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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Pakistan, India should decide themselves scope of bilateral dialogue: US State Dept

US values its relations with both countries," says State Dept Spokesperson Matthew Miller

WASHINGTON (INP): After some ice finally melted between Pakistan and India during the recently held Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government summit in Islamabad, Washington has said that it is for both the nations to decide the scope and role of any bilateral dialogue.

Matthew Miller, the spokesperson for the United States Department of State, reacted to the positive development between the two rival countries in the mega diplomatic event held in the federal capital last week.

"We have bilateral relations with Pakistan and India. The US values its relations with both countries," said Miller in an exclusive conversation with Geo News in Washington.

Reacting to the meeting between India's External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar who termed the event as a "productive meeting", soon after his speech on October 16.

Jaishankar, who attended the SCO moot held in Islamabad, was the first foreign minister of the neighbouring country to visit Pakistan in nearly a decade.

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ISLAMABAD: Activists of Save Gaza hold placard during the protest in support of the oppressed and resistance in Gaza outside the National Press Club.

Bilawal felicitates nation on 26th amendment passing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday extended his felicitations to the nation on the passing of the 26th Constitutional Amendment package.

Talking to the media here at the Parliament House, he said that the PPP is fulfilling the promises made in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) particularly those concerning judicial reforms.

He described the day as monumental both politically and personally, as he would be implementing one of the points of his mother's unfinished mission. Bilawal Bhutto

JUIF's proposals included in draft of constitutional amendments: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar Sunday said that the federal cabinet has approved the comprehensive draft of the 26th constitutional amendment unanimously which also includes the proposals of JUIF.

Talking to the media outside of the Parliament House, the minister said that according to the amendments the chief justice of Pakistan would be appointed amongst the most three senior judges of the Supreme Court.

He said that the Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI-F) has suggested five proposals in the 26th constitutional amendments which were linked to the Islamic law and Islamic Ideological Council (IIC).

The law minister said that the draft was prepared after a threadbare discussion and broader consultation with all political parties and their leaders in the House as well as their legal representatives.

26th amendment sets Jan 2028 deadline to end Riba, paves way for interest-free banking

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2024, recently passed by the Senate, has established a deadline of January 1, 2028, for the end of the practice of Riba (interest-based banking) in the country.

The clause was added to the draft amendments at the suggestion of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), the Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman-led religio-political party, which gave the government a tough time in presenting the draft of the amendment bill.

To eradicate this form of usury, the Senate approved the amendment in clause (f) of Article 38 of the Constitution, which pertains to the promotion of social and economic well-being.

The current clause states that "eliminate Riba as early as possible," and the government replaced this with "as far as practicable, by the 1st of January, 2028."



Pakistan Navy officials handing over the seized Narcotics to ANF officials at Gwadar.

Capping CJP's tenure at three years

Senate passes 26th constitutional amendment with two-thirds majority

As many as 65 members voted in favor of the bill while only four voted against it; Bill aimed at enforcing judicial reforms that have been a bone of contention between govt and opposition; PTI attends Senate session but opts out of the voting process; remaining members of Senate vote in favour of 22 clauses of the bill.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Sunday approved long-awaited 26th constitutional amendment with two third majority (65 votes) aimed at ensuring speedy justice in the country and bringing transparency in judicial system, by incorporating all amendments proposed by Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F).

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar piloted the Constitution (Twenty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the House. The House passed the bill through clause by clause reading.

In the bill having 22 clauses, amendments to various Articles of the constitutional have been proposed. A new Article 9 A regarding clean and healthy environment is also incorporated in the bill under which every person shall be entitled to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

As many as 65 members voted in favor of the bill while only four voted against it.

Kamran Murtaza of JUI-F moved amendments one by one which were incorporated in the bill after not opposing by the government.

Earlier, speaking in the

House, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the government, its allied parties and JUI-F reached a consensus on the draft of the constitutional amendment bill. As part of the government's efforts, a special parliamentary committee comprising representatives of all the political parties including the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) discussed the proposed constitutional package.

He went on to say that the procedure to appoint judges in the superior judiciary had been changed in the 18th Amendment. Both the prime minister and the president surrendered their powers and handed over their authorities to the parliament to bring more transparency in the appointment of judges, he added.

He said the parliamentary committee was empowered to approve or reject nomination of judges. However, he said the 18th Constitutional Amendment was challenged in court of law and message was given to the then government during the proceeding of the case that the amendment would be struck down.

The minister conceded that 19th Amendment was passed in haste to change

the composition of the judicial commission (JC) and parliamentary committee on appointment of judges. Hence, the powers of parliamentary committee were reduced, he added.

Azam Nazeer said even the bar councils and other lawyers representative organizations including Pakistan Bar Council criticized and demanded to revisit the decision. They demanded to make appropriate amendments in Article 175-A of the constitution, he said.

Now, he said that the JC, responsible for the appointment and confirmation of judges would consist of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), three senior Supreme Court judges, four parliamentarians, the Law Minister, an advocate having at least 15 years experience, and the Attorney General. Out of four parliamentarians, two members each from Senate and National Assembly, he added.

He said one member of the JC would be either a woman or a non-Muslim qualified to become a senator on a technocrat seat, clarifying the nomination would be made by the Speaker National Assembly.

Federal cabinet approves proposed draft of 26th constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Federal Cabinet has approved the proposed draft of the 26th constitutional amendment of the coalition parties including the Pakistan People's Party.

According to a statement issued by Prime Minister Office, the Federal cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in which the Minister of Law and Justice again gave a detailed briefing on the 26th constitutional amendment.

The federal cabinet has approved the proposed draft of the 26th constitutional amendment of the coalition parties including the Pakistan People's Party.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ataulah Tarar holding a joint Media talk.

Passage of 26th constitutional amendment, incomplete agenda of CoD fulfilled: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday expressed his gratitude to all political parties for voting in favor of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and said that the incomplete agenda of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) had now been fulfilled.

After the passage of the amendment, Ishaq Dar thanked the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam)

and others for their support in passing the amendment.

He called it a historic day, commending all political parties for demonstrating wisdom and political maturity.

He stated that the passage of the amendments was made possible due to the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Ishaq Dar recalled that a parliamentary committee was formed to build consensus among political parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He noted that several rounds of consultations were held with the leadership of JUI-F and PTI, and the committee reached a consensus.

The Law Minister then briefed the committee on each clause. Dar also acknowledged PTI's active participation in the committee, noting that they showed unanimity on the draft. However, despite reaching a consensus in the parliamentary committee, PTI did not support the amendment during the vote. Dar remarked that this was their democratic and constitutional right.

He praised Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman for his wisdom and commended his efforts in helping to build consensus on the amendment.

