non-professional attitude of the SSGC management in Hyderabad including the Regional Manager adding that despite repeated complaints in person about gas pressure reduction and unscheduled management, no positive step was initiated to address the grievances causing financial losses to industrialists of Hyderabad.

SBP expects real GDP growth in the range of 2-3 percent in FY24

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Monday, said that Pakistan's economic situation started to show some early signs of improvement and real GDP growth is expected to remain in the range of 2-3% while inflation may subside to 20 to 22% in FY24.

The Central Bank, in

Mega job fair on Thursday

FAISALABAD (APP): A "mega job fair" would be arranged at Government College of Technology (Boys) Samanabad under the aegis of Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) here on Thursday (October 26, 2023). A spokesman of the college said here on Monday that Director General Operations TEVTA Amir Aziz would inaugurate the fair as chief guest whereas President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr Khurram Tariq and former president Board of Management TETVA Engineer Asim Munir would attend the ceremony as guests of honor.

its Annual Report on the State of Pakistan's Economy for the fiscal year 2022-23 released here, underscored the need of initiating broad-ranging reforms to ensure the availability of resources for economic growth and development and also stressed expediting tax policy reforms and speedy implementation of governance reforms in PSEs terming them instrumental to create fiscal space for public investment in human and physical capital.

The SBP also underscored the need to create a conducive environment to support foreign direct investment in exportable sectors and

encourage technology transfers, coupled with agriculture sector reforms that were required to alleviate import reliance and for achieving price stability. "There is a need to expedite these reforms to achieve a high and sustainable economic growth required to absorb the new entrants in labor market, improve social welfare and raise the general standard of living in the country," the SBP suggested.

The report highlighted that Pakistan's economic situation has started to show some early signs of improvement as the country has been able to secure a US\$ 3.0 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) from IMF, towards the end of FY23.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

CM Naqvi emphasizes swift resolution of issues

Independent Report
LAHORE: In a surprise move, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted an impromptu visit to the LDA One Window Cell today. He personally met with the staff of the One Window Cell, engaging in discussions about the challenges they face. Chief Minister Naqvi also sought feedback from citizens regarding the services provided by the One Window Cell. A woman present in the one-window cell extended her prayers and gratitude to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi for tirelessly serving the public day and night. During the conversation, she commended his widespread presence in

schools, hospitals, and various other settings. She prayed for his continued strength and expressed deep appreciation for his visits to hospitals and other critical places. A senior citizen expressed his pleasure at seeing the Chief Minister in the One Window Cell and praised the collective efforts of the team for striving towards improvement. Responding promptly to a citizen's complaint, the Chief Minister immediately summoned the concerned officer and directed swift resolution of the matter. He further instructed that a citizen's long-pending issue, spanning two years, be resolved within four days. Additionally, at the

request of a retired LDA employee's wife, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed the expeditious resolution of a plot allotment matter. He emphasized to LDA officials the utmost importance of promptly addressing citizens' concerns and underscored the need for efficient handling of LDA-related matters. Mohsin Naqvi noted the commendable progress in the performance of the One Window Cell, while acknowledging room for further enhancement. He assured that all endeavors are underway to ensure citizens do not face unnecessary hurdles in seeking assistance from the One Window Cell.



LAHORE: A delegation of overseas Pakistanis led by Chief Coordinator Muslim League (N) International Affairs Amjad Ali Malik and President Muslim League (N) Holland Chaudhry Parvez Sandhila photographed with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman after a meeting

Pakistan would be put back on path to development very soon: Governor Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of overseas Pakistanis led by Chief Coordinator Muslim League (N) International Affairs Amjad Ali Malik and President Muslim League (N) Holland Chaudhry Parvez Sandhila called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest, including the current political situation in the country and the problems faced by overseas Pakistanis, were discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the return of political leader like Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is ray of hope and augurs well for the future of the country. He said that Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in his speech put aside the injustices and excesses committed against him and other leaders of the Muslim League in the past and have given a road map for the development of the country. He expressed hope that Pakistan would be put

back on the path to development very soon. Governor Punjab said that overseas Pakistanis are playing an important role in the country's economy by sending significant foreign exchange. He said that overseas Pakistanis always generously helped their compatriots in difficult times. Chief Coordinator Muslim League (N) International Affairs Amjad Ali Malik said that the return of a sincere, experienced, and humble leader like Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is a good omen for the country.

