

# Independent

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

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

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

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday warned the world community that the illegal occupation of Palestine and Kashmir was creating a "fresh hell" every day and stressed the efforts for dispute resolution, besides addressing the global challenges of terrorism, climate change and Islamophobia.

"Illegal occupation creates a fresh hell, every day, in the killing fields of Palestine, and in occupied Jammu and Kashmir... Can we turn a blind eye to the mothers, cradling the lifeless bodies of their children? This is not just a conflict; this is systematic slaughter of innocent people; an assault on the very essence of human life and dignity. The blood of Gaza's children stains the hands of not just the oppressors, but also of those who are complicit in prolonging this cruel con-

flict," the prime minister told the annual 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The prime minister, in his 21-minute address at the 193-member Assembly, touched on multiple regional and international issues, including Palestine and Kashmir disputes, Ukraine war, climate change, rising poverty and debt burden particularly induced by climate change impacts.

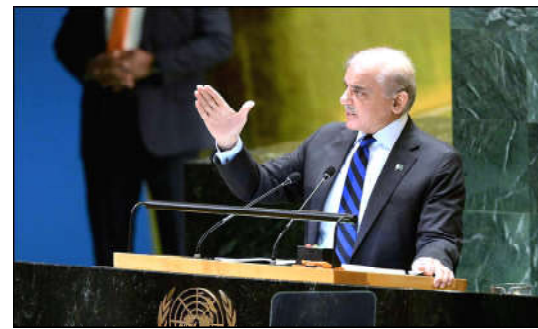
Prime Minister Shehbaz called upon the international community's action to demand an immediate end to the bloodshed, as work for a durable peace through a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its eternal capital.

Before the gathering of the global leaders, Prime Minister Shehbaz also highlighted the sufferings of the

people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and said that India had resiled from commitments to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir which mandated a plebiscite to enable the Kashmiri people to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination.

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

He pointed out the Indian nefarious designs of seizing Kashmiri lands and properties, and settling outsiders into the occupied



Jammu and Kashmir, to transform the Muslim-majority into a minority.

"This hackneyed tactic is employed by all occupying powers, but it has always failed. In Jammu and Kashmir too, it shall fail, InshaAllah," he remarked.

Apprising the global leaders of India's massive expansion of its military capabilities, he said its war doctrines, envisaged a surprise attack and a "limited war under the nuclear overhang. Thoughtlessly, India

into a dialogue for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

"As we leave this august hall, we must carry with us a message for our people that the weak are not voiceless, that the oppressed should not lose hope, that poverty is not pre-ordained, and that the Almighty's promise of justice and equality in our only terrestrial home, must be respected," he urged. He said that the daunting challenges of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza; a dangerous conflict in Ukraine; destructive conflicts across Africa and Asia; rising geopolitical tensions; resurging terrorism; rising poverty; a stifling debt, and the mounting impact of climate change acted as a "chill of a new world order" and lauded the adoption of 54 actions by the Summit of the Future called by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called for the reversal of the Indian unilateral and illegal measures of August 5, 2019 to enter

has spurned Pakistan's proposals for a mutual 'Strategic Restraint Regime'. Its leadership has often threatened to cross the Line of Control and 'take-over' Azad Kashmir.

"Let me state in no uncertain terms that Pakistan will respond, most decisively, to any Indian aggression," he warned.

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

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

The walk out, which was joined by Arab and Islamic delegations, served as a strong gesture of protest to the presence of Netanyahu, whom the UN organs and human rights bodies have accused of being responsible for carrying out a massacre of the Palestinian people in its deadly war in Gaza.

The Pakistani delegation included Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Science and Technology Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram, and Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh.

Meanwhile, criticism has arisen over allowing the UN address by Netanyahu, for whom International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Karim Khan is seeking an arrest warrant for "war crimes".

Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip has killed at least 41,534 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and wounded 96,092 since October 7, the Palestinian enclave's health ministry said in a statement. The toll included 39 deaths in the previous 24 hours, the statement added.

The Netanyahu-led government has further expanded the war by launching strikes in Lebanon which Israel claims that such attacks were aimed at Hezbollah fighters.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari offering condolences to the family members of Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch Shaheed.

### Sindh government decides to establish a Fusion Center

**Independent Report** KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to establish a Fusion Center to enhance intelligence sharing and coordination on drug-related matters across all provinces and the federal government. The aim is to strengthen anti-narcotics efforts by connecting all relevant institutions through this center.