He said that consultation with all political parties was the beauty of the democratic process and no political party has been left out in this process.

He said that prolonged but constructive consultations were held on the constitutional package and no urgency had been shown in

Tarar calls constitutional package a milestone for parliamentary supremacy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Ataulah Tarar on Sunday said that it was a historic day and a milestone for the state and people of Pakistan as the supremacy of Parliament was established.

Talking to media outside Parliament House, along with Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar here, he said the Constitution was clear about the supremacy of Parliament. "It was stipulated in the Charter of Democracy to facilitate the delivery of cheap and speedy justice", the minister added.

He said that consultation with all political parties was the beauty of the democratic process and no political party has been left out in this process.

He said that prolonged but constructive consultations were held on the constitutional package and no urgency had been shown in

this regard.

The minister said that the constitutional package was an important step towards speedy delivery of justice in the country.

He said that Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah and other leaders had played an important role in finalising the constitutional package and the cabinet appreciated their efforts.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked all coalition parties especially PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Zardari, Naveed Qamar and Sherry Rehman for their positive role. He said the amendments to the package being introduced on Sunday were originally envisaged in the Charter of Democracy signed between Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in 2006.

CM approves establishment of three different authorities regarding development, water, sanitation and horticulture.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting here on Sunday, approved the establishment of three key provincial authorities aimed at enhancing development, water and sanitation services, and horticulture.

The newly proposed bodies are Punjab Development Authority, Punjab Water and Sanitation Authority, and Punjab Horticulture Authority.

Formal legislation will be made for the establishment of these provincial authorities, which would develop policies and plans at the central level.

At the local level, these agencies will ensure the implementation of development projects,

water and sanitation services, and horticulture initiatives. These authorities will be governed by a central board, with director generals at the helm. Proposals are under review to establish local management boards and appoint managing directors for execution at the local level. The chief minister emphasized the need to convert streetlights to solar energy, signaling a shift towards sustainable infrastructure. Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin, Minister Local Government Zeeshan Rafiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Aktar Zaman, Chief Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dall and relevant departmental secretaries attended the meeting. The Secretary of Housing and Local Government participated via video link.

Pakistan Navy Ship seizes narcotics at sea

KARACHI (PR): On 08 Oct 24, an intelligence-based counter narcotics operation was conducted by Pakistan Navy and ANF in North Arabian Sea in which approximately 2000 Kgs of Hashish, 370 Kgs of Ice and 50 Kgs of Heroin were seized by Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN.

The consignment includes one hundred thousand illegal Indian made pills used as drug which was to be transported via sea to international destination. Value of narcotics in international market is approximately US\$ 145 million. The seized items have been handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings.

Successful operation by Pakistan Navy and ANF resulting in seizure of large quantity of drugs is a testament of PN resolve to fight against illegal activities as a national obligation.

Mengal refuses to become part of constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD (INP): Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) Chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal on Saturday refused to become part of the much-touted proposed constitutional amendment by saying that his party won't be a party in the passage of the constitutional amendment, which he claimed, was being "forcefully" pushed through.

Speaking to media after meeting Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to

null over constitutional amendment, he said that constitution wasn't a secret document and it was right of every citizen and political parties to get to know about any tweaks in the constitution. "The question is who is orchestrating this move of bringing constitutional amendment," he said in a thinly-veiled reference to powers that be. Mengal blamed former military rulers for behaving in the same forceful manner to get elected in managed referendums.

Polio vaccination drive to commence on October 25

ISLAMABAD (INP): A nationwide polio vaccination drive is set to commence on October 25, aiming to immunize over 4.5 million children across Pakistan.

According to sources, the campaign will be conducted in three phases, starting from Sindh province.

The first phase will begin on October 25 in Sindh, followed by the second phase on October 28 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The third phase will commence on November 11 in Punjab, Balochistan, and Islamabad.

The drive aims to vaccinate over 4.5 million children, including 2.3 million in Punjab, 1.6 million in Sindh, 730,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 265,000 in Balochistan.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Human rights review

Pakistan is on shaky ground regarding human freedoms. In a recent review, the UN Human Rights Committee — which carries out periodic assessments of other countries' rights record too — has expressed concern about escalating human rights abuses: politically motivated oppression, torture, eroding freedom to practise religious beliefs, forced conversions, curbs on the freedom of expression, a ban on student unions, restrictions on assembly, harassment of rights activists, crimes against women and children, capital punishment and extrajudicial killings.

Successive governments have been responsible for matters reaching this point, while certain state agencies can specifically be held responsible for crimes such as enforced disappearances. Besides, the state's failure to rein in radical religious elements has also contributed to a culture of fear.

While the scale of intimidation is significant, the rising crime graph is the outcome of a corrupt, ineffective and inequitable criminal justice system and structural flaws in the security apparatus. Among other things, these factors have contributed to the rampant violence against women: for instance, a rape takes place every two minutes in the country because of a 3pc conviction rate.

As for Pakistan's children, not only are millions of them deprived of even basic freedoms like education and forced into manual labour, their existence itself is overlooked by the state: as the review notes, only 42pc of children under five were registered at birth.

Meanwhile, religious communities experience persistent tyranny through the misuse of blasphemy laws, while forced conversions underscore the defencelessness of the marginalised. Thus, the UN body dismissed the figure of 74 cases of forced conversions from the state party and observed that the actual number was far higher.

The review is a reminder that our constitutional protections exist as mere aspirations, and that the state has no regrets about its citizens morphing into missing persons, while it actively crushes dissent in places such as KP and Balochistan where movements protesting against atrocities by both the state and radical anti-state elements are growing. Even peaceful protesters have encountered the might of the state.

It is unfortunate that human rights are seen as a favour to the populace — an attitude that is visible in institutions and social groups, including the judicial system. It is an approach that prevents the authorities from forming pro-people policies or fortifying departments for social development and protecting them from exploitation.

Instead of focusing solely on Pakistan's economic woes, the state must take a holistic view. It must understand that a fresh human rights regime will be realised when elected representatives are held accountable for rights excesses in their constituencies, policies are in line with international standards, and the state has a heart.

Road to Baku

Jamil Ahmad

In 2015, the Paris Climate Accord, a legally binding international treaty, established a structured plan for climate action with step-by-step targets for emission reductions, aiming for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It acknowledged that reducing GHG emissions alone would not be enough to control climate change: mutually supportive adaptation policies would be necessary to protect vulnerable people from its impact. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, some 3.6 billion people, almost half the global population, are highly vulnerable to climate change.

