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Political parties decide to express solidarity with Gaza, Palestinians on national level

PM to host All Parties Conference on Palestine issue on Oct 7

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said an All Parties Conference (APC) would be held on October 7 to take a unified stance on Palestine issue.

The nationwide Day of Solidarity would also be observed on the day in order to show solidarity with the innocent Palestinian men, women and children facing the worst Israeli brutalities.

The prime minister took the decision to the effect during his meeting with Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Jamaat-e-Islami delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman at the Prime Minister House.

It was also decided in the meeting that on October 7, public gatherings and seminars would be held across the country to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to protest against the ongoing Israeli aggression.

A committee comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Sherry Rehman, Khawaja Saad Rafique, and Nayyar Bukhari was formed

for organizing the All Parties Conference, and supervise events marking the Day of Solidarity.

President Asif Ali Zardari will also attend the All Parties Conference.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended his full support for observing the Day of Solidarity, condemning the ongoing oppression of innocent Muslims in Palestine and Gaza.

The participants of the meeting resolved to raise their voice against the Israeli aggression and worst brutalities against the innocent people in Gaza and Palestine, and show solidarity with them.

They praised the Jamaat-e-Islami for taking an initiative to express solidarity with the innocent Palestinians and highlight Israeli aggression in Gaza and Palestine.

The JI Ameer also lauded the prime minister's speech at the United Nations General Assembly for raising the issue of ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinians, and commended the walkout by the Pakistani delegation, led by the prime minister, at the start of the Israeli prime minister's speech.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and a delegation of Jamaat Islami led by Amir e Jamaat Islami Haafiz Naeem ur Rehman call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Malaysian PM praises Pak Armed Forces' role in regional peace, stability



RAWALPINDI (APP): Malaysian Prime Minister Datu Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Friday praised the Pakistan Armed Forces' role in regional peace and stability, acknowledging their professionalism and sacrifices in combating terrorism.

He was talking to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir during a meeting here at the General Headquarters.

The two sides discussed bilateral strategic interests, regional security, and defence cooperation, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Indian FM Jaishankar to visit Pakistan for SCO meeting

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar will visit Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting scheduled in Islamabad on Oct 15-16.

According to the spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, India will participate in the SCO meeting in Pakistan.

The spokesperson stated that Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar will go to Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15-16, marking his first visit to Pakistan.

The Indian ministry further mentioned that details regarding bilateral meetings in Pakistan will be shared in a few days.

Pakistan had sent an invitation to India to participate in the SCO Heads of State Summit. However, India had decided not to send its delegation to Pakistan and said it would participate online.

The spokesperson for the Foreign Office had also mentioned that an invitation had been sent to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The federal government approved a comprehensive plan to ensure strict security for the upcoming gathering of regional leaders.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stated during the meeting that additional personnel from the Pakistan Army, Rangers, Frontier Corps (FC), and Punjab police would be deployed for security duties at the SCO summit.

Russian general lauds professionalism of Pakistan armed forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): Deputy Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Russian Federation, Col General Sergey



Yuravich Istrakov who is on an official visit to Pakistan, Friday called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamsad Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on positive trajectory of bilateral defence cooperation and discussed the evolving security situation in the region with a view to promote regional peace and stability, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism.

Army called in ahead of SCO summit in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to ensure law and order situation in the federal capital during the forthcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, the federal government approved the deployment of Pakistan Army's troops in Islamabad under Article 245 of the Constitution.

Islamabad is all set to host the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting on October 15 and 16 with major foreign leaders, including Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting the country. According to the notification a "requisite strength" of the Pakistan Army, in aid of civil power, will be deployed from Oct 5 to 17 to maintain law and order situation with respect to SCO moot and visits of VVIP delegations for the said meeting.

Irfan Siddiqui calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Muslim League-N Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Senator Irfan Siddiqui on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here and discussed the matters related to the parliamentary party in Senate and the country's overall political situation.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui briefed the prime minister about the performance of the PML-N's parliamentary party in the Senate, according to a PM Office press release.

PTI activists plan to attack Islamabad with arms: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (INP): While leadership and activists of the Imran Khan-founded party heading towards the federal capital despite roadblocks, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said everyone has the right to hold protest demonstration but the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters are going to "attack Islamabad with weapons".

"This is not the right way and we will not allow this to happen," the security czar said while talking to journalists in Islamabad on Friday. With hoards of the PTI



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi talking to media persons at D Chowk.

workers are travelling towards the federal capital amid visits of foreign dignitaries. Naqvi said he had requested the PTI a day ago as well "not to hold rally for now". The minister added that he would not let anyone damage properties. On Thursday, he also warned the PTI against holding the public gathering as visits of foreign dignitaries, including the Malaysian prime minister, were planned in Islamabad.

Ahsan chairs meeting to review Gwadar Port development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to address the challenges hindering the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone. Secretary Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra, along with senior officials from various provinces and



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairs a high-level review meeting to address the challenges hindering the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone.

Imran Khan's sisters among

At least 30 arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters

Section 144, peaceful assembly act enforced in Islamabad; Mobile service shut in twin cities due to PTI protest

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least 30 protesters have been arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters attempting to reach Islamabad's D-Chowk for a planned party rally.

Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan earlier again called on his supporters to gather for a "peaceful protest" as his party amped up preparations for today's demonstration despite a ban on gatherings.

Another one is also scheduled for Lahore's Minar-i-Pakistan on Saturday.

The Islamabad Police on Friday arrested PTI founder Imran Khan's sisters Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan in D-Chowk.

According to details, Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan were arrested in D-Chowk during the PTI protest call as Section 144 was already imposed in the federal capital.

Both the sisters of former prime minister were shifted to the police station.

The PTI today shared updates of its caravans departing various cities, despite being warned by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi a day ago not to hold any rally in Islamabad due to several high-profile visits by foreign dignitaries.

Jamia Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl Maulana Fazlur Rehman, with whom the PTI has been in frequent amicable contact recently, has also urged the party to postpone its planned gatherings till the foreigners have left.



ISLAMABAD: Police personnel detain sister of PTI Founder Aleema Khan during a protest.

