

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 239, Rabi-us-Sani 27, 1446 AH Thursday October 31, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

Saudi investment in Pakistan to reach \$2.8bln as MoUs count enhanced to 34: Saudi minister

PM Shehbaz calls for keeping momentum to develop strong Pak-Saudi Arabia economic partnership

RIYADH (APP): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday announced to add another \$600 million to its recently announced \$2.2 billion investment in Pakistan what the Saudi Investment Minister called "only the beginning of something very special."

The announcement was made in a joint press stakeout by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Investment Minister Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, following their "very productive" meeting encompassing the bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors including trade, finance, agriculture, technology and skilled manpower.

At the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the prime minister is currently on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia where he addressed the 8th edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) on 'Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow,' held in Riyadh and

joined by the global leaders to discuss how investment could serve as a catalyst for a prosperous and sustainable future.

Accompanied by Advisor at the Royal Court Mohammad Maziad Al-Tuwajri, Saudi Minister Al Falih told the media that during his recent visit to Pakistan, both sides had signed 27 MoUs for investment worth \$2.2 in Pakistan.

He announced that following Prime Minister Shehbaz's meeting with Crown Prince and their discussion, the number of MoUs has been increased from 27 to 34 to add \$600 million in investment, taking its volume to \$2.8 billion.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the meetings with the Crown Prince and Al Falih were reassuring and told the media that some of the projects agreed upon during the recent Saudi delegation's visit were under implementation.

He said both sides

would work on the timelines of the project and expressed the hope that under the leadership of Saudi crown prince, both sides would strengthen bilateral relations, not only for the benefit of the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia but the entire Muslim Ummah.

"When I come back, I will have good news for the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. With your valuable support, we will be able to carve our way forward and soon be able to make big announcements," the prime minister remarked.

Minister Al-Falih said that as a follow-up of their Pakistan visit, both sides had "extensive" working-level meeting to elevate the bilateral relations to yet higher horizons in the fields of economy, finance, trade and people-to-people contacts.

He said that some of the MoUs had resulted in exports from Pakistan in agriculture and other fields.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Engineer Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court Mohammad Bin Maziyad Al-Tuwajri in a joint press conference on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment Initiative Conference.

CM Bugti says: Children of Balochistan be taught research-based curriculum enabling to compete with major cities students

Directs high ups of Education Department to ensure timely supply of books in the schools

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has emphasized that children of the province should be taught the curriculum based on the research so as to enable them to compete with the students of Islamabad and Lahore.

The Chief Minister said we have to come out of the Alif-Anaar and Be-Bakri as he referred to the syllabus taught to the children of nursery students in schools to make them familiar with the Urdu alphabets.

He said that we would encourage good officers and would provide protection to them in their tenure at least during the era of

present government.

He exhorted the officers to maintain continuity in the positive reforms and not come in any blackmailing.

The Chief Minister was chairing review meeting regarding performance of the Balochistan Text Book Board here at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by the Provincial Minister for Education, Ms Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon, Secretary Education, Muhammad Saleh Nasar, Additional Secretary, Chief Minister Secretariat, Muhammad Fareedon, Chairman Text

Book Board, Gulab Khan Khilji, besides other concerned high ups.

The meeting was informed that the academic curriculum in Balochistan is being made compatible with the national curriculum.

The scanning bar code is also being printed on every page of the newly printed book so that teachers may approach the online portal for any kind of guidance, it was further briefed adding that government academic books would be printed by the end of current year.

It was mentioned that this year the contract of printing of books has been given to the credible firms through call attention notices.

President signs bill to establish special courts for overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (INP): President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari has signed a bill establishing special courts for property matters concerning overseas Pakistanis.

Under the new law, special courts will be set up to address property disputes for overseas Pakistanis, ensuring their cases are resolved within 90 days. President Zardari also approved the Deposit Protection Corporation Amendment Bill 2024, granting both approvals under Article 75 of the Constitution. On October 17, the Senate passed the bill for establishing special courts to safeguard the property rights of overseas Pakistanis. Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik presented the bill, which was

unanimously approved, though PTI's Ali Zafar requested it be referred to a committee, citing concerns about potential false cases.

The special court will have jurisdiction over the entire Islamabad Capital Territory. Overseas Pakistanis can file petitions through modern devices, including e-filing. The special court will allow evidence to be presented through video links or other legally acceptable modes, supervised by officials from Pakistan's High Commission, embassy, or consulate. Cases filed in the special court will be disposed of within 90 days, thereby providing a speedy remedy, preventing delays in justice, and ultimately safeguarding the interests of overseas.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti presides over the review meeting on the performance of the textbook board at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Army Major among three martyred, eight khwarij killed in Bannu IBO

CM Bugti praises security forces for successful operation against terrorists

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Bakka Khel, Bannu District on reported presence of khwarij.

During conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij's location, as a result of which eight khwarij were sent to hell, while seven khwarij got injured.

However, during intense exchange of fire, Major Atif Khalil (age: 31 years, resident of District Sudhanoti, AJ&K, a brave officer, who was leading his troops from front, fought gallantly and embraced Shahadat along with his two men. The two soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice include Naik Azad Ullah (age: 36 years, resident of District Karak) and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas (age: 35 years, resident of District Layyah).

