

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 236 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Friday October 11, 2024, Rabi-us-Sani 07, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Nawaz, Bilawal meet to explore solutions for Pak current situation

Bilawal confident on approval of constitutional amendments by all parties

Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, met with former Minister

on Thursday to discuss the and its people, calling it an country's current situation auspicious sign, while also and explore solutions to the challenges it faces. Islamabad, where Pakistan

Muslim League-N President Nawaz Šharif warmly welcomed Bilawal Bhutto upon his arrival. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the inflation rate drop from economic progress.

32% to 6.9%, the reduction in the policy rate, overall economic progress, and the continuous improvement in

ISLAMABAD (APP): cluding the record \$8.8 bil-Chairman Pakistan People's lion sent by overseas Paki-

The two leaders expressed optimism about Muhammad Nawaz Sharif the swift relief for Pakistan welcoming the arrival of the Saudi investor delegation The meeting took and the hosting of the the place at Punjab House, Shanghai Cooperation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the federal capital.

The two leaders agreed that these activities mark a highly positive development for Pakistan's international standing and

Nawaz Sharif stated that time has proven the 2006 Charter of Democracy (CoD) to be a historic and timely decision



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets with President PML-N, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at Punjab House.

Five IPPs contracts terminated to save Rs411 bln: Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government on Thurs- IPPs agreed to terminate day announced the termi- the contracts preferring the nation of the power pur- national interest to their chase agreement with five Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said it would provide Rs60 billion annual relief to the electricity consumers and cumulatively save Rs411 billion to the national exche-

The prime minister, in his remarks at the meeting of the federal cabinet he chaired, said the termination of agreements signed between the Task Force on Power Sector Reforms and IPPs owners, was part of the efforts to reduce the burden of capacity payments being borne by the consumers and that it would also reduce the elec"The owners of five

This is the first raindrop. This will follow the rain to green the whole region," he remarked and thanked his team members including the task force on power sector reforms President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of the Army Staff for their efforts and PML-N president Nawaz Sharif for constant push.

He told the cabinet members that the power tariff would be reduced after a gradual review of contracts with other IPPs.

Under the agreement, the IPPs whose contracts had been terminated including Rousch Power, Saba Power, LALPIR, HUBCO and Atlas Power.

A delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led by Investment Minister H. E. Mr Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz

Al Falih called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia sign MoUs valuing \$2.2bln in multiple sectors

PM terms Saudi delegation's visit as key milestone in strengthening ties

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari visits the

Chinese Embassy to offer condolences over the

killing of Chinese citizens in a terrorist attack.

President visits China

embassy to condole killing

of Chinese citizens

Talking to Chinese

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong,

President Zardari said that

the Chinese government

and people had contributed

to the socio-economic de-

velopment of Pakistan and

the enemies of both coun-

tries could not want to see

the growing bilateral part-

nership.

He stated that such

cowardly acts by the hos-

tile elements could not

weaken the bonds of friend-

ship between the two time-

ated Pakistan's commit-

ment to ensure the safety

and security of the Chinese

nationals residing in Paki-

The president reiter-

tested friends.

Thursday signed 27 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) valuing US \$2.2 billion in various sectors including industry, agriculture, Information Technology (IT), food, education, mine & minerals, health, petroleum, energy and other areas of mutual coopera-

Prime Muhammad Sharif accompanied by Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Falih and Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Sved Asim Munir witnessed the exchange of the signed copies

of the MoUs. Addressing on the occasion, the prime minister

SC suspends

order for

re-polling

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Supreme Court of

Pakistan on Thursday

suspended a decision re-

garding re-polling in 15

polling stations of the

PB-45 Balochistan. The

court reinstated the vic-

tory of PPP's candidate

Ali Madad Jatak and

A three-member

served notices to respon

bench headed by Justice

Amin ud Din Khan heard

the appeal against the de-

cision of election tribunal

for re-counting in afore-

said constituency. The

appeal was filed by PPP's

candidate Ali Madad

dents for comments.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- said the visit of Saudi busikistan and Saudi Arabia on ness delegation was a true manifestation of great sincerity and affection for people of Pakistan from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

He hoped that today's ceremony would lead to many more such events in times to come.

He expressed the government's resolve to Minister implement these MoUs Shehbaz and to transform them into agreements in future through "hard work and untiring efforts".

'Our Saudi brothers lead by Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Falih have done remarkable job to promote Saudi economy and with his presence here, we will have his full cooperation to pro-

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari

on Thursday visited the

Embassy of China here and

offered his heartfelt condo-

lences on behalf of the

Government and people of

Pakistan over the tragic kill-

ing of Chinese citizens in a

terrorist attack in Karachi

that took place on October

Pakistan's solidarity with

Chinese people in this hour

of grief, according to a Presi-

dent House press release.

Strongly condemning

expressed

Reform implementation

must for continued

7, 2024.

mote bilateral investments and business opportunity,' he remarked.

The prime minister hoped that in future there would be many more such ceremonies both in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. He assured the Saudi

delegation that the MoUs signed today would be fully materialized and there would be no delay or red tape-ism in the implementation process.

Recently, he said that Pakistan had secured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme which he hoped would be the last programme. He thanked the Saudi leadership for their support in having the programme as without their support, the

programme could not have materialized

"Finally programme is through, but we hope that this will be the last programme as we have already through a wonderful team work. managed to improve our economic indicators, inflation came down from 32% to 6.9% this month, our policy rate has come down from 23% to 17.5%, exports are increasing, foreign remittances are also increas ing", he said.

Additionally, he said the government was moving towards deep rooted reforms in the country's economy through very stringent measures and there was no compromise on these decisions.

Faith in

Khatam-e-

Nabuwat

integral part of Muslim's

discuss bilateral ties General Asim underscores deep

COAS, Saudi delegation

respect & affection that people of Pakistan hold for the KSA

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, accompanied by a high-level government cum business delegation, met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here on Thurs-

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, particularly initiatives to strengthen ever growing brotherly bilateral cooperation in a variety of sectors, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news re-

The COAS expressed and gratitude for unflinching support for Pakistan

from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman." Manifestation of one of the largest business delegation's visit to Pakistan reaffirms the enduring and fraternal ties between Pakistan and King-dom of Saudi Arabia," he

He underscored the deep respect and affection that the people of Pakistan hold for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The COAS further as-

sured the delegation of Pakistan's full support and commitment and conveyed his optimism for the promhis profound appreciation ising outcomes that would mutually benefit both na-



RAWALPINDI: Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, accompanied by a high-level government cum business delegation, meet with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

Kundi emphasizes peace in provincial jirga

Interior Minister represents Federal Govt at Grand Jirga in CM House

Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday highlighted the significance of tion in Afghanistan. peace in the province during a jirga held at the Chief

Governor Kundi ac-

definition: SC Minister's House. ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan Addressing the gathering, he expressed gratitude has stated in Mubarak to the provincial govern-Sani's detailed judgment ment for organizing the that complete faith in event and to Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi 'Khatam-e-Nabuat' is an integral part of the definifor his presence.

tion of a Muslim. A three-member bench knowledged existing poheaded by Chief Justice of litical differences and Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and stressed that the safety comprising Justice Amin ud and prosperity of the Din Khan and Justice province remain the top Naeem Akhtar Afghan ispriorities.

sued the order. **Syedaal says: Empowering** youth can transform

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan said on Thursday that the youth of any country are a valuable asset, and empowering them can transform the

nation's fate

nation's fate. He expressed these views during a meeting with Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Narcotics Control, Senator Abdul Shakoor Khan, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Assurances, and other offi-

4 khwarij killed in two separate **IBOs in KP**

The Security Forces on Thursday killed four Khwarij terrorists in two separate intelligencebased operations (IBOs)

PESHAWAR (APP): Gov- tiations are essential for re-Khyber solving issues, particularly

Referring to a recent tragic incident in district Khyber, he underscored the urgency of addressing security concerns, saying that many areas in the province are still considered no-go

He called for unity among all stakeholders, including the provincial and federal governments, to establish peace.