Australian HC meets Nawaz, discusses coop. in various sectors

LAHORE (APP): Australian High Commissioner (HC) Neil Hawkins called on Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) President Mian Nawaz Sharif here on Friday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The meeting stressed the need to expand cooperation between both countries in trade, education, IT and agriculture sectors.

Nawaz Sharif said, "Pakistan and Australia's partnership is very important and we laud Australia's cooperation."

He said business-friendly environment was being provided in Pakistan to facilitate investment activities.

Nawaz said, "We want to benefit from Australia's experience in IT and agriculture sectors."

The Australian high commissioner said efforts were being made to further promote ties with Pakistan.

Govt fixes new 'Diyat' amount for 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Finance has set the new 'Diyat' amount for the fiscal year 2024-25 at Rs8,103,955.

The new amount sees an increase of Rs1,346,053 from the previous year's figure of Rs6,757,902, correlating directly with the rising market price of silver.

As per the notification, the Diyat amount is now equivalent to the value of 30,630 grams of silver.

This change is mandated under subsection (2) of Section 323 of the Pakistan Penal Code, which stipulates that the Diyat amount be revised in line with fluctuations in the market price of silver.

Pakistan making landmark strides on foreign policy front under PM Shehbaz: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that Pakistan under leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been making landmark achievements on foreign policy front.

"Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan was highly successful and productive as many agreements and MoUs were inked to increase cooperation and trade between the two brotherly countries," he said while addressing a

press conference here. He said Pakistan enjoyed brotherly and friendly relations with Malaysia and during his visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim took forward matters regarding trade and investment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had invited the Prime Minister of Malaysia to visit Pakistan on the occasion of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh.

Tarar informed that Halal meat and rice exports from Pakistan to Malaysia will be increased and initially one hundred thousand tons of rice will be exported.

Pakistan urges end to Israel occupation, calls for upholding Palestinian rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Secretary, Amna Baloch reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering stance on Palestine, calling for an immediate end to Israel's illegal occupation and urged the international community to uphold Palestinian rights during a debate at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Thursday.

Addressing the UNHRC debate on the situation of human rights in occupied Palestine, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch presented Pakistan's consistent position on the urgent and imperative necessity of upholding international law, especially at a time of grave threats to regional peace, security, and the credibility of the international system.

She emphasized that all human rights flow from the right to self-determination, which was enshrined in the UN Charter and international human rights law.

"Aggression and settler-colonialism in Palestine could no longer be rewarded with impunity," she said.

Emergency can be imposed in KP if PTI don't give up stubbornness: Ikhtiar Wali

PESHAWAR (INP): Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and spokesman, Ikhtiar Wali Khan has warned that emergency can be imposed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) if Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will not give up its stubbornness.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur who has threatened of attacking federal government with official resources should remain prepared for a befitting response.

Ikhtiar Wali Khan said that PTI should keep in mind that they can't free their prisoner through protest rallies and public gatherings.

He said that Ali Amin Gandapur has turned to a clerk instead of chief minister and PTI seems to be transformed into TTP. He said that no one would be allowed to challenge the writ of state and rioters would be dealt accordingly.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

High cost of living

Over the past few months, the rate at which the prices of goods and services in the country have risen has slowed significantly. Headline fell to a 44-month low of 6.9pc last month.

This decline, driven by a high-base effect from last year when annual inflation stood at 31.4pc, along with plunging global oil and commodity prices, a stable exchange rate, falling demand due to eroding real wages, and, last but not least, aggressive monetary tightening, exceeds the projections of the government and the market. Latest figures from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics show that both sticky core inflation and the three-month average inflation rates, although higher than CPI inflation, have also fallen to single digits, signalling a substantial easing of inflationary pressures. The narrowing gap between the CPI and core inflation — which excludes energy and food prices — suggests a slowdown in imported inflation.

The improvement in the inflation outlook has already seen the State Bank slash borrowing costs by 450bps to 17.5pc since June. The latest CPI reading has created further room for a cut in interest rates in November and December. The government's recent move to buy back its costly debt of Rs351bn maturing in December from the commercial banks at the much lower rate of 16pc compared to the 20pc-21pc at which it was originally sold, has deepened expectations of monetary easing earlier than anticipated. In fact, private businesses are already calling for an aggressive rate cut next month.

With inflation plunging below the target of 12pc for FY25, the next monetary policy session will test the State Bank's resolve of treading cautiously since risks remain elevated because of tensions in the Middle East and the fragile economic recovery at home.

No doubt, the recent decline in global energy and commodity prices has helped the government reduce domestic oil, transport and wheat rates. However, prices of goods and services consumed by the people continue to rise even as the inflation rate falls below 7pc.

In other words, the cost of living is increasing, though perhaps not as rapidly as earlier, showing that even when the inflation rate decreases, the prices do not. This means there will be no let-up in the pain of middle-class people when it comes to grocery expenses, school fees, and hospital bills. This will persist unless there is a sustainable economic turnaround and a much faster increase in real incomes that outpaces inflation.

With the government facing rising public discontent because of poor economic conditions, the big worry is that it might be tempted to go overboard to appease the voters and try to stimulate faster growth through inflationary measures. Although chances of such an eventuality are low with the IMF breathing down its neck, it cannot be ruled out.

Act of conscience

Zubeida Mustafa

"If the pain has often been unbearable and the revelations shocking to all of us, it is because they indeed bring us the beginnings of a common understanding of what happened and a steady restoration of the nation's humanity. The TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] that is guiding us on this journey is the TRC of all of us" — Nelson Mandela

Coming from a leader who spent 27 years of his life in prison on Robben Island crushing stones, these words show sagacity and astuteness. They must be reflected on. Mandela, who led South Africa out of the black hole of apartheid, allowed his people to protest but prevented a bloodbath when the transition took place. Protest was the silent voice of the people's conscience. Hence it had to be peaceful. If it turned violent, then it was not protest but vendetta. And that can never be justified.

Mandela was a shrewd statesman. He understood how his people had been brutalised by their White Boer colonisers and how bitter they felt. Hence he convened a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to listen to the outpourings of people who had suffered all kinds of indignities and injustice. What was the outcome? Nothing in practical terms but it brought closure to the South Africans, enabling them to come to terms with their past and work for their future.

