

# Independent

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## CJP Afridi-led full court discusses steps to reduce case backlog, boost efficiency

Judges discussed a range of strategies to achieve the plan's targets

ISLAMABAD (APP): A full court meeting of the Supreme Court of Pakistan held on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi. The meeting was attended by all the judges including Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah who joined through video link. The meeting was convened to assess the performance of the Supreme Court in the institution and disposal of cases, focusing on measures to reduce case backlog and enhance judicial efficiency. The registrar provided an overview of the current caseload and outlined the steps towards timely decision of cases. She presented updated statistics, including that 59,191 cases are currently pending and introduced a newly devised one-month plan based on Case Management Plan 2023 prepared by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. The plan includes setting clear standards, employing information technology to effectively manage all categories of cases. Reviewing the case Management Plan, the judges discussed a range of strategies to achieve the plan's targets. Criminal and civil cases, as detailed in the monthly plan, were allocated to specialized

two and three member benches to ensure swift and speedy case resolution. The Judges contributed valuable insights and recommendations for further system improvement, underscoring their commitment to addressing case backlog. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, participating via video link, offered additional suggestions aimed at reducing the case backlog and improving procedural efficiency initially for one month and followed by three-month and six-month plans. Chief Justice thanked all the judges for their resolve to implement the case management plan in full, with a commitment to achieve the outlined targets. Progress will be reviewed in the next session of the full court meeting scheduled for 2 December 2024.



ISLAMABAD: The Russian Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Ms. Valentina Matvienko, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pakistan seeks Russia's support for BRICS membership bid

Zardari points out that both countries enormous potential for increasing economic cooperation and called for Russian investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Monday reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties in the areas of trade, commerce, investment, agriculture and energy for the mutual benefit of the two countries. This was discussed at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Valentina Matvienko at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

cooperation in various fields. The meeting was attended by the Chairman Senate Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Aimal Wali Khan, Senator Manzoor Ahmad Kakar, Senator Saleem H. Mandviwala, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt and other senior officials. While talking to the delegation, the president underscored the need to strengthen cultural linkages through people-to-people contacts and scholarship programs. He also pointed out that both countries had enormous potential for increasing economic cooperation and called for Russian investment in Pakistan. The president fondly recalled his recent pleasant interaction with President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Ashgabat. He also sought Russia's support for Pakistan's bid to become a member of BRICS that would greatly help Pakistan to enhance its role in regional and global cooperation through the alliance. Both sides underscored the importance of diversifying trade and economic cooperation, besides enhancing regional connectivity through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the North-South Transport Corridor. The Russian speaker emphasized that her country accorded priority to its relationship with Pakistan and expressed confidence that her visit would further enhance bilateral cooperation.

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ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi presides over Full Court meeting at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

## 50,000 new passport applications being received daily: Interior Ministry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Ministry has reported a surge in passport applications, with 45,000 to 50,000 applications submitted daily, while current resources allow only 20,000 to 22,000 passports to be issued per day. Officials attribute the delays to limited capacity and outdated infrastructure. In a statement to the National Assembly, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi explained that the system introduced in 2004 was initially sufficient but has since become strained as regional offices expanded from 30 to 223 and foreign missions from 10 to 93. He said over time, the passport offices increased to 223 while Pakistan's missions abroad surged to 93. However, he said the passport production facility was never expanded nor equipped with the technology or equipment to make the printing process "faster and better." "Presently, the department is facing a very high trend of daily passport applications around 45,000 to 50,000 thousand from field formations, whereas, the production facility can merely cater for 20,000 to 22,000 passports per day," Naqvi said. "Resultantly, the routine backlog is being accumulated."

## PM to visit Saudi Arabia on Oct 29-30 to attend FII moot

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to undertake an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to attend the 8th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII), being held in Riyadh from October 29 to 30. The prime minister will be accompanied by key cabinet ministers, according to a curtain-raiser issued by the Foreign Office. Commending the efforts of the government's polio team in combating the disease, he directed Coordinator for National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and the Secretary of National Health to visit the most affected areas during the recent polio campaign. The prime minister also directed to conduct a third party audit of the anti-polio campaign. Additionally, he emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the immunity gap. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the recent polio cases and the eradication campaign. Currently, the number of active polio cases in the country stands at 41, out of which 25 such cases whom routine immunization coverage is not better. The briefing also highlighted that the spread of polio was lower in areas with better vaccination rates. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister's Coordinator for National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Prime Minister's Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and relevant senior government officials.

## PM reiterates resolve to make Pakistan polio-free country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed government's resolve to make Pakistan a polio-free country, stressing the need for unified action in this regard. "We will not rest until we have permanently defeated polio", he said while chairing a meeting on polio eradication. Commending the efforts of the government's polio team in combating the disease, he directed Coordinator for National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and the Secretary of National Health to visit the most affected areas during the recent polio campaign. The prime minister also directed to conduct a third party audit of the anti-polio campaign. Additionally, he emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the immunity gap. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the recent polio cases and the eradication campaign. Currently, the number of active polio cases in the country stands at 41, out of which 25 such cases whom routine immunization coverage is not better. The briefing also highlighted that the spread of polio was lower in areas with better vaccination rates. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister's Coordinator for National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Prime Minister's Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and relevant senior government officials.

## Gilani, Matvienko reaffirm commitment to regional security, bilateral coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, and Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Ms Valentina Matvienko, on Monday reiterated their commitment to regional security, particularly in combating illicit drug trafficking through joint initiatives. In a meeting with the Russian delegation led by Ms. Matvienko, the Chairman extended a warm welcome as the two nations marked the 76th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The discussions highlighted the evolution of bilateral ties since 1948, with both leaders emphasizing the importance of ongoing cooperation in defense, economic infrastructure, and energy sectors. Recalling previous discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Yousuf Gilani noted the constructive exchanges aimed at enhancing collaboration. In a meeting with the Russian delegation led by Ms. Matvienko, the Chairman extended a warm welcome as the two nations marked the 76th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The discussions highlighted the evolution of bilateral ties since 1948, with both leaders emphasizing the importance of ongoing cooperation in defense, economic infrastructure, and energy sectors. Recalling previous discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Yousuf Gilani noted the constructive exchanges aimed at enhancing collaboration.



RAWALPINDI: Deputy Defence Minister, Russian Federation, Col. General Aleksandr V. Fomin called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif at Ministry of Defence.