The Governor emphasized the need for dialogue with those who respect the country's constitution and laws.



Naqvi participating in Grand Jirga organised by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government.

3.4 trillion Sales Tax evasion uncovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here Thursday that there was about Rs 3.4 trillion Sales Tax evasion out of a total Rs 7 trillion tax theft in different sectors of the economy.

The minister was addressing a press conference along with the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Rashid Mahmood Langrial, to discuss a study conducted by FBR on sales tax evasion. The study found that only 14% out of 300,000 manufacturers liable to register have done so, and many registered entities misreport turnover, claim excess input tax, and use fake in-

Sales Tax in Pakistan is collected through VAT mode, relying on businesses to collect tax from buyers. However, this trust has been breached

minister said and shared findings from five sectors including Iron and Steel, Cement, Beverages, Batteries, and Textiles.

He said, malpractices were widespread, with most entities claiming excess input tax. In iron and steel sector, 33 large businesses, representing over 50% of total sales, evaded sales tax by claiming Rs 29 billion in excess input tax, mainly through scrap metal and coal purchases.

Likewise, in battery sector, six active cases, representing 99% of total sales, claimed Rs 11 billion in excess input tax, primarily through lead purchases while in cement sector, 19 active cases claimed Rs 18 billion in excess input tax in FY23-24, mainly through coal purchases. In addition, beverages sector with 16 active cases, representing 99% of aerated water sales, claimed Rs 15 billion in excess input tax, mainly on a massive scale, the through sugar, plastics.

At UN, Pakistan demands probe into 'theft and illicit sale' of nuclear materials in India

(APP): Pakistan has called on the UN Security Council to thoroughly investigate the "recurring" incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in neighbouring India. A recent Indian media report said that police had arrested three smugglers in the western Gopalganj district of Bihar with a rare Californium stone which is highly radioactive and fetches a high price in the international market.

"The Security Council should be deeply concerned at the recurring incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in our Eastern neighbour," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told a committee established by

NATIONS the 15-member Council States to peaceful use of pursuant to its resolution 1540 that requires UN member states to take specific steps to prevent the

last August 2024, a group was found in illegal possessubstance Californium, worth US\$ 100 million," he said, adding that three incidents of theft of Californium were reported also

in India in 2021 At the same time, the

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). "In the latest incident sion of a large quantity of ing any form of support to highly radioactive and toxic non-state actors that at-

state actors from acquiring and their means of delivery

sensitive materials, rights of to non-state actors

These incidents, Ambassador Akram suggested the existence of a black market for sensitive materials.

Pakistani envoy said, "While preventing non-

dual-use technologies must be safeguarded. Exportcontrol regimes should not serve as tools of coercion and discrimination.

manufacture, possess, transterrorist purposes. The sures to prevent the proliferation of these weapons



Aurangzeb, along with Chairman FBR, Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, addresses a press conference to brief about the study conducted by FBR regarding sales tax evasion across different sectors of the economy.

the terrorist attack, the president reiterated the resolve to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice.

Under the terms of resolution 1540, the Security Council demands that all States refrain from providtempt to develop, acquire, port, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for resolution requires all States to adopt and enforce appropriate laws to this effect as well as other effective mea-

economic recovery: WB Pakistan's economy has continued to stabilize from the recent economic crisis, with growth recovering to 2.5 percent in the fiscal year ending June 2024, says the World Bank (WB) in its latest country economic update on Thursday.

The report The Pakistan Development Update: The Dynamics of Power Sector Distribution Reform", finds that following recession in FY23, economic activity strengthened in FY24 reflecting strong agricultural output, lower inflation, prudent macroeconomic measures, and reduced political uncertainty. But this level of growth is not sufficient to bring down poverty rates, which increased from 40.2 percent in FY23 to 40.5 percent in FY24. 'Pakistan's stabilizing

ISLAMABAD (APP): economy is on a path of recovery. To sustain and strengthen that positive momentum, steady implementation government's structural reforms plan that aims to address long-standing constraints to faster growth will be key. These include reforming an inequitable and distortive tax system, reducing inefficient expenditures

and untargeted subsidies, lessening the large state presence in the economy. reducing barriers to trade and investment, and reducing losses in the energy sector" said Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Paki-"Implementation of

planned structural policy reforms supported by a strong national political consensus and increased private sector participation.

He said, that the government is taking measures to prevent drug abuse, particularly in educational in stitutions nationwide.

RAWALPINDI (APP) conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

On October 9, the Forces conducted an IBO in general area Janikhel, Bannu District on reported presence of khwarij, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. During the conduct of the operation, after an intense exchange of fire, two khwarij were killed

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Mental wellness

World Mental Health Day, observed on Oct 10 each year, is an opportunity to focus on an oft-neglected aspect of one's well-being. The theme for 2024, 'Mental Health at Work', highlights the urgent need to address mental well-being within professional environments. With a significant portion of adult life spent at work, creating healthy workplaces becomes not just an ethical responsibility but also an economic necessity. Workplaces that fail to prioritise mental health can contribute to burnout, anxiety, depression, and other serious issues, while those that do foster mental well-being help employees thrive both professionally and personally. Workplace stress and mental health issues have gained increasing attention in recent years across the globe, but the situation is concerning in Pakistan. The prevalence of mental disorders in Pakistan is estimated to be as high as 10pc, affecting approximately 20m people. Despite such staggering numbers, mental health remains a stigmatised topic, particularly in professional settings where discussing mental well-being is often viewed as a sign of weakness. The challenges of job insecurity, excessive workloads, and limited access to mental health resources exacerbate the problem, leaving many employees to struggle in silence.

For a developing country like ours, where the workforce is already strained due to economic pressures, addressing mental health at work is critical. Low wages and poor working conditions, especially in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, and even the burgeoning digital economy, only intensify the crisis. In many cases, employees hesitate to seek help for fear of being judged or seen as incompetent. This reinforces the cycle of untreated mental health issues that can lead to reduced productivity, absenteeism, and high turnover rates, all of which affect the national

Pakistan suffers from a lack of institutional support and policies that address mental health in the workplace. Unlike many developed nations, where employee assistance programmes, flexible work arrangements, and mental health awareness training are becoming standard, such initiatives are rare in our corporate and industrial sectors. This gap underscores the need for both a cultural shift and legislative reforms to promote mental well-being at work. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of mental health in every aspect of life, including the workplace. As remote work becomes more common, especially in the IT and services sectors, the boundaries between work and personal life have blurred, leading to heightened stress. The emphasis on mental health at work could not be more timely, urging employers to rethink how they support their employees. On this World Mental Health Day, the message is clear: mental health at work must become a priority. There must be a concerted effort in Pakistan to initiate conversations about mental health in the workplace. It is only by addressing these issues that we can create an inclusive, productive, and healthier workforce.

