

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 217 Rabi-ul-Awwal 25, 1445 AH Monday September 30, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## DNA overhaul must to foster sustainable economic growth: Finance Minister

Govt committed to implement structural reforms in all sectors; Number of tax filers doubled compared to last year; Emphasises on penalties for non-filers, such as difficulties in withdrawing and depositing money

ISLAMABAD (APP): Re-affirming the government's resolve to implementing homegrown structural reforms, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Sunday emphasized the crucial need to bring fundamental changes in the DNA of country's economy, leading to an export-driven model, thereby fostering sustainable growth.

"We need to adopt new approach. If we are saying that this is going to be the last programme of IMF, we have just embarked on, we have to change the DNA of economy fundamentally," the minister said while addressing a press conference here. He was accompanied by Chairman Federal Board of Revenue, Rashid Mahmood Langrial.

The Minister said, there were two main reasons for going to International Monetary Fund

(IMF) for Extended Fund Facility (EFF) which include bringing permanence to macroeconomic stability and executing critical reforms under homegrown economic agenda.

He said, macroeconomic stability, creates a foundation and "we cannot build a house, if the foundation is not strong enough. "It has to be on the background of the macroeconomic stability, if we have to go for inclusive and sustainable growth", he remarked.

The minister said the macroeconomic stability has continued during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, however it needed permanence to lead to sustainable growth. "Macroeconomic stability is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end," he remarked.

Hence, bringing structural reforms was not only a requirement by the Inter-

national Monetary Fund (IMF), but Pakistan needed it. He said, Pakistan was in defining moment, because it is going to determine the direction of the journey, and "we are very clear, about the direction of journey."

For homegrown economic reform agenda, he said, we will keep consulting our thinktanks and take foreign advice into consideration as we go forward. "It is neither offence nor defence. We need best brains who can guide and support us."

He said that it had been cleared by local as well as foreign thinktanks that the moment Pakistan puts foot on paddle and growth rate crosses 4 percent, it runs out of dollars because of being import led economy. Resultantly the country is stuck in balance of payment position and therefore had to run back the lenders.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing a press conference at PTV Headquarter.

## Sindh governor visits Olympian Arshad Nadeem's residence

KHANEWAL (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori visited the residence of Olympian Arshad Nadeem in Mian Channu on Sunday and appreciated him for bringing laurels to the country.

Speaking to the media, he expressed his confidence in the capabilities of people of Pakistan. He said that Pakistanis were on a par with the people of any other country in terms of potential and skills. "Our country is full of talented individuals who are second to none in the world," he remarked, highlighting that the nation has the capacity to achieve more successes. Tessori stressed that Pakistan belongs to everyone, and through collective efforts, the country would progress. "This is our nation, and to-

gether we will take it forward towards development and prosperity," he added.

Governor Tessori expressed gratitude to the people of Mian Channu for their warm welcome and hospitality, acknowledging the affection he received during his visit. "I am deeply thankful to the people of Mian Channu for the heartfelt reception," he said. During his address, Tessori reiterated his commitment to the people of Sindh, stating that the doors of the Governor's House were always open for the public. "The Governor's House in Sindh is accessible to everyone. We are here to serve people," he added.

In a statement regarding the development of Punjab, Governor Tessori praised provincial leadership, particularly Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for her efforts. "Maryam Nawaz is doing an excellent job in advancing the development of Punjab," Tessori added. About the security situation in Balochistan, the governor pointed to the involvement of external elements in creating instability in the province. "Foreign forces are behind the incidents in Balochistan," he said, and underscored the need to remain vigilant.

Tessori also took a firm stand against the country's adversaries, warning that the country's enemies would be dealt with sternly. "The enemies of the nation do not want to see Pakistan progress, but they will be given a befitting reply," he asserted.

## Pakistan slams Israel's growing adventurism in Middle East

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan on Sunday condemned Israeli "adventurism" in the Middle East region, terming the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon a "reckless act", constituting a major escalation in the region.

Lebanon's Hezbollah had on Saturday confirmed that its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was killed and vowed to continue the battle against Israel.

Tel Aviv said it conducted an airstrike in Beirut's southern suburbs a day earlier in what would be a devastating blow to the group as it reels from an escalating campaign of Israeli attacks.

A statement released by the Foreign Office today read, "Pakistan strongly condemns the growing Israeli adventurism in the Middle East. Its un-

bridled attacks on civilian populations and disregard of international law have reached alarming levels."

It noted that for the past several days, Israel had "engaged in unacceptable violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon, relentlessly targeting civilian population centers, and undermining its stability and security."

"We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of Israeli aggression and the people of Lebanon," the statement said.

"Pakistan continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Lebanon," it added, urging the United Nations Security Council to stop Israel from its "adventurism in the region and violations of international law."

Nasrallah's death marks a major blow not only to Hezbollah but also to its alleged backers in Iran.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani and Advisor Trade and Industry Mir Ali Hasan Zehri.

## Pakistan hits back at India for accusing Islamabad of cross-border terrorism at UNGA

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A Pakistani diplomat hit back at the Indian External Affairs Minister's speech in the UN General Assembly on Saturday that depicted Pakistan as a promoter of terrorism, saying it was well documented that India was not only committing state terrorism in occupied Kashmir but also abroad.

"It is most ironic that India, which is committing the worst form of state terrorism in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir while also actively engaging in sponsoring terrorism abroad, is portraying itself as the victim," Pakistani diplomat Muhammad Faheem told the 193-member Assembly.

Earlier in the day, S. Jaishankar, the Indian minister, protested against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif raising the Kashmir dispute in the General As-

sembly and went on to accuse Islamabad of pursuing a policy of cross-border terrorism.

"It is a familiar ploy of all occupiers and colonizers to paint legitimate struggles for freedom and liberation as terrorism."

India is failing to grasp the enormity of the indigenous Kashmiri resistance against its stranglehold and wrongly blaming it on cross-border terrorism," Faheem, a third secretary at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said while exercising his right of reply.

"India must introspect, reflect, and immediately implement the Security Council resolutions that provide for the Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination," he said, and called for holding India accountable for its actions that violate international law.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Prisons Minister, Ali Hassan Zardari interacts with prisoners during his surprise visit at Central Jail to review the facilities in the jail, in Hyderabad.

## Every bullet, shell, baton to be responded, says CM Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): Commenting on the incidents of clashes between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers and police in Rawalpindi a day ago, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said his party would reply to every bullet, shell and baton that would be used against its supporters.

In a statement on Sunday, the firebrand PTI leader claimed bullets were fired on three of their workers and whereabouts of one of them could not be traced. "More than 50 PTI workers have been injured in shelling as shells and bullets were fired every three kilometres on us," he said.

The KP Chief Minister Gandapur said this af-

ter returning to Peshawar as the PTI protest in Rawalpindi was "called off" amid violent clashes between protesters and riot police near Liaquat Bagh.

The Gandapur-led convoy remained stuck at the interchange for several hours due to closure of roads as the authorities had placed containers at Burhan interchange in an attempt to thwart PTI's protest.

Addressing the participants, the KP chief executive directed them to return to Peshawar and castigated the government for not granting PTI its "constitutional right".

Vowing to come back with "all resources", he regretted that the police fired teargas and rubber bullets at the protesters.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing International Memon to Memon Business Conference.

## Mohsin Naqvi lauds China's role in Pakistan's economic growth

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that CPEC projects have taken Pakistan-China friendship to new heights.

He stated this during meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren in Lahore on Sunday.

