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KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Special Convocation 2024 of Jinnah University at Governor House.



Government 'completes numbers game' for constitutional amendment

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: The government has "finalised" the necessary votes for the constitutional amendment, sources said on Sunday, resulting in the cancellation of a meeting between PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and Shabbaz Sharif with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

A PTI delegation also visited Fazl at his residence last night for discussions. Government addresses Fazl's concerns over constitutional amendment.

The government has addressed the concerns of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman regarding the constitutional amendment, with PPP lawmaker Bilawal Bhutto Zardari playing a "mediating role" between the two parties.

Following this development, a meeting of the JUI-F parliamentary party took place in Islamabad where Senator Kamran Murtaza presented the revised draft to the party chief. The JUI-F leader also briefed the parliamentary party on the matter.

Despite such discussions, it remained undecided whether the religious-political leader would support the government on the judicial reforms.

The proposed amendment is part of a comprehensive package that includes the establishment of a constitutional court, for which a procedure for appointing judges is also being formulated.

Sources stated that new judges would be appointed to the constitutional court, aimed at providing relief to ordinary petitioners.

Eid Miladun Nabi (PBUH) celebrations held at Governor House

KARACHI (APP): Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori emphasized the importance of following the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), stating that adhering to these teachings is essential for a meaningful life.

He added that the system of Mustafa (PBUH) holds the solution to all our problems. Kamran Khan Tessori expressed these views while addressing the first spiritually uplifting gathering held at Governor House in connection with the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

The Governor House was beautifully adorned with colorful lights and decorative illuminations, creating a serene and vibrant atmosphere. He further expressed his gratitude, saying, "It is my good fortune that I was ap-

PM reaffirms Pak commitment to ozone layer protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to the preservation of the ozone layer, marking World Ozone Day. In his message, the prime minister emphasized the crucial role of global collaboration in addressing ozone depletion and highlighted Pakistan's significant contributions to international efforts.

Acknowledging the damage caused by human activities, the prime minister expressed concerns over the depletion of the ozone layer, which resulted in the formation of the ozone hole, posing severe risks to life on Earth. However, he praised the positive impact of global initiatives such as the United Nations Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, which had facilitated the recovery of the ozone layer. "Pakistan has been an active participant in these UN agreements," PM Shehbaz Sharif noted, pointing out that the country ratified the Montreal Protocol in 1992.

Democracy only way for Pakistan's bright future, stability: Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Democracy is the only way for Pakistan's bright future and stability.

In a message on the occasion of International Day for Democracy, he said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was the pioneer of democracy.

He said, "We have made numerous sacrifices for the survival of democracy and our leaders and workers sacrificed their blood for the democracy."

The CM Murad said that democracy was a wonderful system, where

people choose their representatives.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto called democracy the best revenge, he said adding that the Pakistan People's Party believed in democracy and democracy was the best system to serve the people.

He said that the Pakistan People's Party made sacrifices for the restoration of democracy. He further said that the PPP had never surrendered to dictators. The Chief Minister said that the restoration of democracy was our motto and that democracy made institutions strong.

Saeed Ghani seeks media's help to prevent further illegal constructions in Karachi

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has said the media should help the provincial government to prevent further construction of illegal buildings in Karachi.

The Local Government Minister stated this while speaking as the chief guest at a ceremony held at the KMC Sports Complex the previous night to confer a lifetime achievement award on the senior journalist, Shehzad Chughtai. The ceremony was held by the Local Bodies Reporters' Association (LBRA).

Speaking on the occasion, the Local Government Minister said that he was not satisfied with the performance of the Sindh Building Control Authority as thousands of illegal buildings had been built in the city in the past.

"The media should least help us in preventing new illegal constructions in the city," he said. Ghani said that he was cognizant of the issue that the affairs of all the municipal agencies were not

satisfactory as they could not serve the public in the desired manner. He said the relevant provincial authorities would surely take cognisance of the factual news reports of the journalists.

The Local Government Minister said that he had deepening and warm friendly relations with the journalists.

He told media persons that he had a difference of opinion with a few media persons but he always remained on talking terms with them. Ghani said the news reports shouldn't be based on hearsay to maintain the credibility of the media.

Ghani paid tribute to the senior journalist Shehzad Chughtai while saying that he was like an institution in journalism and that the newcomers in the media industry should learn a lot from him.

He said the LBRA was the representative body of the media persons covering the municipal agencies as he was ready to act as its patron.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi leaving Mulana Fazulrehman residence after meeting with JUI(F) chief Mulana Fazulrehman, in the Federal Capital.

Barrister Gohar says Maulana Fazal opposed to extension in judges' tenure

ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Sunday said that JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had a principled stance and that was that no judge should get an extension in his or her tenure.

Speaking to reporters, he said that amendments should be made to the constitution for the betterment of the country as well as the nation. Gohar further said since he and other PTI lawmakers had not received the draft of the proposed amendments, therefore, they were not aware of their details. PTI chairman said that the Supreme Court (SC) was the only institution that could guard the constitution.

Friendly nations to invest \$27b in Pakistan in coming years: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said the government is committed to bringing socio-economic and judicial reforms to put the country on the fast track economic development.

In his televised remarks today, he categorically stated that nobody will be allowed to play with the peace and stability of the country.

Strongly criticizing the politics of PTI, he said the party should play its role in the parliament instead of taking to the streets.

Ahsan Iqbal said friendly countries have extended assurance of investing twenty seven billion dollars in Pakistan in the next five years. He said Saudi Arabia has announced to invest five billion dollars, while the UAE and Kuwait will each invest ten billion dollars and Azerbaijan will invest two billion dollars.

He said these are the external opportunities that are knocking at our doors. He said it is our responsibility to take full advantage of these opportunities through continuity of policies and reforms.



ISLAMABAD: PTI delegation arriving for meeting with JUI(F) chief Maulana Fazulrehman at his residence, in the Federal Capital.

Reforms imperative to provide speedy justice to masses: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that reforms were essential to provide speedy justice to the people.

Talking to the journalists here, the minister assured that any legislation to be done in the collective interest of the nation.

The minister remarked that many decades were passed to solve the cases in the judiciary and it was imperative to take measures for providing speedy justice to the people.

He said that all coalition parties had represented

Govt slashes petrol price by Rs10 per litre

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD - The federal government slashed the petrol price by Rs10 per litre for the next fortnight.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the new prices of petroleum products.

The federal government reduced the price of petrol by Rs10 per liter. Additionally, the price of high-speed diesel has been decreased by Rs13.06, kerosene by Rs11.15, and light diesel oil by Rs12.12 per liter.