Stressed hospitality

F.S. Aijazuddin

In Pakistan we plan with finesse, and then execute a mohalla known then as in distress. Some still recall the obstacles placed by the then chief minister Punjab in the way of the Lahore LitFest in ear-Line (a permanent unface of once lovely Lahore), he withdrew perthe mission at penultimate minute for the LLF to be held at the

Lahore Arts Council. Hurriedly, the LLF had to relocate to a local hotel. To the chagrin of like the Indian film star Shar-mila Tagore could noise of generators in makeshift auditoria.

This year, the openits definition takes more than a year to plan, fell victim to politics. What should have been a momentous, joyous event for our country was crippled by a dharna by a disgruntled party.

press their views. We might, however, lea-rn a outside the gate. They held placards listing their demands. When asked, they explained that they were on strike on behalf of all their colleagues. There was no need for the rest of the workers to strike. They would con-

interrupted. With us, protest is synonymous with disruption. We cannot complain without causing

chaos Lahore Biennale compressed Lahore's past into its present. It was an art exhibition held in the house off Temple Road where the author Ved

Mehta grew up in the litical dharna, the 1940s. Met-reurous, Ved's family lived in schedule had to be rearranged at short notice. father's house famous tribute to the tenacity of (the gate still has the the organisers. They

Mehta gali. He made his marble plaque bearing the saw Lahore as an artistic name 'Dr. Amolak Ram tapestry, a historical lier years. Annoyed at the Mehta') in his autobiogcriticism of his Orange raphy Face to Face (1957). The house remains as his sightly scar across the family left it in 1947, sans contents and sans its soul

Each room had been converted into a mini gallery, showcasing the talent of individual artists. The inner courtyard where Ved played became a theatre. For an the audience, attractions hour, Lahore's past was recalled by a film — Life in the Walled City of be barely heard over the Lahore — made by Shireen Pasha in 1991.

Shireen studied at the National College of ing of the Lahore Arts, Lahore where her Biennale 2024, which by talent as a painter glistalent as a painter glistened like gold in a class of dark lignite. She leaped from the limitation of a canvas to the big screen, and from there to the welcoming arms of the West.

Her film on Lahore is Kiplingesque. It shows Everyone with an the daily routine of wresopinion has a right to ex- tlers, the round of milkmen, the gleeful, competitive abandon of kite-flylesson from the Japa- ing, the rhythm of worknese. A visitor there once ers hammering silver into noticed a trio of Japanese wafer-thin slivers, the factory workers standing monotony of baking endless moons of naans, and the heavy breakfasts on cold Lahori mornings.

Shireen interspersed these images with recollections by elderly residents of the old city geriatrics to whom the havelis were home and tinue working so that production would not be anything beyond a foreign, inhospitable land. The film concluded with shots of a younger Nusrat Fateh Ali before fame gripped his throat.

Lahore Biennale 2024 criss-A prequel to the crossed Lahore's geography, including events at Sha--limar Gardens, the Lahore Fort, and Brad--laugh Hall which history has forgotten.

met-iculously crafted ranged at short notice. That it was held at all is a continuum, not the stunted span of an elected or selected government.

Participants at another moot — the SCO gathering of biggies in Islamabad — have their own problems, their own variants of dissent. They will though be treated here with liberal hospital-

Flush with the pro-spect of \$7 billion from the IMF, our Foreign Office has asked the Pun-jab government for "15 VVIP vehicles, including bulletproof cars, for dep-loyment with the 12 prime ministers attending the SCO conference". In response, the Punjab government announced plans to purchase "79 new luxury vehicles for provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries ... and VVIP protocol duties". The cost? A paltry Rs612 mil-

Wasn't it Thomas Jefferson who advised paupers like us: "Never spend your money be-

fore you have it." One recalls the 1974 Islamic Summit in Lahore when Mr Bhutto commandeered the residences of the rich and their luxury cars for visiting VIPs. These included Saudi King Faisal and Libya's Col Qadhafi. They made no complaints. In 2008, before the SCO meeting in Dushanbe, the Chinese gifted the host Tajikistan 105 vehicles, including 80 buses and 20 luxury cars for the visiting heads of state. We still owe the Chinese \$3bn deposited to window-dress our reserves. We did not need to rice-paper our poverty with con-Because of the po- ceit. -- Courtesy Dawn

Gaza's children

Aamnah Arshad Kamal

As we mark one year out sufficient food and since the onset of the water. Before they can conflict in Gaza, the recover from their predevastating toll on children's mental health there continues to unfold. More than 42,000 people have been killed curity. They are in a in Gaza since the start state of toxic stress, as of the conflict, according to the Gaza health stant terror of bombardministry, with the majority of identified victims being women and children. This prolonged conflict, marked by air strikes, displacement, and the loss of family

and the youth. Mental World mental health crisis being faced by children children of Gaza have from 2008 to 2024. The anxiety. current attacks have so rubble. Keeping in mind the demography, we can assume that a little under half the casualties are children. However, it is quite clear that

medical aid, and withvious scars, they are retraumatised — on a daily basis — and are left with no sense of sethey live under the con-

There are many

evidence of mental

ment and firing.

health disorders including stress disorder, anxiety and homes, has left and depression among deep psychological the children. One such wounds on children study, conducted after from losing family past conflicts in Gaza, is the 'Consequences Health Day, observed of war-related traumatic each year on Oct 10, is stress among Palestina crucial time to raise ian young people in awareness about the the Gaza Strip: a scoping review', published in Science Direct. living in war zones. The It concludes that the majority of children in been confined to a narrow strip of land, which toms of PTSD: "The has been blockaded for mental health of chil-15 years, and, along dren and young people with the rest of the in- in the Gaza Strip is a habitants, have faced a pressing public health on discovering their talnumber of intense periods of assault by Israel, PTSD, depression and

Psychologist Iman far proved to be the Farajallah has conmost devastating for ducted a number of Gaza's 2.3 million studies on childhood people. Besides the trauma focused on Palhuge death toll, thou- estinian children. For sands of people are her 2016 doctoral dis-children's mental health missing, many of them sertation titled Children perhaps dead under the of War: Psychological Impacts of War and manage the adverse Post-war Trauma on the Palestinian Children in the Gaza Strip, Dr Farajallah interviewed children and their famiall children in Gaza have lies in the area. She of Gaza's children is experienced the trauma found that anger and of war and it is no won- aggression were comder that the Gaza Strip mon among them as a has been called the result of witnessing Is-"most dangerous place raeli bombings take the the healthcare system in the world to be a lives of close family has collapsed, no treat-child" by Unicef members. Among the ment is even partially spokesperson James signs of mental trauma and PTSD displayed by Large numbers of children were: depreschildren in Gaza are in- sion, anxiety, continu- structure is carried out. jured; they have been ous traumatic stress

left without parents and disorder, hyperactivity, shelter, without vital a preference for being alone, screaming, nightmares and bed-wetting, frightening thoughts and flashbacks of trau-

Watching people around them die, especially parents and close family members and friends, makes the children in Gaza very afraid, lonely and depressed. They do not receive the studies to support the emotional support or psychological care needed, thus these post-traumatic negative feelings exacerbate their mental health issues. The lack of security resulting memb-ers, homes and safe places to live, prolongs the stress they

> Intense conflict has destroyed scho-ols and recreational structures in Gaza, disrupting childr-en's education, which in turn impacts their cognitive development and learning. Besides not being able to go to school, children also lose out ent, interests and skills.

