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ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Heads of States/Governments/Parliaments participating in the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development."

President for enhanced focus on regional connectivity, cultural cooperation

ASHGABAT (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday addressed an international forum held here in the Turkmen capital, where he emphasized an enhanced focus on the promotion of regional connectivity as well as cultural and economic collaboration in the region. The president, addressing the forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development" said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan shared a deep-rooted bond of brotherhood which was built on mutual respect and commonalities of faith and a shared vision for a better and peaceful future.

The event, held to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Faragi, a great Turkmen thinker, poet and philosopher, was also attended by several regional leaders including Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajik President Emomali Rehmon, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and others.

Zardari, Putin emphasise strengthening bilateral ties

ASHGABAT (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday met his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin wherein they emphasised further strengthening of bilateral relationship. The informal interaction was held on the sidelines of two-day international forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development" here in the Turkmen capital to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Faragi, a great Turkmen thinker, poet and philosopher. Both leaders expressed good wishes for each other, according to a President House press release.

PM pledges financial support for capacity building of police

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced to immediately increase the salaries of Islamabad Police at par with Punjab Police and an Executive Allowance for the officers of ICT Police as well as the Islamabad administration, on the pattern of provinces. The prime minister, addressing an event held at the Police Lines Headquarters here to pay tribute to the police force for their sacrifices and dutifulness, also announced to extend Shuhada Package to the families of the remaining 44 of total 64 officials of ICT Police martyred in the line of duty.

Police gave guard of honour to the prime minister who later laid a wreath at the Martyrs Monument at the Police Lines and penned his remarks in the visitors' book. He also offered Fateha for the police martyrs and paid tribute to the sacrifices of the police personnel. Accompanied by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Chief Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa and parliamentarians, he also interacted with the family members of police Constable Abdul Hameed who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty during the

test by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on October 6, 2024. Addressing the gathering, the prime minister instructed for an immediate completion of a Police Hospital at the Police Lines he had announced on June 21, 2023, assuring to remove all the impediments in the project. He paid tribute to Constable Abdul Hameed for his sacrifices and also his family whom he found in high morale despite losing their dear one. He particularly appreciated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and IG Islamabad for their efforts to facilitate the Islamabad Police in fulfillment of their duties. He instructed the interior minister to immediately initiate the recruit-

ment of constables and officers in the ICT Police, purely on a merit basis, to overcome the shortage. Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled and appreciated the dutifulness of ICT Police during the 2013-14 sit-in by PTI which badly impacted the national economy and also led to the postponement of the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Several police officials including SP Asmat Junejo were injured as they struggled to overpower the rioters who attacked the parliament as well as Pakistan Television buildings, he recalled. He also appreciated the ICT Police's performance in professionally handling the recent PTI protest when a provincial

government marched on Islamabad in sheer violation of the constitution at a time when Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was in the capital and both sides agreed to enhance bilateral trade. The prime minister said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, always reformed the police culture and the incumbent Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was also pursuing the course. Referring to his tenure as Punjab chief minister, he recounted the projects including the establishment of the first Safe City project, the counter-terrorism department, Elite Force, and Dolphin Force.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offers Dua after laying a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada in the Police Lines Headquarters.

Drum beaters should first read court's decision and then criticize: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has refused to give more adjournment in intra party election review case due to absence of PTI lawyers from hearing remarking dilatory tactics are being used. The CJP further remarked they want headlines but Supreme Court (SC) will not give them any such headline. Intra Party Election review case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa Friday.

No lawyer from PTI side appeared in the court. Ahmad Hassan counsel for Akbar S Babar said application for adjournment has come from advocate Hamid Khan. The CJP while moving to counsel for Akbar S Babar remarked "read paragraph No 2 of application for adjournment. Paragraph regarding the family engagement of Hamid Khan was read. The CJP remarked this is application for some novel adjournment. Application of such nature has not been seen before. This

case was to be fixed for hearing in proposed cause list of May 29. There was application from advocate Ali Zafar for general adjournment till June 4. Open heart surgery of one member of bench took place. He further remarked the drum beaters made the intra party election case as case of election symbol of bat. The drum beaters should read court's decision first and then criticize it. They should go out side and make propaganda but should not come to court. It is appropriate.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman during a meeting at his residence, in the Federal Capital.

Numbers are complete but govt wants to work as per law, constitution: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said numbers are complete with government but it wants to work as per law and constitution. "PPP has always evolved constitutional amendments with consensus, he said this while talking to media men after parliamentary committee meeting here Friday. He held government wants consensus. It will be our full endeavor to bring consensus draft in consultation with all parties. PPP presented in committee proposals of its original draft which include matters related to constitutional court. We presented this draft before all parties too. He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman reiterated his stance that his party wants to work out draft in consensus with PPP. We have enormous trust on federal government, he said Law minis-

ter told he has two thirds majority but we are sitting for consensus among all political parties. APP adds: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Friday said that the proposed draft of constitutional amendments presented by his party included the establishment of a Constitutional Court and amendments to Articles 175 A, B, D, E, and F. Speaking to the media in his chamber at Parliament House, he said that the government has given time to reach a consensus on constitutional amendments related to judicial reforms. Bilawal said that while the PPP's final document has been released, the draft from Maulana Fazlur Rahman has not yet been formally received. He also mentioned that the PPP's draft has been with Kamran Murtaza for over a week.

PM reviews SCO Summit preparations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the capital city to review the arrangements being made for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). On the occasion, the prime minister was briefed on the reception arrangements for the guests attending the SCO Summit. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and other key officials accompanied him. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and relevant authorities briefed the prime minister about the arrangements.



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih meeting with Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal.

Ahsan Iqbal, Saudi Minister explore strategies to strengthen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, on Friday emphasized Pakistan's commitment to increasing its trade volume with Saudi Arabia by collaborating with the current Saudi leadership. During a meeting with Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, the minister highlighted that trade between the two countries stood at \$4.6 billion in 2022. He stated that the relationship between the two countries was unique and had always withstood the test of time. However, he stressed that the challenge now is to align the relationship with modern realities by enhancing trade. "Our political relationship will strengthen with robust economic cooperation," the minister asserted.

Reflecting on the beginning of Chinese cooperation in the form of CPEC projects, he recalled, "In 2013, I was entrusted with the responsibility of launching a game-changing project with China. It started with a piece of paper, and within 3-4 years, Pakistan secured \$25 billion in investments under CPEC." Quoting the success of CPEC, the minister added that by 2017, Pakistan had reached a point where every American and European businessman was keen on joining CPEC projects. "Unfortunately, due to the poor policies of the then government, our policies were discontinued, weakening the economy," he remarked.