During the meeting, Interior Minister felicitated him on Chinese National Day. They discussed matters of mutual interest and ways to boost bilateral ties.

Mohsin Naqvi said that under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China has crossed new milestones of progress. He said that China is

most trusted and loyal friend of Pakistan and its fast paced progress is a role model for all.

Interior Minister said that China's historical role for strengthening Pakistan's economy is unforgettable.

He said that Pak China friendship will remain intact and strong forever.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Consul General thanked Interior Minister on doing some procedural amendments on Chinese businessmen's request.

He said that Pakistan is China's best friend and our cooperation will always continue.



LAHORE: The Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Addressing to Asia's Energy Transition Summit at LUMS University.

## KPK CM's march on Islamabad, Punjab aims to repeat May 9 mayhem: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur had made his intention clear to create another May 9 like chaos in the country by announcing his plans to march on Islamabad and Punjab by force. The minister, in a news statement, condemned the alleged remarks made by the KPK CM about use of force in the protests, calling it an admission of his own failure to govern the province effectively. "The Chief Minister's threat of firing bullets from a bloodshed is a clear manifestation that he is incapable of running the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. His threats to

march on Islamabad and Punjab with force are nothing but an attempt to repeat the May 9."

He further criticized the KPK Chief Minister's transition from verbal abuse to hurling threats of violence, warning that this approach would only harm him, not anyone else.

"There is nothing democratic, political, or parliamentary about the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial government's statements, actions, or conduct," the minister added.

Tarar lamented that the provincial leadership of PTI had never focused on competing with the center and Punjab in areas such as education, healthcare, employment, or economic improvement.

## CM Sindh flays killing of innocent labourers in Panjur

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has condemned, the killing of innocent labourers in Panjur, here on Sunday.

He said that such incidents were a conspiracy to increase hatred and harm to national unity, according to a CM's spokesman.

The Chief Minister said this nation had seen major incidents of terrorism but did not allow to affect the national unity.

He also expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased labourers.

## Protests erupt across country following Hezbollah chief Nasrallah's death

ISLAMABAD (Agenies): Thousands of people protested in Pakistan cities on Sunday after Hezbollah confirmed that its longtime chief had been killed by an Israeli air strike in Lebanon. Around 4,000 people gathered in Islamabad and 3,000 thousand in Karachi during rallies and funeral prayers for Nasrallah.

Hezbollah said on Saturday that Hassan Nasrallah was killed in the strike on Beirut's southern suburbs a day earlier, dealing a massive blow to the group he had led for decades.

"We stand against what Israel is doing in Palestine and Lebanon, this is why we are here today," 27-year-old Taskeen Zafar said during the rally in Islamabad.



KARACHI: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addressing a Press conference.



ISLAMABAD: Amir JUI Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing a Press conference.

## Fake parliament lacks mandate for constitutional amendment: Maulana Fazal

JUI-F general council re-elects Maulana Fazl as party's chief, Abdul Ghafoor Haideri as secretary-general for five years

PESHAWAR (INP): After being re-elected as the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief for five years, Maulana Fazlur Rehman has slammed the incumbent government, saying that the "fake parliament" lacks a real mandate for a major constitutional amendment.

"We want a fresh [general] election," Fazl said while addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the party's intra-party poll in Peshawar on Sunday. "This parliament does not deserve this huge constitutional amendment."

The government pushed the proposed constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who is set to retire in October this year, following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) request last month for the early issuance of a notification regarding the appointment of the next top

judge. The ruling coalition left no stone unturned to woo Fazl, with leaderships of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) holding a flurry of meetings with the cleric, but to no avail.

Detailing ongoing consultations with the PPP and the major opposition party — PTI, he said that the JUI-F and the said parties would share their draft amendments. The cleric stressed that such amendments should be brought forward which provides relief to the masses and strengthen democracy without compromising the sovereignty of parliament. "Judicial reforms should not be individual-centric."

The politico, who led the previous multi-party alliance — Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — that successfully ousted former prime minister Imran Khan from office in April 2022.

## PM congratulates Fazal on unopposed election as JUI-F chief

LONDON (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif on Sunday extended his congratulations to Maulana Fazlur Rehman on his unanimous and unopposed election as president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) for the upcoming five-year term.

In his congratulatory message, the prime minister remarked that under Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership, JUI-F has always effectively represented the people.

The prime minister emphasized that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's election as the head of JUI-F will foster democratic values, also acknowledging his significant role in reinforcing the supremacy of Parliament in the country.

The prime minister expressed confidence that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership and vision would undoubtedly elevate Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) to new heights. Meanwhile, the prime minister also congratulated Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri on his election as the General Secretary of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl).

## New DG ISI to assume office today

ISLAMABAD (Online): The newly appointed head of the National Security Agency, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Asim Malik will assume his duties today, Monday.

Few days ago, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had appointed Lt. Gen. Asim Malik as DG ISI. He is set to assume his new role on Monday, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Asim Malik will be succeeding Lt. Gen. Nadeem Anjum.

Lt. Gen. Asim Malik, HI (M) is currently serving as Adjutant General at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. He has previously commanded an infantry division in Balochistan and an infantry brigade in Waziristan.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### A close watch

The IMF Executive Board's stress on the importance of "vigilant monitoring" of its new \$7bn programme's implementation, and "robust contingency planning" to safeguard its success is a reflection of two concerns. One, in spite of the recent economic recovery under the last \$3bn Stand-by Arrangement, Pakistan's vulnerabilities and structural challenges remain formidable. The business environment poses problems amid weak governance and the state's outsized role, hindering investment. Likewise, the tax base remains too narrow to ensure tax fairness and fiscal sustainability or meet large development spending needed to tackle poverty. Without concerted adjustment alongside prudent spending management and sustained reforms, Pakistan risks falling further behind its peers. Two, Pakistan's credibility when it comes to pursuing programme policies and ensuring macroeconomic sustainability through consistent policy implementation remains suspect in the eyes of its creditors and development partners — despite the successful implementation of the SBA that saved it from default.

Therefore, IMF directors have emphasised "the criticality of sustained programme implementation" and "steadfast execution of the planned continued consolidation in the FY25 budget" in a statement after approving the loan this week. Some of them noted that "there is no room for policy slippages without undermining debt sustainability". The new programme mandates policies to help Pakistan move away from its state-led growth model to private sector-led growth by strengthening the business environment and ensuring a more even playing field. Other priorities include reforming SOEs, removing trade barriers and market distortions, reinforcing governance frameworks, strengthening energy sector viability, and building climate resilience. Indeed, the agenda for Pakistan's politically beleaguered rulers is huge. It cannot wriggle out of it without endangering the recent, fragile stability. The government's resolve to stick to the IMF-mandated agenda will be tested every time the lender reviews its progress before releasing the next tranche. Other multilateral and bilateral creditors will also be watching Islamabad's performance very closely. The prime minister has repeatedly pledged to make this programme the last bailout from the IMF. Other countries like India have pulled this off by restructuring their economies. Can we do so? The jury is out.

## SRH matters

Luay Shabaneh

I hesitated to write about International Sexual Health Day, celebrated in 60 countries early this month. However, in my view, the matter goes beyond sexual relationships; it speaks to the future of a nation struggling to find its place in an increasingly competitive global landscape. Fourteen years ago, the World Association for Sexual Health declared Sept 4 as World Sexual Health Day and called to promote social awareness on sexual health across the globe.