As a result, their future progress is hampered, adding to their feelings of depression and hopelessness.

Interventions that focus on reducing the effect of war on are crucial to helping the affected youngsters psychological effects in the long term. However, effective intervention and treatment of the mental health problems only possible when there is peace in the region and the infrastructure is restored. Since possible until the war completely stops and reconstruction of infra--- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Saudi Minister highlights Pakistan as "prime investment destination" at Business Forum

Saudi Minister for one-stop shop, a single-Investment, Sheikh Khalid window system, and the underway. The minister encouragement. Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, on Thursday said that Facilitation Council (SIFC) Ministry of Commerce's Pakistan has the potential to become a high-return, low-risk investment destination, making it optimism about the 27 bilateral trade has already highly attractive for Saudi

Speaking at the signed during the ongoing Pakistan-Saudi Arabia forum, with many more Business Forum, the currently minister commended negotiation reforms, highlighting the agreements

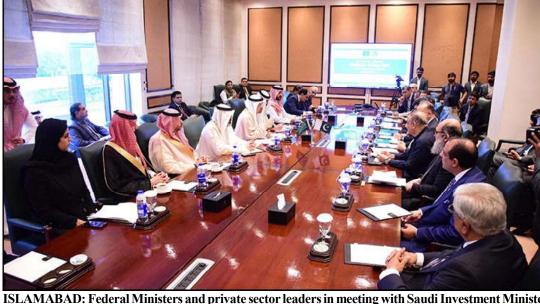
window system, and the Special Investment acknowledged the sheikh Special as pivotal factors in commitment to enhancing streamlining investment trade relations between the agreements, amounting to

Pakistan's initiatives and emphasized that these

processes. He expressed two countries, noting that surged by approximately \$2 billion, expected to be 80 percent, rising from \$3 billion in 2019 to \$5.4 billion today. He also under highlighted the significant He increase in Pakistani investment licenses, which emerged have more than doubled,

ISLAMABAD (APP): establishment of a special organically, reflecting the demonstrating the Saudi

expressed enthusiasm about the announcement from the Saudi Crown Prince regarding a \$5 billion investment in Pakistan, revealed during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit shortly after he took office. "I'm delighted to have the Public Investment Fund (PIF) represented among us," he



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers and private sector leaders in meeting with Saudi Investment Minister H.E. Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih to discuss enhancing trade and investment.

Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal meeting with delegation from the China Asia Economic Development Association (CAEDA) here in Islamabad.

Provision of affordable electricity to consumers govt's top priorities: Awais

ISLAMABAD (APP): per unit for which Minister for Power agreements Division Sardar Awais Independent Ahmed Khan Leghari on Producers (IPPs) were Thursday said that mutually revised and reduction in power tariff and provision of He said the prime electricity to the people at minister set up a National affordable price were Task Force to bring reforms government's top in the power sector. Five priorities. Addressing at IPPs were identified and press conference here, the negotiation were started minister said that various with them, he added. pragmatic measures were being taken to slash electricity prices in order thoroughly studied and

to the masses. He said the electricity power price should reduce Rs 10

Power

reassessed. He said the prime

He said every section of the agreements were to provide maximum relief then mutually reached at an agreement to terminate the power purchase agreements with 5 IPPs.

PSX loses 216 points ISLAMABAD (APP): The

100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend, losing 216.06 points on Thursday, a negative change of 0.25 percent, closing at 85,453.22 points against 85,669.28 points on the last trading day. A total of 503,750,595 shares were traded during the day as compared to 596,052,076 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 27.912 billion against Rs. 31.341 billion on the last trading day. As many as 313 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 115 of them recorded gains and 189 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 9 companies remained unchanged.

more investments into Pakistan ISLAMABAD (APP): investors will be Federal Minister for encouraged to invest in

Reforms to encourage

and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, said here on Thursday that the institutional and policy reforms introduced by the incumbent government would further encourage more Saudi investor to invest in Pakistan.

"I am confident that with institutional and policy reforms, we have introduced, more Saudi to offer.

Investment, Privatization Pakistan," the federal minister said while addressing Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Business Forum.

He said, the business forum provides unique opportunity to build deeper commercial ties between the two brotherly countries and invited Saudi Businessmen to explore wide rage investment opportunities Pakistan has

CM Maryam focusing to ensure agriculture development: Kirmani

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said on Thursday that till now 1.25 million farmers had got their registration done for obtaining Punjab Chief Minister's Kisan Card. He said this while presiding over the meeting held in Deputy Commissioner's Toba Tek Deputy Singh office, said a press release. The meeting reviewed arrangements

regarding Punjab Chief

Minister's visit to Toba

Tek Singh and kisan card

activation ceremony. The

minister said that after printing of kisan card its provision was ongoing. He further said that Punjab Chief Minister was taking all possible measures to ensure agriculture development.

He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz would be chief guest of Kisan Card launching ceremony in Toba Tek Singh. Kirmani said that under the scheme, a subsidy of Rs 1 million would be provided to farmers for getting tractor under green tractor scheme.

Pakistan at good place on economic front, open for business, Finance Minister ISLAMABAD (APP): Aurangzeb highlighted Business-to-Business

Federal Minister for government policies aimed Finance and Revenue, at strengthening the Senator Muhammad private sector to lead the significant progress in Aurangzeb here on country's business and macroeconomic stability Thursday expressed economy. The minister over the past 12-12 optimism about Pakistan's emphasized that the months. Pakistan achieved prospects, stating the country was at a good place on economic front and open to business.

Business

government's role was not a primary surplus, reduced to do business but to its current account deficit facilitate the private sector. to less than \$1 billion,

Addressing the Arabian delegates to increased foreign exchange Pakistan Saudi Arabia promote trade and reserves to cover two investment through a months of imports.

He welcomed Saudi stabilized its currency, and

ANF seizes 65 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover 65 kg drugs worth Rs 5.2 million and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He said, in an operation, 13.2 kg hashish was recovered from a rickshaw intercepted near Sangjani toll plaza and two accused were arrested. 308 grams hashish was recovered from an accused netted near a major educational institution in Karachi

Chinese PM's visit to boost economic prospects: LCCI

Lahore Chamber of (LCCI) has expressed the optimism that the Chinese Prime Minister's visit will boost economic prospects of Pakistan.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid and manufacturing. Nazir Chaudhry said, "The visit signifies a critical opportunity to boost

LAHORE (APP): The more Chinese investment." They said that the Commerce and Industry relationship between Pakistan and China had been marked by strong economic ties but this visit takes it a step further.

> They added that the business community expect to see a wave of investment in critical sectors such as energy, technology, infrastructure

They further said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Pakistan's economic had already laid a solid prospects by attracting foundation.

Empowered women play vital role in development of any society: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation of HER Market Place Leaders Club led by Founder President Leaders Club, Sana Khan, called on Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Sana Khan informed the Governor of Punjab about the initiatives taken by the Leaders Club regarding financial independence and business

development. Talking on this asion, Governor occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that empowered women play an important role in the development of any society. He said that women are not only take care of their families, but

Secretariat in Lahore.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Centre of Excellence on

Extremism (KPCVE) on

Thursday organized a one-

day seminar at Government

College Peshawar on the

issue of drug abuse and the

social problems arising

from it. The seminar was to

develop strategies to

prevent drug addiction and

raise awareness among Peshawar.

to the society by working shoulder to shoulder with shoulder to shoulder with men in various fields. Governor Punjab said that women are proving their mettle in various fields.