Nobody allowed to disrupt SCO Conference in Islamabad: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure to welcome foreign delegations including 12 heads of the governments for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Conference, scheduled for October 15-16. "Those who have a mindset to conspire against the country should better stay at home as no miscreant will be allowed to disrupt the SCO Conference in Islamabad," the minister said while talking to the media. "The announcements do not make any difference as Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure," he said while referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf which had

announced to hold protest in coming days. "It (SCO Conference) will go as planned and will elevate Pakistan's prestige and improve its image at international level," the minister remarked. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has personally reviewed the arrangements for the reception of different head of governments arriving in Islamabad to attend the SCO conference. "This shows the importance of such a grand event in Pakistan which will be instrumental to boost the economic growth in the country," he added. The minister said all the security arrangements have been finalized in Islamabad with the deployment of all the law enforcement agencies including Pakistan Army and Rangers.

PTI announces protest at D-Chowk during SCO summit Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan's party has announced its decision to protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk on October 15—the day the country would host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the federal capital—to seek the incarcerated former prime minister's release. "We announce the cancellation of the protest in the districts of Punjab in view of the preparations for the peaceful protest of D-Chowk on October 15," the PTI said in a statement on X after the party's political committee meeting on Friday. Pakistan is set to host a two-day SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad on October 15 and 16, with leaders from the bloc attending the event.



Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem handing over Command Scroll to Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi.

Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi take over as Commander Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi took over as Commander Karachi and Rear Admiral Abdul Munib assumed the Command of Commander Pakistan Fleet during Change of Command ceremonies held here on Friday. Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi handed over the command of PN Fleet to Rear Admiral Abdul Munib and Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem handed over the command of Commander Karachi to Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, a news release said. Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College (Lahore), Naval Command College (USA), and National Defence University (Islamabad).

However, he stressed that the challenge now is to align the relationship with modern realities by enhancing trade. "Our political relationship will strengthen with robust economic cooperation," the minister asserted. Reflecting on the beginning of Chinese cooperation in the form of CPEC projects, he recalled, "In 2013, I was entrusted with the responsibility of launching a game-changing project with China. It started with a piece of paper, and within 3-4 years, Pakistan secured \$25 billion in investments under CPEC." Quoting the success of CPEC, the minister added that by 2017, Pakistan had reached a point where every American and European businessman was keen on joining CPEC projects. "Unfortunately, due to the poor policies of the then government, our policies were discontinued, weakening the economy," he remarked.

22 labourers killed, seven injured in terrorism attack in Duki coalmines

Independent Report QUETTA: As many as 22 coal mine labourers were killed and seven others injured by unknown armed assailants in a terrorist attack in coalmine field of Duki on late Thursday night. The reports reaching here suggested that some armed assailants approached the coalmines in Duki area and attacked the same with rockets and hand

grenades. The assailants also resorted to indiscriminate fire targeting the coalmine labourers engaged in the mining of coal there. As a result of the attack, at least 22 coalmine workers were killed while seven others got injured. The armed assailants fled from the scene after the horrific attack. The reports suggested that they also burnt the machinery used for the coalmining in the field before fleeing from the

scene. However, the local police, Levies, Frontier Corps and administration reached the spot and cordoned off the area. The bodies of ill-fated labourers and injured ones were shifted to the district headquarter hospital Duki. After necessary first aid, most of the injured were shifted to the teaching hospital Loralai. Afterwards, four of them were shifted to Trauma Center

Quetta. Those died in the attack belonged to different areas of Balochistan besides Afghanistan. The sources said that six of all 20 deceased mine workers hailed from Zhob while four of them belonged to Killa Saifullah. Three of them were from Pishin while one each was from Loralai, Musakhail, Hamai and Kuchlak area of Quetta. Investigations have been started into the terror-

ism incident. However, no arrest could be reported till ours going to the press. Meanwhile, shutter down strike was observed against killing of the innocent labourers in Duki. All the business concerns and shops remained closed due to the strike. The strong protest was also lodged along with bodies of the deceased persons by the relatives of the deceased and others in Duki.

Full court reference for CJP to be held on October 25

ISLAMABAD (Online): Full court reference for Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will be held on October 25. Registrar Supreme Court (SC) has issued notice in respect of full court reference and as per this notice full court reference will take place in connection with retirement of CJP Qazi Faez Isa on October 25. Senior lawyers including president Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) have been invited in full court reference.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Disaffected voices

A fresh stand-off is brewing between the state, and the recently banned PTM, principally over the tribal jirga that had been planned for today by the latter in KP. Both the centre and the KP government have made it clear that the outfit cannot proceed with the gathering, while there have been violent clashes between PTM supporters and law enforcers, with the group saying that three of its activists have been killed.

Moreover, the interior minister held a presser on Wednesday offering a few carrots — but mostly sticks — to the PTM. Mohsin Naqvi said that talks could be held in a “proper manner”, but that the state would not tolerate incitement against institutions. While it is hoped that a peaceful resolution to this impasse is found, the state must ask itself why such movements emerge in the first place, and what mistakes made by successive rulers aggravate the situation in which is sometimes referred to as the country’s “peripheries”.

Looking at KP and the former Fata region, from where the PTM gathers most of its support, this part of Pakistan — especially areas close to the Afghan border — have experienced violence, displacement, and militancy ever since the ‘war on terror’ arrived in this region over two decades ago. Moreover, lack of development, and claims of state excesses, have added fuel to the fires of discontent.

It is these factors, amongst others, which led to the rise of the PTM. Similar factors are responsible for the popularity of groups such as the Baloch Yakjehti Committee in Balochistan. In fact, many of the BYC’s grievances mirror those of the PTM. Baloch activists have for years been calling for the state to deliver to them their constitutional rights, particularly when it comes to the issue of enforced disappearances. But it is not just the peripheries that are in tumult.

The PTI’s protest campaign — which finds most resonance in Punjab and urban KP — can be traced to the state’s efforts to cancel the party and cut its leadership down to size.

Instead of considering all these and other critical voices as threats, the state needs to treat them as opportunities, hear out the disaffected populations, and find a democratic way forward. Yet it must be said that all movements and political parties must remain peaceful and respect the law; while legitimate criticism of state institutions is kosher, incitement to violence or rebellion against organs of the state can simply not be condoned.

Meanwhile, the state should engage with critical voices, and refrain from forcibly silencing them, as this opens the door to radicalisation, militancy, and separatist sentiments. For the sake of national harmony, disaffected groups both in the peripheries and the mainstream must be engaged in a spirit of conciliation and respect to prevent further divisions.

Keeping promises

Nikhat Sattar

In our everyday lives as well as in matters of great import, such as governance and national and international dealings, human beings make promises. On a one-to-one basis, or collectively, the signature or stamp of a person or entity such as a government, or even a verbal agreement implies a commitment to a deed. Whether it be a peace treaty, an end to family or tribal feuds, or something as minor as a promise to meet at a certain time, it entails a firm commitment on the side of the persons involved. A promise is distinct from intention. The latter may or may not be carried out; the former is a must.