## Aleem Khan lauds NHA's 100pc revenue surge, M-Tag implementation, technical upgradation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday visited the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters, inspected the National Traffic Operation Center and commended Pakistan's motorway and GT road notable revenue growth and technological upgrades. Aleem Khan expressed satisfaction over the transition of 99 percent of vehicles on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway to the M-Tag system, which has greatly reduced traffic congestion and streamlined toll operations. "The shift to M-Tag has improved traffic flow significantly and I am pleased with NHA's efforts to modernize the toll collection process," Aleem Khan stated. Aleem Khan further highlighted the record-breaking financial achievements of the NHA, reporting a 100 percent increase in revenue, with the projected target rising to Rs 110 billion from last year's Rs 64 billion. "This is an unprecedented milestone, marking the first time a public institution will generate an additional Rs 50 billion in revenue," the minister said. The federal minister directed the NHA to reduce cash lanes across all motorways and increase the number of M-Tag booths.

Modern technological upgrades have lagged behind the growing demand. The delays, worsened by a passport paper shortage late last year, have led to months-long waiting times for applicants. He said the government has made the passport production facility operational 24 hours during all seven days of the week in three shifts to cater to applicants on a war footing basis. When asked whether the government was charging people exorbitant fees to issue passports on an urgent basis, the minister responded by saying that it is up to the applicants to choose and apply for passports according to their urgency under the prescribed categories of "normal," "urgent" and "fast track."

## PTI decides to become part of JCP

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI has decided in principle to become part of Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) formally. PTI has agreed on nominating members for JCP from both the houses of the parliament. The communication of special meeting of PTI special committee was issued. According to communication detailed briefing was given in regard to nomination of two members from opposition for JCP and letter of Speaker National Assembly (NA) in this respect. The meeting was told that the responsibilities of 13-member judicial commission have been enhanced.

## BBC challenges 26th constitutional amendment in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (Online): Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) has filed petition in Supreme Court (SC) against constitutional bench set up under 26th constitutional amendment. Petition has been filed through lawyer Munir A Malik. The petition said establishment of Judicial Commission (JC) and its functioning under constitutional amendment be stopped. Federal and all the four provincial governments have been made respondents.

## Pakistan prepares for COP2024, calls for support to combat climate crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal here on Monday chaired a high-level meeting in preparation for the upcoming COP2024 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November, emphasizing Pakistan's urgent call for international support to combat the intensifying climate crisis. The Minister highlighted Pakistan's critical vulnerability to climate impacts, with recent floods positioning the country as a pivotal case study on the frontlines of climate resilience and adaptation. "Pakistan is not only the worst victim of the climate crisis but also the most resilient. Despite the devastating floods of 2010 and 2022, our nation has shown unparalleled perseverance. Yet, the scale of these challenges exceeds our capacity, requiring immediate global support," Ahsan Iqbal said. The Minister noted that while the catastrophic floods of 2010 led to huge number of fatalities, strategic preparedness efforts helped reduce the toll during the 2022 floods. Although three times more severe, these efforts brought fatalities down, underscoring the life-saving impact of resilience planning. "Our success in mitigating human loss shows that preparedness is not only crucial but lifesaving. However, continued resources and expertise are essential to sustain this progress," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Polio Eradication.

## Nazeer Tarar calls for global cooperation to uphold rule of law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, on Monday emphasized the need for collective efforts to ensure the rule of law, protect human rights, and prevent crimes against humanity. Speaking at the 47th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), hosted by Pakistan, the minister reiterated the country's commitment to working with the international community to achieve global peace and justice. During the session titled "The Regional Perspective on the Enforcement of Rome Law and Reforms in Local Legislation," the Senator highlighted Pakistan's dedication to promoting peace, stability, and respect for human rights. He said that parliamentarians played a key role in safeguarding human rights and advancing democracy. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's active participation in global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

## NA Speaker urges global action on common challenges

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for unified global action to address challenges being faced by the world community. He was addressing inaugural ceremony of 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action in Islamabad Monday. The Speaker said climate change is a looming threat which requires concerted international efforts. Highlighting the plight of innocent Palestinians in Gaza, the Speaker said every Parliamentarian should raise his voice in every Parliament of the world to end these atrocities. He said dialogue is the only way out to resolve issues and even end wars. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq urged all participants to actively engage in discussions and chalk out a way forward so they can raise the issues discussed at their respective parliaments. Parliamentarians from 39 countries, international jurists, intellectuals, media personnel and civil society representatives are attending the forum.

## Balochistan's first phase survey for solarizing 50 tubewells completed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The detailed surveys for solarizing 50 agricultural feeders, out of a total of 581 tubewells, have been successfully completed in the first phase, as informed during the question hour in the National Assembly on Monday. In a written response, Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that the completion of the survey was a vital step toward implementing solar solutions that would benefit the farmers and enhance agricultural productivity. The survey was conducted in collaboration with the Energy Department of Balochistan, QESCO teams, and representatives from the Zamindar Action Committee, with support from Law Enforcement Agencies. The project aims to solarize 27,437 registered tubewell connections at an estimated cost of around Rs 55 billion, with funding divided as 70 percent from the federal government and 30 percent from the provincial government. An MoU was signed on July 8, 2024, to formalize this initiative. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on July 8, 2024, for the solarization of agricultural tubewells. It is important to note that compensation of up to Rs. 2.01 will be provided for the solarization of each tubewell. Additionally, five RFO/Gas/Imported Coal-based IPPs totaling 3,742 MW have been commissioned in various areas of Balochistan with the facilitation of the Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), while a 300 MW imported coal-based power project in Gwadar is currently undergoing financial processes.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Privatization, Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan, visits the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters in federal Capital.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Wave of violence

Another wave of violence is cresting in KP. The past few days have seen multiple attacks that have claimed the lives of a number of security personnel.

On Saturday, eight people, including four policemen and two security officials, were martyred in a suicide blast in North Waziristan. An earlier attack took place in Darazinda, in D.I. Khan district, on Thursday night, when militants stormed a checkpoint and martyred 10 Frontier Constabulary men. The attack, claimed by the banned TTP, was portrayed as 'revenge' for a successful operation a day earlier in which nine militants, had been neutralised by security forces, who have stepped up their operations following the resurgence of terrorism.

This is a time when our forces should be highly vigilant and prepared for the enemy to strike from any quarter. They should also take the fight to the enemy with the support of the civilian population residing in hotspots for militant activity, who may be willing to aid the effort as they are weary of the constant violence.

The rising count of security personnel martyred in terrorist attacks has remained a cause of concern. Among those martyred in the recent attacks was a young off-duty cadet, aged only 19, who was slain in an assault on a Lakki Marwat mosque. It has been reported that the young man fought off the terrorists, laying down his life while saving many others in the process.

It is saddening to contemplate the loss of a life so young, and it compels one to ask how many more soldiers we will lose to such dastardly attacks before the state devises a coherent response mechanism to terrorist outfits, which are growing bolder by the day. It has been argued that Pakistan needs a dedicated counterterrorism force to meet terrorists in asymmetric warfare, as its regular forces are trained to fulfil a different responsibility and equipped with a different skillset. The recent spate of violence has highlighted this need further.

