

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding relief efforts in Gaza and Palestine by the Government of Pakistan.

## PM reaffirms support to Palestine, Lebanon people; calls for donations to relief fund

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, reaffirming Pakistan's support to the suffering people of Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon, urged the countrymen to donate generously to the relief fund, established by the government.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the relief efforts for dispatching the relief assistance for Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon, appealed the people to supplement the government's efforts and particularly the affluent people to donate wholeheartedly for the fund.

He said the locals as well as overseas Pakistanis should send their donations to IBAN: PK11SBPD-000000111114292 or Raast ID: 01111114292 to assist the suffering people of Palestine and Lebanon.

He told the meeting that Pakistan would soon dispatch another 3,000 tents and 12,000 blankets besides eatables and medicines for the people of Palestine and Lebanon.

He sought a report

from the Pakistan's ambassadors in the neighboring countries of Palestine and Lebanon - Egypt, Oman and Syria - on the required quantity of tents and blankets, also directing them to play their role to accelerate the supply of relief goods.

The prime minister condemned the impediments being created by Israel in the relief efforts and lauded the NGOs supplementing the Government of Pakistan's relief efforts.

He said the government would make no compromise on the quality of the relief items and asked the authorities concerned to dispatch the fireproof tents.

Expressing his concerns over the growing Israeli barbarism, he called for the international community's role to end the genocide of Palestinian people.

He said the major reason behind the world war in the 20th century was the indifference of the world powers to the conflicts.

In the briefing, it was told that since October 8, 2023, 12 cargos had been dispatched to Palestine

through six chartered, three PAF special flights and another three through the sea route. The consignments consisted of 3145 tents, 12625 blankets, eatables, milk powder and medicines. Besides, another 3,000 tents and 12,000 blankets were being sent through three flights soon.

The prime minister was informed that two batches of Palestinian medical students had reached in Lahore and Islamabad.

Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the relevant authorities to make arrangements for Palestinian students to study in other disciplines as well, other than the medicine.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahmad Khan Cheema and Attaullah Tarar, Advisor to PM Rana Sanaullah, SAPM Tariq Fatemi, chairmen of Higher Education Commission, and National Disaster Management Authority and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

## Bilawal warns opposition of brute majority legislation on constitutional amendment

Monitoring Desk

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that he will be compelled to take "controversial path" for the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment if the opposition parties refused to sup-

port his efforts to pass the judicial package with consensus.

"I myself making last attempt to convince the opposition parties to vote for the constitutional amendment in a non-controversial way," he said

while addressing a rally in Hyderabad held to mark the 17th anniversary of Karsaz incident.

The PPP chief said if he failed to evolve consensus on the proposed constitutional amendment "then we all have to pray for the country's democracy."

"If the opposition still



refuses to support us despite so many compromises then I will be compelled to pass the amendment with the support of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the extra members," the PPP chief said.

of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf emphasized that the preservation of underwater ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine resources are critical to ensuring global biodiversity and economic stability.

"Through a combination of stringent international regulations, innovative technologies, and effective conservation strategies, we can secure a sustainable future for underwater environments while balancing human and environmental needs," the Naval Chief added.

Referring to the forthcoming AMAN Dialogue, concurrent with the Pakistan Navy's multinational exercise AMAN in 2025, Admiral Naveed Ashraf said that it will provide an opportunity for participating Chiefs of Navies and



ITALY: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf delivering a talk on "Preserving the Underwater: The Secure and Sustainable Use of the Underwater" during the Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium (TRSS) in Italy.

## Naval Chief calls for preservation of underwater ecosystems

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, visited Italy and attended the Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium (TRSS).

He delivered a talk on "Preserving the Underwater: The Secure and Sustainable Use of the Underwater." The Naval Chief also held meetings with naval leaders from various countries, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium (TRSS) took place in Venice, Italy. The event aimed to address the growing importance of the underwater environment from different perspectives, highlighting challenges and opportunities, and facilitating a fruitful debate within the maritime community.

During his talk, Chief

of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf emphasized that the preservation of underwater ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine resources are critical to ensuring global biodiversity and economic stability.

"Through a combination of stringent international regulations, innovative technologies, and effective conservation strategies, we can secure a sustainable future for underwater environments while balancing human and environmental needs," the Naval Chief added.

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Coast Guards to promote a shared understanding of maritime security issues, including the protection of underwater resources for future generations.

On the sidelines of TRSS, the Naval Chief also interacted with naval leaders from various countries. He had meetings with the First Sea Lord of the Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Ben Key; Chief of Naval Operations of the U.S. Navy, Admiral Lisa Franchetti; Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, Admiral Chonlathit Navanukroh; Chief of Staff of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Admiral Akira Saito; Advisor to the Ministry of Defence of Italy, Professor Andrea Margelletti; and Managing Director of MBDA Italy, Mr. Giovanni Soccodato.



ISLAMABAD: Mongolia's Prime Minister, Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene, captures memorable moments with Pakistani officials before departing for his homeland, wrapping up a successful visit to Pakistan.

## Gillani issues directives to brief Senate about prevailing law, order situation in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani on Friday issued directives to the Interior Minister to come to the House and brief this august forum about prevailing law and order situation in Balochistan.

The Chairman issued the directives after law-

makers from Balochistan including Manzoor Ahmad Kakar and Umer Farooq who raised their voices about deteriorating law and order situation in the province.

Meanwhile, the Chair also referred the calling attention notice to the concern standing committee for detail discussion.

## Notify Mansoor Ali Shah as next CJP, Maulana Fazal 'suggests' PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has advised PML-N to notify Justice Mansoor Ali Shah as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

It reported in media that JUI-F head warned that any delay in notifying the next CJP could lead to further complications. He emphasized the need for both the government and opposition to draft their proposals, with two separate drafts one from the PPP and PML-N (government alliance) and another from the opposition.

This development came after two meetings between Rehman and PTI leaders, with the first meet-

ing taking place in the National Assembly. Yesterday, Maulana Fazlur Rehman warned of halting talks with the government on the proposed constitutional amendment draft amid 'pressure' on their members. Talking to the media along with PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan and other party leaders in Islamabad, the JUI-F chief said: "We are engaging with the government with absolute open-heartedness."

Sadly, we are receiving reports of pressure being exerted on their members, and both PTI and BNP members are being intimidated. "If these tactics continue, they will be compelled to stop negotiations," cautioned Fazlur Rehman.

