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Law Ministry notifies appointment of new CJP

President appoints Justice Yahya Afridi as next CJ of Pakistan

Justice Afridi set to take oath as top judge on October 26 and serve fixed three-year term in office

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday appointed Justice Yahya Afridi, a Supreme Court judge, as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.

The president made the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi for a period of three years with effect from October 26, 2024, according to a President House press release.

The appointment was made in exercise of the powers conferred under Articles 175 A (3), 177 and 179 of the constitution.

President Zardari also approved October 26 as the date for administering the oath of office to Justice Yahya Afridi as the next

Chief Justice of Pakistan. Meanwhile the Ministry of Law and Justice on Wednesday notified the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as Chief Justice of Pakistan for a period of three years.

The notification said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of Article 175 A read with Article 177 and 179 of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to appoint Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Judge of Supreme Court, as Chief Justice of Pakistan, for a term of three years with effect from 26-10-2024.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony held in honour of students of Palestine who recently arrived in Pakistan to complete their medical education.

CM announces 100% increase in dev. funds of local bodies in Balochistan

Mir Sarfraz Bugti emphasizes upon ensuring correct use of resources and prevention of corruption; directs to prepare effective mechanism for prevention of corruption in LG institutions together with Anti-Corruption Establishment

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced to make 100 per cent increase in the development funds of local government institutions in the province.

However, the release of funds would be conditional with performance, asserted the Chief Minister while speaking to the heads of local bodies institutions who called on him here on Wednesday.

The Chairmen of the district councils and municipal corporations and committees from all over the province apprised the Chief Minister about the issues being faced by the respective local government institutions.

The Chief Minister on the occasion issued certain directives to the heads of

local government institutions.

He directed them to monitor the steps taken for prevention of corruption, ensure cleanliness and attendance of the staff in schools and hospitals besides promoting Pakistanianat in their respective areas.

Besides, he directed to ensure correct use of the resources and prevention of corruption anyway.

In addition to this, the Chief Minister directed to formulate effective mechanism for prevention of corruption in the local government institutions together with the Anti-Corruption Establishment.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister directed to the Finance Department to release the funds to the local bodies in two instalments during the financial year.

He insisted that the de-

velopment funds should be seen on the ground.

The audit would be conducted through the neutral third party, he added.

The Chief Minister made it clear that corruption is totally unacceptable and the release of funds would be stopped to the district councils and corporations on the authentic complaints of the corruption and malpractices.

He also directed to formulate the development projects which are compatible with the requirements of general public.

He asked the chairmen to inform the Chief Minister secretary about the absentee staff after visiting the schools and hospitals at the local level. He stressed that the local bodies should play active role for resolving the issues being faced by the people.

PM Shehbaz laments global silence on Gaza, assures Palestinian students of full support in Pakistan

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, while lamenting the silence of the international community to halt genocide in Gaza, assured the Palestinian students of every possible facility and quality education in their 'second home' Pakistan.

Addressing a batch of Palestinian students from the war-torn Gaza, the prime minister said that a batch of 'shining and outstanding students', have now arrived in their second home.

He said the ongoing massacre of Palestinians was known to the entire world. "It is heart-wrenching to watch bru-

talities and atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces on daily basis. They have killed more than 43,000 Palestinians while thousands had been maimed and injured," he added.

The prime minister said that cities after cities had been demolished, buildings razed to the ground and the international community had yet to act, and regretted, "Speeches, resolutions and commitments are still to see the light of the day. Whether these were UNSC resolutions or ICJA' verdict at the Hague, nothing has helped in bringing ceasefire in Gaza where the world had not seen this kind of carnage in the con-

temporary history."

The prime minister recollected that during his participation in the United Nations General Assembly session, they heard speeches after speeches of the world leaders about the plight of the Palestinians and as to how Israeli forces had been committing genocide in this part of the world, but the blood continued to spill on the streets of Gaza, hospitals were smashed, schools bombard and the world was mere a spectator.

The prime minister referred to the international community's interference to bring about peace in different parts of the world including Sudan and Bosnia.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review progress on development projects.

President, PM condemn terrorist attack in Ankara

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Ankara, which resulted in the tragic loss of human lives.

In a statement, President Zardari extended his deepest condolences and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Turkey during this hour of grief.

The President said that Pakistan stood in full solidarity with the Turkish brothers and sisters in this difficult time.

He said, we extend our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in this cowardly attack, and we pray for the swift recovery of the injured.

In a social media on X, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he is deeply shocked and saddened by the terrorist attack in Ankara.

Expressing heartfelt condolences to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the people of Turkey over this tragic act, the Prime Minister said Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with its Turkish brothers.

Shehbaz Sharif prayed for the families of the victims as well as speedy recovery of the injured.

NA session rescheduled to Friday

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly session has been rescheduled to Friday, October 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

The session was originally set for Thursday, October 24, 2024, at the same time.

A notification regarding the change was issued by the National Assembly Secretariat.

Chairs review meeting on progress of PSDP: Approved development projects made part of budget for first time in history; timely completion is next challenge: Sarfraz Bugti

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has categorically stated that we have made the approved development projects part of the budget for first time in the history of the province, and now the timely completion of these projects is our next challenge.

He said that we are determined to complete the development projects timely after ending the tradition of slowness.

He directed to the concerned high ups to ensure approval of pending 360 schemes within next eight days.

He also directed to

complete at least 90 per cent projects out of the proposed projects by the end of financial year if 100 per cent not possible.

In addition to this, the continuity of implementation of the development projects should be maintained anyway, he added.

In this regard, the work should be continued with consultation of the experts during the slag season.

The Chief Minister was addressing the review meeting on progress of the development projects under Provincial Public Sector Development Programme here on Wednesday.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Women Development Saira Atta meeting with Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari.

BUJ hails formation of Right to Information Commission in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Union of Journalists on Wednesday hailed the formation of the Right to Information Commission, Balochistan and the appointment of experienced and working journalist in the commission.

The BUJ President Khalil Ahmed further said that the commission will play a significant role in promoting transparency, accountability, and public's right to information in the province. The Balochistan Union of Journalists termed the initiative of the incumbent government as positive step and demanded that the commission should be granted full independence status and provided resources so that it can perform its duties accordingly.

The BUJ also recommended the journalists to take advantage of this opportunity in order to make use of the RTI laws to get public information.

dence that with the appointment of working journalist, the professional principles would be taken into account in the process of releasing information.

Khalil Ahmed further said that the commission will play a significant role in promoting transparency, accountability, and public's right to information in the province. The Balochistan Union of Journalists termed the initiative of the incumbent government as positive step and demanded that the commission should be granted full independence status and provided resources so that it can perform its duties accordingly.

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ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Turkiye Minister of National Defense Yasar GÜLER.

Naqvi's visit to Turkiye strengthens bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Turkiye's Minister of Defense, Yasar Guler, during his visit to Istanbul on Wednesday.

The meeting, which took place amid the backdrop of the International Expo, underscored the commitment of both nations to strengthen their cooperative relationship across various sectors.

During the meeting, Minister Guler expressed gratitude to Minister Naqvi for participating in the International Expo, highlighting the importance of such events in fostering international partnerships.

In turn, Minister Naqvi extended a formal invitation to Minister Guler to attend the Ideas Expo in Pakistan, which aims to showcase innovation and development in the region.

