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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 218 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Friday September 20, 2024, Rabi-ul-Awwal 15, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

# SC reserved seats ruling can't be implemented after amendments to Election Act: NA speaker

NA Speaker pens letter to ECP, says the Amended Election Act, 2017, was passed on August 7 while the SC issued verdict in July

ISLAMABAD (Agensembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said the independent have already given a joining to a political party cannot be allowed now to the prior ruling. switch parties in terms of the Amended Election Act, tion that the above is not lished in the Gazette of thing contained in this Act which has paramount and overriding effect.

cation can now be made by the Election Commission Amended Election Act to rendered, based on the law

prior to the enactment of the implementation. Amended Election Act that Amendment) Act, 2024 shall prevail and supersede which received the assent

It is pertinent to men-

only my view, but in fact Pakistan on 9th August is the consistent jurispru-In a letter written to the dence of the Supreme Pakistan, he said no allo- Amended Election Act is in the field, therefore, it is the statutory obligation of tary supremacy.

The has been pleased to pass of the President on 7th August 2024 and was pub-

He referred two par-Election Commission of Court as well. The ticular provisions of the of any court including the Amended Election Act, Supreme Court and a High which states "provided that if a candidate, before seeking without applying the the ECP to honor the laws allotment of a prescribed made by Parliament and symbol, has not filed a declathe fullest. As the Judgment uphold the principles of ration before the Returning of the Supreme Court was democracy and parliamen- Officer about his affiliation with a particular political

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said party by submitting party cies): Speaker National As- amendment, the said judg- after the Judgment of the certificate from the political ment is now incapable of apex court, the Parliament party confirming that he is that party's candidate, he returned candidates who Speaker said it is the the Elections (Second shall be deemed to be considered as an independent candidate and not a candidate of any political party."

"Notwithstanding anyor rules or any other law, for the time being in force, or a judgment, decree or order Court, the declaration, consent or affidavit, by whatever name called, of an independent returned candidate once given for joining a political party shall be irrevocable and cannot institutions.

that Pakistan was keen to

expand trade, economic,

energy, connectivity and

security cooperation with

talking to Russia's Deputy

Prime Minister Alexei

Overchuk, who called on

him here, conveyed that

Pakistan considered

strengthening relations

with Russia as an impor-

tant priority of Pakistan's

foreign policy, according to

a PM Office press release.

Mishustin to Islamabad

Recalling his "very

next month.

Welcoming the delega-

The prime minister,

be substituted or with-

The letter further stated that Section 1(2) of the Amended Election Act categorically states that the said amendments will have retrospective effect from 2017 when the Election Act 2017

The Speaker said upholding the principles of parliamentary sovereignty are essential in maintaining the integrity and independence of our parliamentary system. He said any actions perceived as undermining the sovereignty of the Parliament can erode public trust and confidence in our

discuss expansion of bilat-

DPM Overchuk thanked the PM for the

warm welcome and reiter-

ated Russia's resolve to

deepen relations with Pa-

kistan. He characterized

Pakistan-Russia relations

as constructive and mutu-

maintain regular contacts.

also witnessed signing of an

MoU between Russia and

Pakistan, which signifies

vantageous cooperation in

all areas of shared interest,

especially trade, invest-

The two sides agreed to

The prime minister

eral cooperation.
DPM C

ally beneficial.

Pakistan keen to expand

trade, security cooperation

with Russia: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): conveyed his thanks to Prime Minister Shehbaz President Putin for sending Sharif on Thursday said the high-level delegation to



President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan Mr. Jiang Zaidong cutting a cake to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of

#### People's Republic of China, in Islamabad. President, PM extend heartfelt felicitations to China on 75th anniversary

# Pakistan to work with China for shared prosperity, global peace: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working together with China for shared prosperity, and promoting peace and stability in the world.

Highlighting the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the President said that high quality development of CPEC would "help unlock greater benefits for our people, besides enhancing connectivity and prosperity

of the region". He emphasized the importance of advancing the high-quality development of CPEC to unlock greater benefits for the people of two countries.

speaking at the "China's National Day Reception",

founding of the People's Republic of China, was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Šharif, federal ministers, dignitaries, diplomats, and senior civil and military officers. President Zardari, extending the warmest felicitations to Chinese brothers and sisters on the auspicious occasion, stated that the first October marked the rebirth of a strong, united China, achieved through the heroic struggle of the Chi-

under the visionary leadership of the Communist Party.

nese people.

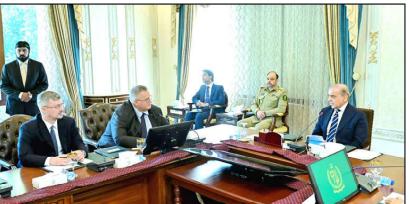
He reflected on the invaluable contributions made by the successive generations in transforming the Pakistan-China friendship the warmth and very President Zardari was into an All-Weather Strate- friendly welcome from our gic Cooperative Partner- Chinese friends. He said the ship. This partnership, he hosted by the Chinese Em-said, had served as a model

spiration and strength for both countries.

China was an iron-clad brother of Pakistan and the entire nation was proud of the enduring friendship as both countries stood by each other during testing

times, he added. In his address, the Prime Minister said it's a great day and a great event today that we are jointly celebrating the 75th anniversary of our great friend China's independence. He said we are all very happy to celebrate this momentous

event. The Prime Minister recalled his visit to China in June this year, saying that he was deeply touched by people of Pakistan and China are in an unbreakable



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation, Alexei Overchuk calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Lebanon attacks:

#### Use of electronic means for terrorism in foreign countries reprehensible: FO spox

strongly condemned the attacks in Lebanon through the detonation of electronic equipment and said that the use of cyber and electronic means to commit terrorism in foreign countries was rep-

rehensible. "Pakistan strongly condemns this week's attacks in Lebanon carried out through detonation of electronic equipment. The use of cyber and electronic means to commit terrorism in foreign countries is reprehensible," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing.

She said the terror attacks were the manifestation of Israel's alarming adventurism in the region, endangering peace and se-

ereignty and territorial integrity and calls upon the by the Gaza people. international community to take urgent steps to hold Israel accountable for its acts of international terrorism and violation of inter-

national laws.' She said Pakistan called for full implementation of ICJ Advisory Opinion delivered on July 19 this year and welcomed the United Nations General Assembly resolution to turn the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ into action. She also condemned

the Israeli air strikes on a school and refugees shelter in Gaza and said such attacks on targets, including refugee camps, also violated the spirit of ICJ provisional measures that called for the provision of

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- "Pakistan reaffirms its essential services and hukistan on Thursday support for Lebanon's sov- manitarian assistance to address the challenges faced

Spokesperson Baloch told the media that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would participate in the high-level segment of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York from September 23-27 where he would reaffirm Pakistan's steadfast commitment to multilateralism and express support for the role of the United Nations in forging global peace, security, and pros-

He will also emphasize the importance of addressing long-standing issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council, including the question of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir.

