

# Independent

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## PM urges UN Chief for implementation of UNSC Kashmir resolutions

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and called on him to use his good offices for the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, and ensuring the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris.

The prime minister, in the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, briefed the UN secretary-general on the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

He underscored Pakistan's serious concerns over India's egregious actions in the IIOJK and stressed upon the need to resolve the dispute to ensure lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

Prime Minister

Shehbaz welcomed the initiative by the Secretary General Guterres to organize the "Summit of the Future", and expressed his hope that its outcome would help the developing countries in bridging the financial gap for implementation of SDGs and climate goals.

He condemned Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinians, and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

The prime minister also urged the international community to hold Israel accountable and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the establishment of a viable and sovereign State of Palestine.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also underscored the need for stemming the rising tide of Islamophobia, and discrimination against Muslims worldwide.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of 79th session of United Nations General Assembly.

## Pakistan committed to promoting sustainable, environment-friendly transportation system: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to promoting the development of a safe, sustainable, efficient and environment-friendly transportation system in the country.

The president, addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024, through a video message, being held in Beijing from September 25-26, 2024, said that Pakistan would work closely with China to achieve the goals of sustainable development to usher in an era of peace and prosperity.

He emphasized that the world needed resilient infrastructure for efficient, environment-friendly and

low-carbon transport solutions to fulfill the needs of the people.

He appreciated China's lead role in promoting and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly recognizing the critical importance of the transport sector.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by the government, President Zardari apprised the Forum that Pakistan had introduced pink buses specifically for women to provide a safe, comfortable and accessible mode of public transportation.

He underlined that rural accessibility to all-weather roads in Pakistan witnessed significant improvement, reaching 92%.

Improved rural accessibility could potentially contribute to promoting sustainable development as well as providing essential services to the rural population, he added.

The president apprised the participants that Pakistan was facing the challenges of sustainable maintenance of its infrastructure and the effects of climate change.

He highlighted that over the last five years, devastating floods, heavy rainfall and extreme weather conditions had severely damaged Pakistan's transport infrastructure including roads, rails, bridges and other critical transport networks that isolated millions of people, particularly in rural areas.

## IMF board approves \$7bn EFF for Pakistan

PM Shehbaz expresses satisfaction at programme's approval, hopes this will be Pakistan's last programme.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday approved a \$7 billion new bailout package after Pakistan promised to overhaul its agriculture income tax, transfer some fiscal responsibilities to provinces and had to take the most expensive loan in the nation's history.

The Executive Board of the IMF approved the 37-month Extended Fund Facility totaling \$7 billion. It also authorised to immediately release the first loan tranche of nearly \$1.1 billion. It is the 25th IMF programme that Pakistan has obtained since 1958 and 6th EFF.

The IMF board has approved the programme without addressing one of the root causes of taking these loans—the need for

restructuring of the external and domestic debt that consumed 81% of Pakistan's tax revenues in the last fiscal year.

The new bailout package targets achieving the macroeconomic stability by consolidating public finances, rebuild foreign exchange reserves, reduce fiscal risks from state-owned enterprises, and improving the business environment to encourage growth led by the private sector.

To qualify for the programme, the government imposed Rs1.4 trillion to Rs1.8 trillion in additional taxes, increased electricity prices up to 51% and committed to bring transparency in the affairs of the Sovereign Wealth Fund.

APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday ex-

pressed satisfaction over the approval of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) package of US\$7 billion for Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a statement issued by the PM Office, said that the process for economic reforms was underway and after attaining economic stability, efforts would continue to achieve the goals of economic growth and development.

He said the boom in investment and business activities, which was the result of hard work by the government's economic team, was a welcoming sign. "Besides notable diplomatic accomplishments, another significant achievement has been the surge in foreign remittances sent by Pakistani expatriates," the prime minister remarked.

## FO issues travel advisory for Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Office on Wednesday advised the Pakistani nationals to exercise extreme caution and avoid traveling to Lebanon in the wake of Israeli attacks.

Similarly, the Pakistanis "presently residing in Lebanon are advised to travel out through commercial flights which are still available," the FO Spokesperson said in a statement.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024, through a video message, in Beijing China.

## Terrorists exploiting Baloch women for committing terrorism in Balochistan: Adeela Baloch

QUETTA (APP): The Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), in a successful bid, arrested Adeela Baloch who was being trained to become a suicide bomber from Turbat city of Kech district who revealed that the terrorists were blackmailing Baloch women to trap them for committing terrorism in the province.

Addressing a press conference along with her parents here on Wednesday Adeela Baloch said that she was a nurse by profession and her job was to help people and save precious lives but she was brainwashed by terrorists to commit the opposite of that and become a murderer.

Adeela said she was not the only one who had been led astray by these people, adding that she was brainwashed in such a way that she got ready to become a suicide bomber

and didn't even think how many innocent people would lose their lives because of her suicide attack.

"Anti-state elements are misguiding the youth and lured them into joining terrorist groups under false promises. They showed me false hopes of a new and happy life," she explained, adding that once she joined them, she realised that the life in the mountains was nothing but hardship.

Adeela said she went to the mountains to join the terrorists' groups without telling her family. Adeela further revealed that she wasn't the only one who was misled by the terrorists.

Other Baloch female youth had been similarly brainwashed, she noted.

She also clarified that "the narrative of Baloch women willingly becoming

suicide bombers was untrue. Terrorists blackmail women into this of which I am a victim too."

In a message to Baloch youth, Adeela urged them not to make the same mistake she did. "These actions only lead to destruction. You gain nothing from these activities," she warned, advising young people to inform their parents if they ever encounter such individuals.

The arrested female suicide bomber Adeela Baloch was working as a nurse at Turbat Teaching Hospital at the time of her arrest. The arrest of Adeela Baloch by security forces has been hailed as a significant achievement, showcasing the authorities' relentless efforts and effective intelligence operations to purge the country from the menace of terrorism.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with the Crown Prince of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleed Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Session.

## Two police cops among 12 injured in Eastern bypass explosion

Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 12 persons including two police personnel got injured in an explosion took place in Eastern bypass area on Wednesday morning.

According to the police, the explosion was occurred along the road near a police mobile in Eastern bypass near Barakzai town on Monday morning.

As a result of the explosion, 12 persons got injured some of them seriously. They were included two police personnel.

Apparently, the police mobile was attacked in the subversive act, the police

informed. The police and rescue teams rushed to the spot, and shifted all the injured to Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital.

The injured were removed to the Trauma Center after preliminary treatment at the casualty ward of Sandeman Hospital.

Meanwhile the Government of Balochistan has issued orders for investigation into the terrorists' attack on the police mobile in Quetta. According to the spokesman of provincial government, the police mobile was targeted in the terrorism attack in eastern bypass area of Quetta.



