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IMF board approves \$7bn EFF for Pakistan

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

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

The IMF board has approved the programme without addressing one of the root causes of taking these loans – the need for restructuring of the external and domestic debt that consumed 81% of Pakistan's tax revenues in the last fiscal year.

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

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

The government also took Pakistan's history's most expensive loan of \$600 million to win a board meeting date from the IMF.

Unlike in the past, when the provincial budgets were out of the purview of the IMF, the new programme is also expanded to the provincial budgets and their revenues. There are nearly one-dozen IMF conditions that directly impact the provinces under the new programme.

The federal and four provincial governments would sign a new National Fiscal Pact by next Tuesday to transfer the responsibilities of health, education, social safety net and road infrastructure projects to the provincial governments.



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

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

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

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

He emphasized that the world needed resilient infrastructure for efficient, environment-friendly and low-carbon transport solutions to fulfill the needs of the people.

He appreciated China's lead role in promoting and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly recognizing the critical importance of the transport sector. Highlighting the initiatives taken by the government, President Zardari apprised the Forum that Pakistan had introduced pink buses specifically for women to provide a safe, comfortable and accessible mode of public transportation.

He underlined that rural accessibility to all-weather roads in Pakistan witnessed significant improvement, reaching 92%. Improved rural accessibility could potentially contribute to promoting sustainable development as well as providing essential services to the rural population, he added.

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

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

President Zardari stated that Pakistan deeply valued China's role in promoting sustainable development and its contribution to regional and global economic prosperity.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari talks to media after attending "Power Reforms Roundtable" at IBA main campus.

Govt pays Rs170B subsidy to ensure uniform electricity tariff for consumers in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari on Wednesday said that Rs 170 billion subsidy is being paid by the government of Pakistan to enable the electricity consumers in Karachi get electricity at par with the prices in other parts of the country.

He expressed these views while talking to newsmen after attending the "Power Reforms Roundtable" organized at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) main campus.

Earlier, the Federal Minister for Power along with the Executive Director IBA Karachi Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi attended the

Gilani meets Russian envoy discuss regional, int'l issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Russian Ambassador in Pakistan Albert Khorev called on Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gillani at Parliament House here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, they discussed regional, international issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations. Yousuf Raza Gillani said Pakistan values its relations with Russia and is keen to further promote multilateral cooperation with Moscow.

On behalf of Chairperson Of Russian Federation Council, the Russian Ambassador presented a letter of felicitation to the Chairman Senate.

Law Ministry says: No notification issued regarding appointment of new CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Law and Justice on Wednesday clarified that no notification has been issued regarding the appointment of a new Chief Justice of Pakistan.

The Ministry termed the notification as fake, which is viral on social media and claiming the appointment of Syed Mansoor Ali Shah as the new CJP.



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

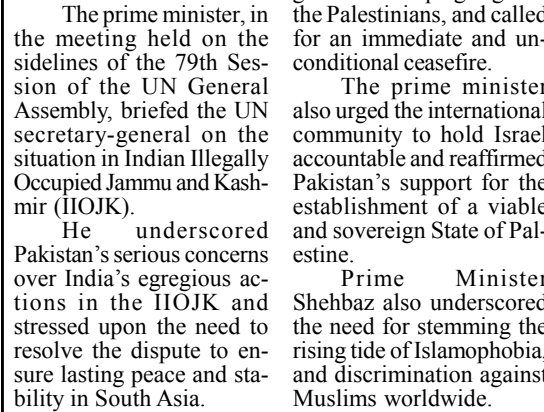
PM urges UN Chief for implementation of UNSC Kashmir resolutions

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

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

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

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



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

CS and Murtaza discuss key initiatives to remove encroachments and improve city infrastructure

Assistant Commissioners to get special powers for swift encroachment removal

Independent Report

KARACHI: An important meeting was held between Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah and discussion focused on the removal of encroachments in Karachi, road repairs, and other development initiatives in the city. During the meeting, it was decided that Assistant Commissioners would be given additional powers to expedite the process of removing encroachments, ensuring more efficient action.



Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, with Additional Chief Secretary Local Government, Khalid Haider Shah, and Municipal Commissioner, Muhammad Afzal Zaidi, also in attendance. The



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah along Arts Council of Pakistan President Muhammad Ahmad Shah addressing to media persons during press conference regarding World Culture Festival Karachi, held at Arts Council building in Karachi.

