

# Independent

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## Full court reference held in honor of outgoing CJP May have made wrong decisions but Allah knows truth, admits Justice Isa

Six judges skip full court reference; Justice Yahya Afridi, AGP Mansoor Awan pay tribute to Qazi Faez Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said on Friday he may have made many wrong decisions but Allah knows the truth. Justice Isa was addressing a full court reference held in his honour in Courtroom No 1 of the Supreme Court. Justice Isa shared his experiences and feelings with those who attended the reference. He thanked all his staff, including his guard Fayyaz and the registrar, for their support during his stay in the office.

He referred to the practice of taking notes on pieces of papers during hearing of cases. He said the notes helped him decide a

case according to the facts. "We have to adjudge who is right and who is wrong. The paper may favour a contestant (party) and go against the other," he added. "It is our duty to give justice," Justice Isa said.

Chief Justice-designate Yahya Afridi paid Justice Isa tribute and said he learnt a lot from him. He said he was sad that he (Justice Isa) was leaving but glad that "you get time to spend with your family."

Justice Afridi said Justice Isa was an excellent human being. He disagreed with Justice Isa on many benches but "we played our role judiciously."

APP adds: A full court reference was held in the

Supreme Court on Friday in honor of the outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Chief Justice designate Yahya Afridi, Supreme Court judges, ad hoc judges, Shariat Appellate Court judges, bar association representatives and senior lawyers participated in the full court reference.

Speaking at the full court reference, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa thanked Allah Almighty for considering him worthy of the high position and said that he learned a lot during his tenure. He said that the role of lawyers is important in ensuring the delivery of justice.

He attributed the 36% increase in the stock market since March 2024, a significant reduction in the



ISLAMABAD: Attorney General Mansoor Usman speaking before a full court reference held at Supreme Court in honour of outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

## PM greets nation as Pakistan Stock Exchange surpasses historic 90,000 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated the nation as the Pakistan Stock Exchange's 100-index exceeded the historic mark of 90,000 points.

In a statement issued by the PM Office, the prime minister said that gradual increase in the stock market since March 2024 reflected growing investor confidence in the government policies.

"Such a swift surge in Pakistan's stock market after 14 years is a result of untiring efforts of the economic team," PM Shehbaz said.

He attributed the 36% increase in the stock market since March 2024, a significant reduction in the

inflation rate and overall economic stability in the country to the efforts of the economic team.

He said the inflation rate had eased down from 38% to 6.9% while the current account had also been in surplus for last two months.

During the previous quarter, he said the Overseas Pakistanis dispatched record remittances worth US\$8.8 billion.

Similarly, the prime minister emphasized that the process of revising the contracts made with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) had also been initiated to provide maximum facilitation to the power consumers.

Furthermore, he said that the long-term \$7 bil-

lion facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would also improve the country's economy.

"Dreams of those wishing Pakistan fell into default have been broken," he said adding that he had pledged with the people that he would not let the country, obtained through millions of sacrifices, fall victim to the consequences of the negligence of those who were incompetent.

He said, "We saved the country by sacrificing our politics."

The prime minister hoped that more good news regarding the improvement of the economy would come in the coming days.

## 10 FC soldiers martyred in DI Khan check post attack

President, PM strongly condemn terror attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a tragic incident, 10 soldiers of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) laid down their lives in defense of their nation when Khawarij terrorists launched a fierce attack on an FC checkpoint in Darazinda, Dera Ismail Khan.

The assault, executed under the cover of darkness, was a well-coordinated effort by militants who targeted the Zam FC checkpoint using heavy weaponry.

According to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Interior, the FC soldiers stood firm and courageously fought back, ultimately sacrificing their lives to protect the checkpoint and thwart the terrorists' assault.

The Ministry of Interior spokesperson confirmed that ten FC soldiers were martyred in the confrontation, and three others sustained injuries. Despite the overwhelming threat posed by the heavily armed attackers, the soldiers' bravery prevented the terrorists from advancing further.

"The martyred soldiers thwarted the terrorists' attack on the checkpoint by laying down their lives," the spokesperson said, honoring the soldiers' ultimate sacrifice.

## 4 cops injured as convoy of prison vans attacked near Sangjani: police

All escaped prisoners including PTI MPs have been recaptured, according to police statement

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Armed suspects on Friday attacked a convoy of three police vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza outside Islamabad, police said.

According to a statement from the Islamabad Police spokesperson, the vans were transferring 82 prisoners to Attock Jail after an appearance before the district magistrate earlier today. The 82 prisoners included two PTI lawmakers and four party workers.

"About 20 suspects riding in four vehicles attacked the prisoner vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza," the statement read, adding that the suspected assailants were armed with weapons, sticks and stones. "Four police officers were injured in the attack, while four attackers were arrested," the statement added. "Two vehicles and weapons belonging to the suspects were seized."

## Punjab police kill 10 terrorists in Mianwali

MIANWALI (NNI): In a major operation in the hilly area of Makarwal, the Punjab Police reportedly killed 10 terrorists during an intense exchange of fire.

The operation was launched following intelligence reports of the presence of 10 to 15 terrorists in the region.

According to Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) spokesman, the provincial Punjab CDA has carried a joint operation in the hilly area of Makarwal in the Mianwali district in which 10 terrorists were killed.

During the operation, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on the CTD team, forcing officials to return the fire and killing them on the spot, while several other terrorists managed to escape from the scene, the officials said, adding that a search operation has been launched for the arrest of the fleeing terrorists.

"All officers and men of the CTD and the Elite police remained safe in the firing," he said. "A search continued in the area, while efforts were afoot to identify the deceased terrorists," he added. Punjab police chief congratulated the Mianwali police on the successful operation against terrorists.

## Armed Forces, CJCS, services chiefs pay tribute to Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed



NAIK SAIF ALI JANJUA (SHAHEED) Nishan-i-Haider 26 October, 1948 (Mendhar Sector, IIOOK)

RAWALPINDI (PR): The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs, and Armed Forces of Pakistan pay heartfelt tribute to Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on his 76th martyrdom anniversary.

Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed displayed unwavering valour in defending Pir Kaleva Ridge against relentless Indian assaults in 1948. His selfless heroism serves as an enduring inspiration to those safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.

Today's commemoration honours the extraordinary sacrifices of Pakistan's Armed Forces, exemplifying their unyielding dedication to defending the motherland.

We solemnly remember these gallant heroes who laid down their lives for the nation.

The nation remains eternally proud of its brave sons.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with President Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) on the sidelines of a meeting with IMF/IMF annual meetings 2024.

## Pakistan, Bangladesh discuss matters to revitalize SAARC

APIA (SAMOA) (APP): Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to advance high level dialogue and cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

This agreement was reached during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Adviser for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Md. Touhid Hossain, on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa.



This was the first meeting between the two dignitaries, following their assumption of office.

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the historical, religious and cultural linkages between the two countries.

