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

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Asks PTI to withdraw protest call amid SCO moot

Pakistan ready to warmly host **CHG-SCO** meeting; matters within SCO framework to be discussed: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): certain countries had re-them first-hand information Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday said that Pakistan was ready to host Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting on October 15-16 in Islamabad in which different significant issues would be discussed under the SCO framework.

his visit to review arrangements for the upcoming panied the deputy prime CHG-SCO meeting, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that

quested for bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the SCO summit. CHG-SCO which were finalized.

said that India had not requested for such bilateral meeting and only the matters related to SCO framework would be discussed by the SCO member states at the multilateral forum.

Minister for Informa-Talking to media after tion and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar also accomminister and foreign minister during a walk with the member states. mediapersons to provide

about the preparations of

About invitation to Afghanistan, the deputy prime Replying to a query, he minister and foreign minister said that since 2021, the Observers Status of that country had been virtually suspended as Afghanistan had neither been invited to nor participated in SCO meetings.

Therefore, he said, Pakistan could not take decision alone in this regard as the decisions were taken on the SCO forum by the

Dar, to another ques-

to CHG-SCO and would fully meet the responsibil-

About the North-South and South-South connectivity, he said the discussions with the relevant countries were in progress and continuing on the bilateral and multilateral

But within the SCO framework and protocol, certain matters would be discussed under specific scope of discussions and within its contours, he fur

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Pak Army soldiers and police personals checking a motorcyclists in front of Parliament House at Constitution Avenue, during security high alert at "red zone" area ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, in the Federal Capital.

Stringent security plan adopted for SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal authorities were preparing on Sunday to shut down the capital ahead of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit – an event of international importance. In a statement, Islamabad Inspector-General of Po-

lice (IGP) Nasir Ali Rizvi said that a 'comprehensive' security plan had been chalked out ahead of the all-important summit in the federal capital. 'Security personnel will be deployed at funnel areas,

hotels and places where foreign delegations are staying," he said, adding that they ensured the security of foreign leaders, delegations and guests.

Furthermore, Rizvi said search and informationbased operations were underway, with personnel of the Pakistan Army, intelligence agencies, Frontier Corps (FC) and Rangers performing their duties.

The police chief pointed out that more than 9,000 personnel of the police force have been deployed for security. "An integrated traffic plan has also been issued for the convenience of citizens.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin will be among the senior regional government officials attending the two-day conference on Tuesday and Wednesday (October 15-16).

In the weeks leading up to the summit, the government has introduced new laws that restrict protest in the federal capital.

PM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to achievement of highest global standards on 'World Standards Day' ISLAMABAD (APP): actively engaging with the This theme invites to

Prime Muhammad Shehbaz making efforts to inspire Sharif has reiterated the their domestic manufacturcommitment of the Government of Pakistan to support their relevant organizations achieving adherence to highest global standards and in accelerating Pakistan's journey toward sustainable economic development.

In a message on the World Standards Day being observed on October 14. the prime minister said that Pakistan joined the international community to commemorate the World Stan-

dards Day.

The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control
Authority (PSQCA), a National Standards Body, was

Minister global community and Shehbaz making efforts to inspire ers to adopt standardization and quality-focused practices, thereby fostering

> The prime minister said the theme for this year as set by International Organization for Standardization (ISO), "Shared Vision for a Better World," underscored the essential role of reliability and trust in driving the success of both the manufacturing and service

a culture of excellence

throughout the country, he

"Standards are indeed the foundation that makes

to reassess the competitiveness of our products in the international market," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

In line with the commitment to public safety, health and environment, the prime minister said that he was proud to highlight that the PSQCA had developed rigorous safety standards for automotive vehicles to protect the lives of our citi-

'Noteworthy achievement is that it has set a limit of 2% on industrially produced Trans Fatty Acids (iTFA) in food products, a critical step towards reduceveryday life functions ing cardiovascular diseases in Pakistan.

Chinese premier Li due in Islamabad today for a four-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang is scheduled to undertake a four-day bilateral visit to Pakistan from October 14-17, 2024 to meet Pakistan's civil and military leadership and attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organiza-

Premier Li will be accompanied by ministers and senior officials including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation Agency, according to a curtain raiser issued by the Foreign Of-

Muhammad Sharif and Premier Li Qiang will lead their respective delegations to comprehensively discuss all aspects of Pakistan-China relations including economic and trade ties and cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The two sides will also discuss regional and

global developments. The Chinese premier will call on President Asif Ali Zardari and hold meetings with parliamentary leaders and senior military leadership of Pakistan. He will also attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization being held in Islamabad on October 15-16.



KARACHI:Police clash with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) activists for violating Section 144 when they demonstrated against the killing of blasphemy suspect Dr Shahnawaz Kunbhar and "extremism in Karachi.

Over 100 arrested in Karachi as protesters defy Section 144, clash with police

Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: Clashes between protesters and police erupted in parts of Karachi with the law enforcers arresting hundreds, including women, for violating Section 144 imposed a day ear-

Participants of the Sindh Rawadari March' clashed with the police outside the press club when they violated Section 144 — banning demonstrations and assemblies of more than five persons across the me-

The police officials noted that over 100 protesters, affiliated with separate

groups, were taken into custody from different parts of the metropolis, including outside Karachi Press Club, Metropole Hotel and Jinnah Hospital.

Moreover, sources said that four policemen sustained injuries amid the clashes and have been shifted to hospital. Speaking to journalists,

South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza said that "at least 20 people have been detained so far, including More police personnel

have been deployed on all the roads leading to the press club



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar alongwith Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar talking with media men after visit to review arrangements for the upcoming CHG-SCO meeting

Tarar lauds China for helping Pakistan overcome energy crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): stances and this friendship extended deep gratitude to China for helping Pakistan to overcome worst energy crisis faced by the country in the early years of previous decade.

Delivering his speech at the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan ceremony here, he said the friendship between Pakistan and China spanned over decades and many generations.

The friendship between Pakistan and China is being passed down from generation to generation," the minister said adding that the people of Pakistan and China had emotional attachment to each other.

Tarar remarked that Beijing had supported Islamabad in all circumnomic Corridor (CPEC) was the manifestation of closeness and ideal friendship be-

tween the two countries. "CPEC is not only a project for the prosperity of Pakistan and China, but also for the entire region," the minister opined.

Energy projects including Sahiwal Coal power project, Thar Coal Project, Karachi Port Energy project were launched by China under CPEC. He said in 2013, when Pakistan was facing worst energy crisis and 8 to 19 hours load shedding was a matter of routine, several energy projects were launched under CPEC and these projects helped Pakistan overcome energy

Pakistan Army secures gold medal in Exercise **Cambrian Patrol 2024**

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Army's team has been awarded the gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024, which concluded today in Wales, United King-

According to a press release issued here, the event, held from the 4th to the 13th of this month, marked the sixty-fifth anniversary of the exercise, which upholds demanding

professional standards. Patrols from around the globe had to move tactically across inhospitable terrain, covering a distance of sixty kilometers within fortyeight hours while completing specialized tasks in a contested environment.