The discussions fo-

cused on a range of topics of mutual interest, with both ministers emphasizing the critical need to enhance trade and cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye.

They acknowledged the positive momentum of bilateral relations and expressed a shared commitment to explore further avenues for collaboration, particularly in sectors that benefit both countries.

A key topic of discussion was the potential for increasing meat exports from Pakistan to Turkiye. The Turkish side assured Minister Naqvi of their full support for facilitating these exports, reflecting Turkiye's interest in bolstering its trade relations with Pakistan. Minister Naqvi welcomed this offer, noting the importance of agricultural and food products in the broader economic partnership.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Naushervani and Bakht Muhammad Kakar holding a meeting.

Another important milestone achieved: Balochistan Cabinet approves Organic Agriculture Policy 2024

Independent Report

QUETTA: In a significant development and achievement, Balochistan Cabinet approved the Balochistan first-ever Organic Agriculture Policy 2024.

The initiative, which is aimed at promoting economic development and sustainable environmental protection, is the first of its kind introduced in the province.

Needless to mention here is that Balochistan is the first province of the country that has introduced this policy.

The policy is also aimed at promoting the organic agriculture, increasing the biodiversity, protecting food and helping the growers to make compatible with the climatic changes.

In addition to this, millions of dollars could be saved after decreasing dependency on the imports of organic goods.

This policy is based on the successful experiments of cultivation of the organic cotton running with cooperation of the Agriculture department extension and WEF Pakistan. It was run with the help of Ladais Foundation, Sorti Textile, Artistic Fabric, Gul Ahmed and other entities. After approval of the Organic Agriculture Policy, the steps would be expedited for promotion and assistance of the organic agriculture in the province.

The measures are included improvement in the methods of cultivation, promotion of the environment friendly agriculture and establishment of vast standard and value chain so as to motivate the growers community towards the organic agriculture and connect them with the competitive markets at the national and international level.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with Provincial Ministers and MPAs belong to PML-N.

Yahya Afridi holds separate meetings with CJP Isa, Justice Mansoor

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (INP): Designated Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi Wednesday held separate meetings with the incumbent CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa and senior judge, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah in their chambers.

According to sources, the two judges met in Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa's chamber, where the CJP congratulated Justice Yahya Afridi on his appointment.

Additionally, Justice Afridi visited the chamber of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, and his chamber staff also congratulated him on his new role. Earlier in the day, the president approved the summary of appointing Justice Yahya Afridi as the next CJP on the advice of PM Shehbaz Sharif following the recommendation of the special parliamentary committee. Justice Yahya Afridi will take oath as new chief justice of Pakistan for a term of three years, starting from October 26. The appointment has been made under the provisions of Articles 175A (3), 177, and 179 of the Constitution.

Governor exhorts PML-N's Ministers, MPAs to come up to expectations of masses

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has exhorted the provincial ministers and members of provincial assembly belonging to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to come up to expectations and hopes of the people while performing their responsibilities.

The Governor stressed that being elected representatives, they should give priority to the public welfare and development in their respective election constituencies.

He said that the provincial ministers are responsible for implementing policies and programmes in their respective departments keeping the public welfare in the view.

Therefore, they should ensure good governance and public service.

The Governor was speaking to the provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries and members of the provincial assembly held to PML-N, who called on him here at the

Governor's House on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, performance of the provincial government and issues of the parliamentarians were discussed.

Those who were present were included Provincial Ministers Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Mir Asim Kurd and Mir Shoaib Naushervani, parliamentary secretaries Sardar Masood Luni, Muhammad Khan Lehri, Barkat Ali Rind, Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Hadia Nawaz, Nawabzada Zarin Magsi, Advisor to Chief Minister, Dr Rubaba Buledi and MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that PML-N is a countrywide political party with which people have lot of expectations and hopes.

To a query, Governor said that it is included in our priorities to ensure transparency in utilization of public funds and good governance.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar, Haji Ali Madad Jattak and MPAs Mir Zabid Ali Reki, Malik Naeem Khan Bazai, Asghar Ali Tareen, Prince Umar Ahmedzai, Dr. Nawaz Kibzai and Khair Jan Baloch holding meeting.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Unliveable cities

Millions of people living in Pakistan's cities will agree with the Asian Development Bank's description of the nation's urban centres as "congested, unattractive and polluted".

In its detailed report Pakistan National Urban Assessment, the ADB has listed the many problems that plague our cities, and offered solutions based on international best practices, as well as local conditions in the country. The study estimates that the current urban population is 93.8m, while projecting that by 2030, nearly 100m people — or around 41pc of the total population — will be living in cities. There are also concerns that urban population counts are underestimated. Unless the state has workable plans to deal with rapid urbanisation, life in our cities may get more challenging than it already is.

The ADB has described the situation in Pakistan as a "messy urbanisation model", indicating a lack of planning, poor infrastructure, and inadequate services. Amongst the challenges our cities face are housing shortages, poor water and sanitation services and deficient solid waste management services. These problems are amplified by the fact that cities are facing funding crunches in an "uncertain" economic environment, while urban governance has been complicated by "partial devolution", resulting in "mutually exclusive governance structures".

Regarding the megacities of Karachi and Lahore, the bank feels the Sindh capital suffers from class division and a "complicated political situation", while the Punjab capital is a victim of "uncontrollable sprawl". Elsewhere, Islamabad faces a mounting housing demand, while Peshawar has seen significant migration, particularly after erstwhile Fata's merger with KP. Yet the ADP notes that Peshawar's infrastructure is "improving", while the Asian lender has praised KP's decentralisation process. Regarding the provision of water to urban areas, the ADB says that while access to water supply and sanitation has improved, changes have been "incremental". Similarly, there has been progress on solid waste management services, yet these remain "limited and inefficient". The ADB says that Pakistan requires a new urbanisation model and stresses the need for empowered local governments in order to undertake sustainable urban planning.

This paper has argued in these columns that the absence of functional and independent LGs is at the root of almost all our urban woes. Sadly, nearly all political parties have tried their best to prevent the emergence of elected and functional LGs, lest these institutions — that are closest to the voter — weaken the patronage networks that power Pakistani politics. To prevent an irreversible slide towards urban dystopia, the state must pay heed to the suggestions the ADB and other experts have offered. Pakistanis deserve cleaner, greener, sustainable cities that offer equal opportunities to all, and are governed by transparent laws and functioning institutions, while urban slums should be replaced with affordable, dignified housing for the working classes.

Aspiring dreamers

Mahir Ali

Among the various things that lately have not gone Imran Khan's way was his predictable elimination from the list of candidates for the post of Oxford University chancellor.

The absurdity of applying for the position would only be compounded if he or one of his advisers were to pursue legal proceedings quering the rejection.

The exclusion criteria state that a nominee "cannot be a serving member of, or a declared candidate for election to, an elected legislature". The obvious implication is that Imran would have been obliged to abandon all his domestic political ambitions to qualify as a candidate.

Writing in Middle East Eye last month, the contrarian British journalist Peter Osborne declared that the PTI "embodies the exact values of freedom and justice Khan learned as a student of politics and economics at Oxford's Keble College 50 years ago". Oxford's shortcomings notwithstanding, equating its values to those of the PTI constitutes a grievous affront to the university — and echoes the sheer ignorance of the Times of Israel blogger Aynur Bashirova, who claims that "Khan has previously shown a willingness to challenge the status quo, particularly in areas like education reform and women's rights". Pakistani feminists and educationists might disagree.

