

# Independent

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## Pakistan, Malaysia agree to deepen trade, investment cooperation; reiterate stance on Gaza, Kashmir

Shahbaz, Anwar Ibrahim reaffirm commitment to strengthen mutually beneficial partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, defence, and agriculture, besides reiterating their strong positions on regional issues including Gaza and Kashmir.

In a joint press stakeout following their one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks, both prime ministers told the media that their discussions focused on strengthening the bilateral collaboration in multiple areas of mutual interest as well as regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir.

As part of the efforts to boost bilateral trade, both leaders agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat worth \$200 million per annum and 100,000 metric

tonnes of Basmati Rice to Malaysia.

Total trade between Malaysia and Pakistan stood at USD 1.4 billion with the trade goods included palm oil, apparel, textiles, chemical and chemical-based products, and electronics and electronic products. Among South Asian countries, Pakistan is Malaysia's third-largest trading partner.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that besides discussing the export of Pakistan's Basmati Rice, two sides also discussed the possibilities of exporting Halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia worth \$200 million per annum, and assured that his country would make no compromise on the quality.

He said the Malaysian PM had also assured to address the discrepancies in the

import of Pakistan's rice into his country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that they had a 'wonderful' meeting to discuss the enhancement of trade and investment, besides exploring avenues of further cooperation in defence, tourism, agriculture, green energy, skilled labour and youth empowerment.

He said both sides were unanimous in believing that the two countries would collectively find new heights in trade and investment cooperation for a bright future for two nations.

Assuring his cooperation to further enhance Pakistan-Malaysia defence and security cooperation, he said that thousands of Pakistani students were currently studying in Malaysia to help strengthen the people-to-people contacts.

## Malaysian PM given guard of honour at PM House

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim on Thursday was given the guard of honour here as he arrived at the Prime Minister House to meet his counterpart Shehbaz Sharif and hold the delegation-level talks.

As he arrived at the venue of the formal welcome ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz warmly welcomed the foreign dignitary who arrived here on a three-day state visit to Pakistan on Wednesday. The national anthems of Pakistan and Malaysia were played as the foreign dignitary stood at the salute dias.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim address a joint press stakeout.

## SC nullifies decision in the case of article 63-A, accepts review appeals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday accepted the review petition and terminated the previous judgment pertaining to Article 63A of the Constitution. The court ruled that the defecting lawmakers' votes should indeed be counted and said that the detailed judgment would be issued later on.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, announced the short order.

The chief justice said that the review petition of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) was accepted unanimously, adding that the detailed verdict would be issued later on.

Earlier during the pro-

ceedings, Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar took the stance that his meeting with PTI's founder was not held independently. The lawyer said that the PTI founder had requested that he wanted to give arguments himself before the bench through video link.

On this point, the CJP said that you were making unreasonable request. He said what secret things did you have to discuss with PTI founder? You were only supposed to discuss a constitutional issue, he remarked. Ali Zafar said that the PTI founders had objection on formation of bench and stated that they will not be a part of proceedings. The court on the occasion appointed Barrister Ali Zafar as amicus curiae and asked him to assist the bench.

Ali Zafar, as amicus curiae, said that the objec-

tion was not against any personality, and instead it was on the formation of bench.

He said that the original petition was related to the vote in the no-confidence motion but the top court linked the presidential reference with the constitutional petitions. The court disposed of the constitutional petitions by declaring that it had given an opinion on the reference, and the review petition's scope was limited, he said.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan said that one may be unhappy with the Constitution or the death penalty, but everyone was bound to implement it. "Can a judge take an oath and saying that he is not happy with this provision of the Constitution," he questioned.

The CJP said that the

head of the party had the authority to give or not to give a declaration of defection to someone. The members of the assembly or political parties were subordinate to their leader, not the judges, he said.

On the query of the bench, Farooq H. Naek said that party elections were held under the Election Act, in which the decision of the party chief was taken.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that the decision of Article 63 A was a majority decision by the margin of one judge. He questioned that if the opinion of one judge was heavy on the parliament.

He asked that whether the court should send the matter to the President to decide which opinion he agreed with.

Additional Attorney General Aamir Rehman op-

posed the option and said that the constitutional petitions had also been dealt with the reference. The matter of dealing with the constitutional petitions could not be sent to the President, he added.

The chief justice said that if Article 63A was clear, then what was the need for its interpretation. Appeals of disaffected members also have to come to the Supreme Court, and if the court decision leads to disqualification, the appeal will be ineffective, he remarked.