Things have lately been tense in the province due to a three-way stand-off between terrorist outfits, the citizenry and security forces. If recurrent incidents of violence are left unchecked, they will further erode people's confidence in the state and its ability to maintain peace and provide security to its citizens.

The state must, therefore, move immediately and decisively to wrest back control. While doing so, it must consciously avoid taking any action or decision that may antagonise the citizenry and, consequently, create unnecessary hurdles in the implementation of its policy measures. On the other hand, the civilian leadership of the province must take responsibility for generating a political consensus on how the threat is to be tackled. A concerted effort is needed to rid the country of this menace.

## Gwadar development

Dr Noman Ahmed

Recently, the Chinese and Pakistani prime ministers inaugurated the Gwadar International Airport — virtually from Islamabad. From a development perspective, the airport is a useful addition and set to enhance the aerial connectivity of the emerging port city with the larger region. Better aviation facilities will allow both domestic and foreign visitors to conveniently access Gwadar. The airport shall also enable a swift response to disasters — recall the rain and flooding in Gwadar not too long ago.

However, despite this and other infrastructural development initiatives, Gwadar's overall progress appears stymied — even though the city was touted as a core beneficiary of CPEC for over a decade. Its privileged position in this context is clear from the extension and consolidation of the port infrastructure, projects related to freshwater generation and distribution, the Pak China Friendship Hospital, a technical and vocational institute, as well as the preparation of the Gwadar smart port city master plan. So, when so much development work is being carried out, why do the residents of Gwadar and its adjacent areas seem unhappy?

A study by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund reveals that Gwadar is lagging behind in almost all core social indicators. Only 21 per cent of small children have been immunised; 25pc of children of school-going age are out of school — 46pc of these are girls; 46pc of schools in the district do not have functional toilets; drinking water is available in only 51pc of the schools.

Besides, housing quality is extremely dismal. Only 5pc of homes are constructed with reinforced concrete, while

others are built with mud and other unsuitable material. Only 18pc of residents have access to gas; most use firewood, kerosene and charcoal as fuel.

Livelihood conditions are also challenging. Over two-thirds of the people are directly or indirectly connected with fishing, net repairs, boat construction and repairs, transportation, storage of the catch of the day, etc. The people barely live above subsistence level, and have no opportunity to build assets to improve their lives.

The sale and purchase of developed, semi-developed and underdeveloped land is another visible enterprise. People with financial resources are able to monopolise the acquisition of land for future utilisation and investment purposes. It is of little benefit to ordinary folk who neither have savings nor the capacity to undertake land development ventures. The recent rains and flash floods have caused colossal damage to the life and property of people in the district and beyond. Many households are still reeling from the after-effects.

The worsening law and order situation has compounded the miseries of Gwadar's residents. It is common for unknown assailants to emerge from nowhere, kill and maim innocent people, and then disappear. The regular police control a fraction of the district. The Levies, Frontier Constabulary and other formations are entrusted with the responsibility of securing the area.

More than seven decades of political alienation, mistrust between the state and the people, and the presence of clan-based agents of external invisible powers continue to haunt soci-

ety.

When acts of violence and disturbance cease, an uneasy calm prevails. Scores of missing people — young and elderly — are a lingering legacy in almost every household. The new leadership, whether in the form of the Haq Do Tehreek or the Baloch Yakjehti Committee, are at the forefront of the political and social dynamics of Gwadar and larger Balochistan.

With practically no voice in matters of local governance or the day-to-day running of the area, the people of Gwadar often consider the emblems of re-regional development — such as the new airport or port complex — as a rude joke. Whether it was the

PPP party's Aghaz-i-Huqooq-i-Balochistan package or subsequent development dole-outs, little to no benefit has trickled down to the common folk due to the unresolved discord between the core stakeholders.

Saner voices have suggested that the only way forward to ensure real development in Gwadar is for the authorities to engage with the local people in a serious and meaningful way. Development priorities must be set in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the public.

A small step in this direction could be the launch of ventures to support the local fishermen and boating community. Building cold storages for their catch, constructing boat repair yards and upscaling fishing jetties can be the first step. Locational choices must be made where the fishermen have an advantage. The city's master plan must yield to local preferences in land utilisation. It is the residents of Gwadar who must win. — Courtesy Dawn

## The Muslim vote

Huma Yusuf

As the US election approaches, a question dominates the news cycle: how will Muslim Americans vote? Muslims comprise one per cent of the US population, but are a key constituency in hotly contested states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania. They are single-issue voters this year — Gaza.

American Muslims are dismayed by the Biden-Harris administration's handling of the horrific war in Gaza, and feel dehumanised by Democrats' disdain for the plight of Palestinians. But they have not forgotten former US president Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban' and the Republicans' inherent post-9/11 Islamophobia. Will they choose the lesser of two evils, or walk away from the process?

Polling suggests around 29.4pc will vote for Kamala Harris. This is bad news for the Democrats — 65 to 80pc of American Muslims voted for Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden in 2016 and 2020, while 80 to 92pc voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. Muslim Americans who reject Harris may vote for Trump or a third candidate or abstain altogether.

Muslim Americans' voting predicament may strike a chord for Pakistan's liberal left, which is facing criticism for failing to push back against anti-democratic forces, most recently manifest in the passage of the 26th Amendment. The more captured our state institutions are, the less democratically minded people engage with them. Those who participate in the system are seen as complicit in its degradation. But opting out is tantamount to surrendering our democracy. What's a liberal to do?

Perhaps we can learn some lessons from Muslim Americans.

Don't stop engaging: Muslim Americans respect the power of their votes. Their electoral handwriting is informed, grounded in a detailed understanding of both sides' policies.

Don't fear debate: The Muslim American constituency's views are divided, as captured in a Wisdom of Crowds debate featuring Shadi Hamid and Haroon Moghul. Hamid is stifling the urge to punish the Democrats for supporting Israel's atrocities in Gaza. He's voting for Harris to minimise the overall harm to US democracy that would result from a Trump victory, and because he believes that pro-Palestine voices could find space in a Harris administration and continue to fight from within the system. Moghul, on the other hand, plans to abstain, because he cannot in conscience support a party that has facilitated war crimes.

The commentators disagree, but they're still talking to each other, and remain focused on the shared goals of defending Palestinian rights and strengthening US democracy. Pakistanis who seek the withdrawal of the military from public life are polarised and critical of each other's approaches. They would benefit from constructive debate and collaboration.

Think in terms of institutions rather than individuals: Moghul's criticism of the Democratic Party is largely grounded in principle — the idea that the party is not obeying the rules of democracy. Americans have not voted for the US's growing involvement in the Middle Eastern conflict and, in fact, oppose foreign interventions. The Democrat policy over the past year has even ignored its own members' preferences (77pc oppose

the US sending arms to Israel). Focusing on institutions and systems enables sub-groups to identify common goals, rather than fragment on the basis of individual preference.

