





## Govt measures show positive signs in each sector: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was advancing towards the path of development and growth in the exports of textiles and Information technology, increase in the stock exchange index, and growth in other sectors reflected the result-oriented policies of the government.

The Chairman added that PM Shehbaz Sharif had inaugurated the National Volunteer Core to include the youth in the policy-making, development and governance engagements.

Mashhood said that Pakistan has talented youth and a pivotal role in advancing the country towards fast-paced development. "We are dedicated to preparing our youth to excel in diverse fields and they have to 'Say no to drugs'."

He said that the Green Youth Movement (GYM) an initiative of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme was creating awareness and sensitizing

Youth about the effects of climate change.

"By harnessing the youth's creativity, energy, and commitment, we can drive meaningful change and create a legacy of sustainability for future generations," he added.

The Chairman PMYP added that Pakistan produces less than 1 percent of the world's carbon footprint and was suffering the biggest consequences of climate change which needed to be addressed with the help of the World Climate Change Organizations.

Mashhood said that PMYP had taken various initiatives in the fields of education, technical education, arts and culture, sports, science, math, innovation awards and others to empower youth.

Many youths besides parliamentarians, journalists, sportsmen, and others participated in the cycle rally.

Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed participating in "cycle for Life Event" organized by Prime Minister's Youth Programme in Islamabad



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## Senator Tahira seeks cross-party collaboration for Pak progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Tahira Aurangzeb of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Saturday extended an olive branch to Jamaat Ulema-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, urging him to join forces with the government to usher in vital constitutional reforms that benefit nation.

Talking to PTV news channel, Tahira Aurangzeb stressed the importance of unity among parliamentarians to bring about significant changes in Pakistan's constitutional framework.

She believes that constitutional courts are the need of the hour and by joining hands, parliamentarians can introduce constitutional amendments that will ensure speedy justice and positively impact the lives of common people.

Tahira Aurangzeb also expressed confidence that the government is hopeful JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman will support proposed constitutional

amendments, adding, these amendments aim to establish constitutional courts, ensuring speedy justice and positive change for the common people.

She further praised the Prime Minister and his cabinet for their tireless efforts, specifically highlighting the impressive work of Punjab's Chief Minister.

She noted that the CM's accomplishments have boosted public confidence in the current government.

## Mohsin Naqvi pays homage to Martyrs on International Peace Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): In his special message on International Peace Day, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that the Almighty Allah created the world for peace and harmony. He added that homes, streets, neighborhoods, societies, villages, cities, countries, regions, and continents look beautiful and livable only with peace.

He stated that chaos and disorder cause widespread devastation and pose multiple threats to peace.

The Interior Minister expressed concern that societies are currently divided into groups, factions, and sects, harming the efforts for peace around the world.

He said that regional conflicts have endangered peace in every region, severely affecting the desire for peace.

He emphasized that global powers must take practical and pragmatic steps toward sustainable peace beyond verbal commitments.

He reiterated that regions entangled in conflicts including occupied Kashmir, Palestine, and others yearn for peace, while the silence of global powers makes no sense.

Mohsin Naqvi also highlighted Pakistan's constructive role in ensuring global peace, particularly during difficult times.

He said that Pakistan has played the role of vanguard in UN peace missions.

He added that several brave soldiers of Pakistan's peace missions were martyred during efforts to restore peace and stability in dangerous and turbulent regions.

## IGP Islamabad addresses police officials' concerns

Independent Report  
ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP)

and official concerns before the IGP Islamabad. He directed the senior police of-



Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held an orderly room at Central Police Office Islamabad, to ensure timely and prioritized resolution of institutional and personal matters concerning police officers.

The establishment of an orderly room aims to prioritize and address issues faced by police officers on a timely basis, emphasizing their welfare and issue resolution. The orderly room was attended by all divisions' police officers.

During the orderly room, police officers brought forth both personal



ISLAMABAD: Work in progress on Demolition of illegal constructions in Margallah Hills by Islamabad Wildlife Management Board.

## 3 Policemen of Islamabad sacked for demanding nikah nama, harassing couple

ISLAMABAD (Online): Three Policemen have been dismissed from service in Islamabad for demanding Nikah nama from husband and wife and harassing them.

The incident of demanding nikah nama and harassing husband of wife took place in the jurisdiction of Bhara Kahu police station.

The case was registered in police station Bhara Kahu against these three police men.

Those who have been

sacked include constable Asfand Yar, constable Nayab and constable Sami Ullah.

According to text of FIR these policemen intercepted husband and wife and demanded Nikah Nama from them.

They took the woman to vehicle and kept on harassing her sexually. They had sexually harassed the woman as per FIR.

SP Dolphin and Patrolling has issued order of dismissal from service in respect of these policemen.

## 'Qawwal Maqbool Sabri' remembered on 13th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fans and media platforms on Saturday across Pakistan and beyond came together to remember the legendary qawwal Maqbool Ahmed Sabri on his 13th death anniversary to honor his enduring legacy and celebrated timeless impact of his music on generations of music lovers.

Maqbool Ahmed Sabri initially learnt music from his father Ustad Inayat Hussain Sabri and his elder brother Ghulam Farid Sabri, private news channel reported.

He started Qawwali in 1970s with his brother Ghulam Farid Sabri and earned much fame in Qawwali.

## Computer, AI classes start at 150 primary schools of FDE

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant step towards enhancing digital literacy and preparing young minds for the future, the Islamabad education sector is set to launch computer and AI classes in 150 primary schools of Federal Directorate of Education by next week.

This initiative aims to equip students with essential tech skills and knowledge, fostering a generation ready for the challenges of an increasingly digital world, said a press release here yesterday.

The program is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Federal Education and the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), ensuring that the curriculum is both innovative and relevant and computer fellows are both qualified and trained.

## Kashmiris continue to suffer under Indian occupation as 'world observes day of peace'

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world observes the International Day of Peace, the situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) stands in stark contrast, marred by ongoing Indian state terrorism that fosters a climate of fear and oppression.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service in connection with the day, Saturday, revealed that for the past 77 years, the people of IIOJK have endured severe brutality at the hands of Indian forces. The report highlights that Indian troops routinely employ brutal tactics, including torture, against the Kashmiris.

Since the abrogation of Article 370, IIOJK has been subjected to an intensified military siege, with the RSS-backed Modi government effectively transforming the territory into a vast concentration camp. Over 5,000 Kashmiris, including APHC top leaders, activists, women, youth and journalists, are currently languishing in illegal detention in jails both in IIOJK and India.

The report asserts that Indian troops, paramilitary forces, and police personnel are involved in widespread war crimes in IIOJK, characterizing the area as the biggest open-air prison on earth. Caged and suppressed, the Kashmiris are left awaiting intervention from the international community.