This is the meaning that a promise holds for a true Muslim. The word has been used 151 times in the Quran, and tens of times Muslims have been enjoined to fulfil their word to another person. It is not merely an expression of intent or desire, but a whole-hearted communication meant to indicate that whatever is being said or written will be carried out as per the terms of commitment.

The Holy Quran states: “...and fulfil (every) engagement, for (every) engagement will be enquired into (on the Day of Reckoning)” (17:34). Here, engagement means promise or a commitment.

In Islam, promises are of three types: the promises that God had made to human beings both in this life and the Day of Judgment; promise that all human souls made to God before coming to the world; that He was their Creator and one and only Lord; and promises that humans make to each other. Each of these three are sacred for they define the relationships between God

and His creation and among the latter. Breaking any of the latter two by human beings is to deny themselves the dignity, respect and courage that are the hallmarks of humanity.

The Prophet (PBUH) is believed to have said: “The signs of a hypocrite are three: Whenever he speaks, he tells a lie; and whenever he promises, he breaks his promise” (Sahih Bukhari, 6,095).

And yet, how easily and almost without missing a heartbeat do we break promises, both to each other and to God. For our promises to God are nothing but lip service and mechanical rituals without meaning and spirit, and our promises to each other are trivial and made to be broken. We commit to things we know we shall never do and sign papers knowing we shall default. From politics to simple trade, our commitments are worth nothing at all.

This is exactly what hypocrisy involves: saying something while meaning something different. At every level of Muslimhood, whether it be

Muslim organisations, or diplomatic assurances of support and unity of brotherhood, or a casual promise to meet tomorrow, our actions are far from our intent.

It is often commented that keeping promises is a part of simple ethics and there is no need to bring Islam into the concept.

Anyone who thinks so is probably unaware of the difference between Muslims and the rest of the world. Muslims are supposed to be bound by the belief that they shall return to God and are accountable for whatever they have done in this life, for their real life begins after this one ends. A Muslim will, therefore, go through

life with a code of ethics that will demand justification for their deeds in front of God. And thus, each will be asked as to why they broke their promise, umpteen times at umpteen places, to umpteen people and to God Himself. One should, therefore, think many times before making promises, about whether one shall be able to fulfil them or not.

It has become a habit to make promises to do something or be somewhere and break such promises easily. One such example is our promise to be at a given place at a given time, including at ceremonies. Guests often arrive at an occasion hours later than the time of invitation.

The other side of hypocrisy is sycophancy. Sycophants tell lies; they exaggerate and often create larger-than-life images of whoever’s virtues they extol, and defend the most appalling statement, policy or act as something that is beneficial for the people.

Two such examples are the bloated expenditure of government officials in the wake of the current economic crisis in Pakistan, and the repression of human rights in the country. Promises made to defend democracy and human dignity are brought to naught.

The ever-increasing tide of extreme religiosity, demonstrated so ably in devising intricate ways to prove the ‘Islamic’ nature of the state is one that is breaking each of the two types of promises: to God and to each other. Hypocrites and sycophants are aplenty and seldom it is that a promise is seen to have been made and fulfilled.

Promises are a serious matter. If only we, as a nation, could understand this. -- Courtesy Dawn

Punjab has the key

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

To say that Punjab is Pakistan’s heartland is to state a simple fact. Even if one were to separate the Seraiki belt from the administrative unit that is the province, Punjab is still the country’s single biggest ethnic-linguistic group. Punjab retains control over the single largest share of economic resources and is the most politically powerful province.

Punjab has long been the crucial cog that has sustained military hegemony. Not only has a majority of the military rank-and-file and top brass been recruited from Punjab, but barring exceptional historical moments, a critical mass of Punjab’s people has provided consent to the national security state.

Is this consensus now fracturing? The political tug-of-war between the establishment and the PTI has certainly been accompanied by a greater and far more vocal critique of the former’s role in Pakistan from within Punjabi society than at any time in the recent past, especially amongst younger generations. Interrogating this contradiction is important not just to gauge what the future may hold for the PTI but for Pakistan’s historic militarised structure of power generally.

Elite wrangling or popular challenge: A notable feature of the current political imbroglio is fragmentation of Punjab’s political elite. Urbane DHA dwellers hailing from army families and dynasties like the Chaudhrys of Gujrat are positioned against the current top brass. Meanwhile, somewhat autonomously of the ruling-class rebels, working-class Punjabi youth have flocked to the PTI’s cause, united in their adulation for Imran Khan

and as vociferous in their anti-establishment rhetoric.

If palace intrigues take yet another turn and Punjab’s ruling-class rebels currently on the outside of the power equation are let back in, will anti-establishment sentiment amongst young, working people also dissipate? There are no guarantees in politics, and the answer will be determined by other related questions.

Economic factor: It is generally understated that the anti-establishment vote cast by many young people on Feb 8 was as much about the economy as anything else. The selective but successful argument peddled by the PTI was that inflation, unemployment and economic hardship were largely absent during Imran Khan’s reign and that the establishment committed a grave sin by booting out the PTI government and bringing back the Sharifs and Bhuttos.

What is missing in this story is that the establishment’s power is not just based on its manipulation of mainstream political parties, but also on an historic economic arrangement that would have to be undone if things are truly to change in this country. This establishment-centric economic order includes ever-inelastic budgetary allocations to defence, huge hidden subsidies provided to business entities like the NLC and FWO as well as the establishment’s broader footprint in natural resource grabs and profitable sectors such as real estate. Only when Punjab’s disaffected working-class youth get behind a substantive project to displace the bloated national security apparatus with a welfare-oriented political economy, and redistribute wealth away from the militarised ruling class as

a whole, will we see the crystallisation of a substantive anti-establishment politics in Punjab.

The national question: The final piece of this puzzle has to do with Punjab’s relationship with the rest of Pakistan’s ethnic nations. Establishment hegemony has been based on a dominant ideology that has privileged Islam and Urdu whilst criminalising national assertion by Bengali, Baloch, Pakhtun, Sin-dhi and other ethnic groups. Alongside questions of identity, the oppression of non-Punjabi peripheries has pivoted on the allocation of economic resources and control over the state apparatus.

At a time when movements like the PTM and BYC are subject to intense state repression, effectively repeating the cycle of history that started with the contentious accession of Kalat state, jailing of Bacha Khan and more, the question is whether Punjab’s youthful masses are willing and able to extend their fledgling anti-establishment sentiment to the ethnic peripheries and align themselves with the broader demand to end a colonial social contract and start afresh. This may be the hardest sell of all, but if there is a future to Pakistani politics beyond palace intrigues, the core-periphery divide must be addressed, not least of all because ecological crises bind all geographical regions together whether we like it or not.