Both the sides agreed to strengthen cooperation at various multilateral fora.

They also discussed revitalization of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Meanwhile Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday held a meeting with Foreign Minister of Singapore Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan in which they reviewed the state of bilateral relations and underscored the need to broaden bilateral cooperation and dialogue.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) being held here in the capital city of Samoa, the two foreign ministers agreed to remain engaged on issues of mutual interest. The deputy prime minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to forge a broad-based relationship with Singapore anchored in strong economic, political and cultural cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police Crackdown on Aid Hamas March under the auspices of Save Gaza Campaign, police arrested the protestors heading towards US Embassy in the Federal Capital.

## Cadet martyred in Lakkī Marwat mosque attack: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (PR): A 19-year-old army cadet was martyred when armed terrorists opened fire on a mosque during evening prayers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakkī Marwat district on Friday, the military's media wing said. According to a press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Gentleman Cadet Arif Ullah was offering prayers in the mosque when the attack took place.

"As soon as Khawarij started firing, he (Arif Ullah) immediately responded and fought the khawarij bravely," the press release stated. However, during the incident, Gentleman Cadet Arif Ullah embraced Shahadat (martyrdom), sacrificing his life, while saving many innocent lives of worshippers."

## Islamabad Police arrest JI leader Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Police on Friday arrested former senator of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Mushtaq Ahmed during a march organized by the party to express solidarity with the people of Gaza, ARY News reported. As per details, Mushtaq Ahmed along with 20 workers of JI was arrested from outside the Faisal Mosque during the Save Gaza March protest. The Islamabad police said the arrests were made after the protestors tried to march to US Embassy.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police Crackdown on Aid Hamas March under the auspices of Save Gaza Campaign, police arrested the protestors heading towards US Embassy in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister for Privatisation, Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Atta Tarar, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin, and others cutting the cake during Kazakhstan Republic Day ceremony, at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.

## Writ of state to be established at all costs: Info Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaulah Tarar on Friday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had orchestrated an armed attack on prison vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza.

"Armed workers of the PTI including a son of the MPA of the PTI from KPK Liaquat Sahib attacked the prison vans which were carrying 83 detainees, and slowed down near the Sangjani Toll Plaza," said the minister while talking to the media.

He said upto 30 persons in four cars attacked the vans to help the detainees to escape from the custody of the police which had successfully repulsed the attack. Two police personnel got injured, but all those who

tried to flee had been arrested.

Four assailants including the son of the PTI's MPA have been arrested, while their weapons and two cars were taken into custody, he said, adding interrogation of the arrested persons was underway.

Tarar said rest of the assailants and their cars were being traced and would be taken into custody soon. All those involved in the planning and abetment of the attack would face the law, he added.

The authorities had the CCTV footage of the attack, said the minister while debunking a flimsy story worked out by the PTI which claims that the police had staged the attack and itself opened the gates of the vans for prisoners and then vandalized the vehicles by themselves.

## No intention of joining govt, says Fazal

CHINIOT (INP) - Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman says pitting one province against another reflects a non-political mindset.

Talking to media in Chiniot on Friday, he said that 56 clauses in the amendment were reduced to 22, with five added back, highlighting the accomplishments of this change. "I have no intention of joining the government. I am unaware of any such proposal; strong resistance will be made against the 27th constitutional amendment," he added.

He said that Imran's wife was kept in wrongful confinement and "now she is in a safe place". He further added that the Toshakhana case against the PTI founder was also false.

The politico's statement comes a day after Bushra, whose incarceration continued at the Adiala jail in a separate Toshakhana-2 case filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), was released from jail after spending around nine months behind bars.

## PTI rules out deal behind Bushra Bibi's release on bail in new Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Omar Ayub has categorically refuted rumours of any deal in relation to the release of party founder Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi.

Ayub, also the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, was addressing journalists in Sargodha on Friday, saying: "Bushra Bibi's release is not part of any deal."

He said that Imran's



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Yearly trouble**

It is that time of year again. Cities in Pakistan, in particular Lahore, are once more suffocating under the blanket of heavy smog, making it painfully evident that we must move past reactive measures and temporary fixes. With Lahore hitting an Air Quality Index of 394 — nearly four times above healthy levels — and again being ranked the world's most polluted city, air pollution in Pakistan has become a public health crisis begging urgent intervention. Similar conditions prevail across the border in India, where the onset of winter traps pollutants in the air, pushing Delhi into the 'very poor' AQI category. The sources of this persistent problem are well-documented: vehicular emissions, industrial pollutants, and most critically, the widespread burning of crop residue.

Both India and Pakistan have struggled to address the latter, despite the well-established link between stubble burning and deteriorating air quality. In both countries, farmers continue this practice due to expediency and the lack of viable alternatives for clearing fields. Recent reports indicate that farmers in both Haryana, India, and Punjab, Pakistan, are being arrested and fined for burning crop stubble, yet these punitive measures barely scratch the surface of a much larger problem.

In Pakistan, efforts to mitigate smog have intensified, with the government issuing new school timings and banning fireworks to reduce pollutants. India has similarly implemented emergency actions such as water sprinkling on roads and increasing public transport. However, these are akin to putting band-aids on gaping wounds. The long-term strategies needed to combat this environmental crisis remain elusive. The core issue lies in the inadequacy of agricultural policies that leave farmers with little choice but to resort to environmentally harmful practices. While Pakistan has introduced 'Anti-Smog Squads' to monitor and educate farmers about the dangers of stubble burning, these initiatives are only beginning to take root and are not yet widespread. In India, attempts to promote alternatives, such as subsidising machinery for residue management, have faced significant barriers, including high costs and inadequate outreach. What is missing from both countries' approaches is a strategy that not only penalises harmful practices but also provides long-term solutions. While climate diplomacy between India and Pakistan has been proposed, real collaboration on this issue remains sparse. Both nations could benefit from joint initiatives focused on sharing technological advancements, including affordable super-seeders, and coordinating to monitor and control air quality. Moreover, there is a need to realise that smog is not caused by agriculture alone. Both must invest in renewable energy and modernise industrial processes. Encouraging the use of electric vehicles and enhancing public transport systems are also essential steps that both countries must accelerate. Without a paradigm shift in how air pollution is addressed both Pakistan and India will continue to choke every winter.

**Divine 'amanat'**

Amin Valliani

With regards to Pakistan, nature has been very kind and generous. It has endowed Pakistan — a beautiful country — with vast natural resources. It is blessed with all four seasons of the year; it gets sunlight all through the year; it has beautiful landscapes, majestic mountains, glaciers, rivers and a long coastal belt — all with distinct geographical features. We are blessed with fertile lands and a good canal system but internationally, we lag behind in many aspects.

Despite being blessed with considerable gifts of nature, our country finds itself in a chaotic situation. There is no dearth of natural wealth in the country nor do we lack talent. Yet we are unable to tap these resources for our development. Therefore, our currency is weak, our economy is aid-based, and we cannot run our country without IMF bailout packages. Our green passport is currently ranked amongst the lowest worldwide, while millions of Pakistanis live in abject poverty and hunger.