Additionally, the government has decided to seek assistance from the Health Department in establishing rehabilitation centers for drug addicts. The second meeting of the High-Powered Committee for Anti-Narcotics was held in Karachi, chaired by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon at his office. The meeting was attended by Secretary Excise Muhammad Saleem Rajput, Secretary Universities and Boards Abbas Baloch, Secretary Social



Welfare Parvez Ahmad Sehar, Commander ANF Brigadier Umar, DIG CIA Muqadas Haider, and other officials. Additionally, UNODC representatives

### Commissioner reviews actions against illegal LPG cylinders sale

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi on Friday chaired a meeting to review actions against illegal LPG Cylinders sale and to ensure safety of the users / citizens.

The meeting decided to initiate a crackdown on sellers of substandard cylinders through coordinated efforts with the OGRA and other departments concerned.

Assistant Commissioner General Commissioner Karachi Office Hazim Bangwar, officers of OGRA, Civil Defense and

### Naysayers creating despair in society defeated through collective efforts: COAS

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

KARACHI (PR): General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the Karachi Corps area of responsibility, where he was briefed on operational preparedness and key training initiatives undertaken by the Army.

During his visit, COAS also inaugurated Innovista Indus IT Park, a hub aimed at empowering Pakistan's youth by fostering academia-industry collaboration in the field of Information Technology,



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah chairs a follow-up meeting on the Malir Expressway project, at CM House in Karachi.

### Shirazi takes notice of changing locks on donation boxes at Dargah Alam Shah Bukhari

**Independent Report** KARACHI: The Minister for Auqaf, Religious Affairs, Zakat, and Ushr, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, has taken notice of the unauthorized change of locks on the donation boxes at Dargah Alam Shah Bukhari.

Acting on the directives of the provincial minister, Chief Administrator Auqaf Hyderabad, Farrukh Shehzad Qureshi, has suspended Azizullah, the manager of the shrine, in connection with the case. All staff and caretakers associated with the shrine have



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori launching the LONGI solar Panels Hi-MO 9 & Hi-MO X10.

particularly Artificial Intelligence. Honourable Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, and notable civil community members attended the inauguration ceremony. Chief Minister Sindh emphasized the importance of IT domain for optimal exploitation of potential of youth and economic growth. COAS highlighted that such projects are aimed at providing the most conducive environment to further promote the growth of IT industry in the country,



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah chairs a follow-up meeting on the Malir Expressway project, at CM House in Karachi.

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

**Monitoring Desk** ISLAMABAD: In essential support to stabilise the country's teetering economy, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) received approximately \$1.03 billion (SDR 760 million) on Friday under the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme.

Pakistan had been working on implementing conditions deemed "strict" to complete the loan programme agreed to in July, which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif time and again hoped would be Pakistan's last.

The IMF Executive Board approved a 37-month loan on Wednesday. These fresh inflows will be reflected in the central bank's liquid foreign exchange reserves figures, which will be released on Thursday, October 3, 2024, the SBP said in a statement.



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

### Malir Expressway phase-I to open next month

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday chaired a meeting to review progress on the Malir Expressway project.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Minister for Planning and Development Nasser Hussein Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, and Secretary Energy Musaddiq Khan.

The meeting told Sindh CM that the project's first phase is approximately 84% complete, while the second phase has seen around 35% completion.

The 50-kilometer-long Malir Expressway will connect to the M-9 Motorway and National Highway, the CM told and added project includes six interchanges, three bridges, and one underpass, with five computerized toll booths.

On the occasion, CM Murad Ali Shah directed officials to expedite work on the Jam Sadiq Bridge connectivity and complete the Shaheen Interchange within a week.

He also announced to open phase-I of the project (Korangi causeway-Quaidabad) next month.

### Sindh is providing cheapest electricity to National Grid, says Nasir Hussain Shah

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Provincial Minister of Energy, Development and Planning Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that cheap and quality solar panels with the purchasing of the poorest people so that common

tems. There is a need that all the items related to solar panels, including batteries, lithium etc., should be manufactured and marketed at affordable prices locally and internationally.

Nasir Shah said that due to the competition be-



people can also benefit from this system of alternative energy. He expressed these views on the second day of the ongoing three-day solar expo at Expo Center Karachi today at various stalls and on the occasion of media interaction. Secretary Energy Sindh Mosaddeq Ahmed Khan and Project Director Sindh Solar Energy Mahfooz Ahmed Qazi were also with him. Minister Nasir Shah, talking on the occasion of visiting the stalls of various domestic and foreign companies, emphasized that the people of Sindh cannot afford expensive electricity and cannot buy expensive solar sys-

tween companies in solar panels, the prices of solar panels have decreased at the domestic and foreign levels, but there is a need for further reduction. In response to a question, the minister said that the people are suffering from severe problems due to expensive electricity and load shedding and over-billing, but the Sindh government has taken notice of this and the people will get good news soon. He said that Sindh is providing the cheapest electricity to the National Grid. He said that farmers and poor farmers are also worried due to expensive fertilizers, but the government has also found a solution to their problems.