The Paris Agreement, therefore, established a Global Goal on Adaptation to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in the context of its goal to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This benchmark was based on the IPCC's analysis that crossing this threshold would unleash harsh environmental impacts, including severe heatwaves, frequent droughts and heavy rainfall — which are becoming common. Sadly, the Global Goal on Adaptation is yet to be operationalised.

For developing countries, the treaty also laid down a framework for financial, technical and capacity-building support, and "reaffirmed that developed countries should take the lead in providing financial assistance to countries that are less endowed and more vulnerable" for mitigation and adaptation. Developed countries had pledged, in 2009, to raise \$100bn by 2020 for this purpose. Belatedly

mobilised in 2022, this amount fell short of requirements, which are estimated at \$600bn annually. Distressed by debt, most developing countries find it difficult to take climate action. They need sufficient financial means to raise adaptation to a level that guarantees a better degree of protection against the climate crisis.

In 2021, the Glasgow Climate Pact called for the doubling of "collective provision of climate finance for adaptation". But funding needs kept surging. Last year, UNEP estimated that the financial needs of developing countries for adaptation would soar from \$215bn to \$387bn by 2030. These figures are expected to be overtaken in this year's UNEP Adaptation Gap Report, due next month.

Climate COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, next month, has been dubbed the "finance COP", and will seek to agree on a new global goal for climate finance to replace the unmet \$100bn adaptation target. The new goal is expected to be broad-based and open to contributions from the private sector and others.

Precariously perched, developing countries are expecting concessional finance to be prioritised by COP29, as more loans will only add to their debt burden. Discussions in Baku will be informed by the report of the Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, tasked by COP to assess how the climate finance system can support the implementation of the Paris Accord. The report notes that insufficient investment in developing countries in key areas — a just energy transition, adaptation and resilience, conservation and restoration of nature, etc — was the primary reason that the Paris Agreement went off track. The report concluded that developing

countries and emerging economies, minus China, would need around \$2.4 trillion annually by 2030 to invest in climate change and nature.

The expert group recommended that immediate debt constraints and lack of fiscal space impeding the ability of poor and vulnerable countries to invest must be tackled urgently. It said that country leadership was crucial for the doubling of "collective engagement with the private sector, MDBs, donors, and private philanthropy to unlock investment at scale. An integrated approach is required to mobilise all sources of finance — public and private, domestic and international. Domestic resource mobilisation is needed to anchor the macro-

economic sustainability of all finance, while the elimination of harmful subsidies and imposition of carbon taxation are crucial to revenue generation.

Insufficient concessional climate finance for developing nations would render international efforts ineffective, aggravate the climate crisis, and deepen mistrust between the developed and developing countries. The expert group has urged developed countries to triple bilateral concessional finance by 2030. Nearly a decade after its adoption, the Paris Agreement remains instrumental in spurring climate action and promoting low-carbon solutions across economic sectors.

Overall, however, the agreement risks missing its goal of keeping the temperature rise under 1.5°C, unless fresh vigour, stronger political commitment and adequate financial resources are urgently pumped into its pipelines. — Courtesy Dawn

Fighting toxic talk

Muna Khan

I had to step outside social media silos to understand what was happening in Lahore, because my trusted sources — ie, this newspaper and other legacy outlets — were reporting on student protests while information about the alleged rape seemed muted. On social media, meanwhile, things were alarming, even horrific. No rape was as possible as the cover up of one. I wanted to create a timeline myself to make sense of things — this is before The Current published a very good explainer — namely, had a rape occurred?

While student protests and police brutality have continued across Punjab, there's more clarity, at least for me: a young woman and her family's name have been dragged through the mud, and they will likely have to spend the next few years explaining that she/their daughter was not raped. Students who are braving police violence are being used for political point-scoring. No one believes the government, and likely won't even if Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz pursues criminal cases against those who spread misinformation, as her administration seems to be doing. Minds have been made up across the political divide.

Welcome to this age of disinformation — with dangerous consequences.

Let it be clear that misinformation about this case was spread at a dizzying speed. Investigative journalist Umar Cheema, who was one of the first to report there was no rape at the said college, tweeted a video of a woman claiming to be the rape victim's mother on Friday evening. She tells

her followers on TikTok what happened to her daughter and asks them to call out the government and the news media for covering up the crime. After this tear-eyed confession, she posts her next video, wherein she is lip-synching to a Bollywood song.

It's easy to dismiss this woman as an attention-seeker but it's the folks who believe it and share it that worry me more. According to Tom Buchanan, who wrote a paper on disinformation in 2020, those who deliberately create it do so "to deceive and mislead audiences for the purposes of causing harm, or for political, personal or financial gain". People who then share it do so because it aligns with their worldview. Many, citing the sheer strength and effectiveness of a particular political party's social media strategy, suspect its supporters of pushing news of this rape, saying they got the turmoil they wanted. Meanwhile, brave students will bear the brunt of police violence.

Of course, a rape can occur on campus. Of course, parents would deny it. Of course, a guard or male school employee could be the harasser, CCTV footage could be deleted, the school administration could pressure and/or threaten students, the media could be involved in hushing things up. We have seen iterations of this play out plenty of times before. In this case, the police officer who told students to return to classes lest "something else" happen to them too is no different to the police officer asking why a woman gang-raped on the Motorway was driving alone at night.

We live in a country where whatever women say is treated with sus-

picion. I'm lying if I said I was raped, I'm covering up rape if I say I wasn't. I'm telling the truth if I say a guard harassed me, I'm lying if I say an actor did. It is exhausting to be a woman in this country. Attitudes and policies deny us basic humanity. Digital platforms do not protect us.

Disinformation is a global threat and requires a global strategy and policies to quell it. However, misogyny threatens to unravel Pakistan's core. Misogyny is being monetised, and it is being used to create divisions in society. It should be seen as big a national security threat as terrorism. In fact, misogyny is terrorism. In August, the UK said it was planning to tackle misogyny as extremism. There are great concerns about incel culture in the West, promoted by the likes of Andrew Tate. Here, we elect men like Tate, invite them as state guests and fund campaigns for them to run for Oxford chancellor.

The government alone can't fight the kind of disinformation this Lahore 'rape' case has shown. It requires parents and schools to teach media literacy classes from grade 1. And laws that don't suppress civil liberties but punish those who spread false information. Not release them.

If not, I fear parents won't want to send their daughters to colleges, women won't want to stand for public office (given the disgusting hate campaigns they face) or report sexual harassment of violence due to the stigma. This will set us back decades. In 2022, Pakistan was the second worst country for women in terms of gender parity according to the World Economic Forum. Imagine sinking lower. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Revival of diplomatic engagement between India and Pakistan could foster regional peace: Iftikhar Malik

LAHORE (APP): South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik said on Sunday that reviving diplomatic engagement between India and Pakistan during SCO summit would not only benefit the two countries but also contribute to broader regional peace and stability.