KP Information Minister visits Nowshera

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Responding to directives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the Minister of Information and Public Relations, embarked on an extensive inspection tour of Nowshera district. The primary objective of this visit was to evaluate the implementation of official transportation fares and the pricing of fruits and vegetables at government-approved rates. While visiting transport terminals, Minister Kakakhel engaged with passengers to confirm their compliance with government-sanctioned fare structures. In instances where transport providers were found to be imposing excess charges, he swiftly intervened, collected the surplus fees, and returned them to the passengers. The Minister stressed the vital necessity for rigorous oversight by district administration and transport authorities at terminals and along roadways to ensure adherence to government-mandated pricing. Minister Kakakhel reiterated his unwavering commitment to adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards those who attempt to charge fares exceeding official rates. He called upon both provincial and regional transport authorities to maintain vigilant supervision of fare pricing. Additionally, he encouraged administrative officers to prepare and prominently display.



KARACHI: Members of Pakistan Pediatric Association Sindhi are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Karachi press club.

Kashmiris to wrench back homes from Indian unlawful occupation: Sardar Attique

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): The anniversary is being celebrated on Tuesday, across AJK and worldwide by 20 million Kashmiris. Azad Jammu and Kashmir government founded on October 24, 1947 after immense human sacrifices is launching region to free rest of the Jammu and Kashmir state under military occupation of India. He pleaded today over one million Indian regular armed forces and half a million informal Indian occupation forces were torturing Kashmiris in homes.

Gastro takes 60,000 lives per annum in Pakistan: Experts

FAISALABAD (APP): The experts have revealed that the gastroenteritis and stomach diseases are taking the lives of 60,000 people annually in Pakistan. They were addressing an awareness seminar on "Gut Warriors: conquering gastroenteritis through awareness and action" organized by Rotaract Club, under Senior Tutor Office University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) in collaboration with Gastro-Pak Project of Medical Research Council UK Research and Innovation and Earlham Institute UK. The session was organized to create awareness about gastroenteritis and promote preventive measures to combat this prevalent disease. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Agronomy Department Prof. Dr. Abdul Khaliq stressed the need of water treatment before irrigating the field as the wastewater was posing serious health hazards.

Punjab chief secretary orders DCs to ensure new rates implementation

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman directed all deputy commissioners on Monday to ensure implementation of the new rate lists, issued following a reduction in the prices of petroleum products. He issued this directive while presiding over a video-link meeting of the deputy commissioners at the Civil Secretariat here. The meeting reviewed implementation of

reduction in food prices and transport fares. The chief secretary ordered that fare reduction lists be displayed in passenger buses. He said the price magistrates concerned would be responsible in case of sale of commodities at higher than fixed rates. He said that deputy commissioners themselves determine the prices of commodities in their districts, adding that it was also their responsibility to implement these rates.

PFA issues warning to 209 cereal units

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has served warning notices for improvement to 209 cereal production units and penalised 33 others with hefty fines over violations during the province-wide inspection drive. The authority also stopped production of a unit besides discarding more than 80kg of expired ingredients. PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said in a statement on Monday that the food safety teams inspected 268 cereal units.

Through Punjab Health Foundation Roadshows will be organized to provide maximum benefit to doctors. Dr. Javed Akram

Independent Report
LAHORE: The 35th meeting of the Board of Directors of Punjab Health Foundation was held in the Department of Specialized Health Care and Medical Education under the chairmanship of the Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram. Special Secretary Operations Raja Mansoor Ahmed, Additional Secretary Admin Zahida Azhar, Additional Secretary Finance Shahida Farrukh, Prof. Dr. Mahmood Shaukat and other officials participated in the meeting. The CFO of Punjab Health Foundation presented the contents of the agenda during the meeting. Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram also approved the minutes of the 34th meeting of the Board of Directors of Punjab Health Foundation.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Sindh Tarraqi Passand Party hold a protest against Nawabshah police.