## PM lauds Pak Navy operation to seize 1.3 tons of narcotics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday lauded the Pakistan Navy for successfully carrying out an operation in the North Arabian Sea in which 1.3 tons of narcotics were seized.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the vibrant leadership of the Pakistan Navy led to the seizure of huge quantity of narcotics in the operation.

He said that foiling the attempt to smuggle a huge quantity of narcotics was laudable.

"The whole nation feels proud of the officials of the Pakistan Navy. The elimination of narcotics was essential for the welfare of humanity," he remarked. Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated that the government was determined to extend all possible facilities to the Pakistan Navy in its mission to purge country of narcotics.

## Parliamentary committee approves constitutional amendment draft

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, Special Parliamentary Committee, Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah Friday claimed that the committee has unanimously approved draft of the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

The Parliamentary Special Committee met under the chair of Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah to deliberate on the proposed constitutional amendment draft.

Talking to the media post consultative meeting, Khurshid Shah said that he was unaware of the Supreme Court's recent decision but confirmed that consensus had been reached on the proposal to allow overseas Pakistanis to contest general elections.

Shah said that the draft approved by the special committee would be then presented to the federal cabinet. He also clarified that overseas Pakistanis will be allowed to contest elections, with a requirement to renounce dual nationality within three months.

Khurshid Shah highlighted that PTI was also present at the meeting and raised the point about granting rights to contest elections to the overseas Paki-

stanis. The committee has recommended to the federal cabinet to include this right in the constitutional amendment draft.

INP adds: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that PML-N, PPP and JUI have almost reach consensus on constitutional amendments and they are moving towards legislation, adding that the government has political powers and they will get the draft of the amendments approved from both houses of the parliament. Addressing a meeting of PPP parliamentary leaders in Islamabad on Friday, Bilawal said that PPP was going to fulfil its commitment which was yet unfulfilled. He said, "We are moving towards the constitutional amendments, the draft is almost final which has been prepared on the suggestions of PML-N, PP and JUI regarding judicial reforms". Bilawal said he will meet Maulana Fazlur Rehman again soon and all of his legitimate demands will be placed before the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He hoped that the Prime Minister will follow his advice and they will get into position to approve the draft of the amendments.

phased the importance of utilizing Pakistan's existing transport infrastructure as a springboard for broader economic growth.

"... stressing that the future of the nation lies in transforming these corridors into thriving economic zones, said a press release issued here.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal remarked, "Our vision is to harness the power of our transport networks to drive industrial growth, regional integration, and sustainable development. These corridors must become the life-lines of our economy, not just in terms of transportation, but in creating opportunities for trade, investment, and regional collaboration."

The session, which saw the participation of senior officials from the federal and provincial governments, experts from urban planning, tourism, civil society, and the private sector, focused on devising business plans to make this vision a reality.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, presides over a high-level consultative session focused on transforming transport corridors into economic corridors.

## PTI MNAs being offered Rs. 3 bn each, claims Omar Ayub

ISLAMABAD (INP): Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan has alleged that the government is picking up Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legislators for the purpose of horse-trading and is offering them up to Rs3 billion for vote in support of constitutional amendment.

Talking to media before the special committee meeting in Islamabad on Friday, Omar Ayub claimed the government did not have enough majority in the house and that is why it is offering huge sums to PTI MNAs and senators.

He said that currently raids are being conducted on the houses of PTI members. "They are being tortured. Moreover, Zain Qureshi's wife was picked up at night from his residence," he alleged. Many colleagues have been arrested and his house was also raided, Omar Ayub said.

## Motorways, highways being connected with economic zones: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal says motorways and highways are being connected with the economic zones to boost tourism and economy. Speaking at a meeting in Islamabad, he said the government is working on transforming the transport corridors into economic corridors.

He said CPEC provided us with an opportunity to bring about a socio-economic change in Balochistan and other parts of the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said the industrial and agricultural areas of the country will be connected with the special economic zones to help build engines of growth.

He said infrastructure development and construction of highways and motorways in Northern areas and rural parts of the country will help bring an economic revolution in the country. The minister, in his opening remarks, em-

phasized the importance of utilizing Pakistan's existing transport infrastructure as a springboard for broader economic growth.

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ISLAMABAD: Pak Army soldiers patrolling at Jinnah Avenue during security high alert in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Bilateral progress**

While there was no bilateral breakthrough during Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad for the SCO summit — and none was expected — the most positive takeaway was that the usual hostility that has marked Pakistan-India ties over the past several years was replaced with courteous exchanges. Though Mr Jaishankar did indulge in the usual Indian rhetoric of 'cross-border terrorism', there was no direct reference to Pakistan, and his words were couched in diplomatese. It has not gone unnoticed that while the format required SCO heads of government to attend, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stayed away, preferring to send his top diplomat instead. Yet considering the state of bilateral ties, India could have skipped the moot entirely. Therefore, even limited bilateral engagement, under the umbrella of multilateralism, is welcome. Mr Jaishankar exchanged handshakes and pleasantries with the prime minister and his Pakistani counterpart, while thanking the government for its 'hospitality and courtesies'. This is certainly an improvement over last year, when Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari received a highly uncordial reception at the SCO foreign ministers' meeting in Goa.

Perhaps the SCO — with the heft of China and Russia behind it — is working better as a platform for bringing together regional states than groupings such as the moribund Saarc. The reason for this is largely India's refusal to engage with Pakistan even under the aegis of Saarc. But possibly the thinking is changing in New Delhi, while it might also be true that the Indians do not want to annoy Beijing and Moscow by appearing to sabotage the SCO.

The Indian foreign minister, in his comments in Islamabad, mentioned "terrorism" and "separatism" as obstacles standing in the way of "friendship ... and good neighbourliness". This is, of course, the standard Indian line. However, Pakistan also has legitimate concerns vis-à-vis India, which include the Kashmir question, the treatment of Muslims in India, and the activities of subversive elements on Pakistani soil with the apparent support of New Delhi. The joint communiqué issued after the SCO summit reaffirmed the participants' "commitment to the peaceful settlement of differences ... through dialogue". This is the key to peace in the subcontinent. Dialogue should be uninterrupted and should cover all sticking points standing in the way of better ties. While India's hawks may dismiss the need to talk to Pakistan, dreams of regional integration — especially if Delhi wants to reach Eurasian markets — will remain unfulfilled by not talking. Similarly, hardliners in Pakistan should realise that better ties with India can have economic advantages for this country. There are reports that the resumption of cricketing ties was discussed during Mr Jaishankar's visit. While India has denied this, better sporting ties and restoration of the respective high commissioners, can be the starting point on the long road to normalisation.