Bashirova's comment focuses more on Imran's reported outreach to Israel via his erstwhile Goldsmith in-laws, while Osborne approvingly cites a single comment on Gaza, contrasting it with the silence of other nominees for the Oxford chancellorship, such as former Tory leader William Hague and Labour minister Peter

Mandelson.

Osborne's endorsement has been challenged by the likes of The Observer's Catherine Bennett, who denounced Imran's candidacy as an insult to "Oxford's female students, past and present" and as a potential gift to "the Taliban and its apologists", and more recently by Kapil Komireddy.

In a column for the Daily Telegraph last week, he wondered whether its alumni and staff were "ready to drag Oxford out of a millennium of darkness and make it an inclusive institution by voting for a candidate who lauded the resurrection of the Taliban... as a 'blessing...'" He goes on to spell out Imran's other inadequacies — lately enhanced by his acolytes in the Pakistani-American Public Affairs Committee endorsing a proto-fascist in a rather more consequential election.

Segments of the Western left inexcusably continue to consider Imran a martyr in the anti-imperialist cause rather than a player in a sordid political game who managed to antagonise too many of his team-mates and sponsors. They fail to recognise that his persecution and prosecutions can be opposed in principle without endorsing his obscurantist ideology. The publicity his hopeless bid attracted, alongside the change of university rules, has likely played a role in attracting an inordinate number of candidates from South Asia with no previous connection to the university, or evidently much idea of what the largely ceremonial, and unremunerated, role of chancellor involves.

Among the 38 candidate statements posted on the university website, Sidra Aftab, a lawyer from Lahore, boasts an "ability to understand the true facts of circumstances

and to deal with daunting deadlines"; another legal eagle, Anwar Baig, considers himself a "well and fit person for this job"; Kashif Bilal vows to "Enhance literacy rate in UK and global world"; Supreme Court advocate Aftab Ahmad Javid Sheikh lays claim to the position based on "the dynamic experiences" of his life; Kashmaila Rauf considers her experience as Amazon team leader an adequate qualification; Abrar ul Hasan Shapoo restricts his ambitions to "working with honesty and welfare of the university"; Tanya Tajik says her Zumba experience would "help me manage respo--nsibilities of a Chancellor".

Ex-politicians (who have hitherto tended to win the post) in the fray include former Tory leader William Hague and his ex-colleague Dominic Grieve (the only candidate on whose behalf I have been canvassed) and New Labour stalwart Peter Mandelson. Based on the precedence of former British politicians winning the gig, one of them is the likeliest successor to Chris Patten.

This is the first time the vote has been thrown open to the 'convocation' — including all former alumni — rather than restricted to the 'congregation', a terminology that points to Oxford's origins almost a millennium ago as a theological seminary, reflected in its motto Dominus illuminatio mea (the Lord is my light).

Anyone wanting a different motto might have earned my endorsement. As things stand, I have no idea whom I'll vote for when the ballot goes live next week. But, beyond Imran Khan's absence from the list, it's also reassuring that it doesn't particularly matter who wins this sordid (or morbid) contest. -- Courtesy Dawn

Under the sea

Rafia Zakaria

When people think of unexplored frontiers these days, they tend to think of other planets and the universe at large. Space exploration, including successful missions to Mars, have led many to believe that in a couple of generations from now, travel to the moon and Mars will not only be possible but also quite easily achieved.

If you speak to oceanographers, however, they will tell you that the real unexplored frontier is not beyond the heavens but under the sea. The depths of the ocean, they assert, have more secrets and possibilities than moons and planets. Maybe, there is some truth to their assertions, given that oceanographers say that a paltry 20 per cent of the ocean has been mapped.

One expedition in the Atlantic Ocean has found a real 'lost city' beneath the waves and oceanographers say that it is teeming with marine life. While this city is not some lost human civilisation its description is still awe-inspiring. The towering landscape of this marine city is located near the mid-Atlantic Ridge and consists of massive walls, columns and monoliths of more than 60 metres. Many of the white spires spew hydrogen or methane gas into the surrounding water. These, in turn, are believed to provide fuel to trillions of microbes living in the city.

Such a world's existence under the sea is beyond the limits of imagination. This city, along with its rock walls and rich marine life, is said to be over 120,000 years old — an indescribably long pe-

riod of time. But even this marine ecosystem is a blip considering that our planet and life on it is believed to be around four billion years old. Scientists have become fascinated with studying microbes and the ecosystem in this undersea city, because it is an example of how organisms can survive without oxygen. Scientists think that such an undersea ecosystem might provide clues as to the possibility of life in space.

It may take a while before scientists can establish what nutrients the microbes in the lost city are scrounging around for. The lost city might provide clues as to how life may be possible in extreme conditions. As humans we rely on oxygen to survive, and the exploration of new frontiers has thus been guided by the search for nutrients and gases that we consider necessary for our own survival. However, in this ecosystem, scientists hypothesise that the swirling waters could generate favourable conditions for life.

An interesting report in the New York Times, a couple of months ago, focuses on the oceanic exploration. It refers to the journal Science, which published a report about a 30-member expedition that had managed to drill deep into the lost city to access a vast expanse of rare rocky material, which may support the work of scientists who believe that life began under the ocean and through basic microbes that survive in inhospitable underwater conditions. The large amount of rocky material will lead to systematic scientific studies that can help us understand pro-

cesses integral to the origin of life on Earth.

This particular expedition — named the 'Building Blocks of Life' — drilled into a rocky seabed located at a distance of 2,250 kilometres from Bermuda. According to the NYT, "Its tallest spire rivals a 20-storey building." It was due to the efforts of an international consortium of 20 countries that made the exploration possible — an example in global cooperation that could be replicated to solve other scientific puzzles.

The consequence of such scientific discoveries can transform human beings' understanding of themselves and of life on Earth. The story of tiny organisms surviving on almost nothing links up with the unknown frontiers of life. Just like it felt impossible that any kind of life would exist in the mega depths of the ocean, so it had seemed that life would be impossible in the depths of space.

Delving deep into these little understood frontiers of exploration inevitably makes one aware of the small fraction of time in which human beings have existed on Earth. The idea of billions of years in which microbial life existed on our own opens up questions about where planets and moons that seem austere and lifeless really are in their life cycle. When we do not see life on the surface of planets or moons in a form that we are familiar with, it does not mean that there isn't any life at all.

The seeming emptiness of new frontiers could mean simply that life is in a long state of gestation — a period that lasts millions of years here on Earth. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Steps on to provide energy to industries on cheaper rates: Jam Kamal

KARACHI (INP): Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan has expressed the government's commitment to boost textile and leather industry by facilitating it with modern and eco-friendly technology.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the fifth edition of International Textiles and Leather Flagship Exhibition (TEXPO) of Pakistan being held from October 23 to 25 at the Expo Center Karachi Wednesday, the Commerce Minister said that textile and leather products account for 60 per cent of Pakistan's national

exports. On the occasion, the Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan along with Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Kareem Kundi, and Chairman Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Zubair Motiwala performed the digital inauguration of the Texpo 2024.

Jam Kamal Khan said this exhibition is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the existing relationships and forge new partnerships, ensuring mutual growth and success for all stakeholders.

He said that we are

working closely with the private sector to promote value addition and product diversification, particularly in non-cotton apparel, performance/active wears, technical textiles, sports and high fashion shoes, leather accessories, while promoting the concepts of circular economy and use of smart and sustainable materials.