This year, one hundred and twenty-eight teams from forty-two countries participated in the exercise. and the Pakistan Army's team demonstrated exceptional performance and secured the gold medal.

lease said

This year, Exercise Cambrian Patrol celebrated its 65th year and has retained its demanding professional standards; patrols all across from the globe had to move tactically across inhospitable terrain, covering a distance of 60 kilometers (kms) within 48 hours, completing specialist tasks in a contested environment. an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news re-

PTI to delay Oct 15 protest if meeting with **Imran** granted SLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

rederal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday stances and this intendship D-Chowk, if the party is not allowed to meet party

founder Imran Khan. While speaking to a private TV Channel, PTI Central Secretary Information Sheikh Waqas Akram set a condition for the government to withdraw from the announced protest. "Allow party founder Imran Khan's meeting with his family and lawyers or face massive protests on October 15,

heikh Waqas Akram said. He said that the governnent has banned meetings with Imran Khan for the last five or six weeks, adding that even lawyers and family members are not allowed to meet him. We have no contact with our leader (Imran Khan) and reports of mistreatment in jail are concerning.

Last day for submission of income tax returns today

AHORE (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has warned that Monday is the last day for submission of income tax returns for

In a statement issued here, the FBR said that it had already extended the date for filling of returns till 14th of this month. The decision to extend the date for submission of income tax returns was taken following requests by various trade organizations, tax bar associations and the general public

the financial year 2023-



held in Wales. This year, 128 teams from 42 Countries participated in the Exercise and out of all these teams, Pakistan Army's Team showed Exceptional Performance in the exercise and has been awarded with the Gold Medal.

'No democratic person can go against constitutional package': Ahsan Iqbal Adivsor to PM on Poworked very hard to save

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) delegation, led by Sec-

retary General Ahsan Iqbal, Advisor to PM Rana Sanaullah, and Federal

Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, meets with MQM-Pakistan leadership, includ-

ing Chairman Khalid Magbool Siddigui, at Pakistan House.

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry on Sunday said that no any democratic person could disagree with the Constitutional Amend-

ment Package of Pakistan. He said that the coalition government had been successful to turn around the economy of the coun-

He expressed these views after a meeting with MQM-Pakistan leadership including its Chairman and Federal for Education and Professional Training Minister Khalid Maqbool Sididiqui at MQM- cess Pakistan's Pakistan House. sue.

litical and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah and Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar were also present on the occasion. Ahsan Iqbal said that

they provided amount of time to some parties wished to review and consider constitutional amendment. 'We built a consensus, which was a democratic process',

he added. He said that the leadership of MQM-Pakistan had continuously assisted with its suggestions on different issues including IPPs and along with them they successfully resolved IPPs is-

paved way through courts and a series of disqualify ing elected Prime Ministe **APC** rejects elections as India's ploy to divert attention from

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): All Parties Conference has rejected the recent elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, labeling them a diversion by the Modi-led Indian regime from the severe human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Chaired by the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the APC issued a declaration emphasizing that these elections cansubstitute the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and demanded

India allow Kashmiris to freely decide their future. The conference paid tribute to the resilient people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir who continue to

resist oppression and uphold their freedom struggle. The leaders also saluted the unwavering spirit of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and the Kashmiri youth, who persist despite facing severe Indian repression.

Expressing solidarity

rights abuses in IIOJK

with Palestine, the conference condemned Israeli aggression and urged the United Nations and the OIC to intervene and stop the genocide of Palestinians. The leaders expressed full solidarity with the Palestinian people. The conference strongly condemned India's attempts to create unrest in Azad Kashmir and praised the sacrifices of the Pakistani armed forces defending the Line of Control.

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman has resigned from the cabinet due to his responsibilities as a member of the accountability committee formed to moni tor performance of the provincial government.

According to the resignation, Shah Farman maintained that as a member of the accountability commit tee his role as an advisor would be affected therefore he had resigned as an advisor It is pertinent to men tion here that Shah Farman had been selected as a member of committee to monitor the performance of the provincial government and cabinet members besides

Shah Farman resigns as senior Advisor to KP CM

Pakistan from economic

default. It's coalition

partners including MQM-

Pakistan also played role

in the formation of gov-

ernment after general elec-

past, he said that the demo-

cratic process of the coun-

try was derailed in the

past through Article 58-

consensus was devel-

oped and constitutional

another way of 58-2B was

8-2B was revoked but

2B and later a political

Recalling the events of

corrupt practices.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

A close watch

The IMF's new set of demands from Pakistan as part of its \$7bn rescue package is tough, but in line with expectations.

The government has to swallow this bitter pill to keep the economy afloat. The details of the targets released on Friday show that the programme seeks to help Pakistan rebuild its forex reserves, improve tax-to-GDP ratio, and ensure debt

The roadmap outlined by the lender in the document, which also contains firm commitments by the government to execute the agenda, will be implemented through the overhaul of the tax system, energy reforms, privatisation and deregulation, and the rollback of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, the Sovereign Wealth Fund and the Special Economic Zones to "promote investment, and ensure competitive neutrality, and a level playing field" for investors.

The government has further promised to not offer regulatory, spending, tax-based incentives, or any guaranteed returns to a particular set of investors that could distort the investment landscape. It has agreed to increase and impose additional indirect taxes in case of a shortfall of 1pc in tax collection on a three-month rolling basis to cover the gap. Moreover, the authorities have consented to governance reforms and to cut off gas supplies to captive power owned by the rich textile millers. The provinces have committed to undertake reforms to boost tax collection, end interventions in agricultural markets, and take over several spending responsibilities in line with the 18th Amendment.

The IMF document acknowledges the macroeconomic stability achieved in recent months. However, this stability is unlikely to translate into growth in the near to medium term unless Pakistan is able to attract significant investor interest, something that does not appear likely anytime soon. In fact, the conditions related to elimination of incentives to foreign companies, especially from China, is going to hit hard the government's plans to woo Chinese manufacturers here under CPEC. How the authorities will deal with it remains to be seen.

While the IMF may ignore some minor deviations from the loan agenda, it is not going to condone any major divergence that might lead the programme off-track since, according to a news report, the Fund remains concerned about the country's commitment to execute the suggested reforms going forward. Its worry that "reputational risks would arise for it if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members that ostensibly enjoy less support" means that it would be monitoring progress on targets more diligently.

Unlike most previous occasions, the 25th rescue loan does not offer Pakistan much of a margin of error. The authorities will be required to prove every six months that they are steadfastly pursuing the IMF-mandated targets to secure the lender's dollars and blessings.