QUETTA: A view of destroyed vehicle seen on blast site. Twelve people were injured in a blast that targeted a police van near Eastern Bypass in Quetta, hospital and government officials said.

Constitutional amendments should be made with consensus:

## Solution of county's problems lies in fresh general elections, insists Chairman PkMAP

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Head of Tahafuz Tehreek Aayeen-e-Pakistan and Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai has stated that the solution to the problems being faced by the country lies in fresh elections, so all political parties should set principles in this regard.

He said that the right to elect the public representatives should be with the people.

He said that the solution to the issues is possible through supremacy of constitution, strengthening of democracy and rule of

law. The Chairman of PkMAP was speaking to the media persons here on Wednesday.

To a question, Mehmood Khan Achakzai said that the constitutional amendments are not made through conspiracies and that behind the closed doors.

He said that the constitution is not mere a piece of paper rather it is a sacred document.

He stressed that the amendments in constitution should be made with consensus according to the requirements of the country and people.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail presiding over annual meeting of Pakistan Red Crescent Society Balochistan

## PM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen Kuwait ties

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday held a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleed Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and expressed Pakistan's keenness to further strengthen ties between Pakistan and Kuwait.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Session here, the prime minister affirmed the longstanding cordial relations between the two brotherly countries.

The two leaders also reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, ranging from political, economic and defense cooperation to people-people exchanges.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed his desire to engage with Kuwait in mutually beneficial economic investments under the rubric of the Special Investment Facilitation Council.

The two leaders affirmed to closely collaborate bilaterally, as well as on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

## Concrete steps to be taken to ensure proper sharing of BRCS, says Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that concrete steps would be taken to ensure proper sharing of Balochistan Red Crescent Society (BRCS) in the province.

However, he stressed that it is necessary to take the Red Crescent into confidence regarding disaster management and relief activities about the province at the national level.

He said that it is responsibility of the Red Crescent to highlight the collective sense of relief activities and volunteer services in the natural disasters, viral diseases and other emergent circumstances.

The Governor was

presiding over the annual meeting of Balochistan Red Crescent Society at the Governor's House on Wednesday.

Also present on the occasion were the Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Chairman of Red Crescent Society, Abdul Wali Khan Ghaibzai, besides other concerned members.

He asserted that he may visit the Society anytime so the comprehensive strategy should be prepared to improve its performance, ensure attendance of the staff, speed up the local activities and activate the volunteers and impart first medical aid training at union council level.

## Coward terrorists remain in search of soft target: CM condemns terror attack at Police mobile

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has strongly condemned the terrorists' attack at the Police mobile in Eastern bypass area of Quetta.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that the terrorists' attack on the police mobile is condemnable. He asserted that the terrorists would be taken to task anyway.

He said that terrorists are coward, who remain in search of the soft target. The Chief Minister also asserted that action would remain continued against the terrorists. Mir Sarfraz Bugti prayed for early recovery of those injured in the terrorists' attack and said that the terrorists would not be spared at all. He directed to the concerned high ups to provide best possible medical treatment to those injured in the attack.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding polio situation in the province



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chaired the inaugural meeting of the Education Task Force.

## Ahsan Iqbal chairs maiden meeting of Education Task Force

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday chaired the inaugural meeting of the Education Task Force and expressed serious concerns over the current state of education in the country.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chief Secretaries from all provinces, and representatives from the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, UNDP, FCDO, UNESCO, the World Bank, ADB, Malala Fund, ITA and Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, a news release said.

Citing alarming data from the Education Index, the minister stressed the

need for urgent and immediate actions in the education sector.

He highlighted that approximately 25 million children in Pakistan were currently out of school, and the literacy rate stood at a mere 60%, which is a matter of grave concern.

The minister emphasized that the government's aim was not just to enroll children in schools but to provide them with quality education. "We must equip every child with basic computer skills and modern technical education, along with establishing state-of-the-art laboratories," he stated. Terming the initiative as a significant challenge, he underscored that no educational reforms would succeed without improving teacher training in the country.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Point of no return?**

Is this the end? The state, as envisioned in the Constitution, is being dismantled in real-time. The government has made it clear it will not accept or implement a ruling issued by the full bench of the Supreme Court.

Social media and television channels have begun broadcasting open attacks on the judiciary, without any worry for the consequences. They are being shielded by the government's own adversarial stance on the matter. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court judges have once again gone public with their disagreements, openly criticising and challenging each other through letters and observations. As things unravel, the judiciary has, for all practical purposes, been rendered defunct. If the bastion falls, there will be no turning back.

The government seems not to care that it has very little legitimacy in the eyes of the public. The engineering and machinations through which its creation was achieved, and which continue to be done to ensure its continuity and sustenance, have left little room for it to be seen in a favourable light. Additionally, its legislative agenda has laid bare the interests it truly serves.

Meanwhile, parliament has demeaned itself by allowing itself to be used to uproot the established division of power. Lawmakers continue to remind us that 'parliament is supreme', as if merely repeating the phrase ad nauseam will confer supremacy upon it. The truth is that they are almost ready to serve the country on a platter to forces that have no patience for democracy or parliamentary niceties and procedure.

To top it all off, the main opposition party remains so obsessed with its leadership's troubles that it has found little time to connect with ordinary citizens, many of whom have been looking to it to give voice to their struggles.

It is within this context that the public had looked to the Supreme Court to act as a final arbiter in one of the key politico-legal disputes of our time. A full court was called to hear the matter, and it eventually issued a ruling. Most of the judges agreed that a wrong had been done and justice must be delivered; they only disagreed on how. Regardless, it was always the majority's verdict that was prevail.

Now, no matter where he personally stood on the matter, it is the chief justice's responsibility to ensure his institution and its edicts' respect. He should be wary that his public disagreements with other judges are being used as ammunition by the government, and should know he is being expected to take a stand for his fellow judges, many of whom once took a stand for him.

When he was appointed chief justice, he was simultaneously burdened with an immense responsibility. He must demonstrate he is worthy of bearing it.

**Constitutional breakdown**

Rida Hosain

It was in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Britain that A.V. Dicey wrote that the British parliament is sovereign, and no person or body has the right to override legislation of parliament. Since then, even the courts in England have watered down the absolute and extreme terms of the theory and called it 'out of place' in modern times.

While our constitutional dispensation is wholly distinct, the present government is adopting Diceyan concepts of sovereignty. The 1973 Constitution was adopted by the people of Pakistan, and provides at the outset 'we the people' give to ourselves this Constitution. It is the people's document that reigns supreme.

The Constitution creates and establishes a balance between the role of the judiciary, executive, and legislature. The government seeks desperately to upset this balance by undermining judicial independence, and demanding judicial obedience.

The unique part of our Constitution is the status afforded to fundamental rights and judicial independence. Any law inconsistent with fundamental rights shall be void. Democracy, fundamental rights, parliamentary form of government, and an independent judiciary have also been declared as salient features of the Constitution. Per past precedent, even any constitutional amendment to the extent that it violates such salient features shall be struck down.