He said that we are also focusing on enhancing our design capabilities (replacing the physical samples to 3D prototypes) and creating high-end products that command premium quality in international markets.



HYDERABAD: Worker busy in preparing design on the handkerchief and traditional fabric by machine at a local textile factory.

PSX reaches historic level of 87,194.54 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Positive sentiments prevail over the 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for third consecutive day on Wednesday and continued with bullish trend, gaining 727.96 more points, a positive change of 0.84 per cent, reaching all time high level of 87,194.54 points against 86,466.58 points on the last trading day.

A total of 699,294,030 shares were traded during the day as compared to 722,209,194 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at

Rs 26.824 billion against Rs.25.024 billion on the last trading day. As many as 447 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 214 of them recorded gains and 173 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 207,635,816 shares at Rs 4.67 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 42,917,587 shares at Rs 1.29 per share and Pak International Bulk with 33,969,303 shares at Rs 5.96 per share.

Food exporters delegation to visit S.Arabia

LAHORE (APP): A high-level delegation of food and snacks exporters will visit Saudi Arabia next week to further explore new markets in the kingdom.

Leader of the delegation Shahid Imran, convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional standing committee on food and snacks told the media here on Wednesday that the visit aims to strengthen trade ties between the two countries by showcasing Pakistan's diverse range of food products, including snacks, spices, and processed foods.

He said this initiative is part of Pakistan's broader strategy to increase its global food exports, targeting the Middle East as a crucial growth area. By establishing stronger trade connections, Pakistan aims to enhance its export portfolio and contribute to the economic growth of both countries through mutually beneficial trade partnerships, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting on Road Shows in China.

Aurangzeb hails China's positive response on debt re-profile

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb hailed China's positive response on Pakistan's request to extend debt repayment periods for projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In an interview with Bloomberg, on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, Aurangzeb said that the South Asian nation was looking to increase the maturities for debt taken for power plants to "create enough space" to lower electricity prices.

"We have just started that discussion and the response is encouraging,"

Belgian envoy encourages Pakistani businessmen to leverage EU Market access

LAHORE (INP): Belgium serves as a gateway to Europe which is a valuable opportunity for Pakistani businesses to expand their presence in the EU market.

These remarks were made by the Ambassador of Belgium, Idesbald Vander Gracht, during his meeting with the President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mian Abuzar Shad. LCCI Executive Committee Members were also present at the meeting. The Ambassador

praised the strong trade relations between Pakistan and Belgium, and emphasized the vast potential for further expanding mutual trade and economic ties.

He reiterated that Belgium has consistently supported Pakistan in securing the GSP Plus status, which benefits Pakistan's exports to the EU. He said that there are strong economic relations between Pakistan and Belgium. He said that both the countries need to enhance bilateral trade relationship.

Washington, he said. To reach its goal, Pakistan will target sectors such as retail and agriculture, which have previously opposed taxation. The provinces will move forward with legislation related to agriculture by January, aiming to start tax collection by July, he added. Pakistan has been a flagship destination for China's Belt and Road Initiative, which has provided lending to developing countries and helped the nation overcome decades-long electricity blackout issues. It is now seeking to extend the maturity of debt for nine power plants built by Chinese companies under the multibillion-dollar economic corridor.

He said that the government collected Rs 3.5 trillion in sales tax

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding large-scale evasion and misappropriation in the collection of General Sales Tax (GST), the minister said that, in addition to legislative measures, efforts are underway to strengthen the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) through enhanced technology and human resource capacity.

Rupee gains 01 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday gained 01 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.73.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.30 and Rs278.80 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.44 to close at Rs299.46 against the last day's closing of Rs300.90, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Ali Pervaiz says: Govt committed to tackling tax fraud

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power, Ali Pervaiz Malik, informed the National Assembly on Wednesday that the government is taking serious steps to address tax fraud and evasion.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding large-scale evasion and misappropriation in the collection of General Sales Tax (GST), the minister said that, in addition to legislative measures, efforts are underway to strengthen the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) through enhanced technology and human resource capacity.

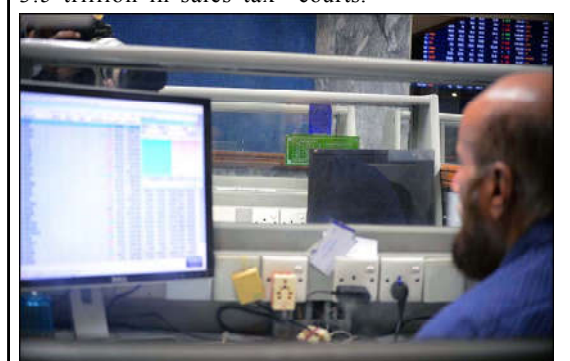
He said that the government collected Rs 3.5 trillion in sales tax

during the fiscal year 2024. He said that robust measures are being implemented to curb tax evasion, with new laws aimed at preventing fraud in the collection of sales and other taxes.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing sales and income tax challenges seriously.

Sharing details of ongoing efforts to combat tax fraud, he said, that Rs 701 billion in fraudulent activities had been detected as of July 2023.

The government successfully blocked fraudulent claims of Rs 606 billion in input tax. Additionally, Rs 4 billion has been recovered, while cases worth Rs 95 billion are currently being tried in courts.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

Pakistan earns \$11m from travel services' export in Jul-Aug

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$111.313 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the two months of the fiscal year 2024-25.

This shows an increase of 4.99 per cent as compared to the US \$106.020 million worth same services provided during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

(PBS) reported. During the months under review, personal travel services increased by 4.82 per cent, from US \$104.380 million last year to US \$109.411 million during July-August 2024-25. Among these personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure rose by 4.82 per cent while the education-related expenditure increased by 61.37 per cent.

CM KP reviews police strengthening initiatives

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur chaired a meeting to review progress on initiatives aimed at strengthening the police force.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the creation of new police positions, ongoing recruitment, vehicle purchases, and related matters. Due to the current security situation, 1,356 new police positions have been established in southern districts.

The recruitment of 1,200 constables is nearing completion, with appointment letters expected soon. Positions for sub-inspectors,

assistant sub-inspectors, and head constables are being filled following standard procedures.

The Chief Minister increased the quota for recruiting children of police martyrs as assistant sub-inspectors from 5% to 12.5%. So far, 246 positions have been filled under this new quota, with specific allocations in various regions: 85 in Peshawar, 51 in Mardan, 24 in Dera Ismail Khan, 25 in Kohat, 35 in Malakand, and 26 in Bannu. An additional 72 assistant sub-inspectors will be recruited soon in Peshawar, Malakand, and Dera Ismail Khan. A case to fill 1,153 positions under the in-

service quota has been submitted to the Public Service Commission, along with a case for 631 sub-inspector positions under the 25% quota for current assistant sub-inspectors.

The police vehicle procurement process is ongoing at a budget of 802 million PKR, which includes the purchase of 34 double cabins, 15 single cabins, 30 single cabin vehicles, and 15 bikes. Additionally, work is underway to bulletproof 79 vehicles at a cost of Rs. 760 million.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for prompt completion of recruitment and vehicle purchases.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Federal Commerce Minister, Jam Kamal and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Hamid Khan lawyers leader Revenge of ousting Nawaz, Gilani being taken from the entire judiciary

LAHORE (Online): Senior lawyer Hamid Khan has said the lawyers community from all over the country will observe "Youme Najat from Qazi Faez Isa" on October 25.