### 3 umpires are there, players too are three: Imran Khan

**RAWALPINDI (Online):** PTI founder Imran Khan has said there are three umpires and players are three too at present.

"There are three umpires and players are three too at present who have kept PDM with them only because they need each other to stay in power. We will not hold public meetings now but we will stage protest in Islamabad, on Minar-e-Pakistan and every where in Pakistan, he said this while talking to media men here on the occasion of hearing of Al-Qadir Trust reference in Adiala jail Friday. What is happening there, they are three umpires and three players too. The fourth PDM is siding with them. They all need each other. Qazi Faez Isa had already evolved plan for extension.

### Pakistan a paradise for tourists: Kamran Tessori

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the theme of World Tourism Day "Tourism and Peace" highlights the role of tourism in promoting global peace.

In his message on the World Tourism Day on Friday, he said that the promotion of sustainable tourism brings harmony between world cultures.

Governor said that Pakistan is a paradise for tourists due to its location.

He said that tourism is also a means of providing employment, increasing exports and spreading prosperity globally.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori launching the LONGI solar Panels Hi-MO 9 & Hi-MO X10.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Breathing space

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

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

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

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

## Islamic modernism

Ghulam Shabbir

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Cultural resistance

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

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

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

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

Ironically, it is from Sindh that mainstream Pakistani historiography traces its origins; in this familiar story, Islam en-

tered the subcontinent through Muhammad bin Qasim's conquest of Sindh. But despite the investments made by the Pakistani state in propagating this official history, Sindh public opinion has always resisted the idea that Muhammad bin Qasim was a liberator.

Over the past eight decades, the Sindh language and its literatures have been developed more than all of Pakistan's vernaculars. The vast majority of Sindh-speaking children grow up learning how to read and write their mother tongue. Sindh language newspapers have a reach far exceeding Urdu and English ones.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Commerce News

### PM invites American banks for investment in key sectors

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

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

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

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

international capital markets.

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

### Short term inflation goes up slightly

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

As compared to the corresponding week of last

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

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

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

### SBP injects Rs1589 billion into market

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



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

### 25 major Chinese companies keen for investing in Pakistan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In an interview with China Economic Net, KTrade Securities

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

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

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

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

### Pakistan eyes tourism boom to strengthen foreign exchange, trade

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

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

Acknowledging the opportunities in this sector, Jam Kamal assured

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

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

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



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



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



## Governor deploras apathy of KP govt over violent armed clashes in Kurram

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

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

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

immediate attention of the provincial government.

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

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

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

The meeting concluded with considerations for organizing an all-parties

conference to collaboratively address the province's pressing issues.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## PIC achieves milestone by performing Mitral Chip procedure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

of shrimp farming, that is being started.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Governor visits Swabi to inquire health of injured police officers

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

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

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

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

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

## CS emphasizes need to produce skilled, qualified nurses

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

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

produce a highly skilled and qualified nursing workforce.

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

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

## 13 dead, 1400 injured in 1334 RTCs in Punjab

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



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

# International News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Israeli bombing sends people fleeing Lebanon to war-ravaged Syria

MONITORING DESK: JDEIDET YABUS: Lebanese man Hassan Slim had avoided Syria for years as war raged in the neighbouring country, but has now found himself fleeing there as Israeli strikes pounded Lebanon's south.

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

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

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

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

## Indonesia gold mine collapses after landslide, killing 15

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

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

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

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

Netanyahu spoke as he arrived in New York to

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

## Iran treads carefully, backing Hezbollah while avoiding war

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## UK's 'youngest knife murderers' handed detention terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 7-year-old Indian boy killed in ritual sacrifice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Sindh CM, IFC RD agree to boost IT industry

**Sindh to be made center of Pakistan's tourism: CM Murad**

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, during his meeting with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Regional Director for Pakistan and the Middle East Khawaja Aftab Ahmed decided to collaborate for the promotion and establishment of the IT industry and to the water sector project of the city being launched on PPP mode.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) Regional Director for Pakistan and the Middle East Khawaja Aftab Ahmed, IFC Manager for Pakistan and Afghanistan Zeshan Sheikh attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary IT Noor Samo and Secretary Transport Asad Zamin were also present.