Fundamental rights and an independent judiciary work together, a judiciary that is not independent cannot protect and enforce fundamental rights.

In 2015, the Constitution was amended to allow the trial of civilians by military courts. Justice

Qazi Faez Isa (as he was then) struck down the constitutional amendment, and held: "the people made it absolutely clear that they did not want their representatives to dilute their fundamental rights". As regards judicial independence and separation of powers, he found that judicial power can only be exercised by the judiciary.

On the 1973 Constitution, he held that unlike the ones before it, the Constitution endures: "the 1973 Constitution has grown in stature and has found acceptance in the hearts and minds of the people of Pakistan so much so that even the onslaughts on democracy and the judiciary by Gen Ziaul Haq and Gen Pervez Musharraf could not dislodge it."

At that time, Justice Isa was not swayed by the fact that two-thirds of both Houses had passed the amendments. The government of today tries to apply faulty principles of sovereignty to justify its attempted destruction of judicial independence, and continued wreckage of democracy and fundamental rights.

Despite express and specific directions, implementation of the reserved seats order is being obstructed. Amendments to the election laws were bulldozed through parliament with the singular purpose of undoing the reserved seats verdict. The ruling alliance wants to impose on the people an unrepresentative legislature.

In granting PTI reserved seats, the court interpreted constitutional provisions. This cannot be undone through ordinary legislation. Bizarrely, the amendments have been given retrospective effect. A political party cannot be asked to comply with requirements which, put simply, did not exist at the time of elections.

Then, through a

rushed ordinance which was approved by the cabinet, the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, has been amended. The most striking part of the amendment is that bench constitution power now vests with the chief justice of Pakistan, the next senior most judge, and a CJP nominee.

During hearings regarding the validity of the law, Justice Muneer Akhtar said the effect would be to make parliament 'master of the roster'. The court had surrendered its independence and autonomy in so far as its internal procedure was concerned. By succumbing in their endeavour to exclude Justice Akhtar from the bench-making process, the government has completely vindicated his dissent.

Finally, the proposed constitutional amendments have been partly defended by the law minister. It was Justice Muneer who borrowed Hans Kelsen's view that "a successful coup d'état was an internationally recognised method of changing a constitution", thus the doctrine of necessity was given birth in our jurisprudence, and devastating years followed.

The idea of one centralised constitutional court is also a Kelsenian one, and he championed a single exclusive institution to deal with all constitutional questions (a concept the government is trying to transplant into our common law jurisdiction). The legislature, in the words of Quaid-i-Azam, has the "gravest responsibility" as to how it takes decisions. Instead, attempts are being made to engineer a two-thirds majority, to make independent judges powerless; and to create an institution that would make the Supreme Court redundant. This should unite us all. — Courtesy Dawn

**Agents of terror**

Mahir Ali

Over the past week, the Netanyahu regime may have succeeded in its endeavours to provoke a wider war. It isn't difficult to imagine what the Western reaction would have been to, say, Iran, Russia or China booby-trapping an adversary's communication devices. In the case of Israel, shock is superseded by awe.

Yet even admiration for the technical ingenuity of Mossad has not prevented some commentators from acknowledging the terrorist aspects of a tactical success that qualifies as a war crime under international protocols to which Israel is a signatory. That mass-casualty attack has been supplemented with conventional air strikes that have already claimed hundreds of lives. Hezbollah will almost certainly feel obliged to respond, despite being massively outgunned. The big question is whether Iran will stay aloof.

The US State Department notoriously maintains a list of 'state sponsors of terrorism' that currently features Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria. Israel has obviously never been included. Nor has Pakistan — although it was previously seen as one of several 'safe havens' for militants. But its backing for the Afghan mujahideen in the 1970s-80s, co-sponsored by CIA and the Saudis, was never an issue. Nor its initial nurturing of the Taliban.

Israeli excesses have rarely elicited any objection from Washington, never mind the terrorist antecedents of at least two of its prime ministers, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, and the indulgent attitude of all other leaders towards international and 'domestic' operations by its agencies that qualify as terrorism by any reason-

able definition. Quite apart from the terror it routinely perpetrates or sponsors in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Israeli military and its offshoots have also created or encouraged terrorist movements or actions across its neighbourhood. The most egregious instance of this tendency was the Sabra and Shatila massacre in 1982 by Lebanese Falangist militiamen supervised by IDF general Ariel Sharon, who was officially reprimanded, but his bloodlust did not prevent him from becoming PM.

Back then, far-right US president Ronald Reagan ordered Begin to halt the 'holocaust' in Beirut. The Israeli PM bristled, but obeyed, perhaps influenced by the fact that many Israelis took a stand against their nation's horrific conduct in Lebanon. This year's demonstrators are understandably keen to bring home the hostages Israeli armed forces failed to protect on Oct 7 last year, but all too many of them are keen on the IDF stepping up its genocide in Gaza, and perhaps, continuing it in the West Bank, even southern Lebanon.

No one bothers to deny that the formidable Israeli war machine has been sponsored by the US for the past half-century or more. A year before his assassination in 1968, Martin Luther King declared "my own government" to be "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today". That accusation remains valid, but the transcontinental bloodshed conducted by the US has frequently been supplemented by the violence of its local auxiliaries or mercenaries.

The very nation that purports to be an arbiter of international disputes and a key to their resolution in fact qualifies as the world's most formidable

perpetrator and sponsor of terrorism through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and into the 21<sup>st</sup>.

It is not alone but its record — from the Philippines to Italy, Iran, Guatemala, Congo, Cuba and Indonesia as well as Timor, Vietnam, Chile, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Iraq — is unmatched in modern history. Hubris and hypocrisy are the key defining features of the American empire, which encompasses auxiliaries such as the UK, Canada and Australia, alongside key European nations and a bunch of hangers-on in the Global South.

It's favourite adopted child, though, may occasionally be subject to mild, mostly meaningless admonitions, but is always welcome to supplies of the latest lethal weaponry, and liable to be excused whenever it oversteps the mark, which is quite routine.

Unlike almost all of his predecessors, Benjamin Netanyahu does not have a storied military past; his terrorist tendencies have surfaced largely during his extended prime ministerial tenure. His primary motivation at the moment is to stay in power, not least to stave off legal challenges to his record of corruption — which barely intrudes into his moral turpitude as a politician.

It remains to be seen whether Hezbollah or Iran will wisely continue to ignore Israel's repeated provocations or disastrously trigger some kind of mutual assured destruction. But all bets are off as long as Israel proceeds with the Gaza genocide and the creeping annexation of the West Bank. The US won't be able to evade culpability unless it conjures up the courage to halt arms shipments to its primary Middle Eastern proxy as it pursues its misanthropic aims. — Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**16 sectoral council to be reactivated for industrial promotion: Jam Kamal**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, here on Wednesday, said that the Ministry of Commerce is reactivating 16 sectoral councils to prepare comprehensive plans and policies for industrial development and trade promotion in the country.