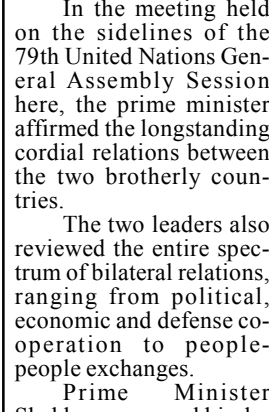
PM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen Kuwait ties

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

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

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

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



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Education and Ministerial Development, Syed Sardar Ali Shah addresses to media persons during press conference, held at SID premises in Karachi.

Votes are primary evidence of election results: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has observed in a judgment that casted votes are the primary evidence of the election results and what is recorded by a Presiding Officer or a Returning Officer in the requisite forms is not final.

The top court issued a four page written judgment regarding dismissal of an appeal against election results in PB-14 Nasirabad Balochistan. The verdict is authored by the chief justice of Pakistan.

It said, "The Presiding Officer of each polling station after the closer of elections counts the votes and is then required to prepare Form-45. The Returning Officer after receipt of all the Form-45s from the Presiding Officers calculates the votes and issues Form-47." The order said, "The learned Judge of the Tribunal independently examined the case from all angles and attended to the allegations levelled by the appellant and correctly concluded that his allegations were not established."

World Culture Festival to be kicks off from Sept 26 in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The 35-day World Culture Festival will be kicks off in Karachi from Thursday and Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi will organize this mega event.

Addressing the press conference at Hasena Moin Hall on Wednesday in this regard, President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmad Shah stated that the event will be held from September 26 with the inaugural ceremony led by the Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah.

The 35-day festival will continue at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi until October 30, 2024. Shah further mentioned that various international

Pak, China working together to build an upgraded version of CPEC: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General of People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong has said China and Pakistan were working together to build an "upgraded version" of CPEC as per consensus of the leadership of both the countries.

He said this while addressing a reception hosted on 75th National Day of People's Republic of China here at Karachi Consulate on Tuesday night.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Shah, provincial Ministers, diplomats of different countries and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Consul General Yang Yundong said Pakistan and China are good neighbors connected by mountains and rivers and good friends with shared trust and integrity.

Over the 73 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Pakistan and China have maintained mutual respect and support, forging the "iron-clad brother" friendship, Yang said, adding that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important pilot project of the Belt Road Initiative (BRI).

He said CPEC was launched in 2013 and now both sides are working for an "upgraded version" of the project. We should fully implement the important consensus of the leaders of our two countries, Yang Yundong added.

He said China will work with Pakistan to upgrade and renovate the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway, continue enhancing other infrastructure, fully release the potential of these infrastructures, and consolidate the foundation for Pakistan's sustainable development.

He said China will encourage investment in Pakistan's automobile manufacturing and new energy sectors, promote technical cooperation in textiles, minerals, fisheries and agricultural and sideline products and further deepen cooperation between the two countries on all fronts.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori along with Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Chief Minister and Yang Yundong, Consul of China are cutting the cake during the 75th National Day of the Peoples Republic of China, in Karachi.

Sindh minister admits floods damaged 50pc schools in the province

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Education Minister Sardar Shah Wednesday admitted floods have damaged 50 per cent of schools across the province.

This he revealed while addressing a press conference along with Universities Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani in Karachi.

"50% of the schools in Sindh have been destroyed by floods. Unlike Punjab, which did not experience floods or heavy rains, Sindh has faced severe damage," he remarked.

Sindh minister further said that the infrastructure of many government schools is no longer fit for teaching children. "We don't have enough ADP (Annual Development Program) funds to repair all the damaged schools," Sardar Shah added.

Highlighting the devastating impact of three consecutive floods on educational institutions, Shah pointed out the enormous challenge of rebuilding.

In a positive development, the education minister also announced that Sindh will be introducing an educational policy specifically for the transgender community. "Our children are learning in both Sindh and Urdu mediums," the minister concluded, stressing the importance of preserving linguistic diversity in education.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Education and Ministerial Development, Syed Sardar Ali Shah addresses to media persons during press conference, held at SID premises in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Point of no return?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Constitutional breakdown

Rida Hosain

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then, through a

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

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

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

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

Agents of terror

Mahir Ali

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bank Alfalah gets global recognition with 2 GIFA awards

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

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



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

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

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

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

operationalization of the Fund.