He appreciated the providing business said that Leaders Club is business opportunities to

Governor Punjab about HER Marketplace and Second Emerging Women Awards 2024. The delegation also invited the Governor of Punjab as a special guest at the Women

LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerks

Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration

against massive unemployment, increasing price of

daily use products and inflation price hiking, at Civil

KPCVE organizes

seminar on prevention

of drug abuse

PESHAWAR (APP): The students and the broader

Violent

Club to be held at Aiwan i Iqbal Complex, Lahore on 16 November. Dr. Aamir Khan,

Founder Leaders Club,

Anam Tariq Khan, Dr. vision of Leaders Club to Humayun Iftikhar, Dr. Ijaz empower women by Sindhu and Irfan Khan were also present on this opportunities to them. He occasion. In addition, Governor Punjab Sardar playing a positive role in Saleem Haider Khan the development of the attended the Chehlum country by providing ceremony of his mother in law in Malal, Attock District and prayed for the On this occasion, the higher ranks of the of the delegation briefed the deceased. On this occasion, former Federal Interior Minister, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Sardar Muhammad Ali . Sardar Faizan Haider, Sardar Hasan Ali and a large number of local dignitaries were present.

Police arrest 21 outlaws in DIKhan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during the successful operations against the criminal the criminal elements arrested atleast 21 outlaws and recovered weapon, and drugs from their possession in the limits of Paharpur and Shorkot police stations here on Thursday. According to the police spokesman, on the direction of District Police Officer, Dera Nasir Mahmood, operations against criminal elements are going on indiscriminately

throughout the district. Shorkot police station led by SDPO Imranullah Khattak along with SHO Manzoor Khan conducted a search and strike operation in different

localities. During the raid the police team arrested the accused Muhammad Salim son of Falakshir resident of Mandran Kalan, who was wanted in the murder case. The police recovered 9mm bore pistol with ammunition from the possession of Nimatullah. Saver Program, both of the chief guest.



President Leaders Club, Sana Khan, in a group photo with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Senior minister meets WB carbon consultant

LAHORE (APP): Senior Minister Marvam Nawaz Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb met with World Bank Carbon Consultant Mr. Morton, on Thursday.

On this occasion. bilateral discussions were held regarding important measures regarding green carbon credit, industrial emission control system, development domestic carbon credit and anti-smog program. Senior Provincial

has been taking steps for six months to protect her people from the negative effects of smog. Punjab is currently going through a transition phase. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif wants to invest in the development of energy, transport and forests, she added. She said that with the support of Australian firm, discussions are also going on about bio-refinery

1 for environmentally Minister Marriyum friendly destruction of Aurangzeb said that Chief crop residues. The senior

MRS responded to over 2.6 mln emergencies in 7 years in punjab LAHORE (APP): Provincial which beneficial for the

Minister for Émergency Services Khawaja Salman Rafique congratulated all District Emergency Officers and the staff of the Motorbike Rescue Service (MRS) on completing seven successful years of service.

Speaking at the cakecutting ceremony for the 7th anniversary of the Motorbike Rescue Service, of the the minister praised Rescue 1122 as one of the most disciplined organizations. He commended the Rescue 1122 team, under the leadership of Dr. Rizwan Naseer, for swiftly launching the Air Ambulance Service and the Pak Life

people of Punjab. He further said that Rescue 1122 not only provides a sense of safety to the people of Punjab but also extends its expertise through the Emergency Services Academy, which has trained over 26,000 emergency professionals from across the country, to establish the

neighboring provinces. On the completion of 7 vears of Motorbike Rescue Service, a ceremony was held at the Command and Control Centre. Lahore in which Provincial Minister for Emergency Services, Khawaja Salman Rafique was

emergency system in

Three shot dead over enmity

FAISALABAD (APP) Three people were killed over enmity near Tandlianwala on Thursday. According to Rescue-1122, Haq Nawaz s/ o Sakhawat, Maqsood s/o Alam Sher and Waqar s/o Muhammad Azam (rickshaw driver) were on their way to the court to appear in a case when armed rivals opened fire on them. As a result, they all died on the spot. Rescue team moved the bodies to Tandlianwala city police.

Two dead **bodies found** in Karak

PESHAWAR (APP): Two dead bodies were found in the Sirajkhel area of tehsil Takht Nusrati in district Karak on Thursday. Local police said some

unknown accused dumped the bodies of the girl and a boy after killing them somewhere else. Police said the incident was likely to be the result of an honor

Motorcyclist killed in road accident

CHICHAWATNI (APP): A motorcyclist died in a road mishap on GT Road here on Thursday. According to a police spokesman, a 50-year-old man, namely Rustam, was riding a bike on GT Road when a truck hit his bike. A result, he died on the spot.

CM KP authorized to hold jirga for solution of all matters with peaceful negotiations

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial peace jirga including Aimal Wali Khan attended by the leadership of ANP, Professor Ibrahim provincial peace jirga attended by the leadership and representatives of all religious and political parties here Thursday authorized the Chief Minister Khyber Pakthunhwa to hold a Jirga for resolution of all matters through peaceful negotiations.

The Spokesman of KP Government in a statement here said the grand provincial jirga was attended by Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Khyber Pakthunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, CM KP Ali Ameen Gandapur Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam, Speaker KP assembly Babar Salim Swati, leaders and representatives of religious

Khan of Jumat e Islami, Mohsin Dawar, Mian Iftikhar Hussain of ANP, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha of PPP, Sikandr Hayat Sherpao QWP, Dr Ebad Khan of PMLN and others here at Chief Minister House. Provincial

Page 03

The Assembly including leadership of all religiouspolitical parties assigned CM KP the responsibility of conducting a peace jirga with concerned for solution of all matters through consultation and peaceful means. The CM KP has accepted the responsibility of conducting a peace jirga and thanked the participants for reposing trust in him.



LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique watching the stalls on the eve of World Mental Health Day ceremony at Punjab Institute of Mental Health.

KMU hosts ceremony for **MDCAT 2024 toppers**

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Finance, Muzammil Aslam government. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a five-week universities and an event profession.

PESHAWAR (APP): The honoring the top position Adviser to the Chief Minister holders of MDCAT 2024 organized by Khyber Medical University (KMU) on Thursday emphasized Peshawar. He remarked that that health and education are today's event is a clear the highest priorities of the testament to the provincial government's commitment to elevating the health sector to international standards. training program for The introduction of British-provincial nurses in level nursing training will collaboration with the significantly enhance the provincial health department quality of nursing, fostering and a consortium of British overall growth in this vital

International News

US calls out Israel at UN for 'catastrophic conditions' in Gaza

community about its

dangers and consequences.

from various fields, including

Deputy Director HED

Zakaria Khan, Professor Dr

Nadia Khan Betani, KPCVE

Principal Research Officer

Chairman of the Islamic

Studies Department at

Muhammad

Government

Prominent experts

UNITED NATIONS: Israel needs to address urgently "catastrophic conditions" among Palestinian civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip and stop "intensifying suffering" by limiting aid deliveries, its ally the United States told the UN Security Council on

Wednesday. Referring to reports of squalid conditions in south and central Gaza, US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said: 'These catastrophic conditions were predicted months ago, and yet, have still not been addressed. That must change, and now." "We call on Israel to take urgent steps to do so," she said in a blunt statement.

