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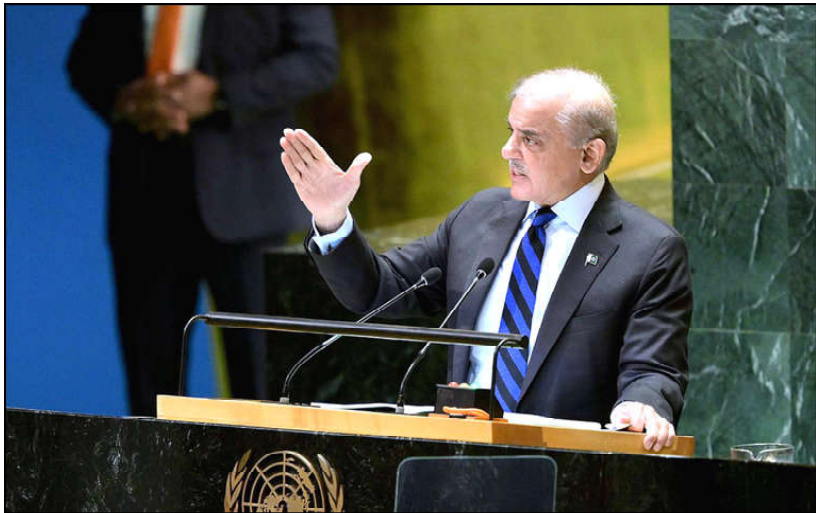
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NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the 79th Session of United Nations General Assembly.

Naysayers creating despair in society defeated through collective efforts: COAS

Army chief commends China, Saudi Arabia, UAE for economic support to Pakistan

KARACHI (PR): General Syed Asim Munnir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the Karachi Corps area of responsibility, where he was briefed on operational preparedness and key training initiatives undertaken by the Army. During his visit, COAS also inaugurated Innovista Indus IT Park, a hub aimed at empowering Pakistan's youth by fostering academia-industry collaboration in the field of Information Technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence. Honourable Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, and notable civil community members attended the inauguration ceremony. Chief Minister Sindh emphasized the importance of IT domain for optimal exploitation of potential of youth and economic growth. COAS highlighted that such projects are aimed at providing the most conducive environment to further promote the growth of IT industry in the country, which is already accelerating at a respectable pace. COAS also interacted with the business community of Karachi. COAS appreciated the contributions of business community and entrepreneurs towards the country's economic growth. Participants expressed confidence and praised SIFC in its role towards achieving the positive economic indicators, which are providing an enabling environment for further economic growth. COAS commended the efforts of Federal and Provincial Governments towards supporting all initiatives and remarked that naysayers who made failed efforts towards creating despair and despondency in the society have been defeated through the collective efforts of all stakeholders. COAS appreciated the praiseworthy role performed by brotherly and friendly countries especially China, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UAE in the economic recovery of Pakistan by helping us in multiple domains.

PM urges world action as illegal occupation of Palestine & Kashmir creates a "fresh hell" daily

Exposes India's 'classical settler-colonial project' in IIOJK

Shehbaz Sharif issues stern warning to India, says Pakistan would 'respond decisively' to any aggression across LoC; Reiterates call for Afghan Govt's action against terrorist groups; Govt's tough decisions bearing fruits as Pakistan's economy stabilizes, inflation drops to single digit

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday warned the world community that the illegal occupation of Palestine and Kashmir was creating a "fresh hell" every day and stressed the efforts for dispute resolution, besides addressing the global challenges of terrorism, climate change and Islamophobia. "Illegal occupation creates a fresh hell, every day, in the killing fields of Palestine, and in occupied Jammu and Kashmir... Can we turn a blind eye to the mothers, cradling the lifeless bodies of their children? This is not just a conflict; this is systematic slaughter of innocent people; an assault on the very essence of human life and dignity. The blood of Gaza's children stains the hands of not just the oppressors, but also of those who are complicit in prolonging this cruel conflict," the prime minister told the annual 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The prime minister, in his 21-minute address at the 193-member Assembly, touched on multiple regional and international issues, including Palestine and Kashmir disputes, Ukraine war, climate change, rising poverty and debt burden particularly induced by climate change impacts. Prime Minister Shehbaz called upon the international community's action to demand an immediate end to the bloodshed, as work for a durable peace through a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its eternal capital. Before the gathering of the global leaders, Prime Minister Shehbaz also highlighted the sufferings of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and said that India had resiled from commitments to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir which mandated a plebiscite to enable the Kashmiri people to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination.

Pakistan, Iraq agree to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan and Iraq on Friday agreed to further deepen and broaden the scope of existing bilateral ties and exploit the potential of enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation between both countries. The bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his Iraqi counterpart Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani on the sidelines of 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly here. The prime minister lauded the cordial ties between the two brotherly countries, reinforced by strong historical, cultural and religious affinities. He also commended the excellent arrangements made by the Government of Iraq for the Pakistani pilgrims. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. They noted with grave concern the ongoing Israeli carnage on Gaza and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated Pakistan's call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and holding Israel accountable for the Gaza genocide. Underscoring the commonality of views on international issues, both the leaders resolved to reinforce the international efforts both at the UN and OIC platforms for immediate ceasefire in Gaza, unimpeded supply of humanitarian assistance to Palestinian brethren.



KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munnir interacting with the business community of Karachi.

Pakistan receives first tranche of \$1.02bn from IMF under EFF

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: In essential support to stabilise the country's teetering economy, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) received approximately \$1.03 billion (SDR 760 million) on Friday under the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme. Pakistan had been working on implementing conditions deemed "strict" to complete the loan programme agreed to in July, which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif time and again hoped would be Pakistan's last. The IMF Executive Board approved a 37-month loan on Wednesday.

Balochistan most beautiful tourist destination: We are working on comprehensive strategy for promotion of tourism in Balochistan: Chief Minister

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that Balochistan is the most beautiful tourist destination and we are working on comprehensive strategy for promotion of tourism in the province. He said that the government is determined to make Balochistan most attractive tourism center of Pakistan. These views were expressed by the Chief Minister in a message issued on eve of the World Tourism Day observed on Friday, 27th September, all over the globe including Balochistan and Pakistan. The Chief Minister said that it is a matter of pleasure that the World Tourism Day is being observed under theme of "tourism and peace" today. He said that people belonging to all schools of thought are settled in Balochistan and the inhabitants of the province are stick to the centuries old traditions. The Chief Minister mentioned that this region, which falls on almost half area of the country is famous for long rivers, open fields, desert land and high mountainous ranges. This region has also unique status geographically. He said that Balochistan has been the uncton of different civilizations since ancient era. He said that the passes located in the province used to consider symbol of guidance for conquerors in the past. The Bolan Pass, Moola Pass and Zhub have the historic status and importance, he added. While on the other hand, Makran desert is also situated in Balochistan, which is otherwise included in big deserts of the world. He said that we are determined to make Balochistan most attractive tourism hub. He said that promotion of peace is possible through tourism and added that candles of love and peace among different nations and cultures with tourism. At the outset, Balochistan is a very lively region from tourism point of view and as such we would promote it, adding he vowed