Commenting on the recent visit of Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar to Pakistan on the eve of 23rd SCO summit, he said if sustained, this could be a

turning point in South Asia's political landscape, reducing tensions and creating a more conducive environment for collaboration in areas like trade and counter terrorism.

He said Jaishankar's gesture could set the stage for cautious optimism. Both countries, as nuclear powers, have a responsibility to ensure peace and stability in the region. A move towards dialogue, even through multilateral settings like the SCO, could pave the way for future bilateral engagements that could address long-standing

issues and open doors for economic cooperation, regional connectivity.

Iftikhar Malik said Jaishankar's outreach to Pakistan opens a window of opportunity for both countries to engage in meaningful conversations beyond the contentious issues that have dominated their interactions in the past. The SCO, with its focus on regional cooperation, counter terrorism, and economic development, provides a neutral platform where both nations can discuss shared concerns such as security, trade, and stability in South Asia.

He said S. Jaishankar extended a symbolic hand of cooperation to Pakistan, signaling a potential thaw in the long-strained bilateral ties between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. Relations between both countries have been tense for decades, marked by territorial disputes, particularly over Kashmir, and intermittent armed conflict. However, the Indian participation in SCO provides an opportunity for constructive dialogue. His interaction with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and others is good omen.



RAWALPINDI: People selecting and purchasing second hand warm clothes on the beginning of winter season at Landa Bazar in Sunday weekly Bazaar Committee chowk area, in the city.



HYDERABAD: People selecting and purchasing shoes from setup under the shade of Makki Shah Flyover.

Shahid Imran calls for viable policies to address food insecurity

LAHORE (APP): Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's regional standing committee on Food Security Shahid Imran said that Pakistan's rapid population growth places immense pressure on the fragile food distribution system.

Speaking at a seminar on Food Security in Pakistan, here on Sunday, he said rural poor, who are

often small-scale farmers, are disproportionately affected by food insecurity due to limited resources and access to markets. Addressing food insecurity in Pakistan requires comprehensive policies that focus on improving agricultural productivity, managing natural resources sustainably, and enhancing social safety nets to ensure equitable food distribution and access for all citizens.

Pakistani Startups shine at Gitex Global 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gitex Global 2024, the largest international technology and startup fair, concluded in Dubai on Friday, showcasing Pakistan's information and communication technology startups participated in this significant tech event, aiming to enhance IT exports from Pakistan to the Middle East and the MENA region while attracting investment and fostering partnerships with major IT firms.

Under the federal Ministry of IT and Telecommunications, ten Pakistani startups joined the Ignite programme at Gitex 2024. These startups are involved in sectors such as healthcare, aerospace, energy, gaming, travel technology, and smart cities, presenting their innovative solutions to global investors, potential partners, and technology enthusiasts.

Raja Bazar – A colonial era business legacy

RAWALPINDI (APP): Most often stuffed with buyers, traffic and illegally encroaching vendors, Raja Bazaar, boasts of it's over one and half century old legacy for once being the only central commercial point of ancient Rawalpindi.

As the time ran down, this British colonial era sanctuary of traders named after Rajput or Raja (castes) traders of this region still stands there with least of our younger generation knowing its origin and evolution into today's busiest bazar of

Rawalpindi. This blend of history and trade still holds a prominent place in city's business activities for its distinctive socioeconomic features, ancient building structures, classical archaeology designs and antique woodwork adorned with superb grillwork on facades of houses. Majority of them are remnants of Sikh rule during their reign of Punjab. Narrow streets, multi-religious community centers, mosques and temples, historic mansions, havelis, old shops and

godowns reflect its cultural heritage and socioeconomic importance. Since old ages, it still serves as the central business hub of the city by accommodating thousands of wholesalers and retailer shops with diverse range of household grocery to fruits, vegetables, jewelry, cloths, cooking utensils, electronic appliances and much more.

Abraar Sheikh, General Secretary Raja Bazaar's Central Traders' Association terms the bazaar as 'a symbol of socio-economic legacy' having multi-dimensional

links with local and international markets.

"Looking around Fawara Chowk, one can find marks of ancient civilization towards 'Dingi Khoi' on one side and the rich market place on the other side," he said. "Strong reasons for being the heart of city are its central location and market linkage as it connects country's North region with the South. The entrepreneurs from GB and KP too, prefer Raja Bazaar for their trading ventures after China's silk route." Highlighted an

interesting feature of departmentalized nomenclature of its sections, Abraar Sheikh mentioned to Sarafa Bazaar as house of jewelry; Kapra Bazar for cloths and garments; Lakar Bazaar for wooden articles and raw material; Urdu Bazaar books and stationary and Masala Bazar, Sabzi Mandi and other bazars for varieties of goods and services. "Around 50% of shops have been converted into small plazas and joint markets after joining close by shops together making Raja Bazar.

Green Tractors to be given to 9,500 farmers

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has announced distribution of 9,500 green tractors under Kisan Programme, but more than 15 lakh applications had been received. The government received more than 1.5 million applications under the Green Tractor Programme announced for farmers. The CM office sources told APP that following the directions of the Punjab CM, the list of those who would be included in the draw would be posted on Oct 20.

SNGPL disconnects eight meters, removes two extensions

MULTAN (APP): In a bid to curb gas theft and illegal activities, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force intensified its operation under the directions of the General Manager. The task force disconnected eight gas meters and removed two illegal gas extensions in various areas of the city. According to details, six domestic

consumers had their meters disconnected for using gas compressors illegally. In one case, a domestic consumer's meter was found installed away from the main service line, which was immediately removed. Another consumer's meter was missing from its designated location, posing a risk of gas leakage; on which his meter was also disconnected.

CM approves establishment of three authorities for dev., water, horticulture

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting here on Sunday, approved the establishment of three key provincial authorities aimed at enhancing development, water and sanitation services, and horticulture. The newly proposed bodies are Punjab Development Authority, Punjab Water and Sanitation Authority, and Punjab Horticulture Authority. Formal legislation will be made for

the establishment of these provincial authorities, which would develop policies and plans at the local level. At the local level, these agencies will ensure the implementation of development projects, water and sanitation services, and horticulture initiatives. These authorities will be governed by a central board, with director generals at the helm. Proposals are under review to establish local management boards and appoint managing directors for execution at the local

level. The chief minister emphasized the need to convert streetlights to solar energy, signaling a shift towards sustainable infrastructure. Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin, Minister Local Government Zeeshan Rafiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Aktar Zaman, Chief Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dall and relevant departmental secretaries attended the meeting. The Secretary of Housing and Local Government participated via video link.