The Additional Attorney General said that the decision on Article 63A was full of contradictions. He said that on the one hand it said that vote was a fundamental right but at the same time this right was abolished on the direction of the party.



President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President Zardari confers Nishan-e-Pakistan award on Malaysian PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in recognition of his support for Islamic causes and for being a great friend of Pakistan.

The top civilian award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, federal ministers, services chiefs, diplomats, and senior government officials. During the ceremony, it was highlighted that the Malaysian prime minister was an avid reader of Allama Iqbal and acknowledged that his work

had been a source of inspiration for him.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has been a prominent advocate of humanitarian causes and Islamic values throughout his political career. His leadership is marked by a profound commitment to promoting social justice and addressing global issues affecting the Islamic world.

He has also been a voice for the causes of self-determination movements and has particularly stood against oppression across the world. He continues to work tirelessly to counter Islamophobia striving to create interfaith harmony by fostering understanding and respect between different cultures and religions.

## IHC dismisses petition against CEC's appointment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja declaring it non-maintainable.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, who heard the case filed by PTI leader Akram Khan Bari, observed that Mr Raja had retired from government service before his appointment as CEC.

The petitioner claimed that Sikandar Sultan Raja was a serving bureaucrat when he was appointed against the key post.

Citing judicial verdicts, he pleaded that a serving bureaucrat could not be appointed against the instant post.

## Naqvi warns of stern action against protestors during Malaysian PM's visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday warned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), of stern action against protestors if anyone disrupts law and order at the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan.

The government will ensure fool proof security arrangements at the time of visit Malaysian Prime Minister, said the minister.

According to the new law, specific place has already been allocated for public and political gatherings with the permission of concerned authorities, he added.

Naqvi said that the

protest demonstration is a constitutional right of every citizen but the government will not allow anyone to sabotage the visits of foreign dignitaries.

He said that knowing well about government's action against protest demonstration during the visit of foreign guest, PTI's call to storm Islamabad is an enemy agenda.

Pakistan can not afford even a minor security lapse during the visit of a foreign dignitary.

The PTI leadership must review their decision, otherwise the government will not tolerate anyone and an indiscriminate action will be taken against

all protestors, the minister added.

Chief Minister KPK Ali Amin Gandapur is a patriot Pakistani and responsible person but the protest call at such an important time does not suite to his stature, Mohsin Naqvi said adding that the government, paramilitary forces, Rangers, FC and capital police is fully prepared to deal with protestors.

He said that the government has also called Pakistan army to ensure security arrangements for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit taking place in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with media persons along with Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem Ur Rehman after a meeting at Zardari House, in the Federal Capital.

## PPP to participate in JI's March for Palestine: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday said that party workers would participate in the March for Palestine being organised by the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI).

A JI delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman formally invited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to take part in the march during a meeting here at the Zardari House.

The two leaders discussed the war imposed on the Middle East by Israel and the current situation in the region.

Talking to the media, Bilawal said that the world community remained indifferent to the ongoing brutal killings of women and children in Palestine. The top Palestinian leader was martyred in Iran.

Israel had no regard for human rights, rather it

was violating them with impunity, he added.

The PPP chairman said that the war imposed by Israel in Palestine and Lebanon was inching towards Iran. "Israel is, in fact, on a drive to forcefully occupy the Palestinian lands for completing its agenda of a 'greater Israel'."

"The PPP stands firm with the Muslims all over the world," he added.

The JI delegation consisted of vice presidents Liaquat Baloch and Mian Aslam, Secretary General Ameer-ul-Azameen and Ameer JI Islamabad Chapter Engr Nasarullah Randhawa.

PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman, Secretary General Nayyer Hussain Bukhari, Naveed Qamar and PPP Chairman's Spokesperson Murtaza Wahab were also present in the meeting.

## Fazal warns against horse-trading following SC review on Article 63-A

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the Supreme Court's review on Article 63-A shouldn't be misused.

He was addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday.



JUI-F chief said that there shouldn't be any match-fixing following the apex court's verdict on Article 63-A. He also warned against the buying and selling of MPs in the aftermath of SC's verdict.

The Supreme Court on Thursday accepted the review petitions against the decision on Article 63-A, annulling the ruling that dissident members' votes should not be counted.

A five-member larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the review appeal on Article 63-A. The bench announced the short order after hearing arguments of the parties. Also Read: SC accepts review on Article 63-A, gives immunity to dissenting votes. The court "unanimously" declared that the vote of dissenting members would be counted [in case of no-confidence motion].