Cope with challenges in Balochistan Governor for support & guidance of federal Govt. to strengthen basic infrastructure

Federal Minister SAFRON & Kashmir Affairs assures Governor of every possible cooperation of Islamabad for sustainable solution to issues & hardships and overcome present challenges

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that the support and guidance of federal government is necessary to strengthen the basic infrastructure and cope with the present challenges in the province. The Governor was speaking to the Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON and Kashmir



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari offering condolences to the family members of Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch Shaheed. Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti is also present

ECP prays for stay order against reserved seats judgment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has filed more prayers in its review appeal to the Supreme Court and requested it to issue a stay order on the implementation of the reserved seats' judgment. The ECP, in its plea, said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) could not be given the relief of reserved seats which it had never claimed before any forum. It cited a judgment of the full court that a relief could not be given to one who did not claim it. The Commission said that the independent candidates were bound to join a party within three days after elections. The independent members had submitted affidavits for joining the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), and those affidavits had been ignored in the judgment. It said that in the detailed decision, the apex court limited 41 members to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and gave 15 days to the other independent members to declare their party affiliation. The PTI members, the ECP said, could not reach the number 39 even if the certificates of Barrister Gohar were accepted.

President, CM visit residence of martyr DC Zakir Baloch; condole martyrdom with family

Independent Report QUETTA: The President Asif Ali Zardari visited the residence of martyr Deputy Commissioner, Zakir Ali Baloch in Karachi on Friday. During the visit, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and others were also accompanied the President. The President expressed condolence with the bereaved family of Zakir Baloch and offered fatha for the departed soul. It may be recalled that Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch had embraced martyrdom in a terrorism attack in Mastung. The President paid tributes to the martyr Deputy Commissioner and appreciated his spirit of patriotism saying that he embraced martyrdom while performing national responsibilities. He said that whole nation presents salute to the sacrifices of martyrs. He also said that the entire nation would always oblige to the martyrs and their families for great sacrifices rendered for the country and nation.

Atta Tarar says: Ban on X imposed due to national security issues, not to curb freedom of expression

NEW YORK (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar Friday said that ban on X, formerly Twitter, was imposed due to national security issues, not to curb freedom of expression. The minister, in an interview with Voice of America, dispelled the impression that it was an unannounced ban, saying that the caretaker government had banned X before the February elections due to the issues related to compliance. The "separatists and terrorists" were using the platform against Pakistan which could not be allowed, he added. Tarar said that the terrorists belonging to the so-called Balochistan Liberation Army were using the platform for promoting their anti-state activities.

PTI MNA Adil Bazai joins PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA, Adil Khan Bazai has joined the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), strengthening the government's alliance in the National Assembly ahead of "proposed" constitutional amendments. As per details, with PTI MNA joining PML-N, the government alliance now has a total of 215 seats in the National Assembly. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independent candidate Adil Bazai secured the seat of Quetta's National Assembly constituency (NA-262) in the general election 2024. The development came at a time when the coalition government is in talks with several political parties for consensus on the constitutional amendments.

Minister Health inaugurates oxygen plant in BINUQ

Independent Report QUETTA: The oxygen plant installed in the Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology Quetta (BINUQ) here on Friday. The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar inaugurated the oxygen plant in BINUQ. It may be mentioned here that UNHCR has donated the oxygen plant. The Head of UNHCR in Quetta and Chief Executive Officer of BINUQ were also present on the occasion. The Minister Health appreciated the initiative of UNHCR regarding donation of the oxygen plant in BINUQ. He said that it would serve the cause of ailing people in the province.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Prime Minister of Iraq Mr. Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani on the sidelines of 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Reforms begins in Education Dept.; show cause notice issued to DEOs on avoiding action against chronic absentee teachers

Independent Report QUETTA: The much awaited reforms have begun in the Education Department, Balochistan as per the vision of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti. Show cause notices were issued to the District Education Officers of five districts on avoiding disciplinary action against the willful and chronic absentee teachers in their respective districts while services of some have also been placed under suspension. The show cause notices were issued to the District Education Officers of Killa Abdullah, Awaran, Usta Muhammad, Ziarat and Kharan. In the notices issued to the DEOs, it was stated that they willfully avoided initiating disciplinary proceedings against chronic absentee teachers reported during the visits by the concerned teams to date without any cogent reasons, which in turn badly affecting the education service delivery at the district level. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed contentment over the opening of closed schools in different parts of the province saying that Alhamdulillah, the schools closed for decades are functioning in the province. He said that a school of Awaran district closed for last 12 years has been opened. He said that the teachers have been posted in the school while books and stationery have also been made available there.



Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam who called on him here at the Governor's House on Friday. During the course of meeting, the Governor and Federal Minister discussed the regional situation as well as the Kashmir conflict and the political scenario of the country besides the development process and federal government's support in the province.

Govt tireless efforts lead to reduction of inflation: Deputy Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar on Friday said that the incumbent government was working tirelessly in line with the aspirations of the public. As the results, these efforts were evident in the reduction of inflation, he added. He said this during a meeting with members of the Balochistan cabinet, including Minister for Revenue Mir Asim Kurd Gello, Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Durrani, and Parliamentary Secretary for S&GAD Mir Liaqat Lehr. Syedaal Khan assured the cabinet members of his full cooperation and support in addressing the issues faced by the Balochistan province, said a press release issued here. Deputy Chairman thanked the ministers for their visit and appreciated their ongoing efforts for the development and prosperity in the province. Raheela Durrani appreciated the efforts of the Deputy Chairman, highlighting, "His doors are always open for everyone."



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Parliamentary Secretary for Culture and Tourism Nawabzada Mir Zareen Khan Magsi and others addressing participants of a ceremony held on eve of World Tourism Day

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Breathing space

Pakistan's last-gasp \$7bn IMF bailout approved by the multilateral lender more than two months after an agreement was reached between the two sides sets a massive and difficult agenda for the government. The approval of the 37-month package will kick the 'default can' further down the road, providing the authorities some space to address the structural economic issues that have brought the country to the IMF's doors for a record 25 rescues since 1958.

The new programme targets debt sustainability and macroeconomic stability through consolidation of public finances, build-up of foreign exchange reserves, restoration of a debt-ridden energy sector, and an improved business climate to encourage private sector-led growth. In addition, the loan stipulates an expansion in social spending and protection, the imposition of an effective agriculture income tax, transfer of several fiscal responsibilities to the provinces and the curtailment of subsidies.

The funding programme, which makes Pakistan the most frequent borrower of IMF funds besides being its fifth largest debtor, also envisages a substantial increase in tax revenues to boost the tax-to-GDP ratio by three percentage points to 13.5pc in three years. The politically and economically beleaguered Shehbaz Sharif government has already implemented additional taxes of nearly Rs1.8tr, and heftily increased electricity and gas prices to get access to fresh IMF funds. As is evident from this year's budget, the wealthy classes have again evaded the extreme pain of fiscal and economic adjustments with the working classes shouldering most of this burden.