How enormous harm Qazi Faez Isa has inflicted on judiciary and constitution, no one else has caused ever before to judiciary. Justice Yahya Afridi should not accept government offer. He should become chief justice on his turn and secure his name and honor, he said

this while addressing a press conference here Wednesday in Lahore High Court Bar. Hamid Khan said the revenge of ousting Yousuf Raza Gillani and Nawaz Sharif is being taken from the entire judiciary. The judges who had expelled you have gone. We say to justice Yahya Afridi you are good judge. You should become chief justice on your turn. The motive behind making chief justice the judge who is at No 3 is pitting judiciary against judiciary.

MPAs calls on CM; discuss public issues

LAHORE (APP): Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Safdar Hussain Sahi and Muhammad Zubair Khan called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif at her office here on Wednesday.

The CM discussed pressing public issues and the development needs of their constituencies. The meeting also addressed the overall political situation in the country and party matters within the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized the party's commitment to serving the public.

One killed, four injured on road

FAISALABAD (APP): A man was killed while four others sustained serious injuries in an accident in the area of Dijkot police station.

Rescue 1122 Spokesman Zahid Latif said on Wednesday that two speeding vans collided with each other while saving a rickshaw on Samundri Road. As a result, 32-year-old Sufyan Ashfaq of Chak No 44-GB died on the spot whereas the Rescue 1122 shifted Sajjad Ali Muhammad Irfan, Tariq Ali and Aqib Riaz to the Allied Hospital-II.

255 govt schools being outsourced in Sialkot

SIALKOT (APP): Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) Managing Director Shahid Farid Said on Wednesday that 255 public sector schools of Sialkot district were being outsourced under the PEPF public-private partnership model.

The aim of this programme is to provide free and quality education to out-of-school children by enrolling them in school. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Sialkot

M u h a m m a d Zulqarnain, the PEF MD stated this while addressing the local community during his visit to Govt Girls Elementary School Haripur Sialkot, says a handout. He said the PEF was equipping 2.6 million male and female students in more than 7,000 partner schools in Punjab with excellent education. MD PEF Shahid Farid said that currently 9.6 million children were out of school in the province and the work.

Governor Kundi pays tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Qasuria

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday paid tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto, known as the mother of democracy on the occasion of her death anniversary.

The Governor highlighted her sacrifices for democracy and the nation, saying that her contributions will always be remembered.

to guide advocates of democracy.

Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi expressed his condolences on the death of renowned educator Professor Dr. Fazal Rahim Qasuria, calling his loss a significant blow to the academic community.

In his condolence message, he extended sympathies to Dr. Qasuria's brother, former provincial minister Abdul Haleem Khan Qasuria, and his family, wishing them patience during this difficult time. Kundi praised Dr. Qasuria's invaluable contributions to journalism and research, praying for his soul to find a high place in paradise.

Kundi emphasized Begum Nusrat Bhutto's exemplary role in the struggle against dictatorship, saying that she remains an inspiration for women across the country. He remarked that her political insight and principled stance continue



PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Sarmad Salim Akram addresses during the Media Cricket League organized by Peshawar Press Club in Peshawar.

Illegal appointments in PA case against Pervaiz Elahi others: LHC adjourns hearing

LAHORE (Online): Anti Corruption Court (ACC) Lahore has adjourned till November 13 hearing of illegal appointments in Punjab Assembly (PA) case against former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and others.

Sardar Muhammad Dogar judge of the court heard the case Wednesday.

The counsel submitted one day exemption plea of

Pervaiz Elahi in the court.

The exemption plea said Pervaiz Elahi is unwell and doctors have advised him for bed rest. It is requested the court to accept his one day exemption plea.

The court while expressing displeasure over non appearance of Pervaiz Elahi remarked one or other accused becomes absent on every hearing to avert indictment.



PESHAWAR: Members of All Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Goods Transport Association block road during protest in favor of their demands.

PHC seeks federal, KP governments' responses over security of judiciary

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Wednesday sought a reply from the federal and provincial governments over security of the judiciary in the province.

The bench comprising Chief Justice, PHC Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed while conducting a hearing on law and order situation in the province as filed by the KP bar council, expressed concerns over the security situation in the province.

The CJ PHC passed strong remarks on the issue of judges' security and

said that "we cannot hold guns ourselves, the government has to take the issue of judges' security seriously."

On this occasion, Advocate General and Additional Attorney General also appeared in the court. The court sought answers to six questions on the matter, however the Advocate General KP said that the Inspector General of Police had requested a two-day time to submit a detailed reply.

The Chief Justice noted on this occasion that "One incident after another happens in the province; we are in more danger."

Police seize large drug consignment

KASUR (APP): Police in Kasur have seized a large consignment of drugs and arrested a notorious drug dealer during the operation on Wednesday.

According to the police spokesperson, the operation was led by the Station House Officer (SHO) of Sadar Patu Police Station. During a targeted blockade, the police arrested a major drug dealer known as Amin, alias Amini from the Bhopwal Mor area.

The authorities recovered 20 kg 630 grams of hashish, 1 kg 200 grams of ice (crystal methamphetamine) and a substantial amount of cash from the accused.

The police revealed that the arrested individual, Amini is involved in the large-scale supply of drugs in Patuki and other districts. At the time of the arrest, the accused was allegedly supplying drugs from his residence in Chak 69. The District Police Officer (DPO) of Kasur, Mohammad Isa Khan stated that the police are conducting intensive operations to rid the society of the drug menace in line with the vision of the Chief Minister of Punjab.

International News

Xi, Modi meet on Brics summit's sidelines as India, China ties recover from 2020 clash

Monitoring Desk
KAZAN: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first formal talks in five years on Wednesday, signalling that ties between the Asian giants damaged by a deadly military clash in 2020 had begun to recover.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Brics summit in the Russian city of Kazan, the Indian government and Chinese state media said, two days after New Delhi announced that it had reached a deal with Beijing to resolve the four-year military stand-off on their disputed Himalayan frontier. Relations between the world's two most populous nations — both nuclear powers — have been strained since a clash between their troops on the largely undemarcated frontier in the western Himalayas of Ladakh left

20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers dead in 2020.

The neighbours increased their military presence along the icy frontier since, adding tens of thousands of troops and weapons over the last four years.

Modi and Xi had not held formal bilateral talks since although they both participated in multilateral events. Their last summit talks were held in October 2019 in the southern Indian town of Mamallapuram.

The two spoke briefly on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali in November 2022 and exchanged courtesies.

They spoke again on the sidelines of the Brics summit in Johannesburg in August 2023 but ended up releasing different versions of the conversation, indicating the two sides didn't see eye to eye.

Xi skipped the G20

summit hosted by New Delhi the following month, a decision seen as another setback to their relations.

Diplomatic efforts gained momentum in recent months after foreign ministers of the two countries met in July and agreed to step up talks to ease the border tensions.

As India had made improving the wider political and damaged business ties contingent upon finding a solution to the border stand-off, Wednesday's talks between the two leaders are expected to result in potentially more Chinese investment into India.