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

Minister for Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

NTDC successfully launches SAP Finance Module

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

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

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

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

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

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 764 points

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

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

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July-August (2023-24), SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year basis, the exports to the US decreased to \$473.838 million in August 2024 against the export of \$494.774 million in August 2023.

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



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

Biggest internship program launched for agriculture graduates: CM Maryam

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

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the

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

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

progress and prosperity.

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



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

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

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

Talking to media persons during inaugural ceremony of a display & facilitation center for business women at Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) here, he said that Pakistan was passing through a crucial stage. He said the government was concentrating for women empowerment. In this connection, various programs were chalked out to facilitate this community in all sectors including business, he added. He said that women were bestowed with tremendous abilities and capabilities. Hence, they should come forward and prove their mettle in national development, he added. Responding to a question, he said that another constitutional amendment had become imperative to remove the ills prevailed because of the 19th Amendment which had totally eroded the very spirit of the 18th Amendment.

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

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

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

16 dead, 1403 injured in Punjab road accidents

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

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



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

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

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

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

"The government is

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

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

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

Ambassador Blome attends EnglishWorks ceremony, meets alumni

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

US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins also accompanied the ambassador in Sialkot. Addressing students, Ambassador Blome said:

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

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

IGP approves promotion of 54 cops from Multan region

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

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

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

Two persons killed in separate firing incidents in Tank

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

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

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

US, KP govts celebrate youth empowerment and land reforms

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

CM KP wants rapid development of tribal districts: Law Minister

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

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

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

International News

Israel has landed heavy blows on Hezbollah

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

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

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

Lebanese health authorities on Tuesday raised

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

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

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

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

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

Experts say Hezbollah is holding more such weapons in reserve.

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

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

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

Iran's clerical establishment hopes to see an easing of US sanctions that have crippled the country's economy. "We are ready to engage with participants of the 2015 nuclear deal. If the deal's commitments are implemented fully and in good faith, dialogue on other issues can follow," Pezeshkian said.

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

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

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

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

Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

Trudeau set to survive vote of confidence in Canadian parliament

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Trump thanked the US Congress for unani-

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

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

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

Afghanistan wants to join BRICS, says Taliban govt

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

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

US to provide another \$424 million in Sudan aid

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China said on Wednesday it had successfully conducted a rare launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean, a move likely to raise international concerns about the country's nuclear build-up.

The ICBM, carrying a dummy warhead, was launched by the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force at 8:44 am Beijing time (0044 GMT) on Wednesday and "fell into expected sea areas."

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

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

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

Zelenskyy said the war would end one day but not because "someone got tired of the war" or through a trade with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a reference to proposals that Ukraine cede some territory seized by Russia to settle the conflict. "This war can't be calmed by talks. Action is needed," Zelenskyy said, thanking nations who have provided Ukraine support.

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

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

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

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

But looking beyond Sri Lanka's borders, he also must navigate the rivalry between regional powerhouses India, the country's next-door neighbor, and China, which Dissanayake's party traditionally has leaned toward. Located on one of the world's busiest shipping routes, Sri Lanka has long been eyed by the two regional rivals. Sri Lanka governments have swung between the two camps, and New Delhi and Beijing have intensely jockeyed for influence in the island nation of 22 million.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They assessed preparations for the upcoming 7th session of Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to be held in Islamabad in the near future.

The two leaders also discussed regional and global developments, especially the ongoing genocide and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. They called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and end of hostilities.

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



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

Pakistan, Turkiye agree to strengthen economic, security cooperation

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

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

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

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Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to be held in Islamabad in the near future.

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

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

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated President Erdogan on his passionate address to the 79th session of the UN General Assembly that centred on the Palestinian crisis.

"The way the Turkish president highlighted the issue touched the hearts of all those listening to him in the Assembly hall," he told reporters after the meeting.

In his emotional address, Erdogan said that the values of the United Nations' system and the Western world were dying in Gaza as the conflict continued there, calling for an "alliance of humanity" to stop Israel's aggression.