In spite of delays, the loan's approval was never in doubt. The question is: will this programme help Pakistan emerge from its economic crisis? Or, more importantly, will the government be able to meet the stringent loan conditions? This question becomes even more crucial because lenders like ADB believe that rising political and institutional tensions may make it difficult to implement the reforms that Pakistan has committed to delivering. Struggling with boom-and-bust economic cycles for decades, the country has been facing anaemic economic growth, high inflation and a balance-of-payments crisis for over two years now. So far Islamabad has warded off a default and accessed IMF funds, with generous support from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. With debt payments totalling \$90bn over the next three years, this support will not be enough for the country to come out of the crisis. No doubt the programme is crucial to end the uncertainty around Pakistan's ability to pay its debts. But the government needs to go beyond the stipulations of the bailout to drive long-term economic growth and break out of endless IMF rescue cycles. Is it prepared to execute the IMF-mandated reforms and also look beyond for longer-term stability? Its actions so far, especially its taxation measures, inspire little hope.

Islamic modernism

Ghulam Shabbir

Pristine Islam was a scientific statement of man's role and relation to God and the universe. This movement of moral initiative was intent to create a world moral order with the instruments of state through socioeconomic principles of the Quran, which involved active goodwill and cooperation of its adherents. The upshot of this sociopolitical order was to reflect equality which all people share in the eyes of God. The Prophet (PBUH) succeeded in establishing an egalitarian moral order in Arabia.

When he departed, Islam was all set to launch its 'world career' beyond Arabia. Thus, under the Prophet and the first two caliphs, the interests of the community and the state were identical and indivisible. During the third caliph's rule the integrity of the state was shaken, and so was that of the community. During the fourth caliph's period the state was dismembered, and so was the community.

Religio-political wars harmed the community, particularly socioeconomic and political reforms. To Ibn Taimiyya, the period till 425 AH is considered the most creative time for the development of Islamic disciplines, ie, law, theology, hermeneutics etc, which he terms classical Islam. From the fourth century onwards, conjecture replaced scientific outlook and neo-kalam, neo-fiqh, neo-mysticism took root and since jihad and ijma came to an early stop, the inner integrity of Islam suffered; indeed, mutually opposed 'Islamic' developed throughout the latter centuries.

Ghazali struck an organic link between law, theology and mysticism but he sacrificed positivism and collectivism at the altar of personalism. He condemned reason as

against faith to stem the aggressive tide of science and philosophy. But his temporary measure assumed permanence in orthodox Islam, while with Ibn al-Arabi's speculative philosophy, he tore asunder the symbiotic existence of reason and intuition, with reason condemned to oblivion in the interests of so-called infallible intuition (kashf). What Ibn al-Arabi forgot was that reason is both perceptive and formulative and Sufi intuition needs to be rehabilitated to stay accountable to true reason.

Ibn Taimiyya's fresh approach to the Quran and seerah reinvigorated positivism and collectivism of Islam. He went unheeded for centuries till the 18th-century reformer Ibn Abdul Wahab 'resurrected' him piecemeal, suited to his capacities and necessities. However, it was Sheikh Sirhindi who owned Ibn Taimiyya in almost all aspects of Islamic thought. It can be argued that he rescued reason and reality of the world from the iron grip of Sufism. Two great 18th-century reformers — Ibn Abdul Wahab and Shah Wali Allah — sensed that the rot had set in on the realm of Islamic intellectualism and vehemently endeavoured for course correction.

However, the encounter with the imperial West forced Muslims to reformulate Islam as a social proposition to make Islam again a socially geared religion.

Here the great 19th-century reformer Syed Jamal al-Din Afghani enters the arena. Neither enchanted nor haunted by Westernism, he appreciated the dynamic impulse, constitutionalism and scientific attitude of that culture but condemned its materialistic metaphysics. He said Islam is neither the enemy of reason nor science, and it fell to Sir Syed and Mohammad Abduh to

prove this statement. Both flung open the door of petrified tradition to fresh air, yet the formulation of Islamic modernism was far from their capacities. So, the none-too-sober character of Islamic modernism provoked a comparably none-too-thoughtful radical reaction.

As a corollary, Islamic modernism split into two opposing movements — the one that accepted secular modernity, the other that assumed fundamentalism. This is what happened both in the subcontinent and the Middle East. As a related development, says French scholar Jacques Berque "Today, all too many militants and intellectuals, are proponents either of an authenticity with no future or of a modernism with no roots."

Allama Iqbal enhanced the legacy of Afghani. His magnum opus, Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam, wherein Abduh and Sir Syed fail to find a place even in the footnotes, proves to be the linchpin of Islamic modernism.

However, Islamic modernism as a systematic thought found full expression in Dr Fazlur Rahman's constructs. He was the epitome of traditional as well as modern learning.

Mystic tradition supplied him with vast reservoirs of faith, and modern learning equipped him with intellectual prowess.

His belief in intellectual egalitarianism gave him the courage to speak and write the truth with no holds barred. In his discourse, revelation, reason and reality of the world are tuned to the same wavelength. As a lighthouse his legacy seems enough to lead the fleets to harbour. Are we ready to take the plunge?

-- Courtesy Dawn

Cultural resistance

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Mob lynchings under the pretext of blasphemy have become commonplace. In exceptional circumstances, law enforcement officials intervene and take accused persons into custody before the mob sets upon them. But two recent cases in Quetta and Umerkot, where accused persons were killed while in police custody, make clear that the rot runs deep.

Mercifully, there is another side to this story. The response of a wide cross-section of Sindh political circles, intellectuals and common people to the Umerkot incident has been swift and considerable. Immediately after the event, a young Hindu man, Premo Kohli, prevented the enraged mob from setting the body of the lynched man, Dr Shah Nawaz Kunbhar, on fire. This act of bravery then became the rallying cry for a wider mobilisation, culminating in a public protest bringing together thousands of people in Umerkot, the scene of the original lynching, on Sept 25.

There is likely to be more mobilisation in the coming days on both sides of the ideological divide. It is not to be understated that the religious right — both mainstream and militant — has created significant pockets of support in Sindh society in recent years. The right-wing always looks at emotive events like lynchings as opportunities to further its agenda. But of all of Pakistan's brutalised peripheries, Sindh remains home to the most robust and historically powerful expressions of cultural resistance to right-wing militancy.

Ironically, it is from Sindh that mainstream Pakistani historiography traces its origins; in this familiar story, Islam entered the subcontinent through Muhammad bin Qasim's conquest of Sindh. But despite the investments made by the Pakistani state in propagating this official history, Sindh public opinion has always resisted the idea that Muhammad bin Qasim was a liberator. Over the past eight decades, the Sindh language and its literatures have been developed more than all of Pakistan's vernaculars. The vast majority of Sindh-speaking children grow up learning how to read and write their mother tongue. Sindh language newspapers have a reach far exceeding Urdu and English ones.

Cultural resistance to the religious right, as well as the big landed pirs who instrumentalise their spiritual power, is not a recent phenomenon. The 17th-century Sufi saint and poet Shah Inayat was also a Robin Hood figure who mobilised landless peasants — popularly called haris in Sindh — against landlords and local kingdoms. This legacy carried on into the 20th century under the tutelage of legendary figures like the communist leader Haider Bux Jatoi. These feats of popular resistance are immortalised in the words of Latif, and many others.