**Zubeida Mustafa**

The teenage years are not a trouble-free phase in a young person's life. The transition to adulthood poses many challenges, mainly due to physiological reasons, including hormonal changes in the body and mental and emotional factors caused by a new experience. It helps if girls and boys are given knowledge about puberty in advance. It is generally believed that it is the job of the family and the teachers to play the role of guide in such matters. But even today, this is not the case universally, given society's prudish norms and taboos.

What happens when those expected to counsel the child at an appropriate age fail to perform their duty? The child's natural curiosity and propensity to explore take over. There are many peers and friends of the same age who extend a helping hand. What is doled out is mostly incorrect information and misguided advice. What is never talked about socially and in education circles is the easy availability of technology which the youth use — ostensibly to facilitate their studies. The fact is that a lot of this online technology is used to access pornography.

In this context, I appreciate even more the literature produced in recent years by various organisations and writers. Its first purpose is to educate and not titillate.

The first to enter this field was Ahung, which started publishing their Life Skills-Based Education books in the 1990s and continue to do so. They tell me that now they are producing videos for teachers and students as well, and that hundreds of schools are reaching out for their

**Teenage blues**

publications to benefit the child. I had seen these books in the Indus Resource Centre schools several years ago.

A new entrant in this sector is the ardent women's rights supporter and gynaecologist, Dr Shershah Syed. His latest book, Ammi Batayey, was launched at the Arts Council's Writers and Readers' Café. Since the subject of the session was Auraton ke amraaz: afsana aur haqiq (Women's diseases: myth and facts) the book was overshadowed as the focus was on women's health rights. But Dr Shershah's book is important. Being a medical professional, his understanding of the subject is profound and, being a prolific writer, his style is appealing to the young reader. It is in the form of a dialogue.

When I distributed Ammi Batayey to a number of women with young children I received a mixed response.

Some uneducated mothers to whom the book was read out were deeply interested and curious. They asked so many questions that I had to refer them to the Koohi Goth medical complex in Malir managed by Dr Shershah's family.

The reaction I received from another quarter — female students of 12-14 years of age — was shockingly different. They accepted the book in a very matter of fact manner. They apparently knew much more than what the book contains — saying that they obtained 'creams' from 'an aunty'. Another confided that her elder sisters knew all about intimate acts as they had watched it on YouTube.

Bits of information set me thinking, and connecting the dots gathered sporadically, the full picture emerged.

According to Sahil, an NGO seeking to break the silence on child abuse, Pakistan ranked third globally in online child pornography in 2022. Wikipedia tells us that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has been banning pornographic websites in the thousands since 2011. I remembered all the horror stories when the Kasur scandal emerged in 2015; hundreds of children were kidnapped for pornographic films in-vo-lving them. Cas-es have been reported of children being picked up and being forced to watch pornographic media.

Mental health consultants reveal discreetly that many adults are turning to them to confess that they have been watching pornographic films on the sly, and that even when they feel they have had enough, they are unable to wean themselves off this damaging habit. Damaging it is, no doubt; a psychiatrist describes watching pornography as addictive and isolating. Another mental health consultant says it "distorts belief and the perception of human relationship and sexuality" and leads to negative feelings in the affected person about himself.

Who do we turn to now? The government, which sees an enemy behind every bush, is busy chasing it while neglecting the social evils that are destroying this country. Criminals of all stripe have been given a free rein to loot the country of its human wealth. Our youth can be equipped with the best self-defence mechanism to protect themselves. That comes only from a sensible and balanced education, combined with sports and games. Alas, these are not our government's priority. —Courtesy Dawn

**Ambulances for Karachi**

**Khurram Zia Khan**

The global medical fraternity unanimously agrees that providing pre-hospital care to patients can save many lives. In India's state of Tamil Nadu, the 108 emergency transportation service, launched in 2008, has played an effective role in reducing infant mortality, and also saved the lives of 120,271 road accident victims through timely interventions. The response rate of Sri Lanka's Suwa Seriya ambulance service is 12 minutes, which is the fastest in the world. The Rescue 1122 emergency service was launched in 2004 in our own province of Punjab.

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, has many ambulance services, but most, unfortunately, do not have the requisite facilities and equipment needed to administer pre-hospital treatment to patients. The first lifesaving ambulance on Karachi's roads was seen courtesy of the Aman Foundation. In 2018, this foundation handed over its 60 lifesaving ambulances to the Sindh government, on the understanding that the provincial government would increase the number of lifesaving ambulances to 200 for Karachi. The Sindh chief minister reiterated on the floor of the assembly that his government would increase the size of the fleet in accordance with the requirements of the city. Unfortunately, this pledge has not been fulfilled.

The Sindh Medical and Rescue Service (SERS), which started out with a fleet of 85 lifesaving ambulances (60 in Karachi, 25 in Thatta and Sajawal) in 2018, now has a total of 411 such vehicles. The size of the fleet has increased manifold, which is a good sign, but it

seems that Karachi has been left out.

Although the province was to provide an additional 140 lifesaving ambulances, in the last six years or so, only 31 new lifesaving ambulances have been added to the fleet of ambulance operating in Karachi under SERS. Karachi is the capital of Sindh, and more than 40 per cent of the province's population resides here. On the basis of population, it makes sense for 40pc of the province's, health, education, and development budget to be spent on Karachi. If that is not possible, then at least 25pc. If SERS had diverted only 25pc of its fleet expansion to Karachi, the city could now have had 140 lifesaving ambulances, a strategy that would not only have benefited Karachi's residents but also brought the chief minister closer to fulfilling his commitment.

The lack of lifesaving ambulances is felt when people speak of their ordeal. I decided to raise this critical issue again when, a few weeks ago, the wife of a deceased friend narrated how she kept trying to get a properly equipped ambulance for her husband for three hours; after this critical period of time, she had to shift her husband to hospital via a carrier ambulance from a social welfare institute. The patient had already expired upon reaching the hospital.

Two years ago, I, too, had to wait for a SERS ambulance for more than three hours to shift my mother to hospital.

After this atrociously long wait, we shifted her, in critical condition, to a private hospital using the ambulance of the same hospital because of a relative's links with the medical unit's adminis-

tration. If people living in the city's more upscale localities struggle to get even basic services, what must be the problems faced by residents in underprivileged localities?