Punjab has never been a monolith. Anti-establishment politics has always survived in Pakistan’s heartland despite military hegemony. As this hegemony frays, Punjab’s working people hold the key to how our putatively collective future unfolds. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Aleem Khan advises Saudi delegation to invest in Pak communications sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday advised Saudi business community to invest in Pakistan’s lucrative projects, particularly in the communications sector.

During the visit of Saudi business delegates headed by KSA Minister for Investment Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, Round Table Ministerial Conference was held in which both the countries reviewed in details to further strengthen bilateral ties in Government to Government (G2G) relations, said a news release. Addressing the conference Abdul Aleem Khan gave a briefing regarding the best investment opportunities

and new trends in the country. He offered Saudi investment Minister along with the business delegation to come forward and invest in different public sector organizations. He said that there are many attractive and profitable projects for Saudi investment in Pakistan. The government welcomed all kinds of partnership and investment in Pakistan from Saudi Arabia even in the mode of Public Private Partnership. He invited Saudi investors to invest in the profitable projects like M6 and M9 motorways to develop the communication sector on modern lines. The two sides discussed mutual cooperation in projects on the basis of “G2G” while the Saudi Business community and government officials

expressed their great interest in various investment projects.

On this occasion, Saudi Investment Minister expressed special interest in the presentation of Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and said that doing something for the people of Pakistan.

has always been the first priority of the KSA Government and will continue in the future as well to make more Joint ventures.

Abdul Aleem Khan informed the delegation that in order to reduce the distances and make the routes easier, we want to connect the Karachi Port with the existing Motorway, while the completion of the Karachi-Hyderabad and Sukkur Motorways as soon as priority of the present Government.

Al Baik, GO ink strategic partnership to bring Saudi expertise to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A memorandum of understanding was signed between Saudi Arabia’s Al Baik Food System Company and Gas and Oil Pakistan Ltd (Go) under the Saudi Ministry of Investment.

Reflecting Saudi Vision 2030 to enhance exports of rich national expertise and open new horizons for Saudi commercial expansion globally, this agreement would explore the possibility of establishing a strategic partnership to set up and operate Al Baik restaurants in Pakistan, marking a key step in Al Baik’s expansion strategy across the country.

The signing ceremony was held under the patronage of Saudi Minister of Investment, Engineer Khalid Al-Falih, and high-ranking delegations from both Saudi and Pakistani sides

in attendance. This event is the result of the Saudi Ministry of Investment’s persistent efforts to empower Saudi brands to expand internationally and enhance the Kingdom’s standing in the global economic arena.

Go, in which Saudi Aramco has acquired a 40 percent stake, is a leading player in Pakistan’s oil and gas sector. This partnership underscores the Kingdom’s commitment to diversifying its economy and creating new growth opportunities in foreign markets.

This initiative highlights the crucial role played by the Saudi Ministry of Investment in realizing the objectives of Vision 2030 and reinforcing the Kingdom’s position as a leading economic force both regionally and globally.

SBP injects Rs8.62 trillion into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs8,623.85 billion into the market through a reverse repo purchase Open Market Operation (OMO) on Friday. According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted an Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 11, 2024, for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted 38 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs8,623.85 billion.

The central bank received 23 bids for a 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs3,722.7 billion at the rate of return ranging between 17.56 to 17.62 percent while 15 bids amounting to Rs4,901.15 billion were received for the 28-day tenor at the rate of return ranging between 17.56 to 17.63 percent. The central bank accepted all 23 bids for 7-day tenor and 15 quotes for 28-day tenor at a 17.56% rate of return.



Group photo on reception in honor of KSA Investment Minister, Sh. Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh by Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in Islamabad.

ECC allows additional export of 0.5 million MT of surplus sugar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Friday approved export of 500,000 metric tonnes of surplus sugar keeping in view of availability of sufficient surplus stocks.

The surplus stock were available even after catering for the proposed and ongoing exports, the requirement for remaining two months of the ongoing crushing year, as well as maintenance of strategic reserves. The summary for the sugar exports was moved by the Ministry of Industries and Production to ECC, the meeting of which was chaired here by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue,

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, according to a press release issued by finance ministry.

Among others, the meeting was attended, Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain; Minister for Power, Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari; Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema; Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) along with federal Secretaries and senior officers from the concerned ministries and divisions.



FAISALABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is addressing members of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

BISP beneficiaries to reach 10m figure this year: Chairperson

FAISALABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Senator Ms. Rubina Khalid said that the number of BISP beneficiaries would jump to 10 million from existing 9.3 million by the end of this year as the Prime Minister had provided more funding for it.

Talking to the media and addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), she said that the programme provides

partial relief to the poorest of the poor families to bridge difference between their income and expenditures.

She said that she was contemplating to promote a skilled development program under BISP to gradually drag out registered families from abysmal poverty.

She said that earlier “Waseela-e-Rozgar Scheme” was launched but it was abundant in its nesting stage. “We are again considering to restart it by equipping

the children of registered families particularly girls to get market-driven skills with the support of BISP”, she said and added that the ultimate objective of her visit to FCCI was to identify the areas where these children could be absorbed instantly.

She said that this skilled human resource could also start their own businesses or could be exported abroad to earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

PSX gains 30 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 30.18 points on Friday, showing a nominal positive change of 0.04 percent, closing at 85,483.40 points against 85,453.22 points on the last trading day.

A total of 560,740,534 shares were traded during the day as compared to 503,750,595 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 26.12 billion against Rs. 27.912 billion on the last trading day. As many as 435 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 130 of them recorded gains and 251 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 54 companies remained unchanged.

Australia to provide AUD. 3 million for water project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Australia will provide AUD. 3 million to Pakistan for ‘Climate Resilient and Adaptive Water Allocation in Pakistan’ project which is to be completed in a period of five years (by 2029).

After the approval by the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Cheema, Secretary EAD, Dr. Kazim Niaz signed a Memorandum of Subsidiary Agreement on the project with Chief Executive of the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Prof. Wendy Umberger here Friday.

According to press release issued by Economic Affairs Division (EAD), it is a research project aiming to help improve canal water reliability through improved water allocation decisions and practices in Pakistan by updating the Water Apportionment Accord Tool to include mid-season planning and operations, exploring on-farm water storage options.

All this is aimed at achieving climate resilience, adaptive management, and equitable water use for better social and economic outcomes for farming communities, the press release added.