Protest is said to be a potent force for political change. Yet few in Pakistan organise themselves to protest against the injustices meted out to them in abundance by the powers that be. Why this apathy? We are such a divided society where

what is a bane for one is a boon for the other. People protest if they are directly affected. They turn a blind eye to the injustice that affects the weak and underprivileged classes, who lack the capacity to mobilise themselves and create awareness about the issue that is at the root of the problem.

But that does not mean we do not have protesters. To be a protester, one must be an activist and have a social conscience. These qualities are inborn and it is difficult to inculcate them in a person who inherently lacks empathy and a sense of justice.

The women's movement in Pakistan would not have considerably changed the status of women in the country had we not had women like Anis Haroon and Sheema Kermani and many others who lined sidewalks with banners in their hands. They created original slogans and managed to evoke passion and protest among like-minded men and women. The younger generation went further and the Aurat March was born.

Fearing resistance from civil society, autocratic governments have clamped down on protesters and in fact banned organisations that have organised protests, such as student bodies and labour unions.

That had an impact on the culture of protesting and made the youth apathetic.

Mercifully, we still have men of conscience who have not given up. Take Naeem Sadiq, doing a lot of time doing research to unearth facts and gets them from the horse's mouth so that he can convey the magnitude of the injustice being meted out to the powerless — be they sanitary workers or bodyguards employed

by banks and other organisations. Another demand he supports is a ban on guns.

Only recently I discovered another protester of a unique kind. He is Abdul Hamid Dagia, who has been protesting against the injustices done to Karachi since 2015. Eighty years of age, he has chalked up 1,440 one-man protests, which is a record of sorts. A chartered accountant by profession, Dagia held coveted jobs at the Ka--rachi Electric Supply Corporation and the stock exchange until the mid-1990s, when he gave up a stable career that he found dissatisfying because of the abundance of wealth surrounding him and the opportunities it offered for financial misappropriation. It was the inequality of the situation, leading to injustice, that touched his conscience.

What makes him unique is that he protests single-handedly. Thrice a week, he is out on the road — a quiet, aged figure holding his placard announcing the injustice that is bothering him. His causes are Karachi-centric. One banner says, 'Lawaris Karachi' (ownerless Karachi).

Another is 'Darakhton kee katai bund karo' (stop cutting trees), which earned him the wrath of the KMC's tree cutters who allegedly attacked him. Yet another says, 'Sindh budget dugna, Karachi ka hissa kahan?' ('Do people join you in your protest?') I asked him. He says that an odd passerby or two does come and stand with him for a moment or so. "Once a judge noticed me. He stopped his car and joined me in solidarity," Dagia sahib remarks. A judge with a conscience. We need more of them. — Courtesy Dawn

Adeel Wahid

Heads I win, tails you lose. The amendments made to the Election Act, 2017, on the fly, to paper over the various discrepancies in the elections held on Feb 8, 2024, change the entire electoral dynamic ex post facto. After the elections, the purported 'winners' are being given a free pass to change the rules of the game, to maintain their claim of being the winners, upending the manner by which those seeking to question the winning status could have brought that challenge before neutral arbiters.

As in the case of many elections held before, the ones that were held earlier this year were tainted. Concocting numbers in the Forms-47 was the new modus operandi.

In the past, elections have been managed through other means as well. In recent memory, in the 2021 Daska by-elections, almost a couple of dozen presiding officers simply went missing, and remained so for an entire night. They emerged in the morning, to present figures to the Returning Officer that were entirely different from the ones they had before they went missing. At that time, the Election Commission of Pakistan had some teeth; and the top court upheld the ECP's directions for a re-poll in the entire constituency. The returned candidate after the re-poll was from the PML-N — and not a favoured horse then.

That was then, this is now. The intrusions of that time were not kosher, we are told. The intrusions of today, they say, are not only kosher, but are, in fact, necessary. It appears that if meddling took

Loaded dice

place in the past, it gives a complete carte blanche for meddling in the present, and also probably in the future.

An election is a competition of sorts. And in any competition, changing the rules ex post facto, that is, after the fact, is considered to be completely out of bounds. In systems where fairness matters, the rules of the games are decided before the game is played. Fairness also dictates that the rules not be changed once the game has been played. In a race, the winner is to be determined in accordance with the rules that exist before the race begins, and in keeping with the manner prescribed by those rules.

But in our system, where fairness has limited value, the reality played out like this: a bunch of candidates were said to be elected. When those contesting against the deemed successful candidates challenged the 'win', the ECP members initially twiddled their thumbs, buying time so that the issue could be punted to the election tribunals.

According to the rules existing at the time, the election tribunals were to comprise the justices of the high courts. On seeing that some may not rubber-stamp the victory, the rules of the game were changed. Into the mix were introduced retired justices, who were previously out of a job but now had been bestowed with one. The dice were loaded.

But what about fairness? What about it, they say. The previous win of the now-out-of-favour horse was also achieved with the help of those who back horses. In the previous round, a horse, in fact, had to be taken out of the race altogether —

disqualified. One may bring up the saying that two wrongs do not make a right, but those who back horses know that one wrong may also mean — even when the wrong is of their own doing — that a strong justification now exists for another.

The Supreme Court in the 'Sunni Ittehad Council' case held, in so many words, that the reserved seats be allocated to a party that was hamstrung, and its members forcibly compelled to take a route that could then be made the reason for being deprived of reserved seats.

Granting those seats to other parties — the beneficiaries — just did not add up to fairness, no matter how the issue was sliced. The current members of the National Assembly, who stood to lose, already having blockaded efforts to check the veracity of the claims questioning their eligibility as members, swung into action again. More amendments followed. The rules of the game were changed some more. Conflict of interest? You bet. Fairness? You tell me.

When the Assembly members, changing all possible rules to remain in power, continued to act in their own interest, which among the institutions of the government, could and should have possibly raised a challenge? The judiciary, probably. And hence, the 26th amendment. The desire to win at all costs is a terrible thing. It makes one forget the basic norms, the ideas of fairness and truth that are necessary for any semblance of the game to remain relevant. But above all, it makes one forget that a win with a loaded dice is no win at all. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

FDI rises by 55%, remittances up by 44%: Dr. Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik said on Friday that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 55%, while remittances have seen a 44% rise.