Following the Rs10 reduction, the price of petrol is now set at Rs 249.10 per liter.

PM actively working to address challenges facing Pakistan: Syedaal Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan Sunday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is actively working to address the challenges facing Pakistan and is committed to fostering prosperity and development in the country. He urged all coalition parties to fully support Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the current political scenario.

Syedaal expressed these views during a meeting with key political figures, including Parliamentary Leader of PML-N Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Senator Mir Aslam Abro, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Federal Education Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Provincial Minister for Revenue of Balochistan Asim Khan Kurd Gello, JUI Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, and Senator Haji Shakoor Ahmed Achakzai.

He also expressed gratitude to the political leaders and coalition partners standing in solidarity with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif,

working together to resolve the nation's issues.

He highlighted that significant efforts are being made to tackle the country's problems effectively. He further said that thanks to the relentless efforts of both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif, a noticeable reduction in inflation has been achieved. He pointed out that electricity prices have been reduced under Nawaz Sharif's directives, while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's tireless efforts have contributed to a significant decrease in inflation. He stressed that with proper legislation and strategic planning, the country's situation can be further improved.

The Deputy Chairman Senate emphasized the importance of a joint action plan with coalition partners to address the ongoing crises. He assured members of Parliament that every effort is being made to improve the nation's condition, stating, "We are united in our mission to bring betterment to the country."

He added that the government remains committed to providing relief to the public, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif taking every possible step to ensure progress.

Turkmenistan first Central Asian country to reach Gwadar port

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Turkmenistan is set to become the first Central Asian country to gain access to Gwadar port under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Pakistan and Turkmenistan will soon sign an agreement in this regard. The government has constituted a committee to examine the draft agreement between Gwadar Port and Turkmenbashi Port under CPEC.

PTI finalises strategy to oppose constitutional amendment

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has formulated its strategy for the upcoming parliamentary sessions, focusing on opposing proposed amendments to the constitution related to the judiciary. Speaking to the media outside the Parliament House, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar said, "I believe Maulana Fazlur Rehman has taken a principled stance and he is standing by it. This is a very important legislation, which should be done for the nation and the country, not for ourselves."

"Let's see the draft first, let's read it first,"

Barrister Gohar expressed his opposition to extending the tenure of judges, stating that judges should not be given extensions, their terms should not be extended. "Don't touch the Supreme Court." "We believe that this will impose restrictions on the judiciary and compromise its independence. Transferring a judge without his consent is unconstitutional," he added. Responding to a question from a journalist about whether he had instructed PTI members not to vote for the amendments, Barrister Gohar confirmed, "On September 2, we issued instructions to all our parliamentarians."

Country can't be run sans resolving constitutional, political crises: Sattar

ISLAMABAD (INP): MQM leader Dr Farooq Sattar on Sunday said that the country could not be run without resolving the constitutional and political crises. "We have to take some chance," MQM-Pakistan's MNA said.

Farooq Sattar said that usually such legislation could not be said agreeable. He said the government has to give guarantee of resolving the issues of price hike and unemployment in the country. "We have in principle said, we will not oppose such constitutional amendment, which is meant

Three more cases of monkeypox virus detected at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): The signs of the monkeypox virus were detected in three passengers who arrived from Jeddah and Dubai at Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) Karachi in a single day, reported on Sunday. Sources said that monkeypox was detected in a woman who reached Karachi from Jeddah while another man aged 18 arrived from Dubai. Sources further said that monkeypox was also found in a 44-year-old passenger who touched Karachi airport via Saudi Airlines Flight SV-708. After the detection of the monkeypox virus, all these patients were immediately shifted to the Infection Diseases Centre Hospital for further treatment.



LAHORE: Participants of the Eid Milad-ul-Nabi rally passing through Queen Mary Road.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Amendment furore

The inter- and intra-institutional battles continue apace. With rumours and speculation at fever pitch, the National Assembly and Senate convened late Saturday afternoon, ostensibly to debate amendments to the Constitution.

However, soon after sessions commenced in the two Houses, it became clear that nothing dramatic was planned for the day. The opposition and treasury benches seemed more interested in trading barbs and attacking each other's democratic credentials, while there was little discussion on the 'constitutional package' that was supposed to be tabled. As the day wore on, speculation picked up that the government had failed to lock down the votes it needed. Even with its allies, it seems to be short of the required two-thirds majority in both Houses. Furthermore, a Supreme Court judgment in the field on Article 63-A ensures that even if opposition legislators are induced to vote against their party lines, their votes will not count.

While these debates and discussions were playing out in parliament and on television talk shows, a bolt landed from the blue. The Supreme Court issued a long-awaited clarification in connection with its earlier ruling in the reserved seats case, directing the Election Commission of Pakistan to immediately notify all remaining PTI lawmakers as members of its parliamentary party. This gave finality to the status of 41 lawmakers that the government had been describing as 'independents', whose votes were up for grabs.

As things now stand, making constitutional amendments while remaining within the bounds of propriety and the law seems like an increasingly difficult task. The government should be asked why it set about attempting to change the Constitution in such a furtive manner. Few seem to know what is in its legislative package, and with the opposition accusing it of pressuring lawmakers to vote for it, it seems like a thoroughly undemocratic exercise overall.

Lastly, a word too on the ECP, one of the primary actors responsible for the growing political mess in Pakistan. Yet again, its actions have been found to be in bad faith and violative of the law. Not only that, the Supreme Court has also slammed its attempt to delay implementation of the July reserved seats verdict by seeking 'clarification' on the PTI's organisational structure. The "attempt by the ECP to confuse and cloud what is otherwise absolutely clear as a matter of the Constitution and the law must [...] be strongly deprecated," the court has noted, warning it of consequences if it tries to delay issuing the notifications any longer.

Perhaps it is time that the institutions propping up the current regime realised that the state is sinking deeper in crisis not just because of the PTI, but also because their own actions are gradually robbing it of all legitimacy.

Women in trouble

Muna Khan

Every day is a terrible day for women everywhere in the world. I'm loath to rank crimes from most horrendous to least because there's no such thing, so I'm writing about some especially horrific stories in no particular order. Although I have been covering gruesome acts against women for at least two decades and consider myself desensitised, I was stunned by the following.

Dominique Pelicot is on trial in France for the mass rape of his wife, the 72-year-old Gisele, whom he drugged; he enlisted 80 men to rape her in her own bed for a decade. Gisele only found out about these unimaginable crimes when her husband was arrested for inappropriate filming of young girls and police confiscated his computer. There he had kept meticulous records of the repeated sexual abuse of his wife, which he organised and filmed. Police say it is not possible the men did not know she was unconscious. One man charged with the crime told police he thought she was asleep and it was "part of the play".