While discussing the provision of lifesaving ambulances, an argument that is often put forward is that Karachi has an abundance of narrow lanes and huge lifesaving ambulances would not be viable. This, in my view, is not a valid argument and deprives citizen-zens of a basic right. If the entrance of big vehicles ins-ide narrow streets is not possible, then it is the responsibility of the provincial government to find a method to solve this problem. The quickest solution is for a small vehicle to bring the patient out of the street and shift him/her to the lifesaving ambulance at the first accessible point.

SERS is operating 10 motorcycles in Karachi under its Rapid Response Bike project. Although this is a good initiative, it cannot be a replacement for lifesaving ambulances. In 2018, when the chief minister announced that Karachi would have an additional 140 ambulances, the cost of making such an ambulance was approximately Rs75 million. Today, this figure has jumped to Rs125m.

Also in 2018, Karachi needed 200 ambulances based on the city's population. Today, not only has the cost increased but the required number of ambulances has also gone up due to the city's growing population.

Karachi has provided shelter to people of all ethnicities, but when it comes to being served, there is no one to help it. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**SBP Governor's annual report highlights macroeconomic improvements in FY 2023-24**

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in Governor's Annual Report (GAR) for fiscal year 2023-24 released here on Friday, highlighted improvements across key macroeconomic indicators during FY24 after two challenging years. Fiscal consolidation, tight monetary policy, softer global commodity prices, and better agricultural production together with easing of external account pressure contributed in inflation deceleration, build-up of forex reserves and stability

in the market, improvement in current account, moderate GDP growth and recovery of LSM production during the FY 24, the GAR stated.

The GAR is published under the SBP Act that requires the Governor to submit annual report to the Parliament regarding the Bank's objectives, conduct of monetary policy, the state of the economy and the financial system, said a statement issued here.

The Report highlighted decrease in National CPI inflation in

FY24, amid continued tight monetary policy stance, fiscal consolidation, and softer global commodity prices and noted that these trends came alongside the easing of external account pressures, contributing to a build-up of foreign exchange reserves, which together with FX market reforms including in exchange companies instilled stability in the foreign exchange market.

The year also witnessed a moderate agriculture-led GDP growth that was supported by a small but gradual

recovery in large scale manufacturing against a sharp contraction in FY23, it added. The Report also highlighted the cautious approach in monetary easing by the central bank that despite positive early signs kept the policy rate unchanged at 22% until nearly the end of FY24, to eliminate the risks of deep entrenchment of inflationary pressures. Later, owing to consistent decline in both headline and core inflation the monetary policy committee started gradual easing by reducing the policy rate to 20.5%.



LAHORE: The delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Empowerment and Development Committee led by convener Maryam Qasim Khan in a group photo with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.



LAHORE: Labourers of Brick Kiln hold a banner during protest against Brick owners in front of press club in the Provincial Capital.

**Railways employees receiving late salaries due to grant in aid: Awaisi**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Railways, Muhammad Usman Awaisi on Friday submitted before the lower house of the Parliament that the lower cadre staff of Pakistan Railways was receiving late salaries due to grant in aid provided by the Ministry of Finance.

The Parliamentary Secretary was responding to a calling attention notice of Member National Assembly (MNA) Aliya Kamran regarding failure of

Pakistan Railways to pay monthly salaries to its employees on the due date, causing grave concern amongst the public.

Muhammad Usman Awaisi apprised the House that basically the Railways payment of salaries awaits grant in aid to ensure disbursement of its salaries. However, the Finance Ministry needs to resolve the matter by disbursing grant in aid at the end of the previous month instead of start of

the month to ensure swift transfer of salaries, he added.

He expressed his support for the employees receiving late salaries and assured the move to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance and Revenue citing the calling attention notice to resolve the matter. The mover, MNA Aliya Kamran said the issue is persisting for the past three years and the former Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad.

**SPI inflation up by 0.28%**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.28 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on October 17, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.79 points as compared to 318.91 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 15.02 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.27 percent and went up to 313.74 points from last week's 312.91 points.

**PSX continues with bearish trend, loses 335 points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Friday, losing 335.34 more points, a negative change of 0.39 percent, closing at 85,250.09 points against 85,585.43 points on the last trading day.

A total of 323,919,892 shares were

traded during the day as compared to 513,288,944 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 15.679 billion against Rs 21.612 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 445 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 170 of them recorded gains and 206 sustained losses.

**NADRA signs E-Payment Gateway Agreement with BoP to facilitate digital payments for services**

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a major move towards improving digital services and accessibility, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has signed an E-Payment Gateway and Acquiring Agreement with the Bank of Punjab (BoP).

According to the spokesperson of NADRA,

this agreement is expected to streamline digital payments for NADRA's wide array of services, further simplifying access for millions of citizens.

At a formal ceremony, Rehman Qamar, Chief Projects Officer at NADRA and Nofel Daud, Chief Digital Officer at BoP, signed the agreement. The event was attended by

top officials from both organizations, said a press statement issued here Friday. Chairman of NADRA, in his remarks, expressed the significance of this partnership, emphasizing that the collaboration would enable NADRA to enhance its service delivery through secure and efficient e-transactions.

**Rupee gains 18 paise against dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 18 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.61 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.79. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.75 and Rs279.25 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 50 paise to close at Rs301.02 against the last day's closing of Rs301.52.

**Textile export increases 9.51% to \$4.520 bln during 1st quarter 2024**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Textile exports witnessed an increase of 9.51 percent during the first quarter of the current financial year (2024-25) as compared to the same quarter of last year.

The textile exports from the country were recorded at US \$4.520 billion during July-September (2024-25) against the exports of US \$4.127 billion during July-

September (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said.

The textile commodities that contributed in trade growth included cotton cloth the export of which increased by 10.20 percent to \$523.63 million from \$475.187 million while the export of knitwear surged by 14.13 percent to \$1,268.908 million from \$1,111.818 million.