Talking about the proposed constitutional amendment, Fazl said that the government wanted to pass the amendment in haste.

"The political parties continued their deliberations on the 18th amendment for nine months. Now, the government wants to pass the amendment in just 24 hours," said the veteran politician.

## Four employees including missing Dy supdt Adiala jail sacked

RAWALPINDI (Online): Home department Punjab has sacked 4 employees including missing deputy superintendent Adiala jail besides forfeiting service of one assistant superintendent and one warder.

The other officers and personnel who have been dismissed are assistant superintendent (in charge nafsiyat ward) and two warders. Secretary home department Punjab Noor ul Amin Mengal issued written order in this regard.

The sacked employees are Assistant Superintendent Executive Muhammad Akram, officer in charge (nafsiyat ward) assistant superintendent Riaz Khan, warder barrack incharge Nasir Mehmood and warder Aamir Abbas. Warder Saqlain Jalal has been pardoned.

It is pertinent to mention here missing deputy superintendent Muhammad Akram who has been dismissed from service is facing the charges of providing mobile phone, illegal facilitation to PTI founder Imran Khan in jail. He is missing from Adiala jail since August 14 mysteriously.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf inaugurating Bahria University College of Medicine.

## Naval Chief inaugurates Bahria University College of Medicine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday inaugurated Bahria University College of Medicine (BUCM) in the Federal Capital.

Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Naveed Ashraf appreciated the Bahria University's services and achievements in providing quality education in various fields, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

He underscored that while there were many opportunities and challenges ahead, BUCM would evolve into a premier institution for providing top-quality medical education.

The Naval Staff emphasized that the professionalism, commitment and

dedication of faculty members were crucial to establish the campus as one of the leading medical institutes in the country.

Earlier, during his welcome address, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral Asif Khaliq acknowledged the support provided by Pakistan Navy in developing the campus.

The Project Director of Bahria University Health Sciences Islamabad presented details of the project and highlighted the facilities available for students.

The Naval Chief also visited various facilities at the campus and appreciated state of the art infrastructure.

## Egyptian envoy calls on NA speaker; discuss bilateral relations, regional, int'l issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly (NA) Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday said Pakistan valued high its cordial ties with Egypt and intended to further expand the existing relations through enhanced parliamentary and economic cooperation. He expressed these views in a meeting with Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan who called on him at the Parliament House.

Ayaz Sadiq said the relation between the two brotherly countries was based on common religion, culture, history, mutual respect and brotherhood. He expressed grave concern over the current situation in the Middle East and condemned Israeli aggression in Palestine and Lebanon. He urged upon the international community to play its role in ending Israeli occupation and aggression so that durable peace can prevail in the region.

Highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, the speaker said parliamentary diplomacy could play a vital role in strengthening the bilateral relations.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.



## AJK President still remembers bleak memory of earthquake

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that painful memories 19 years ago of the tragic October 8, 2005 deadly earthquake that shook Azad Jammu Kashmir and other areas of Pakistan still haunt its inhabitants. "Those who witnessed the ravages of the natural calamity with their own eyes will hardly ever forget it," he said in a message on 19th Anniversary of history's worst killer earthquake being observed on October 8. Sultan added that the cataclysmic tremors left thousands of people, including men, women and children dead, while many cities, towns and villages were completely destroyed. He said that compensation for the loss of human lives caused by the earthquake was not possible, but the government tried its best to rehabilitate the victims, rebuild and reconstruct the damaged infrastructure. The president said that those who lost their lives on 8 October 2005 were still fresh and alive in our hearts. He thanked the international community, especially Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, the United Kingdom, European countries and the People's Republic of China, for providing relief and rescue to the people of AJK in the difficult time. The president said

## Bilawal fulfilling Benazir's unfinished agenda, says Hassan

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab General Secretary Syed Hassan Murtaza said on Thursday that party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was dedicated to realising the unfinished mission of his mother, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, with the supremacy of parliament being at the heart of her legacy. In a sharp rebuke to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi's recent comments on Thurs-

## ANF recovers 58 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas managed to recover 58 kg drugs worth Rs 6.5 kg and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 82 intoxicated tablets, 70 grams ice and 168 grams hashish were recovered from an accused arrested near a college in Lahore. 105 grams opium and 90 grams hashish were recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Lahore.



SARGODHA: Provincial Minister for Higher Education Department Rana Sikandar Hayat addresses the 'Future Innovator contest-2024' seminar held at University of Sargodha.