Registrar office

objects on petition

against proposed

amendment

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Supreme Court's reg-

istrar office on Thursday

returned the petition

against proposed constitu-

ional amendment after

The registrar office of

aising objections on it.

the top court has raised

eight objections against the

petition. It stated that the

proposed amendment has

not been presented in the

nembers of the parliament

could not be made as re-

spondents as it was their

prerogative to approve any

is the right of legislature

and it cannot be restrained

from it. The petition

against proposed constitu-

tional amendment is pre-

It further said that

It said that legislation

#### Bilawal stresses need for constitutional court to ensure fair judicial system

tion, the prime minister said the shared understanding

that he looked forward to and desire of the two coun-

welcoming his Russian tries to further counterpart Mikhail strengthen mutually ad-

fruitful" discussion with ment, energy, IT, agricul-

President Vladimir Putin in ture, science & technology

July earlier this year and and education.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has reiterated his party's long-standing demand for judicial reforms, emphasising the need for a constitutional court to ensure a fair judicial system.

Speaking to representatives of lawyers across the country on Thursday, Bilawal praised the legal community for their resistance against dictatorships, particularly in defeating General Musharraf's re-

stood firm against dictators, and their struggle led to the downfall of Musharraf's dictatorship," he said.

Bilawal highlighted the

views of his late mother, Benazir Bhutto, who believed that judges should avoid political activism. "She used to say that if judges want to lead rallies. they should form a political party. She knew that political involvement by the judiciary would harm the public," he remarked. He also recalled the PPP's commitment to

#### "Lawyers have always the Charter of Democracy. **CM Maryam announces** PHA in every city, revives traditional festivals

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced the establishment of Parks and Horticulture Authorities (PHA) in every city across the province and ordered the revival of traditional festivals

During a meeting with members of the Sahiwal Division Assembly, CM Maryam Nawaz was praised for launching public welfare projects. She directed the immediate

operationalization of a cardiology block in Sahiwal. completion of the medical college faculty, and the creation of Dolphin Force units in every city. Additionally, she ordered the swift restoration of Baba Farid Ganj Shakar's

CM Maryam Nawaz

emphasized that significant improvements are underway across all sectors. She reassured the public that no appointments had been made through favoritism, and that a new department dedicated to price control had been

established, bringing inflation down for the first time through the government's efforts. Addressing the unlease said popular decision to refrain from purchasing wheat, she explained that although it was criticized, the move led to lower flour and bread



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt, Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid Hassan calls on Federal Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

# Ahsan highlights importance of developing 'exemplary' governance model for ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday underscored the importance of developing an <sup>'</sup>exemplary' governance model for Islamabad Capital Territory

'Islamabad's size is neither too large nor too small, making it a suitable area for implementing innovative governance practices that can serve as a model for other provinces," he said while chairing the PM Committee on ICT Governance Model, a news re-

Among others, the meeting was attended by key officials, including Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Health,

Awais Manzur Sumra, Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Secretary of Education, Additional Secretaries from various line ministries, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, and the Director of the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

During the meeting, Chief Governance Javed Sikandar presented governance models adopted by countries such as the USA, Brazil, Australia, Mexico, Nigeria, Malaysia, and In-

The minister noted that Islamabad's manageable size offered an ideal environment to pilot govercated in other regions.

He highlighted the unique governance challenges faced by ICT due to the absence of a provincial assembly and administrative autonomy.

He called upon the committee to explore whether Islamabad required a provincial-like government structure or whether a more robust local government model would be a better alternative.

Furthermore, the minister expressed concern over the duplication of responsibilities among various entities, such as the Capital Development Authority (CDA), the Minisnance reforms that try of Interior, and line could later be repli- ministries, which led to in-

#### IGP confirms status of missing PTI MNAs in court

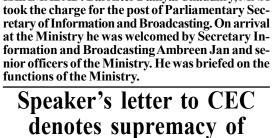
ISLAMABAD (INP): In the case concerning the disappearance of six PTÍ MNAs, Islamabad IG Ali Nasir Rizvi

has submitted a report to the Islamabad High Court, revealing that three of the MNAs are at home, and one is abroad. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq presided over the hearing, where the IG stated that he had contacted the relevant DPOs to gather information.

According to the DPOs, MNAs Aurangzeb Khechi from Vehari, Usman Ali from Sahiwal, and Zahoor Qureshi from Khanewal are all at their homes. However,

Khan is currently outside the country. Official renses from the DPOs are pending.

The court has adjourned the hearing until Monday, pending further responses.



ISLAMABAD: Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, MNA

Parliament: Atta Tarar ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said that National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq had eventually upheld the supremacy of the Parliament by writing a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) on the issue of reserved seats. He paid tributes to the Speaker on the initiative and said that it must not be misconstrued.

There are specific questions over the Supreme Court's verdict about the reserved seats, which need to be duly considered and

while talking to the media. Terming the Speaker's letter a 'milestone in the parliamentary history', he said it was articulated unequivocally in the Constitution that "the Parliament is supreme and has the sole jurisdiction to enact and amend laws". It were the people who elected their representatives to the Parliament with an exclusive right to legislate or amend the Constitution, he added

should not be a trespass in terms of institutional domains in order to invigorate the parliamentary system in the country

redressed," the minister said

The minister said there



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the reviewing meeting in Planning and Development Board.

# Daily Aoice of Masse. Independent

# **Lingering concerns**

Days later, the possible repercussions of what could have been had the government's planned amendments to the Constitution been bulldozed through parliament are still being discussed.

One thing seems clear: the government must have anticipated how strong the blowback would be if the details of its legislative coup were to leak beforehand. Senior political leaders have spoken about the lengths to which it went to cover its tracks, to the extent that it told different stakeholders different things about its plans. It appears that it had good reason to be nervous.

Ever since the reported draft amendments have emerged, lawyers, politicians, academics and analysts from across the political divide have united in expressing their disappointment and disgust. Many are still trying to come to terms with the audacity with which the proposals were put to paper. The intent behind them seems so naked in its ambition that no amount of window-dressing could have ever made them palatable.

Meanwhile, after their humbling at the hands of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the government, its allies and their shills are no longer as gloating and aggressive as they seemed over the weekend. Having attempted and failed to make drastic changes to the Constitution to favour a handful of individuals, they are now lecturing all and sundry that their 'constitutional package' was, in fact, solely for the public's benefit.

After refusing to show anyone — even their own allies and ministers — a draft of the amendments they were planning, they are now waxing lyrical about the need for parliamentary debate and scrutiny of all important legislation. However, the damage may have already been done. The legal community, for instance, now suddenly seems to be highly agitated. The strong words in which many of its most respected members have condemned the government's move should be taken with the seriousness they deserve.

It is unclear for now whether the government will make another attempt to tweak the Constitution. Embarrassed after failing to muster the numbers during the high-stakes drama that played out all weekend, it will need time to regroup. It has also shown its hand and lost the element of surprise. This alone may force it to abandon the strategy altogether, especially after the strong pushback it has received from the legal community. Whatever the case may be, it would be well advised not to make another attempt in the manner it did last time.

There is a reason why the Constitution is a protected document that requires two-thirds of parliament's strength to acquiesce to any changes. Attempting to override this protocol by hiding legislative proposals and coercing other lawmakers to vote for them not only hurts our democracy but also signals that those making the changes may not be acting in good faith.

#### The other love

#### F.S. Aijazuddin Bureaucrats wed twice -

to a natural spouse, and also to an extracurricular distraction. One was reminded of

this intellectual infidelity when reading a volume of modern (ie, post-revolution) Persian poetry – Honeyed Poison — translated by a Pakistani diplomat, Malik M. Danish. A graduate from Lums, Punjab University and Georgetown University, Danish is the latest in a line of officials who will be remembered for their literary contributions.

One could begin with names like the Mu--ghal emperor Akbar's wazir Abul Fazl. He spent his spare hours chronicling his master's court and its and to home, though, is the 19th-century engineer Kanhaiya Lal. He worked in the Public Works Department for 30 years before retiring as superintendent engineer in 1885.