Go local: Moghul won't vote for either presidential candidate, but will support local and state-level candidates. He's rejecting party leaders, not the democratic system. In Pakistan too, the best counter to elite state capture is to revitalise local government. This must be a key priority of democracy activists.

Think long-term movement not short-term victories: In their failure to influence the US's Middle East policies, American Muslims are re-allying themselves, created "countervailing incentives" to respond to "the structural incentives that reward pro-Israel positions". This despite the recent political ascendancy of American Muslims: Keith Ellison became the first Muslim Congressman in 2006 — by 2016 US representatives included Somali refugee Ihan Omar and second-generation Palestinian Rashida Tlaib.

In Pakistan, we rally around individuals elevated as democratic saviours. Ours is a politics of emotion, not organisation. The hard slog of building a political movement does not come easy. This is because we are not trained on building democratic systems from the outset. As our state institutions are weakened we should go back to the basics: teach civics at school and empower student unions at university campuses. Systems are best changed from the bottom up, and from within. No matter who wins the US election, Muslim American political participation should endure. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### CM Murad directs Industries dept to improve structural, financial strength of SITE

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Industries Department to prepare a comprehensive business plan for the Sindh Industrial Trading Estate Limited (S.I.T.E) and the Sindh Small Industries Corporation (SSIC) to drive industrialization, boost economy and create employment opportunities.

The SITE and Small industries should be self-sufficient organisations, but they are stuck up in financial crisis due to over employment, lack of planning and absence of business plan, he directed while presiding over a meeting of the industries department to review its issues and development schemes, at the CM House here Monday. The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries Jam Ikram Dharejo, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Industries Yasin Shar, MD SITE Ghazanfar Qadri and others.

The CM was told that SITE LTD cannot disburse salaries and pensions due to excess employment. "There are 1,315 employees and 754 pensioners. The annual expenditure on account of salary, pension, service dues, including outstanding liabilities and miscellaneous per year comes to Rs.2,592 billion against a total revenue/recovery of Rs.2 billion per annum, showing a shortfall of Rs.592,957,861".

Infrastructure at Nooriabad and Kotri is deteriorated condition, whereas funds under ADP 2024-25 amounting to Rs.846,892 million are insufficient to address the issues. To a question, Minister Industries Jam Ikram told the CM that the issue of Sui Gas at Industrial Estate Larkana would be resolved shortly. He added that SSGC, during a meeting with him, assured that a feasible plan for the supply of Sui Gas to Industrial Estate Larkana would be submitted within

one week. The Minister Industries requested the CM to approve an Annual grant of Rs.800 million to resolve the salary and pension issues. He also requested for a one-time grant of Rs.500 for O&M expenditure.

The CM was also requested approval of Rs.2 billion for the rehabilitation of infrastructure at SITE Nooriabad (Phase-II) and Kotri.

The CM was told that SSIC was facing huge financial constraints due to excessive employment from 2008 to 2014 and was even unable to disburse monthly salaries, pensions, and service dues.

There are 656 employees and 268 pensioners on the payroll, while 33 ex-employees are still waiting for their service dues. It was disclosed that Small Industries has 321 excess employees, and their future may also be decided.



ISLAMABAD: The Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ms. Emma Fan called on Chairman FBR Mr. Rashid Mahmood Lagrial today at Federal Board of Revenue Headquarters.

### Maryam increases kisan cards from 500,000 to 750,000

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that 10 projects of farmers worth Rs 400 billion have been made functional in a record period of only six months.

Addressing the Kisan Card ceremony in Hafizabad on Monday, the CM announced to increase the number of Kisan Cards from 500,000 to 750,000, said a handout issued here.

The CM also announced to give free laser leveler to farmers who

cultivated wheat from twelve and a half acres to 25 acres. She also announced to give free tractors to farmers with more than 25 acres.

The CM announced to provide agricultural machinery on rent without any profit to the farmers. She also announced to increase the number of Kisan Card dealers to 3000.

CM Maryam Nawaz personally gave Kisan cards to the farmers and congratulated the farmers belonging to Hafizabad

namely Shah Nawaz Nakokar, Sanaulah, Farhat Razaq, Abdul Ghafoor, Tariq Mehmoood Gujjar.

"The trend of agriculture and wheat cultivation in Punjab is increasing. Inflated electricity bills reduce the farmer's profit. I have assigned the task of cultivating vegetables in every city" she said.

The CM said that people only raised slogans for farmers and the PML-N did substantial work for the farmers.

### WAPDA to build 5 small dams in GB to generate 13940MW electricity

GILGIT (APP): Project Director Diamer Bhasha Dam Nizakat Hussain said that WAPDA has a plan to build five small dams in Gilgit-Baltistan with a total capacity of 13940 MW.

While talking to media person at the site of Dame he said that the dams which include Shevik, Skardu Sho, Thargos, Elbo, and Bunji will be constructed by WAPDA and will provide much-needed electricity to the country. Additionally these dams will accelerate industrial development and bring significant changes to food security. According to

Hussain, work on the five dams will commence in Gilgit-Baltistan as soon as possible with Bunji Dam generating the most electricity at 7100 MW. He informed that the smallest power project will be Shevik which will produce 4600 MW.

He added the construction of these dams will not only increase the lifespan of Diamer Bhasha Dam, Dasu, and Tarbela Dams but also enhance their capacity. He revealed that the project aims to increase the height of Diamer Bhasha Dam and deepen the river to extend the life of lower dams.

### Commodities rate re-fixed

FAISALABAD (APP): District Price Control Committee (DPCC) has re-fixed the rates of various commodities to facilitate the general public in Faisalabad.

The DPCC reviewed prices of various items of daily use and decided that white grams (big) would be available at Rs.310 per kg, black grams (small) at Rs.345 per kg and Rs.355 per kg, gram pulses (big) at Rs.380 per kg and Rs.390 per kg, gram pulses (small) at Rs.355 per kg.

### ADB Country Director calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ms. Emma Fan called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Lagrial on Monday at FBR headquarters.

During the meeting, they discussed the progress on ADB funded projects and various other areas of mutual cooperation, said a news release. Chairman FBR apprised about the Transformation Plan which

envisages making FBR more dynamic, modern and in line with the international standards.

The chairman said that the purpose of reforms was to maximise revenue growth while facilitating tax compliance. The Country Director expressed support for FBR's initiatives and reiterated the ADB's resolve to continue supporting the revenue mobilisation efforts in Pakistan.



KARACHI: The Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Saleemullah, addresses the ceremony for the Japan Traveling Exhibition 'Yokai Parade,' featuring supernatural monsters from Japan, at the State Bank Museum.

### Envoy Hashmi meets China leadership Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi held a bilateral meeting with the leadership of the Yangling Agriculture Demonstration Zone Leader, participated in the Global Introduction and Marketing Conference and convened a matchmaking meeting of Pakistani and Chinese businesses working in the field of agriculture during second day of his visit to Yangling, Shaanxi province, China.