Despite all of this, Sindh politics remains in the shadows of the PPP. For a brief period after it was formed in 1967, the PPP in Sindh embodied the aspirations of workers and peasants, as well as the progressive intelligentsia at large. While some of the latter remain convinced of the PPP's progressive credentials, today's PPP is an umbrella for landlords and state functionaries that are anything but answerable to the people.

So it was with Dr Shah Nawaz Kunbhar, killed while in the custody of high-ranking police of-

officials, who were in turn garlanded by prominent religious functionaries. To date, there has been no meaningful action taken by the PPP-led provincial government against these powerful men, let alone a public statement by PPP leaders condemning the mob lynching.

The PPP is not fundamentally responsible for Pakistan's drift towards the right — that accolade belongs to the military establishment and its org-anic intellectuals. But the PPP, like all mainstream bourgeois parties, almost always chooses silence rather than confrontation over incidents like the Umerkot lynching.

As the PPP continues to insist on finding a way to pass the latest constitutional amendment, which makes a mockery of the notion of separation of powers and institutional independence, it should not be forgotten that it was when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was prime minister that the second amendment was made to the 1974 Constitution through which Ahmadis were excommunicated.

Such expediencies have gotten us to where we are. Every day they push us further towards the proverbial abyss. The fact that Sindh progressives continue to push back despite everything is a source of hope. They are paralleled by young Pakhtun progressives resisting the forces of reaction and the establishment through the PTM, and Baloch women that are doing so through the BYC. The next step would be a countrywide umbrella that brings together all of these vibrant forms of cultural resistance to offer a genuine political-economic alternative to the establishment-centric system of power.

-- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM invites American banks for investment in key sectors

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited American banks to invest in Pakistan's key sectors of infrastructure, energy, technology, agriculture, and assured of the government's commitment to maintain a stable macroeconomic environment to facilitate foreign investors.

The prime minister said this while talking to a delegation of prominent Pakistani American bankers on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly. The delegation comprised high-ranking representatives from prestigious banks including JP Morgan, Natixis Corps & Investments, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp, Goldman Sachs, Citizens Bank, Lazard, and Audax Group.

He informed the delegation about the key initiatives taken by the government to stabilize the economy and attract foreign investment to Pakistan, including broadening the tax base, enhancing the ease of doing business, and ongoing reforms in the state-owned enterprises.

These steps have resulted in improved economic indicators and upgradation of Pakistan's credit rating by international rating agencies, including Fitch and Moody's. He also briefed the delegation on the establishment of a Sustainable Finance Framework, which will allow the Government to carry out a green/sustainability bond issuance in the

international capital markets.

Thanking the prime minister for the opportunity to interact with him, the delegation lauded the government's policies that have been instrumental in achieving the macroeconomic stability in Pakistan. The delegation also expressed a deep interest in cooperating with the government for the development of manufacturing sector, especially SMEs to help bolster the exports. The delegation comprised high-ranking representatives from prestigious banks including JP Morgan, Natixis Corps & Investments, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp, Goldman Sachs, Citizens Bank, Lazard, and Audax Group.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with a delegation of prominent Pakistani-American Bankers on the sidelines of 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

25 major Chinese companies keen for investing in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as, 25 major Chinese investment companies have expressed their deep interest in investing in Pakistan. In a Business Roundtable Conference of Chaoyang District, Beijing including agriculture, automobile, electrical alliances, pharmaceuticals, logistics, medical equipment and technology companies are included.

Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan presided over the

conference arranged at Pakistani Embassy in China, said a press release.

Country Director of Hong Kong business group Anna Su, Mayor of Daming County Mr. Li Shuang, Chief Advisor Qin Linzheng, Deputy Mayor Sun Deshi, Group President of Lianghao Mr. Li Hui, Qin Linz Heng and Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi addressed this conference. The conference discussed the cooperation between China and Pakistan and various MoUs were signed

in the fields of textile technology, agriculture and animal husbandry.

Aleem Khan said that Pakistan's population consists of 70% youth which is the 5th largest country in the world with a population of 23 million and where better labor and more consumers are available. With China we will make bilateral investments in education, technology and various sectors in Pakistan who is a major partner in China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and project besides CPEC.

Pakistan eyes tourism boom to strengthen foreign exchange, trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crucial meeting led by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, stakeholders from Pakistan's tourism and hospitality sector highlighted the vast potential of tourism in increasing foreign exchange and driving trade enhancement.

The meeting took place on World Tourism Day, a day dedicated globally to recognizing the importance of tourism in fostering international understanding, economic growth, and cultural exchange, according to press release issued by commerce ministry.

Acknowledging the opportunities in this sector, Jam Kamal assured

full support from the Ministry of Commerce, including the provision of Export Development Fund (EDF) for tourism-related export initiatives.

The meeting was attended by high-level officials, including Nawabzada Mir Zarain Khan Magsoo, Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Culture, secretaries from all four provincial tourism departments, the Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab Ur Rehman Rana, and representatives from the public and private sectors.

The gathering sought to address challenges in the tourism sector and explore avenues for exponential growth.



LAHORE: Women are busy buying clothes on a stall at a local hotel, in the Provincial Capital.

CPEC, a key to Pakistan's economic growth: KTrade report

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the run-up to the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, a report titled 'China's 75-Year Journey: Breaking Myths & Inspiring Hope' has been published by KTrade Securities Limited, a leading stock and commodity brokerage in Pakistan.

The report highlights China's remarkable economic growth over the past decades, characterized by speed, consistency, and a broad impact on global markets and emerging economies.

In an interview with China Economic Net, KTrade Securities

Chairman, Ali Farid Khwaja, described China's 75-year economic journey as an inspiring model for emerging markets and underdeveloped nations.

He remarked that China has successfully dismantled myths that developing countries cannot catch up with advanced economies. "For years, people from countries like India, Pakistan, and Africa believed they needed to migrate to developed nations to seek better opportunities. However, China's rapid economic growth has demonstrated that it is possible to catch up and become a developed country within a relatively

short period," he added. He also pointed out that China's economic growth has lifted 800 million people out of poverty, making it a unique success story.

Khwaja explained that unlike traditional models of economic growth, which were often driven by resource extraction, China's rise was based on domestic reforms and more efficient use of existing resources. He emphasized that China's development was not a zero-sum game but rather a focused on equitable growth. China's approach of producing high-quality, affordable products in industries such as

telecommunications, LED technology, solar energy, and electric vehicles has made these technologies accessible to a global audience. "In certain cases, China even subsidized these technologies for other countries, allowing them to achieve equitable economic growth with their indigenous resources," he added.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), launched in 2013 under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was identified in the report as a key driver of Pakistan's socio-economic development. The report praised CPEC for leveraging Pakistan's

geographical importance and contributing to the country's growth, particularly in the Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) sector. Over the past decade, Pakistan's LSM index grew by 43%, with further growth expected as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC become operational by 2030. The report also referenced the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which estimates that CPEC could increase Pakistan's GDP by 2.5% through infrastructure improvements, enhanced connectivity, and the establishment of new industries.