The CM said that his government was working to establish IT industry in the province for which measures

were being taken to establish IT Parks.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that tourism has played an important role in promoting peace.

Chief Minister said, "Today, World Tourism Day is being celebrated under the theme 'Tourism and Peace' citing that Sindh has the best opportunities for tourism.

Murad Ali Shah said that Sindh's coastal areas, river attractions and Gorakhs Hills attract people and are a great tourist destinations.

Karunjhar, Kenjar, Kherithar National Park, Thar's picturesque views of the desert are the beauty of our country, he added.

He said, "we need to highlight tourist places and we will make Sindh the center of Pakistan's tourism".

He further said that tourism promotes peace and understanding between nations and cultures.



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

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

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

Addressing the delegation, which included the president, senior officials, and corporate leaders from leading US companies, he expressed a strong desire to attract American investments in key sectors to foster growth and prosperity.

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

He introduced the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a high-level, one-stop agency designed to assist foreign investors in planning and executing projects in four critical areas: agriculture, information technology, energy, and mining.

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

identified several sectors in Pakistan's economy—particularly agriculture, the tech sector (including fintech), pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, and mining—where US companies could take advantage of favorable government policies and engage in mutually beneficial projects.

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

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

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

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

## Pakistan, Iraq agree to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan and Iraq on Friday agreed to further deepen and broaden the scope of existing bilateral ties and exploit the potential of enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation between both countries.

The bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Shia' Al Sudani on the sidelines of 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly here.

The prime minister lauded the cordial ties between the two brotherly countries, reinforced by strong historical, cultural and religious affinities.

He also commended the excellent arrangements made by the Government of Iraq for the Pakistani pilgrims.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. They noted with grave concern the ongoing Israeli carnage on Gaza and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe.

## Commander Coast calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Commander Coast Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz called on the Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Friday.



The Governor thanked the martyrs and soldiers of the Navy for protecting seas and marine resources. Tessori said that the spirit of the officers and men of the Navy is a valuable asset for every person in the nation. He said that the Pakistan Navy was the pride of the country. They also discussed the further improvement of infrastructure in the coastal belt of Sindh, especially the creek area.

## Inquiry into illegal land allotments Two senior officers of Dadu directed to report to S&GAD

KARACHI: Two senior officers in Dadu, ADC-1 Jawad Ali Larik and Assistant Commissioner Dadu Shah Nawaz Mirani, have been removed from their positions and directed to report to the Service General Administration and Coordination Department following an inquiry into illegal land allotments. The investigation revealed their involvement in transferring government land, intended for Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute of Management Sciences (under IBA Sukkur) and University of Sindh Dadu

Campus, to a private party. M/s Lund, in violation of regulations.

According to the Hyderabad's report, both officers connived with the private party to bypass legal procedures and issue unauthorized orders that led to the illegal allotment of land. The report highlights significant procedural lapses, including failure to conduct proper surveys and ignoring government allotment protocols, which facilitated the fraudulent transfer of land meant for public educational institutions.

## SHCC to amend laws for effective prevention of quackery

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Healthcare Commission (SHCC) is taking serious steps to ensure quality healthcare and end quackery across Sindh by proposing amendments to its act, this was said by Dr. Ahsan Qavi Siddiqi, CEO of SHCC to the media persons on Friday.

He further informed that currently fine is the only penalty for quacks. However, with new amendments, it was proposed to establish separate courts for quack law consumer courts to speed up the trails and ensure the punishment.

On the question he informed the media that minimum 3 years' imprisonment has been proposed first time in the history. He also said that we are planning to submit proposal for development of separate enforcement force like anti-corruption and anti-environment because quackery is fatal than these two offences.

Dr Siddiqi also suggested that media should play its important and positive role in support of initiative taken by SHCC to have better health quality care in Sindh.



KARACHI: Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM-H) Chief, Afaq Ahmed addresses to media persons during press conference, at Afaq House in Karachi.

## 3-Day event on entrepreneurship kicks off at Mehran University

HYDERABAD (APP): A three day event titled "Steps towards turning dreams into reality" began at the Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Jamshoro, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, startups and innovative ideas.

The event was jointly organized by MUET and Zindagi Prize, a platform that supports entrepreneurial ventures.

According to a press release issued by the MUET, the event was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor of Mehran University Dr. Taha Hussain Ali. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of

young minds in shaping the future. "Over the next three days, we will have the opportunity to listen to ideas from the youth that reflect the changing world.

Leading universities from across the country were participating, and it was not just a competition but a festival where young people can connect and collaborate," he said.