Though we are the trustees of this beautiful land, we have failed to adequately manage the trust. No individual can be charged for this unfortunate condition. However, many attribute this situation to our collective failure to treat Pakistan as a divine trust or amanat. We do not value Pakistan as a divine gift; we have developed a laidback and unconcerned attitude towards its progress and integrity. We live beyond our means and espouse the culture of extravagance; misuse and mismanagement of resources are the main reasons for our difficulties.

This is a time of self-reflection and course correction. A resuscitation process is

the need of the hour. If we want our country to shine internationally, then we should reflect on Quranic verses, especially wherein Allah says, "... Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. ... (13:11)".

There is no doubt that most Pakistanis are sincere, hardworking and God-fearing. They love their country and are ready to make sacrifices for it. But they have not been lucky enough to get an upright and honest leadership in politics, economics, business, trade, and other societal affairs. They deserve a competent, devoted and honest leadership, whose lifestyle reflects the inner and outer aspects of their existence.

The leadership should respect the taxpayer and hold human dignity as sacred. They need to rekindle the national spirit and consider Pakistan as a divine gift, an amanat.

Every inch of Pakistan and its natural resources are part of the divine trust. Therefore, it is necessary to use its resources with utmost care and responsibly, thoughtfully, scrupulously and conscientiously. Allah enjoins believers to "...not betray Allah and the Messenger [PBUH] or betray your trusts while you know [the consequence] (8:27)".

The absence of the notion of amanat has led many to unethical practices.

It has made common people lose their faith in state institutions. The development of Pakistan rests on the strength of its institutions. Unless these are effective and trusted by the people, achieving development and prosperity will become near impossible.

There are numer-

ous examples of failure within institutions. For example, it is very unfortunate that we see state employees drawing their salaries, but these individuals are insincere in the performance of their duties. We, as a nation, utterly lack a national spirit, and as a result, we habitually remain negligent of our duties. For instance, in spite of having sufficient stocks of wheat in the country, the essential food grain was imported recently, causing the state losses in billions of rupees. It was a highly irresponsible act on the part of the authorities concerned.

We see corruption and lawlessness in most departments. The politicians use foul language to embarrass others, they submit fake degrees to stand in elections, police parties kill innocent people in fake encounters, businessmen evade taxes, builders openly violate approved plans of construction to mint more money and use low-quality material, teachers skip classwork in order to privately tutor students while doctors recommend certain drugs for a commission from pharmaceutical firms.

In all these examples, the national spirit is violated. In short, Pakistan suffers from an insincere leadership which cares very little for the people.

We cannot change our present conditions overnight, as we do not have a magic wand. Yet we must strive to forge a national spirit, treating Pakistan as a divine gift. It requires hard work, sacrifice, blood and sweat. Together we can strengthen the foundations of Pakistan and ensure that the country serves as a beacon of hope and progress for future generations. -- Courtesy Dawn

**America's president**

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Not so long ago, America's president effectively enjoyed the mantle of world leadership. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1992 had elevated the US to the status of sole global superpower, a position it enjoyed for the best part of two decades.

Today, as China and many other countries openly challenge US-led Western hegemony, the US presidential election reads like a cautionary tale about the deep crisis of liberal politics and the so-called 'rules-based international order'.

Four years ago, Joe Biden's defeat of Donald Trump was hailed as a return to 'normal' and the terminal demise of the far right. In 2024, Trumpism is not only alive and well but the man himself is poised to make yet another victorious bid for the White House.

Trump may still lose, of course, but only someone living in a fool's paradise can argue that the liberal order is thriving. Whilst global capitalism continues to generate huge inequalities, ecological devastation and imperialist wars, the liberal centre protects the elephant in the room, thus creating the conditions for the far right to thrive by directing the rage of disillusioned masses towards paper tigers.

estine and Lebanon will not determine the election, it is already clear that large numbers of traditionally Democratic voters will either abstain or even cast their vote for Trump to punish Biden and Harris.

On the domestic front, America's economy, like most so-called advanced capitalist countries, continues to be mired in a low-growth trap, which can be traced back to the global financial crisis of 2007-09, and even further to the 1970s. Those at the top of the tree, especially Wall Street, munitions, agribusiness and a host of other global monopolies, continue to make a killing, but the majority of working people have been seeing their living standards stagnate or drop for decades.

Trump explains all of this by blaming immigrants and all sorts of governmental welfare programmes. His contemporaries across the Western world do the same. But even as the far right spews relentless hate, Harris and mainstream liberals in the US and beyond will not cut big capital down to size.

The downward spiral will intensify no matter who wins the upcoming US presidential election, mainstream politics in many countries effectively reduced to a battle between the liberal centre (read: centre right) and far right. This crisis of liberal politics is indeed global, and while there is some distinctiveness to what is happening in non-Western postcolonial countries like ours, the broad trajectories are quite similar.

Here also entrenched bourgeois parties like the PML-N and PPP have demonstrated time and again that they are unwilling to break with the establishment-dominated status quo.

The PTI too acquired power at the behest of the establishment but it is telling that so many young people continued to support it even after things soured between Imran Khan and the army top brass. The PML-N, PPP and other usual suspects offer no respite from the ravages of the system, and in fact, are reinforcing Pakistan's militarised political economy. The PTI possesses only a mythical hero with a notional magic wand, but for many, this is much better than accepting the mediocrity and collaborationism of the Sharifs and Bhuttos.

In America, Pakistan and beyond, there is only one way out of this cul de sac — to acknowledge that global capitalism and various related manifestations of (liberal) imperialism are exacerbating material deprivations and hateful ideologies. Only a left-wing politics with a genuinely popular social base can break the cycle. It is cruel irony that Trump (and prominent supporters of his like Elon Musk) call Harris and the Democrats 'radical leftists', even though the latter are anything but.

Around the time that Trump first came to prominence, mainstream politicians with a genuinely leftist pedigree like Bernie Sanders were also contending to win over the support of working people. In a similar vein, Jeremy Corbyn was staking a claim to moving the British Labour Party meaningfully towards the left. The Sanders-Corbyn wave, and many others like it, was decisively defeated.

Both in the Western world and here at home, left-progressive forces must regroup and try again. Else we will remain at the mercy of military establishments, plutocrats and the far right. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Finance minister highlights positive economic trends at investors' fora**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb attended a series of investor fora organized by Citibank, Standard Chartered and JP Morgan and highlighted positive trends of economy.

The minister, who is leading Pakistan delegation to the Annual Meetings WB and IMF, being held in Washington DC from 21-26 October 2024, briefed investors about the positive performance of the economy during the last fiscal year (2023-24) and expressed satisfaction that all economic indicators were moving in the right

direction. According to press release issued by finance ministry here, the minister highlighted important reforms in the taxation, energy, SOEs, privatization and right-sizing of the government and especially talked about the role of the provincial governments in increasing tax-to-GDP ratio and the National Fiscal Pact signed by the Federal Government.