## Governor Kundi remembers Oct 18 Karsaz tragedy; pays tribute to martyrs

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday remembered the tragic Karsaz incident and paid tribute to the martyrs. In a condolence message, the Governor termed the incident as one of the most tragic events in Pakistan's history that claimed the lives of at least 180 deaths and 500 injuries. He paid tribute to the martyrs and emphasized that October 18, 2007, serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by brave individuals in the struggle for democracy. Governor Kundi

highlighted that this event symbolizes the sacrifices made for democracy and reminds us of the necessity for national unity in combating terrorism and extremism. He recalled how, on that day, people from all walks of life, women, children, and the elderly gathered at Karachi Airport to welcome their leader, a moment that was met with hostility from enemies of democracy, turning joy into mourning for the nation. Reaffirming his commitment to the promotion of democratic values, justice, and peace, Kundi expressed condolences to the families

of the martyrs, assuring them that the nation would never forget their sacrifices. He urged collective efforts to fulfill their mission and uphold the principles they fought for. It's worth mentioning here that the Karsaz bombing attack occurred on October 18, 2007 in Karachi. It was an attack on a motorcade carrying former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The bombing occurred two months before she was assassinated. Most of the dead were members of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain leading the awareness walk on the eve of Chefs Day.

## Minister directs to resume work on Teri Chowk-Gargari Road

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal has directed Communication and Works Department to immediately resume work on the Teri Chowk to Gargari Road. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of line departments in the office of Deputy Commissioner Karak on Friday. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Commissioner Karak Shakeel Ahmad Jan, District Police Officer Karak and officials of Public Health. The meeting reviewed progress on developmental projects in various sectors highlighting the problems and difficulties faced by the departments. Minister directed public departments to keep their offices doors open for the public and ensure implementation of the "Awami Agenda" of the Chief Minister. He also urged people to inform authorities about their concern and monitor work on ongoing development projects.

## 7 dead and 1,446 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Seven people were killed and 1,446 others injured in 1,376 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 628 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 818 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 763 drivers, 67 underage drivers, 182 pedestrians, and 508 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 293 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 315 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 101 accidents and 107 victims.

## Humayun drives initiatives to empower inmates in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting was held with key industry leaders under the chairmanship of Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Prisons, Humayun Khan for enhancing the welfare prospects of inmates in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's prisons. According to information, the meeting was attended by Hassan Nisar, CEO of Metrix Pakistan, and Huzafa Bahram, CEO of Lets Grow, along with their teams, the Superintendent of Central Jail Peshawar was also present at the meeting. The meeting reviewed the measures aimed at improving the welfare prospects of prisoners, particularly by facilitating access to both national and international markets for products developed within the prison system. The participants acknowledged the potential of these products to generate income for inmates while fostering community engagement and social entrepreneurship. Additionally, the meeting highlighted the importance of offering Information Technology (IT) courses to educated youth in prisons.

## Dera police arrest six outlaws

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during the operation arrested six outlaws including proclaimed offenders and recovered weapons from their possession in the limits of City and Cantt police stations on Friday. According to the police spokesman, on the direction of the District Police Officer Dera Nasir Mehmood, City police station led by SDPO Muhammad Adnan along with SHO Sibtain Khan with police team.

## LHC decides to constitute full bench to probe into recent incidents in educational institutions

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has decided to constitute full bench to probe into recent incidents in educational institutions. The petition seeking probe into harassment incidents in educational institutions came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Aalia Neelum Friday. IG Punjab and other officers appeared on the order of court. The CJ LHC inquired "IG Sahb as to why step was not taken to stop videos from going viral. Have you contacted any authority to stop videos from going viral?" IG Punjab replied he contacted PTA. The CJ LHC while moving to IG Punjab remarked today is October 18 and videos went viral on October 13 and 14. You wake up when fire flares up and all is reduced to ashes. The court inquired from IG Punjab you contacted the relevant authorities too late. IG Punjab replied the video went viral from more than 700 accounts. Police have only one institution to check cyber crime.



RAWALPINDI: Police personals arrest of a activists of PTI during a protest at Dhok Khaba in the city.

## PITB holds training on 'Suthra Punjab' dashboard

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) on Friday organised a training session on the 'Suthra Punjab Performance Evaluation Dashboard' for representatives from Waste Management companies and contractors across the province. The session was aimed at equipping the participants with in-depth knowledge of the initiative's monitoring and implementation processes. ITBMS Project Director Nisar Ahmed, PITB Senior Program Manager Mariam Zaib and Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) Senior Manager Monitoring Shoaib Dar conducted the training session. They gave a detailed briefing on the various modules used within the application and how the dashboard functions in different districts of Punjab. The training highlighted the scope and importance of the initiative in enhancing the performance of waste management operations.

## Issues hindering plots for journalists at RUDA resolved: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari announced that the case regarding plots designated for journalists in RUDA has been resolved, along with the lifting of the stay order. "All eligible journalists will be granted five-marla plots. More than 3,200 journalists will receive plots under this scheme. A 10% quota has also been reserved for DGPR employees," she stated. Speaking to the media, she congratulated all journalists in Lahore, saying, "Our hard work has paid off."

This matter had been pending in court for a long time, and today the stay has been lifted. She acknowledged the cooperation of Arshad Ansari, President of the Lahore Press Club, in this effort. Bokhari mentioned that they have a list of Lahore Press Club members, and those who are non-member journalists with ten years of experience can also submit applications. Journalists who have been associated with any media house for ten years only need to submit their salary slips for one year along with their application.

## Jewelry worth over 16 crores stolen in Sandra Lahore

ISLAMABAD (APP): Thieves stole jewellery worth more than 16 crores on Friday from a house in Sandra area of Lahore. According to a private news channel, in addition to the jewelry, cash amounting to over 40 lakhs was also stolen. As soon as the incident was reported, police reached the scene and began their investigation. An FIR has been registered, and the search operation for the culprits involved in the massive theft was underway.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the 13th meeting of Cabinet Committee for anti-dengue, other diseases and disaster management.

# International News

## Biden urges Israel to use Sinwar's death to move toward peace

BERLIN: U.S. President Joe Biden is reiterating his call for Israel to use the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar as an opportunity to move toward peace. Biden said as he met German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin Friday that Sinwar's killing "represents a moment of justice." He added that Sinwar "had the blood of Americans and Israelis, Palestinians and Germans and so many others on his hands." Biden said: "I told the prime minister of Israel yesterday, let's also make this moment an opportunity to seek a path to peace, a better future in Gaza without Hamas." Scholz, also a staunch ally of Israel, said Sinwar's death hopefully opens "the concrete prospect of a cease-fire in Gaza, of an agreement to release the hostages held by Hamas."

On Thursday night, Biden said "now's the time to move on. ... Move toward a cease-fire in Gaza, make sure that we move in a direction that we're able to make things better for the whole world."