The 15-member Security Council met over the humanitarian crisis a year said. after a deadly attack by

on southern Israel sparked the war in Gaza. Israel has since laid to waste much of entire population of 2.3 million has been displaced.

Israel says Hamas killed some 1,200 people on Oct. 7, 2023, while health authorities in Gaza say nearly 42,000 people have been killed so far during Israel's retaliation.

Thomas-Greenfield also addressed a recent Israeli order for civilians in Gaza's north to evacuate able to return to communities to rebuild.

demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that businesses. reduce the territory of Gaza," Thomas-Greenfield

Philippe Lazzarini,

Palestinian militants Hamas the head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, told the Security Council: "Hundreds of the enclave and almost the thousands of people are again being pushed to move to the south, where living

conditions are intolerable. "Yet again, Gazans are teetering on the edge of a man-made famine," he said. The UN has long com-

plained of obstacles to getting aid into Gaza and distributing it during the war. Reuters reported last

week that food supplies to Gaza have fallen sharply in again, saying they must be recent weeks because Israeli authorities have introduced a new customs rule on some "There must be no humanitarian aid and are separately scaling down deliveries organized by

"We need to see fewer barriers to the delivery of aid, not more of them,' Thomas-Greenfield said.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy shake hands on the day of a bilateral meeting inside 10 Downing Street in London, Britain.

At least 192 killed in wave of violence between drug gangs in northwest Mexico

Monitoring Desk CULIACAN: At least 192 people have been killed in a wave of violence that began last month between warring drug gangs in Mexico's northwestern state of Sinaloa, the State Public Security Council, a local civilian-led watchdog,

The council, which consists of members of Sinaloan society such as academics, business representatives and nonprofits, said that to date, nearly 200 mur-

ders and 226 disappearances have been reported since the onset of the violence on September 9. Around 200 families have fled the violence, with 180 businesses closing and 2,000 jobs lost amid the armed conflict between the leading factions of the Sinaloa Cartel.

Following the arrest of notorious drug kingpin and Sinaloa Cartel co-founder Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada

before age 18, UNICEF says

Monitoring Desk

children's agency said on Wednesday. The number rises to 650 million, or one in five, when taking into account "non-contact" forms of sexual violence, such as online or verbal abuse, UNICEF reported, in what it called the first global sur-

"The scale of this human rights violation is overwhelming, and it's been hard to fully grasp because of stigma, challenges in measurement, and limited investment in data collection," UNICEF said in releasing the report. It comes ahead of an inaugural Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against

Russia says 'Nuclear Five' states to meet soon in New York **Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: A group of five nuclear weapons states will hold a meeting in New York in the next two weeks, Russian state media quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Thursday. The group brings together Russia, the United States, China, France and Britain, all of which are nuclear-armed states and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.Ryabkov did not announce a specific date or say what level of officials would attend.

Overshooting 1.5C risks 'irreversible' climate impact Monitoring Desk

PARIS: Any breach of what climate scientists agree is the safer limit on global warming would result in "irreversible consequences" for the planet, said a major academic study published on Wednesday.

Even temporarily exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius before bringing temperatures back down — a scenario known as an "overshoot" — could cause sea level rises and other disastrous repercussions that might last millenia.

EU must unite entire continent, says Zelensky

Monitoring Desk
DUBROVNIK: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday called on the European Union to "unite the whole continent" as he pushes for more military aid to repel Russian forces. But a key meeting with international allies planned for Saturday was postponed after US President Joe Biden called off a planned European visit to focus on the threat from Hurricane Milton to

The EU must "unite the whole continent, all of Europe's democratic nations including your countries", Zelensky told the start of the summit in Dubrovnik.

united today it won't be peace closer.

peaceful, so that integration processes that have begun must reach their result." he said pleading the case for his country and several Balkan states to be allowed into the bloc.

Heads of state, premiers and foreign ministers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkiye joined Zelensky and Croatia's Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic at the talks. Önly Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania and Slovenia are EU mem-

Zelensky said earlier the summit "will discuss "If Europe is not international efforts to bring

Biden, Netanyahu speak, Israel vows lethal retaliation against Iran

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTŎN:

President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had a call on Wednesday (Oct 9) amid tensions with Iran, while Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant promised an Israeli strike against Iran will be "le-ended: "Whoever attacks thal, precise and surpris-

The 30-minute call was the first known chat since August and coincides with a sharp escalation of Israel's conflict with Iran and the Iranbacked Lebanese Hezbollah, but with no Lebanese sign of an imminent ceasefire to end the conflict with Iran-backed Hamas in Gaza.

The call was "direct and very productive", White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters while acknowledging the two leaders have disagreements and are open about them. The Middle East has been on edge awaiting Israel's response to a missile at-

carried out in retaliation for Israel's military escalation in Lebanon. The Iranian attack ultimately killed no one in Israel. After describing Iran's Oct 1 missile attack as a failure, Gallant said in a video issued by his office after the us will be hurt and will pay a price. Our attack will be deadly, precise and above all surprising, they will for Biden and Netanyahu not understand what happened and how it happened, they will see the results.

Netanyahu promised that arch-foe Iran will pay for its missile attack, while Tehran has said any retaliation would be met with vast destruction, raising fears of a wider war in the oilproducing region which could draw in the United States.

The United States has said it supports Israel going after Iranbacked targets like Hezbollah and Hamas but has tried, unsuccessfully, to stem rising conflict, to tack last week that Tehran broker a ceasefire in Gaza.

US warns Israel not to repeat Gaza ruination

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: The United States warned Israel on Wednesday against any Gaza-like military action in Lebanon after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened it with "destruction" like that in the Palestinian territory.

But armed forces chief Herzi Halevi vowed to keep up Israel's intensive bombing of Hezbollah targets, "without allowing them any respite or recov-

ery".

The comments came after a much anticipated phone call between Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden, which had been expected to focus on Israel's response to last week's missile barrage by

The White House said the 30-minute call was "direct", "honest" and "productive"

"We're going to continue to have those discus-

sions with Israel on how they're going to respond,' Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, who had been due to discuss Israel's response in US before the last-minute postponement of his visit, pledged: "Our attack on Iran will be deadly, precise and surpris-

Iran fired some 200 missiles at Israel in retaliation for the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. Biden has cautioned

Israel against attempting to target Iran's nuclear programme and is also against striking the country's oil installations. Hezbollah said its

fighters were locked in clashes with Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, using rocket-propelled weapons to repel Israeli attempts to breach the border

Han Kang of **South Korea** wins Nobel literature **prize 2024** Monitoring Desk STOCKHOLM: South

Korean author Han Kang won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature for "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life", the award-giving body said on Thursday.