The 2023 theme focuses on positive relationships grounded in mutual respect and understanding — cornerstones for sexual health and well-being, which is a human right. Everyone has the right to engage in safe relationships that fulfil their needs, honour bodily autonomy, and promote equality and respect. It also leads to better reproductive health outcomes. While sexual health is a private matter between couples, its consequences extend beyond the individual and are deeply embedded in social values. Therefore, health literacy and sexuality education are crucial in developing positive relationships, protecting sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reproductive rights (RR), and empowering individuals to make informed choices.

Access to comprehensive, high-quality and accurate information about SRH promotes the appropriate and timely use of SRH services. This facilitates the prevention, early detection, and treatment of HIV and other STIs as well as their adverse consequences. Informed individuals create more empowered families that are grounded in facts, free from judgment, and open to constructive discussions on sensitive

topics. This environment helps adolescents and young people understand and communicate effectively about matters related to sexual health.

Deep-seated inequality and pervasive disrespect within relationships are major contributors to violence, particularly gender-based violence. Cultivating respect and trust in SRH matters and well-being is crucial for eliminating the fear of violence and violations. Every individual above the legal age of consent, as defined by their respective states, should have the right to engage in relationships free from threats of GBV and sexual assault. Governments bear the responsibility of implementing effective prevention and response measures, while the broader social community must actively condemn all forms of violence.

Globally, over a billion people are living with sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, many of which remain incurable. This situation could have been reversed if there were timely interventions and a tolerant social culture, free from stigma. Avoiding discussions about problems does not solve them; it only complicates them further and increases the financial burden of addressing them in the future.

In Pakistan, like in many societies with conservative social norms, the discourse on sexuality is often confined to a limited perspective focusing solely on sexual contact and adherence to local religious interpretations and social expectations. This narrow framing diverts the discussion away from the duty of the state and society to find solutions for SRH challenges to judging individuals' adherence to social norms.

In a society marked by gender bias, men have

often politicised and ideologised these matters to maintain control and an unequal power structure. This mirrors the discussion about women's access to their rightful inheritance, where various barriers are erected to keep wealth concentrated in the hands of men. This explains the surprising alignment between men of diverse ideological backgrounds — religious, atheist, conservative, or liberal when it comes to women's rights to inheritance despite the enshrined rights in both religious and social norms. In a context where most politicians, legislators, and policymakers are men who benefit from maintaining the taboo around sexuality and women's rights, achieving meaningful reform is often characterised by lip service rhetoric.

This highlights the importance of gender equality as a catalyst for genuine social reform, which is fundamental to fostering respectful sexual relationships, reducing GBV and increasing the likelihood of sustainable marriages in a society grappling with high rates of early divorces.

My message today is to call upon politicians and decision-makers invested in the country's future to embrace a broader perspective on gender equality, recognising its social, political, and economic dimensions. It is essential to break down all forms of unfair taboos and encourage open public debate to create an enabling environment for future generations, allowing Pakistan to secure its place in a rapidly changing world where seats at the table are reserved for socially open-minded, economically empowered nations free of gender bias, and embracing innovation. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Digital eternity

Muna Khan

We've probably imagined some version of "I wish I had the chance to tell [someone] how much I loved them before they died". I don't have such thoughts for my mother who died unexpectedly in 1995. But since reading about the use of bots to create digital avatars of our dead loved ones, I have wondered if I'd be willing to turn to AI to help me grieve, 30 years on.

My instinct is a firm no because she would loathe it, not least because she was devout but also it seems a bit sci-fi and creepy and probably very upsetting. However, it's been very helpful for the innumerable families across China using "grief tech". I recently wrote about people using digital avatars for companionship but this is more personal. This is you holding onto someone you deeply loved in a bid to find closure and I wonder if it helps or prevents you from moving on. I also watched a short documentary on a 37-year-old woman in Singapore, mum to four kids, who was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer who chose to record videos for her children so they wouldn't forget her. The company will interview her for six to eight hours, record a data of memories to store in the cloud, which her children can then access over the years by asking "her" a question about a memory. This is different to the tools available for posthumous work.

For around Rs800, you can create an animated avatar of any person on some of these Chinese sites. For more money, according to a report in NPR in July, you can choose options featuring AI-powered chatbots, conversational videos or interactive séances.

One 47-year-old man in Nanjing featured in NPR said he talks to a digital avatar of his mother — "rendered from the shoulders up by artificial intelligence to look and sound just like his flesh-and-blood mother" who died in 2018. He said it's the best person to confide in, and he regards the avatar "truly like his mother".

Many cultures build altars for their dead relatives in their homes or communicate with them through ceremony. Families honour the dead and maintain their graves at the yearly tomb sweeping ceremony in China; they also tell them what their year was like. This year, some brought moving digital avatars of their deceased relatives for a two-way conversation.

Is this the end of "rest in peace" as we have known it all this time? And what about the ethics of replicating people, alive or dead; do we need their consent? China has a robust e-commerce market, reports MIT Technology Review, and many brands would hire livestreamers to sell their products.

Now they use AI-cloned influencers that can stream 24/7. According to one estimate reported in The Guardian, the market size for "digital humans" was worth 12 billion yuan (\$1.7bn) in 2022, and is expected to quadruple by 2025.

You can see this as technology that is profiting from death or offering people a chance to deal with the layers of grief. Technology has helped us grieve from afar, by attending funerals and prayer meets over Zoom and we find solace in pouring over photographs or home videos or social media posts of our loved ones; so what is different if we take all that material and feed it into large language models to create digital avatars? You need a one-minute video for a basic avatar (costs around Rs8,500) and ones that require generative AI to make the avatar move and talk to you costs a few thousand dollars.

Digital immortality has a dark side too. Fans recreated a digital avatar of Qiao Renliang, a pop star who died by suicide in 2016, and then made new content, including a video of him saying "I never went away". This caused a great deal of pain to his family, who said it opened old wounds and did not have their consent.

One of these AI tech grief companies in China has built a cemetery in Shanghai where tombstones are digitised. You can scan a QR code on the headstone and access the deceased's life through multimedia.

A company representative told NPR they hoped this would allow people to see a graveyard as a place to celebrate life, not just mourn death.

Things once in the realm of sci-fi are becoming a reality due to investment in computing power.

On one hand we are ploughing money in medical technology to allow us to live longer, or figuring out how to merge our brains with computers so we can have a digital version of ourselves in the cloud, and now digital immortality is advancing. Are we so afraid of death? Is grief so unbearable that some would rather stay in perpetual mourning by recreating our parents, partners, etc.? -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

## Ch. Shafay says: Special incentives available for investors in Punjab's SEZs

### International labour & trade unions delegation meets Ch Shafay Hussain

LAHORE (APP): A 12-member delegation of International Labour and Trade Unions called on Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain at a local hotel on Sunday. The delegation was headed by Shoya Yoshida, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Asia-Pacific, Singapore. During the meeting, mutual cooperation was agreed upon for the preparation of skilled manpower and the promotion of technical education. The possibilities of trade with various countries were also reviewed.

The minister briefed the delegation about the investment opportunities and the measures taken to promote technical education. He stated that special incentives are available for investors in Punjab's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) including a 10-year income tax exemption and a one-time duty-free machinery import facility. He shared that 19 Centers of Excellence are being established in different cities by TEVTA with the support of the Asian Development Bank. A Garment City is being developed on 630 acres in Sheikhpura, where the government would build

industrial unit structures and offer them to investors on rent.

The minister highlighted the ongoing improvements in industrial infrastructure and the upgradation of TEVTA institutions. He also shared that Punjab's Skill Development Policy 2024 has been submitted for cabinet approval. He added that solar study programs have been introduced in TEVTA institutions for the first time. Additionally, several Chinese companies have expressed interest in investing in Punjab.