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other Kharij found in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, has commended the security forces for their successful operation against extremist terrorists in the Baka Khel area of Bannu, paying tribute to the brave soldiers for their courage and sacrifice.

Expressing his admiration, Chief Minister Bugti honored the memory of Major Atif Khalil and the valiant personnel of the security forces who heroically eliminated the terrorists, achieving martyrdom in the line of duty. "The nation is proud of these courageous martyrs who laid down their lives to bring terrorism to their ultimate end."

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif arrives at Doha International Airport for his 2 day official visit of Qatar. He is being received by Qatar's Minister of State, Muhammad bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi.

Athar Minallah says: No govt can deprive citizen of right to access to information

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court of Pakistan Justice Athar Minallah has said that although Article 19 A of the constitution guarantees citizens the right to access to information, but the right is subject to certain limitations. In his additional note on the petition, seeking access to information about the SC employees, the judge has said that despite some restrictions, however, the parliament does not have the power to limit the scope of this constitutional right. The judge, while saying he completely agrees



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) General Sahir Shamsahd Mirza called on Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev.

More efficient, honest & professional experts needed in health & education sectors, stresses Jaffar Mandokhail

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that education and health sectors are the twin pillars of the social development, which form a bright future. The Governor stressed that more efficient, honest and professional experts are needed in these sectors. We have to pay attention on increasing capacity instead of quantity.

The Governor was addressing the ceremony held under the auspices of Voice of Balochistan here on Wednesday.

The Governor said

that teachers are held in high esteem in every civilized society as they play role in spreading the light of knowledge and wisdom. This is why, teachers have very respectable status in every society, he maintained.

The Governor appreciated the move of imparting modern training to the teachers serving in the remote areas. In this regard, it is responsibility of the government to provide all necessary facilities to the teachers, he said.

The Governor was especially appreciative of the female teachers who are

performing their duties despite lack of necessary facilities and financial constraints.

He said that the present government is focusing on the education sector and as such is taking measures to decorate the students with ornament of education. The Governor exhorted the teachers and parents to pay attention on their upbringing and morality along with their education. He also stressed that the process of capacity building of the teachers should remain continued in the educational institutions.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with participants of "Safar Moulim" workshop organized by Voice of Balochistan.

PM arrives in Qatar amid trade, investment push by Islamabad

DOHA (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Doha on an official visit from Oct. 30-31 to discuss bilateral ties with a special focus on trade and investment, the premier's office said in Islamabad on Wednesday. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif landed in Qatar on Wednesday on the two-day visit. At the airport, the prime minister was received by Qatari Minister of State Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Pakistan's ambassador and other diplomatic staff.

Federal ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Jam Kamal Khan and Attaulah Tarar also accompanied the prime minister. "During this visit, I look forward to productive exchange of views with the Qatari leadership to further enhance our brotherly relations," Sharif said on X after arriving in Doha. "I will also inaugurate a special exhibition at Qatar Museum highlighting the cultural heritage of Pakistan." During his visit, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar and Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Prime Minister.

Imran, Qureshi others to be indicted on Nov 8 in GHQ attack case

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Amjad Ali Shah of Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi has fixed November 8 to indict PTI founder Imran Khan, former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and other accused in GHQ attack case.

The court also issued notices to the respondents on acquittal plea of former minister Sheikh Rashid besides adjourning the hearing of the case.

PTI workers attack Qazi Isa's car in London

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers have attacked vehicle of former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa and his wife Sarina in London, media reports said on Wednesday.

Dozens of PTI supporters had gathered at Chancery Lane to stage a protest against Isa, who was attending a prestigious event held at the Middle Temple, after relinquishing charge as the country's top judge. Qazi Isa was going to attend the ceremony for constituting benches at the Middle Temple.

ISPR says: One Khwarij terrorist killed other apprehended injured in Zhob operation

3 khawarij killed during the security forces' action in Orakzai

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces on Wednesday killed a Khwarij terrorist while injured the other during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in general area Sambaza, Zhob District.

During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between

the Army troops and Khwarij, an Inter Services Public Relations news release said.

The weapons and ammunition were also recovered from them.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to neutralize any other Kharij present in the area.



ANKARA: Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Dr. Yousaf Junaid in a group photograph with motorcyclists from Cross Route Club Pakistan.

Govt, opposition 'finalise names' for judicial body on judges appointment

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government and opposition have finalised names for members of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), which was re-constituted to include parliamentarians in light of the recently enacted 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Sources told that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari from National Assembly (NA) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui would represent the ruling coalition in the key body — which is responsible for nominating judges for constitutional benches in the Supreme Court and high courts.

Meanwhile, the main opposition party — Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) — has named Senator Shibli Faraz and Leader of Oppo-

sition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub for the judicial commission.

Speaking to, Ayub confirmed the development, saying that his name for the key panel was forwarded by PTI founder Imran Khan.

"Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and PTI General Secretary Salman Akram Raja informed us about the decision," he said.