## Price hike, shortage of essential medicines will not be tolerated: Khawaja

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir has declared that price-hike and shortage of life-saving and essential medicines can never be tolerated. He made these remarks while presiding over an emergency meeting on Thursday on drug shortages and price hikes, convened on the directives of chief minister Punjab. During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted on the factors contributing to the shortages and rising prices of essential medicines. Director General Drug Control Muhammad Sohail provided an in-depth briefing on the current situation. Addressing the meeting, Khawaja Imran Nazir highlighted that the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is deeply concerned about the extraordinary price hikes affecting critical medicines. "The increase in prices of old stock medicines is unacceptable and

## Minister reviews education department's performance

SARGODHA (APP): A performance review meeting of the Department of Education was held under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat, at the Commissioner's Office, here on Thursday. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Task Force on Education Mazhar Mahmood, Advisor and Member of the Chief Minister's Advisory Committee Shakeel Bhatti, Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation Malik Shoaib Awan, Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan and Deputy Commissioner Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Waseem, along with parliamentarians and administrative officers. Director of Colleges Sarfraz Gujjar and Chief Executive Officer Education Sardar Akhtar Abbas Baloch provided detailed briefings on their respective institutions. The minister announced that all 596 vacant teaching positions in government colleges of Sargodha division would be filled with College Teaching Interns (CTIs). He said that the education-friendly initiative had led to record enrollments in public educational institutions this year, with students achieving top positions at the board level.



BAJAUR: Deputy Commissioner Shahid Ali along with other officials inaugurating Child Protection Unit in collaboration with UNICEF.

## Awareness seminar calls for effective efforts to fight drug abuse

PESHAWAR (APP): The speakers at an awareness seminar on Thursday called for collective and effective measures to curb use of drug among youth and serious social issues arising out of it. The one-day seminar was organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCECVE) on prevention of increasing drug use among youth and elimination of crime. The aim of the seminar was to create awareness and awareness regarding the increasing use of drugs among the youth and the serious social and security issues arising out of it. Dr Qasim Khan, Director General of KPCECVE in his opening remarks emphasized the importance of community involvement and collective efforts in the fight against drug abuse. He said that drug addiction among the youth increases tendency to engage in criminal activities, adding that it was an alarming issue that not only threatens the health and future of the youth but also the wider security concerns in the region. He said that the aim of KPCECVE was to promote dialogue for lasting solutions to these problems and to provide a platform for all partners where they can come up with better strategies for protection, guidance and rehabilitation of youth. Can discuss effective measures. Chief Coordination Officer of KPCECVE Dr Ayaz Khan, while addressing the seminar, said that early knowledge about the hazards of drug use was very important. He said it was responsibility of healthcare professionals, educationists and policy makers to play their imperative role in providing a support system for the recovery of affected individuals. He said that the launch of programs for youth under the auspices of educational institutions like Khyber Medical University was the need of the hour. Dr Ayaz Khan called for collaboration between government agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations to develop a comprehensive strategy for drug prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. Professor Dr Abdul Rahman, head of the Islamic Center University of Peshawar, while speaking about the use of drugs in Islam, emphasized that Islam strictly prohibits the use of narcotic substances, and also advocates compassion and rehabilitation for those suffering from the addiction so that they could quit drugs and become useful citizens of the society. In the seminar, renowned psychologists, health experts and KPCECVE officials shed light on the causes of drug

use and the harms and dangers arising from it, and the role of family and educational institutions in preventing drug use. Vice Chancellor, Khyber Medical University Peshawar Dr Ziaul Haque highlighted the responsibility of educational institutions in creating awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and guiding students towards a healthy and useful life. He said that KMU was not only educational centers but also useful platforms for creating awareness and promoting positive values among students. He said that the fight against drug abuse requires the joint effort of teachers, parents and the wider society.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the high level meeting regarding Chief Minister Children Heart Surgery Program at Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department.