New Delhi had increased the scrutiny of investments coming from China, blocked direct flights between the two countries and had practically barred issuing any visas to Chinese nationals since the Ladakh clashes.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend the narrow format meeting of the Brics summit in Kazan.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un visits missile bases, cites US nuclear threat

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has visited missile bases to examine their readiness to undertake actions of "strategic deterrence", while calling US nuclear capabilities a growing threat to the country, state media reported on Wednesday.

The US strategic nuclear arsenal poses an "ever-increasing threat" to North Korea's security environment, which demands

that Pyongyang maintain a strict counteraction posture of its nuclear forces, he was quoted as saying by KCNA.

North Korea has been stepping up its development of ballistic missiles and a nuclear arsenal, drawing international sanctions, and forming close military relations with Russia.

Kim's visit to the bases comes amid growing tensions with South Korea and its allies.

UK's Birmingham Airport cancels flights, evacuates after report of suspicious vehicle

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Birmingham Airport in central England has cancelled flights, been evacuated and asked passengers not to turn up after a report of a suspicious vehicle, police and the airport said on Wednesday.

"West Midlands Police is currently dealing with an ongoing incident on-site," the force said on X. "Airport operations are currently impacted, and passengers should not come to the airport at this time."

Iraqi-led attacks kill seven Islamic State operatives, US Centcom says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Iraqi-led strikes and raids killed at least seven Islamic State operatives in Iraq, US Central Command said on Wednesday, a day after Baghdad reported the militant group's commander for Iraq had been killed in a military operation.

A Centcom statement did not identify the operatives but said the attacks were launched against multiple Islamic State targets including senior leaders.

Attackers kill 4, injure 14 at Turkish state aviation site

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Four people were killed and 14 others wounded in an attack at the Turkish Aerospace Industries' (TAI) headquarters on Wednesday, the government said, and witnesses said they heard gunfire and a loud explosion at the site near Ankara. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was holding talks in Russia with Vladimir Putin at the time, confirmed the toll, and condemned what he said was a "heinous terrorist attack".

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on X that two attackers

were killed in what he called a terrorist attack, adding three of the injured were in critical condition. TV broadcasters earlier showed footage of armed assailants entering the TUSAS building.

"Two terrorists were neutralised in the terror attack on the TUSAS Ankara Kahramankazan site. Sadly, we have 3 martyrs and 14 wounded in the attack," Yerlikaya said, referring to the Aerospace Industries. The cause and perpetrators of the blast and subsequent gunfire remained unclear.

Hezbollah confirms Israel killed Nasrallah's likely successor

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Hezbollah confirmed on Wednesday that Israel killed Hashem Safieddine, the apparent successor of its slain leader Hassan Nasrallah, in a strike, without saying when or where it happened.

The announcement came a day after Israel said he was killed along with other Hezbollah leaders in an air strike in Beirut's southern suburbs three weeks ago.

"We mourn ... the head of the Executive Council of Hezbollah, his eminence the scholar Sayyed Hashem Safieddine," the group said in a statement, adding he was killed by "a criminal and aggressive

Zionist raid" alongside other Hezbollah fighters.

The deeply religious Safieddine, a cleric with family ties to Nasrallah, had been widely viewed as the most likely candidate for the party's top job after the assassination of Nasrallah on September 27 in a huge Israeli air strike on Beirut's southern suburbs.

Safieddine, a member of the group's governing Shura Council, had strong ties to Iran after undergoing religious studies in Iran's holy city of Qom.

The United States and Saudi Arabia had put him on their respective lists of designated "terrorists" in 2017.

US says evidence shows North Korea has troops in Russia for Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States said for the first time on Wednesday that it had seen evidence of North Korean troops in Russia, while South Korean lawmakers said about 3,000 soldiers had been sent to support the Kremlin's war in Ukraine with more to follow.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, speaking in Rome, said it would be "very, very serious" if the North Koreans were preparing to fight alongside Russia in Ukraine, as Kyiv has alleged, though he said it remained to be seen what they would be doing there.

"There is evidence that there are DPRK troops in Russia," Austin told reporters, using North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In Seoul, South Korean lawmakers said that North Korea has sent 3,000 troops to Russia and thousands more were expected to follow.

Pyongyang had promised to provide a total of about 10,000 troops, whose deployment was expected to be completed by December, the lawmakers told reporters after being briefed by South Korea's national intelligence agency. The figure of 3,000 is twice the previous estimate of the number of troops already in Russia.

"Signs of troops being trained inside North Korea were detected in September and October," Park Sunwon, a member of a parliamentary intelligence committee, said after the briefing. "It appears that the troops have now been dispersed to multiple training facilities in Russia and are adapting to the local environment." The Ukraine conflict broke out when Russia invaded its neighbour in February 2022 and has since developed into a war of attrition largely fought along front lines in eastern Ukraine, with huge numbers of casualties on both sides.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy says only a US green light on a NATO invitation will sway a reluctant Germany

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's president is hoping allies will take a more positive stance on his so-called "victory plan" after the U.S. election, but concedes that its key demand — an invitation to join NATO — is not welcome by some major Western partners, in particular Germany.

V o l o d y m y r Zelenskyy said Russia was also likely looking at the postelection scenario in the U.S. to assess the possibility of cease-fire talks with Ukraine.

He assessed that if partial cease-fire deals could be reached over attacks on energy infrastructure and Black Sea shipping routes, it would signal the end of the "hot phase" of the war.

Zelenskyy spoke to journalists on Monday and

his comments were embargoed until Tuesday.

He said the U.S. is analyzing his plan, but he doesn't expect a meaningful response until after the Nov. 5 election.

"They said, yes, we've started working on the Victory Plan, they want to analyze everything, and so on. But it's very clear to me that all the major partners, especially during the election period, will be afraid of Russia's reaction," he said. "Because they understand that with this package, we can destroy them."

On NATO, Zelenskyy said France, Britain and Italy have shown signs of support. Germany has reservations, however, and Zelenskyy believes only a U.S. green light will convince Berlin to accept the idea.

African progress backslides as coups and war persist

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Nearly half of Africa's citizens live in a country where governance has worsened over the past decade, as deteriorating security erodes progress, according to a new report.

The annual Ibrahim Index of African Governance report found that despite positive progress in 33 countries, overall governance was worse in 2023 in 21 countries, accounting for just under half of Africa's population, compared with 2014.

For several countries, including densely populated Nigeria and Uganda, the deterioration in overall governance had worsened over the second part of the decade, according to the report released by Sudanese-British billionaire businessman Mo Ibrahim's foundation.

Leghari meets Administrator of Chinese National Energy Administration

QINGDAO (China) (APP): On the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference, Federal Minister of Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari held a meeting with Administrator of the Chinese National Energy Administration (NEA) Mr Zhang Jianhua here on Wednesday.

The Minister conveyed heartfelt felicitations on the successful holding of the Conference, said a press release.

Emphasizing the important role of the Belt and Road Energy Partnership (BREP) as a global catalyst for energy cooperation, security, and sustainable development, he underlined that the BREP is not only a testament to China's effective diplomacy but also a beacon of its global leadership in energy security.

During the meeting, Awais Leghari recalled the historic visit of premier Li Qiang to Pakistan, during which both sides expressed their strong resolve of working together for the development of an "upgraded version" of CPEC.



QINGDAO: Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari delivers a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Belt & Road Energy Ministerial Conference at Qingdao.

Comprehensive planning needed to ensure welfare of minority women, emphasizes Dr. Rubaba

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister on Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has emphasized the need for comprehensive planning to ensure the welfare of minority women, granting them equal opportunities in every field of life.