Disgraced media

Muna Khan

Last week, I wrote a piece on Western media's coverage of the war in Gaza for Prism on the Dawn website. I re-read part of Edward Said's 1981 book Covering Islam on how the Western media distorts the portrayal of Islam and depictions of Muslims as "fanatical, violent, lustful and irrational". I often return to this book as it remains relevant. It's a sad indictment on the Western media whose reporting on Muslims and Palestinians has resulted in their dehumanisation over the decades.

Despite knowing all this, I felt foolish when I read how The New York Times told its staff to restrict using words like ethnic cleansing' and genocide' and avoid occupied territories' in their reporting on Gaza. This was revealed by The Intercept in April which received a copy of the internal memo the paper sent to its staff. They also told staff not to use the word 'Palestine' "except in very rare cases". It is mind-boggling.

However, acclaimed author Pankaj Mishra was not shocked when the draft of an article wherein he criticised Israel, submitted to a Canadian newspaper, was returned to him with 'Israel' removed.

Mishra, the recipient of a \$75,000 Weston Breach. "Not just Pales-International Award for his non-fiction writing, was going to deliver a lecture in Toronto last ers of non-Western anmonth. Winners get an cestry, and each one of excerpt from their lecture them will tell you many, published in the leading many stories about edinewspaper The Globe and Mail. The paper, this. Can you change however, edited that excerpt with reportedly all 17 instances of Israel cut out. Mishra pulled the

the edits. In an interview to

attempts that I've per- colour by 'keeping them sonally encountered to in their place' suppress and stifle criti-

cism of Israel" One of the lines cut from the excerpt said: "My own sporadic attempts to tackle the subject in the past made me aware of an insidious Western regimen of repressions and prohibitions.

The paper also cut: "Even the liquidation of Gaza, which unlike many atrocities, has been livestreamed by both its perpetrators and victims, is daily obfuscated, if not denied, by the main organs of the Western me-

Clearly, it was a political decision to attempt to edit Mishra's excerpt and speaks to the Western media's complicity in covering up the true scale of the crimes committed in Palestine and everywhere else. Lest we forget, the US declared war on Iraq under the guise of destroying weapons of mass destruction; they declared war on Afghanistan to, among other reasons, liberate the women. The government of the day finds powerful allies in papers who support (read: cheer) such policies and it is no different

in the case of Gaza. "We have faced a consistent regime of censorship and suppres-Mishra told The tinians, not just Arabs, you talk to even some of the most successful writtors saying 'We can't do that? Can you rephrase Non-white writers

often have to acquiesce published and options elsewhere are limited. The Breach last month, This is how the arts and Mishra said he was not entertainment as well as everyone deserves. surprised as it was "part the publishing industry Courtesy Dawn

of a continuum of such manages people of

Perhaps one of the most influential intellectuals in the US right now, Ta-Nehisi Coates, is facing the brunt of Big American media's wrath about his new book The Message which chronicles, among other trips, his 10-day experience in Gaza and Israel in 2023. He has described his trip as "revelatory"; that he didn't think Americans understood the extent of what we're doing there", adding that he uses 'we' bec-ause it

without US support.
"I don't think I ever, in my life, felt the glare of racism burn str-a-nger and more intense than in Israel," he writes in his book, an excerpt that has widely been shared. But he is subject to much attack, the usual accusations of antisemitism, for telling the truth, which his detractors tell you is 'his truth'. I find this practice of adding pronouns to truth tiresome; truth is meant to be universal and this idea of my truth reeks of a sense of entitlement in the face of what we can see on TV screens.

wouldn't be possible

I laud Mishra for withdrawing his excerpt and refusing to accept the paper's discriminatory edits. His is a small example of the pushback we're seeing to the Israeli-Western media narrative shoved down our throats. Al Jazeera ran a story last week featuring BBC and CNN journalists "alleging pro-Israel bias in coverage, systematic double standards and frequent violations of journalistic principles". I'm sorry it took so long for the truth (see what I did there?) to arexcerpt after receiving because they want to be rive but I hope it will pick up pace and more audiences will see it for what it is: not the journalism

Kelsen's return

Reema Omer

If the government announces replacing the parliamentary system with a presidential one, would the reason suffice the world have presidenparliamentary democracy in Pakistan has "failed" it should be abolished?

Establishing a constitutional court to perform constitutional review by stripping the Supreme Court (SC) of this function is as fundamental a change for the judiciary. Yet, reasons for this change have so far been feeble and rhetorical, if not altogether absent.

Constitutional courts were first established in the beginning of the 20th century in Europe to "defeat the dogma of parliamentary premacy". Previously, parliamentary sovereignty was jealously guarded, and even the highest courts did not have constitutional review powers.

This gradually changed after World War I. As Austrian jurist Hans Kelsen wrote, "it is no longer possible to rely on the parliament itself to realise subordination to the constitution", and the task of "nullifying its unconstitutional acts must be entrusted to a separate organ, independent of it and of any state tional court.

authority", ie, a constitu-Gradually, a concentrated model of constitutional courts with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional interpretation proliferated, initially in Europe, and then other parts of the world, including, for example, Russia, South Africa, and Indonesia. The powers of these courts are somewhat different, but their legitimising military origins are similar. They coups had disastrous were established during democratic transition, ostensibly as a check against authoritarianism within the constitutional

ing courts did not already have constitutional review powers.

Pakistan's context and judicial system, as is evident, are very differthat many democracies in ent. Here, the SC and high courts already have powtial systems? And since ers of constitutional review and enforcement of fundamental rights. What is being proposed is to take these powers from existing courts and hand them over to a new 'con-

stitutional court' The government has to discharge a very high burden to show why such a change is necessary, and what problems it would fix.

A typical response is that the SC has 'failed': it has weakened civilian governments; delivered populist judgments; and rewritten the Constitution. All this is undeniable. But the 'solution' that the same powers should be concentrated in a different court — is bewildering.
This 'solution' ig-

constitution or fundamental rights is likely to deliver rulings perceived as 'controversial'. And where these rulings have political implications, courts will necessarily become politicised. This is inherent to constitutional review and is the experience of many constitutional courts around the world. A few other points should be considered. First, politicisation of the judiciary is not ju---st because of 'judicial activism'. Political pa---rties often bring political disputes to court for adjudication, without utilising other for-ums of resolution. This needs to change. Second, there is now growing recognition within the SC that consequences, and that courts should respect the is distorting his idea of a separation of powers constitutional tribunal to and to safeguard the scheme. It should be seen

constitution where exist- whether this leads to course correction.

Third, some safeguards have already been introduced to regulate the SC's powers. An appeal lies from Article 184(3) judgments; a minimum of five judges hear matters of constitutional interpretation; and a committee, instead of the chief justice alone, decides when to invoke Article 184(3).

A lot more, of course, must be done – by the courts and parliament. The judicial ap--pointments pro--cess should be made more tran-sparent and inclusive (inc-lu-d-ing ensuring provi-n---cial and gend-er representation). Judicial acco-un-tability should be made more me--aningful. And the ambit of Article 184(3) should be clarified. But throwing the baby out with the bathwater would be a grave mistake.