Addressing a press conference, he highlighted the government's efforts to create an investor-friendly environment, which has contributed to this significant uptick in FDI.

He said that the increase in remittances showcases the trust and support of overseas Pakistanis in bolstering the national economy.

"These figures reflect a positive trajectory for Pakistan's economic stability and growth," Dr. Musadik Malik said, adding that the government remains committed to sustaining this momentum and expanding investment opportunities.

He said the country is

expecting around 3% GDP growth due to the policies of the government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The minister expressed optimism that with the increase in GDP, more job opportunities would emerge, improving the living standards of the common people.

Dr. Musadik Malik said that food inflation has decreased by 1.7%, from 48.1%, while overall inflation has dropped to 6.7% from 38%.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have also improved. Growth has been observed in the agriculture and large-scale manufacturing sectors, he added.

He highlighted the government's focus on the information technology sector, mentioning that a large IT delegation from Saudi Arabia is expected to visit Pakistan.

The minister also

pointed out that the trade deficit has decreased and Pakistan's stock exchange is achieving new milestones, with the renowned financial journal Bloomberg recognizing it as the most emerging market in Asia.

He said that due to the government's efforts, the confidence of the international community has improved.

He further shared that the Malaysian Prime Minister has completed his visit to Pakistan, while delegations from Saudi Arabia and other countries are expected to arrive for agreements.

He reiterated that the government's priority is to provide maximum facilities to the people. All economic indicators are positive, with exports increasing, the trade deficit decreasing, and inflation dropping to 6.9%, surpassing even expert projections.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan Central President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Azfar says: Pak success hinges on creating sustainable investment climate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Board of Investment (BOI) chairman Azfar Ahsan on Friday emphasized that investment success in Pakistan hinged on supporting and facilitating existing investors which was a crucial step towards creating a sustainable investment climate.

He stressed the critical need for a comprehensive strategy to attract both local and foreign investors.

Azfar Ahsan was speaking as guest speaker at a special talk on

"Pakistan's Investment Landscape: Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward" organised by the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), a news release said.

He strongly advocated for a long-term national approach including framing of a "country strategy" to improve investor confidence and ensure economic stability.

Ahsan highlighted the importance of foundational reforms across all sectors of the economy.

He argued that Pakistan must move away from reactive policies and focus on creating a business- and investment-friendly environment. "This requires consistent policy frameworks, regardless of political changes, as well as a commitment to improving infrastructure, governance, institutional capacity, and law and order." These efforts, he noted, would not only attract new foreign direct investment (FDI) but also strengthen relationships with existing investors, which was critically important.

Short term inflation goes up 0.44 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.44 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on October 03, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.17 points as compared to 317.76 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 13.18 per cent.

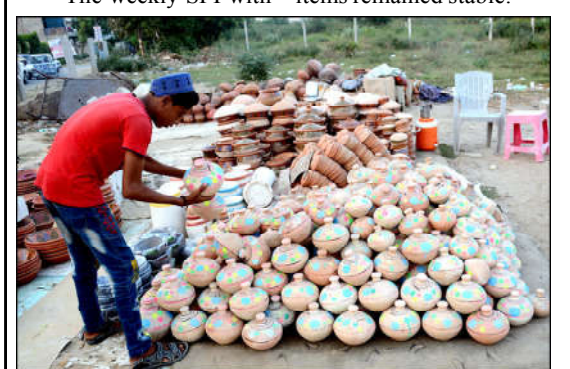
The weekly SPI with

the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.68 per cent and went up to 313.20 points from last week's 311.09 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.63 percent, 0.53 percent, 0.49 percent and 0.36 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 (41.18%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 20 (39.21%) items remained stable.



LAHORE: Shopkeeper display pottery to attract customers at his roadside setups.

People throng UAF to attend Kisan Mela

FAISALABAD (APP): On the fourth day of Kisan Mela held at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), a large number of farmers thronged the university to enjoy various kinds of recreational and entertainment activities including tent pegging, farmers' convention, art & literature festival.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that tent pegging connects us with the rural culture. The participants in this sport develop a sense of balance and consideration. He said that such competitions not only promote rural culture but also keep our young generation connected with rural traditions.

to ensure food security in order to develop agriculture on modern lines.

Moreover, photography and videography were organized in the art and literature festival organized by the Senior Tutor Office.

On Friday, a two-day regional tent-pegging championship concluded in addition to arrangement of a Farmer's Convention at Directorate of Farms in which scientists created awareness about the modern agricultural technology and suggestions

Bilal Yaseen says: Action under way against fraud food business operators

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen has said that strict action is being taken against all those involved in doing fraud in food business.

According to official sources here, the minister, along with Punjab Food Authority director general (DG), carried out an operation in the city area. Raids were conducted on four famous bakeries and 'Nimko' units. On violation, one unit had been sealed while fine of Rs 0.8 million had been imposed on other three units. As much as 3,200 litres of used and substandard oil had been discarded besides 55-kg of 'Rang Kat' and banned food colours.

Bilal Yaseen said that action had been taken because substandard oil was being used for preparing 'Nimko'.

He further said that poor cleanliness arrangements had been witnessed in the processing area while there was no training or medical certificates of employees.

Bakery and confectionery items were being prepared in untidy area and there was a lot of foul smell as well, he said and added that rats and other insects were also seen in storage area.

Bilal said, "Use of substandard oil and prohibited items in food preparation process results in spreading diseases."

SBP injects Rs1,012 billion into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs1,012.3 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 4, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenders and accepted 11 bids totaling to Rs1,012.3 billion.

The central bank received 9 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs882.3 billion at the rate of return ranging between 17.56 to 17.65 percent while 2 bids amounting to Rs130 billion were received for the 28-day tenor at the rate of return ranging between 17.60 to 17.61%.

KPCS directs authorities for full facilitation of gemstone businesses

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry Friday directed the authorities for provision of comprehensive facilitation to investors, entrepreneurs and businessmen of the gemstone sector.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the representatives of the business community and authorities including

Secretary Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Secretary Sports and Director General (DG) Peshawar Development Authority (PDA). The Chief Secretary highlighted the immense untapped potential of the gemstone sector in the province. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa holds a wealth of precious gemstones that, if fully capitalized, can significantly contribute to the province's economic growth.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Tubul, Khairpur and World Virtue carrying Container, Gasoline and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, FOTOC oil Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile three more ships, Apex, Nord Taipei and Al-Deebel are also arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours. Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.