His legacies to the architectural visage of Lahore have survived time - Government College, Montgomery and

Lawrence Halls, the then Mayo School of Arts, to name a few. monumentum requiris, circumspice'. (If you seek [his] monument, look around you.) Kanhaiya Lal's equally enduring achievement is his book Tareekh-i-Lahore, first published in 1884 (a year before his retirement), and republished many times.

Since then, there have been Syed Muha-mmad Latif's magisterial histories of the Punjab (1891) and of Lahore (1892). Latif's official responsibilities, though, were as an extrajudicial assistant commissioner.

Lepel Griffin (once chief secretary Punjab, 1880) assembled the genealogies of the Punjab chiefs in 1890). In it, he sifted the proof of research from the fiction of family legends.

sioner to Pakistan Sir arts. B.A. Kureishi and Nicholas Barrington—absorbed himself in to mind. Which one of Islamabad, pruning the their successors today family trees of Pakistan's prominent families.)

Sir Charles Aitchison. even while lieute-nant governor of the Punjab, found the time to compile his 11volume Collection of Trea-ti--es, Engagements, and Sanads relating to India and neighbouring Countries (1862-1892). Subsequent research into Punjab's history continued with the History of the Panjab Hill States by another official, J. Hutchison, and his colleague, J Ph. /ogel (1933).

M.S. Randhawa (an ICS officer), Parsi lawyer Karl Khand-al-a-vala and Dr B.N. Goswamy (who left functions. Closer in time the ICS for academia), through their seminal resear-ch--es brought painting done in the Punjab hills into the plains of the art world's consciousness. Some like G. Mueenuddin (once of the ICS, later our chief negotiator in the Indus Waters Treaty) had much to tell, if only his pen had not been

More recently, Dr

Évery retired bureaucrat in Pakistan feels impelled to publish their version of a history they could not prevent. They believe that their book — whether a biography or an autobiography — will ensure them the bronze of recognition, if not the gold of immortality. Not all can disguise (to paraphrase American poet and essayist Mark Strand) that 'their expressive part [was] rather tedious — never curious or responsive, but blind

and self-serving' Strand foresaw perhaps the recent publication of memoirs by a former bureaucrat, responsible in the 1990s for the ingenious yellow cab and yellow tractor schemes, and later the squalid birth of the IPPs.

There was a time when bureaucrats saw (His modern counterpart themselves as modern van/ Hair by Hair. -the former high commis- Medicis — patrons of the Courtesy Dawn

would expend their energies on restoring the

Lahore museum? Kureishi sponsored Sadequain there as an artresidence. Squirrelled in the museum's basement, Sadequain produced many inimitable masterpieces. His tour de force its painted ceiling has become Laho-re's distant echo of the Sistine chapel.

Who today would commission two of Pakistan's greats — Sadequain and Sha-kir Ali - to paint a mural, each in his unique style? They hang in the Punjab Public Library, a contest us--ing brushes, a visual bait bazi between Akbar's singer Tansen, and his rival Baiju

Malik Danish found his Persian muse in a language teacher at Jhelum and then in Dr Athar Masood, a fellow bureaucrat with a passion for Persian poetry. Danish is a br--ave scholar to venture into Persian poe-try when the very word 'Iran' releases thunderbolts of sanctions from Washington, D.C.

If one had to isolate few stanzas from among Danish's 20 poets — the 'frightened flowers' in a traumatised Iran — they would be from Mehdi Akhavan-e-Sales' Lament. He speaks for every Iranian and Pakistani: 'My house has caught fire, a deadly fire/ which is burning the engravings/ I etched with my heart's

Aminpour's moving advice on behalf of fellow authors to readers everywhere: "My hairs are turning white/ as pages of my book are turning black. He concludes: "Read my works/ Dot by dot/ Word by word/ Line by line/ and count the verses in my Di-

#### Debatable debate

#### Shahzad Sharjeel

Is leadership about oratory, rabble-rousing, long marches, or dharna in our context? Although political campaigns worldwide rely on debating ability, so do debating societies; these are forums for expanding discourse. While political activists and leaders must be engaging, recourse to incitement and invective only reflects a lack of substance.

Immediately after the first US presidential debate this election season, commentators and pundits felt Kamala Harris succeeded in goading Donald Trump into areas his camp would have him steer clear of. Her strategy was to make Trump implicate himself, and he did just

Traditionally, deep thinking with a proper mix of action set leaders apart from philosophers. In the subcontinent's context, Abul Kalam Azad and Bahadur Yar Jang were the best orators, but the leaders were Gandhi, Nehru, and

Among the recent world leaders, Barack combination of being bookish yet communicateven his ability to 'connect with the people' was questioned as, according to his critics, he could sometimes be 'too cerebral'. The dumbing down of discourse, ostensibly in the public interest, affects the quality of debate worldwide, the Democratic and Republican candidates' debates being no excep-

The battle of wits, at down to name-calling, slurs, and digging up past peccadillos and hush money trails. Relaundering of candi-

sion, sexual offences, attempts to bring external murder, rape, etc — they continue to be voted in worldwide. The more they expose themselves, the more their ilk identifies with them, promoting a slimy culture.

Interestingly, earlier in her vice presidency, Ms Harris was not considered the sharpest tool in the drawer by comcompared to the failing mental alertness of her boss, Joe Biden, and Trump, she appears even-keeled. Imagine a US-style

debate between leading contenders for power in would be hardly anything in the debate for their audience other than the realisation that they are equally adept at pointing out challenges and their adversaries' unable to propose a tangible way out of the mo-

Deep thinkers are loath to speak and debate and cannot organise alone a political party. Obama was that rare The charming orators can indulge in much rabble-rousing but caning lucidly. However, not think to save their lives. Usually, after fultheir way to power, they gather a team of thinkers, also called strategists and technocrats, to run the actual business of governance. Lately, even the proverbial one-eved leader has been missing, and it is a case of the blind leading the blind. Take revenue collec-

tion, for instance. The leadership across the civiltimes dimwits, has come military spectrum refuses to cough up its fair share of taxes. It is constantly hamstrung by one vested interest or angardless of the public other, usually surrogates, reflects on the audience; in broadening the tax dates' alleged misdeeds base. Thus, the leaderwar crime, tax eva- ship makes half-hearted teem. -- Courtesy Dawn

experts to run the FBR. It turns out that the external experts entrusted with the shake-up got so shaken so fast by the interest groups that they required a check-up from the neck up.