India's Law Commission, as far back as 1984, considered reforming the country's supreme court. nores that any court It rejected establishing a when it is interpreting the separate constitutional court, as doing so would involve "extensive and complex changes" to the existing structure. Instead, it recommended "incremental changes" to augment the apex court's competence and capac-

We are not as fortunate as, let alone reports informed by the opinions of constitutional scholars, we don't even have a draft for the proposed 'constitutional court' to deliberate upon. After nearly 70 years, Kelsen has made a return in Pakistani politics. In 1958, the SC misapplied his theory of "revolutionary leg-ality" to legitimise Ayub Khan's coup d'état. Now, instead of ensuring the "subordination of parliament to the Constitution", the government control the judiciary. --Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Geoeconomic shifts demand greater conomic integration: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, said on Sunday that the fast-paced geoeconomic and geostrategic shifts at regional and global levels underscore the growing importance of economic integration. "It is high time to harness our collective strengths and forge a path towards sustainable growth and prosperity by promoting regional connectivity and cooperation," he said while addressing participants at the launching ceremony of

reports by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPK)

The Chairman lauded foreign investment. the reports titled "The Glorious 11 Years – How Chinese Companies Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories. "Pakistan seeks to strengthen regional cooperation by fostering economic ties with our

Gilani said. abundant natural resources, and a sizeable workforce as factors that make it an attractive destination for

stands at the very top,"

He stressed the importance of business-to-

sustainable that partnerships can attract foreign direct investment. promote technology sharing, and facilitate knowledge exchange between the two nations. Commending the

business linkages, noting

China Chamber partner nations, and China Commerce in Pakistan for organizing the event, Gilani He highlighted said that the reports offer Pakistan's strategic location, valuable insights into the valuable insights into the contributions, operational status, and investment confidence of Chinese companies in Pakistan.

240 poultry units distributed among farmers

LODHRAN (APP): The Livestock Department distributed 240 poultry units among farmers across the district to promote poultry under the Propagation of Backyard Poultry program to prevent stunted growth among children.

Deputy Director Livestock Lodhran, Dr Waqar Aslam, told APP here on Sunday said that the units consisted of five hens and one cock given to farmers at Rs 3300 per unit on first come, first served basis.

Poultry units were distributed only after farmers received training at a workshop on how to breed chicken and how to get them treated in case of an illness.

He said that the

poultry units were sent to various veterinary hospitals at three tehsils of district Lodhran where from the units were distributed among farmers. He said that the initiative not only would make peoples' access to healthy diet easy but also bring profits to the owners



Leghari says electricity tariffs to drop 8-10% per unit soon

Minister for Power Sardar issued warning to electricity thieves and corrupt officials for termination from their assignments who involved in corrupt practices. He said that all those

who involved will face the music from next month. The minister vowed that the consumers can

expect significant relief as power tariffs drop by 8-

news channel, minister Awais Leghari on Sunday expressed hope that power sector reforms are expected to bring good news for the public in the coming months, with anti-theft being measures implemented to increase transparency in the power

system. The goal is to provide reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity to citizens, he added.

Minister for Power 10% per unit in the near warned to take stringent future. action against officers
In an exclusive involved in power theft,

service starting next month. Leghari directed for stern action against the

guilty of corrupt practices will be terminated from

corrupt officers within the power sector and decided to take a zero-tolerance policy in this regard.

The minister emphasized that the government will adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards officers engaged in power theft, whether involvement proved today or during past.

E&T dept records Rs 530m tax recovery in first quarter

MULTAN (APP): Excise & Taxation department reported a significant increase in tax recovery during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, collecting Rs 530 million compared to Rs 485 million in corresponding period. This impressive growth represented an additional Rs 45 million in revenue collection over the previous year. Official sources said on Sunday that the increase followed the announcement of a property tax rebate package by the Punjab Excise department, offering a 5 percent discount on property taxes from July 1 to September 30, 2024.

Traders, economists condemn PTI's protest call amid SCO summit

Traders and analysts Sunday expressed grave concerns over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call ahead of the highly anticipated Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference, urging the party leadership to reconsider and postpone

their decision. Talking to PTV news channel, economists slammed PTI's protest call during the SCO Summit as "self-destructive," citing concerns over economic instability and damage to Pakistan's global image. The protest, scheduled for October 15 has sparked

many urging PTI to reconsider their decision.

Business community in Islamabad stressed that the SCO conference, a vital platform for promoting regional cooperation and hoping that PTI's leadership will reconsider their decision for the nation's economic

interests instead of personal interest. "This move will undermine Pakistan's credibility in the international community. We need to focus on economic diplomacy, not political posturing, said a renowned economist Dr



MULTAN: Vendors are busy preparing flower garlands at their roadside setup.

101,790 Kissan cards issued to farmers in South Punjab

MULTAN (APP): As Multan, DG Khan and many as 101,790 kissan Bahawalpur. cards have so far been distributed among farmers against the set target of 344,391 cards in three divisions of South Punjab.

According to Agri department sources, Kissan Cards were being provided to farmers as per direction by Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahu and Secretary Special Agriculture South Punjab Sarfraz Ahmad Magsi. A total of 696,886 applications were received from growers for Kissan cards on 8171 and Rabta App in three divisions of South Punjab including

The agri department

received 128,331 Kissan cards while 182,605 cases were approved by the Bank of Punjab till October 12. Similarly, 215,275 applications were received by farmers for Punjab Chief Minister's Green Tractors scheme across South Punjab. As many as 184,077 applications uploaded on online portal while 31,198 applications of non-computerized Mouzas were received manually at Deputy Director Agriculture Extension

coop. to revive SAARC LAHORE (APP): SAARC for Chamber of Commerce & Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday hailed the recent statement of Dr between India and Pakistan Muhammad Yunus, Chief had long hampered the Advisor of the interim government of Bangladesh calling upon India to temporarily set aside its development across South issues with Pakistan in order to revive the South Asian Association for importance of unity Regional Cooperation within SAARC, stating (SAARC). Commenting

for his pragmatic approach,

emphasizing that regional

collaboration was crucial

prosperity of all SAARC

H.E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Ambassador

to the UAE, emphasized the importance of

Pakistan's participation in GITEX Global starting.

Malik lauds Dr Yunus's

call for India-Pakistan

noted that political differences between India and Pakistan progress of the organization, affecting progress trade, connectivity, and

He underscored the that resuming dialogue here, he lauded Dr Yunus and fostering cooperation could lead to unprecedented regional

President RCCI says: SCO summit paramount in enhancing bilateral relations between member states

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed hope Shanghai the that that the Snauguar Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit being held on October 15-16, will serve as a catalyst for further regional connectivity and cooperation between the

RCCI President, Usman Shaukat in a statement issued here on Sunday said that the SCO summit is paramount in enhancing bilateral

RAWALPINDI (APP): The relations between the member states.