The opposition leader noted that the PTI leadership consulted the incarcerated former premier before finalising the names. Earlier, NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq had sought nominations from the government and the opposition for appointment as JCP members. As per the addition of Article 175A in the Constitution through the 26th Constitutional Amendment, the JCP to be headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting of Secretaries Committee.

CM Punjab celebrates Diwali, announces welfare initiatives for minorities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced several initiatives to support minority communities during the Diwali celebrations held at 90-Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, here on Wednesday. The CM announced writing a letter to the chief minister of Indian Punjab to undertake joint efforts to eliminate smog. During the ceremony, CM Maryam Nawaz announced issuance of special cards for minority communities, an increase in the number of cards, and the establishment of a Minority Virtual Police Station. She also highlighted plans to enhance development in minority areas. As part of the celebrations, the Chief Minister lit a traditional Diwali lamp and participated in virtual fireworks, creating a festive atmosphere adorned with traditional Rangoli. In a heartfelt gesture, she interacted closely with Hindu women and took a young girl into her lap, distributing cheques of Rs. 15,000 to 1,400 Hindu families. Addressing the gathering, she assured the minority communities, "If anyone commits atrocities against minorities, I will stand with the victim. We are all Pakistanis, and Diwali symbolizes peace, harmony, and love." She urged citizens to view smog as a humanitarian issue, not a political one, and expressed her determination to protect minority rights. The CM remarked on the importance of inclusivity, saying, "I felt immense happiness lighting the Diwali lamp. It symbolizes our unity as Pakistanis." She shared her childhood teachings from Nawaz Sharif about treating minorities as a source of pride, stating that all religious celebrations would be honored collectively.



BUNER: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions and President PML-N KP, Engr Amir Muqam addressing Jirga Members in Buner.

CM KP forms commission to resolve matters of discovery of petroleum, gas in NW

PESHAWAR (APP): An introductory meeting of the Provincial Joint Commission constituted by the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to resolve the matters with regard to the recently discovered petroleum and gas resources in North Waziristan, was held here at Chief Minister's Secretariat on Wednesday with Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the Chair. Elected members of National and Provincial Assemblies from North Waziristan, high ups of energy department and relevant divisional administration, representatives from 11 Corps, SNGPL, Mari Petroleum Company and other concerned institutions attended the meeting. Senior officials of Federal Ministry of Petroleum also attended the meeting via video link. It is pertinent to mention here that the aforementioned Provincial Joint Commission was constituted to protect the rights of the local population with regard to the revenue/royalty of the recently discovered natural resources in North Waziristan by ensuring fair and just disbursement/ utilization of that development funds. The Commission will also formulate long-term policies/strategies to ensure that the recently discovered natural resources are utilized in the best interests of the country, region, and local population, acting as a liaison amongst committees at district and tehsil level, provincial and federal governments and other stakeholders.

If federation does not play its role then security problems will not be resolved: PHC

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has remarked if federation does not play its role then security problems will not be resolved. "Will federation wait for letter from province. It has no responsibility of its own. Army officers and jawans are embracing shahadat daily. Does federation not see it, court further remarked. The case related to miserable law and order situation in KP came up for hearing in PHC Wednesday. The court directed additional chief secretary interior to appear in person. A division bench of PHC comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshid Ali took up the case for hearing Wednesday. Vice chairman KP Bar Council, Additional Advocate General (AAG), DIG and Assistant Attorney General appeared in the court. Justice Ijaz Anwar inquired what is security situation of courts and judges in southern districts. DIG legal told the court security of courts, judges and their residences has been enhanced.

Govt striving to combat smog, says Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that the Punjab government has implemented crucial measures to reduce the rising smog and air pollution in Lahore. Addressing in the Punjab Assembly, she announced that 11 areas in Lahore have been designated as smog hot-spots, with Shimla Hill being the most affected. A "Green Lockdown" will be enforced in these areas starting tomorrow, with an official notification issued, she added. She said that under the Green Lockdown, all construction activities within one-kilometer radius of Shimla Hill and surrounding areas will be strictly prohibited, and the use of commercial generators will be banned. Chingchi rickshaws will be restricted from these zones, and open barbecue activities will be prohibited after 8 p.m. Heavy transport vehicles will also be restricted, and 50 percent of office employees will work from home.

Two sons, nephew of Ex-Nazim shot dead in Pabbi

PESHAWAR (APP): At least three people including two sons of former Nazim, Wazir Garhi and his nephew were killed when their car was fired at in Pabbi tehsil here on Wednesday. Pabbi police said the incident took place in Dag Behsud area of Pabbi where armed men fired multiple shots on a car, killing three people. The dead included two sons of Malik Jamal Shah, the former Nazim of Wazir Garhi and his nephew.