Addressing the 7<sup>th</sup> Pharma Export Summit and Award 2024, the minister mentioned that the suggestions from the sectoral councils would be presented to the export development board, headed by the Prime Minister, for their swift implementation.

He added that each sectoral council would have its own secretariat to determine ways and means and take measures to enhance trade and industrial activities in the country, noting that such initiatives would also help promote the local pharmaceutical sector.

He emphasized that the pharmaceutical industry plays a pivotal role in the country's economic growth and development, and the government is fully committed to supporting the sector's development, adding that sufficient

resources were available for economic progress and social prosperity in the country. The government is formulating comprehensive policies to address the issues faced by the local pharmaceutical sector. He highlighted that public-private partnerships are vital for making the local pharmaceutical industry more competitive in the international market.

He noted that local pharmaceutical exports registered about 13 percent growth during the last financial year, underscoring the industry's critical role.

**Atif Ikram says: Govt action against non-filers is right decision, burden on taxpayers should be reduced**

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the government's decision to take action against non-filers is correct while tax burden should be reduced on tax payers. Action against non-payers of taxable income should have been decided earlier. Action should be taken against taxpayers and facilitating officers involved in tax evasion, he expressed these views while talking to

Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Vice President Tariq Jadoon, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail and others.

President Federation Atif Ikram said that tax collection must be increased to improve the economy of Pakistan, to increase the tax revenue it is necessary to increase the number of taxpayers, tax net does not increase by imposing more taxes on taxpayers rather people start evading taxes, so instead of increasing the tax rate.

**Bank Alfalah gets global recognition with 2 GIFA awards**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Bank Alfalah has earned international acclaim by winning two awards at the 2024 Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA), highlighting its position as a leader in the Islamic banking sector.

The Bank received accolades for its contributions to Islamic banking, including the Islamic Banker of the Year 2024 award and the Best Islamic Banking Window Operations Award 2024 under the GIFA Market Leadership Awards category, said a press release.



ISLAMABAD: The delegation of Belarus called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain.

**Dar reviews progress on transfer of OGDCL shares to Sovereign Wealth Fund**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Transfer of OGDCL Shares with the Privatization Commission.

The committee discussed the transfer of Oil & Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) shares to the Sovereign Wealth Fund and measures for

operationalization of the Fund.

The Deputy PM emphasized that the Advisory Committee envisaged under the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Act 2023, would consist of leading experts in finance, economics or other relevant fields to achieve the objectives under the Act.

Minister for Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

**NTDC successfully launches SAP Finance Module**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has achieved a significant milestone in its digital transformation journey with the successful implementation of the SAP Finance Module, a key component of its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

A ceremony marking this achievement was held at NTDC's office in Shaheen Complex, where the Information Technology department team initiated the Go-Live

for the Finance Module, signaling a major step towards modernizing the company's operations, said a press release.

Deputy Managing Directors Engr. Qaiser Khan (P&E) and Engr. Rasheed A. Bhutto (AD&M) congratulated the teams of Information Technology and Finance Directorates on this success.

They directed the development of comprehensive training programs, including videos and manuals, for NTDC employees nationwide.

**PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 764 points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 764.28 points, a positive change of 0.94 percent, closing at 82,247.92 points against 81,483.64 points on the last working day.

A total of 422,163,158 shares were traded during the day as compared to 369,620,812 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 18,380 billion against Rs 17,062 billion on the last trading day.

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, MSC Maeva, Bentley-1, Al-Deebal and Scarabe carrying Container, Palm oil, LNG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Engro Elengy Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile two more ships, Clipper Trent and Hafnia Express scheduled to load/offload Rice and Gas oil.

**Pakistan, Belarus discusses JVs to set up tractor plant in country**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Belarus agreed on Wednesday to extensively discuss different options for a joint venture (JVs) to establish a joint tractor plant in the country to uplift the local agriculture sector and enhance productivity.

Consensus on this initiative was reached during a meeting between Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain and Belarusian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food

Vadim Shagoiko, said a news release. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister of Industry Andrei Kuznetsov, Secretary of Food Security Ali Tahir, and Secretary of Industries Saif Anjum.

Both sides agreed to collaborate on a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) project to protect cattle, as well as on the capacity building of agricultural engineers in machinery design.

**Pakistan's exports to US increase by 1.62% in 2 months**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United States (US) witnessed an increase of 1.62 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding months of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to the US were recorded at US\$949.855 million during July-August (2024-25) against exports of US\$934.666 billion during

July-August (2023-24), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to the US decreased to \$473.838 million in August 2024 against the export of \$494.774 million in August 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-to-month basis, the exports to the US witnessed a nominal decrease of 0.45 percent during August 2024 as compared to the exports of \$476.017 million in July 2024, the SBP data revealed.



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director, PTDC Aftab ur Rehman Rana addressing a meeting regarding celebration of "World Tourism Day" organized by FPCCI Central Standing Committee on "Tourism Economy" at FPCCI office.

## Biggest internship program launched for agriculture graduates: CM Maryam

FAISALABAD (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz has said that Pakistan is an agrarian country and the PML-N has the credit to launch the biggest internship programme to utilise the untapped potential of agriculture graduates by offering them about 1000 internships, and enabling them to use their knowledge and skills to put the country on the road to expeditious progress and prosperity.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the

agriculture graduates internship programme at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here on Wednesday, she said that the PML-N was a pro-people political party, which had always preferred public welfare and presented a betterment agenda instead of taking personal gains.

She said that some elements defamed politics through their negative deeds, but the PML-N promoted positive politics in the country, which was imperative for national

progress and prosperity.

She said that the previous rulers abused the young generation for their ulterior motives. They raised hollow slogans but never provided employment opportunities to the youth on merit. She said, "We have planned the biggest internship programme for the agriculture graduates with a monthly stipend of Rs. 60,000 per internee. These graduates were appointed purely on merit and their stipend would be enhanced gradually."



FAISALABAD: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addresses during annual prize distribution ceremony of Aziz Fatima Medical & Dental College at a local hotel.

## Women's role imperative for national progress, prosperity: Governor

FAISALABAD (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Wednesday said that women were sharing 52 percent population and their proactive role was imperative to materialize the dream of national progress and prosperity.

Talking to media persons during inaugural ceremony of a display & facilitation center for business women at Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) here, he said that Pakistan was passing through a crucial stage. He said the government was

concentrating for women empowerment. In this connection, various programs were chalked out to facilitate this community in all sectors including business, he added. He said that women were bestowed with tremendous abilities and capabilities. Hence, they should come forward and prove their mettle in national development, he added. Responding to a question, he said that another constitutional amendment had become imperative to remove the ills prevailed because of the 19th Amendment which had totally eroded the very spirit of the 18th Amendment.