Short term inflation goes up slightly

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a nominal increase of 0.05 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on September 26, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 317.76 points as compared to 317.61 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last

year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 12.80 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.08 per cent and went up to 311.09 points from last week's 310.84 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888.

SBP injects Rs1589 billion into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs1,589.5 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase Open Market Operation (OMO) on Friday. According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on September 27, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted 20 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs1,589.5 billion. The central bank received 14 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs1,420.05 billion at the rate of return.



LAHORE: Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman presides over the 8th meeting of Punjab Public Finance Management Reforms Steering Committee.

Governor deplores apathy of KP govt over violent armed clashes in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday strongly criticized the provincial government over its apathy to solve the violent territorial dispute among rivals groups in Kurram which had claimed several precious lives in the area so far.

In a meeting with Bushra Gohar, the Chairperson of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Organizing Committee of the National Democratic Movement, here at the Governors House, Kundi expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in the area as well as the province.

He said that unrest has fostered a sense of insecurity among the people of KP and required

immediate attention of the provincial government.

The meeting focused on significant provincial issues and the current national situation including the law and order situation, the closure of Torkham border, and the worsening conditions in Parachinar.

He said that the issue of Torkham border's closure was posing a barrier to trade and public connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Kundi said that he was in contact with the federal government to expedite a resolution to this matter, aiming to enhance commercial and economic activities between the two nations.

The meeting concluded with considerations for organizing an all-parties

conference to collaboratively address the province's pressing issues.

Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's first female paragliding pilot, Benazir Awan, called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

The meeting focused on promoting adventure sports for women in the province and showcasing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's positive image globally.

During the discussion, Benazir Awan presented her proposals to create more opportunities for women in adventure sports, particularly paragliding. She emphasized the exceptional talents of women in the province and advocated for greater participation in adventure sports to highlight their skills on the international stage.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi addressing the World Heart Day event at Rehman Medical Institute, Hayatabad.

Punjab govt to provide interest-free loans to doctors: Health Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique announced that additional steps will be taken to improve the foundation's operations.

He also announced plans to call a meeting of the Board of Directors of the PHF, where modern reforms to enhance the institution's efficiency and effectiveness will be discussed. He pledged to transform the PHF into a profitable organization, ensuring it continues to benefit healthcare professionals in the province.

millions of rupees to doctors through the PHF. He further emphasized that additional steps will be taken to improve the foundation's operations.

He also announced plans to call a meeting of the Board of Directors of the PHF, where modern reforms to enhance the institution's efficiency and effectiveness will be discussed. He pledged to transform the PHF into a profitable organization, ensuring it continues to benefit healthcare professionals in the province.

PIC achieves milestone by performing Mitral Chip procedure

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) has successfully introduced a minimally invasive procedure for the treatment of leaky heart valves.

According to a press release issued on Friday, it is first time that Mitral Clip procedure has been performed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa establishing PIC as a pioneer in advanced cardiac care in the region.

This cutting-edge intervention provides an innovative solution for patients with mitral valve regurgitation, a condition where the heart's mitral valve does not close properly causing blood to flow backward into the heart.

Mariyum Aurangzeb says: CM's shrimp farming vision to settle barren lands of Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Senior Punjab Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision is to settle the barren lands of Punjab.

She expressed these remarks while talking to a delegation of Thai Union, in which both sides agreed to work together for the promotion of shrimp farming.

The Senior Minister said agriculture and farmers will get development through modern farming, adding with the encouragement of shrimp farming, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has included Punjab in the list of the modern world in terms of modern farming.

Mariyum Aurangzeb said that apart from earning a billion dollars in foreign exchange, thousands of youths will get employment from the start

of shrimp farming, that is being started.

She informed the first production of prawns will be obtained in October, adding God willing, barren lands will be inhabited. The senior Minister said that the agricultural research and development and skill project will be implemented with RsRs8.5 billion.

The government will help in providing seeds and feed for the promotion of shrimp production, she added.

Farmers will get interest-free loans for hatchery, that would help develop farmers and agriculture sector, the minister said adding government will help farmers in farm processing and feed as well as storage.

Graduate youth will be given opportunities in research centers through universities.



LAHORE: Newly appointed Punjab Secretary Information Tahir Raza Hamdani and DGPR Ghulam Sagheer Shahid meeting with Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bukhari.

Governor visits Swabi to inquire health of injured police officers

SWABI (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday made a special visit to Swabi where he met with injured police personnel and civilians at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and Bacha Khan Medical Hospital.

During his visit, he expressed his hopes for their speedy recovery.

In a brief interaction with the media, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that investigations into the incident are ongoing and emphasized the provincial government's responsibility to provide financial assistance to the injured.

He also mentioned plans to coordinate with the federal government regarding this support.

The Governor was briefed by doctors on the medical facilities being provided to the injured.

CS emphasizes need to produce skilled, qualified nurses

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry chairing a meeting of medical teaching institution (MTI) hospitals here Friday emphasized need of producing qualified nurses to explore domestic and international opportunities.

He said that the growing demand for nurses is a significant opportunity for the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He assured full support to health department and MTI hospitals in addressing this need stating that "We must seize this opportunity by ensuring that necessary arrangements are in place to

produce a highly skilled and qualified nursing workforce.

The global healthcare sector has a strong demand for trained professionals and it is vital that our youth are well-prepared to meet these needs."

Chief Secretary also highlighted the importance of language proficiency, particularly in English, to enable nursing graduates to compete globally. He directed health authorities to strengthen language training modules for graduates. He also directed the finance department to prioritize hospital needs and ensure timely release of funds for smooth operations.

13 dead, 1400 injured in 1334 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least thirteen persons were killed and 1400 injured in 1334 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 617 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 783 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 783 drivers, 64 underage drivers, 140 pedestrians.



MOHENJO DARO: A tourist delegation from Korea are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

KP Govt starts work on Ehsassa projects for youth's welfare

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has started work on Ehsassa projects including Ehsaas Rozgar, Ehsaas Hoonar, Noujawan Rozgar and others for welfare of youth in the province, said the provincial advisor for Finance Muzamil Aslam.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that the Ehsaas projects has been started at a cost of Rs 15 billion to create vast

employment opportunities in the private sector for the youth, adding that in this regard soft loans up to 1 crore rupees would be provided under the Ehsaas Noujawan Rozgar scheme.

Similarly, he said an interest-free loan of Rs 200,000 would be given for starting a new business or expanding the business and under the Ehsaas Hunar program, interest-free loans of up to 500,000 rupees would be provided.

International News

Trump vows to end Ukraine war quickly as he meets with Zelenskiy

NEW YORK: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Friday he would work with both Ukraine and Russia to end their war, as he stood next to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy before their meeting in New York. Speaking to reporters at Trump Tower, Zelenskiy said he wanted to discuss his "victory plan" for Ukraine with Trump during their first meeting since 2019. He said he was meeting both Trump and his Democratic rival in the Nov 5 election, Vice President Kamala Harris, because Ukraine needed strong US support in its continuing war with Russia.