Muqam holds meeting with Nazriati Group

BUNER (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr Amir Muqam held a meeting with Nazriati Group leaders on Wednesday. During the meeting, held at residence of Ishfaq Chhattan, the Leaders of Nazriati Group announced to abolish the Group and express full confidence on the leadership of PML-N, president Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Engr Amir Muqam and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, received a press release. Extending full support to provincial president Engr Amir Muqam, the leaders vowed to work together for strengthening the party. The Nazriati Group leader Abdul Subhan Khan, Malik Imran, group president from Peshawar Arbab Ghulam Haider Khan, group leader from Abbottabad Sardar Abdur Rashid also spoke on this occasion. Provincial President Engr Amir Muqam hailed their decision and termed the decision of abolishment of group as "better late than never". He expressed the resolve to work under the dynamic leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

Tank police foil arms smuggling bid

TANK (APP): The district police foiled an attempt to smuggle arms during an ongoing crackdown against anti-social elements here on Wednesday. According to police spokesman District Police Officer (DPO) Aslam Nawaz Khan has issued directives to take stringent actions against crimes and these operations had started yielding results. As part of ongoing operations under the supervision of DSP City Circle Saleem Khan, SHO Shahid Mureed Akbar police station, Sher Afzal Khan successfully conducted a significant operation.



LAHORE: Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, addressing during meet the press at press club, in the Provincial Capital.

PDWP approves 5 developmental schemes

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP), in its 41st meeting of the fiscal year 2024-25, Wednesday approved five development schemes amounting to Rs 12.042 billion. Chaired by P&D Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan, the meeting approved the following schemes: 1. Central Punjab Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 3,256,401 million. 2. South Punjab Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 5,153,816 million. 3. North Punjab Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 3,603,508 million. 4. Feasibility Study for the Construction of a Sky Walk Glass Bridge at Murree (PC-II) at a cost of Rs 13,240 million. 5. Preparation of Dossiers for Tentative World Heritage Sites of Harappa and Hiran Minar at a cost of Rs 15,300 million. The meeting was attended by Secretary P&D Board Dr. Asif Tufail, Chief Economist Masood Anwar, members of the P&D Board and other senior officials.

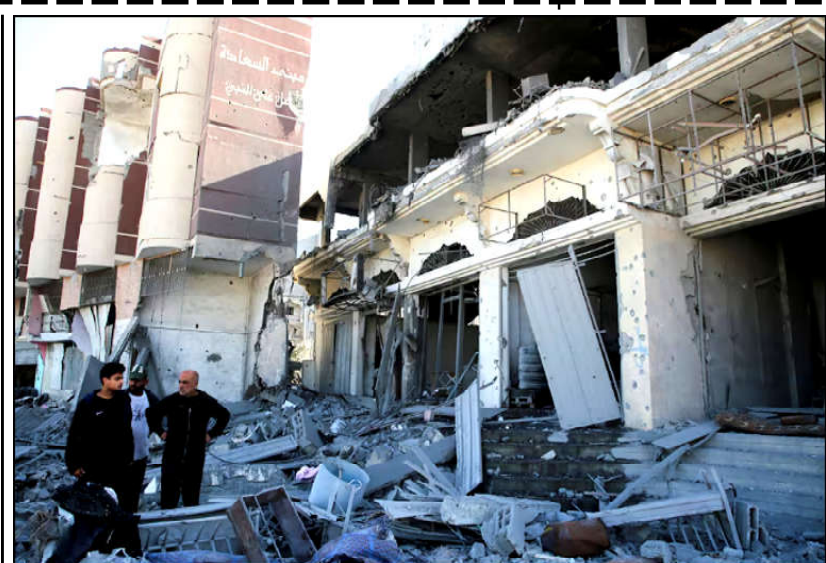


LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique presides over the meeting regarding Lahore Development Plan. Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bukhari, SACM Zeeshan Malik and Rashid Iqbal are also present.

International News

North Korea sends foreign minister to Russia as its troops train to fight against Ukraine

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea said Tuesday its top diplomat is visiting Russia, in another sign of their deepening relations as rival South Korea and Western nations say the North has sent thousands of troops to support Russia's war in Ukraine. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said a delegation led by Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui departed for Russia on Monday, but didn't specify the purpose of the visit. In a closed-door hearing at South Korea's parliament, the South's spy agency said Choe may be involved in high-level discussions on sending additional troops to Russia and negotiating what the North would get in return, according to Lee Seong-kweon, a lawmaker who attended the meeting. The announcement of Choe's visit came hours after the Pentagon said North Korea has sent to Russia about 10,000 troops, who are likely to fight against Ukraine within "the next several weeks." South Korean and Western leaders have expressed concern that North Korean involvement could help prolong Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and that Russia may offer technology in return that could advance the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile program. Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said a "relatively small number" of North Korean troops are now in the Kursk region, where Russia has struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion. He declined to provide a more precise number. A couple thousand more troops are heading in that direction, he told reporters Tuesday. "As of right now, you know, it remains to be seen exactly how the Russians and the North Koreans will employ these forces," Ryder said, adding that he expects the deployment to be discussed by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and their South Korean counterparts when they meet in Washington this week. South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers it's examining the possibility that some groups of North Korea's military personnel in Russia, including generals or other high-ranking officials, may have already moved to frontline areas. The spy agency said the two sides appear to be struggling to resolve communication issues, although the Russian military is



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Gaza rescuers dig for survivors after Israeli strike kills 93

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Rescuers pulled bodies from the rubble in Beit Lahia on Tuesday after an overnight Israeli strike that Gaza's civil defence said killed 93 people in a residential building. Bodies wrapped in shrouds lay in rows as mourners gathered, with witnesses saying many of those killed were women and children. Around 40 people remained missing under the debris, the civil defence agency said. Its spokesman, Mahmud Bassal, described the complete destruction of a five-storey home, adding that the area lacked medical facilities to treat the wounded. "The number of martyrs in the massacre of the Abu Nasr family home in Beit Lahia has risen to 93 martyrs, and about 40 are still missing under the rubble," he told AFP.