## Biden urges West to sustain Ukraine support as US election looms

BERLIN: US President Joe Biden urged the West on Friday to sustain its support for Ukraine against Russia's full-scale invasion as Kyiv faces a bleak winter and a looming US presidential election raises worries about the strength of Washington's own resolve. Biden was speaking to reporters before holding closed-door talks with ally German Chancellor Olaf Scholz during a swansong one-day trip to Berlin to discuss matters ranging from Ukraine to the expanding conflict in the Middle East. "As Ukraine faces a tough winter, we must, we must sustain our resolve," Biden said in a statement. "And I know the cost is heavy, but make no mistake, it bears in comparison to the cost of living in a world where aggression prevails, where large states attack and bully smaller ones simply because they can." He said he would discuss with Scholz ongoing efforts to increase military support for Ukraine and shore up its civilian energy infrastructure "by unlocking the value of frozen Russian assets." They would also discuss the Middle East conflict.

## Hezbollah says it will escalate war with Israel after Hamas leader killed

JERUSALEM: Lebanon's Hezbollah group said on Friday it was moving to a new and escalating phase in its war against Israel while Iran said "the spirit of resistance will be strengthened" after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. Sinwar, a mastermind of the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the Gaza war, was killed during an operation by Israeli soldiers in the Palestinian enclave on Wednesday, a pivotal event in the year-long conflict. Western leaders said his death offered an opportunity for the conflict to end, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

## Indian police arrest minor for hoax bomb threats on flights

NEW DELHI: Police in India's financial capital Mumbai have arrested a minor for allegedly posting online bomb threats to three flights earlier this week, India's aviation minister said. Indian airlines have this month received a spate of threats to domestic and international flights on their social media, all of which have been false alarms. "Strongly condemn the recent bomb threats to Indian air carriers. We are closely monitoring the situation and ensuring that every necessary measure is taken against such actions," Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, the country's civil aviation minister, said in a post on X on Wednesday.

## Iranian foreign minister discusses regional tensions with Egyptian officials in Cairo

CAIRO: Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi discussed rising tensions in the region with Egyptian officials Thursday in Cairo during the first such visit by a top Iranian official to the North African nation in around a decade. Araghchi held talks with his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi focusing on efforts to deescalate Israel's conflicts against Gaza and Lebanon. El-Sissi reiterated calls



U.S. President Joe Biden signs the Golden Book, as German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier looks on, at Berlin's Bellevue castle in Berlin, Germany.

## Russia's Putin seeks greater role for Brics in global energy dialogue

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin called on Monday for a bigger role for the Brics bloc on world's energy markets as Russia seeks ways to counter Western influence. Russia, which is the world's second largest oil exporter and has the biggest reserves of natural gas, hosts annual Energy Week International Forum later this week and it is expected to hold a meeting of Brics' energy ministers. "It is obvious that in the new geopolitical realities, cooperation in the energy sector should serve to strengthen national economies, help solve priority social problems, and improve people's quality of life," Putin said in a letter to the forum's participants and guests. "It is crucial to agree on common principles for our countries in the just energy transition, and outline ways to strengthen the role of Brics in the global energy dialogue."

## Venezuela detains three Americans, two others for alleged terrorism

CARACAS: Venezuela has detained three Americans and two others for alleged terrorist activities, Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello said on Thursday, marking an increase in the count of foreign prisoners in the South American country. The government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has regularly accused members of the opposition and foreign detainees of conspiring with US entities like the Central Intelligence Agency to plan terrorist attacks.

## Kenya's deputy president 'very sick' in hospital, lawyer says

NAIROBI: A lawyer representing Kenya's Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in his impeachment hearing told the Senate on Thursday that the politician was "very sick" and in hospital, after he failed to attend proceedings. The National Assembly voted last week to impeach Gachagua, who helped President William Ruto win an election two years ago but has been assailed by allies.

## North Korea sending 'large-scale' troop deployment to Russia, Seoul spy agency says

SEOUL: North Korea has decided to send a "large-scale" troop deployment to support Moscow's war in Ukraine, with 1,500 special forces already in Russia's Far East and undergoing training, Seoul's spy agency said on Friday. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) said North Korea had decided to send thousands of soldiers to help Russia, releasing detailed satellite images it said showed the first deployment. South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol convened an emergency security meeting Friday, with Seoul slamming Pyongyang's move as "a significant security threat not only to our country but also to the international community," the president's office said. The NIS said it had "detected that from the 8th to the 13th (of October), North Korea transported its special forces to Russia via a Russian Navy transport ship, confirming the start of North Korea's military participation" in Russia's war in Ukraine. According to the NIS, multiple Russian landing ships and frigates have already completed transporting the first contingent of troops, who are currently stationed in military bases across Russia's Far East.

## Zelenskyy says 10,000 North Koreans could join Russian forces in Ukraine as he pushes 'victory plan'

BRUSSELS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday his government has intelligence information that 10,000 troops from North Korea are being prepared to join Russian forces fighting against his country, warning that a third nation wading into the hostilities would turn the conflict into a "world war." Zelenskyy did not go into detail about the claim that came a day after U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said that Washington and its allies are alarmed by North Korea's military support for Russia's war in Ukraine but couldn't confirm Ukrainian claims that soldiers were sent to fight for Moscow. "From our intelligence we've got information that North Korea sent tactical personnel and officers to Ukraine," Zelenskyy told reporters at NATO headquarters. "They are preparing on their land 10,000 soldiers, but they didn't move them already to Ukraine or to Russia." Earlier, he warned that any North Korean involvement would be "the first step to a world war." The Ukrainian leader's comments raised the stakes for his Western allies as he met in Brussels with European Union leaders and then NATO defense ministers to discuss his "victory plan" to end the country's devastating war with Russia. Major points of the plan include an invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western-supplied longer-range missiles to strike military targets deep inside Russia, steps that have been met with reluctance by Kyiv's allies so far. "Ukraine truly deserves to become the 33rd NATO member one day, and we must do everything to ensure this happens," Zelenskyy said in an appeal at the alliance's headquarters.

## President stresses mass awareness, collective efforts to reduce mortality rate of breast cancer

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasised the countrywide public awareness and collective efforts at individual and national levels to reduce the mortality rate due to breast cancer in Pakistan.

The president, in his message to the nation on the International Day Against Breast Cancer annually observed on October 19, said that breast cancer was not only the most frequently diagnosed cancer but was also the leading cause of death among women in low and middle-income countries.