The VC added that young people will be the ones to bring solutions to the country's challenges. "We will implement their innovative projects and ideas, and this three day activity is expected to yield positive outcomes as we witness the creativity.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Khawaja Aftab, Regional Director IFC during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Naqvi calls on INL delegation

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

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

Federal Interior Minister appreciated INL's exceptional cooperation in enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's police and paramilitary forces, citing several notable projects as praiseworthy.

He emphasized for further strengthening this cooperation and making it more sustainable. He underscored the need for prioritizing high-impact projects through a master plan.

## Sindh govt takes positive steps for protection of older people's rights

SUKKUR (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Inter Global Human Development Society (IGHDS), Advocate Jameel Ahmed Shakeel said that the Sindh government has taken some very positive steps in the form of legislation for the protection of the rights of older people.

However, there is still a significant implementation gap between policy and practice.

Ageing is not recognized explicitly in existing

human rights standards, which makes it possible for governments to ignore people's rights as they grow older, he said.

Speaking in an event, organized by IGHDS on Friday, he said that Age is just a number, adding that eliminating all forms of age discrimination and providing an environment in which older people are protected from violence and abuse will help them exercise their choices and contribute to society.



KARACHI: Sindh Police Inspector General (IG), Gulam Nabi Memon presides over a high-level meeting, at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

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eliminating all forms of age discrimination and providing an environment in which older people are protected from violence and abuse will help them exercise their choices and contribute to society.

The CEO further said that the senior citizens are considered the most revered members of our society but their treatment is quite the contrary. Old age is an inevitable part of human life but people fear old age and the youth should aim to create a place where they do not fear old age or consider it a difficulty but look forward to it as a time of ease where they can feel dignified and have their loved ones affection for them in their time of need, he added.

## Secretary Cooperative dept asked to submit progress report

KARACHI: On the directives of the Advisor to the Chief Minister Sindh for Inter-Provincial Coordination and Cooperative Department, the Secretary of the Cooperative Department has been asked to submit a comprehensive progress report from July 2024 to date. The requested details include progress on complaints received by the Secretary's office and their implementation, records of board meetings held (including agenda items and minutes), details of all societies dissolved since July 2024, records of the appointments of new administrators.

The world developed nations must listen and see the miseries of the people of climate hit regions particularly Pakistan and Africa and come forward for their solution.

## Cylinder blast in house leaves 5 family members injured

HYDERABAD (APP): Five members of a family were injured due to an explosion of a LPG cylinder in a house in Liaquat Colony area here on Friday.

According to the police, the blast took place in the home's kitchen where the meal was being prepared. All of the injured were shifted to Liaquat University Hospital's burns ward.

The injured include 35 years old Reeman, 25 years old Ahmed Ali, 25 years old Samra, 20 years old Sumera and 10 years old Kinza. All of the injured were admitted to the burns ward of the LUH.

## Arrest warrant issued for federal interior secretary

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court has issued a boailable warrant for the arrest of the federal interior secretary following the official's failure to comply with court orders.

Following the order, the senior superintendent of police (SSP) in Islamabad was directed to ensure its execution.

The interior secretary had been ordered to remove the names of Amina Jatoti and her two children from the Exit Control List (ECL). The court stated that the secretary had failed to fulfil the orders.

The Sindh High Court instructed the interior secretary to appear before the court and submit a surety bond by October 4.

## Sherry welcomes PM's speech highlighting climate change effects in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman on Friday welcomed the speech of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the United Nations forum.

Talking to PTV, she admired the Pakistani leadership for inviting the world attention towards the seriousness of the climate change and hard effects on Pakistan and under-developed South Asian region.

She said raising important issue of Palestine and Kashmir at the UN forum was a good effort of the Pakistani leadership.

Sherry said, Paki-



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab speaks to media after laying the foundation stone for the Center of Reform, Research, and Innovation at the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation head office, Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad is also present.

## Romina Khurshid for promoting hygiene practices

KARACHI/LASBELA (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, underscoring the importance of hygiene for living a healthy life, on Friday, urged the female students to spread the message of health and hygiene among their communities.

She was addressing a ceremony held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Uihal town of District Lasbela Balochistan on conclusion of Health and Hygiene training under "She Power" project. She, at the occasion, also distributed health and hygiene kits among the students.

Romina Khurshid, addressing the ceremony, said that the role of women is equally important in our society. She expressed pleasure on being among the daughters of Balochistan and said that she would continue visiting them.

She underscored the importance of hygiene practices for healthy life and



HYDERABAD: Members of Sindh Sujag Forum are holding protest demonstration against the killing of Dr. Shah Nawaz Kunhar by the Sindh Police in an alleged fake encounter, at Hyderabad press club.