CIA director, other officials to visit Middle East for talks

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US officials including CIA Director William Burns and envoys Brett McGurk and Amos Hochstein will visit Egypt and Israel on Thursday to discuss issues involving Iran, Lebanon, and the release of hostages in Gaza, a US official said as Washington seeks to de-escalate tensions in the region. CENTCOM Commander General Erik Kurilla also is in the region and will visit Israel, the official said on Wednesday.

US presses ahead with modest Mideast plans despite election uncertainty

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: With the U.S. presidential election just a week away, the Biden administration is not giving up hope for short-term deals for cease-fires between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. But U.S. officials are mindful that political uncertainty in the United States has made the sides reluctant to commit to any significant agreements before it is clear who has won the White House. In the meantime, the Middle East is uneasy about what happens next after Israel struck Iranian military targets over the weekend in retaliation for Iran's barrage of ballistic missile attacks on Oct. 1. U.S. officials said they believe Israel's attack — whose targets were coordinated with Washington — will not draw an escalatory reaction from Iran. But the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share sensitive diplomatic discussions, caution that nothing is certain. The Biden administration was able to persuade Israel to keep its response limited — gaining assurances it wouldn't hit nuclear or oil sites in Iran that would have escalated the conflict — despite limited U.S. influence as Biden's term wraps up. As Israel's closest ally and a key mediator in the Middle East, the U.S. still is pressing for any movement on a truce despite setbacks in the past and little expectation of immediate breakthroughs.

Investors take cover in Asia ahead of US election

Monitoring Desk PENNSYLVANIA: Investors are selling yen and taking shelter in cash, India, pockets of China's markets and Singapore dollars ahead of a US election that could shake out global money and trade flows. Asia's financial markets stand on the front line of what could be a wild ride when votes are tallied and in the months ahead since the region is an export powerhouse and shares and currencies are sensitive to changes in US trade policies. That has money managers shying away from outright wagers on the outcome and looking instead to reduce exposure to vulnerabilities from Japanese manufacturers to Hong Kong stocks and make bets in India or China that stand to gain regardless of the US leader. "We actually view China as a decent place to

Yemen's Houthis launched drones towards Israel's Ashkelon, spokesperson says

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Yemen's Houthis launched drones towards an industrial zone in the Israeli city of Ashkelon, the group's military spokesperson said on Tuesday. The Yemeni fighters, who have been attacking ships crossing the Red Sea since November of last year, say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza and in support of Lebanon against Israeli strikes. The Israeli military said on Tuesday morning that sirens sounded in Ashkelon after a drone crossed into Israeli territory but fell in an open space in the area. Israel condemns the Houthis as terrorists following the instructions of its arch-foe Iran.

Austria says eight of its UNIFIL troops in Lebanon injured in rocket attack

Monitoring Desk VIENNA: Eight Austrian soldiers belonging to the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) sustained superficial injuries in a rocket strike on Camp Naqoura near Israel, Austria's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday. UNIFIL is stationed in southern Lebanon to monitor hostilities along the demarcation line with Israel, an area that has seen fierce clashes this month between Israeli troops and Iran-backed Hezbollah fighters. "We condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms and demand that it be investigated immediately," the ministry said in a statement, adding that it was not clear where the attack came from and none of the soldiers needed urgent medical care. Austria contributes about 180 soldiers to the 10,000-strong force. They are part of a "Multi Role Logistic Unit" that performs roles like transporting goods and personnel, repairing vehicles, supplying fuel and firefighting.

Iran appoints first Baluch governor in restive Sistan Baluchistan province

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran's government on Wednesday appointed the first governor from the Baluch minority in the country's restive southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan. "Mansour Bijar was chosen as the governor of Sistan-Baluchistan," government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said after a cabinet meeting. Bijar, 50, hails from the Baluch community, a mainly Sunni Muslim ethnic group in a Shia-majority country.