The prize is awarded by the Swedish Academy and is worth 11 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 mil-

"She has a unique awareness of the connections between body and soul, the living and the dead, and in her poetic and experimental style has become an innovator in contemporary prose,' Anders Olsson, chairman of the Academy's Nobel Committee, said in a

on July 25, a violent shift in the power dynamics of the cartel founded by Zambada. One in eight girls and women raped or sexually assaulted

UNITED NATIONS: More than 370 million girls and women alive today, or one in every eight worldwide, experienced rape or sexual assault before the age of 18, the United Nations

vey of the problem. The report said that

while girls and women were worst affected, 240 to 310 million boys and men, or around 1 in 11, have experienced rape or sexual assault during childhood.

ing of the Shanghai Coop-

eration Organisation (SCO)

Council of Heads of Gov-

ernment to be held in

Islamabad on October 15-

tion, for its part, will con-

tinue to steadily work for

further consolidation of the

SCO by joining efforts with

all its member States and

enhancing its international

standing, Ambassador of

Russia to Pakistan, Albert

Cooperation Organization

(SCO) has become a truly

powerful institution, which

accounts for over 30% of

global GDP and almost half

of the world's population,

he said. The Ambassador

said the SCO has great po-

tential for development and

the ability to transform it-

self in the face of rapid glo-

bal changes. He said that on July 4th, 2024, the SCO

Today, the Shanghai

P. Khorev told APP here.

The Russian Federa-

Russia Ambassador lauds

SCO, 'Council of Heads of

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia reaffirm deepening economic cooperation

Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in key areas including economy, agriculture, mining and information technology.

In the meeting be-tween President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Saudi delegation led by Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, both sides underlined the need to work together to build a prosperous and peaceful future for the region as well as for the Islamic World, according to a President House press re-

Welcoming the delegation, the president emphasized the longstanding and time-tested relation-

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). He expressed Pakistan's desire to elevate the bilateral ties into a long-term strategic and economic partnership, underscoring that such collaboration would bring the two brotherly nations further closer.

President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's deep respect for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with Saudi Arabia. He also praised the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al

The president also highly commended the re-

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National

Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, inaugurates the "PASSAGES OF

LIGHT" exhibition, showcasing vibrant paintings by Sri Lankan artists Mueen

Saheed and Bilaal Raji Saheed, at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

adding, "It is through a healthy mind that individu-

als are able to think, under-

(WHO), Speaker Sadiq

pointed out that over one

billion people globally suf-

orders. He also outlined the

key contributing factors,

erance, anxiety, unemploy-

ment, poverty, and insuffi-

pressed profound concern

over the mental suffering of

Palestinians amidst the on-

going Israeli aggression,

noting that they are endur-

ing immense psychological

distress alongside other hardships. "Our Palestinian

brothers and sisters face

severe mental anguish due

to Israeli brutalities," he re-

marked. He also con-

demned the atrocities in In-

dian Illegally occupied

Jammu and Kashmir em-

phasizing the devastating

psychological toll on the Kashmiri people.

Speaker Sadiq ex-

cient healthcare.

Citing the World lth Organization

stand, and innovate.'

Health

NA Speaker stresses

collective efforts for

thriving Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): tial for personal growth.

guidance and our collective fer from mental health dis-

Mental Health Day being including injustice, mis-observed on Oct 10 (Thurs-treatment, loneliness, intol-

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday

reaffirmed the government's

commitment to achieving a

healthy and prosperous Pa-

kistan through collective

efforts and divine guidance.

this mission with Allah's

efforts," the speaker stated

in his message on World

day). He stressed the im-

portance of taking proac-

tive steps to curb the rise

of mental health issues,

adding, "Now, more than ever, there is an urgent need

for comprehensive and ef-

fective action to tackle men-

emphasized the critical role

of mental health in national

development, stating, "A

healthy mind is the corner-

stone of a prosperous nation." He highlighted the

impact of supportive work-

place environments in alle-

viating stress and anxiety.

He also noted that health is

a divine blessing and that

mental well-being is essen-

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

tal health challenges.'

'We will soon achieve

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan and Saudi Arabia on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was making under Vision 2030 and expressed gratitude for the Kingdom's continued support to Pakistan during challenging times. The president said that he was happy to witness the progress and prosperity of Saudi Arabia.

Engr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih said that Saudi Arabia recognised the strategic geographical significance of Pakistan and its potential for natural resources and renewable energy. He informed that Saudi Arabia had planned to invest in the infrastructure visionary leadership of and mining sectors of Pakistan and, in this regard, his delegation would sign 25 agreements in different sectors to boost economic cooperation between the two brotherly nations.



Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih called on President Asif Ali Zardari at the

Naqvi reviews arrangements for SCO Summit in Islamabad

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited key areas of Islamabad on Thursday to review the city's preparations for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Islamabad next week.

The minister conducted a comprehensive inspection of critical sites, including D-Chowk, Constitution Avenue, Murree Road, and the Islamabad Expressway, to assess the beautification and cleanliness efforts being undertaken for the highprofile event.

During the visit, Minister Naqvi stressed the importance of completing all construction and beautification tasks ahead of the summit. He ral beauty of Islamabad

Supreme Court (SC) has re-

moved all the decisions is-

sued by it from its website,

who authored decisions,

subjects of decisions and

list of cases have been given

but no space is left in con-

nection with details of the

sions were there earlier and

they could be down loaded

and read. The decisions

were being reported in me-

It is written all deci-

The decision given by

decisions.

dia regularly.

The name of judges

SC removes all

decisions issued by

it from its website

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Muneeb Akhtar was

to the relevant authorities, urging them to ensure that preparations meet the highest stan-

"The entire city of Islamabad, particularly the VIP routes and the Red Zone, must be thoroughly cleaned," he said, underlining the importance of presenting a polished image of the capital during the summit. In addition to these

preparations, the minister ordered the immediate removal of any encroachments along the designated summit routes, ensuring unob-structed and well-maintained pathways for international delegates.

Minister Naqvi highlighted that the natu-

reported in media that he

had issued this decision af-

Akhtar decision regarding

levy tax on industries was

issued after seven months.

SC presided over by Jus-

tice Muneeb Akhtar had

held last hearing of the case

decision related to levy tax

on 43 industries were filed

before 2-member bench of

Lahore High Court therein.

on February 29, 2024.

Justice Muneeb

A 3-member bench of

Appeals against the

ter seven months.

ing the event and that every effort should be made to reflect the prestige of the SCO Summit in the city's appearance and arrangements.

Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, briefed the minister on the progress of construction projects, while Nagvi provided further instructions related to beautification and sanitation ef-

Key officials, including the Federal Inte-rior Secretary, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Chairman of the Capital Development Authority Deputy Commissioner. and other relevant authorities were also present during the visit.