In a two-way or

even a three-way debate, what would PML-N, PTI and PPP candidates say mentators; however, about the tax-to-GDP ratio, SOEs draining the exchequer, the energy secnow her competitor, relia-nce on the Fund pro--gramme, the investment climate, civilmilitary disequilibrium, etc? One good thing that might come out of such Pakistan. The debate a debate is a public would contain every- realisation of the sheer thing but a solution to impossibility of the

myriad problems. There country's situation. It will also expose the jostling for office as nothing but a power grab. While discussing

public discourse, ignoring the recent PTI gathering near Islamabad is contributions to it but difficult. What the KP chief minister said to a cheering crowd of thousands is too repulsive to repeat. His leader Imran Kĥan's endorsement from behind bars is a rave in a brewery, let unsurprising. He may not be the pioneer of abuse in public discourse, but to borrow from the subcontinent's musicology, he definitely merits the status minating and bluffing of the 'Barey Khan Sahib' of the 'Gaali gharana'. The party chairperson, Barrister Gohar, apologised on the floor of the House for the misogyny-laden language used at the rally, and as expected, Imran Khan quickly dubbed all such apologists

Whether in one-on-one debates. televised speeches, or public rallies, what is said and how it is said reveals the workings of the state or the lack thereof. It also their leadership choice measures their self-es-

# Commerce News

# Rana Ihsan says: National economy inching towards 'growth' from stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan Thursday said the national economy had begun to show steady progress due to the prudent policies introduced by the incumbent government, marking a shift from IMF will be achieved increase, with textile and stability to 'growth.'

indicators are moving in the national economy will basis, IT services by 27 right direction," he said while addressing a news trajectory," conference after the confidence. Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) 100 Index gained over 1,500 points, surging to 81,900, which he called a 'superb performance' and

a 'big achievement.' stock exchange's positive trajectory reflected marketbased sentiments and the confidence of investors and entrepreneurs

government policies. the agreement with the successfully, hopefully by economic September 25, and the trajectory," he expressed

> The coordinator added that Pakistan's shift from 'stability' to 'positive' regarding its debt liability and external

world's top credit agencies like Fitch and Moody's.

Sharing some official statistics, Ihsan Afzal said in during the first two months of the current fiscal year, "This indicates that the country's export sector witnessed a remarkable clothing exports rising by 13 percent year on year continue on its growth percent, and overall exports by 7.2 percent during July and August.

> period, he said the country's remittances increased by 44 percent, reaching \$5.9 billion, which

challenges was also being he termed a 'massive surge' He noted that the acknowledged by the reflecting the confidence of overseas Pakistanis in government policies. Similarly, he mentioned that the current account deficit declined remarkably, standing at \$0.2 billion, while the exchange rate against the dollar remained stable and fluctuated according to market trends. Additionally, 14 sectors in Large Manufacturing (LSM) area showed positive growth,

surging by almost 2.38 During the same percent year on year, he added. The coordinator also highlighted the reduced inflation rate of 9.6



meeting with Pakistani delegation led by Dr. Musadik Malik.

AJMAN: Hussain Muhammed, Consul General met Salem Al Suwaidi, Director General of the Ajman Chamber at the Chamber's headquarters. Ali Rashid Al Kaitoob, Executive Director of the Studies and Investment Development Sector at the Ajman Chamber and Ali Zeeb Khan, Trade and Investment Counsellor Pakistan Consulate were also present during the meeting.

# **Russian Deputy PM's** visit to boost trade: **PFC CEO**

logistics.

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Overchuk's visit comes at Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer countries were looking to Mian Kashif Ashfaq Thursday said that Russian
Deputy Prime Minister
Alexey Overchuk's visit
Cooperation in ke
including
transportation, will further promote trade ties between the two countries with a special focus on energy sector energy producers, was keen and infrastructure, paving to expand its energy the way for closer exports, while Pakistan economic collaboration in

visit, he said

a crucial time when both deepen economic cooperation in key areas,

He said Russia, as one of the world's largest was looking to secure reliable energy sources for Commenting here on its growing industrial

#### PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 997 more points

SLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 997.95 more points, a positive change of 1.24 percent, closing at 81,459.29 points against 80,461.34 points on the last working day.

total 459,037,985 shares were traded during the day as compared to 400,195,963 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 18.610 billion against Rs. 15.904 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 469 companies transacted their shares in the stock market. 145 of them recorded gains and 239 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 85 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 35,184,576 shares at Rs 8.01 per share, K-Electric Limited with 23,819,654 shares at Rs 3.99 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 22,930,170 shares at Rs 1.33 per share.

#### **Envoy says: Enhancing Pak-Swiss** trade ties top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan George Steiner on opportunities strengthening bilateral trade relations and economic cooperation was

his top priority.

Efforts to the effect would ultimately benefit the people of both nations, he said addressing the the launching ceremony of homeopathic medicines in Pakistan, according to a press

Ambassador Steiner Swiss Ambassador to highlighted the vast Thursday stressed that collaboration in sectors such as tourism, medicine, and agriculture.

He praised the successful partnership between Pakistani and Swiss companies, and expressed the hope for increased collaboration and investment from Swiss companies, leveraging Pakistan's 25 million population and diverse industries.

# **SCCI** demands resumption of Peshawar-Karachi PIA flight operation

PESHAWAR Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has expressed concern over closure of PIA flight operation from Peshawar to Karachi and demanded for its immediate resumption. Fuad Ishaq, president of the SCCI, in a statement issued here on Thursday, said PIA was operating only one flight from Peshawar to Karachi

(APP): within a week and this service was availed by business community and people Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. He, however, said PIA has halted Peshawar to Karachi operation for the last several months, due to which the business community has not only faced difficulties but also inflicted huge revenue loss to the national carrier PIA.

# Jam, US trade representative discuss bilateral trade expansion

ISLAMABAD (APP): news Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday held a virtual meeting with United Representative Katherine Tai to strengthen bilateral

trade relations between both countries. The minister highlighted that the US is

Pakistan's leading trade destination and expressed desire to further expand this partnership, said a

#### **Shipping Activity** at Port Qasim KARACHI (APP): Five

ships, Maersk Pittsburgh, Maersk Cairo, Lotus-A, ČD Fortune and FSM scheduled to load/offload Container, Sand and LPG, berthed at Oasim International Container Terminal and Sui Southern Gas Terminal respectively during last 24 hours, Meanwhile two more ships, Tirua and MSC Adelaide are arrived at outer anchorage port on Thursday. Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a chemicals carrier 'Chemroad Jupiter' left the port on today morning, while five

more ships.

underscored the country's market. agricultural strengths particularly in mangoes and dates, and noted the potential for growth in

Katherine acknowledged Pakistan's contributions, particularly its agricultural exports, and praised the quality of Pakistani mangoes.

value-added agro-services.

exports to Pakistan, given and E-commerce.

release. He the large demand in the

Both sides discussed issues of mutual interest, agreeing to further strengthen their trade relations. During the meeting, it was confirmed that the next Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meeting would be scheduled soon, along with discussions on She also mentioned agriculture, textiles, the potential for US beef women's empowerment, IT

# PBS capacity building, data digitization vital for service delivery

Pakhtunkhwa Muzammil Aslam has underscored the need for enhancing the capacity of the provincial bureau of statistics and leveraging data and digitalization to improve service delivery for citizens and businesses. The CM's Advisor emphasized the urgent need for evidencebased solutions to drive policy-making and implementation in Khyber

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakhtunkhwa. Highlighting Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance, Khyber increasing tax and non-tax Dr. revenues, Dr. Aslam reiterated the commitment of the economic team to bolster provincial resources, particularly education and health sectors.

He expressed these remarks during the inaugural meeting of the Sustainable Development Institute (SDPI) led National Network of Economic Thinktanks (NNETT) Advisory Committee.