CM orders to stop illegal sale, purchase of land in RUDA area

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday approved the establishment of a special police force to prevent encroachment along the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) land. A special meeting related to RUDA was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in which a detailed review of the completion of RUDA

projects and ongoing projects was conducted. CM Maryam Nawaz ordered to stop illegal sale and purchase of land in RUDA areas. In a meeting, it was also decided to cooperate with China and other international organisations for the completion of RUDA projects. Maryam Nawaz was briefed about the progress on increasing the forest area in RUDA

from 20 per cent to 35pc. Chief Executive Officer RUDA Imran Amin gave a detailed briefing about the project. Senator Pervez Rasheed, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari, Chief Secretary, Secretary Housing, CEO RUDA Imran Amin, Principal Secretary and other officials were also present.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif offering Dua after inaugurating first Autism School in Pakistan.

LG department decides to implement new model of waste collection

LAHORE (APP): The Local Government & Community Development (LG&CD) Department developed a comprehensive plan to implement a new waste collection model across the province. Under this plan, solid waste collected door-to-door will be directly transported to the dumping site. The first phase of implementation will focus on housing schemes managed by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA).

This was disclosed in a meeting chaired by Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq at Civil Secretariat here on Friday. Secretary LG&CD Shakeel Ahmed Mian and Additional Secretary Maria Tariq were also present. During the meeting, the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz "Suthra Punjab" program was reviewed in detail and various suggestions were discussed for the implementation of the new model of sanitation in the provincial capital. Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that garbage will be collected from every house under the supervision of Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC).

Lahore police conduct 3,243 search operations

LAHORE (APP): In connection with the Jummah prayers security, the Lahore police carried out 3,243 search-and-combing operations in various areas of the city. A police spokesman said in a statement on Friday that over 94,000 houses, more than 57,000 tenants, and over 216,000 individuals were checked during operations. More than 338,000 individuals were cleared after verification. Legal action was taken against 1,586 people for violations.

PHC approves transit bail of CM KP till Oct 25 in two cases PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has approved transit bail of Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur in two cases till October 25. Transit bail plea of KP CM came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) PHC Ishtiaq Ibrahim Friday. Alam Khan advocate counsel for the petitioner said CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur has filed petition for transit bail in high court.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the high level meeting to review anti-polio campaign.

Revolutionary changes underway in Punjab's health sector: Khawaja

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir said on Friday revolutionary changes were being implemented in the health sector under the Punjab chief minister's vision. He made this statement during a meeting with a delegation from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Secretary of Health Nadia Saqib was also present, where the GAVI delegation was briefed on the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), polio campaign goals, results, child vaccinations, and other related matters by Dr. Mukhtar Awan, Director of EPI.

Khawaja Imran shared that the vaccination rate for children under five years old was expected to exceed 92 per cent by the end of October. He highlighted that children aged two to five years, who missed earlier vaccinations, are now being immunized against 12 different diseases.

Kurram tribes assure implementation on ceasefire agreement

KOHAT (APP): In order to maintain law and order and ensure lasting peace in the Tribal District Kurram, a Grand Tribal Jirga was held with Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah in the chair at the Jirga Hall of District Headquarters Orakzai the other day. The grand tribal Jirga beside the Regional Police Officer Kohat Sher Akbar Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kurram Javedullah Mehsud and Deputy Commissioner Orakzai Muhammad Irfanuddin, was also participated by the authorities concerned of respective departments and institutions. Law Enforcement Agencies, leaders of all tribes of district Kurram, members of Kurram Aman Jirga and Divisional Grand Jirga and Tribal Elders.

On this occasion, all the tribes reiterated their cooperation in maintaining peace in the district and full implementation on government writ in future. They also assured to fully abide by the law and avoid any kind of provocation.

NIH issues dengue advisory

LAHORE (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) issued a dengue advisory here on Friday, in the wake of increasing dengue cases in the country. So far this year, 8,909 cases of dengue had been reported in the country, the advisory reads.

The purpose of the advisory is to inform the health related institutions about the prevention of dengue. Over 100 countries including Pakistan are suffering from dengue epidemic.

10 killed, 1417 injured in 1371 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least ten persons were killed and 1417 injured in 1371 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 579 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 803 victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 739 drivers, 52 underage drivers, 177 pedestrians, and 476 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

Minister inaugurates Pakistan's largest students' financial aid scheme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Higher Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan inaugurated Pakistan's largest scholarship programme for the financial assistance of talented students in Punjab. In this regard, a launching ceremony was organised at Punjab University in which PU Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ali, Secretary Higher Education Dr Farrukh Naveed, Punjab Higher Education Commission Chief Operating Officer Dr Mansoor Ahmed Baloch, faculty members and a number of students were present. Addressing the ceremony, Minister Hayat said Honhaar Undergraduate Scholarship Programme was the largest scholarship programme in the history of Pakistan under which the fee of 30,000 intelligent students of public and private universities would benefit. The minister said that the fee of the four-year BS degree programme of the intelligent students would be paid every year on behalf of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and every year new students would also be included in the scholarship scheme.

He said that the eligibility criteria regarding family income range had been set with the monthly income of Rs300,000 to support upper middle class families in the scholarship programme.



LAHORE: A teacher performing her duty at a local school as world celebrates the World teacher's Day, also known as International Teachers Day.

Minister Arora visits Parliamentary Secretary for HR&MA office

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora visited the office of Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights and Minority Affairs (HR&MA) Sonia Asher in Gulberg here on Friday. He held a meeting with the parliamentary secretary and discussed the issues, being faced by religious minorities and their solutions. Arora emphasized the need to ensure protection of rights of religious minorities and the necessity of adopting a joint action plan to address their issues on a priority basis. Sonia Asher also reiterated the commitment to remain united in safeguarding the rights of religious minorities.

Coordinator Anil Sahotra, Focal Person Punjab Dawood Sharif Sahotra, former MPA Tariq Masih Gul, Kamran Bhatti and Akab Alam were also present on that occasion.