"Pakistan being the host of this year's summit will play a key role in promoting bilateral promoting relations and regional connectivity", he added and said that the event is a pivotal moment for regional cooperation and shaping a shared future.

Usman Shaukat highlighted that Pakistan's strategic location positions it as a natural hub for trade and connectivity within the SCO

Governor urges PTI to defer protest call in national interest

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI)should stop pursuing selfish political goals and call off the October 15 protest at D-Chowk, Islamabad in the larger national interest. In an interview with APP here on Sunday, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that

prime ministers of nine countries would arrive in Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15 and matter of pride for political forces

present a positive instead of taking to "I understand force but when it national prestige, politics, avoid put Pakistan adding that fall if PTI called off



first," he said, heavens would not the protest for a week or so. On destructive politics, the Governor Punjab said PTI leadership needed to understand that politics of obstinacy had brought them to the verge where one wrong step could be fatal for their firebrand politics, adding that there was no room for stubbornness in politics. He urged the PTI leadership to take the path of dialogue and play productive role in taking the country ahead rather than leading it to anarchy.

Public cooperation crucial for effective disaster management: PDMA

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director General Irfan Ali Kathia has reaffirmed the has reaffirmed the important lessons. The authority's commitment DG stated that the to utilizing all available resources to address implemented natural disasters. In a revolutionary measures International Disaster property of citizens,

Reduction Day, observed globally on Sunday, Kathia highlighted the safegu assets.

pervasive impact of climate change, noting that while disasters cause significant harm. they also provide government on to protect the lives and that these emphasizing safeguarding

Illegal bird dealers fined

SARGODHA (APP): A grand operation of the Wildlife Department against illegal bird dealers is underway. During the operation, eight illegal bird dealers were arrested and fined for violations and 30 protected wild birds were recovered from their possession and their shops were sealed. Deputy Director Wildlife Sargodha Region, Arooj Zaheer, along with her team including inspector Ali Raza Abass, Mudasir Abass and Ansar Riaz raided Kotmomin,



the country and all

should work to image of the country

that PTI is a political

comes to the we should give up

personal agenda and

Monday October 14, 2024



addressing the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected officials of the

Practical steps underway to check inflation: Minister

Provincial Minister of Zakat & Usher and and Secretary General Pakistan Muslim league Nawaz Sargodha division, Rana Munawer Ghous Khan, on Sunday said that the government is committed to checking inflation and increasing trade to provide

relief to poor people.

Talking to APP, he said that the federal government and all provincial governments were seriously working to address all the current issues under the leadership Prime Minister us," he added

SARGODHA (APP): Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He said that federal governments would have to resolve the challenges of inflation. "The country is passing through a difficult situation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set conditions for the government to restrict

> The government will have to make efforts for balancing supply and demand chain to provide relief to the common man. Improvement in the trade sector is a big challenge for

PCP & MiracleFeet join hands to set free Clubfoot Clinic in AJK

PESHAWAR (APP): In a groundbreaking healthcare initiative, Paraplegic Center Peshawar partnered MiracleFeet, a leading USbased NGO, to make life-

changing clubfoot treatment

possible for the children of

Azad Kashmir as well. The partnership has launched a state-of-the-art Ponseti Clubfoot clinic at Helping Hand for Relief & collaborate with the senior Development's management of Helping rehabilitation center in Hand in Islamabad.

Muzaffarabad. This clinic is set to transform the lives of children suffering from clubfoot by providing highquality, 100% free treatment in AJK as well. Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas, CEÓ of PCP, played a pioneer role in substantiating the idea wherein he made MiracleFeet's Regional Program Officer, Dr. Imtiaz,

Health minister inquires aftergirl at Children's Hospital

LAHORE (ÅPP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Sunday inquired after four-year-old Fatima Bahawalnagar at the Children's Hospital Lahore. Acting on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the minister reviewed the medical care being provided to the patient. During the visit, Professor Tipu Sultan, Medical Director of the hospital, briefed the minister on treatment and facilities available for Dua

12 dead, 1585 injured **in 1482 RTCs** in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least twelve persons were killed and 1585 injured in 1482 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 677 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 908 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 874

Azma Bukhari says: Governor should refrain from interfering in administrative affairs

should refrain from lack schools altogether. interfering

Pakistan Tehreek-i-insaf. Bokhari pointed out

tied up, and there is a rampant culture of cheating selling entire examination centres. She noted that in the province where the PPP has been in the government for 16 years, a 19th-century education system still prevails. She highlighted Sindh are virtually zero

LAHORE (APP): Punjab that seven districts in Information Minister Punjab are at the top with Azma Bokhari has said that the highest literacy rates, the Punjab Governor while many areas in Sindh

The administrative affairs and expressed that the avoid playing the role of Governor should enjoy tea, the opposition, like coffee, and dried fruits at the Governor's House, as he has no role in that in Sindh, schools are administrative affairs. She often found with animals responded to the Governor's statements by mentioning constant media reports about ghost employees and students in Sindh's department. She emphasized that outside of two areas in Karachi and Hyderabad, literacy rates in the rest of



MULTAN: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against killing of Sani-e-Zahra and demanding justice for her,

Shazia Rizwan leads dengue awareness dengue walk

RAWALPINDI (APP): cleanliness. Parliamentary Secretary for Information Punjab, Shazia Rizwan on Sunday visited Pir Wadhai Station various against dengue fever. bus terminals to examine implementation of dengue SOPs. Talking on the occasion intimated stern actions against violations of SOPs devised by the health authority to prevent the dengue fever. visited workshops washrooms of the bus terminals and expressed

passengers during which she urged them to play their due role in the fight Later, Shazia led an

awareness walk regarding the dengue issues. She awareness among the people. The Parliamentary Secretary directed the owners of bus stands to display awareness pamphlets at their terminals to educate the people about their responsibilities regarding dengue preventive her satisfaction regarding measures.

International News

Palestinian officials say 22 killed in Israeli airstrikes

GUJRAT: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay

Hussain inaugurates 54th camp at Aisha Bashir Hospital.

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The Israeli military renewed its orders for Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip to leave their homes and shelters as troops continue a weeklong offensive against militants. Most of the fighting has centered in and around Jabaliya, which has been pounded by Israeli war jets and artillery. Residents said they have been trapped inside their homes and shelters.

Israel also has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah with waves of heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and a ground invasion at the border after a year of exchanges of fire. Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hamas' ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large arabout 90% of its population of 2.3 million people, often killing some 1,200 people, multiple times.

It's been a year since

mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are Hamas-led militants blew still holding about 100 capholes in Israel's security fence tives inside Gaza, a third of and stormed into army bases whom are believed to be dead.