SIALKOT: A group photo of participants of the first ever Referee Refresh and Talent Hunt Course in Sialkot Organizers by FIFA and District Football Association.

Armed robbery at Shahin dairy: police under fire for inaction

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi
HYDERABAD: A brazen armed robbery shook Hyderabad's Qasimabad area yesterday, as masked men on motorcycles stormed Shahin Dairy, making off with millions in cash. The daring heist saw the robbers hold staff hostage, only to be confronted by brave employees, one of whom managed to wrestle a pistol from one of the assailants. In the ensuing exchange of fire, the robbers abandoned their motorcycle and fled on foot, hijacking a citizen's CD motorcycle to complete their escape. The incident sparked outrage, with locals and business owners

taking to the streets in protest, blocking roads and demanding action from authorities. Notable figures, including PTI leader Afroz Shoro and traders' representatives Mahboob Abro, Rehmatullah Sand, and Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi, joined the protest, condemning the police's perceived inaction. Jasmim Memon, owner of Shahin Dairy, estimated the stolen amount at 700,000 to 800,000 rupees. The incident raises concerns about the growing number of armed robberies in the area and the effectiveness of law enforcement in preventing and responding to such crimes.

CCPO orders early resolution of pending cases

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique Kamayana presided over an important meeting of the Investigation Wing at his office here on Sunday to review the progress of cases involving both nominated and unidentified suspects under investigation. The CCPO Lahore directed the SSP (Investigation) to closely monitor these cases on a daily basis, while instructing SP (Investigation) Cantonment area to expedite the resolution of pending cases. He emphasized that SDPOs must consistently assess the performance of investigating officers to ensure timely and effective case disposal. Addressing the meeting, the CCPO asserted that no case involving a nominated suspect older than one month, or an unidentified suspect older than three months, should remain unresolved. He underscored the pivotal role of the Investigation Wing in delivering justice and urged the officers to prioritize providing timely relief to the plaintiffs. He stressed that justice must be served strictly on merit, without discrimination, and reiterated that no recommendations.



LAHORE: Members of Awami Rickshaw Union are holding protest demonstration against price hike of essential commodities and high handedness of traffic police, at Lahore press club.

Azma terms consensus on constitutional amendment good

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that state affairs run as per the laws and constitution made by the parliament. According to a press release issued here on Sunday, she said that judicial reforms were necessary in the present circumstances. She said that formation of constitutional court was being made in accordance with charter of democracy. Azma said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder wanted an NRO [deal] in exchange for supporting constitutional amendment. She termed consensus on constitutional amendment good. The PTI members were sick and tired of PTI founder's anti-state activities, she claimed.

Govt committed to provide quality education for youth: Faisal Khokhar

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Sports, Labour and Human Resources Faisal Ayub Khokhar has said that the government was committed to providing quality education for youth while also creating opportunities for them to participate in extracurricular activities. He emphasized that initiatives like "Khelta Punjab" and the Lahore Youth Festival were crucial in this regard, noting, "When grounds are filled with players, hospitals become empty." He expressed these views during a media briefing as the chief guest at a talent hunt program organized for Lahore Qalandars at a private university's high-performance center here on Sunday. The minister remarked that such programs play a significant role in providing opportunities for talented athletes to showcase their skills. He expressed hope that these trials would reveal new talent that could contribute to both the Lahore Qalandars and the national cricket team in the future.

Minister launches Rescue 1122 emergency bike service

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Relief and Resettlement Naik Muhammad Khan Sunday visited Rescue 1122 headquarters to inspect the newly launched emergency bike service. Special Assistant praised Rescue 1122 for its invaluable services in providing timely relief across the province during emergencies and accidents. He commended the launch of emergency bike service as a significant step towards offering swift assistance in remote areas.

Two killed in separate firing incidents

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two persons have been killed by their opponents in separate firing incidents over personal disputes in Zandani and Looni areas here, a police spokesman said on Sunday. He said that 25-year-old Ahmad Nawaz Baloch son of Sanaulah, resident of Zandani has filed a report with Dera Town Police Station that he along with his partner Masood ur Rahman son of Abdul Rauf Baloch.

PDF, SBBWU and Pak Army organize grand medical camp

PESHAWAR (APP): A free general medical camp was organized at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, under the auspices of Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) and in collaboration with XI Corps and Lady Reading Hospital. At the camp, ten specialists including medical specialists, skin specialist, gynecologist, ENT specialist, chest specialist, dental surgeons, children specialist, psychiatrist and nutritionist participated and conducted free examinations of people living in more than 15 villages in the vicinity of the University. On the occasion, diabetes and blood diagnostic tests of patients were also conducted free of charge. Free medicines were also given to all patients. Wife of Corps Commander Peshawar visited the camp and raised the morale of the doctors who volunteered for the camp. PDF Chairman Bilal Sethi, Patron-in-Chief Dr Fatima Shaheen and SBBWU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Safia Ahmed (TI) were also present on the occasion. PDF Chairman Muhammad Bilal Sethi said in his address that his organization had been serving the poor and indigent for eight years.



HYDERABAD: Women residents of Jamshoro are holding press conference for acceptance of their demands, held at Hyderabad press club.

SEPCO cracks down on electricity thieves cub, cuts thousands of illegal connections

Allah Dad Chandio
LARKANA: In a bold move, Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) under the WAPDA department has continued its massive operation against electricity thieves and non-payers, despite the weekend holidays. Led by Larkana, Qamber Shahdadkot, Ratodero, Baqrani, and Dokri, the operation targeted small and big cities, towns, and villages, resulting in the disconnection of thousands of illegal electricity hooks. SEPCO Sukkur Superintendent Engineer Shah

Mohammad Bajkani revealed that the company aims to recover a staggering debt of 42 billion rupees from electricity thieves and defaulters. The ongoing campaign will persist until the issue is resolved. The operation highlights SEPCO's commitment to providing stable electricity supply to its customers while addressing the financial losses incurred due to power theft. As part of its efforts, SEPCO offers various services, including online bill payment, new connections, and consumer safety guidelines.