He said the incidence of breast cancer was more common in South Asian countries, majorly due to a lack of breast cancer awareness in women.

"In our country, one in every nine women is at risk of breast cancer and the late diagnosis of the disease considerably contributes to the high mortality rate. Moreover, economic obstacles deter many from receiving the required treatment," the president added.

He said the International Day Against Breast Cancer was observed to raise awareness about the disease and to promote timely diagnosis and treatment.

He said that this year's theme "No One Should Face Breast Cancer Alone" for Breast Cancer Awareness Month reminded us of the importance of support, solidarity, and care for every person dealing with this disease.

He stressed the need to raise awareness about the disease by addressing misconceptions and prioritizing healthy lifestyle adjustments.

He said that Pakistan needed the broader level efforts to educate women about breast cancer, regular self-examination and mammographic screening.

He urged the policymakers and health officials to plan and prioritize disease control activities, including improved treatment and individual patient care.

President Zardari called for women's access to screening and early detection services which were critical in detecting breast cancer early and saving lives. Calling the media's role critical in raising awareness about this disease, he urged print, electronic and social media to educate people about breast cancer to save thousands of precious lives.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam presiding over a 2nd meeting of the Pakistan Climate Change Authority in the Committee Room of the M/Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik addresses a seminar on sustainable tobacco control policies, aiming for a healthier Pakistan, organized by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC).

## Education key to country's future: Dr. Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, on Friday said that education was essential for securing the country's bright future. In his closing remarks at a seminar on sustainable tobacco control policies, Dr. Malik stressed the importance of efforts to prevent children from dropping out of school.

He said that children should be encouraged to attend school to secure their own and the country's future. The minister said that protecting children from social evils is essential to ensuring a better future for Pakistan. Highlighting the dangers of smoking, Dr. Musadik Malik called it a major cause of cancer and responsible for countless deaths, urging the public to avoid smoking for the sake of their health.

He said that while the number of smokers is de-

creasing in most parts of the world, South Asia is experiencing an alarming rise in smoking rates, particularly among women and children. The minister expressed concern over how poverty has been turned into a business, allowing some to profit at the expense of public health.

He said that when discussing smoking, the argument is often made that the tobacco industry contributes significant tax revenues that help improve the economy. However, a large portion of these tax revenues, he said, is spent on treating smoking-related illnesses in hospitals. Dr. Musadik Malik raised concerns about the cost to human lives, highlighting that although the cigarette industry contributes taxes, it also causes countless deaths and places a significant burden on the government's healthcare budget.

## IGP says: Ensuring law and order in capital utmost priority

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited D-Chowk and various duty points, a public relations officer said. During the visit, he met with the officials of Islamabad Police, other law enforcement departments

and female police officers, boost their morale and appreciated their efforts who are performing duties in order to maintain the law and order situation in the capital. On the occasion, IGP Islamabad has instructed the officials to be highly

alert and ready all the time to deal with any emerging law and order situation. "Will shall take every possible necessary measures to protect the lives and property of citizens as well as private and commercial property and ready to thwart adventurism from any elements" he said while addressing the officials.



Proud of you all for the tireless efforts and bravery you have shown in ensuring the safety of foreign delegations during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit and safeguarding the lives and property of the citizen's recent law and order situation.

## Parents urged to vaccinate children to prevent diphtheria outbreaks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Shobha Lakshmi, a renowned specialist in infectious diseases, said on Friday that the diphtheria cases were spreading rapidly in Sindh.

Talking to a private news channel, she explained the seriousness of the disease by adding that diphtheria is a bacterial infection that affects the throat and airways.

It causes severe breathing difficulties, and if untreated, it can lead to complications like heart problems or even death, especially in young children, she added.

She said that the diphtheria is highly contagious and spreads through coughing, sneezing, or even close

contact with an infected person.

Dr. Shobha emphasized the importance of taking precautions, especially in areas where vaccination rates are low.

She urges parents by adding that the spread of the disease should be decreased by the vaccination.

"Make sure children wash their hands regularly, avoid contact with sick people, and always ensure they are up to date with their vaccines."

According to the Health department statistics, around 170 children of Sindh were infected by the diphtheria in October, out of which 27 children died due to the disease.

## AAG tells IHC PM has written letter to US for remission of sentence, release of Aafia

ISLAMABAD (Online): Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Duggal has informed Islamabad High Court (IHC) Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has written a letter to US president for remittance of sentence and release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui from US prison.

The petition related to release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui and her return to Pakistan came up for hearing in single bench of IHC led by justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan Friday.

Petition was filed by Fouzia Siddiqui sister of Dr Aafia Siddiqui petition in IHC.

Imran Shafiq advocate appeared on behalf of Fouzia Siddiqui.

## SC constitutes seven benches for next week

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has constituted seven regular benches for next week to hear the cases.

The first bench would be headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal while Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Ayesha Malik and Justice Aqeel Abbasi are included in the second bench.

The third bench is comprising Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Athar Minallah while the fourth bench comprises Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed.

Similarly, the fifth bench is comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan while the sixth bench include Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed.

## ATC rejects bail after arrest plea of PTI leader Aamir in 2 cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has rejected bail after arrest plea of PTI leader Aamir Masood Mughal in two cases. Bail plea in two cases registered against Aamir Masood in police station Sangiani and Noon came up for hearing in ATC Islamabad Friday.



Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet secretariat presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad

## Federal govt in contact with provinces to deal major security issues: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, National Heritage Attallah Tarar on Friday informed the Senate that although after the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the maintenance of law and order situation was the responsibility of respective provincial governments but the Centre was also in contact with the provinces in major security issues especially at border areas to control drugs smuggling, and terrorism.

Responding to a point of order, the minister said

## Romina urges climate authority to coordinate with stakeholders for unified climate action

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has urged the Pakistan Climate Change Authority (PCCA) to play its role to ratchet up collaboration and cooperation among various federal and provincial governmental organisations for achieving climate resilience, environmental sustainability and low-carbon development goals.

Presiding over the 2nd meeting of PCCA held here, the PM's climate aide said, "Driving the Pakistan's

the National Action Plan (NAP) was devised after Army Public School (APS) incident in Peshawar. Innocent children were martyred in APS attack which resulted forging unity among the entire nation to purge the terrorism from the country's soil, he added.