Lebanon's Health Ministry says Israeli strikes kill more than a dozen

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Israeli airstrikes hit multiple areas in southern and eastern Lebanon, killing morê than a dozen people and causing damage to hospitals, the Lebanese Health Ministry said, as fighting with the Hezbollah militant group continued. Nine people were killed in Maisra village in the

northeast, with 15 wounded, the ministry said. Four people were killed and 18 wounded in an apartment building on the edge of Barja south of Beirut. The ministry said Rayak and Tal Chiha hospitals

in the Bekaa Valley were damaged, while seven people were wounded in strikes on Brital and Temnine in Baalbek-Hermel province. In Nabatieh, eight people vere wounded. Beirut's southern suburbs, which have previously

faced heavy bombardment, have not been struck in the past 48 hours. Hezbollah functions as a state within a

Fifth UN staffer hit, as Israel threatens to target ambulances

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: The Israeli army on Saturday threatened to target ambulances in southern Lebanon, claiming they

fighters and weapons" The warning came on a day when a fifth staffer of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was wounded in yet another strike, after Israel admitted that its forces fired at a 'threat' near a UN peacekeeping position and

that a "hit" was responsible for wounding two Blue Helmets. The incidents of shooting at UN peacekeepers in past few days have sparked a fierce diplomatic backlash. The Israeli military on Saturday threatened the people of Lebanon not to return to their homes. "For your own protection, do not return to your homes until further notice. Do not go south; anyone who goes south may put his life at risk," the mili-

are being used by Hezbollah to "transport

Iran has no red line in defending itself, foreign minister says

tary warned.

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran said on Sun-

day that it has "no red lines" in defending itself, as the Middle East anxiously braced for Israel's response to missile attacks from its arch-foe two weeks ago.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi's comments appeared intended to dispel suggestions that Iran would absorb an Israeli strike without a further response, as Tehran did earlier this year when Israel last struck Iran after a volley of Iranian missiles.

made tremendous efforts in recent days to contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Araqchi said in a post on X.

Iran fired more than 180 ballistic missiles at Israel on Oct. 1 amid an escalation in fighting between Israel and its proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah. Many were intercepted in flight but some penetrated missile defences.

BEIRUT: Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf waves during his visit to the site of an Israeli air strike in the Basta neighbourhood. Nicaragua breaks diplomatic relations

with Israel **Monitoring Desk**

MANAGUA: Nicaragua is breaking off diplomatic relations with Israel, the Central American nation said on Friday, calling the Israeli government "fascist" and "genocidal." Nicaragua's government, in a statement, said the break in relations was due to Israel's attacks on Palestinian territories.

had, earlier in the day, passed a resolution requesting Nicaragua take action to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Gaza conflict. The conflict, the Nicaraguan government said, now also "extends against Lebanon and gravely threatens Syria, Yemen and Iran."

Italy's Meloni tells Israel's Netanyahu attacks on UN peacekeepers

Monitoring Desk by Israeli armed forces.'

The nation's congress

are unacceptable

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has told her Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu that attacks on U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon are unacceptable, her office said on Sunday. "Prime Minister Meloni reiterated the unacceptability of UNIFIL being attacked

ASEAN urges early accord on South China Sea code, end to Myanmar violence

Monitoring Desk

ANGKOK: Southeast Asian leaders called on Sunday for swift agreement on a code of conduct for the South China Sea based on international law, while demanding an immediate halt to fighting in Myanmar and inclusive peace talks to end its civil war.

chairman's statement represents the consensus from meetings ended on Friday of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos, which included diplomats from the United States, Russia, China, Japan, India and South Korea. Confrontations have

been rising in disputed wa-

ters of the South China Sea between China, which claims sovereignty over almost all the vital waterway, and ASEAN members including the Philippines and more recently Vietnam.

The rows have raised risks of an escalation that could eventually involve the United States, which is bound by treaty to defend the Philippines if it is at-

The sea, where \$3 trillion worth of trade passes annually, was been a major point of contention at the ASEAN meetings, particularly with Russia and China objecting to a reference to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a US official said.

As Hezbollah and Israel battle on the border, Lebanon's army watches from the sidelines

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Since Israel launched its ground inva-

sion of Lebanon, Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants have clashed along the border while the Lebanese army has largely stood on the side-It's not the first time

the national army has found itself watching war at home from the discomfiting position of bystander Lebanon's widely

beloved army is one of the few institutions that bridge the country's sectarian and political divides.

Several army commanders have become president, and the current commander, Gen. Joseph Aoun, is widely regarded as one of the front-runners to step in when the deadlocked parliament fills a two-year vacuum and names a president.

But with an aging arsenal and no air defenses, and battered by five years of economic crisis, the national army is illprepared to defend Leba-turn

non against either aerial bombardment or a ground offensive by a well-equipped modern army like Îsrael's.

The army is militarily overshadowed by Hezbollah. The Lebanese army has about 80,000 troops, with around 5,000 of them deployed in the south. Hezbollah has more

than 100,000 fighters, according to the militant group's late leader, Hassan Nasrallah. Its arsenal — built with support from Iran — is also more advanced.

Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters have been clashing since Oct. 8, 2023, when the Lebanese militant group began firing rockets over the border in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza.

In recent weeks, Israel has conducted a major aerial bombardment of Lebanon and a ground invasion that it says aims to push Hezbollah back from the border and allow displaced residents of northern Israel to re-

Sister of North Korean leader lashes out at South Korean drones

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea's

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, on Saturday warned Seoul of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones are found flying over Pyongyang.
She also criticised the

South Korean military over its response to the North's claim that South Korean drones entered the sky of the capital city in a statement carried by state media KCNA. On Friday, North Korea's foreign ministry

accused South Korea of

sending drones into

Pyongyang at night this

week and last and that the

intrusion demanded retalia-

In response, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it could not con-

"The fact that the means which carried the leaflets is the very drones is the core of the seriousness of the recent incident, Kim was quoted as saying, referring to anti-North Korea leaflets.

Kim said the blame lies with the South Korean military if it failed to identify drones sent by a nongovernmental organization crossing the border. North Korea has been

floating thousands of balloons with trash attached into the South since May, exacerbating tensions between the two countries. Pyongyang says they

are a response to some activists and North Korean defectors in South Korea who fly balloons into the North carrying aid parcels and leaflets criticising leader firm the North's accusa- Kim Jong Un.

suspend right to asylum after border tensions **Monitoring Desk**

Poland to

WARSAW: Poland plans to temporarily suspend the right to asylum as part of a strategy to limit illegal migration amidst tensions with Belarus, which War-

saw accuses of channelling

migrants across its border.

the migration strategy will be

"One of the elements of

the temporary territorial suspension of the right to asylum," Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Saturday. "I will demand this, I will demand recognition in Europe for this decision," he told a congress held by his liberal Civic Coalition (KO) grouping, the largest member of Poland's coalition government. Tusk said the right to asylum was being used by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Russian President Vladimir Putin and by people smugglers in a way that goes

against the essence of the

right to asylum.

Government committed to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate risks associated with natural disasters: Gilani

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate the risks associated with natural di-

strengthen early warning systems, enhance disaster preparedness at the community level, and invest in resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change," he said in a message on the International

ISLAMABAD (APP): Day for Natural Disaster of climate change," the

"We join the global community in raising awareness about the importance of reducing disaster risks and building resilience in the face of natural calamities. This day serves as a "We are working to reminder of the vulnerability of nations like Pakistan to the growing threats of climate change and environmental disasters," he added.

"Pakistan, a country with a diverse geography and a rich cultural heritage, has been deeply impacted by the devastating effects

chairman highlighted. He said, "Pakistan has witnessed the tragic consequences of natural disasters, from floods displacing millions and destroying livelihoods, to earthquakes that have shattered communities and infrastructure.'

"Each disaster has not only caused untold human suffering but has also strained our economy and resources, underscoring the urgent need for effective disaster risk management and climate resilience,'

He further said, "The increasing frequency and intensity of floods, particularly the catastrophic floods of recent years, have highlighted the critical importance of preparedness and adaptation mea-

"I urge all Pakistanis to take active steps to learn about disaster risks and contribute to disaster reduction efforts. By educating ourselves and others, we can save lives and protect our communities from the worst impacts of natural

Chief Executive Officer

(CEO), National Disaster

Risk Management Fund

(NDRMF), Bilal Anwar on

Sunday said Pakistan's pa-

vilion at COP29 to host vi-

brant activities convening

international experts for a

healthy discourse on mul-

tifaceted topics around cli-

mate resilience. The Fund

is assisting the Ministry of

Climate Change and Envi-

ronmental Coordination in

formulation of the National

Climate Finance Strategy

that would be launched at



tion with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital.

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chairs 99th Governing Body meeting of Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency.

Chairs PHATA governing body

CM Punjab approves surplus budget of Rs 34.73 billion

Nawaz Sharif presided over the 99th meeting of the Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA) governing body, where a surplus budget of Rs 34.73 billion for the decurrent financial year was over 76,000 draft

meeting highlighted significant initiatives aimed at housing and operational efficiency the meeting, the Chief to develop a plan for completing housing projects through private Regulation 2004. partnerships. She also
announced the approval of
made to condition budget the "Appli Chhat Apple approvals

registered on the program's portal, with 280,000 applications received for

applications submitted. The governing body authorized PHATA to sign contracts and instructed timely verification of applicants' documents. Additionally, it approved within PHATA. During the upgrading of data entry operators' scales Minister directed PHATA and the recruitment of civil sub-engineers under expenditures the PHATA Services estimated at 1

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Ghar" program, aimed at governing body's Chief Minister Maryam providing affordable authorization, rather than housing. It was reported requiring cabinet in the briefing that approval. The meeting in the briefing that approval. The meeting 544,000 individuals have also permitted refunds to applicants from previous housing schemes who

> PHATA authorized to conduct staff hiring for the Project Management Unit (PMU) through a job portal and was instructed to review pending housing schemes

> Maryam Aurangzeb, Minister for Information and Culture Azma Zahid Bukhari, MPA Sania Zahid Akhtar Zaman, and housing officials were

Election result rejection of what BJP has done to **IIOJK: Omar Abdullah**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Na- lution in the assembly for tional Conference vice President Omar Abdullah has said that the election result of the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is a rejection of what Bharatiya Janata Party has done to the people of the territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Omar Abdullah in a media interview in Srinagar said it is a rejection of what was done to the territory on August 5, 2019. "And I am also including all the seats outside the BJP's kitty-whether bagged by independents, the Peoples Democratic Party, or the alliance. This is a rejection of what the BJP

To a query about his commitment to pass a reso- hood.

the restoration of statehood and against the Article 370 move by the BJP, he said. "The resolution should come from the cabinet Why wait for the assembly?" The assembly can debate and discuss other things, but the cabinet

should be clear on the restoration of statehood, he added. To another query Omar Abdullah said, "In the initial phase, we will do whatever we can. But I don't believe we will remain a union territory.

The prime minister is on record committing statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has said it is a three-step process: delimitation, elections and state

ISLAMABAD: A view of Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover decorated in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital.

Govt plans to integrate MoHR helpline for coordination b/w police, media & victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government is planning to integrate the HRD Ministry's helpline 1099 to strengthen coordination between the police, media, and victims at the grassroots

Talking to APP, Director General Ministry of Human Rights Dr: Rights Jahanzeb Khan said that there is a dire need to create awareness about the helpline quarterly year.

He said that the integration of helplines would help the people and 15 different officials' helplines integrate each other's and SOP would be completed that would facilitate the people. He said that the should be protection from abuse, and exploitation, used for exploitation, without parental care, or used for child trafficking, abduction, and sale of children and rescue the women and marginalized segments of

He said that the Government is taking action by law to radically increase women's representation in all administrative leadership positions (including departmental head offices

and key field offices. Dr. Jahanzeb Khan also said that the media should play a vital role in this regard, adding that for the support and protection of victims, the media should purpose of awareness maintain the code of ethics.

were not selected in the

on a case-by-case basis. During the meeting, revenue was projected at Rs 17 billion, while estimated at Rs 13.55

Senator Pervez Rashid, Senior Minister

Report on power sector "Glorious years in Pakistan" launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): A work report of the "Glorious 11-Years - How Chinese Companies Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories was launched here on Sunday.

The launching ceremony was arranged by the China Chamber of Comin Pakistan merce (CCCPK).

Those who attended the event included Liu Yanggang, Vice General Manager of Three Gorges South Asia Investment Company in Pakistan.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information Atta Tarar and others were present on the occasion

The participants highlighted the performance and achievements of Chinese companies in the energy sector in Pakistan.

63 dangerous criminals killed in Kacha area

AHORE (APP): The Punjab police's intelligence-based operations are ongoing in Kacha area of Rahim Yar Khan in which 63 dangerous criminals were killed and 45 injured so for. A Punjab police spokesperson briefed that Rahim Yar Khan police had established permanent posts in Kacha area with a consistent deployment of police personnel. The Punjab police are present in the region with full force

Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said that all necessary resources, including long-range weapons, vehicles and bulletproof vehicles, were being utilized against criminal el-

and extensive resources.

ticle 13. Article 6 and others under the Paris Accord, the CEO NDRMF said in an exclusive interview with APP while showcasing the efforts and accomplishments of the Fund. The Fund is also assisting in formulation of the Caste system remains

Pakistan's pavilion at COP29

porting the Ministry of Cli-

mate Change and Environ-

mental Coordination by ex-

tending financial and tech-

nical assistance in estab-

lishing the COP pavilion,

pre-COP events and writ-

ing position papers on dif-

ferent agenda items like Ar-

deep-rooted issue in India: Report ISLAMABAD (APP): Ev- the oldest forms of social eryday life for many in In- hierarchy which still exists dia is marked by caste- and low-caste individuals

based oppression and societal violence as decades after independence, the caste system remains a deeprooted issue in the country. A report released by

Kashmir Media Service, today, said women from lower castes face a disproportionate risk of violence and harassment but casterelated crimes often escape justice in the Indian legal It said Hindu caste

system represents one of added.

are relegated to the most degrading and labor-intensive jobs across the coun-

The report lamented that India's democratic framework had not only failed to dismantle the caste system but had, in some ways, reinforced its struc-

Within this hierarchy, Dalits are still viewed as 'untouchables,' facing systemic exclusion, it

blast injures two in Athara Hazari ISLAMABAD (APP): At

Bilal Anwar said the criti-

established by the country

at previous conferences

was unfair. "Pakistan's pa-

vilion has enhanced its util-

ity in the previous two to three COPs as during the

COP27 due to 2022 floods

it has garnered much atten-

tion whereas during the

COP28, some 29 events

were organised throughout

Gas cylinder

the moot at the pavilion.

least two persons were critically injured when a gas cylinder exploded in the Basic Health Unit of the Uch Gul Imam area of Athara Hazari on early Sunday morning.

According to details, rescue 1122 said that a cylinder exploded inside a basic health unit, and due to the intensity of the blast, two people were injured, a private news channel reported. Rescue teams swiftly responded to the incident and shifted injured persons to nearby hospitals.

ICT police

seize huge

liquor haul,

nab 3 dealers

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Kirpa police

team on Sunday raided a

distillery in the area of

Jinnah Garden which led to

the recovery of a huge quan-

statement, under the spe-

cial directions of Inspector

General (IG) Police Syed

Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT

Police has intensified

crackdown against the

criminal elements in order

to eliminate crime from the

Kirpa police teams con-

ducted a raid at the distill-

ery and recovered huge

nabbed three liquor deal-

ers namely Zeeshan

Ilyas, Muhammad Tariq

and Khalid Masih during

the raid while efforts are

underway to arrest his

other accomplices, he

cache of liquor.

In this regard, the

Police team also

According to a police

tity of liquor.



for Social Responsibility, H.E. Faisal Bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Imran Ali, Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman inaugurating the First Pakistan Oman Business Forum.

Oman-Pak Business Forum discusses joint investment opportunities

MUSCAT (INP): The Omani-Pakistani Business Forum today discussed opportunities for joint cooperation between the two sides in various economic, health and

entrepreneurship fields. During the forum, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) presented visual display in which it outlined investment opportunities and incentives offered to investors in those zones.

The forum also touched on opportunities available in Pakistan. The participants engaged in a discussion

panel that elaborated on business prospects and the legal setup supporting investment. In addition, an exhibition was organized to Pakistani showcase products. Faisal Abdullah Al

Rawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Chamber Commerce and Industry (OCCI), stressed the importance of enhancing commercial exchange and investments between the Sultanate of Oman and

the Republic of Pakistan. He laid emphasis on projects that support economic diversification.

25-year-old woman falls prey to honor killing in Swat

Independent Report SWAT: A devastating incident has shaken the Swat valley, where a 25-year-old woman was brutally murdered in the name of honor. The victim, who was married to Iqbal, had been seeking refuge with her father due to domestic unrest. Tragically, her own husband and brothers allegedly committed the heinous crime, disposing of her body in a deep cave in

Alagay village, Banjoot

area, under the cover of mid-

night Swift action by the police led to the recovery of the body and the arrest of the victim's three brothers and husband. An FIR has been registered, and an investigation is currently underway. This heartbreaking incident highlights the disturbing trend of honor killings in Swat, with a staggering 263 documented cases over the past twelve

Honor killings, known locally as karo-kari, remain a pressing concern in Pakistan. Despite recent legal reforms, this practice continues to claim numerous lives. In 2021 alone, over 470 cases of honor killings were reported, with estimates suggesting that around 1,000 women fall victim to this practice annually 2

Human rights activists and organizations are urging the public to condemn this practice and advocate for change. The persistence of honor killings underscores the need for sustained efforts to protect women's rights and promote a culture of tolerance and understanding.

significance of Pakistan's to host vibrant activities participation in GITEX convening int'l experts: Bilal SLAMABAD (APP): National Climate Finance Pakistan's Ambassador to Strategy that would be the United Arab Emirates launched at the COP29, he Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on said. Denouncing the criticism on COP Pavilions,

Tirmizi underlines

Sunday emphasized the importance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX cism on the COP pavilions He said that Pakistan

vas proud to be recognized as the 'Tech Destination of the Year 2024' by GITEX Global, which was a testament to the country's progress in the T and tech industries. Ambassador Tirmizi said that this recognition reinforced Pakistan's status as an emerging hub for digital innovation and entrepreneurship. As GITEX Global 2024, the world's largest technology exhibition, rations.

approaches its opening from October 14 to 18, Pakistan will be significantly represented at this prestigious event, a press release said. With a contingent of

24 leading exhibitors from the country, Pakistan aims to showcase its growing capabilities in the IT sec-Tirmizi emphasized

that GITEX Global offered an ideal platform for companies to connect with global tech leaders, investors, and potential partners.

He further said that it was a unique opportunity for their exhibitors to showcase their capabilities and explore collabo-



ISLAMABAD: Weekly Margallah Bazaar H-9 closed on Sunday, in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital.

IG Rizvi says: ICT police finalize security measures for SCO Summit, deploying 93% of force

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, under the supervision of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, is preparing for the upcoming SCO Summit 2024, with a comprehensive security plan now in place.

Inspector General IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi stated on Sunday that the ICT Police have developed an integrated security strategy to ensure safety during the event.

IG Rizvi said that security duties have been finalized at various venues, airports, routes, funnel areas, hotels, and residences of delegations, including the Noor Khan Air Base.

IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi stated that the Islamabad Police have developed an integrated traffic plan to minimize difficulties for citizens during the event.

"Search and information-based operations are ongoing to ensure full security for all foreign heads of state, delegations, and guests," Rizvi said.

IG Rizvi, said the security efforts involve collaboration across multiple agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, District Administration, Pakistan Army, Rangers, Frontier Corps, other provincial police, intelligence agencies, traffic police, and the special

ICT's public parks in dilapidated state due to poor maintenance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Most of the public parks and playgrounds in Islamaɓad Capital Territory (ICT) are in shambles, need civic authorities' attention to make them attractive places for visitors. The city is renowned for its abundance of resorts and public green spaces.

paces are now highlighting the necessity for regular maintenance by the relevant authorities. According to a senior

However, these green

official of Capital Development Authority (CDA), there are more than 300 public parks and playgrounds in Islamabad

whereas over 820 staff is deployed for keeping these parks clean and green.

A resident of Sector G11/2, Haq Nawaz said, public parks in majority of areas including G-10, G-9, G-8, G-13 and G-7 were in poor condition with broken benches, broken lamps, overgrown grass, uneven walking tracks, trash strewn all over. Touqeer Ahmed, a regular visitor of playground in G-9 lamented the appalling condition of most parks and playgrounds, stating, The lush greenery is over-

shadowed by the neglect,

reflecting a lack of interest

from CDA officials.