# Marriyam discusses health, education, climate change with US Consul General

Provincial Marriyum Aurangzeb Thursday met U.S. Consul General Kristin K Hawkins to discuss various issues including health, education, economic growth, climate change, solid waste management, agricultural programs, law & order, price control management protection of minorities. She highlighted that CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif was the first chief minister who personally monitors governance of the province. She begins each welfare matters. Following climate

LAHORE (APP): Senior the directives of the chief particularly in the form of Minister minister, all provincial smog in the region. As soon ministers are actively as engaged in the field to assumed office, monitor the prices of activated the entire essential commodities. Significant progress is being made in several areas Initiatives such as the esuch as field hospitals, mass transit system, hospitals-on-wheels, demand and supply networks, and digital management, scholarships, road up-gradation and women's economic development programmes, she added. The senior added. Marriyum minister further said that the people of Punjab are severely affected by the approximately 9,500 ecoday by overseeing public dangerous impacts of

Maryam government machinery in March to combat smog. establishment of solarised monitoring of crop residues, industries, and brick kilns Marriyum Aurangzeb mentioned that 1,000 super seeders and friendly tractors have been change, provided to the farmers.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation comprising bishops and pastors of churches under the leadership of Vice President Pakistan People's Party Punjab Minority Wing, Edwin Sahutra.

#### Advisor Health briefed on the Sehat Card Program

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa(KP) on Health, Advocate Ihtisham Ali was briefed on the Sehat Card Program by Chief Executive Officer Dr Riaz Tanoli. The briefing was attended by Special Secretary Health Habibullah, CEO Sehat Card Dr Riaz Tanoli, and other relevant officials.

During the briefing, the Health Advisor was informed about the treatment packages offered under the Sehat Card

40,000 per person and Rs program.

200,000 per family, while the Tertiary Care Package offers free treatment up to Rs 400,000. The Advisor was also briefed that Rs10.5 million families in KP were receiving free treatment at 753 public and private hospitals under the Sehat Card Program. So far, Rs. 88 billion

had been spent on the free treatment of 3,529,487

individuals. It was further highlighted that the provincial government was bearing monthly expenses of Rs. 2.5 billion and annual The Secondary Care costs of Rs 30 billion for Package provides Rs free treatment under the

#### DC Dera vows to provide prompt relief

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sarah Rehman has said that it is a top priority of district administration to work for the development and welfare of the citizens.

"Providing prompt relief to the public is our top priority, and we will not tolerate any negligence in this regard," the DC expressed these views during a revenue darbar held the village of Kotjai, Tehsil Pharpur under the public agenda of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to resolve revenue department-related issues of people at their doorstep. Besides officials of the revenue department, Assistant Commissioner Pharpur Sohni Saleem and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dera Sher Bahadur were also present on the occasion, where a large number of residents raised several issues pertaining to the revenue department including land transfers. Fard, registry and others. Speaking on the occasion, she said that the district administration was committed to extending relief

to citizens by dispensing

iustice at their doorstep.



Hussain Sheerazi, Provincial Minister Riaz Hussain Shah Sheerazi and MP. Shah Hussain Shah Sheerazi at CM House.

#### **Punjab Governor says: Role of Christian community** in development and stability of country is commendable

**Independent Report** Governor Puniab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that the role of the Christian community in the development and stability of the country is commendable. Pakistan belongs to all of us, everyone has to play a role for its improvement and lead towards improvement. He expressed these views here today at Governor House Lahore during a meeting with a delegation comprising bishops and pastors of churches under

the leadership of Vice President

Pakistan People's Party

Punjab Minority Wing, Edwin Sahutra. In the delegation Pastor Irfan Shahzad, Pastor Ubaid Iqbal, Pastor Younis Javed, Bishop Wilson John, Bishop Dr. Junaid Javed, Bishop Afzal Masih, Bishop Akbar Khokhar, Pastor Captain Sabir Anees, Pastor Muswar Manoor, Pastor Parvez Nadeem and Pasar Irfan John were present.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider said that Islam teaches love, tolerance peace and brotherhood. He said that minorities are living peacefully in Pakistan.

#### Minister assures prompt solution to problems of hospital's House Officers

KOHAT (APP): Khyber delegation Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate on Thursday assured the House Officers of District Headquarters Hospital Kohat that their problems will be solved on priority basis.

He gave this assurance while talking to the representative delegation of House Officers of District Headquarters Hospital Kohat led by the Chairman Insaf Doctors Forum Kohat Dr. Nizam Ali at his residence.

Other members of the this regard in presence.

President Insaf Doctors Forum Kohat Dr. Hamza Shehzad and Secretary General Insaf Doctors Forum Dr. Haris Waheed. Members of the delegation had a detailed discussion with the provincial minister about the problems of House Officers. The law minister took personal interest in solving the problems of House Officers and called in the MS DHQ

Hospital Kohat Dr. Tahir Ali

Shah and on the spot held a

special meeting with him in

#### 57 new cases of Dengue recorded in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (APP) The 57 new cases were recorded in Rawalpindi during past 24 hours, increasing the number of patients under treatment in allied hospitals to 100.

According to the latest report released by District Health Authority, this year's total positive cases reached 501. Pothohar Town remains the top contributing and the most affected area.

27 patients from Pothohar Town were reported alone during the last 24 hours. Rawalpindi Cantonment Board areas also reported 9 dengue patients in one day.

#### **ANF** foils attempt to smuggle drugs, weapons

RAWALPINDI (APP) Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a raid in Karachi foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs and weapons and recovered 1200 grams charras, seven pistols and ammunition, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that ANF conducted a raid at a courier office near Nursery Stop in Karachi and recovered 1200 grams hashish and weapons, concealed in electronic

#### Governor lauds establishment of technical training lab at Gomal University

PESHAWAR Governor Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday lauded the establishment of a Technical Training Lab at Gomal University with the collaboration of China.

Initial work has begun

on the establishment of a Technical Training Lab, with the special interest of Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and directives from the Chairperson of the National Vocational and Training Technical Commission (NAVTTC) Gulmina Bilal. A meeting on the directives of Governor Faisal Karim Kundi who is Chancellor of the University was convened at Gomal University to discuss the project, attended by key and trading.

(APP): figures including Vice Khyber Chancellor Professor Dr. Sal Karim Shakeebullah, Registrar Zahir Shah Marwat, and representatives from the Chinese organization UNI International Zargham Abbas, and Ghufran Malook, PRO to Governor and Incharge PID Regional Office Dera Muhammad Fazlur Rehman and others.

The meeting highlighted the Governor's priority to provide economic opportunities for the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Under the Youth Engagement and Women Empowerment Agenda, the Chairperson of NAVTTC, Gulmina Bilal, directed International to provide local students with modern facilities for online marketing



LAHORE: U.S. Consul General in Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins meeting with Senior Minister Punjab Marriyum Aurangzaib.

#### **Child protection unit** inaugurated in Mardan

collaboration UNICEF, achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of the Child Protection Unit in Mardan. The inauguration ceremony brought together key stakeholders, senior government officials, representatives from civil society, academia, adolescents, and children

from District Mardan to mark this momentous occasion on Thursday. District Officer Social Welfare, Special Education

and

PESHAWAR (APP): The Empowerment Mardan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Jamal Shah highlighted the Child Protection and Welfare Commission (KPCPWC), in Safeguarding the rights with and welfare of children in the region. Program Manager UNICEF Manager Peshawar Wisam Hazem thanked the KP government for taking the initiative to inaugurate the Child Protection Unit in Mardan district and congratulated the district administration and KP Child Protection and Welfare Commission for their leadership in establishing the unit. He said it would contribute to strengthening the child protection system in the

# International News

# Putin says Russia is ramping up drone production tenfold

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia was ramping up drone production by around ten times to nearly 1.4 million this year in a bid to ensure the Russian armed forces win in

Ukraine. Since Russia sent tens of thousands of soldiers into Ukraine in February 2022, the war has largely been a story of grinding artillery and drone strikes along a heavily fortified 1,000-km (620-mile) front involving hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

The conflict has been a crucible for drone development - and an illustration of the importance of drones to modern warfare, from terrorising infantry and collecting intelligence to sabotaging infrastructure and attacking arsenals. "In total, about

140,000 unmanned aerial vehicles of various types were delivered to the armed forces in 2023," Putin said. 'This year, the production of drones is planned to increase significantly. Well, to be more precise, almost 10

faster to these demands on the battlefield wins," Putin said at a meeting in St Petersburg about drone production.

Both Russia and Ukraine have bought drones abroad and ramped up their own production while drone videos have illustrated the horror of the produce a wide range of battlefield, showing deadly strikes on infantry, artillery

Inexpensive first-person view (FPV) drones originally developed for civilian racers - are controlled by pilots on the ground and often crash into targets,

For just a few hundred dollars, soldiers on both sides can inflict vast damage on the other side. A large-scale Ukrainian drone attack on Russia triggered an earthquake-sized blast at a major arsenal in the Tver "Whoever reacts region on Wednesday.

Putin said that Russia was making almost weekly advances in drone technology and needed to also develop its drone defences. essentially technology which senses, confuses and then shoots down the attacking drones.

The key task is to aerial unmanned vehicles, to establish serial production as quickly as possible," Putin said.

The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up

#### reeling after 37 killed in two days of device blasts **Monitoring Desk** BEIRUT: Israel said on Thursday it bombed Hezbollah sites in Lebanon,

Lebanon's Hezbollah

piling pressure on the armed group already reeling after a series of deadly explosions targeting its communications systems that it blamed on Israel.

Those coordinated blasts killed 37 people across two days, including two children, and wounded more than 2,900 others, according to Lebanon's health minis-

ter, heightening fears of another full-blown war in

Russia's President Vladimir Putin visits a drone production facility of the

The latest batch of device explosions killed 25 people and wounded more than 450 others on Wednesday, officials said.

The blasts came a day after the simultaneous detonation of pagers used by Hezbollah killed 12 people, including two children, and

# war to Lebanon

attacks towards Lebanon

mented on the unprecedented operation in which Hezbollah operatives' walkie-talkies and pagers exploded in supermarkets, at funerals and on

#### the Special Technology Centre in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Japan firm savs no longer makes radio reportedly used in **Lebanon blasts**

**Monitoring Desk** TOKYO: Japanese firm

Icom said on Thursday that it had stopped producing the model of radios reportedly used in recent blasts in Lebanon around 10 years ago. "The IC-V82 is a handheld radio that was produced and exported, including to the Middle East, from 2004 to October 2014. It was discontinued about 10 years ago, and since then, it has not been shipped from our company.'

#### US not involved in device explosions in Lebanon: White House **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: White House national secuspokesperson John Kirby on Wednesday denied any involve ment of the United States in the device explosions in Lebanon.

During media briefing here, he said the US did not want the conflict escalate in the Middle East. "I want to tell you that we are not involved in the incidents yesterday and today in any way.

# Israel's defense minister announces a "new phase" of war

Women district.

**Monitoring Desk** JERUSALEM:

Israel's defense minister announcing a "new phase" of the war and an apparent Israeli attack setting off explosions in electronic devices in Lebanon, the specter of allout combat between Israel and Hezbollah seems closer than ever before. Hopes for a diplo-

matic solution to the conflict appear to be fading quickly as Israel signals a desire to change the status quo in the country's north, where it has exchanged cross-border fire with Hezbollah since the Lebanese militant group began attacking on Oct. 8, a day after the war's opening salvo by Hamas.

In recent days, Israel With has moved a powerful fighting force up to the northern border, officials have escalated their rhetoric, and the country's security Cabinet has designated the return of tens of thousands of displaced residents to their homes in northern Israel an official war goal.

Here's a look at how Israel is preparing for a war with Lebanon: While the daily fighting between Israel and Hezbollah has escalated on several occasions, the bitter enemies have been careful to avoid an allout war. That appears to be changing — especially after pagers, walkie-talkies and other devices exploded in Lebanon.

#### Spain denies 'complicity' in Venezuela's Gonzalez signing letter accepting Maduro victory Monitoring Desk

MADRID: Spain has denied involvement in negotiations between Venezuelan opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez and President Nicolas Maduro's government for his flight to Spain, before which he signed a letter saying he accepted Maduro's victory in the

country's July election.
The letter included an undertaking to limit political activity once in Spain and was signed at the residence of the Spanish ambassador to Caracas, where Gonzalez had taken refuge before his depar-

In a news conference on Wednesday, the head of Venezuela's National Assembly, Jorge Rodriguez, held up printed photographs of what he said was the moment the document was signed in his presence as well as that of his sister, Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, and Spain's ambassador to Venezuela, Ramon Santos.

However, Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares told re-

porters in Brussels on Thursday that his government did not invite anyone to visit Gonzalez at the ambassador's resi-'The Spanish gov-

ernment, and of course the ambassador, did not take part in any negotiation of any document of any type," Jose Manuel Albares told reporters in Brussels.

Gonzalez, who was granted political asylum in Spain earlier this month, said in a video message released on Wednesday the letter was signed under "coercion, blackmail and pressure' On Thursday, a se-

nior figure in Spain's opposition People's Party (PP) said Madrid had been complicit in removing Gonzalez from Venezuela, thereby ensuring Maduro would stay in power. "Beyond watching someone being blackmailed live, it's clear that Spain is involved in perpetuating Maduro as a dictator," PP Vice Secretary Esteban Gonzalez Pons said in a radio interview.

# **Ammunition from** India enters Ukraine, raising Russian ire

**Monitoring Desk** NEW DELHI: Artillery shells sold by Indian arms makers have been diverted by European customers to Ukraine and New Delhi has not intervened to stop the trade despite protests from Moscow, according to eleven Indian and European government and defence industry officials, as well as a Reuters analysis of commercially available customs data.

The transfer of munitions to support Ukraine's defence against Russia has occurred for more than a year, according to the sources and the customs data. Indian arms export regulations limit the use of weaponry to the declared purchaser, who risks future sales being terminated if unauthorised transfers occur.

The Kremlin has raised the issue on at least two occasions, including

during a July meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Indian counterpart. three Indian officials said.

Details of the ammunition transfers are reported by Reuters for the first time. The foreign and defence ministries of Russia and India did not respond to questions. In January, Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a news conference that India had not sent or sold artillery shells to Ukraine. Two Indian government and two defence industry sources told Reuters that Delhi produced only a very small amount of the ammunition being used by Ukraine. with one official estimating that it was under 1%

of the total arms imported

by Kyiv since the war.

Taliban in control of 39 Afghan embassies globally **Monitoring Desk** KABUL: The Taliban ad-

ministration is in control of 39 Afghan embassies and consulates globally three years after it took over Afghanistan and the previous Western-backed government collapsed, the acting foreign ministry said on Thursday. No international government has formally recognised the Taliban administration, though China and the United Arab Emirates have officially accepted its ambassadors in their capitals.

Many governments. especially Western nations including the United States, have said the path to any formal recognition of the Taliban will be stuck until they change course on women's rights and re-open high schools and universities to girls and women and allow their full freedom of movement.

wounded up to 2,800 others across Lebanon, in an unprecedented blamed on Israel **Turkey accuses Israel** of expanding Gaza

**Monitoring Desk** STANBUL: Turkey on Thursday accused Israel of seeking to expand the war in Gaza to Lebanon with the 'alarming" wave of deadly explosions that swept through Hezbollah strongholds. "The escalation in the region is alarming," Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on state-run TRT television. "We see Israel mounting its

The blasts have killed 32 people in two days, including two children, wounding more than 3,000 others, according to Lebanese health ministry figures. Israel has not com-

But its defence minis-

ter Yoav Gallant, referring to Israel's border with Lebanon, said Wednesday: "The centre of gravity is moving northward." Turkey Turkey blamed Israel for the blasts.

#### Int'l Rahmatul lil Aalameen moot starts today as Ministry makes comprehensive arrangements

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEPT) have finalized comprehensive arrangements for the 'International Rahmatul lil Aalameen WA Khatamun Nabiyyin Festival', which is scheduled to commence

This international festival, aimed at promoting Seerat-un-Nabi and its teachings, will be hosted by the National Rehmatul-lil-Aalameen Authority (NRKNA) at Skills University, Islamabad from September 20-22.

A wide array of programmes will be conducted during the three-day event, including the 'International Secrat Conference' and a 'Seerat Ketab Mela' (Book Fair), which will showcase a vast collection of Islamic literature, with a special focus on Seerat-un-Nabi and related themes.

with National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Wa Khatamun Nabiyyin Authority Chairman (NRKNA) Khursheed Nadeem briefed the media about the arrangements and salient features of the conference and other activities on Wednes-

Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) Executive Director Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, National Book Foundation Managing Director Murad Khan Mohmand, FBISE Chairman and FDE Director General Junaid Akhlaq were also present at the press conference.

The speakers at the press conference highlighted the importance of such initiatives to further planned. spread the message of true essence of Islam.

event would witness schol- to be an enriching experi-



Mohyuddin Wani underscored the significance of the festival in promoting religious harmony and edu-

He noted that the event was an opportunity for the youth to engage with the rich legacy of Islamic thought and to cultivate an understanding of the Prophet's (PBUH) message of mercy and compas-

open to the public, with attendees encouraged to participate in the diverse array of programmes

peace, tolerance, and the Fair, exhibitions, panel discussions, and academic ses-It was told that the sions, the event promises



President House press re- potential to undertake joint

Welcoming the Russian deputy prime minister, the president stressed the importance of exploring possibilities for barter trade. in addition to improving connectivity to strengthen economic relations between the two nations. He called for easing

visa regulations and increasing connectivity through railways and direct flights to facilitate and enhance people-to-people and business-to-business contacts. During the meeting, it

was highlighted that there was great scope to increase bilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector.

connections, according to a that there was enormous

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation witness signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Pakistan and Russia to increase cooperation in different fields.

# Pakistan, Russia for enhanced trade, economic cooperation, regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Thursday reiterated their commitment to expanding trade and economic ties, besides enhancing regional connectivity to strengthen bilateral relations. In a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, who along with members of his delegation called on the president, at Aiwan-e-Sadr,

stronger people-to-people

President welcomed Am-

bassador Sheikh, saying the

United States will continue

to stand with Pakistan in

was attended by members

The ceremony was

regional challenges.

both sides underscored the importance of fostering mutually beneficial cooperation in key sectors such as agriculture, food security, business, education. railways, science and technology, besides promoting

Pak Ambassador presents

credentials to US

**President Joe Biden** 

It was emphasised

ventures in the agricultural sector for the mutual benefit of the two countries. It was also informed that a 75member business delegation from Pakistan would visit of the Holy Quran. Russia in October to explore avenues for business

Alexei Overchuk said that Russia was looking forward to improving cooperation with Pakistan in food security, science and technology, education, connectivity and railways.

and economic cooperation.

He stated that the upcoming visit of the Russian Prime Minister to Pakistan, in October, would provide another opportunity to fur-

#### **AIOU hosts** int'l conference on endangered languages

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University(AlOU) is organizing the 28th International Conference on Federation of Endangered Languages from September 25

According to the AIOU, experts from 22 countries, including 15 for-eign delegates, will participate in the conference. A total of 42 national and international scholars will present their research pa-

The Department of English, AIOU is organizing this 28th International Conference on Federation of Endangered Languages (FEL) in collaboration with the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI).

Senator Irfan Siddiqui will be the chief guest at the

Arrest of PTI MNA

Secretary NA

others put

on notice

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to

secretary National Assem-

bly (NÁ) and others and

sought reply within 10

days in connection with

case pertaining to arrest of

PTI MNA Zain Qureshi

IHC Aamer Farooq heard

the case against detention

f Zain Qureshi Thursday. The CJ IHC inquired

this incident happened

when. Counsel Taimore

Malik said the members of

parliament were arrested on

September 9. The court re-

marked we obtain report

from NA. The court while

Chief Justice (CJ)

from Parliament House.

ther strengthen bilateral relations. He further said that Russia had tremendous respect for all religions and Muslim culture, and had condemned the desecration Meanwhile Pakistan

and Russia on Thursday agreed on enhancing collaboration to strengthen educational ties, building on the positive momentum of their relationship over the past two decades. The initiative was

taken during the visit of a high level delegation of Russian Federation led by Andrey Korneey, State Secretary - Deputy Minister of Education of Russian Federation, and Konstantin

Mogilevsky, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of Russian Federation, to the Ministry of Federal Education and Pro-Training fessional (MoFEPT).

The delegation included the Consultant of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Russia, Associate Professor of Ural State Pedagogical University, and officials of the Russian Embassy in Paki-

Secretary FEPT Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani briefed the delegation about the achievements and challenges faced by Pakistan in the field of edu-



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Alexei Overchuk, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

#### **PTA launches four-day** training of trainers prog.

ISLAMABAD (APP): and teachers, promoting The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) launched a four-day 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) program for officers from PTA, Safety, Dark Web threats, UNICEF, Telenor Pakiand responsible internet (NCRC), and the NCERT.

According to the news release, the initiative is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with UNICEF Pakistan and reflects PTA's commitment to Child Online Protection.

The program aims to raise awareness about the online risks children face and equip officers with the tools to help parents effectively manage their safe

children's digital activities. This training was conducted as part of an ongoing 10-day training program for 15 master trainers, who will train 210 facilitators to

digital literacy and online

The training covered critical topics such as online stan, the National Commis- usage. Experts from TikTok sion on the Rights of Child and Tencent shared insights into safety tools and practices on their platforms.

Addressing the training session, Dr Khawar Siddique Khokhar, Member Compliance & Enforcement PTA, emphasized the importance of collective efforts to protect children in the digital space.

He reaffirmed the PTA's commitment to providing parents and educators with the necessary tools to ensure children's online safety and promote responsible internet use.

Member C&E PTA,

UNICEF and Telenor representative also awarded the certificates to the par-



ISLAMABAD: School children gather around street vendors to take their favorite junk food in the Federal Capital.

# DIG directs officer to combat crime efficiently

**Independent Report** SLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Syed Ali Raza, on Thursday held an

important meeting with rural zone police officers. spokesperson, the meeting was attended by SP Rural zone, SDPOs,

SHOs, and crime control police teams. During the meeting, DIG Islamabad reviewed the performance of all po-

lice officials in detail and issued a show cause notice on poor performance. On this occasion.

the officers, Syed Ali Raza said that in the upcoming meeting, the performance of all the officers will be reviewed and there will be no compromise on the addition of crimes, he

rections to police officials, crime control teams to prevent incidents of robbery, dacoity, and theft, the spokesperson added.

He said under the supervision of the SHOs, these teams will work to According to police arrest absconders, proclaimed offenders, target offenders, and other crimi-

The teams will also take effective action to prevent incidents of robbery, dacoity, and theft, he added. He said that the progress of the crime control teams will be reviewed

All police officers are while issuing directions to expected to be more effective in combating criminal elements, he added.

The DIG further mentioned that police officers who perform effectively well will be commended, while those showing negligence or poor performance will face departmental action, he said.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for States, Frontier Regions and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Engineer Ameer Maqam, addressing to elders of Afghan Refugees during visit of Urban Cohesion Hub Karachi.

#### Ameer Maqam says **Proposed constitutional amendments** to be tabled after achieving consensus

Ameer Maqam, Thursday, said that proposed constitutional amendments will be tabled in the house after due consultations and achieving consensus of all the political parties and other stake-

While addressing to elders of Afghan Refugees during visit of Urban Cocal parties and consultation of government for better

**Independent Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has initiated the re-

cruitment process of chil-

dren of martyrs and officials

who died during the service

in the capital police depart-

ment under the Prime

Minister's assistance pack-

was made following a spe-

cial meeting of the recruit-

ment board, held on the di-

rectives of Inspector Gen-

eral of Police (IGP) Syed

Ali Nasir Rizvi, led by

DIG Headquarters Syed

Mustafa Tanveer, a public

relations officer said while

talking to APP on Thurs-

IMCG (PG)G-10/4.

government's decision to

slash petroleum prices and

introduce discounted fares

of transports brought

smiles to the faces of citi-

zens nationwide on Thurs-

day where mostly citizens

called for the continuation

of these measures to allevi-

ate the financial burden on

cision to reduce petrol

prices has been widely wel-

comed by transporters and

consumers across the coun-

try, a report aired by PTV

sured prompt implementa-

Transporters have as-

The government's de-

the general public.

news channel said.

The recruitment board

ISLAMABAD: Students and teachers pose for a

group photo at annual Mehfil-e-Milad ceremony at

Transporters,

consumers welcome

petrol price reduction

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a about the decreased finan-

welcome move, the cial burden, said a citizen.

The announcement

connection with the proposed amendments aimed at introducing reforms in judicial system and ensuring swift justice to the

people of the country. The government has initiated the process of constitutional amendment in the best interest of the and later talking to media people of Pakistan and ghan refugees which inthere were no personal mohesion Hub Karachi here, he tives involved in it, he said legal migrants and thousaid that negotiations were and urged all the political under way with the politi- leadership to join the hands

convened to discuss and

approve the inclusion of the children of martyrs and of-

ficials who died while in

service while protecting the

lives and property of citi-

zens. Expressing his deep

respect and admiration for the fallen heroes, IGP Nasir

Rizvi said that, "The mar-

tyrs and officials who sac-

rificed their lives in the line

of duty are invaluable as-

sets of the police depart-

their dedication and self-

lessness serve as an inspi-

ration to us all. Islamabad

Police will forever cherish

the memory of our heroes

and ensure their families are

Industry experts pre-

dict that the decision will

stimulate economic growth,

increase consumer spending

and will benefit the trans-

"This is a great decision by the government. We

will immediately implement

reduced fares to benefit

commuters." Rahim Khan,

President, Karachi Trans-

port Association said. "We

appreciate the government's

move to reduce petrol prices.

This will help increase our profit margins." M. Iqbal, Transporter, Lahore added.

enable us to provide afford-

The price slash will

portation sector.

cared for at every level.

He further said that.

**Islamabad Police recruits** 

next of kin of martyrs,

officers

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for States, Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Engineer process was continue in ment of the country and the

> The Federal minister was of the view that some elements were opposing the amendments only for the sake of political number

that Pakistan has been hosting more than 3 million Afsands of illegal immigrants

dealing with key global and Ameer Maqam said of the diplomatic community and senior officials of cluded around 1.4 million the U.S. administration,

WASHINGTON (APP): In his remarks, Am-Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh Wednesday pre-sented his Letter of Crebassador Sheikh conveyed greetings from the President, Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan to dence to President Joseph Biden as the 30th envoy of the leadership and people of the United States, say-Pakistan to the United ing the two countries have a rich legacy of co-At a ceremony, held at the Blair House, the operative relations and have laid enduring foun-

> lateral ties. Recalling U.S. assis-

> dations to strengthen bi-

tance to Pakistan, especially during its nascent phase of statehood, the Ambassador observed that the two countries continue to invest in their relationship and are stepping up

#### according to a press re- cooperation in climate lease of he Pakistan emchange, energy, health, bassy. trade, and investment. inaugural session. Senator Jan Muhammad presiding over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on poverty allevia tion & social safety at the Headquarter of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Islamabad.

#### NUST, PEF sign MoU to support financially challenged students

ISLAMABAD (APP): National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Professional Education Foundation (PEF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support financially challenged students enrolled at the university. The MoU was signed in a ceremony attended the officials of NUST and PEF to collaborate for this joint initiative. Speaking on the occasion, Rector NUST Engr Javed Mehmood Bukhari commended the collaborative efforts and emphasized, "The support of philanthropists is crucial for NUST's mission to become a need-blind institution, ensuring that no student is forced to leave their

constraints. Chairman of PEF. Hafiz Ul Haq announced an expansion of support, including an increase in the number of scholarships, streamlined processes

education due to financial

#### **Senate Functional Committee held**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Functional Committee on Devolution Thursday discussed matters related to ministries of Kashmir Affairs, Narcotics control and National heritage. The Committee which met here under the chairmanship of Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy, was given a detailed briefing by ministries of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Narcotics control and National heritage & culture.

Respective ministries gave a detailed progress and output of last two financial years along with budget details, attached departments and number of employees.

At the outset of the committee meeting, the chairperson of the committee observed that all the ministries carry high importance and the committee would like to have a detailed overview of the overall working and performance to achieve national goals and chalk out

with specific targets to improve institutional efficiency and enhanced service delivery.

Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan informed the committee about the role of the ministry in the affairs of AJ& K and GB. It was informed that all administrative matters

of AJ&K and GB have either been done or coordinated by the ministry and the territories of AJ&K and GB are designated as special areas and they can't be defined as provinces in terms of article 1(2) of the Constitution of Pakistan. The ministry informed that both the territories have their own constitutional and legislative frameworks with particular reference to the legislative functions. It was also informed that budget for the year 2022-23 was Rs. 678.635 million and for the year 2023-24, Rs 832.426 million have been



tion of reduced fares, while able transportation to citi- Delegation of members of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

#### issuing notice to interior ministry, chief commissioner Islamabad **KPAssembly** delegation visits Parl.

House ISLAMABAD (APP): A

30-member delegation from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly visited the Parliament House on Thursday, they were warmly welcomed by senior officials of the Upper During the visit, the

delegation toured the Senate Museum and viewed a documentary showcasing the history of the Senate.

The members praised the museum's collection, which featured statues of prominent political figures and historical photographs describing it as an outstanding display of the nation's political heritage, said a

During the meeting, DIG Islamabad issued di-

#### consumers are thrilled visiting senate museum at Parliament House Islamabad Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Rizwan Shah, Printed by: Rohani Art Press, Mohammadi Town, Sohan, Islamabad and Published from H. No. 426, Street No. 20, Ghori Town Phase 4/A Islamabad Ph: 051-2158688, 2158997, 0331-8383955 Email: dailyindisb@gmail.com