He also talked about reforms being carried out in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the statement added. Aurangzeb in a meeting with President Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al

Jasser, acknowledged bank's role as a reliable partner in Pakistan's progress and appreciated its financing in diverse sectors such as energy, transportation, education and health.

He especially talked about the visit of Saudi Minister for Investment to Pakistan for business-to-business (B2B) engagements with the private sector.

He lauded IsDB's investment in Mohmand dam, along with other members of the Arab Coordination Group, which could serve as the template for co-financing of similar and even bigger projects in future.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, accompanied by Governor SBP, held a meeting with the lead team of JP Morgan Bank.

**Governor SBP highlights promising outlook, improvements in Pakistan's economy**

KARACHI (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, highlighting significant improvement in the national economy and its promising outlook said that the economy is headed in the right direction with recovery of economic activity and expectation of further real GDP growth in FY25.

He expressed the views during meetings with delegates from international rating agencies and key glo-

bal investors during the events hosted by leading financial institutions, including Standard Chartered, JP Morgan, Bank of America, and Jefferies, on the sidelines of the 2024 IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Washington, DC, said a statement issued here on Friday.

The SBP governor provided an overview of Pakistan's significantly improved economic indicators over the past year and

pointed out that SBP's prudent monetary policy stance and the government's fiscal consolidation have played a crucial role in restoring macroeconomic stability in the country.

Governor acknowledging challenges faced by the global and emerging economies including Pakistan emphasized the necessity of tough yet essential policy responses to address the macroeconomic challenges.

**SSCI chief presents proposals to ease Pak, Afghan transit trade**

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President Fazal Moqem Khan on Friday presented comprehensive proposals to remove hurdles in Pak-Afghan bilateral and transit trade.

The SCCI chief, headed a delegation of traders, gave proposals during a meeting with Chief Collector Custom Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar Jamil Nasir held at Model Custom House here.

The meeting agreed to establish

coordination and relations between SCCI and Customs Office to speed up the consignments' clearance process at Azakel dry port, making Peshawar dry port functional and issues, allied with cross border trade.

Senior vice president of the SCCI Abdul Jalil Jan, former president Faiz Muhammad Faizi, members of executive committee of the chamber Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, Aftab Iqbal, Ashfaq Ahmad, along with traders were present on the occasion.

**SBP injects over Rs4.25trl in the market**

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs4,255.9 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO) on Friday.

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 25, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted total 27 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs4,232.9 billion.

**Dubai's Aviation sector contributes 27% to GDP in 2023, expected to rise to 32% by 2030**

KARACHI (INP): Emirates Group and Dubai Airports have released an economic impact study reaffirming aviation's pivotal role in Dubai's economy.

The study, compiled by global research firm Oxford Economics, provides insights into the sector's current and projected contributions, assessing direct, indirect, and induced economic activity as well as the catalytic impact of aviation-driven tourism, a press release said here Friday.

In 2023, the aviation sector, including Emirates Group, Dubai Airports (covering Dubai International and Dubai World Central - Al Maktoum airports), and other avia-

tion entities, contributed AED 137 billion (USD 37.3 billion) to Dubai's GDP, accounting for 27% of the total.

This figure includes the core impact of AED 94 billion from aviation operations and AED 43 billion from aviation-facilitated tourism. By 2030, this contribution is expected to rise to AED 196 billion, representing 32% of Dubai's GDP.

The sector also played a significant role in employment, supporting 631,000 jobs in 2023, equivalent to one in five jobs in Dubai. With projected growth, an additional 185,000 jobs will be created by 2030, bringing the total to 816,000 jobs.



Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi inaugurated Pakistan Pavilion at 31st China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair.

**Bank of Khyber to support CPEC projects: MD**

PESHAWAR (APP): Acting Managing Director, Bank of Khyber (BoK) Irfan Saleem Awan has that BoK is ready to provide full support and assistance to investors involved in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

The bank has opened branches in key locations like Rashakai Economic Zone and Jalozai, specifically to cater to the needs of businessmen and investors, ensuring ongoing contributions to CPEC's development. Awan shared these remarks while speaking to the media during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural

and information center. He praised the strong and enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, calling it a global model of cooperation.

He noted that China's significant investments in Pakistan, particularly in KP are propelling the province into a new era of development and prosperity.

During his visit, Irfan Saleem Awan toured the various galleries, signed the friendship wall, and left his comments in the guest book. He remarked that being at China Window felt like stepping into a Chinese city.



ISLAMABAD: Famous Economist Kaiser Bengali addressing during a seminar at National Press Club in the Federal Capital.

**German market possessed potential for Pakistani entrepreneurs**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce (AHK) representative, Florian Walther on Friday said Pakistani entrepreneurs had the potential to grow in German market.

Talking to private news channel, he said that the trade relationship between Pakistan and Germany is important for development of both the countries.

He further said that

all the stakeholders should play their positive role to boost the trade relationship between the two countries.

He said that the role of media, political leadership and Civil society at all cultural level was important in this regard.

"I believe this is an important part of my role, that I am not only presenting German business here, but also representing Pakistan when I go to Germany," he added.



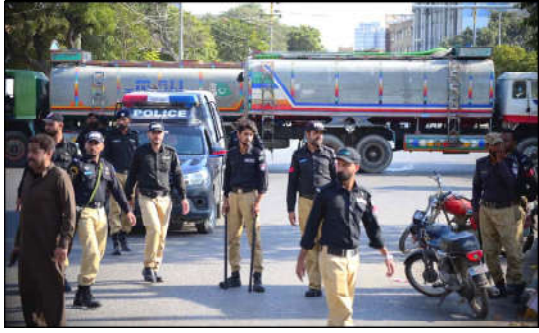
# CM Punjab approves more funds for police martyrs' families

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken another commendable step for the welfare of police martyrs' families by approving an increase in funds for home purchases.

Through the dedicated efforts of IG Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, funding for housing purchases for police martyrs' families has been raised, ranging from Rs. 5 million to Rs. 20 million. Under this new

initiative, the fund for purchasing homes for the families of martyred constables and head constables has been increased by Rs. 5 million, bringing the total to Rs. 18.5 million. Similarly, families of martyred ASIs and sub-inspectors will now receive a total of Rs. 24.5 million, reflecting an increase of Rs. 7 million. For the families of martyred inspectors and DSPs, the fund has been increased by Rs. 10

million, while families of SPs and SSPs will see an increase of Rs. 12 million. Families of DIGs and officers of higher ranks will now receive an increase of Rs. 20 million for home purchases. IG Punjab expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, noting that the increase in funds will ease the challenges in purchasing suitable housing and offer improved living conditions for the families of martyrs.



KARACHI: View of road leads towards CM House and red zone area seen closed while police officials stand alert to avoid untoward incident due to rally of Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP), in Karachi.