International News

Israeli strikes on northern Gaza leave at least 87 dead or missing, Palestinian officials say

Monitoring Desk
DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes on multiple homes in the northern Gaza Strip overnight and into Sunday left at least 87 people dead or missing, the territory's Health Ministry said. It said another 40 people were wounded in the strikes on the town of Beit Lahya, which was among the first targets of Israel's ground invasion nearly a year ago. The Israeli military said it carried out a precise strike on a Hamas target. Israel has been carrying out a large-scale operation in northern Gaza for the last two weeks, saying Hamas has regrouped there. Palestinian officials say hundreds of people have been killed and that the health sector in the north is on the verge of collapse. The United States is meanwhile investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents that

assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, according to three U.S. officials. A fourth U.S. official said the documents appear to be legitimate. The documents, attributed to the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency and marked top secret, indicate that Israel was moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1. The U.S. officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The U.S. is urging Israel to press for a cease-fire in Gaza following the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week. But neither Israel nor Hamas has shown any renewed interest in such a deal, after months of negotiations sputtered to a halt in August. Iran supports Hamas

and the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, where a year of escalating tensions boiled over into all-out war last month. Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon at the start of October. The Lebanese army said three of its soldiers were killed in an Israeli strike on their vehicle in southern Lebanon. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on Sunday's strike. Lebanon's army has largely kept to the sidelines in the war between Israel and the Hezbollah. The military is a respected institution in Lebanon but is not powerful enough to impose its will on Hezbollah or defend the country from an Israeli invasion. On Saturday, a drone targeted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's house, causing no casualties. It wasn't clear if the house was hit. The military said Hezbollah fired around 160 projectiles into Israel on Sunday.



Italy's Defence Minister Guido Crosetto speaks during a roundtable, part of the G7 Defence Ministers Summit, in Naples.

Russia, Ukraine each bring home 95 prisoners of war

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Russia and Ukraine carried out a new exchange of prisoners of war, each side bringing home 95 prisoners in an agreement in which the United Arab Emirates acted as mediator. Russia's Defence Ministry, in a post on the Telegram messaging app, said the returning Russian service members were undergoing medical checks in Belarus, one of

Russia's closest allies in the more than 2-1/2-year-old war. Video posted on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Telegram account showed men, some wrapped in the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag, getting off a bus well after dark and being embraced by loved ones. A Russian military video showed smiling soldiers boarding buses.

Mexican navy claims seizing record 8.3 tonnes of drugs

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: The Mexican navy announced on Friday it had seized more than 8.3 tonnes of drugs in the Pacific Ocean, a record for a single operation at sea. "Navy personnel seized 8,361 kilograms of illicit cargo, which represents the largest amount of drugs seized in a maritime operation, unprecedented in history," said a statement from the Ministry of the Navy. It did not specify the type of the drugs, but said they were valued at 2,099 billion pesos (about \$105 million). Twenty-three people

were arrested during the bust which took place southwest of the port of Lazaro Cardenas, off the western coast of Mexico. The drugs were distributed in six small boats and one of the vessels was a submersible, which implied a "complex" action on the part of the sailors, added the ministry. The largest drug seizure in Mexico's history was 23 tonnes of Colombian cocaine in November 2007. Mexico has for decades been the hub of drug trafficking to the United States, with a large number of cartels fighting for control of the trade.

Boat carrying more than 100 Rohingya sighted off Indonesia

Monitoring Desk
BANDA ACEH: A boat loaded with more than 100 Rohingya refugees was spotted off Indonesia's westernmost province with at least one dead body seen on board, local officials said on Saturday. The mostly Muslim ethnic Rohingya are heavily persecuted in Myanmar, and thousands risk their lives each year on long and dangerous sea journeys to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia. The Rohingya boat is anchored around three to four miles off the coast of South Aceh district with its engine turned off.

Kamala, Trump deploy celebrity power in must-win states

Monitoring Desk
DETROIT: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump will roll out starkly contrasting celebrity back-up this week-end in Pennsylvania and Michigan — among the most prized of the battleground states set to decide the tightest of US presidential races. Pop star Lizzo will throw multi-Grammy award winning glitter behind the vice president's campaign in Detroit, while the world's richest man Elon Musk is to stump for Trump in Pennsylvania.

G7 reassures Ukraine on NATO bid, frets over threat to UN in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
NAPLES: Defence ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) wealthy democracies on Saturday backed Ukraine's "irreversible" path to NATO membership and expressed concern over threats to United Nations peacekeepers targeted by Israel in Lebanon. The first ever gathering of G7 defence ministers took place as Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah exchanged fire, with one drone directed at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's holiday home, according to his spokesperson. Italy holds the G7

rotating presidency for 2024 while the West also grapples with the Russian advance in Ukraine and China's military activities around Taiwan, as well as heightened tensions along the border of North and South Korea. Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto, who hosted the meeting in the southern city of Naples, told reporters the G7 could not solve global tensions alone, but needed to stimulate action across the international community. "The G7 must be like a gadfly that has the strength to sting the rest of the world," he said at a news conference.

Ukraine's 'victory plan' receives mixed reactions from Western allies

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plan to end Ukraine's nearly three-year war with Russia has received mixed reactions from Western allies so far. The "victory plan" that Zelenskyy outlined at home and abroad includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia — two steps Kyiv's allies have been reluctant to support before. U.S. backing is crucial if Zelenskyy is to get support from other allies for proposals he believes are necessary to strengthen Ukraine's position on the battlefield and ahead of any peace negotiations. But analysts say the Biden administration is unlikely to make a decision before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5, as it may not appeal to voters. "They seem to be just doing very little now

and waiting for the election," said Phillips O'Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. "So much of the strategy will live or die in Washington." Analysts said the plan is a step in the right direction for Ukraine's military efforts. They also described it as ambitious, given allies' fears of escalation with nuclear-armed Russia. Ukraine has previously secured Western support for requests once deemed unrealistic, such as Patriot air defense systems and F-16 jets. Presenting the plan now puts on the radar for the next U.S. administration, analysts said, though it's unknown how the next president will receive it. After returning from making his case to the European Council, Zelenskyy said he expects the White House to provide feedback. "They will be here soon with some form of response," he said.

North Korea minister says new US-led sanctions monitoring team unlawful

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's foreign minister said a new multilateral sanctions monitoring team led by the United States was "utterly unlawful and illegitimate", state media reported on Sunday. The United States, South Korea and Japan on Wednesday announced the launch of a new multinational team to monitor the enforcement of sanctions against North Korea after Russia and China thwarted monitoring activities at the United Nations. The team was introduced after Russia in March rejected the annual renewal of a UN panel of experts that had over the past 15 years overseen the implementation of sanctions aimed at curbing North Korea's nuclear and

Bomb hoax threats to Indian airlines spark chaos

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: More than 90 fake bomb threats have been made against flights operated by multiple Indian airlines this week, Indian media reported Sunday, sparking fear among passengers and global delays. All flights landed safely, but the spate of threats has resulted in planes being diverted to Canada and Germany, and fighter jets scrambled to escort aircraft in the skies above Britain and Singapore. India's government and civil aviation authorities have warned that "very strict action" will be taken. New Delhi's civil aviation authorities have not said how many threats have been received in the past week, but The Times of India and broadcaster News18 reported more than 70 hoaxes.