Speaking at the Global Introduction and Marketing Conference, Ambassador Hashmi highlighted the priority accorded by the Government of Pakistan to agricultural modernization and technical advancement.

He also noted the need to adopt climate-smart agriculture, improve efficiency of water usage and increase the efficiency of supply chains.

Emphasizing on the synergy between Pakistan vast agricultural resources and China technological prowess, he urged the businessmen of the two countries to take advantage of the boundless opportunities offered by possible joint ventures in the field of agriculture.

In the afternoon, he also attended China-Pakistan Agriculture Matchmaking Meeting and interacted with Chinese and Pakistani businessmen and encouraged B2B partnerships between the two countries.

### Foreign service personnel briefed on economy at FPCCI: Atif Ikram

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that the apex body has briefed the group of personnel from Foreign Service of Pakistan (FSP) at its Head Office in Karachi — with the aim to orient them on macroeconomic issues & challenges; export promotion requirements of the business community; trade diplomacy and branding of a country's export offerings on an international scale.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh elaborated that the FSP delegation was told that IT & IT-enabled Services; value-added agricultural produce; processed foods; blue economy &

infrastructure; processed minerals & chemicals and export of skilled workforce should be given priority in promoting Pakistan's



economic, investment and trade relations. Mr. Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI,

stressed that foreign services representatives and trade & investment officers of Pakistan should act like salesmen of the

country; and, position Pakistan — as a country — a formidable brand in the export markets.

## KP CM for early issuance electronic Property Cards in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday directed the Revenue department to issue electronic Property Cards to citizens of merged district as soon as possible so that they could easily access their land records using mobile application.

Presiding over a meeting of Board of Revenue here, he said that issuance of electronic Property Card was an important initiative of the provincial government in relation to revenue reforms, adding that the provincial government was implementing effective use of information and communication technology for land record reforms.

He said that the Card would bring transparency in all matters of land records and would help end disputes related to property ownership in addition to the provision of various facilities.

Earlier, the CM was informed during briefing that the Property Card would act as an e-passbook enabling the citizens to easily access all their land records by scanning the QR code on the property card through a smartphone.

The officials of Revenue department said that the Card would curb forgery in land record as the details of land owner in all the districts would be recorded in this card and could be verified through a mobile application facility.

Apart from Provincial Minister of Finance, Additional Chief Secretaries, Senior Member of Board of Revenue and other concerned officials attended the meeting.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the 87th Board of Directors meeting at Punjab Health Initiative Management Company.

## Azma Bokhari says: Govt employees in KPK protesting for salaries

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that universities are shutting down in KPK due to lack of funds. She said the people of the 'Fitna Party' are dreaming of hospitals going bankrupt in Punjab. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, government employees can be seen protesting daily over unpaid salaries, she added.

Azma said new hospitals are being built in Punjab, and renovations of existing hospitals are underway. Work has already begun on Punjab's first cancer hospital, while a cardiology hospital in Sardogha is in progress, she said and added that the construction of PIC-2 in Lahore will also commence soon. She expressed these views in response to a statement by Barrister Saif. She remarked that a person sitting in Peshawar seems to think that government hospitals in Punjab are going bankrupt, which is quite absurd. People from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are still receiving treatment in Punjab's hospitals.

## Lunch hosted for KP Governor

LAHORE (APP): Former Punjab Assembly Speaker Sardar Muhammad Sibtain Khan hosted a lunch for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi here on Monday.

On the occasion, country's political situation came under discussion.

Muhammad Sibtain Khan lauded the efforts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor regarding construction of Dera Ismail Khan Kallur Kot bridge.

This bridge would play major role in connecting people besides promoting economic activities, he added.

## Punjab Home secretary reviews implementation of prison reforms

LAHORE (APP): Home Secretary Punjab Noor Ul Amin Mengal presided over a meeting to review the progress on the installation of modern cameras in prisons across Punjab.

It was decided in the meeting that 9,200 modern cameras would be installed in 43 jails of Punjab under the Safe Prisons Programme. The Home Secretary directed the Safe City Authority to complete the survey on the installation of cameras in prisons across Punjab within a week. The Home Secretary directed that body cams, public address system, access control

## Two killed in road accidents

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons were killed while three others sustained serious injuries in a road accident in Faisalabad during last 12 hours. Rescue 1122 spokesman said on Monday that Abdul Ghafoor (60) along with his wife Hanifan Bibi (52) was travelling on a motorcycle when their two-wheeler met a road accident near Chak No.252-GB.

As a result, Abdul Ghafoor died on the spot whereas, Rescue 1122 shifted his wife to Allied Hospital-II in a critical condition. Meanwhile, Allah Ditta (52) r/o Chak No.409-GB was killed while Irfan (20) and Shazia (50) were injured serious when a speedy motorcycle.

## Anti-corruption court begins proceedings in Chiniot Mines Case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-corruption court on Monday formally began proceedings in the Chiniot mines and minerals case against former Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan and others.

The court issued notices to the involved parties, scheduling the trial for November 26, and adjourned further proceedings. Anti-Corruption Court Judge Sardar Iqbal Dogar presided over the hearing, during which Sibtain Khan appeared and marked his attendance. The case, previously handled by an accountability court, was transferred to the anti-corruption court on October 9, 2024, following the restoration of certain amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law.

In addition to Sibtain Khan, several other individuals, including Salman Ghani, Muhammad Aslam, Abdul Sattar Mian, and Imtiaz Ahmad Cheema, were named as accused.

The charges against Sibtain Khan allege that he misused his position to award a multi-billion-rupee contract to a firm of his choice in 2007.

## ANF arrests five accused with over 82 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force in nine operations conducted in different areas arrested five accused and recovered over 82 kg drugs worth Rs 6.4 million, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that ANF is making efforts to net drug dealers particularly those supplying drugs to the students of different educational institutions.

He said, 500 grams hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Islamabad.

## CM inaugurates anti polio vaccination drive

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has formally inaugurated anti-polio vaccination drive and administered anti-polio vaccination drops to children at Services Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS), here on Monday.

The CM said that children must be given polio vaccine to save them from lifelong disability. She set a target of zero polio in the province.

The CM appealed to the parents to administer anti-polio vaccination drops to their kids. She took a baby named Naira in her lap and loved her, administered her vaccine drops and gave her candies. She also gave gifts of candies to other children after administering them anti-polio vaccine drops.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with polio workers, and appreciated their services. She had a group photo with them, and advised them to work hard.

Earlier, the CM was briefed by the authorities concerned about the anti-polio app. She was briefed, "During the anti-polio campaign, more than 20 million children will be given polio vaccine."