## Shahid murder case: Court remands co-accused in police custody

LAHORE (APP): A local court on Wednesday handed over a co-accused, involved in the murder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and businessman Dr. Shahid Siddique, to the police on a 5-day physical remand.

Earlier, the police produced the co-accused, Akbar, before a judicial magistrate in the Model Town courts. The investigation officer requested the court to grant a 10-day physical remand of the co-accused for the recovery of a mobile phone and money from him.

## 16 dead, 1403 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least sixteen people were killed while 1403 injured in 1330 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of them, 578 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 825 victims with minor injuries were treated on the spot by Rescue Medical Teams.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on by MPA Sardar Ehsan Ullah Khan Mainkhel at Governor House.

## Governor KP writes letters to ambassadors, flays attack on convoy of foreign dignitaries

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has written condemnation letters to ambassadors of 12 countries regarding attack on convoy of foreign dignitaries in Swat KP few days ago.

According to letters, issued here on Wednesday, "I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to address the recent tragic incident in Swat involving a convoy carrying foreign dignitaries. The attack, which resulted in injuries and loss of life, has left our community in shock and mourning."

"The government is

actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack and will work tirelessly to bring those responsible to justice. We understand the importance of safeguarding foreign visitors and are reinforcing our security measures to prevent such incidents in the future."

"As Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, I want to convey my profound relief that, as state guests, you are safe during this onslaught.

Your protection and safety are our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring a secure environment for you and all foreign visitors."

## Ambassador Blome attends EnglishWorks ceremony, meets alumni

LAHORE (APP): United States (US) Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome attended the orientation ceremony and welcomed 150 new students to the US EnglishWorks programme in Sialkot, which will offer the youth an opportunity to enhance English language, entrepreneurial, and leadership skills.

US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins also accompanied the ambassador in Sialkot.

Addressing students, Ambassador Blome said:

"These skills will help young Pakistanis become community leaders who contribute to a prosperous, proud, and peaceful future for Pakistan," Ambassador Blome said.

He said the EnglishWorks programme symbolises the enduring partnership between the US and Pakistan. He said since 2015, more than 6,000 Pakistani students have graduated from the programme, adding that the US looks forward to expanding its educational initiatives across Pakistan.

## IGP approves promotion of 54 cops from Multan region

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has approved promotion of 54 policemen from the Multan region.

According to a police spokesperson, 18 assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs) will be elevated as sub-inspector, 18 head constables as ASIs, and 18 constables as head constables.

A ceremony will be held shortly to present the new ranks to the promoted officers. The IGP said that this year, over 2,000 promotions would be awarded across various ranks, including 600 sub-inspectors, 700 ASIs.

## Two persons killed in separate firing incidents in Tank

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two persons were killed in separate firing incidents in Tank, police and Rescue 1122 officials said on Wednesday.

A police spokesman said that unknown armed persons entered into the house of Hidayat Ullah Khan, brother of Shaheed Mureed Akbar (SMA) police station SHO Sami Ullah Khan Barakzai in Barakhel village within the limits of SMA police station and opened indiscriminate fire.

As a result, Farman Ullah son of Hidayat Ullah was killed on the spot.

## US, KP govts celebrate youth empowerment and land reforms

PESHAWAR (APP): U.S. Consul General Shante Moore celebrated the successful partnership between the United States and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) at a closing ceremony of a Sports Gala, highlighting the transformative impact of the Land Registration in Merged Areas activity, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

The Sports Gala, organized under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported Land Registration in Merged Areas (LRMA) Activity, brought together local leaders, community members, and youth

participants to showcase the enthusiasm and potential of young athletes from the Merged Areas.

The event highlighted the region's progress toward a brighter future and the transformative impact of land registration initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, U.S. Consul General Shante Moore emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping the region's future. "This Sports Gala isn't just about competition. It's about fostering a sense of belonging, unity, and hope."

For the people of the Merged Areas, especially the youth, hope is what drives progress.



LAHORE: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, distributing certificates to students at the COP29 Simulation Program held at Aiwan-e-Iqbal.

## CM KP wants rapid development of tribal districts: Law Minister

KOHAT (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gundapur wanted rapid development of the entire province, especially the merged tribal districts and other merged areas.

That was why, he said a particular program "Grand Tribal Jirga" for the rapid development of the merged tribal districts and other merged areas has been

initiated. This he said while addressing the Awami Jirga of Dara Adamkhel as a chief guest, which was organized by Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram. Deputy Commissioner Kohat while highlighting the aims and objectives of the Jirga, said that the purpose of holding the "Awami Jirga" is to get the opinion and proposals of the elected representatives of Dara Adamkhel Tehsil, tribal leaders, elders and common man on this program for the rapid development of the merged districts.

# International News

## Israel has landed heavy blows on Hezbollah

### Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: It has been a devastating week for Hezbollah and the people of Lebanon.

Bombs hidden in the group's pagers and walkie-talkies killed dozens of people and wounded thousands — many of them Hezbollah members. Israeli strikes on Beirut killed two of Hezbollah's top commanders. And Israel has bombed what it said were 1,600 militant sites across large parts of Lebanon, killing hundreds of people and displacing thousands.

Israel says its objective is to secure its northern border so that tens of thousands of people who fled under Hezbollah fire nearly a year ago can return to their homes. But it's far from clear that its recent operations — as tactically successful as they were — will bring that about.

Lebanese health authorities on Tuesday raised

the death toll from two days of Israeli airstrikes targeting Hezbollah militants to 558. Israel's military says it will do "whatever is necessary" to push Hezbollah away from Lebanon's border with Israel. "No one either in or out of the defense establishment has any clue as to how to translate these brilliant operational achievements into political benefit, into a real victory that will stop the war in the north," columnist Nadav Eyal wrote in Israel's Yedioth Ahronot newspaper.

"As long as Hezbollah retains any firepower, the northern border will not be able to return to normal," Eyal said.

Hezbollah began firing into Israel the day after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack triggered the war in Gaza. Its stated aim was to pin down Israeli forces in the north to help its ally Hamas, which — like Hezbollah —

is backed by Iran. The Lebanese militant group has said it would halt the attacks if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, which appears increasingly unlikely.

Hezbollah's response to the past week's escalation has seemed meager. The hundreds of rockets and drones it has fired into northern Israel — including areas much farther from the border than it hit previously — have caused few casualties and only scattered damage. Early Wednesday, Hezbollah fired a longer-range missile that targeted Tel Aviv for the first time, marking a clear escalation. The Israeli military said it intercepted the projectile, and there were no reports of casualties or damage.

Experts say Hezbollah is holding more such weapons in reserve.