Senator Samina, PM's aide Romina agree to promote climate justice agenda

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, and Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, have reached a consensus to advocate for the integration of human rights into climate change policies in Pakistan.

During a bilateral meeting with PM's aide Romina Khurshid here on Sunday, both sides also agreed to jointly work to roll out a viable action plan to ensure that climate actions not only address environmental issues but also uphold and protect the rights of vulnerable communities affected by climate change in the country, especially in the highly cli-

mate vulnerable Balochistan province. "Integrating human rights into climate change policy is essential to ensure that actions to tackle climate risks do not exacerbate existing inequalities or infringe upon basic human rights," Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri highlighted during the meeting with the PM's climate aide. She said, "Climate change significantly undermines fundamental human rights, including the right to life, health, food, and water, reflecting an increasing awareness of these pressing issues."

The Senator Zehri remarked, "I personally believe as various studies show that managing human rights into climate risk management action plans and discourse is crucial for cre-

ating and promoting a more just and equitable approach to tackle the climate crisis, particularly for resource-poor and marginalized communities in the vulnerable areas in Balochistan."

She pointed out, "Being a large and arid region in the southwestern part of the country, the Balochistan province is extremely vulnerable to climate change due to a combination of its geographic features, socio-economic challenges, and existing environmental stresses."

"The region's vulnerability is aggravated more due to its dependence on agriculture, water scarcity, and limited and shabby infrastructure, making it highly sensitive to adverse climate risks, particularly

devastating hill torrents, flash floods, cyclones, sea-level rise, heatwaves, declining rainfalls, and droughts," Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri added.

She called for strategies that prioritize equity and justice in confronting this critical challenge of climate change for both mitigating adverse fallouts of climate change and promoting a fairer society with access to equitable access to resources required for climate resilience building.

Senator Zehri urged for well-coordinated and cooperative national efforts that uphold and protect these rights, noting that human activities not only contribute to climate change but also threaten basic human rights.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Ms. Andrea Wicke giving away certificates among winners during the closing ceremony of 3-day "Girls Sports Carnival 2024" organized by Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training at Pakistan Sports Board.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri calls on PM's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam discusses future action plans to promote climate justice agenda.

Dengue cases keep rising despite ICT admin's efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dengue cases continue to rise in the Federal Capital, despite the ongoing efforts by the district administration to control the outbreak.

Hospital sources reported that 20 patients have been admitted to Polyclinic Hospital, 25 to CDA Hospital and 72 to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). Quaid-e-Azam Hospital has taken in 63 patients, while 12 are currently receiving treatment at Federal General Hospital. As of last week, Rawalpindi reported a total of 3,220 dengue cases, while Islamabad recorded 2,276 cases while, the authorities have also found 1,143 positive dengue larvae samples across various parts of the city, indicating the persistence of the disease.

fogging efforts are continuing in Tarlai, Mehrban Town, E-11, and Dhok Abbasi.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, has instructed the fumigation teams to ensure no area is left out. He urged citizens to report if their neighbourhoods are missed so that complete coverage can be achieved. DC Memon also encouraged residents to cooperate with the district administration in its efforts to curb the dengue outbreak.

Alongside fumigation, the administration is focusing on ensuring effective treatment for dengue patients. Special wards have been set up in hospitals across the city, and the situation is being closely monitored.

In response, the district administration has ramped up fumigation operations across the city to prevent the further spread of dengue. Areas such as Dhok Hydari, Koral, and Sarai Kharboza have already been fumigated, while

DC directs wholesalers to follow notified price list

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Sunday directed the authorities concerned to take indiscriminate actions against wholesalers, who were not following the notified price list.

According to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Spokesperson, the Deputy Commissioner urged the citizens to pay the price of food items as per the rate list.

On the special directives of Irfan Nawaz Memon, the ICT administration arrested eight shopkeepers from the Sunday markets of the G-10 and G-11 sectors for not implementing the notified price list.

It is pertinent to mention here that action against shopkeepers selling food items at high prices to the citizens was taken on a regular basis.

Fugitives wanted for murder arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, Bani Gala police station team has arrested an absconder involved in a murder case.

A public relations officer told APP, that the Bani Gala police station received a report from a citizen that the accused Sajjad Ur Rehman and others had murdered his husband Amir Aziz and his nephew Hasin and injured two children namely Anas and Hamdeed and requested that legal action be taken against them.

Upon receiving the report, the Bani Gala police station registered a first information report (FIR) and a special investigation team was constituted. The police team used technical and scientific methods and arrested the accused Sajjad Ur Rehman.

DIG Syed Ali Raza, directed all senior officials to launch an effective crackdown against the accused involved in criminal activities and to prioritize the safety of citizens' lives and property.

Meeting between Governor KP, UK's Education delegation held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Professor Sarah William, Dean of the University Business and Law School in Buckinghamshire, UK, met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi along with a delegation here on Sunday to focus on enhancing educational collaboration.

The meeting, which also included Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter, Malik Habib Malik Orakzai, and vice chancellors from various universities in the province, focused on enhancing educational collaboration and addressing modern educational needs.

Governor Kundi emphasized the importance of aligning provincial universities with global standards, saying that while students possess talent, they require guidance and encouragement.

He expressed regret over the lack of attention given to education and stressed the need to develop an exemplary educational

system for future growth and prosperity.

He highlighted the necessity of acquiring and promoting quality education to achieve goals like women's empowerment and youth engagement.

Discussions also centered on fostering international cooperation in education.

Sarah William committed to strengthening ties with educational institutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while Governor Kundi underscored the significance of establishing robust connections with the British education system.

Vice-chancellors exchanged ideas on opportunities for development and collaboration with international institutions.

The meeting was seen as a positive step towards enhancing education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and fostering international collaboration. During the visit, Professor Sarah William presented Governor Kundi with her book, "Women Work in Public Relations."

Forward block is about to be formed in PTI, claims Vawda

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Faisal Vawda has made a bold claim, stating that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will form a forward block led by what he described as "subversive politicians".

Speaking to the media, Senator Vawda suggested that certain PTI members have deliberately sabotaged the party by boycotting the vote on the constitutional amendments.

He indicated that this move was orchestrated, and the public deserves to know the truth.

According to Vawda, had the opposition been involved, they would have voted against the amendments. He further claimed

that a clever politician will lead the PTI forward block.

Earlier to this, Vawda had posted on X (formerly Twitter), hinting at developments regarding the 26th constitutional amendment, writing, "Anyone wants to come is welcomed, otherwise there are more numbers than needed. Inshallah today after the amendment we will cut the cake."

He had also emphasized that the amendment would pass regardless of opposition, saying, "Whether anyone shows up or not."