Harris warns of dangers of another Trump presidency in speech at Jan 6 riots site

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Democrat Kamala Harris warned tens of thousands of people gathered in Washington at her biggest rally that her Republican opponent Donald Trump was seeking unchecked power as their tightening race for the presidency entered its final week. Harris spoke on Tuesday evening to an outdoor rally estimated by her campaign to number more than 75,000 people at the spot near the White House where on January 6, 2021, Trump addressed his supporters before they attacked the US Capitol. "We know who Donald Trump is," Harris said. She said the then-president sent an "armed mob" to the US Capitol to try to overturn his loss in the 2020 presidential election. "This is someone who is unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance and out for unchecked power," Harris said during what her campaign called her closing argument before a tightly contested November 5 election. More than 53 million Americans have already voted in the election, according to Election Hub at the University of Florida, in a battle that will decide who runs the world's richest and most powerful country for four years. Harris was flanked by American flags on stage and surrounded by blue and white banners that said "FREEDOM" with a well-lit White House behind her. The crowd included older people and college students, people from overseas, from New York and from nearby Virginia. Many women came in groups with other female friends. "It's important that we do not go back to the horrible past policies under President Trump," said Saul Schwartz, a former

At UN, Pakistan calls for steps to offset threats to regional, Intl security

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Reaffirming that international peace and security depended on stability at the regional levels, Pakistan has called for the preservation of balance in the defence capabilities of states at the lowest level of armaments and military forces.

Speaking at a key U.N. panel, Pakistani delegate Atif Raza also underscored the special responsibility of militarily significant states in promoting regional security.

"Several regions have reaped the benefits of applying these principles: Conventional arms control,

risk reduction, and confidence-building measures (CBMs) have laid the groundwork for peace in many regions of the world," Raza, a Counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, told the General Assembly's First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security issues.

"However, when a state spurs these regional approaches because it perceives its global ambitions as incompatible, it obstructs the path to peace," he said in the debate on 'Regional Disarmament and Security'.

"Such denial isn't just

a regional issue; it destabilizes the entire global order," the Pakistani delegate added.

Confidence-building measures could lead to favourable measures for the peaceful settlement of existing disputes, he said, adding they should not become an end in themselves.

"They (CBMs) also cannot act as a substitute nor a precondition for steps towards peaceful settlement of disputes," Raza said. "Without progress towards eliminating underlying disputes and causes of mistrust between states, the utility of CBMs diminishes."



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola in a group photo with Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus Islamabad Dr. Shahida Rehmani and Women MPAs.

Govt. focusses on economic uplift of masses: DPM Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday highlighted that the incumbent government focused on efforts to uplift the economic conditions of the masses.

Now, the country was on road to sustainable growth as all the macro-economic indicators were doing well with food inflation nosediving and the GDP on the rise, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed his views during the launching ceremony of BOGO LIV, a financial mobile application.

He further said that Pakistan Stock Market had been the best performing market in the Asia while the credible global institutions were all projecting Pakistan's economy on road to recovery.

Dar stressed that they needed to introspect on their past and reflect as to how correct the course and stay on the right course.

He said that government's strategy revolved around encouraging productivity through private sector, adding it was not the government's job to do businesses, rather it acted as facilitator to encourage the private sector.

The DPM further said that the airports were to be outsourced in the country. When the UK could do it why it could not be done here for the purpose of provision of better services, he added.

He said that the government was also focusing on downsizing its size and curtailing its spending, adding that immense potential still existed in the country, though they had lost a lot yet the vast opportunities existed.

Dar underscored the need of maintaining the economic stability and called for unity, hard work and moving in the right direction.

He said after few months of this government's tenure, the inflation rate had been brought down to around 7 percent while the monitoring policy rate was also reduced.

About the launch of the digital app, the

deputy prime minister/foreign minister said that such like digital payment services and innovative models would contribute towards Pakistan's digital economy and its financial landscape.

He said the government had the vision for digital and prosperous Pakistan and it was taking all steps to stabilize the economy.

The innovative ideas in the technological fields would strengthen and uplift lives of the communities, he observed, adding that the country's population comprised about 67 per cent of youth under the 30 years of age.

He said while on the other hand, Pakistan was blessed with vast mineral wealth which was complemented by its IT and renewable energy sectors.

The novel digital financial programmes always contributed to Pakistan's social and technological progress by benefiting consumers and businesses and by bringing more transparency and accountability, he added.

PM meets Vietnamese counterpart; suggests exchange of trade

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met with his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Minh Chinh and expressed Pakistan's desire to enhance its ties with Vietnam, while highlighting the immense potential of the two countries to enhance trade and investment cooperation.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment Initiative (FII) Conference, the two leaders discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations, particularly in trade and investment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz proposed an ex-

change of trade and business delegations between both countries to further explore these opportunities. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening people-to-people ties and promoting tourism between the two countries.

Appreciating Vietnam's role in the ASEAN region, Prime Minister Shehbaz sought support for Pakistan's efforts to become a full dialogue partner of ASEAN.

He also extended an invitation to the Vietnamese prime minister to undertake an official visit to Pakistan.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh of Vietnam on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment Initiative (FII) Conference.

Fazlur Rehman says: Improving national economy vital for country's stability

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday said that strengthening national economy was vital for country's stability.

He stated this while addressing a ceremony by JUI-F district leadership in his honor.

He underlined the need of forming an effective policy to tackle the menace of terrorism in the country to ensure economic stability.

Fazl said his party would support the government in its all the steps taken for the betterment of the national economy.

He mentioned that the recent Shanghai Cooperation Conference (SCC) meeting held in Pakistan which was a matter of pride for the whole nation.