Trump praised Zelenskiy, but said he also had a solid relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "We have a very good relationship (with Zelenskiy), and I also

have a very good relationship, as you know, with President Putin," Trump said. "And I think if we win, I think we're going to get it resolved very quickly," he added.

Zelenskiy and Trump stood alongside one another, with the Ukrainian president occasionally looking up at Trump during the latter's remarks to journalists. Zelenskiy has used his US visit to promote his "victory plan," which a US official described as a repackaged request for more weapons and a lifting of restrictions on the use of long-range missiles. The plan presupposes the ultimate defeat of Russia in the war, the official said. Some officials see the aim as unrealistic.

When asked on Thursday by a reporter if Ukraine should hand over some land to Russia to end the war - a

non-starter for Kyiv - Trump replied: "We'll see what happens." Still, Trump said on Friday he was pleased to meet with Zelenskiy, a marked change in tone from some of his previous comments on the campaign trail.

On Monday, Trump said Zelenskiy wanted Harris to win the election. He has also called Zelenskiy "the greatest salesman of all time" because his country has received billions of dollars in military aid from the United States and Europe.

"It's an honor to have the president with us, and he's been through a lot," Trump said on Friday. "He's been through a tremendous amount, like probably nobody else, almost nobody else in history, if you really get right down to it, and we're going to have a discussion and see what we could come up with."



Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy meet at Trump Tower in New York City, U.S.

Israeli bombing sends people fleeing Lebanon to war-ravaged Syria

LEBANON: A series of Israeli strikes pounded Lebanon's south.

Slim, 24, was waiting on Wednesday with his elderly mother for their papers to be processed on the Syrian side of a border crossing, after a dramatic escalation this week of

nearly 12 months of cross-border clashes between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israeli forces.

"We were avoiding Syria because of the war, but now war is at our doorstep and we have to flee," said Slim, from south Lebanon, who has not visited since civil conflict erupted there in 2011.

"I don't know how long I'll stay in Syria, I'm afraid of this leap in the dark."

Indonesia gold mine collapses after landslide, killing 15

JAKARTA: At least 15 people died in the collapse of an illegal gold mine in Indonesia's province of West Sumatra, following a landslide caused by heavy rains, an official said on Friday, while rescuers are scrambling to locate seven missing. Small-scale and illegal mining has often caused accidents in Indonesia, where mineral resources are located in remote areas in conditions difficult for authorities to regulate.

Netanyahu vows to use 'full force' against Hezbollah and dims hopes for a cease-fire

NEW YORK: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday vowed to carry out "full force" strikes against Hezbollah until it ceases firing rockets across the border, dimming hopes for a cease-fire proposal put forth by U.S. and European officials.

Israel carried out a new strike in the Lebanese capital, which killed a senior Hezbollah commander, and the militant group launched dozens of rockets into Israel. Tens of thousands of Israeli and Lebanese people living near their countries' border have been displaced by the fighting.

Netanyahu spoke as he arrived in New York to

attend the annual gathering of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly, where U.S. and European officials were putting heavy pressure on both sides of the conflict to accept a proposed 21-day halt in the fighting to give time for diplomacy and avert all-out war. Nearly 700 people have been killed in Lebanon this week as Israel dramatically escalated strikes, saying it is targeting the military capacity of Hezbollah — the Iranian-backed Shiite group that is the strongest armed force in Lebanon. Israeli leaders say they are determined to stop the group's cross-border attacks, which began after the Hamas militant group's Oct. 7 attack that ignited the war in Gaza.

Harris heads to the US-Mexico border to face down criticism of her record

PHOENIX: Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday will make her first visit to the U.S.-Mexico border since becoming the Democratic presidential nominee to confront head-on one of her biggest vulnerabilities ahead of the November election. She is scheduled to appear in Douglas, Arizona, as former President Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans pound Harris relentlessly over the Biden administration's record on migration and fault the vice president for spending little time visiting the border during her time in the White House.

Immigration and border security are top issues in Arizona, the only battleground state that borders Mexico and one that contended with a record influx of asylum seekers last year. Trump has an edge with voters on migration, and Harris has gone on offense to improve her standing on the issue and defuse a key line of political attack for Trump. In nearly every campaign speech she gives, Harris recounts how a

sweeping bipartisan package aiming to overhaul the federal immigration system collapsed in Congress earlier this year after Trump urged top Republicans to oppose it.

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games," Harris plans to say, according to an excerpt of her remarks previewed by her campaign.

After the immigration legislation stalled, the Biden administration announced rules that bar migrants from being granted asylum when U.S. officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed. Since then, arrests for illegal border crossings have fallen. Harris will also use her trip to remind voters about her work as attorney general of California in confronting crime along the border. During an August rally in Glendale, outside Phoenix, she talked about helping to prosecute drug- and people-smuggling gangs that operated transnationally and at the border.

Iran treads carefully, backing Hezbollah while avoiding war

TEHRAN: As violence between Israel and Hezbollah escalates, Iran is walking a tightrope by supporting Hezbollah without being dragged into a full-blown conflict and playing into its enemy's hands.

With a focus on easing its isolation and reviving its battered economy, Iran is aware that war could complicate efforts to secure relief from crippling sanctions.

Cross-border fire between Israel and Hezbollah, sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel, has intensified, especially after last week's sabotage on Hezbollah's communications that killed 39 people.

Israeli air strikes on Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon followed, killing hundreds. Hezbollah retaliated with rocket barrages.

Despite the surge in hostilities, Iran appears determined to avoid direct military confrontation.

"Iran is not going to be pulled into war," said Hamid Gholamzadeh, an Iran-based political expert.

Ali Vaez of the International Crisis Group said Iran's strategy was to project power, without directly engaging, especially as escalation could benefit Israel and impact the US election. "Iran does not want to play into its arch-enemy's hands," said Vaez, noting Iran's priority was securing sanctions relief and some economic stability.

Even during its first-ever direct attack on Israel in April - retaliation for an air strike Tehran's embassy annex in Damascus - most missiles were intercepted by Israel's defenses or allied forces.

UK's 'youngest knife murderers' handed detention terms

LONDON: Britain's "youngest knife murderers" were on Friday sentenced to a minimum of eight-and-a-half years' detention for killing a stranger in a machete attack when they were aged just 12.

The sentence was ordered as a nationwide ban on "zombie" style knives and machetes with blades of over 20 centimetres came into force this week to curb a wave of horrifying killings by young people. The two boys, who are now aged 13 and cannot be identified legally because they are under 18, killed Shawn Seesahai, 19, in a park in Wolverhampton, central England, last November. They were described in court as "the youngest knife murderers" and are also believed to be the youngest convicted of murder in Britain since 1993.

Ex-defence minister Ishiba set to become Japan's next PM

TOKYO: Veteran lawmaker Shigeru Ishiba was set on Friday to become Japan's next prime minister after winning a closely fought contest in his fifth and final attempt to lead the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Ishiba prevailed over hardline nationalist Sanae Takaichi in a runoff vote in what was seen as one of the most unpredictable leadership elections in decades with a record nine candidates in the field.