KARACHI: A large number of students gather to attend Aptitude Test Examination ceremony of the IT courses program under "Bano Qabil Mega Project 4.0" organized by Al-Khidmat Foundation, held at North Karachi Hockey Stadium in Karachi.

## Zero tolerance policy adopted against timber mafia: Pir Musawwir

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Forests and Climate Change, Pir Musawwir Khan has said that the Forest Department had adopted zero tolerance policy against the timber mafia to contain timber smuggling.

He was presiding over a review meeting of Forest Development Corporation (FDC) here Monday wherein Managing Director Forest Development Corporation Muhammad Asif gave a detailed briefing on the achieved targets of the department during the last 50 years and overall performance.

The Special Assistant was told that due to the ban on movement of timber, around 670,000 square feet of wood was stored at various depots of the FDC, causing a hefty loss on provincial exchequer. He was further told that for the last one decade the FDC was facing an investment loss of Rs360 million due to ban on movement of timber.

The Special Assistant said coping with environmental issues in the province was a big challenge and cutting of trees for domestic and commercial use and then not planting new trees was a matter of concern.



LAHORE: Chairperson Punjab Women Protection Authority Hina Perviz Butt briefing media regarding launching of new programs.

## International News

## Netanyahu says strikes on Iran 'hit hard' as war on Gaza, Lebanon rages

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Israel's air strikes "hit hard" Iran's defences and missile production, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, but Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the damage from Saturday's attack should not be exaggerated.

With warfare raging in Gaza and Lebanon, direct confrontation between Israel and Iran risks spiralling into a regional conflagration. But a day after the air strikes, there was no sign they would spark another round of escalation.

However, heavy fighting in Lebanon between Israeli forces and Iran-backed Hezbollah, which sharply intensified over recent weeks, continued on Sunday with an Israeli airstrike killing eight people in a residential block in Sidon, medicals said.

"The air force attacked throughout Iran. We hit hard Iran's defence capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that are aimed at us," Netanyahu said in a speech, calling the attack "precise and powerful" and saying it met all its objectives.

The Islamic Republic has not signalled how it will respond to Saturday's long-anticipated strikes, which involved scores of fighter jets bombing targets near the capital Tehran and in the western provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan.

The heavily armed arch-enemies have engaged in a cycle of retaliatory moves against each other for months, with Saturday's strike coming after an Iranian missile barrage on Oct 1, much of which Israel said was downed by its air defences. Khamenei said Israel's calculations "should be disrupted". The attack on Iran, which killed four soldiers and caused some damage, "should neither be downplayed nor exaggerated", he said.

The Iranian parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said Iran was entitled to self-defence and its response "will be definite, in compliance with the



Displaced Palestinians ordered by the Israeli military to evacuate the northern part of Gaza take a rest as they flee amid an Israeli military operation, in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.

## Spanish PM in India seeking to bolster trade ties

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was welcomed to India on Monday with a flower-filled open-top parade alongside counterpart Narendra Modi, as Madrid seeks to boost investment in the world's fifth-largest economy.

The duo waved to crowds in a vehicle smothered in orange marigold garlands on their way to inaugurate a military aircraft factory, a collaboration between Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus, in Vadodara in Gujarat state.

It is the first visit by a Spanish premier to India for 18 years.

India's defence ministry agreed to a \$2.5 billion deal for 56 cargo and troop-carrying C295 aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space in 2021. While 16 will be assembled in Seville in Spain — with the first deliveries made last year — the 40 remaining will be built in India.

## Sudanese need protection, but conditions not right for UN force, says Guterres

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the Security Council on Monday for its support to help protect civilians in war-torn Sudan, but said conditions are not right for deployment of a UN force.

"The people of Sudan are living through a nightmare of violence — with thousands of civilians killed, and countless others facing unspeakable atrocities, including widespread rape and sexual assaults," Guterres told the 15-member council.

War erupted in mid-April 2023 from a power struggle between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule, and triggered the world's largest displacement crisis.

"Sudan is, once again, rapidly becoming a nightmare of mass ethnic violence," Guterres said, referring to a conflict in Sudan's Darfur region about 20 years ago that led to the International Criminal Court charging former Sudanese leaders with genocide and crimes against humanity.



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi waving to crowd in India's Gujarat.



Japanese Prime Minister and leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Shigeru Ishiba speaks next to LDP lawmakers during a press conference a day after Japan's lower house election, at the party's headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

## Japan PM under pressure after debacle election

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba was on thin ice on Monday after his ruling coalition was projected to have lost its parliamentary majority in disastrous snap elections.

Ishiba, 67, called Sunday's vote days after taking office on October 1, but voters angry at a slush fund scandal punished his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"We are receiving severe judgement," Ishiba, who the LDP chose as leader last month precisely because he was seen as popular among voters, told national broadcaster NHK after polls closed on Sunday.

The Japanese people "expressed their strong desire for the LDP to do some reflection and become a party that will act in line with the people's will", he said. National broadcaster NHK and other media outlets reported that the LDP — which has governed almost non-stop since 1955.

## Pressure mounts to oust Bangladesh President Shahabuddin

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh's President Mohammed Shahabuddin faced growing pressure on Monday to quit from leaders of the revolution that toppled autocratic ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August, who argue he was her appointee.

Shahabuddin, 74, widely known as "Chuppu", was elected by parliament in 2023 by Hasina's now ousted Awami League, but while the post is largely ceremonial, his potential removal from the role has sparked fears of a constitutional vacuum.

"Any decision regarding the removal of the president will be based on political consensus," Shafiqul Alam, press advisor to the interim government that replaced Hasina.

## France hijab bans in sports 'discriminatory': UN experts

Monitoring Desk PARIS: United Nations rights experts on Monday slammed decisions in France banning women and girls who wear the hijab from sports competitions as "discriminatory", demanding they be reversed. France invoked its strict rules on secularism to ban its athletes from wearing religious symbols, including the hijab, during the Paris 2024 Olympics.

France's football and basketball federations have also opted to exclude players wearing the headscarf from competitions, including at the amateur level.

These decisions "are disproportionate and discriminatory, and infringe on their rights [of French athletes] to freely manifest their identity, their religion or belief in private and in public, and to take part in cultural life," said a statement signed by eight independent UN experts. "Muslim women and girls who wear the hijab must have equal rights to participate in cultural and sporting life, and to take part in all aspects of French society of which they are a part," they said.

## Around 40 soldiers killed in attack on Chad military base

Monitoring Desk DAKAR: Around 40 soldiers were killed in an attack on a military base in Chad's Lake region on Sunday, the central African country's presidency said on Monday.

President Mahamat Idriss Deby launched an operation to track down the assailants, the statement said.

The presidency did not name the group responsible for the attack.

## Swiss president backs lifting re-export ban on arms to Ukraine

Monitoring Desk BERN: Switzerland's president said on Monday she was in favour of revising a ban that currently prevents Swiss-made arms from being re-exported from another country to Ukraine, saying the embargo was hurting her country's industry and security.