Governor Kundi says: India, Afghanistan lands used against Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday, emphasized the importance of restoring peace and stability in the province, adding India and Afghanistan lands are being used against Pakistan. Addressing a press conference at the Governor House, he called for collective efforts to lift the region out of darkness and addressed the urgent need to manage internal affairs independently. Kundi highlighted the ongoing challenges, saying, "Our province is facing serious circumstances with rising incidents of terrorism. I have always

advocated for peace, and the law and order situation is deteriorating." He urged both the federal and provincial governments to take the situation seriously and implement measures to improve security. He mentioned recent political gatherings aimed at addressing the province's issues, saying that a committee led by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will engage with local representatives to present their demands to the federal government. The Governor acknowledged the constructive role played by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who showed flexibility in

accepting recommendations during these discussions. Kundi reiterated the significance of dialogue and reconciliation, referencing the ideals of former President Asif Ali Zardari, who has consistently advocated for peaceful negotiations. He also encouraged local leaders to voice their concerns through parliamentary representation, asserting, "We will support their case until they have representation in Parliament." Furthermore, he reflected on the historical hospitality extended to Afghan refugees, urging them to contribute to peace and stability in the region.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing press conference at Governor House.

Azma calls for laws to regulate social media

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has stated that there is a need to establish laws and regulations governing the use of social media in the country. She emphasized that the humiliation and defamation of women on social media should not be tolerated. "I am fighting not just for myself but for all women who do not have access to the courts," she said during a media briefing at the Lahore High Court here on Friday. Azma revealed that

the main accused in her case is connected to a franchise of a mobile service that her husband operates. "To date, over 500 mobile SIMs have been issued in the accused's name, which are being used to blackmail people. This is more dangerous and cruel than one can imagine. They present themselves as innocent while victimizing others in court," she added. "We do not have fake accounts, nor do we intend to create them. I simply want to ensure that what happened to me does not happen to anyone else."

15 ACs transferred

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government on Friday transferred 15 assistant commissioners (ACs). According to the notification, Assistant Commissioner Gojra Noman Ali Dogar has been made an OSD [officer on special duty], while Kamran Ashraf has been given transferred as Gojra AC. Ayesha Badar has been posted as AC Hazro while services of Khurram Mukhtar has been handed over to the C&W. Jawad Hussain has been appointed Assistant Commissioner Quidabad and Ahsan Mumtaz as AC Okara.

IGP signs MoU for healthcare discounts for police

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a private hospital (Hameed Latif) for treatment discounts for the Punjab Police employees. A ceremony in this regard was held at the Central Police Office on Friday. A Punjab Police spokesperson said that police employees and their families will receive a discount of 15 to 27 per cent on medical expenses

across all departments. Families of police martyrs will receive a 27 per cent discount on OPD services, while police employees and their families will receive a 22 per cent discount on OPD services. Police employees and their families undergoing treatment at the hospital will receive discounts of 15 to 22 per cent on overall expenses. A 25 per cent discount will be offered to police employees at the Lahore Institute of Fertility and Endocrinology Centre.

ANF recovers 75 kg drugs in 8 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 75 kg drugs worth over Rs 2.5 million and arrested nine suspects including two women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that 1200 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested from Sector, I-11/3, Islamabad. 9 kg opium and 3 kg 600 grams hashish were recovered from a vehicle rounded up near the motorway toll plaza, Islamabad.

Governor Punjab says: Bilawal's stance on constitutional courts represents voice of masses

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's stance on the creation of constitutional courts represents collective voice of the masses in the country. Talking to the media men at the residence of deceased journalist Ikhtlaq Bajwa here on Friday evening, he said that constitutional courts are need of the hour, adding that litigants had to move from pillar to post in search of justice while justice remains a far cry even for the third generation of a family.

"Once the constitutional court takes care of the constitutional matters, the Supreme Court will be able to dispense with the large number of pending cases," he said, adding that people have to wait decades for decision on a case of one marla of land and justice delayed is justice denied. Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, to a query, said the PPP has neither committed an unconstitutional act throughout its history nor did it broker legislation for an individual, adding that PPP is the only political party which has no blocs in bureaucracy, judiciary, media.



FAISALABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), inspects the Benazir Income Support Program Registration Center at Al Fateh Sports Complex, Salimi Chowk.

MNA calls for SCO common currency to boost regional cooperation

LAHORE (APP): There is a need to build a consensus to introduce a common currency among the SCO countries to facilitate trade and strengthen economic ties. These views were expressed by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Sehar Kamran, while talking to APP. Sehar expressed these views in reference to as Pakistan is set to host a two-day SCO Council of

Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad on October 15 and 16. She said the SCO has the potential to bridge economies and bring together cultures. Let's utilize this opportunity to unite the people of this region and ensure economic prosperity for all. "United we stand, divided we fall," MNA Sehar Kamran said. She said this unique idea should be echoed in the background of sentiments of cooperation and solidarity.



FAISALABAD: Chairperson Punjab Chief Minister's Directorate of Inspection and Monitoring, Evaluation and Feedback Brigadier Retired Babar Alauddin is addressing the press conference in the Committee Room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

BISP registration starts, transparency to be ensured at all levels: Robina Khalid

FAISALABAD (APP): Registration for Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has been started and transparency would be ensured at all levels, said Senator Robina Khalid Chairperson BISP. Talking to APP during her visit to BISP Registration Center at Al-Fateh Sports Complex Saleemi Chowk here on Friday, she said that eligible people could get them registered by visiting BISP offices at Tehsil and District

level. She said that there were 9.3 million people registered with BISP and now its scope would be expanded to 10 million people who were unable to earn sufficient income to meet their expenditures. She paid tribute to the visionary leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and said that BISP was initiated to improve life standard of the poor by providing them financial assistance.

Jinnah House attack: ATC remands accused in police custody

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday handed over an accused involved in the Jinnah House attack case to police on a 10-day physical remand. Earlier, the police produced the accused, singer Umar Aftab Malik, before ATC Judge Irfan Haider and sought a 30-day physical remand. The investigating officer stated that the accused was involved in the Jinnah House attack case and his custody was required for investigation.

Arora celebrates birthday with staff

LAHORE (APP): A celebration was held at the Human Rights Department on the occasion of Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora's birthday. The event saw a strong participation from the department's officials and staff.

International News

Israeli strikes on Gaza, Beirut kill 50 people

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: An Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced people in central Gaza killed at least 28 people, including women and children, while 22 people were killed in an attack that targeted a senior Hezbollah figure in central Beirut. Israel has repeatedly pounded Beirut's southern suburbs, the bastion of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, over the last two weeks but Thursday's raid was only the third time the city centre has been targeted. Medics in Gaza said three hospitals in the north were told to evacuate, putting patients' lives at risk. The strike, in which many more were wounded, occurred in the city of Deir Al-Balah where a million people have taken shelter after fleeing fighting elsewhere after more than a year of war. The Israeli military

said it had carried out a "precise strike" on the fighters who allegedly had a command and control centre embedded in a school. Palestinian group Hamas denies such accusations. Medics said 54 other people were injured at the school. The health officials said the Israeli military on Wednesday gave patients and medics 24 hours to leave the Indonesian, Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals or risk being stormed as happened earlier in the war at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. At least 22 people were killed in Israeli strikes on a densely populated area of central Beirut on Thursday, the Lebanese health ministry said, with a security source saying a Hezbollah figure was the target. "The Israeli enemy's attacks on the capital Beirut this evening

resulted in a new toll of 22 people killed and 117 injured," the ministry said in an updated toll statement. A Lebanese security source, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, told AFP that Israel had attempted to kill a Hezbollah official who often frequented the locations targeted. Israeli forces fired on positions used by UN peacekeepers in Lebanon on Wednesday and Thursday, the UN force said, as Israel warned Lebanese civilians not to return to homes in the south and pursued a widening offensive against Hezbollah. The UNIFIL force said two of its peacekeepers were injured in one of the incidents when an Israeli tank fired at a watchtower at the force's main headquarters in Ras al-Naqoura, hitting the tower and causing them to fall.