The leader of the LDP, which has ruled Japan for almost all of the post-war era, is essentially assured of becoming Japan's premier because of its majority in parliament.

The scramble to replace current premier Fumio Kishida was sparked in August when he announced his intention to step down over a series of scandals that plunged the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) ratings to record lows.

7-year-old Indian boy killed in ritual sacrifice

DELHI: Five people were arrested in India for the killing of a seven-year-old boy in an alleged ritual sacrifice aimed at bringing good fortune to a public school, police said on Friday.

The victim was found dead in his bed on Sunday night at the hostel where he lived in the city of Hathras, not far from the country's famed Taj Mahal.

Instead of alerting authorities, police said that school director Dinesh Baghel hid the body in the trunk of his car.

Ahsan hails Pak-China friendship, urges following Chinese model of development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has lauded all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China, stressing the need to follow the Chinese model of national development.

"Peace, consistency of policies and implementing reforms in all sectors are prerequisites for progress and development of any country and we can learn this from China," he said while addressing a ceremony held to mark the National Day of China, a news release said on Friday.

The ceremony was organized by China Global Television Network and featured folk performances by cultural troupes from Pakistan and China.

Acknowledging China's role in Pakistan's national development, the minister said China brought investment in Pakistan when no country was willing to make investment in

the country.

He said a number of projects were started in the country under the banner of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Reflecting on China's remarkable rise over the past few decades, Ahsan Iqbal praised the country's ability to lift 800 million people out of poverty in just three to four decades—an achievement unprecedented in human history.

He emphasized that China's success lies not only in its modernization but also in its preservation of a unique cultural identity.

"China's success has shown that modernization does not have to come at the cost of losing one's cultural roots," he remarked.

China's distinctive approach—what the minister called the "Chinese style of development"—has allowed it to forge its own path, independent of Western models of democracy and capitalism.



KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir addressing inaugural ceremony of Innovista Indus IT Park, a hub aimed at empowering Pakistan's youth by fostering academia-industry collaboration in the field of Information Technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence

PM Shehbaz calls for enhanced investment, trade ties with the US

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized his government's commitment to strengthening trade and investment ties between Pakistan and the United States during a meeting with a delegation from the US-Pakistan Business Council in New York on Friday.

Addressing the delegation, which included the president, senior officials, and corporate leaders from leading US companies, he expressed a strong desire to

attract American investments in key sectors to foster growth and prosperity.

During his remarks, the prime minister highlighted the government's focus on improving the ease of doing business in Pakistan, noting that gathering insights from the corporate sector is a top priority.

He introduced the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a high-level, one-stop agency designed to assist foreign investors in planning and

executing projects in four critical areas: agriculture, information technology, energy, and mining.

He explained that the SIFC aims to enhance investor confidence and expedite project implementation through tailored solutions and demand-driven support.

The prime minister identified several sectors in Pakistan's economy—particularly agriculture, the tech sector (including fintech), pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, and mining—

where US companies could take advantage of favorable government policies and engage in mutually beneficial projects.

Attendees included prominent representatives of US investors in Pakistan, such as John Murphy, Senior Vice President and Head of International at the US Chamber of Commerce; Esperanza Jelalian, President of the US-Pakistan Business Council; and Steven Kobos, President and CEO of Excelerate Energy.

Amir Muqam stresses for welfare of coalmines workers

QUETTA (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Amir Muqam on Friday said that all out efforts would be taken to ensure the protection of coalminers and basic facilities as the workers working in the coal mines are the asset of the country.

The workers are working hard and contributing to the country's economy and development, Amir Muqam said while addressing a ceremony organized in the honor of coal mines workers.

He said that the people associated with the coal mines would be provided all the facilities and privileges for avoiding tragic incidents in the mining sites. He said on the mines where injustice was done with the workers will be sealed and ban would be also imposed on those mines in the province which lack precautionary mea-

sures.

Amir Muqam said that no compromise will be made on the protection and rights of the workers working in the coal mine.

The government was the key priority to provide all possible facilities to the workers, their all legitimate demands would be addressed. He also announced 2 ambulances for the coal mine workers.

Engineer Amir Muqam hailed the approval of 7 billion dollar IMF deal, which will stabilize the economy of the country.

"The political rivals of the PML-N and anti-Pakistan elements tried their best to sabotage the financial deal to put the country in the financial crises, however their nefarious designs failed," Amir Muqam remarked.

Federal Minister said that those who destroy peace cannot be Pakistanis.



QUETTA: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Amir Muqam addresses a ceremony in honoring the hard work and dedication of coal mine workers.

IMF Pak chief says More financing assurances received from China, UAE, Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has received "significant financing assurances" from China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates linked to a new International Monetary Fund program that go beyond a deal to roll over \$12 billion in bilateral loans owed to them by Islamabad, an IMF official said on Thursday.

IMF Pakistan Mission Chief Nathan Porter declined to provide details of additional financing amounts committed by the three countries but said they would come on top of the debt rollover.

"I won't go into the specifics, but UAE, China and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia all provided significant financing assurances joined up in this program," Porter told reporters on a conference call.

The IMF's Executive Board on Wednesday approved a new \$7 billion, 37-month loan agreement for Pakistan that requires "sound policies and reforms" to strengthen macroeconomic stability.

The approval releases an immediate \$1 billion disbursement to Islamabad. The crisis-wracked South Asian country has had 22 previous IMF bailout programs since 1958. Porter said Pakistan has staged a "really remarkable" economic turnaround since mid-2023, with inflation down dramatically, stable exchange rates and foreign reserves that have more than doubled.

"So what we've seen is the benefits of undertaking good policies," Porter said, adding that the challenge now was to build stronger growth.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with a delegation of the US-Pakistan Business Council on the sidelines of 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Based on UN resolutions Pakistan urges OIC to boost efforts for 'just' settlement of Kashmir dispute

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called on the Islamic Cooperation Organization (OIC) to scale up its efforts for the mitigation of the Kashmiri people's sufferings and finding a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with United Nations resolutions that grant the Kashmiri people the right to self-determination.

Speaking to OIC's Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir, which met on the sidelines of the 79th session of UN General Assembly, Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif underscored the need for the

57-member organization to transform its pronouncements on the decades-old dispute into "tangible actions."

"The OIC and its Member States should use their influence to urge India to improve the human rights situation in Kashmir; release the political prisoners; repeal draconian emergency laws; remove military presence from populated areas; and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," Khawaja Asif added.

The five-member group's state members, besides Pakistan, who were present were: Turkey's

Deputy Foreign Minister Nuh Yilmaz, Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov, Saudi Arabia's Minister Plenipotentiary at Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Hitham Al-Aalki, and Niger's Director of International Organizations at the Foreign Ministry, Hama Knsaye Souleymane.

The meeting was presided over by OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General of the World Kashmir awareness forum, attended in his capacity as a True Representative of the People of Jammu and Kashmir.