International News

Turkey's president submits protocol for Sweden's admission into NATO

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has submitted a protocol for Sweden's admission into NATO to Turkey's parliament for ratification, his office said Monday, bringing the Nordic country a step closer to membership in the military alliance. Erdogan had been delaying ratification of Sweden's membership, accusing Stockholm of being too soft on Kurdish militants and other groups his country considers to be security threats. Turkey also was angered by a series of Quran-burning protests in Sweden. All 31 NATO allies

must endorse Sweden's membership. Turkey and Hungary are the only two allies that have yet to ratify it. A brief statement from the presidential communications directorate said Erdogan had signed the protocol on Sweden's NATO accession, which was then submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. It was not immediately known when Sweden's membership would come to the floor. Sweden welcomed the move. "Glad to hear that Turkish President Erdogan has now handed over the ratification documents to the Turkish Parliament," Swedish Prime

Minister Ulf Kristersson wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. "Now it remains for Parliament to deal with the issue. We look forward to becoming a member of NATO." Sweden and its neighbor Finland abandoned decades of military nonalignment and sought protection under NATO's security umbrella after President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops to invade Ukraine in February 2022. Finland joined the military alliance in April after Turkey lifted its objections to its membership, saying Helsinki had taken steps to address Ankara's security concerns.



Palestinians check the damage inside a mosque which was hit in an Israeli air strike, in Jenin refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Blinken, Austin say US is ready to respond if US personnel become targets of Israel-Hamas war

Monitoring Desk
REHOBOTH BEACH: Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Sunday that the United States expects the Israel-Hamas war to escalate through involvement by proxies of Iran, and they asserted that the Biden administration is prepared to respond if American personnel or armed forces become the target of any such hostilities. "This is not what we want, not what we're looking for. We don't want escalation," Blinken said. "We don't want to see our forces or our personnel come under fire. But if that happens, we're ready for it." Austin, echoing Blinken, said "what we're seeing is a prospect of a significant escalation of at-

tacks on our troops and our people throughout the region." He said the U.S. has the right to self-defense "and we won't hesitate to take the appropriate action." The warning from the high-ranking U.S. officials came as Israel's military response to a deadly Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on civilians in communities in southern Israel entered its third week. Israeli warplanes struck targets across Gaza overnight and into Sunday, as well as two airports in Syria and a mosque in the occupied West Bank allegedly used by militants to engulf more of the Middle East. Israel has traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group on a near-daily basis since the war began,

and tensions are soaring in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces have battled militants in refugee camps and carried out two airstrikes in recent days. The U.S. announced Sunday that non-essential staff at its embassy in Iraq should leave the country. Blinken, who recently spent several days in the region, spoke of a "likelihood of escalation" while saying no one wants to see a second or third front to the hostilities between Israel and Hamas, which rules Gaza. The secretary said he expects "escalation by Iranian proxies directed against our personnel," and added: "We're taking steps to make sure that we can effectively defend our people and respond decisively if we need to." Iran is an enemy of Israel.

Azerbaijan holds first joint drills with Turkiye since Karabakh victory

Monitoring Desk
AZERBAIJAN: Azerbaijan said on Monday it had begun a series of joint military exercises with close ally Turkiye, the first since Baku retook the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh last month, prompting most of the territory's ethnic Armenians to flee. Azerbaijan's defence ministry said in a statement that up to 3,000 military personnel were participating in exercises named for the founder of modern Turkiye, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. It said the drills were being held across Azerbaijan, including in Baku, the Nakhichevan exclave which borders Turkiye, and in what the ministry called the "liberated territories" of

Karabakh. Turkiye has close linguistic and cultural links to Azerbaijan, and offered Baku military and political support during its three decade-long conflict with Armenia, with which Ankara has no formal diplomatic relations. Armenia and Azerbaijan have recently signalled willingness to sign a peace treaty formally ending their conflict following Azerbaijan's victory in Karabakh and the exodus of almost all the region's 120,000 ethnic Armenians. The foreign ministers of the two countries, along with those of Turkiye, Iran and Russia, were due to hold talks hosted by Tehran on Monday on progress towards a peace agreement.

Second aid convoy enters Gaza Strip from Egypt - UN official

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: A second convoy of 14 aid trucks entered the Rafah crossing from the Egyptian side to the besieged Gaza Strip on Sunday night, Juliette Touma, director of communications at the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), told Reuters in Gaza by phone from Amman. Witnesses reported a blast and ambulance sirens on the border earlier. Israel's military said one of its tanks accidentally hit an Egyptian position near the border with the Gaza Strip. Several Egyptian border guards sustained minor injuries after being hit by fragments of an Israeli tank shell, a spokesperson for the Egyptian army said. A witness and a medical source said seven people were wounded and taken to hospital. Israel's defence force "expresses sorrow regarding the incident, which is being investigated," it said in a statement, giving no further details.