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of a cultural forum dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Turkmen poet and philosopher Magtymguly Fragi, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Russia's Putin cements ties with Iranian president in Central Asia meeting

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia's Vladimir Putin held talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday in Turkmenistan, where the two leaders hailed their countries growing economic ties and similar views on world affairs, an entente viewed with concern by the U.S. At odds with Washington and the European Union over Russia's war in Ukraine, something he casts as part of a wider

existential struggle against an arrogant and self-interested West - Putin is keen to deepen ties with what he calls the Global East and Global South. Putin, whose country is hosting a summit of the BRICS nations in Kazan on Oct. 22-24, invited Pezeshkian to come to Russia on an official visit, a proposal the Iranian leader accepted according to Russia's state RIA news agency.

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.

Erdogan says Gaza 'shame of humanity', calls for permanent ceasefire

Monitoring Desk TIRANA: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan renewed his attacks on Israel as he arrived in Tirana Thursday, the first stop of a Balkans tour that will also take him to Serbia. Repeating his claim that Israel's actions in Gaza constituted "genocide", he branded it the "shame of humanity", at a joint press conference with Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama. "The international community, we must do our best to urgently guarantee a permanent ceasefire and exert the necessary pressure on Israel," he added. "The genocide that has been going on in Gaza for the past year is the common shame of all humanity," he added. The Hamas attack on Israel on October

7, 2023 resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. According to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry, 42,065 people have been killed in Gaza since the start of the war, mostly civilians. The UN has said the figures are reliable. Erdogan has branded Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the "butcher of Gaza" and compared him to Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler. "The aggression led by the Netanyahu government now threatens the world order beyond the region," Erdogan said. Later Thursday, Erdogan, accompanied by Prime Minister Edi Rama, inaugurated the Great Mosque of Tirana.

Blinken says Asia concerned about spread of Middle East conflict

Monitoring Desk VIENTIANE: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday there was deep concern in Asia about the prospect of conflict spreading in the Middle East, as the U.N. chief called for everything possible to be done to avoid "all-out war" in Lebanon. The conflict in the Middle East was a central issue during Friday's East Asia Summit in Laos, where Blinken said Washington was dedicated to using diplomacy to try to control the situation in the face of what he called an Iranian-led axis of resistance. "The intense focus of the United States, which has been the case going back a year... (is) preventing these conflicts from spreading. And we're working on that every day," Blinken told a press conference. "We're working very hard through deterrence and through diplomacy to prevent that from happening. There's also obviously

deep concern that we share about the plight of children, women, and men in Gaza." The US has stressed to Israel the importance of meeting the humanitarian needs of people in Gaza, Blinken said, adding it was in Israel's interest that people forced from their homes by hostilities in Lebanon are able to return. The annual summit of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) also included meetings with leaders and top diplomats from India, China, Japan, the United States, Russia, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, as well as United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Friday's discussions included the war in Ukraine, Myanmar's civil war, climate change, tensions in the Taiwan Strait and concern about confrontations in the South China Sea, a key conduit for at least \$3 trillion in annual ship-borne trade.

Zelenskiy seeks pope's help to free Ukraine POWs held in Russia

Monitoring Desk VATICAN CITY: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy asked Pope Francis during a meeting at the Vatican on Friday for help in securing the release of Ukrainians held captive by Russia. Zelenskiy, who is touring major European capitals to discuss his proposed "victory plan" for the war with Russia, said he had also invited the Vatican to take part in a conference on the prisoners-of-war, due to be held in Canada later this month. "We are counting on the Holy See's assistance in helping to bring back Ukrainians who have been taken captive by Russia," Zelenskiy said in a post on social media, adding this was the main topic of his 35-minute conversation with the pope. A Vatican readout provided no details about the pope's talks with

Zelenskiy, but said a subsequent meeting between the Ukrainian leader and the Vatican's chief diplomat had included discussions "dedicated to the state of the war ... as well as the ways in which it could be brought to an end." It was Zelenskiy's second face-to-face meeting with Pope Francis in four months. The two men also met on the sidelines of a Group of Seven (G7) summit in southern Italy in June. At the end of Friday's meeting, Francis gifted Zelenskiy a piece of bronze artwork with a flower growing next to a bird, inscribed with the phrase "Peace is a fragile flower." Zelenskiy gave the pope an oil painting showing a child amid ruins in the Ukrainian town of Bucha, which was occupied by Russian forces for 33 days in spring 2022.

Japan's Nihon Hidankyo wins 2024 Nobel Peace Prize

Monitoring Desk OSLO: Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki also known as Hibakusha, won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. "Hibakusha is receiving the Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its citation. Witnesses to the only two nuclear bombs ever to be used in conflict have dedicated their lives to the struggle for a nuclear-free world. "The Hibakusha help us to describe the indescribable, to think the unthinkable, and to somehow grasp the incomprehensible pain and suffering caused by nuclear weapons."

Hezbollah forges new command for crucial ground war after heavy Israeli blows

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Hezbollah is preparing for a long war of attrition in south Lebanon, after Israel wiped out its top leadership, with a new military command directing rocket fire and the ground conflict, two sources familiar with its operations said. Hezbollah has been diminished by three weeks of devastating Israeli blows - most notably the killing of its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Friends and foes alike are now watching how effectively it resists Israeli troops that have crossed

into Lebanon with the stated aim of driving it away from the border. The Iran-backed group still has a considerable stockpile of weapons, including its most powerful precision missiles which it has yet to use, four sources familiar with its operations said, despite waves of airstrikes that Israel says has severely depleted its arsenal. Hezbollah's command was disrupted for the first few days after Nasrallah's Sept. 27 assassination until Shi'ite militants established a new "operations room" 72 hours later.

Germany's Scholz to discuss Middle East, Ukraine with Erdogan in Istanbul

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will meet with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul on Oct 19, where they will discuss the war in Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East, a German government spokesperson said on Friday. Migration as well as bilateral and economic policy issues will also be on the agenda.