Calls for Switzerland to break with centuries of tradition as a neutral state have been growing both at home and abroad since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Its parliament has already recommended that the arms rules be eased.

## NATO confirms that North Korea has sent troops to join Russia's war in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: NATO on Monday confirmed that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia to aid in its almost three-year war against Ukraine and that some have already been deployed in Russia's Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

"Today, I can confirm that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, and that North Korean military units have been deployed to the Kursk region," NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told reporters.

Rutte said that the move represents "a significant escalation" in North Korea's involvement in the conflict and marks "a dangerous expansion of Russia's war." His remarks came after a high-level South Korean delegation including top intelligence and military officials as well as senior diplomats briefed the alliance's 32 national ambassadors at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Rutte said NATO is "actively consulting within the alliance, with Ukraine, and with our Indo-Pacific partners," on developments and that he is due to talk soon with South Korea's president and Ukraine's defense minister. "We continue to monitor the situation closely," he said.



ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko, held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

## Role of technology important in addressing urgent challenges: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Monday said that the technology had important role in addressing urgent challenges like climate change.

"Innovative digital solutions are essential not only for environmental sustainability but also for improving overall economic resilience and driving growth across various sectors," she said while addressing the "First National Youth Climate Summit".

Shaza Fatima said, "Climate change is a big challenge and every one will have to play role for environmental protection."

"Climate action is most powerful when it includes everyone. We can

not tackle climate change effectively without the unique prospective and energies of young people", she said.

The minister emphasized the need of launching proper campaign on social media regarding climate change.

She said there was dire need of eliminating elements causing pollution.

"A prime example of Pakistan commitment to supporting innovation is the recent call for startups from Ignite, an attached department under the Ministry of IT and Telecom, to present their innovative solutions in climate tech, green tech, and agri-tech at COP29," she said.

Shaza Fatima said, "This initiative is a valuable

opportunity for our startups to engage with world leaders, policymakers, and investors, and position Pakistan in global discussions on climate action."

"Similarly, the National Incubation Centers (NICs), which are a flagship program of Ignite and the Ministry of IT and Telecom, play an important role in nurturing a range of startups across multiple verticals. These verticals extend beyond climate-related fields to encompass health tech, fintech, and sustainable practices amongst others. Ultimately, this contributes to the development of a climate-resilient digital economy that aligns with global standards, as highlighted at COP28," she said.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, addresses the audience as the Chief Guest at the "First National Youth Climate Summit" held at a local hotel in federal Capital

## Amb. Ahmad says: Durable peace in S. Asia, contingent upon peaceful resolution of J&K dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador in France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad on Monday said that durable peace and stability in South Asia remained contingent upon peaceful resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"27 October 1947 was one of the darkest days for the Kashmiri people as the Indian occupation of J&K, which began on that day, stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiris to determine their own destiny and subjected them to decades long gross and systematic violations of human rights," the ambassador said in a special seminar arranged by Embassy of Pakistan in France marking the Kash-

mir Black Day and to express solidarity with the Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

For several generations, the ambassador said the Kashmiri people had been looking towards the global community, especially the United Nations, to deliver them their promised right to self-determination.

"India's illegal and unilateral actions and continuing grave atrocities since 5 August 1947 had further exacerbated the situation and completely alienated the Kashmiri people who were united in rejecting any attempts by the occupying power to undermine the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir and to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territory."



ISLAMABAD: CDA gardeners planting seasonal flowers in the roadside Garden to enhance the beauty of the federal capital.

## ICT admin kicks off anti-polio drive, sets target to vaccinate 461,000 children upto 5 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Monday launched a comprehensive anti-polio campaign, aiming to vaccinate 461,000 children upto the age of five years. The spokesman of ICT administration said that the drive, set to run until November 3, calls for community support in eradicating the disease.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon confirmed that polio workers will go door-to-door to vaccinate children under five and will also be stationed in public areas to ensure full coverage. Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioners across the city have gathered

to review campaign logistics and address worker safety. They discussed how to meet targets and handle cases of families refusing the vaccine.

DC Islamabad has urged citizens to cooperate with the polio teams, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding children's health. However, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar, Farwa Batool accompanied by the district administration teams have arrested a mall manager for blocking polio workers from entering a private mall. The manager had previously prevented teams from entering the premises, prompting authorities to take action.

## Sustained participation of women in workforce need of an hour: Dr. Khalid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday highlighted the need for sustained participation of women in the workforce.

Addressing a convocation ceremony at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), the minister encouraged young women to be change agents in transforming the narrative around women in STEM fields.

He extended heartfelt congratulations, emphasizing that the graduates' success was a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the nurturing environment at NUST.

The Federal minister encouraged the graduates to make wise choices.

He shared his insights on resilience, the importance of action, and the need for lifelong learning in a rapidly evolving world.

He urged the graduates to embrace continuous self-improvement, reminding them that their actions would shape not just their own futures but also the destiny of Pakistan.

## Reserved seats Contempt of court petition against EC filed for not implementing SC decision

ISLAMABAD (Online): Contempt of court petition has been filed against Election Commission (EC) for not implementing apex court decision in regard to reserved seats so far.

Petition has been filed by Suleman Akram Raja in Supreme Court (SC) making members of EC respondents. The petitioner has taken plea EC be ordered to implement the decision forthwith. Contempt of court proceedings be initiated against members of EC.

The petition further said EC has not implemented SC decision despite the fact apex court had informed commission twice

in details. SC has issued clarifications twice in this regard wherein it has been said that court's decision be implemented forthwith.

It is binding on EC to implement SC decision as per article 189 of the constitution. However prevailing situation is this EC is making pretexts despite passage of so long time in reserved seats case and it is not implementing SC decision still.

It is requested to SC to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the EC. The EC be ordered to implement SC decision on the matter of reserved seats as per court orders.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Ambassador of the Czech Republic Ladislav Steinhübel cutting a cake on Czech National Day.

## Ex-president SCBA challenges 26th constitutional amendment in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Abid Zubairi, former president Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has filed petition in Supreme Court (SC) against 26th constitutional amendment.

The petitioner while making federation and provinces respondents has requested SC to declare 26th constitutional amendment unconstitutional. 26th constitutional amendment be declared against the basic rights enshrined in the constitution and basic constitutional structure.

The judicial commission meeting in connection with appointment of judges be stopped.

## Parliamentarians call for strengthening PGA's role in global peace, justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani members of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) on Monday underlined the need to enhance the organization's role in addressing global challenges.

Talking to APP Barrister Aqeel Malik, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, and Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig underscored the importance of parliamentary representatives in promoting global peace and justice, noting that these efforts are now more crucial than ever.