For over seven decades, Kashmiris have struggled for their legitimate rights, yet India has consistently acted as a barrier to a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

The report emphasizes that true peace in South Asia will remain out of reach until the Kashmiri people are granted their rightful self-determination.

The report calls for accountability from Modi and the Indian government for their actions in IIOJK and urges the international community to step in to save the beleaguered Kashmiris.

"The need for global attention and action is urgent, as the situation in IIOJK continues to deteriorate," the report concludes.



ISLAMABAD: Road reconstruction under process outside Islamabad Club in the Federal Capital.

## APHC denounces BJP-held elections in IIOJK as farce, calls for UN intervention

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has denounced the ongoing elections organized by the BJP-led Indian government in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), describing them a farce that cannot substitute for a United Nations-supported plebiscite to determine the territory's future.

According to Kashmir Media Service, in a statement issued in Srinagar, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas emphasized the urgent need for a special UN envoy for Kashmir.

"The lingering dispute, coupled with the ris-

ing Hindutva agendas of the BJP and RSS, poses a growing threat in a nuclear-capable region," he warned.

"Any unintentional spark could lead South Asia to the brink of nuclear disaster if the BJP's Hindutva agenda continues unchecked," he cautioned.

Minhas reiterated the APHC's commitment to constructive dialogue involving India, Pakistan, and genuine representatives from Jammu and Kashmir.

He characterized the current elections as irrelevant to the local population, stating, "UN resolutions 91 of 1951 and 122 of 1957 clearly assert that these elections cannot replace a referendum.

## Review petition of PML-N candidate for recounting in NA-97 fixed for hearing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Review petition of PML-N leader Gohar Baloch on the matter of recounting of votes in NA-97 Tandlianwala has been fixed for hearing in Supreme Court (SC). A 3-member bench of SC will hear the petition on September 23. It is pertinent to mention here the appeal plea of Gohar Baloch against the decision of high court was rejected in SC on August 21.

As per decision Gohar Baloch could not prove filing of application for recounting before compilation of the result.

## CDA launches Tech. & Digitalization Wing block

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA), under the directives of its Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, has taken a significant step towards modernization by officially launching its Technology and Digitalization Wing block.

This milestone marks a new era in the Authority's operations as it transitions to a corporate model and collaborative working culture, aiming to streamline services and enhance efficiency, said a press release.

On the occasion of the launch, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said the future of public service delivery lies in embracing modern technology and

adopting corporate best practices.

As part of this initiative, the newly established Technology and Digitalization Wing block, has been made operational.

This block is equipped with state-of-the-art hardware and software to enhance efficiency. A corporate-style work environment has been introduced, featuring open desks work environment and an open-door policy to enhance efficiency and transparency.

The implementation of this modern technology is part of a broader initiative aimed at increasing transparency in office operations and improving overall performance.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers preparing ground for planting saplings on green belt area at Rawal Chowk.

## SHO Sangjani jailed for unlawful detention of citizens without charges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police arrested Station House Officer (SHO) Asim Ali Zaidi of Sangjani police station on Saturday for illegally detaining two citizens without filing any case against them.

According to a police spokesperson, SHO Asim Zaidi had unlawfully detained two Kashmiri citizens, Shahbaz Sharif and Muhammad Saeed, at the Sangjani police station.

He said that the SHO kept the individuals in custody for 19 days without filing any charges. According to the FIR (First Information Report), a case has been registered against SHO Asim Zaidi under Section

342 of the Pakistan Penal Code, which pertains to wrongful confinement, and C-155 of the Police Order, following a report by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Tarnol Circle Anwar Ahmed.

The police spokesperson emphasized that the ICT Police strictly adheres to a system of self-accountability. He said following his arrest, the SHO was presented in court, where the police requested his judicial remand.

Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Azhar Nadeem approved the request and ordered that the accused SHO Asim Ali Zaidi be sent to jail on judicial remand, he added.

## Jazz's employees participate in cleanup campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, organized a beach cleanup at Clifton Beach, Karachi, on World Cleanup Day. The initiative, aligned with Jazz's ESG agenda, aimed to raise awareness about marine pollution and encourage the protection of marine ecosystems, with employees actively participating to promote a cleaner environment, said a news release.

This year's World Cleanup Day, themed

'Make Room For Life,' emphasizes the urgent need to tackle global waste and marine debris. With 80% of ocean pollution from land-based sources, over 10 million metric tons of plastic enter the oceans annually, threatening marine life and ecosystems, and introducing harmful microplastics into the food chain.

Syed Fakhar Ahmed, Jazz's Chief Corporate & Regulatory Affairs Officer, stated, "Jazz's commitment to environmental sustainability drives us to combat marine pollution actively."



ISLAMABAD: A truck art painter working near Mandi Morr in the Federal Capital.

## Cycling for Peace: NACTA's rally inspires community spirit on Peace Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a spirited celebration of International Peace Day, the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) on Saturday hosted a Peace Cycling Rally that not only promoted harmony but also fostered a sense of community across diverse groups. Themed "Cultivating Culture for Peace," the event drew together cyclists of all ages, families, and differently-abled individuals, transforming the streets into a lively demonstration of solidarity and hope.

Starting at F-9 Jinnah Park, the rally attracted enthusiastic participants, each pedaling with purpose. NACTA's Director General, Saleha Zakir Shah, addressed the crowd, under-

scoring the essential role of collective action in fostering a peaceful society. "Peace is the cornerstone of development," she asserted, urging all citizens to actively contribute to a harmonious Pakistan. She highlighted NACTA's commitment to promoting positive initiatives that reflect the country's true identity on the global stage. "Together, we can cultivate a culture of peace and resilience," she added.

The rally not only celebrated the ideals of peace and harmony but also showcased inclusivity. Participants included individuals from various backgrounds and abilities, with special recognition given to differently-abled cyclists

for their inspiring contributions. The presence of senior NACTA officials, including Senior Analyst Adnan Khaliq Bhatti and other team members, further emphasized the event's significance.

As the rally progressed through the city, the energy was palpable. Families riding side by side, children laughing, and community members cheering each other on painted a picture of unity and collective purpose. Local schools and community organizations participated, bringing banners and art displays that showcased messages of peace and collaboration.

The route wound through some of Islamabad's most pictur-

esque areas, creating an inviting atmosphere for on-lookers who joined in the festivities. Along the way, participants stopped to engage with local residents, sharing stories and exchanging ideas on how to foster peace within their neighborhoods. This interaction added an organic layer to the event, turning it into a moving dialogue about community and coexistence.