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

Governor emphasises utilizing China's cutting edge technology for rapid development

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori emphasized that utilizing China's cutting-edge technology will ensure rapid development, highlighting the valuable cooperation of China in this regard. He noted that the completion of all ongoing projects in collaboration with China will lead to modern, sustainable growth, which will be pivotal for the prosperity of the region.

He expressed these views while attending the 75th National Day celebration of the People's Republic of China. Upon his arrival at the event, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori was warmly received by China's Consul General, Yang Yundong, and other diplomatic staff.

During the event, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori also cut a cake to mark the occasion of China's National Day.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori extended his heartfelt congratulations to the people of the People's Republic of China on this significant occasion. He remarked that celebrating together is a testament to the strong and enduring bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. He further stated that this event not only celebrates the achievements of the Chinese people but also reflects the deep-rooted friendship and cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Governor Kamran Tessori reaffirmed that the everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China, built on mutual love and respect, is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans.

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

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KARACHI: President Arts Council Pakistan, Ahmed Shah calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Sindh govt secures health insurance for secretariat employees, their families

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has officially signed a health insurance agreement for employees of the Sindh Secretariat and their families. The pact, established with State Life Insurance, will provide comprehensive coverage to personnel working at the Sindh Secretariat, Chief Minister's House, Governor's Secretariat and the Sindh Assembly.

The agreement was signed by the Secretary General Administration on behalf of the Sindh government and the Executive Director of State Life Insurance. Under this policy, each family member will be covered for medical expenses up to PKR 700,000, allowing employees access to treatment at 175 hospitals across the country.

Sindh Secretariat employees have warmly welcomed the government's decision to implement this insurance policy, recognizing it as a significant step towards improving their health security.

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

Governor House, Karachi Tape Ball Premier League sign MoU

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Tape Ball Premier League and Governor House signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here on Wednesday.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and Zohaib Nasir signed the Memorandum on behalf of Governor House and the Karachi Tape Ball Premier League respectively. As per the agreement, Governor Kamran Khan Tessori will be the Chief Patron of the Karachi Tape Ball Premier League and as the Patron of the Karachi Knights team.

Legendary cricketers Haroon Rasheed and Tauseef Ahmed, along with other notable personalities,

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

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"The way the Turkish president highlighted the issue touched the hearts of all those listening to him in the Assembly hall," he told reporters after the meeting.

In his emotional address, Erdogan said that the values of the United Nations' system and the Western world were dying in Gaza as the conflict continued there, calling for an "alliance of humanity" to stop Israel's aggression.

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

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

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FO issues travel advisory for Lebanon

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

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

Those Pakistanis, who could not leave Lebanon owing to some specific reasons, should exercise extreme caution and relocate to safe areas, he added.

"They are also requested to remain in contact with the Embassy of Pakistan, Beirut. Contact the Embassy at +961-81669488 or +961-81815104 (Cell/WhatsApp) or via email at parepbeirut@mofa.gov.pk," the spokesperson added.

OGDCL announces new gas discovery in Sindh's Khairpur district

KARACHI (INP): The OGDCL has announced a new gas discovery in Sindh's Khairpur district in a letter to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday.

Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has announced a significant gas discovery in the Sawan South Block as the Akhriro-1 exploratory well.

The OGDCL revealed that the Sawan South Joint Venture, consisting of OGDCL, United Energy Pakistan Limited, Government Holding Private Limited and Sindh Energy Holding Limited, has made this successful gas discovery at the Akhriro-1 well.

PTI Founder asks govt to announce appointment of next CJ

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founder Imran Khan has asked the government to announce the appointment of the next Chief Justice soon.

During an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail, Imran Khan stated that he fully supports Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court.

The PTI founder said that the purpose of the constitutional court is to diminish the power of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the government is bent on destroying the entire judiciary. Imran Khan further commented that to cover up election fraud, they want their own judges. They are trying to ensure that PTI does not rise in any way. He also mentioned that they are not being allowed to hold any public gatherings and if permission is not granted for the rally in Rawalpindi.

AC Qasimabad visits blast site in Bhitai Nagar area

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hyderabad Zain-ul-Aabidin Memon while taking notice of the cylinder blast in Bhitai Nagar area directed Assistant Commissioner Qasimabad to reach on the site on which Mukhtiar Kar Qasimabad Farhan Jatoti visited blast site.