At the PGA conference, hosted by Pakistan, participants discussed key global issues, including international law, climate change, and human rights. Both Pakistani and international delegates reaffirmed their commitment to leading efforts to address these pressing challenges.

Barrister Aqeel Malik, PGA member and Advisor on Law and Justice highlighted Pakistan's dedication to upholding the principles of global justice and human rights.

He called on the international community to eliminate double standards in dealing with conflicts like Palestine and Kashmir, stressing that Pakistan's struggle reflects its firm stance on promoting global justice while maintaining sovereignty and integrity.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, emphasized the significant role of Pakistani politicians in establishing global peace.

He pointed out that resolving conflicts such as Kashmir and Palestine is essential for achieving fair and lasting peace. He reiterated Pakistan's unparalleled sacrifices in promoting global peace and reaffirmed the nation's commitment to justice on the international stage.

Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, a Pakistan People's Party leader and PGA member, echoed the need for international cooperation in tackling challenges like climate change.

## Wanted absconder in duel murder case arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant operation, a team of Tarnol Police Station and Tarnol Circle Homicide Unit of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Monday apprehended an absconding suspect, involved in a double murder case.

A police spokesman told APP that a citizen filed a report in Tarnol Police Station regarding the brutal murder of a man and woman, using a sharp weapon.

He said upon receiving the information, the Tarnol Police immediately registered case number 672/24 and initiated an investigation.



ISLAMABAD: Worker busy beauty painting the bridge at Zero Point in the Federal Capital.

## Ayaz Sadiq says: Parliamentary diplomacy played key role in reinforcing bilateral relations between Pak, Russia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday said that parliamentary diplomacy had historically played a key role in reinforcing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia.

During a meeting with the Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to her and congratulated Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on his re-election.

She said, "Russia values Pakistan as a significant player on the international stage and commended the country's efforts toward global peace."

She reaffirmed Russia's support for Pakistan's BRICS membership bid and emphasized the importance of collective efforts to foster peace and

prosperity on both regional and global fronts.

In response, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed his gratitude to Matvienko for her remarks and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continued collaboration with Russia across areas of shared interest.

Reflecting on past initiatives to strengthen parliamentary ties, Ayaz Sadiq recalled the organization of the inaugural Six-Country Speakers' Conference in Pakistan, attended by counterparts from Afghanistan, Iran, China, Türkiye, and Russia.

This conference proved instrumental in addressing common issues of regional interest.

He also mentioned his tenure as Convener of the Pakistan-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Group during the 15th National Assembly of Pakistan.



RAWALPINDI: Deputy Defence Minister, Russian Federation, Col. General Aleksandr V. Fomin called on Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen (Retd) Muhammad Ali III (M) at Ministry of Defence.

## Romina for respecting regional norms in climate diplomacy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Friday said Pakistan needs to focus on climate diplomacy respecting regional norms and values while spearheading global focus on enhanced climate finance for less developed vulnerable countries.

The Pre-COP29 Summit on "Pakistan's Climate Resilience: Road to COP29" organised by the Pak-German Climate and Energy Partnership (PGCEP), in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

This event brought together key stakeholders to discuss the nation's climate challenges and strategies in light of upcoming negotiations at COP29.

Speaking at the event, the chief guest, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, stressed the need for Pakistan to prioritize climate adaptation strategies that respect regional contexts and vulnerabilities. She affirmed Pakistan's role as a vocal advocate for climate-vulnerable nations.

In his keynote address, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, emphasized the urgency of climate action, noting that the withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Agreement commitments had weakened global climate agendas. He acknowledged the concerted efforts of the EU and China to maintain focus on climate issues despite setbacks.

He said that contro-

versy surrounding the Loss and Damage Fund prevails. Still, despite this, there is an opportunity to co-opt oil-producing states as part of the solution to address climate change and to mobilize finance for climate action. "Baku as COP29 host can contribute to carbon markets and carbon credits trading amid many daunting challenges like green washing. However, the COP29 presidency had streamlined many of those issues," he said. Pakistan, he said is an active member of the international community that played lead role in operationalization of Loss and Damage Fund. "Pakistan has to remain an active representative of the 220 million resilient people who stood firm against adverse impacts of climate change," he added.

## Imaan Mazari, her husband arrested

ISLAMABAD (Online): Police have arrested Imaan Mazari and her husband for allegedly interfering in government affairs.

Aabpara police have arrested Imaan Mazari.

Case was registered against Imaan Mazari and her husband. Imaan Mazari and her husband had violated route. Imaan Mazari pushed the police men as well. Both of them escaped from the scene while removing barriers.

Husband of Imaan Mazari hurled abuses on police.

Video of incident had gone viral on social media.

## IGP orders transparency in crime control

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, the Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, presided over a meeting with investigation wing

IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi regarding the ongoing crackdown against the criminal elements.

During the meeting, IG Rizvi reviewed the investigation system and the cases



officers on Monday.

A police spokesperson told APP that, the meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Muhammad Arslan Shahzaib, Superintendent of Police (SP) Rukhsar Mehdi, and other senior officers.

On the occasion, SSP Operations gives briefing to

under investigation and issued orders to complete the investigation of cases efficiently and ensure the arrest of accused nominated in cases, he said.

IG Rizvi said that, according to the requirements of the changing era, the investigation process should be equipped with modern technical needs.

## APHC-AJK delegation submits memorandum to UN office in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the All Parties Freedom Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter on Monday submitted a memorandum to the UN office in Islamabad, urging international intervention in the Kashmir dispute.

The delegation, comprising Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Shamim Shawl, Sheikh Abdul Matin, Zahid Safi and Imtiaz Wani, condemned India's unilateral actions in occupied Kashmir. The memorandum stated, "We, the Representatives of the People of Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming the principles of the United Nations Charter... express grave concerns on the prevailing situation of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

It highlighted the unilateral annexation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir by India on August 5, 2019, revoking Article 370, deployment of 900,000 Indian troops.

## CDA's beautification drive transforms I'abad, residents praise city's new look

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad is abuzz with fresh colors and greener views as the Capital Development Authority (CDA) rolls out an ambitious beautification drive across the capital.

With vibrant flowers, lush greenery, and artistic steel installations adorning the city, residents are taking notice of the refreshed look, praising the CDA's efforts to make Islamabad more inviting.

Under this initiative, CDA has added colorful floral arrangements, green plants, and carefully chosen steel sculptures in key areas.

These new additions not only brighten

the cityscape but also enhance Islamabad's eco-friendly reputation by expanding green spaces. Local residents have shared enthusiastic feedback about the transformation.

"Islamabad feels more alive than ever," commented Rimsha Khan, a resident of Sector F-7.

"The flowers and greenery are so refreshing, especially as we move into the fall season. It's wonderful to see the city taking such care in its appearance."

Farhan Bhatti, a long-time resident of the Blue Area, praised the steel installations that reflect the city's heritage and values.