PPP chief condoles ISLAMABAD (APP)

Chairman of Pàkistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of senior leader of PPP Attock Chapter, Sardar Sikandar Hayat.

death Hayat

In his condolence mes sage, Bilawal Bhutto shared his heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved family stating that he stands with them in this moment of grief "Sardar Sikandar Hayat" services to the party will always be remembered, said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari acknowledging the signifi





ISLAMABAD: Secretary of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Amer Ali Ahmad in a group photograph with officers from the 36th Senior Management Course (SMC) of the National Institute of Management (NIM), Islamabad at BISP Headquarters. **IHC** orders to

Committee advocates for enhanced research and coastal erosion solutions

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology in a meeting held here Thursday advocated

for enhanced research, quality standards and coastal erosion solutions. The meeting, pre-

sided over by Senator Kamil Ali Agha, held a comprehensive discussion on the implementation status of the recommendations made during its meeting on September 25. The Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology updated the Committee members, informing them that all funds for the Science Expo have been refunded to the re-

Secondly, regarding the PSQCA's submission of a report on the number of cases where fines were imposed, the Chair suggested providing a comprehensive report on the department's current

the department remains inactive, it would be better to shut it down.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha added that the PSQCA was established in 1996, and after 28 years, no consideration has been given to the total expenditure on 31 inspectors. He also inquired about their remunerations and suggested digitizing the entire sys-

Regarding the compliance report for standards and quality assurance in the cement sector. the Chair recommended that the Attorney General may handle it. Senator Kamil Ali

Agha commented that this is not merely a matter of money; it concerns construction materials. He emphasized that

the government should ensure the protection of quality. Concerning the report on the restructuring process of STEDEC as IRADA, Senator Kamil Ali Agha also recommended expediting the process of restructurpleasure, stating that if ing STEDEC as IRADA.

de-seal KP House ISLAMABAD (Online):

Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered to deseal KP house.

The petition against sealing KP House Islamabad came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer

Farooq Thursday. CDA took the plea illegal construction was made. Some dues are also outstanding. First notice

was given in 2014.

CJ IHC Aamer
Farooq ordered to de-seal the KP house. The court while addressing CDA counsel remarked you can do this according to rules and regulations. If there is something then see it and inform us, we will see it. It should not look so that you are targeting some one. I am giving decision. You should de-seal KP House

The petition against sealing KP house was filed in IHC a day before. KP government had

filed petition through secretary admn making law ministry, interior ministry, DG Rangers, FIA, CDA and Police respondents.

Government in Islamabad' ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Heads of State Ambassador of Russia to approved the first package Pakistan, Albert P. Khorev of measures to comprehen-Thursday hailed the meetsively modernize the organization's activities about the current geopoliti-

> cal realities. It is about strengthening the role of the Association in international affairs, giving additional impetus to the work of the SCO bodies, creating new mechanisms for countering security challenges and threats, and reformatting the algorithm of interaction with the SCO dialogue partners and observers, he said.

"We expect these is sues to be at the forefront of the upcoming meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, to be held in Islamabad in less than a week under the chairmanship of Pakistan," he said.

Russian envoy emphasized the need to find optimal formulas for promoting economic cooperation and coordinating efforts in such promising areas as connectivity.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi overseeing the preparation of SCO Summit in Islamabad City.

Officers of 36th SMC visit BISP office

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Amer Ali Ahmad. delegation of 17 officers from the 36th Senior Manthe National Institute of Management (NIM) visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) headquarters on Thursday to gain insights into the program's operations and its impact on vulnerable communities across Paki-

The delegation was welcomed by the Secretary BISP on the marginalized of Benazir Income Support communities of the coun-Programme (BISP), Mr. try.

Secretary briefed the delegation on agement Course (SMC) of BISP's core initiatives, including Kafaalat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, the Undergraduate Scholarship, and the National Socio-Economic Registry

> He told the delegation that once one becomes part of this organization he is able to recognize the significance, spread and impact of

Modi has made India unsafe place for Muslims, other minorities: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): mosques and churches and lynching of Muslims by Modi has made India an unsafe place for Muslims and other minorities as the RSS-backed Indian regime is on a mission to purge India of its minori-

today, said Muslims and other minorities are living in a perpetual state of fear in India, adding they are attacked with impunity. It said forcible con-

version, attack on and Kashmir.

Hindu fanatics is common in Modi's India. Persecution of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and low-caste Hindus has increased manifold since Bharatiya A report released by Janata Party came to Kashmir Media Service, power in India, it added. The report said the global experts on genocidal violence have warned that India was preparing for a genocide of Muslims in India and occupied Jammu



ISLAMABAD: Archbishop of Catholic Diocese of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Dr. Joseph Arshad inaugurates the Islamabad Convent School H-8/4 Campus

AIOU & Sheher Saaz ink MoU to promote disaster awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director, Almas

Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Allama Iqbal Open University in collaboration with Islamabad Fire Brigade, Rescue 1122, and the welfare organization Sheher Saaz, organized a seminar on International Disaster Day. The event emphasized disaster awareness, showcasing fire extinguishing, injury transport by the Fire Brigade, and a live CPR demonstration by Rescue 1122. During the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sheher Saaz and AIOU to launch an awareness campaign about disaster pre-

The university's Registrar, Raja Umar Younas, and Sheher Saaz's

Shah, Director Administration emphasized that humans, as Allah's vicegerents, achieve true greatness by helping others and find deep satisfaction in serving during difficult times. Almas Shakoor, Executive Director of Sheher Saaz, emphasized their disaster awareness

Shakoor, signed the agree-

Professor Dr. Syed Amir

Speaking at the event,

campaigns in educational institutions, highlighting the importance of preparedness to reduce loss. Sheher Saaz also donated first-aid kits to the university's medical center. Participant Bibi Yasmeen shared a story of rescuing a bird, later linking the act to divine protection when she narrowly averted

Pavilion in Baku ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry offi-Pakistan has planned to host three events per day at its pavilion to be established at the multilateral climate moot COP29 being held in Baku, Azerbaijan from November 11th that would convene international experts

ISLAMABAD: Art enthusiasts keenly observing

the collaborative exhibition titled "Diptych" by art-

ists Sarah Hopkins and Muhammad Atif Khan at

NA body told

Pakistan to host three

events daily at COP29

Tanzara Gallery Saidpur Village.

global needs to step up action against adverse impacts of global warming and environmental degra-The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination officials informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, led by Chairperson Munaza

deliberating on growing

climate vulnerability and

cials outlined the core pillars of Pakistan's participation at COP29, which will feature three daily events at the Pakistan Pa-

These events will cover crucial topics such as climate justice, energy transition, and gender-responsive climate policies. Projects like Living Indus and Recharge Pakistan were highlighted as central to the country's efforts in climate adaptation and sustainability.

The Committee under the chair conducted a comprehensive review of Pakistan's preparations for the upcoming COP29 whereas the Ministry officials briefed the committee on major streams for

Govt. allocates Rs.60 mln for non-Muslim students' scholarships

SLAMABAD (APP) The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has allocated Rs. 60 million as scholarships for non-Muslim students dur-

ing the current fiscal year. According to the ministry's spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt. applications for the scholarships will be submitted online through the

ministry's official website. He informed that the process requires minority students to provide an income certificate, verification from their educational institution, and details of their personal or joint bank ac-

Umar said the scholarships will be available to students studying in government institutions, ranging from the primary level up to professional studies. Only non-Muslim students enrolled in government schools and institutions will be eligible for the scholarships, the spokesperson added.

CDA chairman confident about facilities at SEO venue

ISLAMABAD (APP) Chairman Capital Devel-Authority opment (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa has expressed confidence on the facilities to be provided to the foreign delegates at Jinnah Convention Centre during Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(SCO) Summit. The CDA chairman visited the venue on Thursday to inspect the renovation work. The Member Engineering and relevant officers were also present during the

Randhawa directed that the cleaning and fin-ishing work at the Jinnah Convention Center should be completed as soon as possible.

He also inspected modern conferencing systems, lighting, high-speed internet, and sound systems. It is noteworthy that the main Hall of the convention center has already been handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

nizations.

spective firms and orga-

activities. He expressed dis-

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Senate standing Committee on Science and Technology presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.