International News

Dozens more killed as Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

BEIRUT: Israel's military said it had hit Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital, as troops battled the group's fighters near the border and warplanes bombed their strongholds around the country, killing dozens of people over the past 24 hours. The Israeli army's death toll from fighting in southern Lebanon also rose to nine. "Captain Ben Zion Falach, aged 21... fell yesterday (Wednesday), during combat in southern Lebanon," the army said in a statement. Hezbollah also carried out new strikes, targeting what it called Israel's "Sakhnin base" for military industries in Haifa Bay on the Mediterranean coast of northern Israel with a salvo of rockets.

Israel announced this week that its troops had started "ground raids" into parts of southern Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah, after days of heavy bombardment of areas across the country where the group holds sway. The bombing has killed more than 1,000 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry, and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in a country already mired in economic and political crisis.

Israel, which has been launching attacks in Gaza since last year after the Oct 7 attack, says it shifted its focus to secure its northern border and ensure the safe return of more than 60,000 people displaced by Hezbollah attacks over the past year. Hezbollah says it has repelled several land operations by Israeli troops, including with ambushes and in direct clashes. Lebanese security sources say Israeli troops have entered Lebanese territory and been pushed back several times in recent days, without setting up a permanent presence. Rocket sirens wailed constantly in northern Israeli towns, sending residents running for shelter, as Hezbollah kept up its cross-border fire.

The Israeli military said it hit "targets belonging to Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut", Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported three air strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, with a source close to Hezbollah telling AFP the target was an evacuated building that housed the group's media relations office. nukes would mean the end of his regime. Pyongyang has also been bombarding the South with balloons carrying bags of trash, and a fresh flurry was seen floating over Seoul early on Friday by AFP reporters. Seoul's military confirmed it had detected the balloons launches overnight. If an enemy's forces were "encroaching upon the sovereignty" of the North, Pyongyang would "use without hesitation all the offensive forces it has possessed, including nuclear weapons."



A view of damaged buildings and debris in the aftermath of a strike amid ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon.

North Korea's Kim threatens to use nukes if attacked

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country would use nuclear weapons "without hesitation" if attacked by the South and ally the United States, state media reported on Friday. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in decades, with Seoul this week staging a military parade where it showcased its bunker-busting "monster" missile and President Yoon Suk Yeol warned Kim that using

Hundreds of Americans leave Lebanon on US contract flights

NEW YORK: The U.S. State Department says some 350 American citizens, green card holders and family members have now left Lebanon on US-organized contract flights this week. The department announced the new number — up by about 100 since Thursday — after another flight from Beirut landed early Friday in Frankfurt, Germany. The flight had the capacity to carry 300 passengers but only 97 people were aboard, it said.

Iran's Foreign Minister warns his country will retaliate harshly if Israel carries out an attack on

NEW YORK: Iran's Foreign Minister warns his country will retaliate harshly if Israel carries out an attack on Iran. Iran's Foreign Minister is warning Israel that if it carries out an attack on Iran, Tehran will retaliate harshly. "If the Israeli entity takes any step or measure against us, our retaliation will be stronger than the previous one," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, referring to this week's attack on Israel with 180 missiles. Araghchi made the

Malaysia PM to visit Bangladesh, focus on labour issues

DHAKA: Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is set to arrive in Bangladesh on Friday for talks primarily focused on labour issues, according to Dhaka officials. This will mark the first high-level visit by a foreign head of government since the interim administration, led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, assumed office following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina's government in August.

Russia decides 'at highest level' to remove Afghan Taliban from terrorist list

MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry said on Friday that a decision to remove the Afghan Taliban from a list of terrorist organisations had been "taken at the highest level", the state TASS news agency reported. The decision needs to be followed up with various legal procedures in order to make it a reality, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, was quoted as saying. Putin said in July that Russia "considers Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism."

No country has formally recognised the Taliban as the country's legitimate leadership, although China and the UAE have accepted its ambassadors. Russia added the Taliban to its list of terrorist organisations in 2003. Removing it would be an important step by Moscow towards normalising relations with Afghanistan.

Russia has been slowly building ties with the Taliban since it seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years, but the movement is still officially outlawed in Russia.

Supreme Court will weigh Mexico's \$10 billion lawsuit against U.S. gun makers

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court said Friday it will decide whether to block a \$10 billion lawsuit Mexico filed against leading U.S. gun manufacturers over allegations their commercial practices have helped caused much bloodshed there. The gun makers asked the justices to undo an appeals court ruling that allowed the lawsuit to go forward despite broad legal protections for the firearm industry. A federal judge has since tossed out the bulk of the lawsuit on other legal grounds, but Mexico could appeal that dismissal. Mexico argues the companies knew weapons were being sold to traffickers who smuggled them into Mexico and decided to cash in on that market. The government estimates 70% of the weapons trafficked into Mexico come from the United States.

The defendants include big-name manufacturers such as Smith & Wesson, Beretta, Colt and Glock. They say Mexico has not shown the industry has purposely done anything to allow the weapons to be used by cartels and is trying to "bully" gunmakers into adopting gun-control measures. Originally filed in 2021, the lawsuit was initially tossed out by a district court who cited legal protections for gun makers from damages resulting from criminal use of firearms. Mexico's Sheinbaum keeps doing morning briefings, though her style is unlike her predecessor's. But the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals revived the case under an exception to that law. The gunmakers appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court, arguing they have followed lawful practices and the case has no business in American courts.

U.S. District Judge F. Dennis Saylor in Boston again dismissed the case against six of the eight companies in August.

US discusses strikes on Iran oil sites as Israel presses Lebanon offensive

BEIRUT: The United States is discussing strikes on Iran's oil facilities as retaliation for Tehran's missile attack on Israel, President Joe Biden said on Thursday (Oct 3), while Israel's military pressed ahead with its campaign against Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah in Lebanon. As Israel weighs its options after its arch-foe Iran launched its largest-ever assault on Tuesday, Biden was asked whether he would support Israel striking Iran's oil facilities. "We're discussing that," Biden told reporters. His comments contributed to a surge in global oil prices, and rising Middle East tensions have made traders worry about potential supply disruptions.