The JUI-F Chief said that after the passage of 26th constitutional amendment, the Parliament was bound to discuss the recommendations of Islamic

Ideology Council (IIC) for making any legislation, which he termed a big achievement.

He said that earlier the agreement of 40 percent legislators was mandatory for sending any matter to the IIC and this ratio was decreased to 25 percent under the 26th constitutional amendment.

Commenting on Palestine issue, he said the Pakistan was standing with Palestinian Muslims where the occupying forces have martyred about 50,000 to 60,000 innocent civilians.

He urged upon the governments of Muslim countries to take practical steps to end ongoing genocide in Palestine.

Earlier, while talking to media, Fazl called for dialogue with trusted leaders who had the confidence of the public, emphasizing that meaningful conversations were crucial for addressing the pressing challenges facing the nation.



QUETTA: MPA Dr. Nawaz Kibzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Planning minister calls for global action on climate disaster funding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal emphasized on Wednesday Pakistan's unwavering commitment to resilience in the face of climate change and natural disasters.

Speaking at the Accreditation Award ceremony organized by the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), the minister lauded the rigorous efforts of the NDRMF and its partners, including representatives from federal ministries, provincial authorities, disaster management bodies, and international organizations, all of whom played a pivotal role in advancing Pakistan's climate resilience efforts.

Prof. Iqbal highlighted Pakistan's unique position as a nation that, while contributing less than 1% to global emissions, ranks among the countries most severely affected by climate disasters.

He pointed out that despite widespread verbal support for Pakistan's climate resilience efforts, substantial international funding has been lacking, leaving Pakistan to navigate the consequences of climate change with limited global support.

Reflecting on recent climate-related events, he noted that while international community expressed solidarity, much of the financial assistance offered was in the form of loans rather than direct aid.

This situation has compelled Pakistan to repurpose existing education and health sector loans toward flood recovery efforts. Prof. Iqbal cited the international commitment to a \$70 billion loss and damage fund for climate-affected countries, but only \$70 million has been allocated so far.

This leaves Pakistan and other vulnerable countries facing significant challenges in securing critical resources for climate adaptation and resilience.

GoB announces closed holiday from Oct 31 to Nov 2 for Hindu employees on Diwali

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has announced the closed holiday for three days from October 31 to November 2, 2024 for the government employees belonging to Hindu community on account of Diwali.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department on Wednesday. According to the notification, the salaries of government employees from the Hindu community have already been paid on October 24 for the period of October.

PTI senator Sania Nishtar resigns from Senate seat

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI Senator leader Dr Sania Nisar has resigned from Senate seat.

According to sources, Sania Nishtar tendered resignation to join an international organisation in Geneva.

Sources said that former federal minister Dr Nishtar also sent her resignation to the Senate secretary.

It is pertinent to note that former federal minister Nishtar was elected senator from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2021.

Dr Nishtar is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Gavi, a vaccine alliance. She is an internationally acclaimed public health and development expert having a degree in medicine.

October 31 is last date for filing income tax returns

ISLAMABAD (INP): Only one-day left for filing income tax returns for fiscal year 2024 which already approaching fast.

Prior to this Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) extended last date of filing income tax returns for fiscal year 2024 twice due to slow and unavailability of internet, technical faults in IRIS Portal and on appeals from tax bar associations.

Now the final date for filing income tax returns for fiscal year 2024 is October 31, 2024.

Regional Tax Office established awareness camps for taxpayers under the supervision of Chief Commissioner Ahmad Shuja Khan.

These tax awareness camps will also be established in various big markets of Lahore. Staff from Inland Revenue will be available to provide any guidance to taxpayers.

Chief Coordinator of Tajir Dost Scheme Naem Mir has said that after expiry of deadline FBR will take stern measures against non-filers and no further extension will be granted to taxpayers.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bkhat Muhammad Kakar checking the attendance register during his visit to Basic Health Unit at Killi Nasaran Nawa Killi.

Forced shutter down not to be allowed, asserts Quetta administration

QUETTA: The Quetta district administration has announced that forced shutter down strike would not be observed in the city.

According to an official handout issued here Wednesday, the Assistant Commissioner Quetta city and other Assistant Commissioners visited Liaquat bazar, Prince road, Gordat

Singh road and Jinnah road and they got opened the shops closed in the city.

Assistant Commissioner said that the people who were forcefully closing the shops were arrested.

He also said that patrolling of police has been increased in different parts. He said that no one can be forced to observe shutter down.

Surge in cases of polio in Balochistan continues Another child reported with crippling disease from Chaghai

QUETTA: Another polio case has been reported from Balochistan increasing tally of cases of crippling disease to 22. The Emergency Operation Center for polio eradication sources said that the new polio case has been reported from Chaghai, which is the first one of the district during the current year.

The sources said that the polio virus has been detected in a child belonging to Chaghai.

It may be mentioned here that in all 21 cases of polio had already been reported in the province during current year.

Out of the total polio cases, six were reported from Killa Abdullah and three from Quetta district.

Regional Tax Office established awareness camps for taxpayers under the supervision of Chief Commissioner Ahmad Shuja Khan.