## International News

## 65 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza orphanage, school

CAIRO/DOHA: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 65 Palestinians overnight, including in a school sheltering displaced families, medicals said, as Israeli tanks advanced in areas of Khan Younis in the south of the enclave. Meanwhile, in a joint press conference with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani expressed a resolve to continue mediation efforts to end the war in Gaza amid a heightening of regional tensions. Qatar has been one of the mediators working on a ceasefire deal in Gaza, although talks have stalled in recent days. The health ministry in Gaza said on Wednesday that at least 41,689 people have been killed by Israeli aggression in nearly a year. Israeli tanks carried out raids on several areas in eastern and central Khan Younis before partially retreating, leaving at least 40 people killed and dozens wounded. Meanwhile in Gaza City, at least 22 Palestinians were killed in two airstrikes. One Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced families in Gaza City killed 17 people, while another hit the Al-Amal Orphan Society, which also houses displaced persons, killing at least five others, the medicals said. Later on Wednesday, an Israeli strike on the Nuseirat Girls School, where displaced Palestinian families were sheltering, killed three people and wounded 15. The escalation came after Iran launched a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel on Tuesday in retaliation for Israel's campaign against Lebanon, and Israel vowed a "painful response". Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, locked in nearly a year of war with Israel, celebrated as they watched dozens of rockets en route to Israel. Some of those rockets fell in the Palestinian enclave after being intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defences, but caused no human losses, witnesses said. Starting his first trip to Qatar as president, Pezeshkian said his country wanted "security and peace", but Israel had triggered an escalation by assassinating Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.



Palestinian rescuers and locals search the debris of a collapsed building in Khan Younis after an Israeli air strike.

## New NATO chief Rutte reaffirms support for Ukraine on Kyiv trip

KYIV: NATO chief Mark Rutte told Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "Your security matters for us" on Thursday during his first visit to Kyiv since becoming the alliance's secretary-general. Rutte also reiterated NATO's pledge that Ukraine would one day be a NATO member, but Zelenskyy said he wanted the Western allies urgently to provide the kind of active military support that some of them have given to Israel in its battle with Iran. "Your security matters for us, and your fight for freedom reflects our core principles and values," Rutte told a joint news conference, stressing that his first foreign trip as NATO chief demonstrated the alliance's staunch support for Kyiv. "Ukraine is closer to NATO than ever before, and it will continue along this path until it secures NATO membership."

## CIA launches drive to recruit informants in China, Iran, North Korea

WASHINGTON: The US CIA on Wednesday launched a new drive to recruit informants in China, Iran and North Korea, adding to what it says has been a successful effort to enlist Russians. The premier US spy agency posted instructions in Mandarin, Farsi and Korean on its accounts on X, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn and the Dark Web on how to contact it securely.

## Six migrants killed by Mexican soldiers during highway chase

CHIHUAHUA: Soldiers chasing suspicious vehicles on a highway in Mexico opened fire and killed six migrants, the defence ministry said on Wednesday. The patrol found 33 migrants from countries including Egypt, Nepal, Cuba, India and Pakistan, it said, without specifying the nationalities of those killed in the incident late on Tuesday in southern Chiapas state. The killing happened on the same day that Claudia Sheinbaum took office as Mexico's new president with a vow to respect human rights and avoid repression by security forces. The two soldiers who opened fire have been removed from their duties pending an investigation, according to a statement. It said the patrol saw a vehicle — followed by two flatbed trucks like those used by criminals — travelling at high speed and apparently attempting to flee.

## UN secretary-general warns against further escalation in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief is appealing for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon, warning that escalation to an all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah militants must be avoided "at all costs." U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, who delivered the message from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, stressed that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be respected. Guterres spoke earlier Tuesday to Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati and told him the U.N. system is mobilized to assist those in need, Dujarric said. He also appealed to the international community to urgently support a \$426 million humanitarian appeal to help the people of Lebanon. Meanwhile, the State Department has ordered all U.S. diplomats and their families based in Israel and the West Bank to shelter in place until further notice as the security situation becomes increasingly uncertain with Israel's ground incursion in Lebanon and potential threats of an Iranian missile attack. "As a result of the current security situation, the U.S. Embassy has directed all U.S. government employees and their family members to shelter in place until further notice."

## Study reveals long-term death toll as cyclones batter the world

PARIS: As a typhoon battered Taiwan and rescuers searched for hurricane survivors in the United States on Wednesday, a study estimated that the long-term death toll of such tropical cyclones is around 300 times greater than official figures. Hurricane Helene has killed at least 155 people in the southeastern US, Hurricane John killed at least 16 in Mexico last week and two people have died in Taiwan even before Typhoon Krathon makes landfall, expected on Thursday morning. However the immediate deaths recorded during tropical cyclones — also called hurricanes or typhoons, depending on where they hit — represent just a fraction of the real toll they take on lives in the years after the storm clears, according to new research. And with human-driven climate change expected to help make tropical cyclones more intense, the US researchers called for people in the affected regions to receive more support. The research published in the journal Nature is the first to use statistical modelling to estimate how cyclones affect the overall number of deaths in a region over a long time frame, lead study author Rachel Young said. The researchers looked at 501 tropical cyclones that hit the continental US between 1930 and 2015, analysing the number of excess deaths from all causes recorded in the 15 years that followed. The average number of deaths officially reported during individual storms was 24. But if indirect deaths in the years after the storm were counted, the average toll for each was between 7,000 and 11,000, around 300 times higher than government figures, the study estimated. This would mean that cyclones contributed to between three and five per cent of all deaths recorded in the affected areas on the US Atlantic coast over those 85 years, the study said.