She expressed these views during a meeting with Senator Dinesh Kumar and Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs, Sanjay Kumar Panjwani.

The meeting discussed the challenges faced by minority women and the need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at improving their situation.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi further stated that the Women Development Department is working on various projects to ensure

that minority women receive the necessary support and resources. The signing of the MOU will ensure the effective utilization of resources, providing lasting solutions to their problems. She added that the aim is to include all women of Balochistan, particularly those from minority communities, in the country's development, so their talents can be fully utilized. She noted that minority women are an integral part of our society, and addressing their challenges is essential for the overall development of the province. The provincial government is committed to safeguarding their rights and ensuring their well-being. "We will not leave them alone on this journey but will provide every possible assistance," she concluded.



QUETTA: Senator Danesh Kumar and Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs Sanjay Kumar Panjwani meeting with Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.

ECP seeks response from MNA Adil Bazai over disqualification petition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (EC) on Wednesday sought a response from Member of National Assembly from NA 262, Quetta, Adil Bazai, concerning a disqualification petition lodged against him for not voting in favour of budget and the 26th constitutional amendment.

A three-member bench of the Election Commission, chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner, heard a reference filed by PML-N President Nawaz Sharif seeking the disqualification of Adil Bazai.

Notably, the National

Assembly Speaker forwarded the disqualification reference to the Election Commission at the request of PML-N President Nawaz Sharif. The reference claims that Adil Bazai, who was elected independently and later joined PML-N, did not vote in favour of the finance bill despite directives from the parliamentary party.

Adil Bazai and PML-N lawyers appeared before the Election Commission, where the Chief Election Commissioner asked about Bazai's whereabouts. His brother responded that they currently have no information on his location.

Bar councils welcomed Justice Yahya Afridi's appointment as CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Various bar councils of the country have welcomed the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as Chief Justice of Pakistan and said that Justice Yahya Afridi is a non-political, non-controversial and neutral personality. They said that his appointment as chief justice will strengthen the relationship between the bar and the bench and will help make justice in a free and fair way. Punjab Bar Council (PBC)'s Vice Chairman

Chaudhry Babar Waheed, Chairman Executive Rao Fazal ur Rehman Abid said in a joint statement that they congratulate Justice Yahya Afridi on being named Chief Justice of Pakistan and hope that he will take the relationship between the Bar and the Bench to improvement. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council's Vice Chairman Sadiq Ali Moinand and Executive Chairman Syed Taimur Ali Shah in their statement called the appointment.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Quetta Development Package



QUETTA: Heads of Local Bodies institutions meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

At UN, Pakistan says India using enforced disappearances in Kashmir as 'tool of oppression'

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding citizens' rights, Pakistan has told a UN panel that authorities in Indian Occupied Kashmir were systematically using enforced disappearances as "a tool of oppression" to stifle the voice of Kashmiri people.

"While Pakistan remains vigilant in addressing cases of enforced disappearances domestically, we cannot overlook the alarming situation in conflict zones, especially in areas under foreign occupation," Pakistani delegate Sarfraz Gohar said during an interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances held in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

"For decades," he said, "the Kashmiri people have endured an environment of fear and violence, where

enforced disappearances have become a hallmark of the occupying forces' repression."

Gohar, a first secretary in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said enforced disappearances were not isolated incidents, but often led to further abuses, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and mass graves.

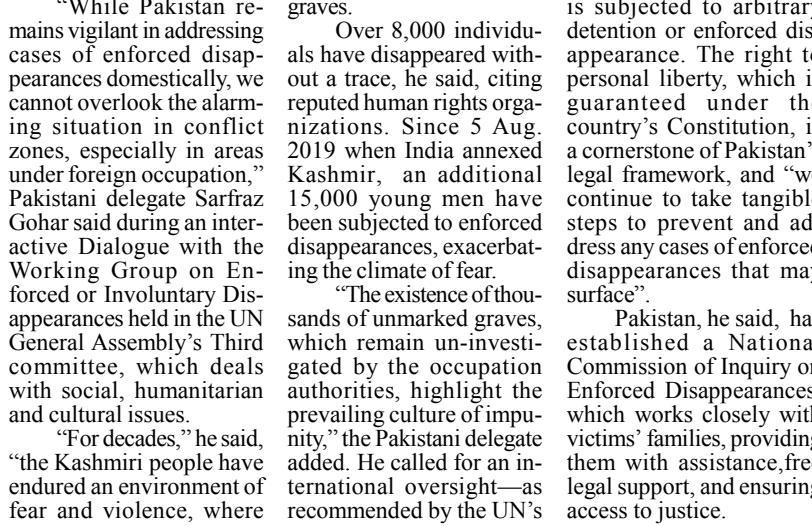
Over 8,000 individuals have disappeared without a trace, he said, citing reputed human rights organizations. Since 5 Aug. 2019 when India annexed Kashmir, an additional 15,000 young men have been subjected to enforced disappearances, exacerbating the climate of fear.

"The existence of thousands of unmarked graves, which remain uninvestigated by the occupation authorities, highlight the prevailing culture of impunity," the Pakistani delegate added. He called for an international oversight—as recommended by the UN's

rights office—to ensure justice for the families of the disappeared, including the thousands of "half-widows" who continue to suffer without knowledge of their loved ones' fate.

On its part, Gohar said Pakistan is firmly committed to safeguarding the rights of its citizens and ensuring that no individual is subjected to arbitrary detention or enforced disappearance. The right to personal liberty, which is guaranteed under the country's Constitution, is a cornerstone of Pakistan's legal framework, and "we continue to take tangible steps to prevent and address any cases of enforced disappearances that may surface."

Pakistan, he said, has established a National Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, which works closely with victims' families, providing them with assistance, free legal support, and ensuring access to justice.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetrans presiding over a meeting regarding Journalist Welfare Fund Policy.

SC to hear SSGC appeal today

QUETTA: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has scheduled a hearing for October 24, 2024, regarding the appeal filed by Sui Gas Company and OGRA against the Balochistan High Court's order on June 13, 2024. This order had provided significant relief to the people of Balochistan regarding their bills.

Advocate Syed Nazir Agha will represent the case in Islamabad on October 24, 2024. Agha expressed his commitment to vigorously defend the Balochistan High Court's order, seeking prayers and support from the people of Balochistan. The outcome of this hearing will be crucial for the people of Balochistan, as it may impact their gas bills and overall well-being.

LHC rejects bail plea of major accused in attack on Imran case

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has rejected bail plea of one Naveed, major accused in attack on PTI founder Imran Khan.

Two members bench of LHC presided over by Justice Shahbaz Rizvi took up bail plea of the accused for hearing Wednesday.

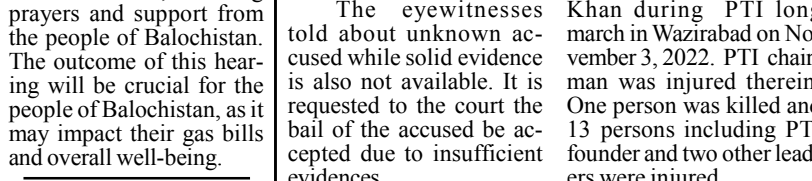
Mian Dawood counsel for the accused while giving arguments said accused Naveed was not present on the occasion. Police included his name in the case unjustly.