Governor, Federal Minister SAFRON visit Ziarat valley

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail along with Federal Minister for SAFRON and Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam visited Ziarat on Friday. The Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Dummer was also accompanied them.

Soon after their arrival in Ziarat, the Governor and

Federal Minister SAFRON visited the Quaid-e-Azam Residency where they also planted saplings in it's premises. Later, they also met the local leaders and workers of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Liaquat Ali Kakar welcomed the Governor and Federal Minister for SAFRON.



QUETTA: Senator Abdul Shakoor Achakzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Governor says Different areas of Balochistan can become new attractive & profitable hub of tourism

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that practical steps are being taken for promotion of tourism in the country especially Balochistan due to the special interest of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

This, the Governor stated in a special video message issued on eve of the World Tourism Day observed on Friday.

The Governor was in the famous and historic

place of Quaid-e-Azam Residency on Friday.

The Governor said that different areas of Balochistan can become new attractive and profitable centers for tourism. He referred to the natural scenes, over 700 kilometers long coastal belt, rocks and mountains, fertile land of Mehr Garh and deserts found across Balochistan.

It may be mentioned here that World Tourism Day is observed on 27th September every year all over the globe and so in Pakistan.



LASBELA: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam distributing the Hygiene Kits to students at Hygiene Kits distributing ceremony.

Magsi invites foreign, local tourists to experience Balochistan's beauty

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Parliamentary Secretary for Culture and Tourism, Nawabzada Mir Zareen Khan Magsi Friday on World Tourism day extended an invitation to both foreign and local tourists to discover the rich cultural heritage and breathtaking tourist spots of Balochistan.

Talking to PTV news, Magsi emphasized the province's potential to become a top tourist destination, citing its unique blend of cultures, stunning landscapes and vibrant festivals.

He said this move aims to promote tourism in the region and showcase its unique history, traditions, and natural beauty.

"Balochistan is home to numerous unexplored wonders, waiting to be discovered by tourists," Magsi said.

"From the majestic

Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat to the pristine beaches of Gwadar, our province offers a diverse range of attractions," he mentioned.

"Balochistan is for every Pakistani," Magsi emphasized, adding, "Just as people from around the world flock to UAE and Europe to enjoy their beauty, we want our province to be a destination where Pakistanis and international tourists can experience unforgettable moments, he added.

"Balochistan is open to all Pakistanis and international tourists," Magsi extended.

"We invite you to experience our hospitality, rich culture, and breathtaking beauty," he stressed.

"Desert Rally and Jal Maghzi have put Balochistan on the global tourism map.

PM meets Nepalese counterpart

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday held a meeting with his Nepalese counterpart K.P. Sharma Oli and expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen the multifaceted bilateral cooperation, especially in commercial, economic, trade, and tourism sectors.

In the meeting, held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly here, the two leaders reiterated their commitment to continue exploring avenues for enhancing bilateral and regional cooperation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated K.P. Sharma Oli on assuming the office of the prime minister.

Expressing satisfaction at the excellent bilateral ties between Pakistan and Nepal, he conveyed warm sentiments and wishes for the people and the Government of Nepal on behalf of the people of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also extended an invitation to the Nepalese prime minister to visit Pakistan.

Seven more killed, 46 injured in Kurram skirmishes

PESHAWAR (APP): The territorial skirmishes among rival groups in Kurram continued on seventh consecutive day with a death toll of 46 and 98 injured.

According to the police, clashes among tribes continued in different villages of Kurram district, with use of heavy arms and ammunition.

According to the hospital sources, five more people killed while 12 others injured in fresh clashes.

Meanwhile the Parachinar-Peshawar main road and Pak-Afghan Kharlachi border remained closed for traffic causing shortage of food items, fuel and medicine in the area.

Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mehsud said that efforts were being made with the district administration, police, military leadership, tribal leaders and Jirga members for a ceasefire.

DC leads meeting on education in Chaman

CHAMAN (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Captain Raja Athar Abbas led an important meeting of the District Education Group at the DC office, on Friday.

According to the DC office, the meeting focused on improving education in Chaman district.

Education officials including District Officer Malala Kakar and Deputy District Education Officer Uzmi Gilani attended the meeting. They briefed the DC about the current state of schools, teacher attendance and performance in the district. Speaking at the meeting, DC emphasized the importance of education. He said, "We are taking all possible steps to boost the morale of the education department.



SOHBATPUR: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Khosa inspecting different development projects during his visit of Sohbatpur

Sardar Khetran says: Govt. determined to develop Balochistan despite financial hardships

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stated that the provincial government is determined to develop the province despite financial hardships.

He said that concrete steps are being taken for timely completion of the ongoing development and welfare projects in the province.

He said that the present government has put the province on path of development of the province.

The Minister was speaking to the Parliamentary Secretary Excise,

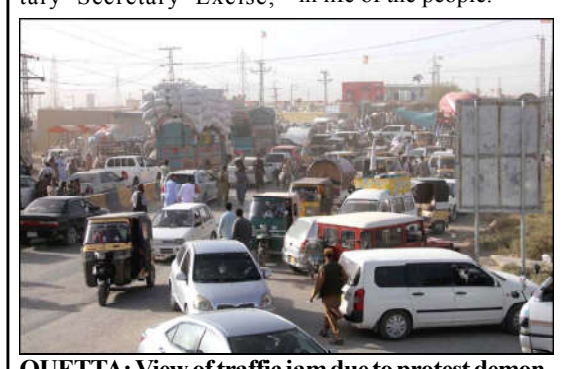
Muhammad Khan Lehri and former Deputy Speaker of provincial assembly, Sardar Babar Musakhail who called on him here on Friday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed about the issues of people besides the steps being taken for their welfare.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that it is top priority of the government to resolve the issues being faced by the people.

He said that development projects have been started for public welfare.

He said that it is our aim to bring positive change in life of the people.



QUETTA: View of traffic jam due to protest demonstration of relatives of Suhail Khan, Transporter against his kidnapping and demanding for his recovery as soon as possible, in Quetta.



QUETTA: Former Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Babar Khan Musakhail and Parliamentary Secretary Excise Muhammad Khan Lehri meeting with Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran

Ali Hasan Zehri says: Master Plan of Rs. 6b for development of infrastructure in Hub

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Industries, Ali Hasan Zehri has stated that the Master Plan of Rs. 6 billion has been approved for development of infrastructure in Hub district.

He said that the President Asif Ali Zardari has approved 3,000 labour quarters for the labourers in Hub, which would be constructed costing Rs. 16 billion.

This was announced by the Advisor to Chief Minister while addressing the open court in Hub on Friday.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Hub, Ms. Rohana Gul Kakar and

other concerned officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir Ali Hasan Zehri said that we are aware of the issues of unemployment and others in Hub district.

He directed to the district administration to resolve the issues of local and domicile certificates in the district.

He said that some 73 closes schools have been made functional in Hub. He said that district administration and other departments are fully mobilized to serve the people.

He on the occasion mentioned that approval has also been made for dualization of 18 kilometer link road from Gadani to RCD highway.



HUB: Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Commerce and Industry, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri listening the problems of citizens during the open court program held in Hub.