The event culminated in a heartfelt ceremony where honorary certificates and caps were awarded to participants, acknowledging their commitment to peace and community engagement. Local artists also performed music that resonated with themes of unity

and hope, further enriching the experience.

Attendees expressed appreciation for NACTA's initiative, noting its positive impact on enhancing security and promoting understanding among diverse communities.

"Events like this remind us of our shared values and the importance of standing together," said one participant, reflecting the sentiment of many.

As the sun set over Islamabad, the cycling rally left behind not just a message of peace but also a renewed commitment among citizens to work together for a brighter, more harmonious future. Through initiatives like this, NACTA continues to lead the way

in building a secure and united Pakistan, one pedal at a time.

This rally stands as a testament to the power of community engagement in fostering peace. As participants returned home, many carried with them not just certificates, but a sense of responsibility and optimism. The ripple effect of such gatherings can ignite movements, proving that when people come together, they can create lasting change.

NACTA's commitment to peace extends beyond a single event; it is a call to action for all citizens to embrace their role in nurturing a culture of peace that resonates throughout Pakistan and beyond.





## Tanveer initiates process to enhance provincial coord. for SMEs development

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain has initiated a process to enhance coordination with provincial governments for equitable development of the SMEs across the country as per advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. In this regard, he held a meeting with Punjab government's Industries department at PCOM, according to a SMEDA spokesman here Saturday. The meeting was also attended by Ehsan Bhutta, Secretary Industries Punjab, and Ms. Saira Umar, Managing Director PSIC, from the Punjab government. The minister was accompanied by Saif Anjum, Federal Secretary Industries and Production and Socrat Aman Rana, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA. A number of the other senior officers including GM SMEDA Ms. Saleha Saeed and Ms. Nadia Jehangir Seth. Addressing the meeting, the federal minister said that that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) plays a crucial role in the economy of any country, contributing significantly to employment generation, economic growth, innovation, and social stability. SMEs are essential drivers of economic development, job creation, innovation, and social progress. The Small Medium Enterprises have momentous role in economic development of the country. Small businesses can play a key role in shaping the national growth strategy, he said,

adding the development and progress of Small Medium Enterprises are top priority of the current government. The government is determined to maintain equitable development of SMEs in all provinces of the country that is why a coordination process has been initiated with provinces on direction of the PM, he said and assured that the government will facilitate and incentivize SMEs to achieve optimal economic growth in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairs the virtual meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) at the Finance Division.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani presides over the meeting to review production of Tomato and Onion at Agriculture House Lahore. Punjab Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahoo is also present.

## ICCI elects Nasir Mansoor Qureshi as President

ISLAMABAD (APP): The election for the office bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) was held at Chamber House on Saturday in which Nasir Mansoor Qureshi was elected as President, Abdul Rahman Siddiqui, Senior Vice President and Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, as Vice President.

All the candidates were elected unopposed and will formally take over the charge of their offices on October 1, 2024, said a news release. Speaking at the occasion, the newly elected President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said that he would strive hard for the progress and prosperity of business community by focusing on resolving its issues. He said that the liaison with business related government departments and other relevant organizations would be further strengthened to address the

## Rana reviews GMO Soybean production in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Food Security, Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Saturday chaired a meeting to review genetically modified organisms (GMO) soybean production and export in the country.

He said that genetically modified seed has several benefits however it also has some drawbacks.

Currently, these seeds are used for only cotton production across the country.

The issue of GMO production is under consideration in Cabinet, the minister said highlighting that the Ministry of Food Security has no obstacles to importing GMO soybean, however the Ministry of Climate Change has some reservations.

He said that a committee of the cabinet will be formed to consult the issue with the Climate Ministry and other stakeholders stressing the need to thoroughly evaluate all aspects before making such decision.

## Shopkeepers fined for hoarding, profiteering

MUZAFARGARH (APP): District administration raided and fined Rs2 million on shopkeepers over violations including hoarding, profiteering and adulteration during September.

Under directions of Deputy Commissioner Mian Usman Ali, action is being taken across the district against profiteering, hoarding, and adulteration. According to a report issued by the Deputy Commissioner's office, a total of Rs2 million fine was imposed during the current month for violations such as profiteering, hoarding, and not displaying the official price list prominently. Out of this, Rs159,000 was fined for overcharging on bread, while over Rs 1.8 million was collected for overpricing other food items.

## CCoSOEs approves reconstitution of PRAL's Board of Directors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) on Saturday approved the summary of the Revenue Division regarding the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of Pakistan Revenue Automation private limited (PRAL) as per terms specified under the State Owned Enterprises Act 2023.

The meeting was met under the chairmanship of Minister for Finance and

Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb (virtual), said a news release.

Earlier, the meeting considered the recommendation of five majority independent directors and four ex-officio members by the Board Nominations Committee as per Section (1) of Section 10 of the Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2023. The meeting was told that all the five members

## BISP releases quarterly tranche in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): The Benazir Income Support Program Sargodha district has released the quarterly tranche for September-December 2024 for registered beneficiaries.

Deputy Director Raazia Asim told media that 72,335 beneficiaries in Sargodha city and 165,183 beneficiaries in Sargodha district would get BISP payments of Rs10,500 each. She said that the payment process had been started and five camp sites



RAWALPINDI: Workers shoveling coal at Hamilton Road for customers at a coal yard.

## FBR sets Sept 30 deadline for income tax returns, no extension to be granted: Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Spokesperson Bakhtiar Muhammad Saturday cautioned citizens against last-minute rush, advising them to file their income tax returns well before the September 30 deadline and emphasized that no extensions will be granted.

Talking to a private news channel, Bakhtiar Muhammad urged taxpayers to submit their taxes on time to boost Pakistan's economy. By doing so, the government aims to promote a culture of tax compliance, which is crucial for the country's economic stability and growth.

Responding to a query, he said that FBR is committed to improving the capability of our tax system through the application of modern techniques. This includes leveraging data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) to identify and combat tax evasion, upgrading tax infrastructure, and enhancing audit and verification processes, he added. To support taxpayers, the FBR is providing assistance and simplifying tax laws and procedures, he said.

The Iris portal, a user-friendly tax filing system, is a key initiative in this effort, he said, adding that the FBR is focused on building a motivated, satisfied.



ISLAMABAD: A laborer busy in loading sugarcane on delivery truck at Vegetable and Fruit Market in Federal Capital.

## Chief Secretary assures business community of addressing infrastructure

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah has reaffirmed the Sindh government's strong commitment to improving Hyderabad's infrastructure and fostering a business-friendly environment during his address to representatives of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI). The chamber's President Farooq Shaikhani informed in a statement issued here on Saturday that during his recent visit, the CS announced a comprehensive development package of Rs5 billion for Hyderabad.

He added that the package aimed at resolving long-standing issues related to water supply, sewerage, and road infrastructure, all of which were critical for boosting the city's economy. The CS further instructed the Managing Director of SITE Limited to allocate 1,000 acres of land for a new industrial zone and to also submit a progress report about the 300-acre SITE phase II project. Shaikhani apprised that Shah also revealed that Rs1.1 billion had already been released for the restoration of SITE Hyderabad's infrastructure, particularly roads and sewerage systems, which would soon be received by the SITE management.

## CCP scrutinizes misleading discount advertisements

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), while taking action against retailers advertising discounts as "up to a percentage" during the "End of Season Sales" issued notices to 20 brands, seeking clarification on their potentially misleading discount practices. Such unspecified discount offers are akin to "Bait and Switch Advertising" defined as a tactic to mislead buyers, whereby a seller advertises an appealing but spurious offer to sell a product or service that the seller does not actually intend to sell, said a news release.

Instead, the seller offers an unwanted alternative which is prohibited under Section 10 of the Act as Deceptive Marketing Practices. Market Intelligence Unit/Office of Fair Trade of the CCP conducted a random survey in the twin cities and identified various brands offering discounts "Up to Some Percentage" on their products. The survey revealed that maximum (upper limit) discount was being offered on a small collection of least attractive articles and the

most popular and frequently purchased items were available with minimal or no discount. Consequently, a clear gap was observed between the advertised discounts and the real offers, compelling the customers to ask multiple questions to determine the actual discounts available on their chosen items. Some of the brands were, however, offering flat discounts or concessions (discounts up to some upper limit) with adequate disclosures/disclaimers i.e. on the entire/limited or specified stock which is highly appreciated by the CCP. The Commission advises various consumer brands offering discounts to preclude distributing any misleading information and ensure clear and adequate disclosures regarding actual and discounted prices with the details of the stock on offer with flat or differential discounts. Undertakings, Brands and outlets violating this directive may face enforcement action by the CCP under Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010. Similarly, consumers are also advised to exercise vigilance.



GUJRANWALA: Members of Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry gather for casting their votes during Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry Election 2024-25, held at GCCI premises in Gujranwala.

## Gold rates increase further by Rs.500 per tola to Rs.272,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs.272,500 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs.272,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.429 to Rs.233,625 from Rs.233,196 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.214,156 from Rs.213,763, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950 and Rs.2,529.14, respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$10 to \$2,622 from \$2,612, the Association reported.

## SNGPL cuts off eight more connections over violations

MULTAN (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) task force disconnected eight more meters.

In the light of the directions of the General Manager SNGPL UFG Control Task Force, operations are underway on a daily basis.

## Citizens appreciate govt's move to lower fuel prices

SARGODHA (APP): Citizens showered praise on the government's recent decision to reduce petrol prices by Rs13 and diesel prices by Rs10 and termed it a huge relief for the public. With the hopes of the decrease providing a much-needed respite from inflation, individuals such as Saad Qureshi, Shahid Bhutta, Nauman Malik, Waleed Qureshi, Salman Jandran, and many others voiced their appreciation for this move.

The decision to slash fuel prices has been met with widespread acclaim. Citizens believe that this significant reduction in petrol prices translate into tangible benefits for lowering transport fares, making it easier for people to commute and travel. Furthermore, the ripple effect of this reduction in transportation costs is expected to have a positive impact on the prices of everyday essentials. Citizens are now urging the government to take swift action in conducting more magistrate's raids on local bazaars to lower the prices of daily necessities. Additionally, they emphasize the importance of stringent oversight by the Regional Transport Authority to ensure that the recent reduction in petrol prices translate into tangible benefits for the general public.

## Bullish week: PSX soars 2,741 points to historic high of 82,074

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) benchmark (KSE-100) index experienced a significant surge this week, closing at 82,074 points, an increase of 2,741 points or 3.5% week-on-week.

This bullish trend of PSX was driven by optimism surrounding the anticipated approval of a \$7 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with the IMF Executive Board scheduled to meet on September 25, according to AHL research. Additionally, a 50 basis points rate cut by the Federal Reserve boosted market participation across Asian markets, including Pakistan. Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) output saw a year-on-year increase of 2.4% in July 2024, although it decreased by 2.1% on a month-on-month basis.



SUKKUR: Labours busy generating cotton and their work to earn their livelihood for support their families, at workplace as the demand of cotton for making warm clothes increased in city due arrive of winter season while the cotton generators are facing severe losses due to low production in all the districts of Sindh, in Sukkur.

# Ukraine says Russia is planning strikes on nuclear facilities

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine's foreign minister said on Saturday that Russia is planning strikes on Ukrainian nuclear facilities before the winter, and urged the UN's nuclear watchdog and Ukraine's allies to establish permanent monitoring missions at the country's nuclear plants.

"According to Ukrainian intelligence, (the) Kremlin is preparing strikes on Ukrainian nuclear energy critical objects ahead of winter," Foreign Minister Andriy Sybaha wrote on X.

"In particular, it concerns open distribution devices at (nuclear power plants and) transmission substations, critical for the safe operation of nuclear energy," Sybaha did not elaborate on why Kyiv believed such strikes were being prepared.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow. The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Ukrainian president's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, called for a swift global response to the purported threat of a strike on a nuclear facility.

"This is preparation for a possible nuclear disaster scenario. Russia is a terrorist," he wrote on Telegram. "They must be stopped here and now. The countries of the West and the Global South must react harshly to preparations for terror."

Russia has been waging an aerial bombardment campaign on Ukraine's power grid since autumn 2022 after invading the country earlier that year.

It has damaged or destroyed most of Ukraine's thermal power generating capacity and has sometimes hit dams, but has not yet struck any Ukrainian-controlled nuclear facilities.

Ukraine has previously accused Russia of nuclear blackmail after Russian forces occupied the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, in March 2022, early on in the invasion.

Moscow denies that allegation.

Both sides have regularly accused each other of shelling areas next to the plant, which has on several occasions cut power lines to the plant, increasing the chance of a blackout that could cause a nuclear accident. IAEA head Rafael Grossi has visited Ukraine and Russia several times throughout the war and has urged the sides not to engage each other near nuclear facilities.

"I think it is always a risk when there is a possibility of an attack on a nuclear power plant," he said on a visit to Kyiv at the beginning of September.



BEIRUT: People inspect the damage at the scene of an Israeli strike in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital.

# Nasrallah vows revenge amid Israeli bombing in Lebanon

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Israel bombed Lebanon, after two waves of explosions targeted its communications systems, killing at least 37 people across the country.

On Thursday, the Israeli military claimed it struck six Hezbollah "infrastructure sites" and a weapons storage facility overnight in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon's National News Agency also reported Israeli strikes and shelling on several towns in the south. Meanwhile, panicked Lebanese have tossed power banks, or sleep with mobile phones in another room after handheld devices used by Hezbollah operatives detonated two days in a row.

Scenes of carnage circulating on social media, which shocked many in Lebanon, showed injured, bloodied people lying in the street or falling to the ground after explosions in shops. Doctors in Lebanon told AFP of horrific eye injuries and finger amputations caused by the blasts.

On Thursday, Lebanese authorities prohibited passengers travelling from Beirut airport from "transporting any pager or walkie-talkie device aboard planes". Schools and universities were closed on Wednesday following the initial blasts, but they reopened on Thursday, with people on edge.

# Iran unveils new drone, missile amid rising tensions

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran unveiled a new ballistic missile and an upgraded one-way attack drone at a military parade on Saturday, state media said, amid soaring regional tensions and allegations of arming Russia.

Iran stands accused by Western governments of supplying both drones and missiles to Russia for use in its war with Ukraine, a charge it has repeatedly denied. The solid-fuel Jihad missile was designed and manufactured by the aerospace arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and has an operational range of 1,000 kilometres, state news agency IRNA said.

The Shahed-136B drone is an upgraded version of the Shahed-136, with new features and an operational range of more than 4,000 kilometres, it added. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the annual parade in Tehran, commemorating the 1980-88 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

# Russia and China start naval exercises in Sea of Japan

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia and China started naval exercises in the Sea of Japan on Saturday, Russian news agencies cited Russia's Pacific Fleet as saying.

"A joint detachment of warships of the Pacific Fleet and Chinese Navy set out from Vladivostok to conduct the joint Russian-Chinese 'Beibu/Interaction - 2024' naval exercise," the RIA news agency quoted the Pacific Fleet as saying.

The exercises will include anti-aircraft and anti-submarine weapons, RIA reported.

# Sri Lanka votes for new president with economic future at stake

**Monitoring Desk**  
COLOMBO: Sri Lankans voted on Saturday in an election to pick a president who will face the task of bolstering the country's fragile economic recovery following its worst financial crisis in decades.

The election is predicted to be a close contest between President Ranil Wickremesinghe, main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and Marxist-leaning challenger Anura Kumara Dissanayake. Dissanayake narrowly led in one recent opinion poll.

Voting closed at 4pm local time and counting started afterwards, with results expected to be announced by the Election Commission on Sunday.

Postal votes were to be counted first, senior commission official Saman Sri Ratnayake, told Reuters.

The country's election system allows voters to cast three preferential votes for their chosen candidates.

If no candidate wins 50 per cent in the first count, a second round of counting determines the winner between the two top candidates, using the preferential votes.

# Britain's debt hits 100pc of economic output

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British government debt hit 100 per cent of economic output for the first time in recent history and there was another large budget deficit last month, adding to the problems for Finance Minister Rachel Reeves as she readies her tax and spending plans.

Public sector net debt, excluding public sector-owned banks, rose to 100 per cent of GDP for the first time since monthly records began in 1993, up from 99.3 per cent in July, the Office for National Statistics said on Friday.



US Secret Service Acting Director Ronald Rowe speaks during a press conference in Washington DC, US.

# Zelenskyy to meet Biden, Harris as Ukraine pushes US to loosen restrictions on long-range weapons

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will travel to Washington next Thursday for talks with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris as he presses for the U.S. to allow Ukraine to use Western-provided weapons to strike deeper into Russia.

"I'm looking forward to hosting my friend President Zelenskyy of Ukraine next week at the White House," Biden said in a message posted on X. "During his visit, I'll reaffirm America's commitment to supporting Ukraine as it defends its freedom and independence."

The Biden administration still is not convinced that it should give Ukraine the authority to launch long-range missiles deeper into Russia, and U.S. officials say they are seeking more detailed information about how Kyiv would use the weapons and how they fit into the broader strategy for the war.

U.S. officials said they have asked Ukraine to spell out more clearly its combat objectives should the administration green light loosening restrictions on long-range weaponry. Administration officials are concerned that loosening restrictions would have limited impact and come with great risk. Russian President Vladimir Putin last week warned that Russia would be "at war" with the United States and its NATO allies if they allow Ukraine to use the long-range weapons. U.S. defense officials have repeatedly argued that the long-range missiles are limited in number and that Ukraine already is using its own long-range drones.

# First-time asylum seekers in EU drop by 17% in June

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: First-time applications from people seeking asylum in European Union countries declined in June, with Syrians, Venezuelans, and Afghans being the primary applicants, a report from the statistics agency Eurostat showed on Friday.

Eurostat reported 70,375 first-time asylum requests from non-EU citizens across the bloc's 27 countries, a decrease of 17% compared to June 2023.

Syrians remained the largest share of applicants, accounting for 12% in June, followed by Venezuelans and Afghans, accounting for 9% and 8% respectively.

Of those applications, more than three quarters were received by Germany, Spain, Italy, and France, while 2.9% were made by unaccompanied minors, Eurostat said.

However, applications submitted to Germany in June 2024 dropped by 27% to 16,770 compared with the same period last year.

# Philippines eyes future missile launchers purchase to retain US Typhon system

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The Philippines hopes to procure mid-range capability missiles in future and wants to utilise a US-deployed Typhon system for its military training, with no immediate plan for it to be returned, a top security official said on Friday.

Confirming an earlier report by Reuters, Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said there was no set timeline for the withdrawal of the United States' mid-range missile system from the country, which China has demanded to be pulled out citing risks of a geopolitical confrontation.

Reuters reported on Thursday the United States was testing the feasibility of the missile system's use in a regional conflict and has no immediate plans to take it back.

It was sent to the northern Philippines in April as part of the two defence allies' joint military drills, in what was its first deployment in the Indo-Pacific region, though no missiles were launched during the exercises.

"We don't have a timeline," Ano told reporters when asked how long the Typhon system would remain in the Philippines, noting that a panel comprised of officials of both countries would decide its future. "No plans to pull it out yet."

"There will be consultation, but for now we need the ... Typhon missile launcher for our training and upgrading of the capabilities of our armed forces," Ano added.

# Fear, panic haunt Lebanese after devices explode

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Some panic-stricken Lebanese have tossed power banks, or sleep with mobile phones in another room, after handheld devices used by Hezbollah operatives detonated two days in a row, killing 37 people.

"What happened in the last two days is so frightening. It's terrifying," Lina Ismail told AFP by phone from the eastern city of Baalbek where some of the explosions occurred.

"We were so scared that we dismantled the inverter (a component inside solar energy systems) and turned off the device," she said.