There were a total of around 19 trucks in Sunday's convoy carrying medical and food supplies, the security and humanitarian sources said. A first convoy of 20 trucks of badly-needed supplies had entered Gaza on Saturday through Rafah, which had previously been out of operation after bombardments hit on the Gaza side of the border and amid wrangling over conditions for delivering aid. Distribution of those supplies began on Sunday, but aid officials are still warning of a humanitarian disaster as supplies of food, water and fuel run low. Israel imposed a total blockade and launched air strikes on Gaza in response to a deadly attack on Israeli soil by Hamas on Oct. 7. The Rafah crossing, the main entry and exit point to Gaza that does not lead to Israel, has become the focus of a push to deliver aid as humanitarian conditions in Gaza worsen.



Argentina's presidential candidate Sergio Massa addresses supporters, as he reacts to the results of the presidential election, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Philippines says a coast guard ship and supply boat were rammed by Chinese vessels at disputed shoal

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: A Chinese coast guard ship and an accompanying vessel rammed a Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat Sunday off a contested shoal, Philippine officials said, in an encounter that heightened fears of an armed conflict in the disputed South China Sea. A top Philippine security official told The Associated Press there were no injuries among the Filipino crew members and an assessment of the damage to both vessels was underway. The official said that the two

incidents near Second Thomas Shoal, where China has repeatedly tried to isolate a Philippine marine outpost, could have been worse if the vessels were not able to maneuver rapidly away from the Chinese ships. The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to a lack of authority to publicly discuss the matter. China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea, including over islands closer to Philippine shore, have raised tensions and brought in the United States, a longtime treaty ally of the Philippines.

Australian prime minister announces China visit hours before leaving for US to meet Biden

Monitoring Desk
CANBERRA: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he will visit China in early November to meet President Xi Jinping, making the announcement Sunday hours before he departed for the United States to meet with President Joe Biden. The Chinese visit dates were confirmed a day after Beijing agreed to review the crippling tariffs it levied on Australian wine that have effectively blocked trade with the winemakers' biggest export market since 2020. Albanese will become the first Australian prime minister to visit China in seven years when he travels to Beijing and Shanghai on Nov. 4-7. "It's in Australia's interest to have good relations with China," Albanese told reporters at Australian Parliament House.

Almost 20,000 displaced in Lebanon as clashes on Israel border escalate

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: Almost 20,000 people have been internally displaced in south Lebanon and elsewhere since early October, a U.N. agency said on Monday, as violence escalates on the Lebanese-Israeli border following the eruption of the Gaza war. The International Organization for Migration said 19,646 people had been displaced inside Lebanon

since it began tracking movements on Oct. 8, the day after an assault on Israel by Hamas militants and an Israeli counteroffensive on Gaza. It said the movements were mostly by those fleeing the south although some departures were also reported elsewhere. The Israeli authorities have also been evacuating dozens of towns and communities from the north of Israel.

China calls for ceasefire, again

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China believes "force is not a way to resolve" the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and once again calls for a ceasefire, its envoy for the Middle East pleaded in Egypt, the foreign ministry said on Sunday. Egypt on Saturday hosted a "summit for peace" where UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for swift "action to end this godawful nightmare" after two weeks of Israeli brutality in Gaza.

Pakistan ready to work with ASEAN states on confidence-building, conflict prevention: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani on Monday, terming a peaceful and stable Asia Pacific a priority, said Pakistan stood ready to work with the member states of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) to attain the goals of confidence-building and conflict prevention in the region.

Speaking at the inauguration of the ASEAN Corner at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), the foreign minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts in forging the future

prospects of its relations with ASEAN.

Jilani reaffirmed Pakistan's support for an international order, based on peaceful co-existence, amicable settlements of disputes, win-win cooperation, and shared prosperity.

He mentioned that Pakistan was fully supportive of the principles of ASEAN and was collaborating in a number of areas including conducting courses on finance and banking.

He regretted that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

(SAARC) which was established on the same lines of ASEAN despite its potential had fallen victim to India's policies.

The foreign minister said Pakistan was currently facing economic, demographic, and economic and climate change challenges besides the creation of jobs for the young population.

He said Pakistan looked forward to meaningful cooperation amongst countries across the globe and termed it incumbent upon them to work towards putting Pakistan on the



LANDIKOTAL: Long queues of loaded trucks have been waiting for clearance to cross the Torkham border to move into Afghanistan, at Khyber Pass in Landikotal.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of the ECO member States called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

CPEC Cultural Caravan to promote cultural bonds between Pakistan, China: Jamal Shah

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah said on Monday that his ministry planned to organize a cultural caravan by the end of this year aimed at transcending economic ties and strengthening cultural bonds between Pakistan, China and the Central Asian States.