Monday's footage of Israeli strikes sending up plumes of dust and smoke seemed grimly familiar.

## Iran's Peshkian says Tehran ready to work with world powers to resolve nuclear standoff

### Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Iran is ready to end its nuclear standoff with the West, Iranian President Masoud Peshkian told the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, while calling for an end to Russia's war in Ukraine through dialogue.

Iran's clerical establishment hopes to see an easing of US sanctions that have crippled the country's economy.

"We are ready to engage with participants of the 2015 nuclear deal.

If the deal's commitments are implemented fully and in good faith, dialogue on other issues can follow," Peshkian said.

Then-President Donald Trump abandoned the 2015 nuclear pact between Tehran and six world powers in 2018 and reimposed tough sanctions on Iran. Efforts to

revive the pact have failed. The 2015 deal, which then-President Donald Trump abandoned in 2018, had capped Iran's uranium enrichment at 3.67 percent purity and its stockpile of this material at 202.8 kg (447 pounds) — limits Tehran has since far exceeded.

For Britain, France and Germany, who remain party to the nuclear deal, there is a sense that Tehran's leadership will not change course and that a broader accord encompassing the nuclear programme and Iran's geopolitical role is unrealistic for now.

The United States, its European allies and Israel accuse Tehran of using its nuclear programme as a veil for efforts to try to develop the capability to produce weapons.

Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

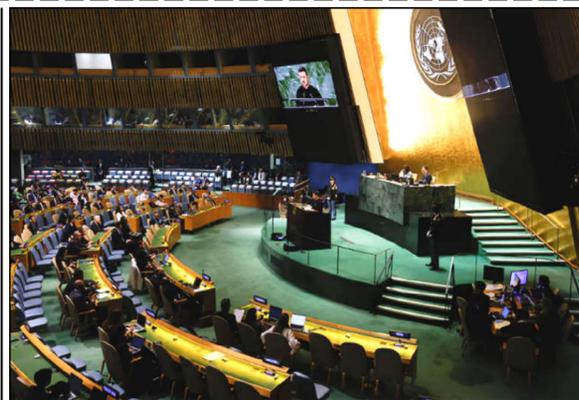
## Trudeau set to survive vote of confidence in Canadian parliament

### Monitoring Desk

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau looks set to survive a vote of confidence on Wednesday after his main political rival appeared to fail to muster enough support to end nine years of Liberal Party rule.

Legislators in the House of Commons are due to vote at about 3.30 pm ET (1930 GMT) on a motion by the official opposition Conservative party declaring a lack of confidence in Trudeau's minority Liberal government.

Trudeau, whose popularity has slumped amid unhappiness over rising prices and a housing crisis, became more politically vulnerable this month when the smaller New Democratic Party tore up a 2022 deal to keep him in power until the 2025 election.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses the 79th United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York, U.S.

## 'Big threats on my life by Iran,' Donald Trump claims

### Monitoring Desk

GEORGIA: Former US president Donald Trump said on Wednesday that he has received threats to his life from Iran.

"Big threats on my life by Iran. Moves were already made by Iran that didn't work out, but they will try again," the Republican presidential nominee said on Truth Social. He also said the entire US military is "watching and waiting".

Trump thanked the US Congress for unani-

mously approving additional funding for the Secret Service, noting that he is now surrounded by more men, guns, and weapons than ever before.

Trump's comments came after gunshots were heard near his location in Florida on September 15, though officials later confirmed he was safe.

The September 15 incident, which authorities have said is being treated as an apparent assassination attempt.

## Afghanistan wants to join BRICS, says Taliban govt

### Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban government is keen to join the BRICS economic forum, a spokesman said on Tuesday ahead of the group's summit in Russia. The summit of emerging economies that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa will meet on October 22-24 in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan.

"Countries with major resources and the world's biggest economies are associated with the BRICS forum, especially

Russia, India, and China," said Hamdullah Fitrat, a government deputy spokesman.

"Currently, we have good economic ties and commercial exchanges with them. We are keen to expand our relations and participate in the economic forums of the BRICS," he said.

The Taliban authorities have not been officially recognised by any country but have growing relations with founding BRICS nations, including China and Russia.

## US to provide another \$424 million in Sudan aid

### Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United States will give a further \$424 million in humanitarian help to the people of Sudan, US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced on Wednesday.

War erupted in mid-April last year from a power struggle between the Sudanese army (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule.

## China's PLA conducts rare publicized test launch of intercontinental ballistic missile

### Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China said on Wednesday it had successfully conducted a rare launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean, a move likely to raise international concerns about the country's nuclear build-up. The ICBM, carrying a dummy warhead, was launched by the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force at 8:44 am Beijing time (0044 GMT) on Wednesday and "fell into expected sea areas."

## Ukraine's Zelenskyy tells UN Russia must be forced into peace

### Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday that the war between Russia and Ukraine cannot be calmed by talks alone, but that Moscow must be forced into peace.

Zelenskyy has sought the support of Western leaders for what he calls a "victory plan" to end the war that began when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of his country in February 2022.

Zelenskyy said the war would end one day but not because "someone got tired of the war" or through a trade with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a ref-

erence to proposals that Ukraine cede some territory seized by Russia to settle the conflict. "This war can't be calmed by talks. Action is needed," Zelenskyy said, thanking nations who have provided Ukraine support.

"Putin has broken so many international norms and rules that he won't stop on his own, Russia can only be forced into peace, and that is exactly what's needed, forcing Russia into peace, as the sole aggressor in this war, the sole violator of the U.N. Charter," Zelenskyy said. Zelenskyy took aim at North Korea and Iran for providing arms to Russia for the war, calling them "de facto accomplices" of Moscow.

## Sri Lanka's new leader must balance ties between regional powerhouses India and China

### Monitoring Desk

COLOMBO: The Marxist lawmaker who won Sri Lanka's presidency faces a key challenge in how to balance ties with his country's two most crucial partners, India and China, as he seeks to draw foreign investment and pull the economy out of the doldrums.

Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 55, won the weekend election in an extraordinary political upset against an old political guard that voters blame for tipping the country into its worst economic crisis two years ago. Dissanayake must now deliver on promises to improve Sri Lankans' lives, clean up government and ease austerity measures imposed by international lenders.

But looking beyond Sri Lanka's borders, he also must navigate the rivalry between regional powerhouses India, the country's next-door neighbor, and China, which Dissanayake's party traditionally has leaned toward.

Located on one of the world's busiest shipping routes, Sri Lanka has long been eyed by the two regional rivals. Sri Lanka governments have swung between the two camps, and New Delhi and Beijing have intensely jockeyed for influence in the island nation of 22 million.

"Dissanayake will try to keep both India and China at an equal distance" but his ability to balance them is likely to be tested in the coming weeks, said Veeragathy Thanabalasingham, a Colombo-based political analyst.