No country can progress without a high-quality education system: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday emphasized that the provision of quality education and technical training was the government's top priority, as no nation can progress without a high-quality education system.

He was chairing an important review meeting on Federal Education and Technical Training Affairs.

The Prime Minister stated that, in today's education landscape, skills development, information technology, and digitization have become indispensable, stressing the urgent need to align Pakistan's education system with these modern principles. He further highlighted that, in line with the government's commitment to ensuring no child in Pakistan is left out of school, the incumbent administration had implemented an

educational emergency. Additionally, he underscored the importance of holding a National Curriculum Summit to facilitate the introduction of a uniform education system across the country.

The Prime Minister directed relevant authorities to expedite the construction of Daanish Schools in underprivileged areas, including Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Balochistan.

He also instructed that daycare centers be established in all educational institutions in Islamabad to support the convenience of female teachers.

In his directive to set up e-libraries in parks and recreational areas of Islamabad, the Prime Minister emphasized that access to these libraries should be free, with complementary internet facilities also provided.

The Prime Minister called for the formulation of a strategy to provide monthly stipends to female students in rural areas of Islamabad, aiming to increase enrollment in these schools. "Technical training should be integrated into the curriculum of Islamabad schools," the Prime Minister said. He added that students who had dropped out of education for any reason should be offered free technical training, and an awareness campaign should be launched to encourage them to return to school.

"Teachers are the builders of the nation," he said, highlighting the critical need to establish a high-quality teacher training institution in Islamabad. He also directed a third-party audit of teacher training programs and the assessment of teachers' skills.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

Muqam says: Under the leadership of the present regime, Pakistan is heading in the right direction

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for State and Frontier Region, Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam, Friday expressed confidence that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan was heading in the right direction, where the country was successfully reviving its foreign ties, particularly with Saudi Arabia.

In an interview with the PTV news channel, he said, "This renewed diplomatic effort is crucial for

stimulating economic growth and combating inflation." He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Saudi government for their unwavering support of Pakistan. Amir Muqam had congratulated the nation on Pakistan's economic stability and improving conditions, crediting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visionary efforts and resolute leadership for this progress.

"Continued public trust and support for the Prime Minister's initiatives

will yield further positive developments in the near future," Muqam stressed.

Responding to a query, he said, "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) fragile peace requires urgent attention beyond politics, emphasizing the need for the provincial government to prioritize stability and public welfare." "To achieve lasting peace, the KP government must focus on economic development, boosting industries, and creating jobs, particularly for young individuals," he added.

Acting President calls for strengthening business and trade links with Iran

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday called for further strengthening bilateral cooperation with Iran in trade, security, culture and education.

He said that Pakistan and Iran had deep-rooted historical, religious and cultural ties and the people of Pakistan had great respect and affection for the people of Iran.

Gilani expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

During the meeting, the acting president underscored that Pakistan and Iran had been active members of many international and regional fora. "There is a need to harness the true potential of the existing cooperation for promoting connectivity between the two countries as well as with the broader region."

The ambassador noted with satisfaction that Pakistan was the fifth-largest trading partner of Iran last year and stressed the

need to explore options for expanding the existing volume of bilateral trade to \$10 billion between the two countries.

While discussing the volatile regional situation, the ambassador said "we are witnessing acts of genocide in Lebanon and Gaza".

He commended the Government of Pakistan for holding the All Parties Conference (APC) on 7th Oct 2024 and added that it could serve as a model for the Islamic World to extend support to our Palestinian brothers and sisters. Gilani reiterated that Pakistan was firmly committed to its support for the Palestinian cause.

The acting president highlighted the significance of enhancing people-to-people contacts including exchanging Parliamentary delegations to further strengthen bonds of friendship between the two brotherly countries.

Towards the end, he thanked the Government of Iran for its warm hospitality in facilitating Pakistani Zaireen who visit Iranian religious sites every year.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, called on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Federal Capital.

NDMA hosts national conference on Humanitarian Response for Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday convened a National Conference on Humanitarian Response for the war-ravaged people of Gaza and Lebanon under the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The session was convened at National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters which was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal along with Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Atta Tarrar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Cheema, PM's Advisor on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, Federal Secretaries and representatives from the media, NGOs, and international NGOs, a news release said.

The primary objective of the conference was to mobilize support from humanitarian partners and the community for relief efforts in Gaza and Lebanon.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the severe humanitarian needs arising from the ongoing crises in Palestine and Lebanon, emphasizing the urgent necessity to extend support to the affected population. He reaffirmed Government of Pakistan's commitment to aiding the people in distress and underscored the importance of partnerships with humanitarian organizations and the people of Pakistan to amplify these efforts.

Minister Iqbal announced the establishment of a special account titled "Prime Minister Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon," created under the Prime Minister's directives to gather and channelize aid from the people of Pakistan for those in Gaza and Lebanon. The Chairman NDMA provided an overview of the humanitarian assistance dispatched to Gaza.

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ISLAMABAD: In connection with the opening ceremony of the International Shanghai Organization, people are standing at the Faizabad bus station to go to their native areas.

CDA embarks on beautification drive for SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad is undergoing a citywide beautification drive ahead of the highly anticipated Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. Capital Development Authority (CDA) has launched a detailed initiative aimed at enhancing the city's aesthetic appeal, featuring vibrant floral displays, intricately designed peacock structures, and decorative globes strategically placed at prominent locations throughout the capital.

These installations

symbolize Islamabad's commitment to hosting international events in style and with grandeur.

The city's main roads, intersections, and public spaces are being adorned with seasonal flowers, adding a burst of color and life to the urban landscape.

Iconic figures, including peacocks, butterflies, and globes, have been installed, reflecting themes of peace, unity, and progress.

CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa expressed his satisfaction with the ongoing progress.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the family of Shaheed Constable Abdul Hameed.

Pak first Energy Climate Data dashboard launched to address information gaps

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Renewables First has launched the country's first energy and climate data dashboard to address scarcity of reliable data that as impeding access and analysis of essential information for effective decision-making.

Pakistan's pioneering Pakistan Energy and Climate Insights (PECI) dashboard was launched, along with the release of the second edition of the study "Powering Pakistan's Future: Pathways to Optimize Affordable and Sustainable Electricity Generation Beyond IGCEP 2024-34" during the event "From Data to Decisions" co-hosted by Renewables First (RF) and the Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIED) here on Friday, a news release said.

In his keynote address, Chairman of NTDC, Dr. Fiaz Chaudry emphasized the importance of adhering to the least-cost ap-

proach in energy planning, noting, "Unfortunately, we have not been following this principle." He remarked that the energy sector is complex, stating, "It is not child's play."

He explained that while generation, transmission, and distribution may seem straightforward, they involve significant challenges that require thorough study and strategic planning.