The eyewitnesses told about unknown accused while solid evidence is also not available. It is requested to the court the bail of the accused be accepted due to insufficient evidences.

The prosecutor while opposing bail plea said the accused is nominated in the case and was arrested from the scene. The accused was identified in footage too. The witnesses are also present there. Concrete evidence is also available against the accused. Therefore, court is requested to reject his bail plea.

The court rejected bail plea of the accused after hearing the arguments.

It is pertinent to mention here that murderous attack was made on Imran Khan during PTI long march in Wazirabad on November 3, 2022. PTI chairman was injured therein. One person was killed and 13 persons including PTI founder and two other leaders were injured.



GWADAR: Assistant Commissioner Mir Jawad Ahmed Zehri visiting Pak-Iran 250 border.

OGDCL announces gas discovery in Khairpur, Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has announced a significant gas discovery at the Shahu-1 exploratory well in the Sawan South Block, located in Khairpur, Sindh. According to a news release of the OGDCL, the Joint Venture for the block comprises OGDCL with a 20% working interest, United Energy Pakistan Limited (UEPL) with 75%, Government Holding Private Limited (GHPL) with 2.5%, and Sindh Energy Holding Limited (SEHL) with 2.5%. The Shahu-1 well is estimated to produce around 10 million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas.

The discovery has de-risked further exploration play in the Sawan South Block and will play a crucial role in boosting the country's energy security through indigenous resources and adding to the hydrocarbon reserves base.

OGDCL is committed to contributing to enhancing Pakistan's domestic energy production.



Toshakhana-2 case: IHC approves bail plea of Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has approved bail of Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder in Toshakhana-2 case.

The bail has been approved against the surety bonds in the sum of Rs 10 lac.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb approved the bail Wednesday.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked this case is like case of justice Qazi Faez Isha. In this case husband has been held responsible for the acts of his wife.

FIA prosecutor said this case is a bit different from that case.

Bail plea of Bushra

Bibi in Toshakhana-2 case came up for hearing before Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb in IHC.

Counsel for Bushra Bibi had completed his arguments a day before.

FIA prosecutor Umair Majid appeared in the court and opened arguments.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked if you or Deputy Attorney General (DAG) get opportunity then go to see in Azerbaijan. They keep them with their pictures what gifts are given to the presidents of world countries. The gift of model of Al-Aqsa mosque from Yasser Arafat too is there. I also saw the picture of Benazir Bhutto therein.

Message on United Nations Day President reiterates Pakistan's full support to UN charter

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated Pakistan's full support for the UN Charter and its multilateral system and said Pakistan stood ready to collaborate with all the UN Member States to achieve a peaceful and prosperous world for all.

In a message on the occasion of the United Nations Day being observed on October 24, the president said today, Pakistan joined the international community in commemorating the 79th United Nations (UN) Day.

"The UN Charter embodies our collective determination to uphold international law and peaceful co-existence. It also provides for the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take

other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace." President Secretary Press Wing, in a press release on Wednesday, quoted the president as saying.

Guided by the vision of founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president said, Pakistan had consistently championed the principles of the UN Charter.

"We have maintained a firm and abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role for the promotion of international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights for all. We have also made invaluable contributions to international peace and security, including by serving as a leading military and police contributor to UN peacekeeping operations," he added.

Despite its remarkable

achievements over the past 79 years, President Zardari said, the UN Charter's vision of universal peace, development and human rights for all was currently under threat by the blatant violations of its principles and purposes - nowhere more egregiously than in Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK).

The UN remained an indispensable partner in addressing the pressing challenges being faced by the world today, and for shaping a more equitable future for all, he observed.

"We must revitalize the values enshrined in the UN Charter, by prioritizing peace and actively resolving conflicts, as well as by fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of billions around the world," the president opined.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Girls Quaid Association Begum Azmat Hassan Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Final auction of PIAC to be held on Oct 30

ISLAMABAD (INP): Parliamentary Secretary for Communication, Gul Asghar Khan on Wednesday apprised the Lower House of the Parliament that the final auction of the state-owned Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Corporation would be held on October 30. The Parliamentary Secretary was responding to the query of Member National Assembly (MNA), Sharmila Sahiba Faruqi Hashaam during the seventh meeting of the 10th National Assembly session here. Khan said the PIA privatization was a detailed process conducted under the elaborate structure of privatization.

Jam Kamal, Kudi discuss economic, political situation with Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi held meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the Chief Minister House on Wednesday.

According to the spokesperson of Sindh Chief Minister, the three leaders discussed the economic and political affairs of the country in the meeting.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that the economic indicators showing that the country's economy

was progressing. Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal said there was need of enhancing of the exports.

The Chief Minister said that there was a need to pay special attention to export oriented production.

They agreed to increase investment in education, health and infrastructure in the country.

Murad Ali Shah said that after the flood situation, the focus of the government was on rehabilitation of the affected people, construction of their houses and the agriculture.



QUETTA: Activates of BNP hold protest outside QPC.



QUETTA: Monica, Allah Dino discuss human rights, democratic institutions.

BA adopts resolution for paying tributes to Humayun Marri & Sardar Raza Baraich

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Monica Jacobsen, held a meeting with Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Human Rights, Allah Dino Khawaja, to discuss matters related to human rights and bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and the United States.

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly adopted resolution for paying rich tributes to two members of the assembly Mir Humayun Marri and Sardar Raza Muhammad Baraich in its session held on Wednesday.

The Chairman of Panel, Khair Jan Baloch was in the chair.

Fateha was also offered for the departed souls

of the former caretaker Chief Minister and member of the assembly, Mir Humayun Marri and former Provincial Minister, Sardar Raza Muhammad Baraich.

The member of provincial assembly, Mir Zaid Reki tabled the resolution.

Meanwhile, the session was postponed till October 28 due to the deaths of Mir Humayun Marri and Sardar Raza Muhammad Baraich.

Sarfraz Bugti pays homage to Mohtarma Nusrat Bhutto on 13th death anniversary

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has paid homage to the mother of democracy, Mohtarma Nusrat Bhutto.

He said this while addressing a prayer ceremony on the occasion of the death anniversary of Mother of Democracy Begum Nusrat Bhutto in the media cell of the party. President of PPP's Sports and Culture Wing Prince Shahzad Kakar, Nadeem Ahmed Khan, Hayat Khan Achakzai, Abdul Ghafoor Jafar and others also addressed the event. Sardar Sarbuland Khan said that the mother of democracy, Begum Nusrat Bhutto endured the hardships and torture of prison for the sake of the constitution and democracy.

He said that she had given sacrifices for the country and the nation.

He said that after the martyrdom of Pakistan People's Party (PPP)'s Leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, mother of democracy Begum Nusrat Bhutto had led a historic and decisive movement for the restoration of democracy and constitution from the platform of MRD.

Party (PPP) Sardar Sarbuland Jozgezi and others paid tribute to the services of Begum Nusrat Bhutto for restoration of democracy in the country.

He said this while addressing a prayer ceremony on the occasion of the death anniversary of Mother of Democracy Begum Nusrat Bhutto in the media cell of the party. President of PPP's Sports and Culture Wing Prince Shahzad Kakar, Nadeem Ahmed Khan, Hayat Khan Achakzai, Abdul Ghafoor Jafar and others also addressed the event. Sardar Sarbuland Khan said that the mother of democracy, Begum Nusrat Bhutto endured the hardships and torture of prison for the sake of the constitution and democracy.

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