## Italy to host G7 leaders' call on Middle East crisis

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will host a call of Group of Seven (G7) leaders later on Wednesday to discuss the crisis in the Middle East, her office said. "Italy will continue to strive for a diplomatic solution, including in its capacity as chair of the G7. I have convened a leaders' level meeting for this afternoon," Meloni was quoted as telling her cabinet. Italy holds the rotating presidency of the G7 - the club of major Western democracies, which comprises the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. Meloni told her ministers that there was "deep concern" about latest developments, including Iran's missile attack on Israel on Tuesday and the instabil-

## Smugglers force migrants to jump into sea; 100 missing in Djibouti

NAIROBI: Rescuers are searching for more than 100 migrants off the coast of Djibouti after smugglers forced them to jump into the sea, the UN migration agency said on Wednesday. At least 45 bodies have been recovered from Tuesday's incident, a death toll that makes 2024 the deadliest year on record for sea crossings on the migration route between East Africa and Yemen, the International Organisation for Migration said. Another 154 people have been rescued from the two boats, which left Yemen for Djibouti with a total of 310 passengers, IOM said in a statement. "Ongoing search and rescue operations are underway by the Djiboutian Coast Guard.

## To boost bilateral trade PM Sharif pledges optimal support for Pak-Malaysian business communities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pledged to offer the best possible facilities to the Pakistani and Malaysian business communities to boost their commercial activities. Speaking at the Pakistan-Malaysia High Level Business Dialogue, he emphasized the strong bilateral relations between the two countries. He said that PM Anwar Ibrahim's visit would further enhance relations between the two countries. He said that Pakistan was fully geared up to grab the opportunity of exporting high-quality Halal meat to Malaysia as the agreement to the effect, besides many others, would be finalized during his forthcoming visit to the brotherly country. Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim on the occasion emphasized the importance of close contacts between the business communities of two countries to foster economic cooperation. He said the Malaysian prime minister had assured of his complete support for



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Malaysia YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in a group photo at Malaysia-Pakistan High Level Business Dialogue.

## Toshakhana-2 case Bushra Bibi files bail after arrest plea in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder Imran Khan has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) in connection with her bail after arrest plea in Toshakhana-2 case. Bushra Bibi has filed bail after arrest plea in IHC through Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry. The petitioner said the petitioner is house wife and she wears veil. The allegations are false and these were got leveled by blackmailing the witnesses. FIA has violated law while case and investigation are based on ill intent. The petitioner said the prosecution has raised the case for keeping the petitioner in jail. Case was challenged already in high court before its registration. Running a case repeatedly through different angles is violation of constitution.

## Gilani highlights literature's role in capturing history and inspiring change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Thursday emphasized the essential role of literature in capturing history, reflecting cultural diversity, and inspiring meaningful change. Speaking at the launch of Testament of Love, a captivating collection of short stories by Dr. Nasir Hussain Bukhari, he said, "Testament of Love beautifully encapsulates the essence of the human experience, shedding light on the struggles faced by ordinary individuals in our society." The event celebrated not only Dr. Bukhari's remarkable literary achievement but also the profound impact storytelling has on society. Gilani praised Dr. Bukhari for his exceptional talent and his unwavering commitment to education, democracy, and literature. He commended Dr. Bukhari's ability to create authentic characters whose stories resonate deeply with readers, fostering empathy and understanding across societal divides. Gilani also recognized the invaluable contributions of the Founda-

## NA body seeks complete details of contracts made with IPPs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Power Division on Thursday sought complete detail of contracts made with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in the next meeting. The committee expressed concern over the poor performance of K-Electric and decided to convene its next meeting in Karachi to witness the performance of K-Electric so that complaints against K-Electric could be addressed properly. Earlier, the Secretary Energy (Power Division) briefly apprised about the efforts made by them to overcome the problems of overbilling and other issues related to electricity and problems faced by them in this regards.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim offering dua after tree plantation by the Malaysian Prime Minister.