French 'Golden Owl' treasure hunt ends after 31 years

PARIS: A mass treasure hunt launched in France in 1993 appeared to have been solved on Thursday, with the guardian of the elusive "Golden Owl" prize saying someone had finally found it. The find marks the end of a three-decade search across France and a string of legal and financial battles over the Owl, which has inspired thousands of people to test their grey matter against riddles set by a long-dead man. "We confirm that the replica of the Golden Owl was dug up overnight," Michel Becker wrote on a Discord forum used by would-be sleuths to collaborate on the puzzle. The forum has more than 7,000 participants. "Don't go digging", he urged others who might think they had also worked out the answer.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif bidding farewell to Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim before his departure at PAF Nur Khan Air Base in Rawalpindi.

Malaysian PM calls for exploring untapped trade potential with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim has stressed the need to utilize the untapped potential of trade and economic collaboration with Pakistan in diverse areas including minerals, new energy resources, food, industry, and information technology.

The Malaysian PM, in an interview with PTV on Friday, expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan-Malaysia relations. "The time is ripe. I had a detailed discussion with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to pursue

collaboration in all these fields."

He said there was enormous untapped potential in trade in which bilateral collaboration could help develop the respective economies. He specifically praised Pakistan's rich history in education, research and nuclear development, especially during 1970s.

Reflecting on Malaysia's progress in the region, particularly in the semiconductor industry and digital transformation, the prime minister said that his country was ahead in the semiconductor industry in the region from

which Pakistan could also take benefit.

PM Anwar Ibrahim, expressing his personal interest in Pakistan, said, "I chose Pakistan and engaged with its prime minister closely because we both see enormous untapped potential. We can learn from each other and collaborate for mutual benefit." To a question, he emphasized the importance of collaboration within the ASEAN region and beyond. "ASEAN is fortunate to be considered an economically vibrant region, and the potential is enormous."



ISLAMABAD: A view of security personal stand on red zone area due to PTI anti-government protest at D Chowk.

Giving teachers rightful place in society must for promoting education: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday called for appreciating the profound impact that teachers have on individuals and the nation as a whole. "The teachers not only impart knowledge but also teach and nurture students to become responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce," the Speaker said in his message on the World Teachers' Day, being celebrated annually on October 5 across the globe.

"The teachers impart wisdom and instill ethics in their students often amidst challenging circumstances," he added.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the religious and cultural teachings that under-

scored the respect and reverence owed to the teachers. "Teaching is not merely a profession but a noble cause." He said that a great ambition and devotion was required to guide the youth in discerning right from wrong and in turn enabling them to make decisions that affect not only their lives but also the fabric of nation and the world.

Ayaz Sadiq, while urging the nation to honour the educators in Pakistan, stated, "Giving teachers the rightful place in society is essential for promoting education in the country."

The Speaker also highlighted the unwavering commitment of Parliament of Pakistan for uplifting and upholding the due respect deserved by teachers.



ISLAMABAD: Two men on their way carrying bundle of dry woods on head for domestic use.

NUST confers honorary PhD degree upon Malaysia's PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST-Islamabad) conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy upon the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during a special convocation held at the NUST main campus, the other day.

At the occasion, the honourable dignitary also delivered a keynote address on Allama Iqbal, demonstrating a deep understanding of Iqbal's thought, and its continuing relevance to balanced development, inclusive growth, and individual well-being.

The Prime Minister said, "I am sincerely thankful for the warmth and hospitality extended to me by the government and people of Pakistan, and I hope that our two nations will con-

tinue to grow even closer, forging stronger ties for the future." Expressing his heartfelt gratitude upon conferment of the doctorate degree honoris causa by NUST, he said, "With great humility, and in the spirit of Iqbal, I accept this honour on behalf of the people of Malaysia as a symbol of the deep intellectual and cultural connection between our nations."

He maintained that it was a profound honour to be at NUST, terming the university a beacon of excellence in education, research and innovation.

Addressing the students, he remarked that their presence at NUST is a testament to their intellect, dedication and immense potential. He further said, "Just as Iqbal's philosophy calls for continual self-improvement,

Muqam criticizes PTI for disturbing peace, business activity in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Amir Muqam on Friday criticized chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur for disturbing peace and business activity in country through public meetings.

He said Ali Amin Gandapur was using official resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for holding public rally in the federal capital.

Talking to a private television channel, he said the CM KP should resolve the problems of the people of province and refrain

from arranging public gathering in the capital.

"Important high level delegations are coming to this country to enhance bilateral and business relations with Pakistan," he said adding that PTI was trying to disrupt peaceful environment of the capital at this critical moment.

He said that PTI had a track record of derailing economic activity in the country. The PTI had tried to halt the development projects some years back after staging sit-in in the federal capital, he added.

He also underscored the importance of providing teachers with the necessary resources and support to fulfil their duties, acknowledging the challenges they face in today's rapidly evolving educational landscape.

Gilani acknowledges invaluable contributions of teachers to society

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Friday expressed deep appreciation for the invaluable contributions of teachers for the society.

In his message on the occasion of World Teachers' Day, he highlighted the critical role teachers played in shaping the future by imparting knowledge, instilling values, and guiding students toward both personal and academic growth.

Gilani reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing the status of teachers, ensuring their well-being, and recognizing their pivotal role in the nation-building process.



ISLAMABAD: People facing problems to reach their destination due to container placed for PTI protest.

Drug peddler sentenced to 6 years in prison

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special court for the Control of Narcotic Substances (CNS), Attock on Friday sentenced nine-year imprisonment to an accused involved in a drug peddling case.

The accused Akash Shoukat was arrested by Police in April this year while selling hashish at his den located in Mohallah Chaudhrian subsequently a case was registered against him under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997.

The judge Zahid Mehmood after hearing the arguments of defense and prosecution counsels announced the verdict as the convicted was found guilty of selling drugs, subsequently awarded 9-year imprisonment and fine worth Rs 80,000.

ITP organizes road safety workshop at WAPDA Staff College

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police ITP education wing organized one-day workshop on road safety at WAPDA Staff College on Friday.

The workshop was attended by education wing member, drivers and other staff of the government organization, the spokesman said.

Moreover, the workshop participants were briefed on road safety, cautious driving, and other traffic laws, he said.

Governor KP, British HC for strengthening bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting took place on Friday between Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in multiple sectors.