The cultural excursion under the title 'CPEC Cultural Caravan 2023' will be composed of diverse groups of Pakistani, Chinese and Central Asian artists, musicians, photographers, anthropologists, writers and filmmakers, he

said while addressing an award ceremony for the film Ba'tie Girl held in newly renovated auditorium of Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB).

The minister also gave away Pakistan-China Cultural Exchange Envoy award to Producer of the film, Xie Peng and Pakistan National Award for Outstanding Achievement in Culture to the co-producer of the film.

Jamal Shah informed that the caravan would start from Xi'an, China and travel through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, UAE,

CM orders free legal assistance to juvenile offenders

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar, taking notice of the 385 juvenile offenders in different jails of Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur, on Monday directed the provincial Law Department to take steps to ensure legal assistance for these inmates.

The CM issued the directive after the media re-

Chairman Senate meets Chairman of CPPC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday met with Wang Huning, the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

The Chairman expressed his delight at the warm hospitality extended to his delegation and congratulated Mr. Wang Huning on his appointment as the Chairman of the CPPCC and the successful 'Two Sessions' held earlier this year.

Pakistan keen to strengthen bilateral ties with ECO member states

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday, stressing the significance of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), said Pakistan was keen to further strengthen bilateral ties with each ECO member country.

The prime minister, in a meeting with resident ambassadors of ECO member states at the PM House, highlighted the significance of the ECO for regional development.

He said the ECO member states shared a common history and culture. "Today, the region faces common challenges



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naved Ashraf exchange views with Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio at naval Headquarter.

Pakistan Railways plans cross-border network to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar revealed on Monday that Pakistan Railways has strategic plans to develop a railway network connecting Kohat to Kharachi, promoting connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

During a meeting with French Ambassador Nicolas Galey, the minister expressed that the Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway M-6 also represents a compelling investment prospect for France. Pakistan National Shipping Corporation is actively broadening its scope, providing further investment avenues.

The caretaker minister, Tarar, noted that the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) is undergoing expansion, offering extensive investment possibilities, including opportunities for French investors.

The French ambassador highlighted the longstanding history of relations and cooperation between France and Pakistan. He also mentioned the interest of French investors in Pakistani projects, emphasizing the diverse investment possibilities available for French investors in Pakistan.

Tarar said Pakistan has maintained a democratic government since 2008, and its future holds great potential. Alstom, the French transport company, is solidifying its long-term presence in Pakistan, marking a significant move towards expanded investments.

Ambassador Nicolas Galey conveyed his intent to boost French investments and inject substantial capital into Pakistan.



LARKANA: Activists of Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

PKM leads to revitalization of major cities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, (INP): Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM project) Multan-Sukkur section in Pakistan, initiated by China State Construction Engrg. Corp (CSCEC), has been finished in three years, witnessing the unremitting efforts of the CSCEC team for more than a decade.

It is a key project of the 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) and the largest transportation infrastructure project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The friendship between China and Pakistan brought closer by PKM will stand the test of time and grow with new vitality. Dreams and hopes are intertwined, allowing more people to embrace happiness and the future together,

PPP to fulfill polio-free Pakistan dream of BB: Bilawal

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that polio-free Pakistan was the dream of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and PPP has a strong political will to turn this dream into reality.

The PPP Chairman, in his message on the occasion of World Polio Day, said that the nation remembers that it was former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who launched the Polio Eradication Program for the first time in the country in 1994 to protect Pakistani

Children from the lifelong crippling disease

He said that the anti-polio program was strongly opposed by the reactionary forces, but Shaheed Bibi was not going to back down either as she started her struggle against this unjustified opposition and misguided propaganda by first administering polio drops to her own daughter and her younger sister, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari. "I believe that Pakistan's victory is inevitable in every war started and led by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto," he added.

Nawaz Sharif files applications for restoration of appeals in two references

ISLAMABAD (APP): The legal team of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Monday filed applications to the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking the restoration of appeals in Avenfield property and Al-Azizia Steel Mills references.

Amjad Pervaiz Advocate filed the applications on behalf of the former prime minister. It prayed the court to decide the appeals after hearing arguments on merit in the cases.