Bavar missiles are displayed during the annual military parade marking the anniversary of the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in Tehran.

# Taiwan court rules death penalty constitutional but only for most serious crimes

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Taiwan's constitutional court ruled on Friday that the death penalty is constitutional but only for the most serious crimes with the most rigorous legal scrutiny, after considering a petition brought by 37 people who are on death row. Despite Taiwan's reputation as Asia's most liberal democracy, the death penalty remains broadly popular according to opinion polls, though in recent years it has only rarely been carried out and violent crime is relatively low. The court, which began hearing the case in April, ruled that though the right to life should be protected, such protections are "not absolute," judge Hsu Tzong-li said.

Rights groups in Taiwan, which was under martial law until 1987, said while there were some positives in the ruling, Taiwan needed to put an end to all executions. "When will Taiwan finally abolish the death penalty? The road ahead will be even more difficult," said the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty.

# Ghana's electoral commission approves 13 candidates to run for president

**Monitoring Desk**  
ACCRA: Ghana's electoral commission has approved 13 candidates, including Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia and former president John Dramani Mahama, to contest a presidential poll set for Dec. 7, a top elections authority official said on Friday.

The commission said it had also accepted the candidacies of Alan John Kwadwo Kyerematen, a former trade and industry minister who resigned from the ruling party to contest as an independent candidate.

# Turkey wants to regulate Germany's beloved döner kebab street food

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: Beef and chicken glisten as they rotate slowly on vertical spits before they are carved off in razor-thin strips. Two cooks slide from a sizzling griddle to a warm toaster in a practiced dance. Mounds of fresh tomatoes, cabbage and red onions shine in a colorful tableau.

The scene at Kebap With Attitude in Berlin's trendy Mitte neighborhood is typical of any street-side stand or restaurant where cooks pile the ingredients into pita bread to create the city's beloved döner kebab.

But the snack's status could be in jeopardy if the European Commission approves a bid by Turkey to regulate what can legally take the döner kebab name.

In the balance is an industry that generates annual sales of roughly 2.3 billion euros (nearly \$2.6 billion) in Germany alone, and 3.5 billion euros (nearly \$3.9 billion) across Europe, according to the Berlin-based Association of Turkish Döner Producers in Europe.

"From the government to the streets, everyone is eating döner kebab," Deniz Buchholz, the owner of Kebap With Attitude, said as waiters ferried steaming orders from the kitchen to hungry lunchtime customers on a rainy Monday afternoon.

# Ukraine joins NATO drill to test anti-drone systems

**Monitoring Desk**  
VREDEPEEL: NATO concluded a major anti-drone exercise this week, with Ukraine taking part for the first time as the Western alliance seeks to learn urgently from the rapid development and widespread use of unmanned systems in the war there.

The drills at a Dutch military base, involving more than 20 countries and some 50 companies, tested cutting-edge systems to detect and counter drones and assessed how they work together.

The 11-day exercise ended with a demonstration of jamming and hacking drones in a week when their critical role in the Ukraine war was demonstrated once again.

On Wednesday, a large Ukrainian drone attack triggered an earthquake-sized blast at a major Russian arsenal. The following day, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was ramping up drone production tenfold to nearly 1.4 million this year.

The proliferation of drones in the war — to destroy targets and survey the battlefield — has prompted NATO to increase its focus on the threat they could pose to the alliance.

"NATO takes this threat very, very seriously," said Matt Roper, chief of the Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Centre at the alliance's technology agency.

"This is not a domain we can afford to sit back and be passive on," he said at the exercise site, Lieutenant General Best Barracks in the east of The Netherlands.

# Components for pagers used in Lebanon blasts are not from Taiwan, minister says

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Components used in thousands of pagers that detonated on Tuesday in Lebanon in a deadly blow to Hezbollah were not made in Taiwan, Taiwan's economy minister said on Friday.

Taiwan-based Gold Apollo said this week it did not manufacture the devices used in the attack, and that Budapest-based company BAC to which the pagers were traced has a license to use its brand.

It was not clear how or when the pagers were weaponised so they could be remotely detonated. The same applied to the hundreds of hand-held radios used by Hezbollah that exploded on Wednesday in a second wave of attacks. The two incidents killed 37 people and wounded about 3,000 in Lebanon.

"The components are (mainly) low-end IC (integrated circuits) and batteries," Taiwan's Economy Minister Kuo Jyh-huei told reporters. When he was pressed on whether the parts in the pagers that exploded were made in Taiwan, he said, "I can say with certainty they were not made in Taiwan," adding the case is being investigated by judicial authorities.

Security sources said Israel was responsible for the pager explosions on Tuesday that raised the stakes in a growing conflict between the two sides. Israel has not directly commented on the attacks.

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung, also speaking to reporters at parliament, answered "no" when asked if he met with the de facto Israeli ambassador to express concern about the case.

"We are asking our missions abroad to raise their security awareness and will exchange relevant information with other countries." As Taiwanese authorities look into any potential link between its sprawling global tech supply chains and the devices used in the attacks in Lebanon, Gold Apollo's president and founder, Hsu Ching-kuang, was questioned by prosecutors late into the night on Thursday.

# China, Japan agree Fukushima discharge plan, paving way to restart seafood trade

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: China and Japan reached an agreement over the discharge of wastewater from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant, the two governments said on Friday, paving the way for a restart of seafood shipments from Japan to China.

Beijing banned purchases of seafood originating in Japan about a year ago citing the risk of radioactive contamination after Tokyo Electric Power started releasing treated water from the Fukushima plant into the Pacific Ocean.

Under the agreement, Japan would establish a long-term international monitoring arrangement and allow stakeholders to conduct independent sampling and monitoring.

"We conveyed that we are ready to conduct additional monitoring on the treated water," Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters.

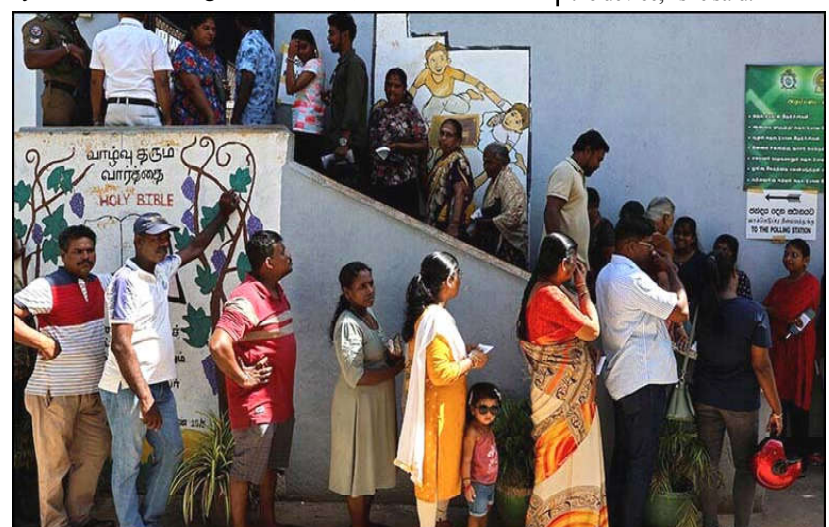
"China in turn said it would begin to revisit its import restrictions on Japanese marine products, and will steadily increase imports for products that meet Chinese standards."