## Sardar Saleem says: Responsibility of the govt to protect the life and property of people

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, progress on ongoing development projects in the province and administrative issues were discussed. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that it is the responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of the people and provide them facilities. Governor Punjab said that the success or failure of the

government policies depends on the implementation of these policies and bureaucracy plays a key role in this regard. Governor Punjab further said that the ongoing development projects in the province should be completed soon to make it easier for the people. He emphasized that there is a need to improve public service delivery in the government departments. Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the IT Forum organized by Innovation Labs at Governor House Lahore as Chief Guest.

## ANF recovers over 81 kg drugs in 13 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 13 operations across the country managed to recover over 81 kg drugs worth more than Rs 10 million and arrested 12 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that 4 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Hyderabad.

## Three killed, two injured as truck hits two bikes

SARGODHA (APP): Three people were killed and two others sustained injuries as a speeding truck hit two motorcycles here at Sahiwal Shahpur Road near Mouza Chakrala in the jurisdiction of Sahiwal Police Station, on Friday.

Rescue-1122 District Emergency Officer (DEO) Mazhar Shah told APP that Ayesha (10) Haani (12) Hamza (2) Zamab (8), Khurshid Bibi (14), all residents of Jora Jaeger were heading to Sargodha on two motorcycles when a speeding truck hit them.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh, Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Health minister stresses research, transparency in medical universities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique underscored the Punjab government's commitment to fostering quality research and maintaining transparency in the financial management of medical universities across the province. He was presiding over the 16th Syndicate Meeting of Rawalpindi Medical University at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education on Friday.

During the meeting, the minister highlighted the Punjab government's ongoing support for quality education within

government medical institutions. He confirmed all resolutions made in the previous, 15th Syndicate meeting, and announced that the revised budget for the financial year 2023-24, as well as the budget for 2024-25, had been approved. Key decisions made included the allocation of funds from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for the 2023-24 fiscal year, approval of expenses from the previous year, and authorization for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment for affiliated hospitals including Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital.

## SFA seizes 10,000 kilograms of substandard spices during major raid in Surjani Town

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: In a significant operation, the Sindh Food Authority's Vigilance team conducted a raid on a large spice manufacturing factory located in Surjani Town, seizing 10,000 kilograms of substandard and hazardous spices. Spokesperson for the Sindh Food Authority stated that over 400 bags of contaminated spices were found during the inspection, indicating severe violations of hygiene and food safety standards. The inspection was

led by Food Safety Officer Mehboob Ali Bhatti, who, along with his team, carefully examined various sections of the factory. During the inspection, it was revealed that insects, cone flour, and choker had been mixed with spices, leading to the immediate sealing of the factory. The spokesperson added that cockroaches, cats, and spider webs were found in the production area of the factory, highlighting the extremely poor sanitary conditions.

## APHC-AJK delegation meets United Kashmir Welfare Alliance Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The delegation of All Parties Hurriyat Conference led by APHC-AJK Chapter Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi met the officials and workers of United Kashmir Welfare Alliance Karachi.

They discussed the ongoing human rights situation prevalent in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ongoing suppression by India occupation forces.

The visiting Hurriyat delegation highlighted the ongoing killings, forced disappearances and human rights violations of Kashmiris by the Indian troops in the occupied ter-

ritory and strongly condemned the atrocities inflicted on innocent Kashmiris.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi emphasized on highlighting the long-standing dispute of Kashmir at the global level, saying that India is committing serious violations of human rights in Kashmir, which cannot be ignored anymore and will be raised on international forums. Safi highlighted the difficulties faced by the people of IIOJK, saying that the voice should be raised for the rights of Kashmiris not only in Azad Jammu and Kashmir but in the whole world.



KARACHI: Artists perform traditional folk dances on the closing day of the 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition, TEXPO 2024, at the Expo Center.

## One in 9 women suffering from breast cancer: Speaker

KARACHI (INP): Several flights from Karachi Airport have been cancelled due to technical and operational reasons. According to flight schedule, AirBlue flight PA-807 from Karachi to Multan has been cancelled while SereneAir flight ER-524 from Karachi to Lahore has also been cancelled. Moreover, Karachi to Lahore AirSial flight PF-143 has been cancelled and Karachi to Islamabad AirSial flight PF-125 was also suspended. Similarly, PIA flight PK-368 from Karachi to Islamabad has been called off while PIA flight PK-310 from Karachi to Quetta was cancelled and Karachi to Sukkur PIA flight PK-536 was cancelled as well.

Muhammad Mubeen. A large number of faculty members and students attended the function.

Speakers on the occasion explained why every woman should examine her breasts using her own eyes and hands. They also explained in detail how the self-examination process should be carried out.

Regular self-examination by women would drastically reduce the incidence of breast cancer in the country, they added.

It was revealed recently that a 22-year-old woman had breast cancer, said Dr Rabia Yasmeen of the Naimat Begum hospital.

# International News

## Israeli strikes kill 38 people in Gaza's Khan Younis and 3 journalists in southern Lebanon

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Israeli strikes killed 38 people in Gaza and three journalists in Lebanon on Friday as growing worries about supply shortages in Gaza and international pressure for a cease-fire mounted.

The deaths reported by Gaza health officials were the latest in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, where people have in recent days lined up for bread outside the city's only bakery in operation. They come a day after United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Israel had accomplished its objective of "effectively dismantling" Hamas and implored both sides to revive negotiations.

Also on Friday, an Israeli airstrike on guesthouses where journalists were staying in southeast Lebanon killed three media staffers working for news outlets that are seen

as aligned with Lebanon's Hezbollah group and its patron, Iran.

Outside of now-collapsed buildings rented by various media outlets, cars marked "PRESS" lay covered in dust and rubble after the strike, Associated Press photos showed.

The Israeli army did not issue a warning prior to the strike.

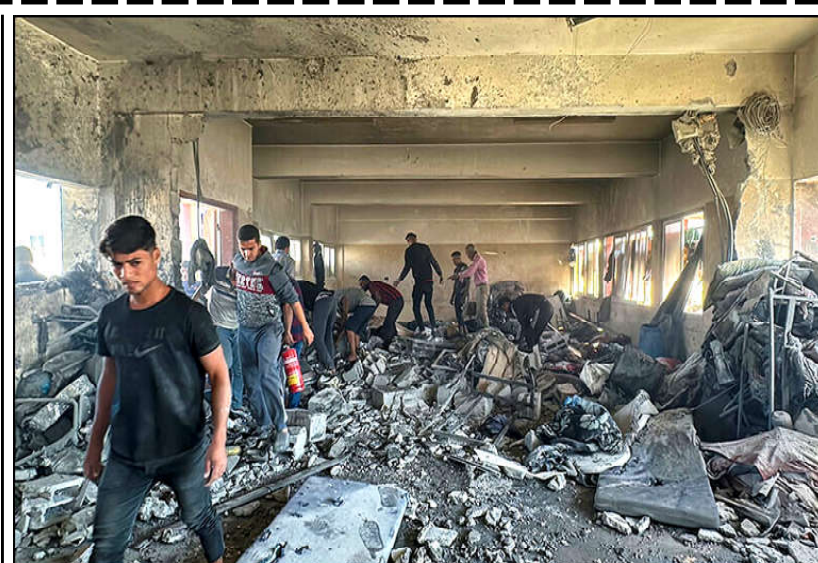
Representatives of the news networks and Lebanese politicians accused Israel of war crimes and intentionally targeting journalists. "These were just journalists that were sleeping in bed after long days of covering the conflict," said Imran Khan, a senior correspondent for Al Jazeera English who was among the journalists in the compound. In a social media post, he said he and his team were unhurt.

The Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV said two of its staffers — camera op-

erator Ghassan Najjar and broadcast technician Mohammed Rida — were among the journalists killed early Friday. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said its camera operator Wissam Qassim was also killed in the airstrike on the Hasbaya region.

Al-Mayadeen's director Ghassan bin Jiddo alleged that the Israeli strike on a compound housing journalists was intentional and directed at those covering elements of its military offensive. He vowed that the Beirut-based station, a pan-Arab broadcaster seen as aligned with Hezbollah, would continue its work.

The strike occurred hours after the Israeli military's Arabic language spokesman, Avichay Adraee, directly challenged Al-Mayadeen war correspondent Ali Mortada in online posts and referred to him as "my enemy" in English.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip.

## UN calls for urgent action to avoid catastrophic warming

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: The United Nations on Thursday said nations have just months to supercharge their climate plans and called for massive global action to avoid devastating warming.

The UN Environment Programme's annual Emissions Gap report was released ahead of COP29 climate talks in Azerbaijan and a looming deadline for countries to update and improve their carbon-cutting commitments.

New targets matter because the current crop of climate plans put the world on track for catastrophic warming, the UN said, risking devastating consequences for humanity and irreversible tipping points on land and in the oceans. Emissions are still rising when they need

to be falling. And fast. Here are some key takeaways:

Planet-heating pollution — largely from burning oil, gas and coal but also from things like farming and forest loss — rose 1.3 per cent in 2023 from the previous year. That took emissions to a new record high of 57.1 billion tonnes of CO2 or its equivalent in other greenhouse gases. Each year of rises further imperils the possibility of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — long identified as a limit for a relatively climate-safe world, albeit one still roiled by severe impacts.

To keep 1.5C in play, emissions need to be slashed more than 40pc by 2030, from 2019 levels.

## Turkiye buries attack victims after striking PKK in Iraq, Syria

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: The first Ankara attack victims were being buried on Thursday, just hours after Turkey struck PKK militants in Iraq and Syria whom it blames for the assault on a defence firm that killed five.

As the dust settled after Wednesday's deadly attack on the state-run Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) that also left 22 injured, Turkey pointed the finger at Kurdish militants as "very likely" responsible.

Turkish investigators said both attackers were "PKK terrorists", identifying them as a man called Ali Orek, codename "Rojger", and a woman called Mine Sevjin Alcicek, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya wrote on X.

## India, China begin implementing new border pact, ending Himalayan face-off

**Monitoring Desk**  
KAZAN: India and China have begun implementing an agreement to end a military standoff on their disputed Himalayan border, the two sides said on Friday, in the biggest thaw between the Asian giants since deadly clashes between their armies four years ago. Troops who were eyeball-to-eyeball at two points on the frontier in the western Himalayas had begun pulling back, an Indian government source said, heralding an end to the standoff.

The nuclear-armed neighbours struck a deal earlier this week on patrolling the frontier, which then paved the way for the first formal talks in five years between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of a regional summit in Russia. "According to the recently agreed solution between India and China ... their frontline armies are implementing relevant work, with smooth progress so far," Lin Jian, a spokesperson for China's foreign ministry, said on Friday.

In New Delhi, a government official aware of the details said troops on both sides had started withdrawing from the areas of Depsang and Demchok.

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: As the US presidential election approaches, the most recent polls show former President Donald Trump leading Vice President Kamala Harris in the race, with the economy playing a role in voters' decisions. A poll released on Thursday by CNBC's All-America Economic Survey showed that Trump leading Harris 48 per cent to 46pc nationally, with a margin of error of 3.1pc.

In the seven battleground states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — Trump leads Harris 48pc to 47pc, with a margin of error of 4pc for that portion of the poll. This survey highlighted that many voters view the economy as the most important issue, with a significant number trusting Trump to handle it better than Harris.

## Trump leads Harris in latest US presidential poll surveys, with economy at centre of voter concerns

**Monitoring Desk**  
OTTAWA: Canada said on Thursday it was significantly curbing immigration targets, a dramatic shift that comes as public support for new arrivals declines.

This marks a big pivot for a country with a long-standing reputation as a destination for immigrants, including economic migrants from the developing world seeking better living conditions.

## Canada cuts immigration targets sharply

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## Putin to look at Black Sea shipping proposals from Turkey's Erdogan

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said his Turkish counterpart, Tayyip Erdogan, had proposed reviving contacts on Black Sea shipping but that he had not yet had time to study the documents.

Putin told Russian state television that Erdogan had "once again renewed these proposals to continue contacts related to shipping in the Black Sea, (and) on some other issues."

Putin met Erdogan at the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"To be honest, I haven't even had time to read the materials that our Turk-

ish partners and friends have given us," Putin said. "Well, let's see. We have never refused this." Turkey and the United Nations helped mediate the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a deal struck in July 2022 that had allowed the safe Black Sea export of nearly 33 million metric tons of Ukraine grain.

Russia withdrew from the agreement in July 2023, complaining that its own food and fertiliser exports faced serious obstacles.

Turkey and Guterres have repeatedly tried to get merchant shipping sailing more freely through the Black Sea, which in some areas has been turned into a naval war zone since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

## US, Israeli negotiators to discuss Gaza ceasefire deal in Doha

**Monitoring Desk**  
DOHA: The United States does not want a protracted Israeli campaign in Lebanon, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday (Oct 24), a month into Israel's military onslaught against the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah.

Blinken also said he hoped Iran was getting a clear message that any further attacks on Israel risked its own interests, with the region awaiting the retaliation Israel has vowed for an Iranian missile barrage on Oct 1. US and Israeli negotiators will gather in Doha to prepare the way for renewed talks on a Gaza ceasefire deal which would also entail the release of hostages in the Palestinian enclave, Qatar and Washington said.

Israel said the head of its Mossad intelligence agency would travel to

**US warns against long Israeli campaign in Lebanon, Israeli general says "sharp" end possible**

Doha on Sunday to try to restart the talks. Mossad head David Barnea will meet CIA director William Burns and Qatar's prime minister.

"The parties will discuss the various options for starting negotiations for the release of the hostages from Hamas captivity, against the backdrop of the latest developments," Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's office said. Blinken, speaking after talks with Qatar's prime minister, said it had not yet been determined whether Hamas was prepared to engage in new negotiations, but urged the group to do so. Blinken has been on his first trip to the region since Israel killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, a mastermind of the group's Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel that triggered conflict across the Middle East.

Israel said the head of its Mossad intelligence agency would travel to



## Accurate reporting key to tackling trafficking and smuggling: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday emphasised the crucial role of accurate reporting in guiding government actions, particularly in combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, where media plays a vital part.

He expressed these views while addressing an interactive session with journalists on media reporting in Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) and bonded labor in Pakistan organized by the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), where he was the chief guest.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi praised SSDO's initiative and called the awareness session a significant effort in addressing Trafficking in Persons and forced labor. He said that media reports on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) play a critical role in shaping national policies and improving society.

"Accurate reporting, based on factual information and current laws, can support the government's efforts in dismantling trafficking networks," he said.

He explained that the police handle cases of internal trafficking within the country, while the FIA is responsible for investigating cross-border trafficking.

The Governor further stressed the importance of protecting the identities and dignity of victims when reporting on these sensitive issues. He encouraged media professionals to evaluate the actions of law enforcement agencies within the framework of the law to improve their effectiveness. He also said that the media can serve as a bridge between victims and governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide legal aid.

On this occasion, Executive Director of SSDO, Syed Kausar Abbas, expressed his gratitude to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and Journalists for attending the event. He highlighted the growing concern of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and bonded labor in Pakistan. Syed Kausar Abbas stressed that to tackle these issues, media and law enforcement agencies must collaborate with a solid strategy.

He added that it is very important to fully implement the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 to counter this challenge.

During the session, journalists were briefed on national and international laws related to trafficking in persons (TIP). Syed Kausar Abbas informed the participants that Trafficking in Persons in Pakistan occurs in two forms, internal trafficking within the country and cross-border trafficking.

He said that children under the age of 18 are most vulnerable to child labor and exploitation in commercial sex being widespread. Both men and women, as well as children and transgender's are victims of this exploitation.



Coordinator to PM on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam taking briefing on the G-Tech Hub initiative at the NUST Islamabad campus.

## My City smart application to enable world class amenities on single click: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday appraised the Lower House of the Parliament that a smart city application "My City" would be rolled out soon that would enable world class civic amenities on a single click of their smartphones. He was responding to a query of Members National Assembly (MNAs) with Member Panel of Chairpersons, Syeda Shehla Raza in chair.

Tarar said the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Information Technology Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior were preparing the Smart City App titled "My City" that would provide facilities such as paying utility bills and access to other civic facilities.

He added that efforts are underway to hire international consultants to ensure zoning of the federal capital as an IT Park and state of the art cancer hospital would be established in Islamabad.

During the interim government, a revised plan was submitted on 22 January, 2024 to the Cabinet Committee to observe international best practices in modernizing mega urban centers through hiring international consultants.

Commenting on the metrobus feeder routes, Attaullah Tarar said the 1-16 Sector is under development.

## Romina highlights visual arts' role in wildlife protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Friday said that while the climate change impacts grow more frequent and intense, innovative approaches such as painting and visual arts can play a vital role to sensitize policymakers and public about various threats being faced by the wildlife species.

"In the face of escalating threats to wildlife and their habitats, the role of painting and visual art has never been seen more crucial as in today's times of global warming. Artists can effectively use their talents to illuminate the pressing issues surrounding wildlife vulnerability, inspiring action and fostering a deeper connection between communities and the natural world," the PM's climate aide remarked during her keynote address at an inaugural ceremony of the Wildlife Art Exhibition here at the Pakistan National Council of Arts.

Through compelling imagery, artists' role is of unprecedented importance to highlight the beauty and fragility of endangered species and threatened ecosystems for public awareness. Because, paintings and visual have always served as powerful visual narratives that hold the power to effectively engage the public, prompting conversations about the urgent need for conservation.

Romina Khurshid Alam observed that art possesses the unique ability to evoke emotions and cultivate empathy. Therefore, by exhibiting wildlife in their natural habitats, artists can play an effective role to encourage viewers to reflect on the struggles faced by these creatures.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Muhyuddin Ahmad Wani presenting certificates to the participants during launch of the Pakistan Education Statistics Reports 2022-23, highlighting progress in both formal and non-formal education.

## IHC disposed of petition after PTI founder granted lawyer access

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday disposed of a contempt petition after three lawyers were permitted to meet the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder. The meeting was held on court orders, addressing previous complaints that lawyers had been barred from meeting their client.

Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan of the Islamabad High Court heard the case.

The contempt petition, filed by lawyer Faisal Chaudhry, alleged that authorities had restricted the PTI founder's legal team from visiting him, despite a court directive allowing them access.

During the hearing, Chaudhry confirmed that, following the court's permission, he and two other lawyers were able to meet the PTI founder. He claimed the founder's basic rights were being violated in jail and requested the court's intervention to safeguard those rights.

However, Justice Khan declined to address these broader concerns in the current case.

## ITP issues alternative routes amid Security measures in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Friday implemented a route plan in light of the current law and order situation, restricting access to Jinnah Avenue via Express Chowk from China Chowk.

A public relations officer told APP that, Embassy Road from the intersection with Fazl-e-Haq Road towards Ayub Chowk is also closed, as well as Embassy Road from the intersection with Nazimud-Din Road towards Suharwardy Road.

Citizens are advised to use alternative routes, including Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Luqman Hakeem Road, and the Polyclinic Underpass to avoid any travel inconvenience.

Islamabad Traffic Police stated that officers are present on the roads to assist citizens and ensure a smooth traffic flow. He said citizens should stay updated on the latest traffic situation by tuning in to Islamabad Police's Radio FM 92.4 or contacting the helpline at Pukar 15.

## IG orders officials to eliminate crime from Islamabad

Independent Report for ongoing investigations. ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) orders to senior police officers to pay special attention to heinous crimes, street crime, and crime hotspots. He emphasized that protecting the lives, property, and honor of citizens in Islamabad is the utmost priority for the Islamabad Police.



Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi presided over a crime control meeting at the Central Police Office (CPO) Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the meeting was attended by DIG Headquarters Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, DIG Security Jawad Tariq, and other senior police officers.

During the meeting, IGP reviewed the overall crime situation and crime prevention measures in the federal capital.

He gives necessary directions to the police officers regarding the arrest of accused involved in robbery, murder, street crime, and other cases, as well as obtaining evidence



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi attends Interactive session with media persons during an event arranged by SSDO.