In the petitions, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif stated that he hadn't completely recovered from the ailment, adding he decided to return country due to the miserable economic condi-

76-year ordeal Kashmiris to observe October 27 as Black Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris and their supporters the world over and on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) will observe October 27 as black day - the day when Indian forces illegally landed in Srinagar in 1947, marking a chapter of occupation, subjugation and oppression for the innocent people.

Black Day is observed every year to protest against the Indian illegal occupation and remind the world community of its commitments regarding the implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions that advocate Kashmiris' right to plebiscite.

In Srinagar, posters have appeared in different localities wherein people have been asked to observe October 27 (Friday), as Black Day, Kashmir Media Service (KMS) reported. The posters displayed by All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Resistance Youth Forum Jammu and Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani along with High Commissioner of Malaysian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad Azhar Malan and others are visiting the ASEAN Corner after the session 'Forging Partnerships: Exploring the Future Prospects of Pakistan-ASEAN Relation' at The Institute of Strategic Studies in Federal Capital.

Turkiye, Iran, Malaysia, Qatar and Pakistan advocating a new forum of Islamic states, Diplomats

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, Mehmet Pacaci, said that the bilateral relations are not only deep-rooted and time-tested, and have entered a new era of modern cooperation as both the countries are making new strides in technological cooperation and revitalizing geo-economics.

He was addressing the Distinguished Lecture Series, titled 'Diplomatic Reflections' at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Monday, October 23.

The learned scholar who holds a PhD in 'Tafsir and Hadith' and had worked relentlessly for Islamic solidarity and campaigned against Islamophobia, called for greater unity among the Muslim world, and hinted at reigniting a new spirit in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

To a question, he said that the proposed neo-alignment between Türkiye, Iran, Malaysia, Qatar and Pakistan for advocating a new forum of Islamic states is very much on cards, and must be looked into as a mark of congenial cooperation without any divide.

At the same time, he stressed on the utility of OIC and pointed out the efforts presently being undertaken by it to address the imbroglio and massacre in Gaza. He hoped that the Foreign Ministers' moot in Cairo will be a success, and something positive will emerge out of it.

He blamed the United States for Israeli transgression, and said that it is acting as the biggest obstacle in resolving the Palestinian crisis.

He, however, regretted that the volume of trade between the two countries is not up to the potential, as they are well behind the \$1 billion mark. He hoped that the same should surpass well above \$5 billion, and urged upon the trade and commerce bodies to work together for greater integration and initiatives.

He pointed out that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between the two countries, and was relieved that it is operational at the moment and is making headway in renewed cooperation. Nonetheless, he saw hurdles in its way and the prime to obstruct are geopolitical fissures as the region is in turmoil.

Ambassador Pacaci said that more than 50 Turkish companies are presently operating in Pakistan, and hoped that many more are in the pipeline as there is immense potential of trade and investment in industrial and other ventures.

He also mentioned the versatility of defence cooperation which has touched new heights with the production of four warships by Turkey. "Two warships will be manufactured in Istanbul and two more at Karachi Shipyard. One has already been chummed out into the high seas," he proudly added.



HYDERABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq addresses during Akhwan Convention held at Mansoorah in Hyderabad.

Gaza death toll tops 5,000 after hundreds of overnight Israeli air strikes

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The death toll in the Gaza Strip has passed 5,000, Palestinian health authorities said Monday, after hundreds of strikes on the enclave overnight, while UN humanitarian officials repeated urgent calls for a ceasefire and more aid convoys.

The deadly assault followed Israeli officials' warning that attacks on Gaza would increase.

In Washington, the White House said President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed Sunday that there would be a "continued flow" of critical aid, the same day a second convoy of trucks entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing from Egypt. But there was

Plantation campaign launched in FUUAST

KARACHI (APP): Acting Registrar of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology Muhammad Sadiq Monday while planting saplings during the Clean and Green campaign on behalf of FUUAST's Department of Horticulture said that there was a great need for plantation in educational institutions, especially in Karachi city. He said that the plants not only add to the beauty of the environment but also prevent the increase in pollution. In this regard, it is a good practice to start a plantation.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Zahid said that in order to improve the environment and prevent pollution, we have to plant more trees so that we can have a better environment and also increase the beauty of varsity. If we try, we can make Karachi a greener city, he added.

Large number of employees were also present on the occasion.



KARACHI: Affected residents of Gulshan-e-Sahar are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of influential land mafia, held at Defence area in Karachi.