Ch. Shafay Hussain emphasized that promoting solar energy and electric vehicles is the Punjab.



LAHORE: A delegation of International Labour and Trade Unions meeting with Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Ch. Shafay Hussain.

## Secretary says: Punjab govt guarantees foreign investor safety, unveils robust security plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move to bolster economic growth, Punjab Secretary for Industries and Food, Ehsan Bhutta, has reiterated the provincial government's dedication to creating a conducive environment for foreign investors.

Secretary Ehsan Bhutta talking to PTV news channel reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing a secure and supportive business environment.

Bhutta emphasized that a robust security

framework is being implemented to safeguard investors' interests, fostering an environment conducive to growth and progress. Bhutta outlined a comprehensive strategy to boost foreign investors' confidence, including streamlined regulatory frameworks, efficient dispute resolution mechanisms, and enhanced security protocols. This multi-faceted approach aims to mitigate risks and provide a secure environment for investors to operate.

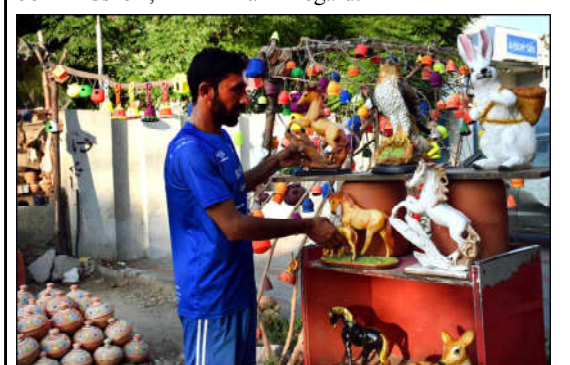
The Secretary stressed that the security of foreign investments is a top priority for the Punjab government, adding, to achieve this, the government is collaborating with international organizations and leveraging cutting-edge technology to monitor and address potential security threats. He said that Under Chief Minister Punjab' leadership government will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that your investments are protected and thrive in our province.

## We will strengthen our liaison with the govt, Mian Tanvir

MULTAN (APP): Newly-elect president Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) Mian Bakhtawar Tanvir Sheikh said on Sunday that unemployment rate was continuously rising in the country which affecting all strata of society, suggesting that the voice of business community should be reached to decision-makers and steps should be taken towards improving the ease of doing business.

He expressed these views while addressing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) here at MCCI. Earlier, following the announcement of final results by the election commission, Mian

Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh, along with Senior Vice President Khawaja Muhammad Mohsin Masood and Vice President Azhar Javid Khan, assumed their offices. "We will strengthen our liaison with the government, especially to push for changes in tax laws and for easier taxation for the business community," he remarked. They said that they would work on infrastructure, economic, and industrial development to make Southern Punjab an exemplary region. The industrial trade, particularly the SME sector, was struggling significantly, Bakhtawar said and added that in this regard.



LAHORE: A vendor arranging and displaying the different kinds of clay made decoration items to attract the customers at his roadside setup.

## PCMEA elects new leadership

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) has announced its new leadership following recent elections. Mian Atiqur Rehman takes the reins as Chairman, joined by Zahid Nazir as Senior Vice Chairman (Southern Zone) and Riyaz Ahmed as Vice Chairman (Northern Zone), senior leader Abdul Latif Malik has been appointed as Patron-in-Chief in recognition of his immense contributions to the industry. The election of the members of the Executive

Committee, Northern Zone and Southern Zone also took place. All the officials were elected unopposed and their term will be for two years, according to PCMEA spokesmen here Sunday. Among the members of the Northern Zone Executive Committee are Mehmood Ahmed, Bilal Ahmad Butt, Ahmed Irfan, Muhammad Jafar Khalid, Qamar Zia, Sheikh Amir Khalid, Usman Rasheed, Ali Ahmed, Saadul Rehman and Farooq Ahmed Butt, while the members of the Southern Zone Executive Committee are Parvez Sajjad, Muhammad Arif Latif.

## RCCI urges FBR to extend date for annual tax filing

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has demanded an extension of the last date for submission of tax returns. Chamber President Saqib Rafiq in a statement issued here on Sunday pointed out slower FBR's system (Iris) due to heavy filings. He said that closure of banks and other related institutions on Saturdays and Sundays has furthered the difficulties facing the taxpayers in obtaining bank accounts and other relevant documents.

## Small Industry—Unlocking South Punjab's economic potential

MULTAN (APP): Having a long history of calligraphy, pottery, handicrafts and agricultural, South Punjab can be turned into treasure trove of opportunities for businesses especially small industries with its diverse sectors ready to boost the region's economic growth. From agriculture to handicrafts and diminishing cottage industry, the region is teeming with potential for development and offers an array of business avenues for value addition that could uplift local communities and contribute to country's economic progress.

At the heart of the opportunity is the region's

agricultural strength. Agro-based businesses such as fruit and vegetable processing, dehydration units and spice grinding mills are particularly viable. These industries could capitalize on South Punjab's rich produce and help reduce post-harvest losses that currently affect farmers due to lack of processing facilities.

"Huge quantities of vegetables and fruits perish due to their short shelf-life. Their proper preservation and value addition can help earn substantial revenue," remarked President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Mian Rashid Iqbal.

could convert excessive vegetables into powder as these powder form vegetables were highly popular in international markets," he stated. "With the right facilities, local farmers could benefit from enhanced incomes through value-added products like jams, pulps and powders etc."

Rashid Iqbal also mentioned to livestock sector as another pillar of South Punjab's economy. "Milk and meat processing, as well as production of organic dairy products offer numerous business opportunities for small-scale entrepreneur."

However, he voiced concerns about the

exploitation of farmers by multinational companies that buy milk at very low prices but sell it at a premium. "By establishing local processing plants, farmers could retain more profit like our neighboring country where cattle farmers work in clusters to process and sell milk."

The President MCCI stressed the need for government's intervention to support local farmers and reduce reliance on multinational companies.

Fish farming, particularly fish cage culture, is also untapped resource in South Punjab. With three rivers and dozens of canals, the region offers ideal conditions for

fish farming, which could remarkably improve living standards of farmers besides bolstering national economy. The introduction of fish farming on a larger scale would provide a sustainable livelihood for many, allowing rural communities to thrive.

In addition to agriculture and livestock, South Punjab also is home to rich traditional handicrafts. Local artisans create beautiful pottery, woodwork, brassware and textiles that are cherished locally and abroad. The famous blue pottery, camel-skin lamps, and hand-woven carpets are just a few examples of the region's craftsmanship.



MULTAN: Punjab Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahoo talking to farmers during his visit to Kissan Card distribution centre.

## Governor Kundi lashes out at PTI for worsening law & order situation in KP

MULTAN (APP): Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi expressing grave concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in his province, accused the provincial government of neglect and incompetence.

Talking to the media at the residence of Naseem Labar, PPP city president here on Sunday, he stated the KP government failed to establish peace in the region as unrest was on the rise while KP Chief Minister was observed managing political rallies. Kundi asserted, "KP is becoming increasingly unsafe, from Dera Ghazi Khan to Kohat.

Certain areas have now become no-go zones, and even judges are being abducted". He questioned the commitment of the provincial government to peace, adding, "Has there ever been a serious meeting to address the unrest? When meetings are held, it is only to malign the institutions", he added. Reflecting on the past, the governor recalled the situation in 2008 when the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) inherited a country engulfed in terrorism. "The country is facing serious issues due to militancy, but we brought peace with the sacrifices of armed forces," he stated.

Kundi lamented, today's unrest is plaguing a province that was once pacified by the PPP's efforts.

Kundi also pointed out corruption in the KP government, especially pointing to the Peshawar BRT project and the

alleged misuse of funds allocated for security. "An amount of Rs 600 billion was given for security, yet the police lacked resources. If corruption was not committed, where did the money go?" he questioned.

The governor accused the KP administration of focusing solely on corruption while failing to deliver results on the ground.

Referring to PTI's leadership, Kundi remarked that the party's members were more interested in public spectacles than governance. "They know only how to dance in streets, while the province suffers," he said, adding, "If they have any sense of responsibility, they should focus on the people rather than seeking power at any cost."



MULTAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi talking to media persons at the residence of Naseem Labar.

## Minister says inflation being controlled successfully

SARGODHA (APP): Punjab Minister for Zakat and Usher and General Secretary Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sargodha Division Rana Munawar Ghous Khan termed record decrease in inflation a positive indicator for the country and reaffirmed the government's commitment to work hard till complete revival of the economy.

Talking to APP on Sunday, he said, "The inflation rate has dropped

to 11 per cent during this month, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Bloomberg, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, World Bank and other international departments are also acknowledging progress on Pakistan's economy and also see it on the right path." Munawar Ghous highlighted government's tireless efforts from day one, focusing on the economy, leading to several positive outcomes.

## Ex Minister Irshad Sial condemns brutal killing of labourers

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Pakistan People Party senior leader and former federal minister Mehar Irshad Sial strongly condemned the brutal killing of seven labourers from south Punjab in Panjgur, Balochistan. In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said: "We strongly condemn the murder of poor labourers". He called for every possible measure to ensure the rights and safety of labourers, stressing the need for swift action.

## Maryam Nawaz says: Reducing food waste religious, moral duty

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Sunday that reducing food waste was a religious and moral duty of all Pakistanis. In a message on the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, she said: "Food waste is a global problem, which damages the economy and environment alike."

She added, "It is depressing to note that millions of people around the world are suffering from hunger, while millions of tonnes of food is wasted globally." The chief minister said, "Pakistan is also suffering from food waste and shortage to some extent. Planning is needed to save resources from being wasted."

Maryam Nawaz said, "Help the hungry people by reducing food waste" adding that "An effective awareness campaign is necessary to prevent food waste." She noted, "School nutrition programme in Punjab is a historic initiative to address malnutrition in children."

The CM said, "Proportionate consumption of food is inevitable, highlight the value of food in your community."

She hoped, "Together we can save the natural resources of Pakistan."

The chief minister declared that reducing food waste was not only a moral and religious obligation but also essential for effective resource management.

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Pakistan People Party senior leader and former federal minister Mehar Irshad Sial strongly condemned the brutal killing of seven labourers from south Punjab in Panjgur, Balochistan. In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said: "We strongly condemn the murder of poor labourers". He called for every possible measure to ensure the rights and safety of labourers, stressing the need for swift action.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari talking to media persons at DGPR.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Imran Nazir addressing the oath taking ceremony of PPMA North Zone.

## Azma Bukhari says: Bullying, hooliganism not allowed in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bukhari said on Sunday that Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur should know it well that his bullying and hooliganism were not allowed in Punjab.

While holding a press conference here, she said the government would not allow anyone to take the law into their hands in Punjab. She said that in case of any law violation, the violators would be

dealt with an iron hand, adding that Gandapur violated the law during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) public meeting at Kahna. She said the opponents were concerned about the development of Punjab, but the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should ask the provincial leadership why there was no development there.

The minister asked if the PTI wanted to stage protest, why they were not holding demonstrations in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

## 8 dead, 1,359 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Eight people were killed and 1,359 others injured in 1,251 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 578 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 781 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 737 drivers, 47 underage drivers, 134 pedestrians, and 496 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics show that 269 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 292 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 84 accidents and 91 victims, and at third Multan with 70 accidents and 83 victims. According to the data, 1,130 motorbikes, 77 auto-rickshaws, 101 motorcars, 30 vans, 09 passenger buses, 20 truck and 121 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

## Experts in KP term PM's USA visit highly successful

PESHAWAR (APP): International Relations experts have praised Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's recent five-day visit to the United States of America (USA) to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), declaring it highly successful and beneficial for Pakistan.

Former Ambassador Manzoorul Haq highlighted the significance of the Prime Minister's address at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Moment 2024, which received widespread acclaim. He noted that the Prime Minister's remarks served as a powerful call

for international and regional unity to confront critical global issues such as climate change, the debt burden, and terrorism—challenges that disproportionately impact underdeveloped and developing nations, including Pakistan.

Emphasizing the importance of the Prime Minister's focus on solutions to these urgent global challenges, particularly in the context of rising carbon emissions and the increasing financial pressures faced by vulnerable countries, he said the Premier visit has not only elevated Pakistan's stance on the international stage but also

reinforced the need for collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

He said the huge debt burdens which are increasing with each passing year, are directly affecting underdeveloped and developing countries including Pakistan, and the premier was being appreciated at national and international forums for highlighting the negative effects of debts burden on poor economies.

Professor Dr Ejaz Khan, former Chairman, International Relations Department, University of Peshawar also termed the visit of PM as highly successful at UNGA where

he met with top world leaders of friendly countries and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest with special focus on resolution of Kashmir dispute and sustainable socio-economic development of Pakistan.

In his historic address at 79th session of the UNGA, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has boldly highlighted the genocidal war of Israel at Gaza, human rights abuses at Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, winning the hearts and minds of Pakistanis, Kashmiris and Plistanians. Muhammad Hussain Khateeb, Member All

Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC Gillani Group) said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had won the hearts and minds of all Kashmiris for exclusively highlighting the Kashmir dispute in its true perspective at UNGA.

He said Indian occupational forces' war crimes, state terrorism and human rights abuses had made life a worst nightmare for over one million oppressed Kashmiris.

APHC leader said India had imposed military siege on some 10 million Kashmiris in IOJK where over 900,000 Indian forces were deployed with no regards for human rights.

## International News

## Erdogan's anti-Israel rhetoric falters as Turkey loses regional clout

NEW YORK: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has used the United Nations General Assembly to criticise Israel and its Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But as Erdogan tries to lead opposition to Israel, Turkey is finding itself increasingly sidelined in the region.

At the UN, Erdogan again compared Israel to Hitler, calling for an "international alliance of humanity" to stop Israel as it did Hitler 75 years ago. However, such fiery rhetoric is finding a shrinking audience. "It's more conveying a message to their base," said Sezgin Oney of the Turkish news portal Politikoy. "There isn't an audience that sees Turkey or Erdogan as the vanguard of Palestine rights anymore. On the contrary, that ship sailed long ago."

Erdogan attempted to

boost his image as a powerful regional player by meeting with the Lebanese and Iraqi Prime Ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. But Ankara is increasingly finding itself sidelined as a regional diplomatic player.

"Ankara's pro-Hamas approach has only marginalised Turkey in the international arena," said international relations expert Selin Nasi of the London School of Economics. "So we see Egypt and Qatar receiving credits for their roles as mediators. And Turkey is locked out of international diplomatic efforts."

Since Hamas's 7 October attack on Israel and Israel's subsequent Gaza campaign, Ankara has tried to position itself among international mediating efforts to end the fighting, given its close contacts with Hamas. "Turkey was

asked by the United States to speak with Hamas people", said international relations expert Soli Ozel at Vienna's Institute for Human Studies.

However, Ozel says the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran denied Erdogan his diplomatic trump card. "One big blow to Turkey has been the murder of Haniyeh, with which Turkey did have very close relations. For all I know, he may even have had a Turkish passport," said Ozel. "And I don't think Turkey has any relations or contacts with Yahya Sinwar, who is officially and effectively the leader of Hamas."

With Israel already alienated by Erdogan's fiery rhetoric along with Turkey imposing an Israeli trade embargo, Gallia Lindenstrauss of Tel Aviv's National Security Studies says Turkey has nothing to offer.



BEIRUT: People inspect the devastation in the Hadath district of the Lebanon capital's southern suburbs in the aftermath of intense Israeli air strikes.

## Hashem Safieddine tipped as successor to Nasrallah

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Hashem Safieddine, a potential successor to his slain cousin Hassan Nasrallah, is one of Hezbollah's most prominent figures and has deep religious and family ties to Iran.

Safieddine bears a striking resemblance to his charismatic maternal cousin Nasrallah but is several years his junior, aged in his late 50s or early 60s. A source close to Hezbollah said the grey-bearded, be-

spectacled Safieddine was the "most likely" candidate for party's top job.

As head of the executive council, Safieddine oversees Hezbollah's political affairs. Safieddine's public statements often reflect Hezbollah's militant stance and its alignment with the Palestinian cause. At a recent event in Dahiyeh, Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs, he declared, "Our history, our guns and our rockets are with you."

## Nine down, 48 missing as migrant boat sinks near Spain

Monitoring Desk MADRID: A boat carrying migrants capsized off Spain's Canary Islands overnight, killing at least nine and leaving 48 missing, the national maritime rescue service said on Saturday. Eighty-four people were on board and 27 were saved after rescuers responded to a distress call received shortly after midnight from off El Hierro, one of the islands in the Atlantic archipelago, a statement said.

## 148 dead in Nepal floods after relentless monsoon rains

Monitoring Desk KATHMANDU: Residents of Nepal's flood-hit capital returned to their mud-caked homes on Sunday to survey the wreckage of devastating floods that have killed at least 148 people across the Himalayan republic.

Deadly rain-related floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity. Entire neighbourhoods in

Kathmandu were inundated over the weekend with flash floods reported in rivers coursing through the capital and extensive damage to highways connecting the city with the rest of Nepal.

Kumar Tamang, who lives in a slum area by a riverbank, told AFP that he and his family had to flee after midnight on Saturday as waters rushed into his shack.

"This morning we returned and everything looks different," the 40-year-old said.

## At least six killed by bomb blasts in Somalia

Monitoring Desk MOGADISHU: At least six people were killed and 10 injured by bomb explosions in Somalia's capital Mogadishu and a town in the country's Middle Shabelle region, police and witnesses said. It was not immediately clear who had carried out the attacks, although Islamist militant group al-Shabaab frequently orchestrates bombings and gun attacks in Mogadishu and elsewhere in the Horn of Africa country. The blast in Mogadishu involved a bomb-rigged car that was parked on a road near the National Theatre in Mogadishu, about one kilometre away from the president's office.

## World powers warn of Israeli attack's repercussions

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: With the spectre of all-out war looming over the Middle East, world powers warned of the potential repercussions of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's assassination by Israel amid growing calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Middle East. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the UN General Assembly on Saturday that there must not be a delay in reaching a "comprehensive ceasefire" in the Middle East, and said a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians remains the way out of the region's tensions.

Russia strongly condemned "yet another politi-

cal assassination" in the Lebanese capital Beirut. Its foreign ministry said, "This forceful action is fraught with even greater dramatic consequences for Lebanon and the entire Middle East. The Israeli side could not fail to recognise this danger, but took the step of killing Lebanese citizens, which would almost inevitably provoke a new outbreak of violence. Thus, it bears full responsibility for the subsequent escalation."

However, US President Joe Biden the United States fully supported Israel's right to defend itself and said he had directed Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin to further enhance the US military forces.

## China, at UN, warns against 'expansion of the battlefield' in the Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Three days before his communist government turns 75, China's foreign minister warned fellow leaders Saturday against an "expansion of the battlefield" in Russia's war with Ukraine and said the Beijing government remains committed to shuttle diplomacy and efforts to push the conflict toward its end.

"The top priority is to commit to no expansion of the battlefield. ... China is committed to playing a constructive role," Wang Yi said. He warned against other nations "throwing oil on the fire or exploiting the situation for selfish gains," a likely reference to the United States.

Wang's speech appeared to break no new ground, as is generally China's recent practice at the U.N. General Assembly's annual meeting of leaders. In fact, his boss, Chinese President Xi Jinping, has not participated in the leaders' meeting since 2021—and then only virtually, during the pandemic. Xi has not attended in person for sev-

eral years.

On Friday, on the assembly sidelines, China and Brazil sought to build enthusiasm for their peace plan for Ukraine. They said about a dozen countries signed a communique that says they "note" the six-point plan. The plan calls for a peace conference with both Ukraine and Russia and no expansion of the battlefield, among other provisions.

Ukrainian officials have given the proposal a cold shoulder, but the countries that signed the communique are forming a group of "friends for peace" for their U.N. ambassadors to keep the conversation going among themselves. Ranging from Algeria to Zambia, the members are largely African or Latin American countries. Wang made sure to note Friday that the group doesn't decree individual countries' policies.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a news conference Saturday that Russia was ready to provide assistance and advice to the group.

## Israel says it has struck dozens of Houthi targets in Yemen

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: The Israeli military says dozens of aircraft have struck Houthi targets in Yemen in response to recent attack on Israel.

The military said it targeted power plants and sea port facilities in the city of Hodeida.

The Houthis launched a ballistic missile attack on Ben Gurion airport on Saturday when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was arriving.

The Israeli military said Sunday it has killed another high-ranking Hezbollah official in an airstrike as the Lebanese militant group was reeling from a string of devastating blows and the killing of its overall leader, Hassan Nasrallah. The military said Nabil Kaouk, the deputy

## SpaceX launches rescue mission to bring home stranded astronauts

Monitoring Desk FLORIDA: A SpaceX rocket lifted off with two passengers on Saturday to retrieve two American astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) for months, according to Nasa.

The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, at 1:17pm, carrying NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Gorbunov to the ISS. The mission, Crew-9, features two empty seats intended to return Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, who have been stranded on the ISS for months due to issues with their Boeing-designed Starliner spacecraft. "Congrats to Nasa and SpaceX on a successful launch," NASA chief Bill Nelson wrote on X.

Ahsan Iqbal says

## Asian countries' collective efforts must for regional development

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Asian countries will have to work together to transform it into a strong region.

Addressing as guest of honour here at Asia's Energy Transition Summit on Sunday, he was of the view that energy use would determine the climate change that is a very important global issue. "We have suffered a lot due to climate change," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Asia accounts for 50 per cent of the world's popula-

tion and it will soon account for more than half of the world's GDP, asserting that Asia is also a major center of energy consumption.

Federal Minister said that environmentally-friendly energy projects are implemented in Pakistan and an environment-friendly policy was also adopted to generate electricity through coal. "We have to innovate in our projects. We also have to see how the investment for these projects will be received and we need to bring many changes in our policies for creating an environment that facilitates investment

and further development in the energy sector."

He said, Asian countries will have to work together, citing that

some countries are rich and some are poor, everyone must work together to improve Asia. Cooperation is essential for the betterment of the region; if all these things are implemented, Asia can become a stronger region.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said, "Our target is to achieve green energy. We want everyone to have access to affordable, environmentally friendly energy."

LUMS Energy Institute (LEI) in collaboration with Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition (PREC) has arranged the three-day summit to facilitate discussion on transition to renewable energy. Leading energy experts, researchers, civil society activists, policymakers and parliamentarians attended the event. The event was aimed at highlighting the need for coordinated efforts across Asia to mobilise finances for a transition towards renewable energy, a move away from fossil fuels and improving energy efficiency and conservation.



KARACHI: Police fires teargas shell to disperse to stop activists of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen from reaching the U.S. Consulate during an anti-Israel protest in the Provincial Capital.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori talking with media members during a ceremony in memory of legendary singer Mehdi Hassan organized by Pakistan-American Cultural Center.

## Khaqan Abbasi criticizes proposed constitutional amendment process

MULTAN (INP): In a recent interview with a private TV Channel, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Chief of the Awam Pakistan Party, expressed serious concerns regarding the proposed constitutional amendment, revealing that none of the 450 members of parliament have read the draft.

Abbasi highlighted the alarming trend of legislation being passed without thorough examination, questioning, "Show me a country where laws are passed without reading them?"

Abbasi pointed out that the integrity of constitutional courts is at stake, urging transparency in the amendment process. "Why

are you afraid of putting the constitutional amendment in front of the people?" he asked, emphasizing the need for public engagement in significant legal changes.

During a party event, Abbasi reiterated his commitment to addressing pressing issues, including women's rights. He remarked, "Women constitute fifty percent of the population, yet they have not been granted equal rights as per the constitution."

Highlighting the potential of Pakistan's youth, he stated, "Pakistan is the fourth smartest nation in the world," but lamented that their future hinges on

the country's economic health. He called for job creation, respect, and business opportunities to address youth concerns.

Abbasi criticized the current political climate, where fundamental rights to free speech are suppressed, asserting, "When you do not give the right to speak, then there will be chaos." He called for a return to democratic and parliamentary values to restore political stability.

Reflecting on Pakistan's constitution, he noted its historical significance and beauty, reminding that many new nations once looked to it as a model.

## TIKA official visits Luminary Learning Circle Foundation

KARACHI (APP): The Luminary Learning Circle Foundation (LLCF) was honored to welcome Khalil Ibrahim Basaran, a distinguished representative from the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), under the Republic of Turkey's Ministry of Culture & Tourism.

On the occasion, Chairman LLCF and former MNA Mohammed Najeeb Haroon, MQM, MNA Syed Hafeezuddin Advocate were also present.

Basaran experienced firsthand LLCF's holistic approach to providing quality early and primary education to over 400

students at the Javed Miandad Campus.

One highlight of the tour was LLCF's Organic Kitchen Garden, where students have planted their vegetables in carefully labeled pots, each bearing their names.

Basaran was particularly fascinated by the fact that the students not only planted the vegetables but also took responsibility for nurturing them.

This hands-on learning experience instills a sense of ownership and environmental stewardship in the children while promoting healthy, sustainable living practices.



PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and Awam Pakistan Party leader, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addresses to media persons during press conference held at Peshawar press club.

## Industrialization of Karachi taking reverses gear: Altaf Shakoor

KARACHI (INP): Costly energy is compelling the industrialization process in Karachi to take reverse gear that will result in a massive unemployment in the mega city very soon, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here Sunday. He said many industrial units have already been shut and several others are running partially because the costly gas and electricity has made it very difficult for the industry to run even at margins. He said this doom and gloom in the industrial sector of the megacity is a bad omen for the whole country as Karachi is the major hub of industry and production.

Altaf Shakoor said that the government instead of negotiating with the private IPPs for reduction in

tariff is constantly increasing power rates. He said the government should get full electricity load from the IPPs as per the capacity payments made to them and give this extra electricity to domestic and industrial consumers at reduced rates but it is not taking any such people-friendly step possibly due to the debt trap of the IMF.

He said the government mantra of promoting solar energy has already died and more reliance is there again on the imported fossil fuels which are very costly. He said the local reserves of natural gas are depleting fast and the government is shying away from completing Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline again due to IMF loan conditions and foreign pressure.

## DC chairs meeting regarding nutrition programme

NAWABSHAH (APP): A meeting of the District Coordination Committee for Nutrition Program was held in the Durbar Hall of the DC Office under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shaheed Benazirabad Nawab Amir Laghari.

According to a hand-out issued by the District Information office, the ADC urged the Department of Health, Population, Livestock and other committee members to make the nutrition program more effective so that 100% results of the ongoing program could be achieved and ensured quality food to malnourished mothers and children.

While giving instructions to the officers of the Education Department, ADC said that the Education department should organize an awareness session about the benefits of the Nutrition Program in the educational institutions.

## Citizen hit by PML-N youth wing leader's car dies in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The citizen, who sustained severe injuries after being struck by the vehicle of the General Secretary of the PML-N's youth wing, tragically passed away while receiving treatment at a hospital in Karachi.

The citizen, named Athar, was ran by a Revo driven by Rehan Mustafa, General Secretary of PML-N Youth wing five days ago. Athar, a father of two, was employed at Karachi Medical and Dental College (KMDC) and was a resident of Gulshan-e-Maymar.

Eyewitnesses reported that two girls, along with Rehan Mustafa's brother-in-law, were present in the vehicle when they ran over the motorcyclist.

Following the accident, the girls fled the scene while the accused also escaped.

## We will have to deal with those killing people on basis of race, religion: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori while condemning the killing of 7 labourers in Panjgur, has said we will have to rigorously deal with those, who are killing people on the basis of race, province, religion and beliefs.

He said that the labourers were brutally killed, who traveled to feed their

families. Tessori said that those, who brutally kill workers should be severely punished.

"Every citizen of Pakistan has the right to go and work in any city he wants," he said.

The Governor also expressed his condolences to the bereaved families of the victims.

## Pakistan, Oman agree on MoU to facilitate enhancement of workforce

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Oman on Sunday agreed on early finalization of memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labor and manpower exchange which would facilitate the enhancement of Pakistan workforce and its smooth movement from Pakistan to Oman.

This was decided in a meeting held in Muscat between Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Minister of Labour of the Sultanate of Oman Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain, said a press release issued here. Chaudhry Salik Hussain is on a three-day visit to the Sultanate where he will meet several ministers of Oman and will inaugurate a new branch of Pakistan International School in Muscat.

During the meeting, Chaudhry Salik Hussain apprised the Omani side of the major reforms the government was undertaking to improve the emigration process of Pakistani workers, their professional capacity enhancement and the marketing of Pakistani workforce abroad.

He said that Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was upgrading the technical training centers in Pakistan on modern lines which would train the workforce according to the certification requirement of each individual country or region. Chaudhry Salik Hussain informed that Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was going to start a compulsory pre-departure orientation program for all the workers going abroad which would educate them about the labor laws of the host country.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren.

## PTI Karachi Division holds protest rally outside Karachi press club

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Karachi Division organized a protest rally outside Karachi Press Club, demanding the release of Imran Khan, supremacy of the constitution, and judicial independence.

A large number of PTI workers from various districts of Karachi participated in the rally, which started at Karachi Press Club and concluded at Mazar-e-Quaid. The rally was led by PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh, Karachi Division President Raja Azhar, General Secretary Arsalan Khalid, and other prominent PTI leaders, including Khuram Sher Zaman and Faheem Khan, along with PTI members of the Sindh Assembly.

The rally drew participants from different areas of Karachi, gathering at the Press Club to peacefully record their protest. Following the peaceful demonstration, the rally continued from the Press Club to Mazar-e-Quaid. Addressing the participants, PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh stated, "Today's rally from the Press Club to Mazar-e-Quaid is for the release of Imran Khan, the supremacy of the constitution, and judicial independence." He emphasized that the constitution grants the right to peaceful protest, which PTI was exercising.

He added, "When the people of Karachi take to the streets, Imran Khan will also be freed from prison. The people of Karachi have always supported Imran Khan, as evidenced by the overwhelming mandate in the general elections when PTI won 22 National Assembly and 35 Provincial Assembly seats, which were later stolen through a conspiracy with fake Form-47." Sheikh condemned recent actions, mentioning a police raid on his house, stating, "Today, the heavy police presence at my home shows their authoritarian mindset. We are peaceful citizens exercising our constitutional rights." He also condemned the use of force against peaceful protesters in Rawalpindi the previous day, where shelling and firing occurred.



KARACHI: Workers of PTI protest in favour of their demands in the Provincial Capital.

## Aleem Khan engages top Chinese investors to invest in Pak

BEIJING (INP): Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Investment and Privatization engaged here over 30 top Chinese entrepreneurs in various sectors to invest in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

Addressing the "Business Roundtable" at Pakistan's Embassy, the Minister said that he was pleased to see that a big number of Chinese companies are eager to invest in important sectors such as construction, logistics, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, technology, agriculture and automobile industry.

He said, "CPEC has already delivered results in transport infrastructure, connectivity, and energy generation."

As we advance the next phase of high-quality development of CPEC, our joint focus is on industrialization, especially through focuses B2B cooperation, the development of SEZs, Export Processing Zones (EPZs), and the Gwadar Free Zone."

## Sindhi Adabi Sangat host session on Poetry

HYDERABAD (APP): The constitutional meeting of Sindhi Literary Sangat Hyderabad was held under the chairmanship of renowned poet Shakir Aziz Seetai.

Mustafa Solangi, Jabar Taseer Soomro and Ashiq Solangi presented ghazal, Dr. Aziz Thebo poetry, Khalil Parhiar poem and criticism review Salim Chana's poem "Qeedi" was presented.

Ghulam Mustafa Solangi's ghazal was termed the best modern ghazal in relation to Khayal, Nabha and Kafyo. Jabar Taseer Soomro's ghazal describes a reflective ghazal, which is close to the modern ghazal, with internal and external emotions.

Ashiq Solangi's ghazal was described as romantic, resistance and national color ghazal. Khalil Parhiar's poem was termed as a representative poem of the current situation of Sindh, and it was said that this poem is a protest against the burning issues of Sindh, cutting Karoonjhar, three-way land of Sindh, illegal canals coming out of the Indus river and the martyrdom of Dr. Shah Nawaz Kanbhar.

## "The Carnivore" restaurant launched in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): After the resounding success of its branches in Islamabad, Lahore and Riyadh The Carnivore - Baked Meat Restaurant opened its doors here earlier on Sunday in a grand launch event.

Among the notables spotted at the event were Consul General Italy Danilo Giurdanel, Vice Consul General Kuwait Abdullah M. Almansour, Hon. Consul General Morocco Ishtiaq Baig, Sheema Kermani, Ameena Saiyid, Seemi Pasha, Angie Marshall, Tapu Javeri, Asim Battal, Aziz Hasan, Shamyil Mooraj, Kamran Sani, Marzi, Munaf, Ahmed Godil, Javed Iqbal, Satish Anand, Javed Khan, Nina Kashif, Obaid Sheikh, Rasikh Ismail, Sabira Tapal, Sajeeruddin, Hasan Rizvi, Maya Khan, Zubia Motiwala, Shuja Sami, Captain Aqeel, Asad Siddiqui, Usman Mazhar and Ahmed Chinoy. After a bustling red carpet, the guests were ushered to their seats where they were treated to a high-end.

## PTI Govt fails to address problems despite 3rd term: Amir Muqam

SWAT (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that Pakistan Tahrik e Insaf Government has failed to address masses problems despite third consecutive government of the party that deceived masses on the name of so called change.

Addressing party workers at Sangota here, the Minister said that unnecessary exercises and experiments have ruined health and education sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Instead to focus on resolution of people problems, governance and improvement in health and education sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that tax payers money was being used on the un-called for agitation and irrational politics by the PTI leadership, increasing problems of common man.

He advised CM KP to hold public meetings at southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where law and order situation was deteriorating and that people can not go out of homes after evening.

Instead to focus on improving law and order situation in southern districts, he said that maladministration and poor governance besides corruption cases have started surfacing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that recent corruption allegations by the Provincial Ministers and advisers against each others has exposed the anti corruption claims of the rulers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Engr Amir Muqam who is also the President of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lacked vision for people welfare and that agitation politics was his main focus.



OMAN: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, receiving a souvenir from Oman's Minister of Labour, Dr Mahad bin Said bin Ali.

## DC for resolving legitimate problems of masses related to revenue

NAWABSHAH (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon presided over a meeting of revenue officers in Darbar Hall of the DC office.

On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed all revenue officers that the legitimate problems related to revenue of the citizens should be solved on a priority basis while immediate steps should be taken to solve the problems faced in the work of land acquisition.

He further said that the answers to court cases related to revenue should be submitted immediately while detailing the damage

caused during the monsoon rains, the Deputy Commissioner further said that all the revenue officers are on a daily basis to eliminate illegal encroachments, review the prices of milk and LPG, health centres, water supply and visit the disposal and submit a report.

In case of any problems, the DC office should be approached.

In the meeting, the revenue officers were informed about the steps taken to solve the revenue-related problems.

Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Nawab Sameer Leghari and Assistant Commissioners and Commissioners of all Talukas participated.



KARACHI: Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar enquiring about health of Pashto famous artist Habibullah Panzeai admitted in private hospital in Karachi.

## Enthralls audience with dazzling musical concert at World Culture Festival 2024

KARACHI (APP): The Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, presented a musical concert on the third day of the World Culture Festival 2024 at Jaun Elia Lawn.

It was an unforgettable evening that brought together a stunning lineup of international and local music maestros.

The night ignited with electrifying performances by global stars like Peace Jules, Lee Dia, Delah Dube, and Gasasira Rughaba Sarge from Rwanda, Madan Gopal from Nepal, Sahib Pashazade, and Kamran

Karimov from Azerbaijan.

The stage then rocked with Pakistan's very own music legends, including Faraz Anwar, Acma the Band, Khumaryaan Band, Akhtar Chanal, Imran Momina, Nafees Ahmed Khan, and Basheer Khan, making the audience groove and cheer non-stop. Music lovers were spellbound by electrifying performances by global stars like Peace Jules, Lee Dia, Delah Dube, and Gasasira Rughaba Sarge from Rwanda, Madan Gopal from Nepal, Sahib Pashazade, and Kamran Karimov from Azerbaijan. The stage then rocked with Pakistan's very own music legends, including Faraz Anwar, Acma the Band, Khumaryaan Band, Akhtar Chanal, Imran Momina, Nafees Ahmed Khan, and Basheer Khan, making the audience groove and cheer non-stop. Music lovers were spellbound by electrifying performances by global stars like Peace Jules, Lee Dia, Delah Dube, and Gasasira Rughaba Sarge from Rwanda, Madan Gopal from Nepal, Sahib Pashazade, and Kamran Ahsan Bari.