The meeting was also attended by Ahmad Karim Kundi, Member of Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Discussions centered on developmental projects, and collaboration in education, health,

19 criminals arrested; illegal weapons seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 19 criminals involved in different criminal activities and recovered illegal weapons with ammunition from their possession.

According to a public relations officer (PRO), under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police have intensified their crackdown on criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city, he told APP.

In this regard, he said Police Tarnol and Shams Colony police station teams took action against

accused involved in possessing illegal weapons and arrested two accused.

culture, and sports.

The British High Commissioner assured support from the UK for developmental initiatives as well as cultural and sporting activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the importance of investment and trade relations, along with the exchange of cultural delegations and the promotion of sports.

He said that these initiatives would help engage youth in positive activities.

He said police teams also recovered two pistols with ammunition from their possession. Moreover, 17 absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours. According to PRO, DIG Syed Ali Raza, said that the Islamabad Police are actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace.

Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is top priority of Islamabad Police, Syed Ali Raza added.

Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station.

World Teachers Day

President emphasises teachers' empowerment, recognition

PM reaffirms commitment to create high performing educational system in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the international community observes World Teachers' Day on Saturday, President Asif Ali Zardari urged the countrymen to reaffirm their commitment to empowering the teachers, besides ensuring their respect and recognition.

"On this day, let us reaffirm our commitment to empowering our teachers and ensuring that they receive the respect, support, and recognition they deserve. Let's commit to improving our education system by investing in the capacity building and professional development of our teachers," the president said in his message to the nation on the Day.

He said the teachers were the architects of any society as they helped nurture young minds and the Day was meant to celebrate the contributions of teachers in shaping our future generations. "Capable teachers inculcate critical thinking, creativity, and ethical values in their students, helping them become responsible and productive citizens. They should help in the moral development of

students by promoting ethical values, love, tolerance, mutual respect and brotherhood," he stressed.

The president also acknowledged the challenges being faced by teachers, including inadequate training and lack of professional development opportunities.

He said that there was a dire need to equip our teachers with the tools to successfully fulfill their responsibilities.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed the government's resolve to create a high-performing educational system that empowers both the students and teachers to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

"The Government of Pakistan remains committed to honour the promise that it has made with teachers. We recognize the importance of a motivated and well-supported teaching workforce, and we will continue to invest in modern infrastructure and educational resources," he said in a message on the World Teachers Day, being observed across the globe on Saturday (October 5).



ISLAMABAD: Policemen fire tear gas shells to disperse protesters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party during a protest in favor of their demands at Jinnah Avenue, in the Federal Capital.

Secretary WPC along with MNAs visit NORI hospital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Shahida Rehmani along with women parliamentarians visited the Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI) hospital in Islamabad to commemorate the start of Breast Cancer awareness month.

The delegation was briefed by Director NORI, Dr. Muhammad Faheem, and Head of the Department of Oncology, Dr. Humaira Mahmood, said a news release.

The visit was organized to acknowledge the critical issue of breast can-

cer in Pakistan, assess the current state of healthcare delivery, and discuss the support mechanisms available for patients facing challenges in affording treatment.

The Women Parliamentarians also evaluated the hospital's capacity to manage the increasing patient load and reviewed the use of advanced technologies and medications that offer cutting-edge treatments.

During the visit, Dr. Humaira presented detailed statistics on breast cancer in Pakistan, highlighting that breast cancer remains the most prevalent form of cancer, affecting one in ev-

ery eight women.

She emphasized that the country has a significantly lower rate of early detection compared to Western nations, attributing this disparity to a lack of awareness, poverty, and cultural barriers.

The members stressed the urgent need for effective awareness campaigns, particularly for encouraging early detection, to help reduce the alarming number of cases.

The WPC underscored their commitment to amplifying awareness on breast cancer and acknowledged the efforts of NORI Hospital in providing comprehensive cancer care.

3-member bench of SC formed to hear double taxation treaty review case

ISLAMABAD (Online): A 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) has been constituted to hear double taxation treaty review case.

The bench will be presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan are also included in the bench.

The counsel Saad Hashmi while moving to CJP Qazi Faez Isa said Justice Mansoor Ali Shah had given dissenting note in double taxation case decision.

You had authored the decision. Former CJP Umar Atta Bandial had agreed with your decision. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah who had written dissenting decision is also included in review bench.

CJP Qazi Faez Isa said we include Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. The third judge of review bench will be Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

It is pertinent to mention here hearing of double taxation review case was fixed today in SC.

Counsel Saad Hashmi requested for formation of new bench by including Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

SC 3-member bench will hear review case on October 21.

Senate body voices concern over lack of funds for Railway Police

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate's Committee on Railways Friday expressed concerns about scarcity of funds for the Railway Police and over incomplete briefing on theft incidents.

The committee, which met with Senator Jam Saifullah Khan in chair, was briefed on the issues raised by Senator Shahadat Awan regarding theft incidents, embezzlement of funds, scrap cases, and financial losses faced by the Pakistan Railways over the last five years.

The committee members expressed their dis-

pleasure over the briefing provided by the Railways Ministry on the theft incidents and misappropriation, and directed that a detailed one should be provided on the issues in the next meeting.

Inspector General of Railway Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan highlighted that the Railway Police lacked human resources and necessary funds for maintaining law and order and curbing theft. Even it did not have funds to pay compensation to its Shuhada (martyrs), he added.

IG Rizvi visits D-Chowk, various duty points

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited D-Chowk and various duty points and met with the officials of ICT Police and other law enforcement departments who were performing duties in order to maintain the law and order situation in the federal capital on Friday.

According to police statement, IG Rizvi instructed the officials to be highly alert and ready all the time to deal with any emerging law and order situation.

Addressing the officials he said, "Will shall take every possible necessary measures to protect the lives and property of citi-

zens as well as private and commercial property and ready to thwart adventurism from any elements."

He said all the officials who were performing duties were putting their best efforts to maintain the law and order situation in the capital. IG vowed ICT Police will never allow anyone to disturb the peaceful environment of the city and will take all necessary steps to protect the lives and property of the citizens.

Nasir Rizvi said all the officers have been directed to stay vigilant in their respective areas and brief the personnel to deal with any law and order situation and check the duties by themselves.



ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted roads in the Federal Capital, creating life miserable for citizens.