"It's going to be a tightrope walk," he added. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping both congratulated Dissanayake soon after he won.

The victory was by the National People's Power coalition led by Dissanayake's People's Liberation Front — also known as Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, or JVP — which considers itself Marxist, though it now expresses support for a free market economy.

## Culture of depriving women from property should end: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday ordered to immediately transfer the inherited property to a widow in a case of property dispute.

During the hearing of the case of transfer of inherited property in the Supreme Court, the court ordered the widow Shamim Akhtar to transfer the inherited property immediately.

The SC also imposed a fine worth Rs500,000 on the opposing parties for perjury and bogus litigation, which has to be paid within three months.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa said that if the fine is not paid, the revenue department will recover the amount from the property of the respondents. He said that the

simple case of inheritance has been made complicated, the culture of depriving women of inheritance should come to an end.

He said that action should be taken against the parties for giving bogus and fake testimonies. The CJP noted that the trial has been going on for 26 years.

The CJP said that he wants the parties not to commit any more sin by depriving the widow from her right. Whoever wants suppress the property, he said.

The CJP said that lawyers should also not take such false cases.

It should be noted that Shamim Akhtar's husband Mehrban died in 1998. Mehrban's second wife Aksar Jan's nephews claimed that the property had been gifted.



NEW YORK: Chief Advisor (Head of Government) of the Interim Government of Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Yunus receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the reception to commemorate 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh's membership in the United Nations.

## Syedaal discusses power projects in Balochistan with secretary Power Division

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan, met with Power Division Secretary Fakhar Alam Irfan on Wednesday to discuss the ongoing power projects in Balochistan.

During the meeting, Fakhar Alam briefed the Deputy Chairman on the measures being taken to ensure a stable electricity supply in Balochistan, a province often overlooked in terms of infrastructure development.

He explained that efforts are underway to provide electricity to remote areas of the province, in line with the Prime Minister's directives to enhance the power supply.

He further mentioned that improving transmission lines will help address

some of the region's existing challenges.

Deputy Chairman Syedaal Khan emphasized the importance of agriculture in Balochistan and commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's solar scheme, which is specifically designed to support the province's farmers.

He also noted the Prime Minister's strong commitment to the development and prosperity of Balochistan, highlighting that, under the guidance of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, electricity tariffs have been reduced to ease the burden on the people. Additionally, efforts are being made to increase electricity production and minimize load shedding across the country.



QUETTA: Senator Shakoor Khan Achakzai meeting with acting DG NADRA Balochistan Fayyazur Rehman

## Pakistan, China sign five agreements on disaster prevention

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China have signed five agreements to strengthen cooperation in disaster prevention under the China-Pakistan Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Smart Disaster Prevention of Major Infrastructures. The agreements were signed between Southeast University of China and five Pakistani institutions including Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, and University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Peshawar.

## 21st ASRB meeting at UoT focuses on evaluation reports and PhD synopses

Independent Report TURBAT: The Vice Chancellor of the University of Turbat (UoT), Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad reiterated the university's commitment to promote a vibrant research culture in the university.

He expressed these remarks while presiding over the 21st meeting of the Advanced Studies & Research Board (ASRB) in the video conference room at

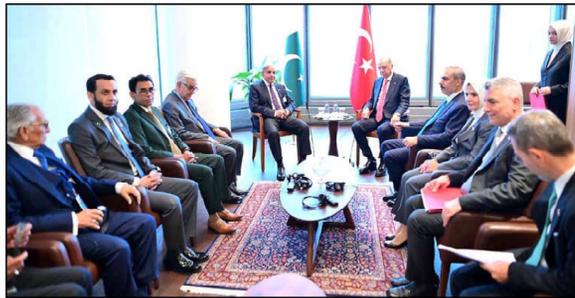
UoT.

He emphasized that MPhil and PhD programs, research proposals, and theses should meet international standards.

Dr. Jan Muhammad urged faculty and research scholars to conduct research on topics that contribute to the socioeconomic development and prosperity of the region and the nation.



QUETTA: Chairman PkMAP and Chief of Tahafuz Aain Pakistan Mehmood Khan Achakzai photographed with journalists



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Session.

## BRI, CPECP projects to benefit China and Pakistan equally: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan Wednesday said that projects initiated under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPECP) will benefit both Pakistan and China, equally.

Addressing the opening session of the Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2024, which was held in Beijing China, the minister observed that trade corridors of CPECP with the support of China are the guarantor of our strong infrastructure and better transport system.

He further said that our safe future lies in green energy and clean technology and we have to integrate our ports and highways keeping in mind the future requirements.

Aleem Khan, in his address at the two-day Global Sustainable Transport Forum clarified that the improvement of the communication system not only

promotes the economy but also the culture and society while the economic improvement of transportation, employment provision and national development agenda are the impetus.

He said that Pakistan is a supporter of the promotion of Public-Private Partnership and green technology through bilateral cooperation with China.

Aleem Khan pointed out that after the Corona epidemic 2019, along with other changes global logistics have also been modified which took new dimension and integrated improvements in transport sectors through E-Commerce and digital methods.

He said that there is no doubt that Pakistan is facing major challenges of urban population growth and environmental degradation and we need to increase our resources.

The safety of the citizens must also be taken into consideration for the improvement of transportation system, he added.

He specially thanked China's Transport Minister Li Xiaopeng and appreciated the holding of this Forum which will provide the delegates of the participating countries with opportunities to benefit from each other's experiences and to collaborate in future.

Deputy Prime Ministers of Nepal and Thailand also participated and addressed the Forum. This two-day Forum is hosted by the Minister of Transport of China, Li Xiaopeng who in his address expressed special thanks to Pakistan and assured further increase in the development of mutual cooperation and bilateral relations in all fields.

Meanwhile, addressing the Global Governance Session in Beijing, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that Pakistan is on the threshold of the second phase of CPECP as well as speedy work on the 5 "Es" of Economic Zones, Export, Energy, Equity and Environment has also been launched.



SOHBATPUR: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa inspecting under construction road from Sohbatpur to Kashmir

## Health Minister condemns attack on police mobile

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has strongly condemned the attack on police mobile in the Eastern bypass area of Quetta.

In a condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the Minister Health expressed grief and sorrow over the incident and injuries caused to the people in it.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that the whole nation is standing by the police and other law enforcement agencies against terrorism. He paid rich tributes to the personnels of law enforcement agencies and said that the sacrifices of law enforcers would always be remembered. He stressed the need to take stern action against those involved in terrorism. He extended his wholehearted support to police for establishing peace in the province.

Mother, son shot dead in Quetta QUETTA (INP): Armed men gunned down two people including mother and son and escaped the scene of crime here on Wednesday, police said.

According to details, the incident took place in Barori Sabzal Road area of Quetta culprits shot death mother and son.

The assassins fled the scene after committing dual murder.