The Peci dashboard consolidates fragmented energy data from various sources, presenting information in a user-friendly, interactive digital format covering data from 2004 to 2024, i.e., two decades of data. With interactive and visual data representations, it allows better understanding of key trends and projections in the power sector. "It simplifies complex energy information, making it accessible for everyone involved in addressing Pakistan's energy crisis."

HEC approves funding for 23 travel grants, 17 academic events

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has approved funding for 23 travel grants and 17 academic events during its 21st Travel Grant/Seminar Conferences Management Committee meeting held here yesterday.

According to the official sources from HEC, out of 50 applications for travel grants, the committee recommended 23, and all 17 requests for seminar and conference funding were approved.

The meeting, chaired by Prof. Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, brought together several prominent figures from the academic sector, including Prof. Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig, Prof. Fayyaz Ul Hassan Sahi, and Prof. Dr. Hazir Ullah.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Umar joined the session online, while Muhammad Javed Iqbal, Director (Research & Innovation Division), served as the meeting's secretary.

Pakistan's stability will not be compromised by political ambitions: Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Defence Khawaja Asif, on Friday responding to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call for protest, warned that any attempts to destabilize the country will be met with the full force of the state. Speaking to a private news channel, he highlighted that hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference was a major diplomatic achievement for Pakistan.

He accused PTI of trying to hinder the country's progress, stating, "This is a deliberate attempt to destabilize Pakistan and halt our economic growth."

He further criticized PTI, alleging that the party was aligned with international conspiracies aimed at destabilizing the nation. "This is a continuation of their efforts to ensure that Pakistan remains unstable," he remarked. Khawaja Asif also condemned PTI's silence over the frequent martyrdom of soldiers, saying, "They have not issued a single statement condemning the losses our security forces suffer, and instead, they seem focused on weakening Pakistan."

Planning Minister pays tribute PIDE outgoing VC, Dr Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Friday paid tribute to Dr Nadeem ul Haq, the outgoing Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), for leading the institution for last five years.

At the farewell ceremony, Ahsan praised Dr. Haq's contributions to promoting economic discourse in Pakistan and encouraged PIDE staff to build upon his achievements. He emphasized the importance of working tirelessly towards Pakistan's national agenda and development priorities.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visiting place of Aman Jirga

Saba appointed as UNICEF National Ambassador for child rights in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): UNICEF has appointed actress Saba Qamar as its first National Ambassador for child rights in Pakistan. The announcement was made on International Day of the Girl Child, a day that recognizes girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

"It's an honor to join UNICEF. I will echo our shared mission of achieving every right for every child wherever I am," said Saba Qamar.

"In my recent travels, I have seen both the challenges children and women face in this country and the difference UNICEF's dedicated efforts are making". She promised to play her vital part for the children and young people of Pakistan so that they can dream and have the chance to fulfill their dreams.

IHC approached against arrest of KP employees in during protest

ISLAMABAD (APP): A petition has been moved to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday against registration of cases and arrest of KPK government's employees for participating in protest march of CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur.

The petition prayed the court to issue directives to terminate the FIR registered by Sangiani Police Station Islamabad against the personnel.



ISLAMABAD: Zamurd Khan, Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes watching Fastest Athlete competition during the 100-meter race in the 'Search for the Fastest Athlete among Pakistan Sweet Home students and cadets at Sweet Home's Ground.

IHC reserves decision on petition seeking recovery of PTI's Intazar Panjotha

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday reserved its decision on a petition seeking the recovery of Intazar Panjotha, a focal person for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), as law enforcement agencies intensify their efforts to trace his whereabouts.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Aamer Farooq directed the DIG Police to expedite cooperation with relevant agencies in the search for Panjotha.

After a break in proceedings, DIG Islamabad Police, SP Khalid Awan, and DSP Sajid Cheema appeared before the court. The DIG explained that Panjotha's vehicle had been seen traveling from Faizabad to Shamsabad in Rawalpindi. However, the vehicle then made a U-turn, returning to its original location. The police also mentioned that the

vehicle's black number plate had made tracking more difficult, and they requested additional time to trace the vehicle's movements.

Before the break, the DIG had informed the court that letters had been sent to all intelligence agencies, and a special team had been formed to investigate the case. CCTV footage had confirmed that Panjotha was headed towards Rawalpindi, and the police had requested further footage from Rawalpindi to aid the investigation.

At the request of the petitioner's lawyer, Chief Justice Aamer Farooq appointed Faisal Chaudhry as the focal person for the case, directing that all progress be communicated to him.

After hearing arguments from all parties, the court reserved its decision.

ICT admin target 'agent mafia,' 6 arrested in G-10 raid

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad district administration on Friday launched a campaign against unauthorized agents operating near government offices in the Federal Capital and arrested 6 agents.

According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, these agents were arrested outside the Passport Office in G-10 area, marking a step toward curbing this illegal activity.

In a recent move to tackle the presence of unauthorized agents near government buildings, the Assistant Commissioner Sadder, Maheen Hassan raided with the district administration teams and arrested these agents.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the need for daily operations outside all government offices to address the growing issue of unauthorized intermediaries.

He also urged citizens to cooperate with the authorities to help eliminate the so-called "agent mafia" operating in these areas. The district administration is hopeful that with consistent efforts and public support, it can tackle the problem and restore order near public offices.

Islamabad Traffic Police issues Diversion Plan for SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have announced a comprehensive traffic diversion plan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, scheduled for October 14, 15, and 16, 2024.

Over 1,100 traffic officers will be deployed across the city to manage traffic flow. Citizens are advised to use alternative routes to avoid inconvenience caused by road closures and diversions due to high profile movement.

According to the ITP spokesperson, traffic traveling from Peshawar to

Rawat via GT Road will be diverted through Taxila, Motorway, Chakri Interchange, Chak Beli Road, and Rawat. Drivers are urged to follow these routes to avoid the blocked roads during the summit.

Vehicles traveling from Lahore to Peshawar via GT Road will be redirected to Rawat, Chak Beli Road, Chakri Interchange, Motorway, and Taxila. The ICT Police have advised motorists to use these alternatives to ensure smooth travel.

Traffic coming from Margalla Road heading towards Rawalpindi will be

diverted to 9th Avenue. Additionally, traffic from Faisal Avenue to Zero Point will also be redirected to 9th Avenue, ensuring a clear route for other vehicles.

For those commuting from Bhara Kahu to Rawalpindi, the police have recommended using Korang Road, Bani Gala, and Lehtar Road as alternative routes. These roads will provide easier access for vehicles traveling during the summit.

Traffic coming from Rawalpindi to Islamabad will be redirected to 9th Avenue via Saddar and Murree Road.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Dost Ali Jeesar, presiding over a meeting of the Senate Committee on rules of procedure and privileges at Parliament House Islamabad.