He added that there would be no resolution for those who engaged in bribery or intimidation.

11 criminals arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 11 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling, and possessing illegal weapons on Sunday. The police also recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession. In this regard, the Islamabad Police Tarnol, Koral, Sihala, Humak, Ramna and Bhara Kahu police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and arrested six accused, a police spokesperson told APP.

Police teams also recovered 1,574-gram heroin, 1,090-gram hashish, 10 liter of liquor and two pistols along with ammunition

from their possession. Moreover, four absconders were also arrested from various areas of the city during the last 48 hours.

DIG Syed Ali Raza, said that the Islamabad Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace. Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the Islamabad Police's top priority, Syed Ali Raza added. Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline "Pukar-15," or via the "ICT 15" app to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public.

ECP to hear PTI intra party election case, LG election delays on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has scheduled the hearing for the PTI intra-party election case on October 22, delays in local body elections in Punjab and at the federal level, as well as a contempt case against the PTI founder. Notices have already been issued to Barrister Gohar Ali, Rafi Hassan, Akbar S. Babar, and others in the PTI intra-

party election case.

The Election Commission has summoned the Chief Secretary of Punjab, the Secretary of Local Government Punjab, and the Federal Secretary of Interior regarding the delays in the local body elections in Punjab and Islamabad, respectively.

The contempt case against the PTI founder will also be heard on October 22.

PBS to host first-ever-Data Fest 2024 at Pak-China Friendship Centre today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) will be hosting Pakistan's first-ever Data Fest-2024 at the Pak China Friendship Centre from October 21-22, 2024, bringing together experts, researchers, and data enthusiasts from diverse fields to explore the critical role of data in shaping policies and driving innovation for a better future.

This first-of-its-kind festival aims to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and actionable strategies to tackle pressing challenges in Pakistan, including healthcare access, social equity, and sustainable development.

Prominent data scientists, statisticians and Information Technology experts will deliver inspiring speeches, showcasing the transformative power of data in policy-making and innovation.

Attendees participated in hands-on workshops, exhibitions, and a data visualization competition, showcasing the latest advancements in data technologies.

Key activities of the event are thematic discussions that will comprise

engaging sessions on governance, climate resilience, and more, with participation from stakeholders including NADRA, SUPARCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

Further keynote speeches will be delivered by international and regional experts from organizations such as the United Nations and Asian Development Bank.

A total of 50 workshops will be conducted across six dedicated workstations and will cover various data integration and visualization topics.

The event features 80 stalls showcasing cutting-edge data products and tools, including participation from organizations like NADRA, SUPARCO, KPITB, AJK (IT Board), Pakistan Software Export Board, World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, IT Firms.

Panel Discussions of Data experts on six topics including Harnessing Demographic Data for Policy and Legislation to address Pakistan's high population Growth Rate, Welfare Monitoring for Better

Policy Decision-making, Climate Change Issues, Data Gaps, Bridging Data Gaps for Inclusive Data Systems for Effective Policy Making, Data Integration for Growth and Development, Closing Human Capital Gaps (Education) will also be held.

Delegations from International statistical offices, including, the Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Nepal Statistical Office, National Center for Statistics and Information, Oman, Delegates from the Asian Development Bank and UNICEF will also attend the event. Further, there will be virtual presentations from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Iran.

An incubation center for research and innovation is specially designed for academia and researchers to showcase their projects, and research work using different data sets using integrated data sets.

Various foundations and social welfare organizations also participated in the event.

From Academia, Institutions like LUMS, FAST, NUST, and Quaid-e-Azam University will attend Data Fest-2024

Pak-Korea Cultural Week 2024 to be observed from Oct 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Islamabad, will observe the Korea-Pakistan Cultural Week 2024.

According to the PMYP office, the vibrant celebration will showcase the rich cultural heritage of both nations, strengthening their friendship and cultural exchange.

The event will feature two exciting programs including the Korea-Pakistan Cultural Gala on October 23 at Liaquat Gymnasium which will showcase mesmerizing music, dance, and art performances from Korea and Pakistan.

Additionally, the Korea-Pakistan Movie Day will screen four critically acclaimed films from October 24 to 27 at PNCA, Islamabad.

Korean movies "Ode to My Father" and "The Himalayas" would be showcased alongside Pakistani hits "Nayab" and "Superstar." These films would highlight the diversity and creativity of both countries' cinema.

Regarding the occasion, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashhood said "We are thrilled to partner with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to bring this cultural extravaganza to Pakistan. This event embodies the spirit of friendship and cooperation between two countries."

The Korea-Pakistan Cultural Week 2024 underscores the growing bilateral relations between Korea and Pakistan and promises to attract a diverse audience, including dignitaries, cultural enthusiasts, and students.



ISLAMABAD: Women browse and purchase second-hand warm clothes at the weekly bazaar in Aabpara, Federal Capital, getting ready for the colder season.



ISLAMABAD: Former Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque is speaking on the occasion of the 53rd annual Palestine Hurriyat Convention of Imamiya Students Organization Pakistan.

IRSA releases 95,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 95,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 68,200 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1535.57 feet and was 137.57 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 35,900 cusecs and 37,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1198.20 feet, which was 148.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,300 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively.

Symposium held in Islamabad on China-Pakistan cooperation to drive modernization

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Hong Ting Forum themed "Understanding China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and Chinese-style Modernization Development Path" was held in the federal capital city of Islamabad the other day.

The symposium drew about 100 participants, including diplomats, scholars, and media representatives.

It was co-convened by Xinhua News Agency and the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), an Islamabad-based think tank.

Speaking at the event, Shi Yuanqiang, minister of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said that China is ready to share development opportunities with the rest of the world. "China and Pakistan are good neighbours and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and mutually beneficial cooperation benefits both countries," he added.

Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to China, said the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee has adopted a grand strategic blueprint for Chinese-style modernization.

"Pakistan greatly value our time-tested relationship with China, and both countries are tied in a relationship which is unbreakable," Khalid said, adding that Pakistan should learn

from the development model of Chinese-style modernization to embark on the path of self-reliance and better benefit both nations and regional development.

Mudassar Iqbal, deputy director of the Associated Press of Pakistan, said that China's approach to modernization is not only benefiting its own people but also contributing to global development.

"The ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China will enable the two countries to stand and move forward side by side and forge a future of shared prosperity and unshakable friendship," he added.

Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, said that Pakistan should fully utilize the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to expand cooperation with China in various fields such as industry, agriculture, science and technology, digital economy, green energy and technological innovation.

On the occasion, Khalid Mahmood, chairman of the ISSI Board of Governors, said efforts should be stepped up by the media and think tanks of Pakistan and China to contribute to deepening the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.