The Chinese criteria that the Japanese products must meet are not country-specific and apply to all imports, he added.

Before the ban, China was the biggest market for Japanese seafood exports. Japan's exports of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products in the first half of 2024 fell for the first time since 2020, hit by China's ban.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, however, that the agreement did not mean an immediate resumption of imports and that Beijing remains opposed to the discharge of the water from Fukushima. "We will carry out technical consultations with the Japanese side and gradually resume the import of Japanese aquatic products," she told a regular press conference in Beijing.

Japan has maintained that the water release is safe, noting the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has also concluded the impact it would have on people and the environment was "negligible". Japan's position that the ban must be lifted immediately likewise remains unchanged, foreign ministry official Hiroyuki Namazu said at a briefing following Kishida's announcement.



Voters queue outside a polling station to vote on the day of the presidential election, in Colombo.

## Bilawal reaffirms party's commitment to justice and democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed the party's commitment to the ideals of peace, justice, democracy and human dignity.

In a message on the occasion of International Peace Day, he stressed that peace is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, equality, and respect for human rights.

"True peace can only be achieved when every individual, regardless of their background or beliefs, is treated with fairness and dignity," he said. He highlighted that Pakistan, as a nation, has faced challenges in its pursuit of peace, both domestically and internationally, but has remained resilient in its quest to build a harmonious and prosperous society.

"PPP has always been at the forefront of advocat-

ing for peace, dialogue, and reconciliation, values that were championed by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto," he added.

Bilawal Bhutto also acknowledged this year's United Nations theme for International Peace Day, "Cultivating a Culture of Peace". He urged the global community to work together in addressing shared challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, which are critical to fostering lasting peace.

"Peace is interconnected with development, and the sustainable progress of any nation depends on the well-being of its people and the fairness of its systems," he said.

He also cautioned the international community that the ongoing Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kash-

mir (IIOJK) and the Israeli brutality in Palestine pose a grave threat to global peace and stability.

He further emphasized that in today's world, emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, must be governed ethically and responsibly to ensure that they contribute to peace and do not exacerbate inequality or conflict. "It is vital that we use technology as a force for good, promoting transparency, justice, and inclusivity," he remarked.

Bilawal Bhutto calling on all citizens of Pakistan to contribute to the peaceful development of society.

"Let us honor this International Peace Day by standing firm in our resolve to build a Pakistan where peace, justice, democracy, and human dignity prevail, and where every citizen can live without fear or oppression," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti cutting cake on eve of 36th birthday of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

### Munir Akram says

## Pakistan committed to dialogue with Taliban despite differences

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram, stated that Pakistan remains committed to maintaining its ties with the Taliban, despite any differences.

Speaking in an interview with a US broadcaster, Munir emphasised that the mistakes of the Afghan government should not be borne by the Afghan people, highlighting Pakistan's enduring relationship with its neighbour.

Munir pointed out that Pakistan has always supported engagement with Afghanistan, stressing that diplomacy aims to transform situations through dialogue and policy.

He reiterated that while the Taliban's mistakes are recognised, Pakistan fears that the

Afghanistan's internal and external issues require a joint strategy and collective efforts.

Therefore, ambassador Munir Akram, raised alarms at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) regarding the increasing terrorist threat emanating from Afghanistan.

He emphasised that the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a terrorist group which Pakistan refers to as Fitna al-Khawarij, is rapidly expanding its influence with the support of the Afghan interim government.

Backed by the Taliban, these terrorists are equipped with advanced weaponry and increasingly collaborate with other insurgent factions, including secessionist groups like the Majeed Brigade.

Pakistan fears that the

TTP's growing alliance with Al-Qaeda could soon elevate it to a central role in regional and global terrorist activities.

The ambassador also stressed Pakistan's readiness to collaborate with regional and international bodies to curb this growing menace, as Islamabad continues its nationwide crackdown on Fitna al-Khawarij.

Furthermore, the ambassador criticised the Afghan interim government for its ongoing human rights abuses, particularly against women and girls.

He condemned Kabul's failure to uphold promises regarding gender equality, highlighting that these regressive policies not only contravene Islamic values but also hinder Afghanistan's potential for international engagement.

## Pak, China strengthen energy partnership at Silk Route Expo

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Saturday led a delegation of Pakistani energy companies to the 8th Silk Route Expo, fostering collaborations with Chinese counterparts to boost Pakistan's energy sector.

During a series of roundtable meetings, Dr Malik met with representatives from leading Chinese companies, including the Shaanxi Energy Bureau, Yanchang Petroleum Group, Hua Lu Engineering and Technology Group, Shanghai Electric, Shaanxi Blower Group, China Typical Group and Hangzhou Maibao Import & Export Company Limited at the Pakistan Pavilion, set up for the Expo in Xian, China.

Pakistani companies, including Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL), Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited

(FFC) and the Thar Coal Energy Board, showcased investment opportunities at the Expo said a news release.

Opening the discussion forum, the minister outlined the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and assured the Chinese companies that Pakistan would provide maximum facilitation in partnering with Pakistani firms, whether individually or in consortia.

During the meeting, key areas of partnership including oil and gas exploration, refinery upgrades, coal conversion and regasification were discussed.

Dr Musadik Malik emphasized that Pakistan has one of the largest coal reserves and is committed to adding value to its natural resources while ensuring environmental protection.

He also highlighted the country's focus on producing fertilizer using coal-based energy.



Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik met the Governor Mr. Zhao Gang of Shaanxi province in Xian.

## AJK PM says: Ongoing AJK-based hydroelectric power projects to open new vistas to consumers

MIRPUR (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhary Anwar ul Haq said that since hydropower was the most important sector in Azad Jammu Kashmir, the state government was paying special attention to the speedy uplift of this sector.

Addressing a meeting of the Board of Directors of Azad Kashmir Power Development Organization (PDO) held at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis late Friday, the AJK Prime Minister said that early completion of the ongoing hydroelectric power projects would not only be instrumental in providing electricity facilities to the consumers at large but also helpful in generating revenue for the state.