## Dastgir challenges Gandapur to replicate Punjab's dev. success

ISLAMABAD (APP): A senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khuram Dastgir Thursday challenged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to shift focus from criticizing and prioritize development in his province, drawing inspiration from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's progress. In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, Dastgir highlighted the stark contrast between the leadership styles of the two provinces, praising Maryam Nawaz Sharif's historic public welfare initiatives and significant strides in Punjab. By prioritizing development and learning from Punjab's successes, Gandapur can improve the lives of citizens and drive economic growth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he mentioned. Dastgir criticized Ali Amin Gandapur's politics, specifically his tenure as Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding, Gandapur's is just only focused on personal goals, rather than the well-being of his people. As a leader, it is essential to prioritize the needs of the people, particularly in areas like education, healthcare, and infrastructure, he added. In contrast, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's initiatives demonstrate a commitment to progress and development, he mentioned. Her focus on education, skills development and infrastructure projects sets a positive example for other leaders to follow, he appreciated.



ISLAMABAD: Special Envoy & Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia Mr. Jemal Beker Abdulla called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

## Hurriyat leaders reiterate call for self-determination, slam India's Intransigence

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a renewed push for resolution of the Kashmir dispute, Hurriyat leaders Thursday reaffirmed the need for self-determination, emphasizing that lasting peace in South Asia hinges on settling the Kashmir dispute in its historical context. According to Kashmir Media Service, the leaders in their statements issued in Srinagar contended that India's obstinacy jeopardizes peace in South Asia and globally. They also criticized Indian Prime Minister Modi's August 5, 2019, actions as violating UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. They said, for decades, Kashmiris have awaited fulfillment of their fundamental right to self-determination in the light of the UN's January 5 resolution roadmap as solution to the Kashmir dispute, but always impeded its implementation. The leaders urged the world community to implement the UN resolutions to resolve the Kashmir dispute according to Kashmiris' aspirations.

## IHC halts closure of Tandoori Junction, seeks responses from involved parties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday adjourned the hearing of a petition challenging the closure of Tandoori Junction, a private hotel in F-7 Markaz, and ordered all involved parties to respond to the court within 15 days. Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case. Advocate Qaiser Imam represented the petitioner Javed Asif, while Director General of Building Control Authority Faisal Naem, Directorate of Municipal Administration (MDA) and Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI) lawyer Yaqoob Mastoi, Deputy Director of CDA Raheel Junejo, CDA's lawyer Shehryar Tariq, and Advocate Zaheer ud Din Babar appeared before the court representing a private hotel, Hill View. During the hearing, Advocate Zaheer ud Din Babar requested that all related cases be heard together. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq remarked that the other cases were unrelated but agreed to combine them at Babar's request.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan presents "Exploring Pakistan" tourism guide to Malaysian Minister Tengku Zafrul.

## NDRMF Business Policy 2024 envisages paradigm shift in disaster, humanitarian sector: Bilal Anwar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Bilal Anwar on Thursday said the Fund have launched its first Business Policy 2024 that helped in repurposing and redefining it over a course of 18-month to change the donors' mindset for well-informed disaster resilience interventions. The document is a 10-year long-term policy intervention being implemented after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NDRMF, Bilal Anwar said in an exclusive interview with APP while showcasing the efforts and accomplishments of the Fund. "Resilience building is a long-term process and its challenging amid growing climate catastrophes as every intervention has its impacts but a long-term strategy is necessary and the NDRMF Business Policy is addressing it. There have been repeated discussions with relevant bodies, provinces, fund implementing partners (FIPs), researchers, practitioners and experts related to the subject which resulted into culmination of our efforts in the form of the strategy," Bilal Anwar said. The Business Policy, he said has bagged huge acclaim from the donors who have demanded a framework under the Policy to continue their operations in line with the national document. The Policy has been aligned with the National Climate Change Policy, National Adaptation Plan, National Disaster Management Plan, National Flood Protection Plan IV, Disaster Risk Financing Strategy and National Climate Finance strategy which is in the offing, he added.

## Sherry Rehman felicitates newly elected EJF executive body

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday felicitated the newly elected members of the Environment Journalists Forum (EJF). In a statement here, she said, "Congratulations to the successful candidates for election to the Executive Body of the Environment Journalists Forum. My felicitations to Ali Jabir for being elected as President and Asghar Hayat as General Secretary of EJF. She also congratulated Rozina Ali, Ayesha Naz, Saadullah Saeed, Fauzia Ali, Sohail Butt, and Muhammad Mukhtar for being elected to the Forum's executive body and also to Saqib Rathore, Amna Janjua and Aftab Jahan for being elected as members of the governing body. "It is hoped that Environment Journalists Forum will play an important role in the development of environmental journalism and the forum will pave the way for improving the quality of reporting on complex and critical issues like climate change," Sherry Rehman said.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Mukhtar Bharath visited NIRM Hospital to review the medical facilities.

## IHC issues notice to secretary aviation, CAA on complaint from handicapped woman

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notices to secretary aviation and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on the petition filed against discriminatory treatment meted out by private airline company to a handicapped woman. The court has ordered respondents to file reply within 10 days. Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq took up the case for hearing Thursday. Lady Zohra Sami, resident of Karachi filed petition in IHC stating that the petitioner lady is disabled person and she uses wheel chair for movement. She booked ticket of private airline company from Lahore to Karachi. She had to face extremely discriminatory treatment by private airline company. The company forbade her to board on plane in absence of servant. She further said in the petition that no information in this regard were available on website of private airline company. She had to miss flight. On the other hand private airlines company did not even bother to give any clarification. The petitioner said this attitude of private airline company constitutes violation of basic rights enshrined in article 9, 14 and 15 of the constitution. Rule No 81 of civil aviation authority gives right to handicapped person to decide about presence of servant with him or her.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairing a meeting on green Islamabad programme in the Federal Capital.

## Not marking Imran video link attendance ATC issues show cause notice, seeks reply from Jail authorities

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has issued show cause notice to jail authorities and sought reply from them for not marking attendance of PTI founder Imran Khan via video link. Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra took up for hearing case registered against PTI leaders with reference to Azadi March Thursday. The counsels for former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan appeared in the court. Khuram Nawaz, Aamir Mehmood Kiyani and Janshed Mughal too appeared in the court. The counsel Tanvir Hussain filed exemption from attendance plea in respect of Ali Nawaz Awan. Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra inquired where is Asad Umar. The counsel told the court Asad Umar has been discharged from this case. The ATC judge remarked medical certificate of Tanvir Hussain be attached with the application Attendance report in respect of Imran Khan has come wherein it is stated that internet is not available. Online attendance cannot be marked. Such report had come on previous day. Show cause notice was issued. Today I am issuing notice too. I will write if net is not available then Imran Khan be presented in person. The court while issuing show cause notice to jail authorities for not marking attendance of Imran Khan via video link adjourned the hearing of the case till October 21. On the other side the court has maintained arrest warrants of KP Chief Minister (C M) Ali Amin Gandapur and Wasiq Qayyum in the case registered against them in police station I-9 Islamabad. The exemption from attendance plea of Rashid Hafeez was accepted. Exemption from attendance plea was presented on behalf of Shibli Faraz in protest and vandalism case while Murad Saeed, Daniyal Ahmad, Hammad Azhar, Hassan Niazi, Ali Nawaz and Shibli Faraz did not appear. The court adjourned hearing of further cases till October 21.



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad High Court Bar Association Riasat Ali Azad addresses a press conference at IHC Bar.

## Lawyers back constitutional amendment and creation of constitutional court

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent lawyers on Thursday expressed strong support for the constitutional amendment aimed at establishing a Federal Constitutional Court, emphasizing that such a reform is essential for judicial efficiency and modernization of the legal system. Advocate Asif Irfan, former Secretary of the Islamabad Bar Association, highlighted the urgent need for judicial reforms to address the deficiencies of the outdated judicial system. Talking to APP, he called for collective efforts to modernize the judiciary, stating that the proposed changes would enhance the speed and quality of justice in the country. Welcoming the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court, Advocate Mazhar Javed, another former Secretary of the Islamabad Bar Association, noted that the new court would be dedicated to cases of a constitutional and political nature. This, he said, would allow the Supreme Court of Pakistan to focus on general cases, ultimately speeding up the dispensation of justice for the people. Advocate Supreme Court, Javed Iqbal Bandy, echoed this sentiment, pointing out that the creation of the Constitutional Court would significantly reduce the workload on the Supreme Court.

## IRSA releases 171,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 171,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 121,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.62 feet and was 138.62 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 72,600 cusecs and 85,000 cusecs respectively.

## Arrangements finalized for moon sighting

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and its Zonal and District Committees will convene on the evening of Friday to observe the moon of Rabi-ul-Sani 1446 AH at their respective headquarters across the country. In Islamabad, Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad, will preside over the session at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony. Other members of the Central Committee will join their respective Provincial or District Ruet-e-Hilal Committee meetings.



ISLAMABAD: Containers have been placed at D Chowk due to PTI protest.