Dominique has admitted to drugging his wife with sleeping pills before inviting men he met on an online platform to abuse her. "I put her to sleep, I offered her, and I filmed," he told the police when he was arrested, according to French media.

I salute Gisele for her bravery in waiving her right to anonymity, attending the trial which she asked be made public and sitting through the images and videos.

Dominique and 18 men are in custody while 32 are attending the trial as free men while one man, who remains at large, will be judged in absentia. He and the 50

men could face up to 20 years in prison if found guilty. Thirty men, however, are still at large.

Gisele told the court she was worried she had Alzheimer's because her memory and concentration were poor. The toughest part was telling her adult children what their father had done. Their daughter, who published *And I Stopped Calling You Dad* in French in 2022, described him as "one of the worst sexual criminals in the last 20 years".

Gisele has been hailed for her calm demeanour during the trial but she was quoted in the BBC as saying her face "masked a field of devastation". The Guardian reported her saying "I no longer have an identity ... I don't know if I'll ever rebuild myself."

While Gisele has the support of her children and European social services, what can we expect for the woman scrap collector in Madhya Pradesh who was raped on a busy street last week as bystanders watched and filmed the incident. It was uploaded on social media and went viral. A man has been arrested for luring the woman and plying her with alcohol before raping her in broad daylight. He has admitted to the crime. Police say they are looking for those who filmed the incident.

Her case will not get the attention it deserves perhaps because Indian media is numb or this woman's rape did not receive the outrage the rape of the trainee doctor in Kolkata did. It is a reminder of the challenges India faces with high rape cases and low conviction rates — 27 per cent between 2018 to 2022 according to official figures.

A criminal lawyer told Reuters rapists still think they can get away

with the crime.

We've made getting away with crimes an art form in Pakistan.

You can say the most odious of things about women — on TV (dramas and news), in parliament or political rallies — and not face serious consequences. Women journalists are especially vulnerable. We saw it on Sunday when KP's Chief Minister Ali Gandapur launched into a diatribe against women journalists using highly objectionable language. Reporters at this rally said they felt the crowd's hostility turn towards them. This is so dangerous as increasingly people are being whipped into a frenzy and turn violent. Who would be held responsible if women journalists were attacked that night?

At the time of writing Gandapur had not apologised for those comments and after condoning them, Imran Khan told journalists in prison that Gandapur went too far. But it is because journalists protested. This is what we need to see more of: collective action like refusing to cover events where women are targeted. There must be consequences for dragging women down.

Earlier this year the World Health Organisation published a report showing that "globally about one in three ... women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner in their lifetime." It is a major public health problem. I don't know how policymakers can redress this issue but I know our attitudes — especially certain politicians — need a major overhaul. -- Courtesy Dawn

Bangladesh renewal

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Forty days after Sheikh Hasina Wajed fled Dhaka, Bangladesh is slowly recovering from the after-effects of her government's violent crackdown on the students-led protests, that reportedly cost over 1,000 lives. The intellectual community worldwide is curious to understand why Hasina, who cultivated her image as the 'iron lady', lost her grip on power so rapidly, as well as the nature of the change in Bangladesh. Since 2009, Hasina ruled Bangladesh like an autocrat, crushing all opposition ruthlessly. She also built a cult around the figure of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Her ouster pacified widespread concerns in the country regarding the erosion of multiparty democracy under her and the attempt to impose one-party rule.

It has certainly been a peoples' moment in Bangladesh, with terms such as 'Monsoon Revolution' being used to describe the change. However, it is not clear if this change is permanent and if political stability will return to the country soon. Hasina's party, the Awami League, has lost considerable ground, but will endeavour to make a comeback, arguing that it represented the country's secular ethos. Her 15-year rule enabled the party to spread its tentacles to every aspect of national life. Under her, the country saw notable economic development, though this was not inclusive and inequalities sharpened amidst unemployment and inflation.

In foreign policy, Hasina chose to capitulate to Indian dominance, which for the freedom-loving Bangladeshis was suffocating. For now, India's space in Bangladesh has been squeezed, but it is evi-

dent that it will make every effort to preserve its influence. Of crucial interest to India is border security, given the 4,000-kilometre-long porous border and active insurgencies in India's north-eastern states. However, the immediate challenge for India's leaders is how to handle the presence of Hasina in their country.

As long as she is in Delhi, the latter's relations with Dhaka are not likely to improve. Given that the two countries signed an extradition treaty in 2013, many in Bangladesh have called for seeking her return to stand trial for the over 900 criminal cases lodged against her and her aides.

India is trying to manipulate the narrative that brought about the change in Bangladesh. Indian researchers and media are advancing a narrative that the change would nudge Bangladesh towards Muslim fundamentalism, and that the Hindus in Bangladesh were being targeted, which according to the BBC were mostly rumours. Ironically, it is India where religious persecution has risen to alarming levels. India is also desperately projecting the possible involvement of a foreign hand in the change, which appears to be totally indigenous. This is intended to discredit the change brought about by the sacrifice of the students who stood up to Hasina's tyranny.

Meanwhile, the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus is struggling to address the politically charged environment and reboot the economy, which was slowing down even before the protests began. The country's garment industry has taken a particular hit due to the weeks-long protests. The government has set up a task force called 'Re-strategising the economy and mobilising

resources for equitable and sustainable development'.

Politically, a healing touch is required. The student leadership wants fundamental reforms in the judiciary, police, and election commission before the polls. It appears that elections may be delayed for some time.

As for the regional setting, Muhammad Yunus has underscored the need to revive Saarc, which was established in Dhaka in 1985. He wants Bangladesh to be-co-me a member of Asean and then serve as a bridge between Saarc and Asean.

How should Pakis-tan respond to this change? Pakistanis care for the people of Bangladesh, and should fully respect their right to determine their political destiny in whatever way they want. However, Pakistan can take satisfaction from the fact that Hasina will no longer be able to falsely accuse it or manipulate the sad events of 1971. The poisonous propaganda against Pakistan might also stop.

Hasina's exit from power provides an opportunity for Pakistan and Bangladesh to reset bilateral ties. However, Pakistan must have realistic expectations of what the new interim government can do at a time when it is endeavouring to set matters right internally. Pakistan has done well by expressing solidarity with the people of Bangladesh in the face of the devastating floods that recently hit the country's eastern region.

The two countries could also encourage people-to-people contacts and youth exchanges that Hasina had blocked. It would be appropriate for both countries to move towards each other at a measured pace with realistic expectations. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

CIFTIS 2024:

Global enterprises showcase interest in China's expanding market as UAE, Pak debut national pavilions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2024 has once again demonstrated China's high level of openness by fostering international cooperation and mutual benefits.

According to the information, over 450 Fortune 500 enterprises and leading companies, along with representatives from 85 countries and international organizations, are participating in the event.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) debuted its National Pavilion at CIFTIS this year, showcasing a keen interest in exploring the vast Chinese market.

The pavilion, featuring a completely open design, prominently

displays the national brand 'Halawah', one of the best Marathi sweets. "We are really excited to introduce our products here in China. Our sweets, representing a unique flavor from the Middle East, will bring a whole new taste for Chinese consumers," Marilou Malacaste, staff of Halawah, told China Economic Net.

Business Development Manager Amer Tolba added, "In just two days, several companies have expressed interest in cooperation. We are optimistic about finding distributors in China to expand our presence in this expansive market." Pakistan, having inaugurated its National Pavilion, seeks

collaborations in various sectors, including textiles, chemicals, and agriculture.

Swiss company IQAir, which has sold air purification systems in China since 1998, views China as a crucial market.

Muhammad Barbar Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Multinational Export Bureau, a knitted garment manufacturer and exporter, attended the fair to seek potential buyers and investors. "Our company has operated successfully for 30 years, serving clients globally. This platform offers a great opportunity to expand our business in China," he said. Barbar emphasized the cost-effectiveness of doing business in Pakistan, which could attract Chinese investment and technology transfer, benefiting both economies.

Swiss company IQAir, which has sold air purification systems in China since 1998, views China as a crucial market.

CIFTIS opens new avenues to boost China-Pak banking ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Vice President of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) and Chief Representative in China Sunday said that China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) had emerged as a pivotal platform, fostering enhanced financial cooperation between Chinese banks and their international counterparts. Addressing a seminar titled "Investment in Pakistan", he said, "This year's fair not only showcases innovative financial services but also facilitates meaningful dialogues and partnerships to strengthen global financial ties, particularly for NBP." As the National Bank of Pakistan seeks to navigate an increasingly interconnected world, CIFTIS offers a unique opportunity to explore collaborative ventures that can drive mutual growth and stability in the financial sector," he added.

He emphasized to the investors of Chitral that they should invest in Chitral instead of Islamabad and other cities to set the wheel of progress and prosperity to rotate.

He explained the economic policy of the PTI government and said that it has given priority to make maximum use of local resources, while partnership is the main element in this regard and the provincial government will welcome any proposal that the basis is commercial cooperation.

Regarding the economic development in Chitral, he said that the fruits, vegetables, minerals and other products here can be made more expensive and increase their demands in the market through value addition.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister AJK Chaudhry Anwarul Haq along with Intiaz Naseem in a group photo with a delegation of Chinese companies led by Vice President China-Pakistan Commerce Alliance International Bilal Janjua.

MPA visits Kisan card distribution centre Dunyapur

LODHRAN (APP): Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Punjab Shazia Hayat Tareen paid a visit to Kisan card distribution centre in Dunyapur to review arrangements.

She inspected the Kisan card delivery centre and distributed Kisan cards among farmers. Nasrullah Khan Tareen, Deputy Director Agriculture Extension Lodhran, Muhammad Zafar Malik, Assistant Director Agriculture Dunyapur, Shahid Iqbal Cheema and others were present.

Channar for resolving farmers' problems

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channar urged all departments concerned and stakeholders to play due role for resolving issues confronting the farming community. He stated this while talking to several delegations which visited his residence here, says a news release issued here on Sunday.

The Deputy Speaker told the delegations that the provincial government had been taking practical measures to resolve the problems of common people. He said that agriculture was backbone of

MPA visits Kisan card distribution centre Dunyapur

The Agriculture (Extension) deputy director briefed the MPA about the Kisan card distribution centre. He informed her about the process of information desk, biometric verification and the Kisan card delivery desks. As part of the "Plant a Tree for Pakistan" campaign, she also planted a sapling.

She stated that over 850,000 farmers across the province have got registration for Punjab CM Kisan card so far, and 250,000 cards were being distributed after printing.

national economy, and added that special steps were being taken to boost agro-economy, especially in Punjab province. "Punjab is an agro-economy province which has been contributing a lot in the national economy by producing agri products," he said. He said the Punjab government had also introduced several schemes for the development of agriculture sector and to support local farmers. "The Punjab government has introduced and implemented schemes for farmers of the province including green tractor, solar tube-wells, agricultural machinery.

Iftikhar Ali Malik urges SCO members to enhance trade cooperation, regional integration

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik called on Sunday for enhanced cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members to boost trade facilitation, reduce tariffs, and eliminate non-tariff barriers, aiming to deepen regional economic integration.

Hailing here today holding of 23rd SCO ministerial meeting successfully in Islamabad, he said recognizing the

challenges posed by unilateral trade barriers, SCO ministers emphasized that collaboration through multilateral platforms is essential to addressing these issues. He said meeting emphasized the urgent need to counter rising protectionist trade measures globally and they stressed that such practices hinder international trade and undermine global economic growth, calling instead for a strengthened, inclusive, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system

based on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework. The meeting also highlighted the importance of upholding the core principles of the WTO, particularly in ensuring free, fair, and predictable trade rules that apply equally to all member states.

He said SCO ministers also underlined the need for modernizing trade rules to reflect current global economic realities, particularly in areas like digital trade and sustainable development.

He said SCO ministers also underlined the need for modernizing trade rules to reflect current global economic realities, particularly in areas like digital trade and sustainable development.

Punjab to launch modern, innovative fruit & vegetable market

LAHORE (APP): A groundbreaking initiative is underway in Punjab with the launch of the country's first modern and innovative fruit and vegetable market in Lahore.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is set to lay the foundation stone for this project in Lahore soon, said a handout issued here on Sunday.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz directed that the new market be developed into the best market in Asia and has mandated its completion within 18 months. The project will be built on 300 acres of land and will feature infrastructure meeting international standards. The market is envisioned as an export zone and a major hub for exports. It will be strategically located to ensure accessibility from various routes, including GT Road Gujranwala and the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway, allowing trucks and vehicles to directly access the market. Additionally, metro and speedo bus routes will be introduced to facilitate easy transport for workers and vendors.

Journalist problems to be solved on priority: Azma Bukhari

Provincial Minister orders tight security on Eid Milad

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Azma Bukhari visited Faisalabad Press Club (FPC) here on Sunday and promised to redress the problems being confronted by the journalist community on top priority basis.

During her visit to Faisalabad, she also went to FPC where she accorded a rousing reception.

She said that journalism was a noble profession and the government would resolve problems of this sector on urgent basis. She also assured an annual grant of Rs.2.5 million for FPC in

addition to addressing the issue residential colony for local journalists.

President FPC Abdur Rehman briefed the information minister about role of press club and highlighted various issues. Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Culture MPA Shazia Rizwan and others were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Azma Bukhari directed the police and local administration to ensure tight security and administrative arrangements on Eid Milad-un-Nabi.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Information and Culture Minister Ms. Uzma Bukhari inaugurates the Islamic calligraphy exhibition for Rabi' Al-Awwal at the Arts Council.

Ashra Rehmat-ul-Alameen competition to be held today in Peshawar

Independent Report PESHAWAR: On the instructions of the provincial government, the Auqaf Department is organizing the Ashra Rehmat-ul-Alameen Competition, which will take place today, Monday, at the Auqaf, Hajj, and Religious Affairs Department on Charsada Road, Peshawar.

The event will be presided over by Provincial Minister Sahibzada Adnan Qadri. Participants include

divisional-level position holders in speech, recitation, and Naat Khwani competitions, along with religious scholars. These participants will now compete at the provincial level, with winners in each category set to receive cash prizes, certificates, and shields.

The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, along with Provincial Minister Auqaf Sahibzada Adnan Qadri and other dignitaries.



MIRPUR: Prime Minister A.J.K. Chaudhry Anwarul Haq presiding over a meeting regarding AJK University.

AJK PM assures all possible financial resources for uplift of state-run AJK University

Independent Report MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the government would provide all possible resources to solve the problems faced by the state-run university of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

The PM made this assurance while addressing an extraordinary meeting held with him in the chair to

discuss the ensuing financial challenges faced by the varsity at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday.

The meeting was attended among others by Minister of Higher Education Malik Zafar Iqbal, Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich, Secretary to the President Muhammad Idrees Abbasi, Secretary of

Higher Education Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab, Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, and others.

Stressing the need for strengthening the institutions, the PM said that the financial problems of the university would be addressed on a priority basis.

The Prime Minister directed the concerned

authorities to submit a comprehensive report regarding the problems of the university so that comprehensive measures could be taken to solve them.

Earlier, Secretary Higher Education of AJK Muhammad Tayyeb Chaudhry briefed the Prime Minister of the financial challenges being faced by the university.

He also checked the presence of security personnel at all gates, inside and outside the stadium and directed them to ensure a thorough search of people before their entry into the stadium.

He also directed the police officials to deal the public politely and perform their duties vigilantly by keeping an eye on the movement of suspected elements.

Info. minister inaugurates calligraphy exhibition

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Information Azma Bukhari has said the government is concentrating to protect the Islamic culture and historic values in order to disseminate it in the coming generations for promoting healthy and noble society.

She was talking to media persons on the occasion of inaugurating calligraphy exhibition at Faisalabad Arts Council in connection with the celebrations of Rabi-ul-Awwal here on Sunday.

She said that a comprehensive strategy has been chalked out to utilise social media for promotion of soft image of Punjab. In this connection, arts councils were also directed to prepare out-of-box programs whereas the universities would arrange various events.

Minister announces upgradation of Ahmad Wala Agricultural Research Station Karak

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal announced upgradation of Ahmed Wala Agricultural Research Station of Karak District and the cultivation of saffron on an experimental basis in Karak district.

He expressed these views as a special guest at the closing ceremony of the Honey Project at Ahmed Wala, Agricultural Research Station in Karak district.

Director General Agriculture Extension Abdul Qayyum Khan, Senior Director Dr. Dil Fayyaz Khan, Project Director Muhammad Younis Khan, Station Director Tahir Sajjad,

Research Officers Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Khan and Ashfaq Khan participated in the ceremony.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture was briefed regarding the ongoing activities of the agriculture department and especially honey training and production.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal said that a new agricultural policy is being prepared at the provincial level to increase agricultural production per hectare.

From Chitral to Khyber and from Khyber to DI Khan, full attention will be paid to increasing the production of local crops.

CPO directs beefing up security at Iqbal Stadium

FAISALABAD (APP): City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil visited the Iqbal Stadium Faisalabad here on Sunday and directed officials to beef up security in the stadium to provide fully secured atmosphere to cricket lovers and teams of the Champions Cup Tournament.

He also checked the presence of security personnel at all gates, inside and outside the stadium and directed them to ensure a thorough search of people before their entry into the stadium.

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Khawaja Imran announces evening OPDs at THQ, DHQ hospitals

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Khawaja Imran Nazir, has announced the initiation of evening outpatient departments (OPDs) at Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) and District Headquarters (DHQ) hospitals in Lahore starting from next month.

This decision comes following directives from Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif as part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve healthcare services in the province. The announcement was made

during a meeting held on Sunday at the Health Department, where the minister discussed the enhancement of healthcare facilities at Raiwind and Ghaziabad THQ hospitals. Several key decisions were taken to ensure the performance of these hospitals is improved. Imran Nazir also revealed plans to implement a Queue Management System (QMS) in all hospitals across the province, starting in phases, to streamline patient management. He instructed that all beds at Raiwind Hospital be replaced immediately with new ones.



SARGODHA: A beautifully decorated Rescue 1122 building in celebration of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal.

13 dead, 1,366 injured in Punjab road accidents

Independent Report LAHORE: At least 13 people were killed and 1,366 others injured in 1,294 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 585 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 781 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 738 drivers, 43 underage drivers, 168 pedestrians and 473 passengers were among victims of road accidents.

The statistics showed that 246 accident were reported in Lahore, which affected 258 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 105 accidents and 106 victims, and at third Multan with 83 accidents and 92 victims.

According to the data, 1,185 motorbikes, 66 auto-rickshaws, 119 motorcars, 23 vans, nine passenger buses, 27 trucks and 111 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road traffic accidents.

International News

Russia threatens Ukraine, West as long-range strikes decision looms

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian officials threatened the West with an uncontrolled escalation of war and Ukraine with the destruction of Kyiv as Western leaders discussed whether to allow Ukraine to use their weapons for strikes deep into Russian territory.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late on Friday that his plan to achieve victory depended on Washington's decision, a clear reference to the authorisation for long-range strikes that Kyiv has long sought from NATO allies.

Andriy Yermak, head of Zelenskyy's office, said on the Telegram messaging app on Saturday: "Strong decisions are needed. Terror can be stopped by destroying the military facilities where it originates."

Kyiv has said such strikes are critical for its efforts to restrict Moscow's ability to attack Ukraine, but allies have so far been reluctant to permit them, citing fears Moscow will treat them as an escalation and doubting their efficiency.

While no official decision on the matter has been announced so far, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov alleged it had already been made and communicated to Kyiv, and that Moscow would have to respond with actions of its own.

"The decision has been made, the carte blanche and all indulgences have been given (to Kyiv), so we are ready for everything," the RIA news agency quoted Ryabkov as saying. "And we will react in a way that will not be pretty."

Former Russian President Dmitry

Medvedev, who now serves as deputy chairman of the country's security council, said the West was testing Russia's patience but it was not limitless.

Medvedev said Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region, which Zelenskyy described as a successful operation slowing Russia's advance, already gave Russia formal grounds to use its nuclear arsenal.

He said that Moscow could either resort to nuclear weapons in the end, or use some of its non-nuclear but still deadly novel weapons for a large-scale attack.

"And that would be it. A giant, grey, melted spot instead of 'the mother of Russian cities,'" he wrote on the Telegram messaging app, referring to Kyiv.



Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille looks on, as an injured victim who was evacuated to receive medical care following a fuel truck explosion exits a helicopter, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Haiti confirms 24 killed in 'horrible' gas truck blast

Monitoring Desk PORT-AU-PRINCE: A fuel truck explosion on a road in Haiti's southern peninsula on Saturday killed 24 people and left half of the 40 injured survivors with third-degree burns, the government said.

Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille visited the site, near the coastal city of Miragoane in the department of Nippes, and said some of the most seriously injured victims were evacuated by helicopter to receive

specialized care. Ambulances were also being sent as quickly as possible to attend to others with severe burns and to relieve overcrowded local hospitals.

"It's a horrible scene we've just lived through. Many dozens of victims, wounded, severely burned," Conille said in a video distributed by the government.

The injured were mostly men, as well as three women and a child, according to a report from Haiti's emergency services.

North Korea's Kim meets Russia's Shoigu, vows more cooperation, KCNA says

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with top Russian security official Sergei Shoigu and discussed deepening strategic dialogue between the two countries, state media KCNA said on Saturday.

They had a "wide exchange of views on regional and international situations", and reached a satisfactory consensus on issues including "cooperation to defend mutual safety interests," KCNA said. Kim said North Korea will continue to expand cooperation with Russia in

accordance with the strategic partnership between the two countries, KCNA said. The United States and Ukraine among other countries, as well as independent analysts, say that Kim is helping Russia in its invasion of Ukraine by supplying rockets and missiles in return for economic and other military assistance from Moscow.

Moscow and Pyongyang have denied the accusations, but pledged to boost military cooperation and signed a comprehensive strategic partnership at a summit in June.

Iran's President to attend BRICS summit in Russia

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian will attend the upcoming BRICS summit in Russia, state media cited Tehran's ambassador in Moscow as saying on Sunday, amid tensions with the West over military cooperation between the two countries.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday that Russia had received ballistic missiles from Iran and was likely to use them in Ukraine within weeks.

Biden is taking on cheap products from China

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is cracking down on cheap products sold out of China, expanding a push to reduce U.S. dependence on Beijing and bolster homegrown industry, but that could trigger higher prices for U.S. consumers who flock to popular shopping sites like Temu and Shein. President Joe Biden's proposed rule says foreign companies can't avoid tariffs simply by shipping goods that they claim to be worth \$800 or less.

Israeli strike kills 11 from one family in Gaza City

Monitoring Desk

GAZA CITY: An Israeli air strike hit a house in Gaza City and killed 11 members of a single family, including women and children, according to the civil defence agency.

"We have recovered the bodies of 11 martyrs, including four children and three women, after an Israeli air strike hit the house of the Bustan family in eastern Gaza City," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said.

The strike took place near the Shujaiya school in the Al Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City, he said.

"Rescuers are continuing to search for the missing."

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strike.

Mahmud Bassal, the spokesman, said Israeli forces carried out similar strikes in some other parts of the Hamas-run territory, killing 10 people.

Five people were killed in north-western Gaza City when an air strike hit a group of people near Dar Al Arqam school, he said.

Three others were killed in a strike in the Al Mawawi area of the southern Khan Yunis region, where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought refuge, Bassal added.

Trump sharpens anti-migrant attacks as both candidates visit key states

Monitoring Desk

RANCHO VERDES: Donald Trump doubled down on Friday on his anti-migrant attacks despite facing criticism for amplifying a conspiracy theory targeting Haitian immigrants, as he and election rival Kamala Harris took their presidential campaigns to swing states on opposite sides of the United States.

Trump, 78, promised "large deportations" from the Ohio town at the centre of the racially charged row, as the Republican former president prepared to head to a rally in the western battleground of Nevada.

Democratic Vice President Harris, 59, meanwhile hit the stump in Pennsylvania — arguably the most crucial of the half dozen states that are set to decide a desperately close election on Nov 5.

Pope Francis weighed into the issue on Friday — equating Harris's support of abortion to Trump's "sin" of turning away migrants. "One has to choose the lesser of two evils," Pope Francis told report-

ers. Coming off a strong performance in Tuesday's televised debate against Trump, Harris gave her first solo sit-down interview since her nomination to an ABC television affiliate in Philadelphia, the state's largest city.

"I offer a new generation of leadership," Harris said in the interview, as she spelled out her policies on tax cuts and credits for new parents, homeowners and businesses. Harris also appealed to moderate American voters, telling them she herself is a gun-owner who wants to preserve the right to bear arms while maintaining common-sense gun safety laws.

Later at a raucous rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, she again pushed her economic plans and bashed Trump on his debate performance.

Polis show a near dead heat with only seven weeks until election day, in an incredibly dramatic campaign that has seen Harris suddenly replace the aging Joe Biden and Trump survive an assassination attempt.

Parliamentarians mark 'World Democracy Day' with pledge to uphold democratic values

ISLAMABAD (APP): On World Democracy Day, parliamentarians reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the fundamental pillars of democracy, including respect for institutions, transparency, accountability and the recognition that democratic norms which are vital for fostering trust among citizens and ensuring the efficient operation of governments.

In an exclusive talks with PTV news channel, Parliamentarians emphasized that democracy serves as a robust pillar, bridging the gap between citizens and governments.

Member of the National Assembly Mirza Ikhtiar Baig emphasized that democracy is not merely a system of governance but a way of life that fosters inclusivity, diversity and equal opportunities for all citizens.

Baig urged continued efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, promote democratic values and ensure the active participation of citizens in the democratic process.

MNA Aftab Ahmad Sheikh stressed that a robust democracy is essential for addressing the challenges facing the nation, driving social and economic progress and upholding the principles of justice, equality, and human rights.

By reinforcing democracy, he believes that Pakistan can unlock its full potential and create a brighter future for generations to come.

"Democracy is the backbone of a progressive society and we must work tirelessly to nurture and strengthen it," said Senator Rubina Khalid.

Shehla Raza, a prominent parliamentarian also paid a heartfelt tribute to the iconic leaders Benazir Bhutto and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, recognizing their unwavering struggle for democracy in Pakistan.

She acknowledged the significant sacrifices made by the Bhutto family, highlighting their unrelenting commitment to democratic values and principles.

Raza praised Benazir Bhutto's courage and resilience in the face of adversity, noting her pioneering role as the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan. She also honoured Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's vision and leadership which laid the foundation for democratic reforms in the country.

By paying tribute to the Bhutto legacy, Shehla Raza reaffirmed her dedication to upholding democratic ideals and continuing the fight for a more just and equitable society.

Her words served as a poignant reminder of the importance of learning from the past and honouring the sacrifices of those who have shaped Pakistan's democratic journey.



KARACHI: City being decorated with lightings in connection with Eid Milad un Nabi SAW.

18.39 percent households undernourished with majority in urban areas of Pakistan: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Head of Policy and Advocacy, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Faiz Rasool has said that the increasing population of undernourished households is driving the nutritional and health crises in the country amid policy gaps and the absence of proactive legislation in line with rapidly changing environment.

He was addressing a media session jointly organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and GAIN to explore critical aspects around communicating food security, healthy diet and food system and its impact on public health and sustaining the food systems.

Faiz Rasool said almost of the country's population is persistently facing a threat to their health due to poor access to healthy diet, whereas 18.5% of them were undernourished.

"Malnourishment and obesity as health risks are simultaneously existing in the country, as Pakistan is facing a double burden of malnutrition resulting into aggravated disease burden due to unhealthy diet. Moreover, 6/10 of population diseases are related to food-related problems and poor quality diet," he said.

Since the country is facing nutrition and food safety challenges there is no nutrition policy in the country as there has been no focus of the quarters concerned on establishing such document, he added.

The GAIN official underscored that there are serious policy gaps and no guidance available to address nutrition challenges in the National Food Security Policy approved in 2018. Globally, he said 3.1 billion people almost 42% of the world population are unable to afford healthy diet.

CM appoints Soomrani as PVC

SUKKUR (APP): Chief Minister Sindh has appointed Prof Dr M. Abdul Rehman Soomrani, Dean Faculty of Science and Information Technology, as Pro Vice Chancellor for the Sukkur IBA University (Sub Campuses).

Following this appointment, University has appointed Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad Daudpota, Director Post Graduate Studies, as the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Information Technology.

According to a release on Sunday, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Ali Mirani, a Professor in the Department of Business Administration, has been appointed as the Director of the Sukkur IBA University Sub Campus Khairpur, after Dr. Samar Raza Talpur was relieved from his role as Director of the Sub Campus Khairpur following his new assignment as Chairman of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Mirpurkhas.

Report exposes surge in arrests under draconian laws in IIOJK

MIRPUR (APP): A disturbing trend of arrests and legal actions against journalists, students, lawyers, and civilians in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir has raised serious concerns about fundamental rights and democratic norms.

According to a report by the Forum for Human Rights, over 2,700 Kashmiris were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA) between 2020 and December 2023.

The report highlights the particularly harsh treatment of journalists, with four out of seven journalists jailed in India hailing from IIOJK.

Notable cases include the cases of Majid Hyder, detained under the PSA on charges of criminal conspiracy and defamation, Irfan Mehraj, arrested under the UAPA in March 2023, Sajad Gul, arrested in January 2022 under the PSA and Fahad Shah, owner and editor of the banned 'Kashmir Walla', released on bail after 600 days in prison.

Snake captured from Karachi University

KARACHI (INP): A snake was recently spotted near the nursery quarters of Karachi University, prompting a swift response from Rescue 1122.

A spokesman reported that after receiving the complaint, they dispatched a snake-catching team that successfully captured the snake from a room. The snake is expected to be handed over to the horticulture department.

Meanwhile, there has been a noticeable rise in incidents of snake and dog bites in the Qambar district of Sindh. A report from District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) revealed that 620 cases of dog bites and 12 snake bites were registered in one month. Among the injured were Zahid (10 years old), Shafiq (12), Inayat (35), and Ulfat (38). All victims received anti-rabies vaccines and first aid at DHQ Hospital before being allowed to return home.

ADB President observes BISP' initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Masatsugu Asakawa, visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) office to observe its initiatives aimed at providing cash assistance to the deserving families, supporting enrolment in schools and maternal and child health in Pakistan.

During the visit to the BISP Tehsil Office in Taxila and the Benazir Nashonuma Centre at Wah General Hospital, the ADB President was briefed on BISP's programs and their impact on the education, health and well-being of the poorest households.

Accompanied by an ADB delegation, including Haruto Takimura, Chief Advisor to the President, Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Yong Ye, Country Director PRM, Ms. Azusa Sato, Senior Advisor to the President and others, President Asakawa received a briefing from BISP Director General Naveed Akbar. The briefing covered BISP's key initiatives, such as Benazir Kafaalat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, and the Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

DG Akbar also discussed new measures being implemented, including the New Payment Model, Mobile Registration Vans, Digital and Financial Literacy programs, and the extension of the Nashonuma Program to include adolescent girls.



HYDERABAD: Islamic Scholar addressing during Jashn e Eid Milad un Nabi (SAWW) Conference at Latifabad.

Shaikhani for devising comprehensive strategy to declare Hyderabad as premier IT hub

HYDERABAD (APP): Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, emphasized that the global shift towards IT and e-commerce is transforming economies, offering a robust alternative to traditional natural resources.

He highlighted the remarkable achievements of neighboring nations, noting that India's IT exports are projected to reach \$194 billion in 2024, while China's exports are expected to surpass \$1.2 trillion. In contrast, Pakistan's IT industry has only earned few billions.

Shaikhani urged the government to unveil a comprehensive strategy to position Hyderabad as a premier IT and e-commerce hub. He pointed out that the region already boasts prestigious institutions like ZABIST, FAST, NIC and Universities, which are spearheading IT and technology education. By uniting these educational powerhouses on a single platform, Hyderabad has the potential to become a world-class IT business center.

Chamber President Farooq Shaikhani affirmed that Hyderabad possesses the full potential to emerge as a premier hub for IT and software businesses. However, he stressed that this potential could only be realized with robust support and effective policies from the government.

Shaikhani has called upon both Federal and Provincial IT Ministers to visit Hyderabad and assess its resources, ensuring that the region is developed in line with contemporary IT sector demands.

He further highlighted the need for targeted training and opportunities for the youth of Hyderabad and interior Sindh in IT and e-commerce, enabling them to integrate into the global market effectively. Drawing a comparison with neighboring countries such as China, India, and Bangladesh, he noted their successful IT sector advancements and global competitiveness.



KARACHI: Roads leading to the Korangi Industrial Zone in urgent need of repair due to severe damage.

Democracy has become stable, strong in Pakistan: Governor Tessori

Governor House to continue supporting welfare orgs: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday said that democracy has become stable and strong in Pakistan today compared to the past. In his message on the occasion of International Democracy Day, he said that Parliament was a supreme institution and everyone must respect it.

The Sindh Governor said that the democratic system could be further improved with the modern requirements of the present time. He said that all the flaws of this system could be overcome by artificial intelligence.

He further said that all stakeholders had a great role to play in the stability and continuity of democracy. Meanwhile: Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday said that the Sindh Governor House would continue supporting the welfare organizations.

He expressed these views during a call-on by Chief of Saylani Welfare International Trust Maulana Bashir Farooqui at the Sindh Governor House. The Governor Tessori said that the welfare organizations were the arms of the government. He said that the role of Saylani Trust in helping deserving people and promoting higher education was commendable. The Chief Saylani Trust Maulana Bashir Farooqui said that the youth were assured of a bright future following IT course under the Governor's Initiative.

PTI frustration over Bilawal's question reveals its desperation: PPP

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is showing signs of mental desperation in response to Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's critical questioning, according to Shehzad Saeed Cheema, Secretary Information of PPP Central Punjab.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Cheema lauded Bilawal for his impactful speech in parliament, which, he said, had effectively cornered PTI and its leadership.

He further highlighted the role of PPP Central Punjab President and former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, stating that he has brought the PTI founder and his party into a difficult position, scrutinizing their actions and rhetoric. "The PPP will not allow institutions to be made controversial, nor will we let anyone benefit from tweets," Cheema said, referencing the PTI's reliance on social media for political narratives.

He asserted that the PTI founder is now entangled in his own tweets and must decide whether his political ambitions or the state are more important. Cheema warned that failure to choose wisely would result in consequences.

Warns against threat of unchecked AI UN chief underscores importance of democracy

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Sunday reaffirmed the importance of upholding free speech, civil liberties and the rule of law, as well as ensuring accountable institutions and protecting human rights, while warning that artificial intelligence (AI) posed a threat to democracy.

"This is especially crucial in a year where more than 50 countries – representing half of the global population – are holding elections," the UN chief said in a message marking International Day of Democracy.

"Yet, these rights and values are under attack around the world. Freedoms are being eroded. Civic space is diminishing. Polarization is intensifying. And mistrust is growing," he said.

Pointing out that this year's Democracy Day focuses on AI, Guterres said, "Left unchecked, the dangers posed by artificial intelligence could have serious implications for democracy, peace, and stability.

"This can start with the proliferation of mis- and disinformation, the spread of hate speech and the use of so-called deepfakes."

Despite the dangers, artificial intelligence has the potential to play a positive role in strengthening democratic systems, he added, noting that AI can promote full and active public participation, enhance equality and contribute to human development.

"AI can boost education on democratic processes, and shape more inclusive civic spaces where people have a say in decisions and can hold decision-makers to account," the UN chief said.

By utilizing AI for good governance, countries can create more transparent and accountable systems, that allow citizens to engage more effectively, he said. However, this will require effective governance of AI at all levels, including international.



KARACHI: The construction work of Red Line Bus Service is in progress in front of Mazar Quaid, in the Provincial Capital.

Sukkur IBA inaugurates CSS scholarship program

SUKKUR (APP): Sukkur IBA University inaugurated CSS Scholarship Program in collaboration with the District Council at a ceremony held today at the main auditorium of the University, said a release issued here on Sunday.

The event was graced by Chairman of District Council Syed Kumail Hyder Shah, Commissioner of Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, DIGP of Sukkur Pir Muhammad Shah, Vice Chancellor of Sukkur IBA University Prof Dr Asif Ahmed Shaikh and other distinguished guests.

They collectively hailed the initiative as a significant and forward-looking development.

Syed Kumail Hyder Shah expressed his pride in the collaboration between Sukkur IBA University and the District Council, stating, "This program is of great personal importance to him."

He mentioned, "While he is hopeful for the success of every single student, even if just one student passes the CSS exam, it will be seen as a sign that their efforts have been worthwhile." Fayaz Hussain Abbasi described the District Council Sukkur fully funded CSS program as a life-long and life-saving initiative. "We have to take extra ordinary steps to save future generations," he stressed. DIGP Pir Muhammad Shah praised the collaborative effort of IBA and the District Council, urging students to put in their best efforts to qualify and serve the nation because "what goes around, comes around."

Farooq elected unopposed as Chairman PLGM&EA

Independent Report KARACHI: Renowned businessman and social leader Farooq Ahmed has been elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association.

Farooq Ahmed is also the CEO of Data Paper Mill Private Limited and Madina Oasis. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Karachi Sunset Millennium and General Secretary of the Sialkot Narowal Welfare Association, among other prominent roles.

On his election, Farooq Ahmed thanked all officials and assured them that he would fulfill his responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication. He expressed his commitment to promoting the Pakistan leather garments manufacturing and exporting industry globally.



KARACHI: Lady Health Workers protesting in favour of their demands in the Provincial Capital.

Karachi weather turns pleasant as sea breeze lowers heat intensity

KARACHI (INP): The weather in Karachi turned pleasant with cloudy skies and cooler temperatures due to the influence of the sea breeze as winds were blowing at a speed of 20 to 25 kilometers per hour, providing relief from the recent heat.

According to the Department of Meteorology, the maximum temperature is expected to range between 32 and 34 degrees Celsius, while the humidity level stands at 78%, contributing to the city's pleasant conditions. The minimum temperature was recorded at 28 degrees Celsius earlier today. Residents of Karachi can enjoy the cooler weather, though humidity remains high, ensuring that the atmosphere remains comfortable throughout the day. Mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country. However, rain/thunderstorms are likely at isolated places in upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

In the past 24 hours Hot and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country. However, rain/thunderstorms occurred in south/central Punjab, upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan. Rainfall (mm): Punjab: Dera Ghazi Khan 16, Kasur 04, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Chitral 05.