The meeting was attended by Minister Power Development Organization Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed, Chief Secretary

Azad Kashmir Dawood Muhammad Barich, Additional Chief Secretary Development Atif Rehman, Secretary Finance Islam Zeb, Senior Member Board of Revenue Zaheer ul din Qureshi, Secretary Law, and Managing Director PDO.

Many important decisions were taken in the meeting, which included conditional approval for payment of salaries to the PDO employees and approval for the establishment of the reforms committee.

The reforms committee, formed under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary Development, was primarily mandated with the task of submitting comprehensive recommendations to the board within two weeks with reference to all other matters, including the structure, budget, income, expenditure, and rules of the PDO.



QUETTA: Director Abul Hassan Amiri addressing Eid Milad-e-Nabi (SAWW) and Hafta Wahdat Conference organized by Khana Farang-e-Iran.

## Kashmiris continue to suffer under Indian occupation as world observes day of peace

ISLAMABAD (INP): As the world observes the International Day of Peace, the situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) stands in stark contrast, marred by ongoing Indian state terrorism that fosters a climate of fear and oppression.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service in connection with the day on Saturday, revealed that for the past 77 years, the people of IIOJK have endured severe brutality at the hands of Indian forces. The report highlights that Indian troops routinely employ brutal tactics, including torture, against the Kashmiris.

Since the abrogation of Article 370, IIOJK has been subjected to an intensified military siege, with the RSS-backed Modi government effectively trans-

forming the territory into a vast concentration camp. Over 5,000 Kashmiris, including APHC top leaders, activists, women, youth and journalists, are currently languishing in illegal detention in jails both in IIOJK and India.

The report asserts that Indian troops, paramilitary forces, and police personnel are involved in widespread war crimes in IIOJK, characterizing the area as the biggest open-air prison on earth. Caged and suppressed, the Kashmiris are left awaiting intervention from the international community.

For over seven decades, Kashmiris have struggled for their legitimate rights, yet India has consistently acted as a barrier to a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

## PR announces reduction in train fares

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Railways has announced a 10% reduction in train fares, effective from September 23.

As per details, the fare cut will apply to all AC classes of express and mail trains, as well as all economy classes of passenger trains.

Earlier, the railway department decided to operate 10 passenger trains under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

According to Pakistan Railways officials, the first phase of the privatisation will commence soon and 10 trains will be handed over to private operators under the PPP mode.

## Jam calls for promoting a peaceful, inclusive, united Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday called for promoting a peaceful, inclusive, and united Pakistan.

He urged to reflect on the true essence of peace—both as individuals and as a nation.

In these challenging times, our country faces not only economic and social difficulties but also the urgent need to heal divisions within our society, he said in a message on International Day of Peace.

Peace is not just a global aspiration; it starts at home, in our communities, and in our daily interactions.



KANDKOT: Amir Ji Hafiz Naemur Rehman addressing sit in against lawlessness.

## DPM chairs meeting of Chairpersons of Boards of Directors of DISCOs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired the meeting of the Chairpersons of the newly constituted Boards of Directors of the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs).

The meeting was also attended by Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari.

The discussions focused on the critically required human resource by the DISCOs.

The chairpersons of

the Boards of Directors were asked to reassess the level of human resource requirements in light of the functional requirements and the principles of outsourcing for maximum efficiencies, reduction in power losses, elimination of line theft and customer care.

They were also urged to look into all those ageing posts which are now redundant. The deputy PM expressed full resolve of the Government to address the issues of governance in the DISCOs.

## Sec. Health inaugurates Center of Excellence in Sandeman Hospital Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Health Department, Muhammad Saleh Baloch inaugurated the Center of Excellence for child care here in the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital on Saturday.

The Director General of Health Services, Dr. Amin Mandokhail, Chief of UNICEF, Dr. Maryam Darvesh, Nutrition Chief of UNICEF, Antone Grama, Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Hospital, Dr. Ishaq Panezai, Director Nutrition Programme, Dr. Naemullah Zarkoon, Deputy Director Nutrition,

Dr. Awais Tareen, and other concerned high ups.

The Secretary Health and other concerned high ups visited the Center of Excellence established with support of UNICEF. They appreciated the initiative of UNICEF and decided to carry on the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Health concerned about the state of malnutrition of children in Balochistan saying that the highest number of children are suffering from malnutrition in the country especially in Balochistan as such there is a need to pay attention on their nutrition.

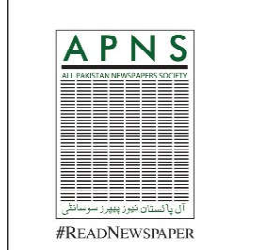
## Asad Qaiser says: Bilawal supporting undemocratic individuals to abolish constitution of 1973

SWABI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader member Asad Qaiser berated Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for supporting undemocratic individuals to abolish constitution of 1973. The PTI leader was referring to the support of

Bilawal Bhutto for the PML-N led incumbent government on proposed constitutional amendment.

Addressing a public gathering in Swabi, Asad Qaiser raised the question on the claims of PPP calling itself champion of democracy, saying he was dismayed at the PPP involvement in the conspiracy. He stressed that grandson of Bhutto Bialwal Bhutto was equally guilty in this conspiracy, supporting undemocratic quarters to nullify the 1973 constitution.

The PTI leader claimed that the coalition government was making efforts to amend Article 8 of the constitution pertaining to fundamental human rights.



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QUETTA: Awami National Party (ANP) Balochistan President, Asghar Khan Achakzai addresses during the condolence reference ceremony on the occasion of death anniversary of the martyred advocate Arbab Ghulam Kasi organized by ANP.

## Dr Affan says: CT scan service started in GDA, Pak China Friendship Hospital

QUETTA (APP): Head of Campus of the hospital Dr. Affan Faizqada on Saturday said that Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Pak China Friendship Hospital has crossed a major milestone by completing the first successful CT scan in the history of Gwadar.

He said that this development is a revolutionary step in the healthcare sector in the region which was awaited for a long time.

He said that named after Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Pak-China Friendship, this hospital is managed by Indus Hospital and Health Network of Sindh province.

Head of Campus of the hospital Dr. Affan Faizqada

termed this successful CT scan as a new chapter for the people of the area.

He said that this facility is a great blessing for the health of the people of the area. He expressed his sincere gratitude to all the experts, technicians, and doctors who contributed to this important achievement.

He also expressed hope that more modern medical facilities will be provided in the future, so that the people of Gwadar could get the best health opportunities.

Public circles have appreciated the initiative of Chief Minister Balochistan, MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman GDA officials and others.



PISHIN: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar inaugurating Gynae Ward and Operation Theater in district headquarter hospital.