## Pakistan to continue supporting depressed Kashmiris until final resolution: Ch Anwar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Kashmir Affairs, and Gilgit-Baltistan Ch Anwar Ul Haq on Friday said that Pakistan will continue its support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) until the final resolution of the dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions and as per aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Talking to APP, he said that the criminal silence of world over the human rights violation, unilateral decision of August 05, 2019, and non-implementation of UN resolutions has been encouraging Indian to continue with its brutal policies. Kashmiri people are enduring multi-faceted curbs, with their leadership incarcerated and their voice muzzled. However, the ongoing human rights violations cannot dampen the Kashmiris' just struggle, he added.

He said it was very unfortunate that Kashmir dispute was still unresolved despite agreed resolutions of UNSC.

He was of the view that India has let loose reign of terror in occupied Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiris' voice and punish them for demanding right to self-determination, while on August 05, 2019, it also revoked special status of Kashmir to pave for settler colonization.

The nightmare that started on October 27, 1947, has not ended yet for people of Kashmir who are suffering every single day under the occupational forces, he said.

Currently, India maintains around one million troops in Kashmir, making it the most militarized zone in the world, he lamented.

## DGRE registers 17,738 Madaris till September

ISLAMABAD (APP): Directorate General Religious Education (DGRE) under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is the only department at Federal Level to register Deeni Madaris in the country and has already registered 17,738 Madaris till 11th of September, 2024.

In a written reply, the Senate was told that any Madrasa which wants to get register with DGRE submits its application on standard form. After scrutiny of registration form certificate is then issued.

DGRE has provided financial assistance to 598 registered Deeni Madaris by providing 1196 teachers.

It was also informed that DGRE appoints teachers on the recommendations of concerned Madrasa and Wafaq who fulfil the laid down criteria which includes minimum Bachelors Degree with English, Mathematics and General Science subjects.

## Senate told 367 Pak students offered hunricum scholarships during last 3yrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar announced on Friday that, under the Bilateral Exchange Scholarships Program (Stipendium Hungaricum), a total of 367 Pakistani students have been awarded scholarships over the past three years. Responding to a question from Senator Shahadat Awan during the Senate session, Senator Tarar provided a provincial breakdown, stating that approximately 123 students received Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships during this period. In a supplementary query, Senator Kamran Murtaza emphasized that these scholarships should be allocated to students from Balochistan based on their domicile.

## AJK President calls for unified stance on Kashmir issue

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has stressed the need for a unified stand on the Kashmir issue.

Addressing a dinner hosted in honor of heads of various political parties in the state capital on Thursday, AJK President said the leadership across the political spectrum must come together to effectively promote the Kashmir cause.

"There is a dire need for the top leadership representing different political and religious parties to rise above partisan politics and work together for the freedom movement of Kashmir," the president said.

He noted that with the main Hurriyat Conference leadership languishing in Indian jails, "it is our shared responsibility to become a voice for the voiceless Kashmiri brothers and sisters". Referring to the growing importance of social media, the AJK president said these platforms could be used to expose India's "brutal face" and human rights violations against the Kashmiri people. The event was attended by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, former Prime Ministers Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan and Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan and other senior political leaders.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Pervaiz Ali Sandela and Olympian Khawaja Junaid in Federal Capital.

## CDA plans bicycle tracks with sustainability in mind

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA), Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, is pushing forward with an ambitious plan to bring bicycle tracks to Islamabad, blending scenic beauty with sustainable transit options.

A high-level meeting was held on Friday to review the proposed designs, attended by key CDA members, officials, and consultants from the National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK).

The project aims to make cycling a feasible, eco-friendly, and affordable commuting choice in the city.

NESPAK consultants briefed participants on various track design options, all based on an extensive topographic survey. The most suitable design will soon be finalized, focusing on both functionality and aesthetics.

Chairman Randhawa stressed that the tracks should serve as a green transportation alternative while enhancing Islamabad's visual appeal.

He highlighted the importance of phased development that adheres to international standards without compromising affordability.

Exploring potential international funding sources was also discussed to ensure project feasibility.

To support sustainability, the Chairman proposed digital advertising boards along the tracks to generate revenue.

Additionally, he emphasized the inclusion of electric bikes and charging stations to make commuting greener and more convenient.

Environmental preservation remains central to the CDA's strategy, with plans to work closely with NESPAK to ensure minimal impact on the city's natural green spaces.

The CDA has reaffirmed its commitment to introducing cost-effective and sustainable transportation solutions that align with Islamabad's vision as a green, livable city.

## IRSA releases 106,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 106,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 66,500 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1533.60 feet and was 135.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 35,500 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1193.95 feet, which was 143.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,300 cusecs.

## Senate adjourned amid lack of quorum till Oct 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate of Pakistan was adjourned Friday to meet again on October 28 (Monday) at 3 pm for lack of quorum.

As the session of the House resumed after a two-day break, question hour was underway when lack of quorum was pointed out. PPP Senator Saleem Mandviwalla who was presiding over the sitting adjourned the House for reconvening after 30 minutes.

Later, as the House reconvened, the quorum was again pointed out, the count was made but the House was not in order, forcing the Chair to adjourn the session till Monday.

## 50th death anniversary of writer gha Shorish observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 50th death anniversary of famous journalist, scholar, and writer Agha Shorish Kashmiri was observed on Friday. He was born in Lahore in 1917, British India. Agha Shorish Kashmiri initially gained recognition as a journalist and orator. He started his political career in 1935 when he delivered a historic speech at the Shaheed Ganj Mosque conference.

He was deeply involved in the Pakistan Movement, advocating for Muslim political rights in British India.



ISLAMABAD: Art enthusiasts admire the beautiful works at the "Through the Veil of Dreams" painting exhibition by artist Tabinda Chinoy at Gallery 6 in Federal Capital.

## Pak education statistics report highlights growth in institutions, enrollments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) has unveiled the "Pakistan Education Statistics Report 2022-23," highlighting encouraging data on formal and informal education across the country. Compared to the previous year, the number of educational institutions has risen by 12%, student enrollment has increased by 3%, and the number of teachers has grown by 19%. Additionally, 74% of primary schools now offer basic sanitation facilities, and 72% provide access to drinking water.

The gross enrollment ratio in primary education stands at 78%, including 83% boys and 72% girls, while the ratios for middle, high, and higher secondary levels are 54%, 43%, and 22%, respectively.

This progress reflects improvements in educational facilities and quality, playing a crucial role in stabilizing the education system. However, the report emphasizes the need for continuous development to tackle ongoing challenges in the education sector.

The PIE, in collaboration with JICA and AQAL, hosted a formal event to launch the "Statistics Report on Formal and Informal Education in Pakistan 2022-23." Chief Guest, Secretary Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, Mohayuddin Din Ahmad Wani praised the efforts of the Pakistan Institute of Education and stressed the importance of utilizing these findings for targeted reforms to improve national educational outcomes. Dr. Muhammad Shahid Saroya, Director General of PIE, shed light on the report, stating that the number of educational institutions rose from 313,445 in 2021-22.



ISLAMABAD: view of Pakistan, Kashmir and black flags installed on Faizabad bridge in the Federal Capital on the eve of Black Day on 27th October.