The Manager Honda Showroom said that during the repair of Car oil room caught fire however the blaze was controlled and no human loss was reported.

Man killed, his son injured over robbery resistance in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A man was killed and his son was injured as they offered resistance to robbery in Karachi on Wednesday. The incident took place in Karachi's Korangi area when a citizen named Abdul Malik and his son were going to their factory after withdrawing Rs 1 million from a bank.

One killed in car, motorcycle collision in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): One person was killed when the motorcycle he was riding on was hit by a speeding car in Karachi on late Tuesday night. According to details, the accident occurred near ICI Chowk where rashly driven car hit motorcycle due to which a 45-year-old man, identified as Navid Ahmed, died on the spot.

Police and rescue teams reached the spot after being informed and shifted the dead body to hospital. Police sources informed that the car driver escaped from the scene after the accident.

MD PTV visits Karachi centre

KARACHI (APP): The Managing Director (MD) Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) Syed Mubasher Toqeer Shah visited PTV Karachi Centre here on Wednesday.

Mobasher Toqeer Shah was received by General Manager Karachi Centre Syed Anjad Hussain Shah on arrival at the Centre. The heads of different departments, workers and CBA union officials were also present on the occasion. MD PTV visited various departments of Karachi Centre including the news department. He also appreciated the decoration work at the Centre.

General Manager, Syed Anjad Hussain Shah

SHC orders DIG investigation to appear in person in recovery of missing persons case

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) while ordering DIG Investigation to appear in person on the petition pertaining to recovery of missing persons has sought from defence secretary details of the citizens imprisoned in detention centers across the country.

A two members bench of SHC presided over by Justice Naimat Ullah Phulpoto took up the petitions for hearing Wednesday.

The state counsel took the plea the enforced disappearance of missing citizens Ismail, Idrees and others have been determined. Summary has been approved for providing financial assistance to the family members.

Justice Naimat Ullah Phulpoto remarked what steps were taken after last hearing. The investigating officer told the court letters have been written to Edhi,

SHC moved for arrest of Israeli PM Netanyahu

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday moved for the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu over his war crime in Gaza.

As per details, a plea filed by Advocate Sohail Hameed in Pakistan's court alleged that Netanyahu and other Israeli officials are responsible for the killing of over 41,000 Palestinians, including 15,000 children, and the siege of Gaza.

He pleaded with the court that the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor seeking arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, and Yoav Gallant, Israel's defence minister on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The ICC prosecutor is also seeking warrants for Yahya Sinwar, and two other top Hamas leaders, on charges of war crimes.

Karim Khan, the ICC's chief prosecutor, told CNN that the charges related to the Oct 7 attacks on Israel and the subsequent war in Gaza.

At least 41,391 Palestinians, a majority of them civilians, have been killed in Israel's military campaign in Gaza since the war began, according to data provided by the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. The United Nations has acknowledged these figures as reliable.

Mazari chairs meeting of IPC department Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Sindh for Inter-Provincial Coordination and Cooperative Department, Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari on Wednesday chaired an important meeting of the Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Department, Sindh.

The meeting focused on key issues, including strengthening joint patrolling and monitoring mechanisms, said a statement.

The meeting was attended by Director to the Chief Minister's Advisor Faizan Inayat, DS IPC Haroon Ijaz, Additional Secretary and Special Secretary (Technical) of the Irrigation Department Junaid Hashim Talpur, Director General of the Livestock and Fisheries Department Ali Muhammad Mastoi, Managing Director of Karachi Fisheries Harbour Authority, along with other relevant officials.

PPP starts work on constitutional amendment draft

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has started preparing the constitutional amendment draft, and an informal committee has also been formed for consultation on it.

PPP Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, Farooq H. Naik, and Sherry Rahman will be part of the informal committee. Other senior PPP leaders will also be part of the consultation in the preparation of the constitutional amendment draft.

After the initial draft is completed, it will be presented to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The PPP draft will also be shared with the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

The PPP chairman objected to the amendment in Article 8. The amendment to Article 8 will not be part of the PPP draft.

The PPP draft will include judicial reforms. In the draft, suggestions will be given regarding the establishment of the constitutional court.

Earlier, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari vowed to introduce judicial reforms in the country, stating that the establishment of a federal constitutional court was a need of the hour.

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