These tax awareness camps will also be established in various big markets of Lahore. Staff from Inland Revenue will be available to provide any guidance to taxpayers.

Chief Coordinator of Tajir Dost Scheme Naem Mir has said that after expiry of deadline FBR will take stern measures against non-filers and no further extension will be granted to taxpayers.



QUETTA: A view of closed shop during a shutter down strike call by Balochistan National Party.

Chairman PAC dismayed over untimely completion of projects of Irrigation Department

QUETTA: The Chairman, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Asghar Khan Tareen has expressed dismay over untimely completion of the development projects of Irrigation Department.

The Chairman PAC said that the projects are not completing due to incompetence of the Irrigation Department.

He said that overrun payment of billions of rupees has been made for the projects and inquired as who would pay the losses?

The Chairman PAC was presiding over the meeting in the committee room of Balochistan Assembly on Wednesday. The

meeting reviewed the audit paras of Irrigation Department for the financial year 2021-22 and 2022-23 and other related matters.

The members of PAC Zabid Ali Reki and Fazal Qadir Mandokhail, Director General Audit, Shuja Ali, Accountant General, Nasrullah Jan, Secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid, Additional Secretary PAC, Sirajuddin Lehri, Additional Secretary Law, Saeed Iqbal, Additional Secretary Finance, Muhammad Arif, Chief Accounts Officer, PAC, Syed Muhammad Idris, Project Directors of Irrigation Department, and other concerned officials were in attendance at the meeting.

Partial shutter down strike observed in Quetta city

QUETTA: The partial shutter down strike was observed in different parts of Quetta on Wednesday.

The call for shutter down strike was given by Balochistan National Party (BNP) against registration of FIR against the central leader of Party, Sardar Akhtar Mengal and other party leaders in Islamabad as well as inclusion of name of party workers and others in the 4th schedule list, alleged enforced disappearances of the people from province, passage of 26th constitutional amendment,

and other issues.

While the shops and businesses concerns remain closed in different parts of the metropolis, the same remain open in some parts thus showing a mix response to the shutter down strike call. The movement of traffic also plied below the normal on the streets and roads in the city.

Meanwhile, reports reaching here from interior parts suggested that the shutter down strike was observed in Kharan, Panjur, Mastung, Kalat, Noshki and some other areas of the province.



QUETTA: Newly Elected President National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and member of central cabinet being administer oath by Akram Dashti.

PM expresses sympathies, solidarity with Spain over loss of lives in floods

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended deepest sympathies and solidarity to the people of Spain and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez over loss of lives due to floods. "On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, I extend our deepest sympathies and solidarity to the people of Spain and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez following the tragic floods and loss of life. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected," the prime minister posted on X handle.

Plastic bags banned in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): The Commissioner Quetta Division on Wednesday imposed a ban on the sale and purchase of plastic bags. Metropolitan Corporation is pleased to impose a ban on the sale/purchase/storage and use of plastic bags, said an order issued by the Commissioner's office. The shops and malls violating the order would be sealed in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency besides arresting those who were involved in the sale and purchase of bags.

Naqvi condemns attack on Ex-CJP Qazi Faez's vehicle in London

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the attack on former Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and the Pakistani High Commission's vehicle in London.

The Interior Minister ordered NADRA to take immediate action to identify the attackers through video footage.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Livestock Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

BA Body expresses concerns over non-functioning of 30 libraries in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Assembly's standing committee on Culture, Tourism and Archeology expressed grief and concerns over the non-functioning of 30 libraries in various districts of the province. The committee was informed that there are 90 libraries in 25 districts of the province, out of which 60 are functional and 30 are inactive due to insufficient staff and other issues.

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Culture, Archives, Tourism and Archeology was held under the chairmanship of Rahmat Ali Baloch was informed that the department has formulated the Balochistan Artist Welfare Fund policy to provide financial support to well-known artists. Under the policy, artists would be awarded financial support of Rs 40,000, 30,000 and 20,000 per month respectively.

Chairman Rehmat Ali Baloch emphasized the need to support the artists who are real ambassadors and the committee pledged to resolve the issues being faced by the artists. The committee stressed to ensure the protection and promotion of the rich cultural heritage of Balochistan.

The committee expressed its concern that the Balochi, Pashto and Brahui

Academies supervised by the Education Department instead of the Culture Department. The members unanimously agreed to move a resolution in the Assembly to transfer these academies to the Department of Culture. The purpose of the change is to better align the focus of the academies with the objectives of the Department of Culture.

The department informed the meeting that the construction work on the divisional culture complex at Rs 500 million is under process due to issues of land allocation in various divisions. The officials said that a budget has been allocated for the construction of the culture complex three years ago, but the work has not been started due to non-availability of land.

They added that there is lack of land for the construction of the Academy of Performing Arts in Quetta despite the approval of the scheme. The committee stressed the urgent need to resolve these issues to execute the projects without any further delay. Members Balochistan Assembly Hadiya Nawaz and Safia Fazlur Rehman were present in the meeting whereas Secretary of Department Noor Mohammad Jogezi briefed the committee regarding the department.