The federation at that time said that it would play the role of the elder brother, said the information minister. He said NAP was launched to deal with border smuggling, terrorism and gangs etc.

He said that despite

of the 18th Amendment, there was a meeting to discuss the national policy on the grave issues of law and order.

In the National Action Plan meetings, the Prime Minister himself went to Karachi several times, he said and added, in 2013, there were terrorist attacks every second day.

"National Action Plan brought Ulama and media together and banned hate speeches. The Muslim League played its role in this regard. The Ulama

had assured full cooperation to bring peace in the country. The National Action Plan had been successfully implemented and terrorism was eradicated" he mentioned.

The federal minister said that some people started the debate of good Taliban and bad Taliban and they were brought back and settled unfortunately, today we are picking up dead bodies.

In order to maintain law and order, Pakistan Army is sacrificing each day, he added.

The then prime minister brought back the terrorists and settled them. He did not see that there is a National Action Plan and under the NAP, the Federation and the provinces had made sacrifices and eradicated terrorism, said the Information Minister. "Today these terrorists attack in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa".

Ali Amin Gandapur spends 16 hours out of 24 hours on political activities, he said and informed who should establish CTD in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Ayaz assumes of Chairman IRSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Irrigation Department government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/Member Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Muhammad Ayaz on Friday assumed the charge of the office of Chairman till the appointment of regular member IRSA KPK.

He assumed the charge of Chairman IRSA in terms of Section 4, Clause (2), (3) & (7) of IRSA Act No. XXII of 1992, said a notification issue here. Similarly, Chairman and member Balochistan Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Abdul Hameed Mengal has relinquished the charge.

## Pakistan presents Second Periodic Report on ICCPR

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan has presented its Second Periodic Report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to the United Nations Human Rights Committee during its 142nd session in Geneva on October 17-18.

The review process, which was broadcast live on UN Web TV, was accessible to the public, member states, and civil society organizations, allowing global audiences to observe the proceedings.

The Pakistani delegation, led by Malik

Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, included key officials such as Malik Ahmed Bherth, Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Punjab; Allah Dino Khowaja, Secretary of Human Rights; and Muhammad Arshad, Director General (IC).

The Human Rights Committee, composed of 18 independent experts, had earlier issued a "List of Issues" that highlighted specific issues including gender equality, access to justice, and refugee repatriation among others.

## Intezar Panjtoha recovery case: IHC directs police to contact IB, ISI to trace location

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed police to contact IB and ISI to trace location of Intezar Panjtoha recovery case besides ordering for filing progress report till October 21.

The order was issued on Friday.

The petition on recovery of Intezar Panjtoha focal person of PTT founder Imran Khan who is missing since October 8 came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Chief Justice (CJ) Aamer Farooq Friday.

Faisal Chaudhry on behalf of petitioner Ali Ijaz

Buttar appeared in the court while DIG Headquarters Mustafa Tanvir and DSP Legal Sajid Cheema also appeared.

The CJ IHC inquired report was given on Saturday that vehicle has been traced. Then what happened after it.

Islamabad police told that the vehicle can be seen while entering into Islamabad. The vehicle turns to left side from Rawal Chowk to Kashmir chowk Srinagar Highway. At 5.02 vehicle moves to Fateh Jang road. After it vehicle goes where, we have to see now.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui addressing during inaugural ceremony of Girls Sports Carnival 2024, at Liaquat Gymnasium, in the Federal Capital.

## CTO Islamabad hosts feast to honor officers for SCO Summit duty

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) of Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk on Friday organized a special feast at the Islamabad Traffic Police Headquarters to honor police officers from other districts who were assigned traffic duty during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Islamabad. A police spokesman told APP that a total of 1,100 officers were deployed for traffic management during the summit.

He said among them, 585 officers were from the Islamabad Traffic Police, while 515 officers were brought in from other districts to assist with the event. Their outstanding performance in maintaining order and ensuring the smooth flow of traffic throughout the summit has

been widely appreciated, he added.

During the occasion, CTO Muhammad Sarfraz Virk praised the unwavering efforts of the Islamabad Traffic Police, highlighting that the officers worked tirelessly around the clock to manage traffic effectively.

The CTO emphasized the critical role they played in ensuring smooth traffic flow during such a significant international event. CTO Virk also acknowledged the patience and understanding shown by the citizens of Islamabad and Rawalpindi during the Summit, describing their cooperation as praiseworthy.

Muhammad Sarfraz Virk thanked the residents of the federal capital for their full support, which was instrumental in the successful execution of traffic arrangements.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority Muhammad Ali Randhawa chairing a meeting

## CDA, P3A collaborate to boost Islamabad's tourism with luxury hotels project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Friday discussed significant steps for the development of luxury hotels in Islamabad's prime locations.

A meeting was held via Zoom, included representatives from the Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A), consultants from AT Kearney and key CDA officials.

The discussion centered on a recent feasibility study by AT Kearney, which presented multiple models for hotel development, such as land leases, joint ventures, and revenue-sharing schemes.

With tourism and business on the rise, these projects aim to meet the growing demand for premium accommodations in the capital, providing long-term economic benefits.

Chairman Randhawa stressed the importance of selecting

the most viable model while ensuring that the hotel plots are priced competitively, maintaining high construction standards to attract investment and enhance bankability.

Further analysis of the feasibility report will be conducted, with ongoing consultations between CDA and AT Kearney to finalize land pricing and construction costs.

The meeting also covered the development of other projects, including the Jinnah Medical Complex and the Gandhara Citizen Club, which will feature recreational facilities like a cricket ground and a library. Revenue from these initiatives will go towards citizen welfare and park upgrades.

The collaboration between CDA and P3A is seen as a strategic move to draw private sector investment, spurring economic growth and elevating Islamabad's infrastructure and global appeal.

## Women in law session focuses on competition law practice

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), in collaboration with Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) and Women in Law Initiative Pakistan, held a dedicated session titled 'Competition Law and Practice'.

This session provided a platform for lawyers to interact with Regulators and discuss matters pertaining to the legal fraternity that is into the practice of Competition Law, said a press release issued here on Friday. The participants included senior officials from the CCP, office bearers of IHCBA, WIL and a large number of female lawyers.

In his keynote address, Mr. Salman Amin (Member, CCP) underscored the CCP's commitment for promoting open and fair competition in the economy. Emphasizing the significance, he highlighted economic benefits for economy and consumers. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of compliance regime with least intervention needed from the regulator.



Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet secretariat presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad