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

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

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

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.

"Since 5th August 2019, India has initiated unilateral illegal steps to impose what its leaders ominously call a "Final Solution" for Jammu and Kashmir. Nine hundred thousand Indian troops terrorize the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, with draconian measures, including prolonged curfews, extra-judicial killings and the abduction of thousands of young

Kashmiris." He pointed out the Indian nefarious designs of seizing Kashmiri lands and properties, and settling outsiders into the occupied Jammu and Kashmir, to transform the Muslim-majority into a minority.

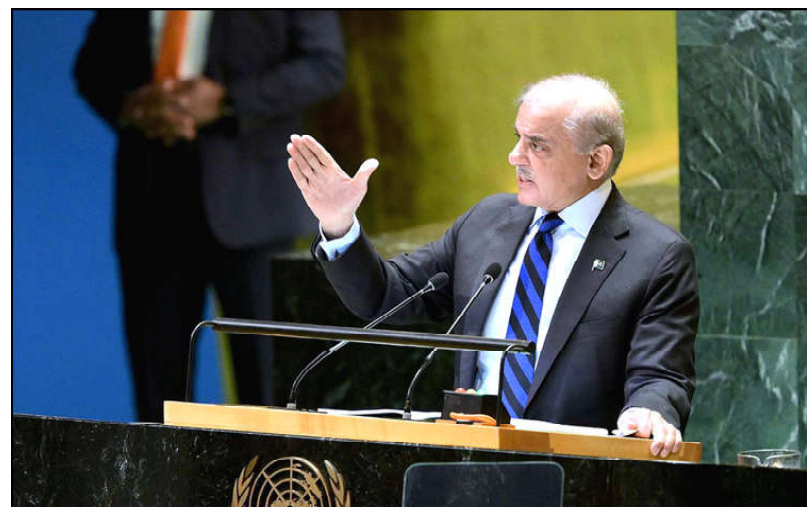
"This hackneyed tactic is employed by all occupying powers, but it has always failed. In Jammu and Kashmir too, it shall fail, InshaAllah," he remarked. Apprising the global leaders of India's massive expansion of its military capabilities, he said its war doctrines, envisaged a surprise attack and a "limited war under the nuclear overhang. Thoughtlessly, India has spurned Pakistan's proposals for a mutual 'Strategic Restraint Regime'. Its leadership has often threatened to cross the Line of Control and 'take-over' Azad Kashmir." "Let me state in no uncertain terms that Pakistan will respond, most decisively, to any Indian aggression," he warned.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called for the reversal of the Indian unilateral and illegal measures of August 5, 2019 to enter into a dialogue for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. "As we leave this august hall, we must carry with us a message for our

people that the weak are not voiceless, that the oppressed should not lose hope, that poverty is not pre-ordained, and that the Almighty's promise of justice and equality in our only terrestrial home, must be respected," he urged.

He said that the daunting challenges of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza; a dangerous conflict in Ukraine; destructive conflicts across Africa and Asia; rising geopolitical tensions; resurging terrorism; rising poverty; a stifling debt, and the mounting impact of climate change acted as a "chill of a new world order" and lauded the adoption of 54 actions by the Summit of the Future called by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Prime Minister Shehbaz referred to the devastation caused by climate change-induced floods in Pakistan in 2022 causing \$30 billion in damages despite the country's less than 1% carbon emissions. "This is unfair in any calculus of global justice. We must uphold the axiom: the polluter must pay," he remarked and called for the fulfillment of commitments made by the developed countries in climate financing to support the achievements of the SDGs and climate goals.



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

PM Shehbaz, delegations from Arab & Islamic countries walk out of UNGA in snub to Netanyahu

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The Pakistan delegation to the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, walked out on Friday as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took the stage to address the 193-member Assembly.

The walk out, which was joined by Arab and Islamic delegations, served as a strong gesture of protest to the presence of Netanyahu, whom the UN organs and human rights bodies have accused of being responsible for carrying out a massacre of the Palestinian people in its deadly war in Gaza. The Pakistani delegation included Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Science and Technology Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram, and Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh.

Meanwhile, criticism has arisen over allowing the UN address by Netanyahu, for whom International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Karim Khan is seeking an arrest warrant for "war crimes". Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip has killed at least 41,534 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and wounded 96,092 since October 7, the Palestinian enclave's health ministry said in a statement. The toll included 39 deaths in the previous 24 hours, the statement added.

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 Mohammad 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.

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 Munir, 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 for 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.

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

lack precautionary measures.

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.

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

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.

The minister said the matter of ban on X was sub judice and the Ministry of Interior had already filed its reply in the court in that regard. "As Pakistanis we can request the management of X to remove anti-state content uploaded by the terrorists," he stressed. Terrorists, he added, were misusing social media platforms which was totally unjustified.



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.

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

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.



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

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. "These fresh inflows will be reflected in the central bank's liquid foreign exchange reserves figures, which will be released on Thursday, October 3, 2024, the SBP said in a statement.

President visits residence of martyr DC Zakir Baloch; condole martyrdom with family

Independent Report KARACHI: 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 Sarfaraz Bugti and others were also accompanied the President.

The President expressed condolence with the bereaved family of Zakir Baloch and offered feteiha for the departed soul.

He said that whole nation presents salute to the sacrifices of martyrs.

INL delegation meets Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, met with the delegation of US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the Ministry of Interior on Friday.

The delegation included US Deputy Ambassador Natalie Baker, Country Director INL Lynn Nelson, Police Advisor Ed Preston, and Police Program Specialist Faisal Gill.

Federal Interior Minister appreciated INL's exceptional cooperation in enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's police and paramilitary forces, citing several notable projects as praiseworthy. He emphasized for further strengthening this cooperation and making it more sustainable. He underscored the need for prioritizing high-impact projects through a master plan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with the delegation of US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

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 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 en-

tered 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 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 deploras 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 situation 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 of Information Tahir Raza Hamdani and DGPR Ghulam Sagheer Shahid meeting with Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bukhari.

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.

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.

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 wave of refugees is fleeing Lebanon towards Syria as Israeli strikes pound the southern region.

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.

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 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 Accelerate Energy.

Other notable participants came from PepsiCo, TRG Pakistan, Mastercard, Procter & Gamble, Illumina, and Abbott.

In her remarks, Ms. Jelalian noted that Pakistan is a favored destination for US investments and has significant potential. She mentioned that a USPBC delegation is being organized this year to explore additional investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with an interactive discussion, during which the prime minister addressed various questions from representatives of US enterprises.



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.

MoCC holds consultation workshop on National Climate Finance Strategy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, in collaboration with key stakeholders, convened a high-level consultation workshop on the National Climate Finance Strategy here on Friday. The workshop brought together officers from key Federal Ministries of MoCC, Finance, Planning, Economic Affairs, Energy, Industries, Commerce, Food & Agriculture, representatives of provincial Governments of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Balochistan, Sindh and AJK, international development partners, financial institutions, and civil society organizations to discuss pathways for strengthening Pakistan's climate finance mechanisms. The National Climate Finance Strategy, a vital component of Pakistan's commitment to climate action under the Paris Agreement, aims to enhance the country's ability to mobilize, allocate, and manage financial resources for climate resilience and low-carbon development.

With Pakistan facing increasing climate risks, including floods, droughts, and rising temperatures, the strategy is designed to support the nation's transition to a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

Key objectives of the workshop included stakeholder engagement: Gather input and recommendations from a wide range of stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to climate finance, resource mobilization: identify opportunities for scaling up domestic and international climate finance resources, including private sector investments, to meet Pakistan's climate mitigation and adaptation goals, capacity building: strengthen institutional capacities for climate finance planning and execution.

Law minister holds meeting with Azerbaijan envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law & Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar had a meeting with the Ambassador of Azerbaijan H.E. Khazar Farhadov.

During the meeting, the Ambassador congratulated Pakistan on the recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the two nations, expressing optimism about its practical implementation and exploring areas of mutual interest.

He also emphasized Azerbaijan's interest in expanding collaboration, particularly in the legal domain.

Federal Minister highlighted the close ties between the two countries and proposed extending an invitation to the Azerbaijani Minister of Justice for an official visit to Pakistan. He further reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering stronger cooperation in legal assistance and welcomed discussions on legislative developments in Pakistan that provide new incentives for foreign investment.

Ambassador also requested support for Azerbaijani businesses operating in Pakistan, with a focus on feasibility studies and navigating the regulatory environment. Both sides discussed collaboration in legal education, training, and capacity building for key stakeholders within their respective justice systems. To facilitate this cooperation, it was agreed to establish a small working group to finalize modalities and open a communication channel between the two countries.



Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal presenting an award to Kamran Lashari, former Director General Walled City of Lahore Authority at National Tourism Awards organized by Discover Pakistan HD Television in Islamabad

Salma lauds PM, CM for controlling kitchen item prices

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Chief Minister Task Force on Price Control Punjab, Salma Butt Friday credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz for achieving a single-digit inflation rate and effectively controlling kitchen item prices which is a significant milestone for the welfare of citizens. Citizens in Punjab are reaping the benefits of a single-digit inflation rate, which is a remarkable achievement for the government, she said while talking to PTV news channel.

This milestone is particularly significant given the challenges many countries face in maintaining low inflation rates, she added.

This accomplishment is a testament to the effective governance and leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif, who has a reputation for being a diligent administrator, particularly during his tenure as Chief Minister of Punjab, she admired.

Under the leadership of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Punjab witnessed notable development in key sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and industry, she mentioned. Responding to a question, she said we are launching a series of surprise visits to assess citizen satisfaction with price control measures.

SC dismisses review appeal about votes re-counting in NA-97

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a review appeal of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) candidate regarding re-counting of votes in NA-97 Tandlianwala.

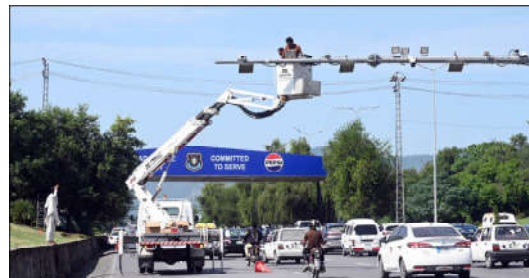
Justice Afghan said that the RO had told the Election Commission in writing that no application for re-counting had been filed.

He said that the court dismissed the case on August 21, and the very next day the petitioner approached the RO. After that the RO provided the copy of verified application, which gave an impression that he (RO) had denied his previous statement for receiving some favour.

Justice Amin ud Din Khan observed that the court had clearly declared that no application was given to the returning officer concerned for re-counting of votes in the said constituency.

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ISLAMABAD: Mechanics busy repairing faulty CCTV cameras at Faizabad.

Distt admin action against alms-seeking in ICT; 37 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration of Islamabad, led by Assistant Commissioner Rural, have ramped up efforts to curb unlawful activities and arrested 37 professional alms-seekers from different areas of the Federal Capital.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, these alms-seekers were arrested in the jurisdictions of Koral, Sihala, Lohibher, and Humak police stations. The District Commissioner (DC) commended the swift action and called for similar operations to be conducted citywide in future.

The arrested beggars were taken to the police station. Meanwhile, minors found begging were sent to the Edhi Center for care and rehabilitation.

DC Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon stressed the need for a continued crackdown, urging the formation of special teams to monitor suspicious activities at key points, including traffic signals.

The operation was seen as a step toward ensuring the safety and well-being of the city's residents, with authorities promising to continue their efforts in maintaining public order.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani in a group photograph with participants during Inauguration ceremony "Green Learning Farm" by knowledge Platform at Islamabad Model School E-7.

Experts call for urgent water management solutions in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A national consultative workshop was held here on Friday, which was attended by the experts from across Pakistan to explore solutions for the country's growing water crisis. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) under the UK Aided-funded Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Programme hosted the event with an aim to enhance water management strategies in line with the National Water Policy.

Over 100 participants, including government officials, private sector leaders, representatives from development agencies, academics, and local community members, attended the workshop. They discussed various approaches to tackle water scarcity and highlighted strategies successfully applied in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) through the WRAP Programme.

One of the key speakers, Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, IWMI's Director for Water, Food, and Ecosystems, emphasized the importance of data in managing water resources.

He pointed out gaps in Pakistan's current water management systems, particularly the lack of an early warning system to prevent floods and other disasters.

Dr. Hafeez also discussed the challenge posed by inaccurate groundwater data, which affects decision-making related to water management across the country. He provided an overview of the WRAP Programme, which focuses on improving water accounting in Pakistan.

He explained that IWMI had developed a water accounting framework for Okara district, along with a Groundwater Management Information System (GIMS) to address water shortages in Punjab.

Rana Mashhood says: One mln smartphones will be provided to youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said that one mln smartphones would be given to youth on easy instalments to equip them with the latest tools of technology. Addressing a news conference here on Friday, he said that in addition to the provision of one lac laptops annually, the government would give 1.5 lacs laptops to students under the "Laptop for All" scheme during the year.

Rana added that interviews for 100 members of the National Youth Council (NYC) had been completed, adding seven to nine thousand young applicants had applied for the government's National Youth Council. He informed that that Prime Minister Shehbaz would soon announce the establishment of NYC which will offer non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and would advocate for youth development and engagement in governance. He said the government will also launch a National Youth Policy and National Youth employment policy with consultation of youth within a month. Rana added that last year around one lac youngsters had participated in the Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program and it was expected that as many as 1 to 2 million youth would attend the talent hunt event in the next year.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Ministry of Climate Change, Aisha Humera Ch addressing a workshop on National Climate Finance Strategy.

APACE celebrates 75-yrs of Sino-Pak Friendship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chinese Association of Chinese Foreigners in Pakistan & All-Pakistan Association of Chinese Enterprises (APACE) celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Among the notable highlights of the event was the performance by renowned Pakistan singer Umair Shahid, known by his Chinese name Omi, whose heartfelt song on China-Pak friendship resonated deeply with attendees, said a press release issued here Friday.

The event drew prominent figures from both nations, including Shi Yuanqiang, Minister of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, MNA. Danyal Chaudhry and Jiang Zaidong, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan.

These dignitaries gathered to reflect on the enduring partnership that has flourished over the past seven decades, characterized by mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for future cooperation.

Yet, it was Umair Shahid's performance that truly stole the spotlight. The Song "Wo men bu yi yang", tweeted by Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan, went viral two years ago all over the social media and TV Channels, not only captivated audiences in Pakistan but also resonated within Chinese communities. This song is identity of Pak - China Friendship and millions of people listened to it both in China and Pakistan.

As Shahid performed, it became evident that his words served as a bridge linking the two cultures, traditions, folk music and such combined activities that bind Pakistan and China together.

The event also featured a rich array of traditional Chinese cultural presentations, including Chinese Opera, folk dances and traditional music.

These performances showcased the beauty of Chinese heritage and added a festive flair to the celebrations.



ISLAMABAD: Lawyers shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands outside Supreme Court, in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Staff and members of educational institutions of Overseas Pakistani Foundation (OPF) are protesting outside NPC in favor of their demands.

Wani seeks UNHRC's role regarding release of a report on human rights situation in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Permanent Representative World Muslim Congress and Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations Altaf Hussain Wani has said that people of the disputed territory have suffered immensely due to India's severe repression and constitutional terrorism.

Wani said this during a debate held here under agenda item 4 on the sidelines of the 57th session of United Nations Human Rights Council Geneva today, received a press release here on Friday from Geneva.

Drawing the UN human rights council's attention towards the alarming human rights situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir, Altaf Hussain Wani, while speaking on on behalf of World Muslim Congress said, "Kashmiris are witnessing ongoing killings, torture, and arbitrary detentions, alongside the demolition of properties".

Referring to India's double-edged onslaught against the Kashmiri people, he said, "Since August 5, 2019, the Indian government has intensified efforts to impose settler colonialism under the guise of "normalcy" and "development."

This onslaught, he said, has resulted in the dismemberment of the occupied state, demographic changes, and the delimitation of assembly segments and disempowerment of the majority population.

About the continued bloodshed and violence, Altaf Wani said that the so-called normalcy has tragically claimed 914 innocent lives through extrajudicial killings and siege-and-cordon operations.

"Moreover, 2,447 Kashmiris have been tortured, and 24,625 have been arbitrarily detained for challenging the status quo", he added.

The Indian government, he said, misleads the international community with a false narrative of empowerment, especially as it approaches elections.