The bodies were shifted to hospital where they were handed over to heirs after legal formalities.

Police said that a case has been registered into the incidents and raids were being conducted to arrest the culprits.

## Chairman PYP calls on Governor: PM taking special interest in development of Balochistan, maintains Jaffar Mandokhail

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has been taking special interest in development of the province from the day one.

He said that the Prime Minister Youth Programme is a comprehensive platform which provides necessary opportunities to the talented youngsters who brightened the name of country at the international level besides polishing their hidden capabilities and making digital information technology compatible.

The Governor was speaking to the delegation who called on him under leadership of the Chairman Prime Minister Youth Programme, Rana Mashhud

Ahmed Khan here at the Governor House on Wednesday!

The Governor on the occasion stressed the need to learn modern skills to the youth of province in view of the economic and trade challenges in the region.

In this regard, the present government is well aware of the importance and benefits of imparting quality education and learning skills to youth of the province.

The Governor said that the skills development programme is giving equal importance to the education and modern skills by imparting professional and technical training to the youth, he added.

He said that there would be positive results of the E-commerce and digital entrepreneurship.



QUETTA: MD WASA Hamid Latif Rana meeting with Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran

## Israeli military aggression needs to be curbed immediately: Samina

Independent Report QUETTA: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, has expressed her deep anger and grief over the martyrdom of hundreds of civilians in the bombing and missile attacks by Israel on the cities of Lebanon.

In her condemnation statement, she said that in the past few days, Israel has carried out hundreds of aerial attacks on various cities including the Lebanese capital Beirut in the last two days, in which hundreds of innocent people including children and women were martyred while thousands

were injured. This barbaric action by Israel will increase the already ongoing tension in the region.

With this action of Israel, the risk of a big war has increased even more. We condemn in the strongest terms. She said this act of aggression against Lebanon is a serious violation of the UN Charter and international laws. The Israeli action is dangerous, further jeopardizing peace and security in an already volatile region. Pakistan reiterates its full support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the entire Pakistani nation stands in solidarity with the people of Lebanon.

## Pak, Turkiye agree to strengthen economic, security cooperation

PM Shehbaz felicitates Erdogan on fiery Palestine-focused UNGA speech; IMF deal in final stages

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wherein two sides agreed to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, defence, and security domains.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly here, the two leaders discussed bilateral matters, regional and global developments, according to a PM Office press release.

They assessed preparations for the upcoming 7th session of Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to be held in Islamabad in the near future. The two leaders also discussed regional and global developments, especially the ongoing genocide and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. They called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and end of hostilities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated Turkiye's firm and consistent support for the oppressed people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

President Erdogan expressed his admiration for Prime Minister Shehbaz's economic policies, which had played a crucial role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy and commended his leadership and commitment to economic reforms.

Furthermore, he also extended his heartfelt birthday wishes to the prime minister who celebrated his 73rd Birthday this week.

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated President Erdogan on his passionate address to the 79th session of the UN General Assembly that centred on the Palestinian crisis. "The way the Turkish president highlighted the issue touched the hearts of all those listening to him in the Assembly hall," he told reporters after the meeting. In his emotional address, Erdogan said that the values of the United Nations' system and the Western world were dying in Gaza as the conflict continued there, calling for an "alliance of humanity" to stop

Israel's aggression.

The Turkish leader strongly criticized Israel over its military campaign in the Gaza Strip and on the Western countries for their support to Israel.

"Along with children in Gaza, the United Nations system is also dying, the truth is dying, the values that the West claims to defend are dying, the hopes of humanity to live in a fairer world are dying one by one," Erdogan added.

Commenting on the country's economic situation, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was in the final stages of approval as Pakistan had accepted all its conditions - some of them quite tough.

In this regard, he profusely thanked China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, saying without their support this would not have been possible. The premier said his government had accepted the economic challenge to the country and now, with collective efforts of the government and all institutions.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan addressing during the opening session of Global Transport Forum 2024, in Beijing.

## Pakistan, Bangladesh agree to expand bilateral ties

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attended a ceremony to mark 50 years of Bangladesh's membership of the United Nations on the invitation of its Chief Advisor Dr Muhammad Yunus.

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi accompanied the prime minister. Dr Muhammad Yunus warmly welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz and members of his delegation at the ceremony held on Tuesday night on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

As a result of a lack of continuity in policies, we saw the reemergence of these networks [of terrorism]. The policy [during the PTI tenure] adopted of taking back some elements from Afghanistan has again posed a challenge, but now the PML-N government is determined to fight, defeat and eliminate them like we did before," he said.

The minister expressed these views while speaking at the inaugural session of a daylong international conference on "Countering Terrorism in Pakistan: Progress and the Path Forward," organized by Bahria University in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) here.

Addressing the conference participants, the minister said the fight against terrorism was far from over, as several key challenges continued to impede the national path to peace and stability.

"Terrorism is no longer confined to insurgencies or large militant groups. The rise of lone wolf attacks, along with cyber radicalization and the use of social media for extremist recruitment, have transformed the landscape," he said.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dummer and Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani holding a meeting

## Abbasi says: All the politics, matters are running beyond ambit of constitution

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) and head of Awam Pakistan Party (APP) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said all the politics and matters are running beyond ambit of constitution at present.

Non contesting the election 2024 was a very difficult decision in the face of my 35 years companionship with the people of the constituency. I did not want to become part of corrupt system. My relationship with Nawaz Sharif is very old which is very dear to me. There are some responsibilities in the politics which are above the personal interests.

## Mir Ali Hassan Zehri says Sacrifices of Pak Army for homeland are eternal

Independent Report HUB: Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has said that the armed forces of Pakistan are protecting the country's borders fearlessly by sacrificing their lives.

The armed forces have not only protected the country's borders well, but have given countless sacrifices while fully fighting the terrorism imposed in the country. Paying tribute, he said that the Pakistan Army has played its full role in every difficult time,

whether it is the determination of the war against terrorism or the protection of the country's borders.

He said that the role of the army in Pakistan has always been at the forefront. It is like a wall through which national security cannot be attacked.

He said that Pakistan's armed forces are protecting the country's borders without fear or danger and Pakistan Army has only one goal and that is the security and integrity of Pakistan and for this purpose, the sacrifices of Pakistan Army for the motherland are not hidden from anyone.

## Pakistan, Turkmenistan to sign MoU for Gwadar port access under CPEC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Turkmenistan are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would grant Turkmenistan access to Gwadar Port under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. This agreement, facilitated by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), would make Turkmenistan the first Central Asian country to gain such access through CPEC.

The primary objective of this accord is to establish regional and international cooperation for the movement of goods and containers, leveraging the potential capabilities of both nations' ports. This development aligns with ongoing collaborative projects between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, including the TAPI pipeline, railway track, and fiber connectivity initiatives, aimed at linking South and Central Asia.