

# Independent

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## CJCSC calls on President of Azerbaijan, Military-Civil leadership

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan called on President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, Minister of Defence Colonel General Hasanov Zakir Asgar, Foreign Minister, Jeyhun Aziz Oghlu Bayramov, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Defence Minister and Chief of General Staff Colonel General Karim Tofiq Oghlu Valiyev and Minister of Defence Industry, Vugar Mustafayev.

During the interaction, both sides appreciated deep and historic relations between the two countries and discussed matters of mutual interest including

evolving security dynamics of the region and enhancement of existing defence ties in multiple domains, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The CJCSC highlighted the importance of enhanced military cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and reaffirmed collective commitment towards peace and stability.

Azerbaijani leadership appreciated the professionalism and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the commonality of views to expand existing cooperation by exploring multiple avenues to forge deeper ties with Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador, Marilina Armellini calls on the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain.

## Govt. focusses on economic uplift of masses: DPM Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday highlighted that the incumbent government focused on efforts to uplift the economic conditions of the masses.

Now, the country was on road to sustainable growth as all the macro-economic indicators were doing well with food inflation nosediving and the GDP on the rise, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed his views during the launching ceremony of BOGO LIV, a financial mobile application.

He further said that Pakistan Stock Market had been the best performing market in the Asia while the credible global institutions were all projecting Pakistan's economy on road to recovery.

needed to introspect on their past and reflect as to how correct the course and stay on the right course.

He said that government's strategy revolved around encouraging productivity through private sector, adding it was not the government's job to do businesses, rather it acted as facilitator to encourage the private sector.

The DPM further said that the airports were to be outsourced in the country. When the UK could do it why it could not be done here for the purpose of provision of better services, he added.

He said that the government was also focusing on downsizing its size and curtailing its spending, adding that immense potential still existed in the country, though they had lost a lot yet the vast opportunities existed.

## Planning minister calls for global action on climate disaster funding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal emphasized on Wednesday Pakistan's unwavering commitment to resilience in the face of climate change and natural disasters.

Prof. Iqbal highlighted Pakistan's unique position as a nation that, while contributing less than 1% to global emissions, ranks among the countries most severely affected by climate disasters.

He pointed out that despite widespread verbal support for Pakistan's climate resilience efforts, substantial international funding has been lacking, leaving Pakistan to navigate the consequences of climate change with limited global support.

Reflecting on recent climate-related events, he noted that while international community expressed solidarity, much of the financial assistance offered was in the form of loans rather than direct aid.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh is taking briefing in National Institute of Maritime Affairs.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Engineer Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court Mohammad Bin Mazayad Al-Tuwajri in a joint press conference on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment Initiative Conference.

## Saudi investment in Pakistan to reach \$2.8bln as MoUs count enhanced to 34: Saudi minister

PM for keeping momentum to develop strong Pak-Saudi economic partnership

RIYADH (APP): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday announced to add another \$600 million to its recently announced \$2.2 billion investment in Pakistan what the Saudi Investment Minister called "only the beginning of something very special."

The announcement was made in a joint press stakeout by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Investment Minister Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, following their "very productive" meeting encompassing the bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors including trade, finance, agriculture, technology and skilled manpower.

At the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the prime minister is currently on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia where he addressed the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) on "Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow," held in Riyadh and joined by the global leaders to discuss how investment could serve as a catalyst for a prosperous and sustainable future.

Accompanied by Advisor at the Royal Court Mohammad Mazaid Al-Tuwajri, Saudi Minister Al-Falih told the media that during his recent visit to Pakistan, both sides had signed 27 MoUs for investment worth \$2.2 in Pakistan. He announced that fol-

lowing Prime Minister Shehbaz's meeting with Crown Prince and their discussion, the number of MoUs has been increased from 27 to 34 to add \$600 million in investment, taking its volume to \$2.8 billion.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the meetings with the Crown Prince and Al-Falih were reassuring and told the media that some of the projects agreed upon during the recent Saudi delegation's visit were under implementation.

He said both sides would work on the timelines of the project and expressed the hope that under the leadership of Saudi crown prince, both sides would strengthen bilateral

relations, not only for the benefit of the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia but the entire Muslim Ummah.

"When I come back, I will have good news for the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. With your valuable support, we will be able to carve our way forward and soon be able to make big announcements," the prime minister remarked.

Minister Al-Falih said that as a follow-up of their Pakistan visit, both sides had "extensive" working-level meeting to elevate the bilateral relations to yet higher horizons in the fields of economy, finance, trade and people-to-people contacts.



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza called on Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev.

## PM flays Israel's obstruction of UNRWA operation in Palestine

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's actions aimed at obstructing the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The prime minister, who is currently on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh, wrote on his X timeline that by preventing critical relief assistance from reaching millions of helpless Palestinians, Israel was committing yet another blatant violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter.

He also called for the international community to hold Israel accountable for such violations.

The prime minister, in his address at the FII moot on Tuesday had said that the global dream of progress and prosperity would never be fulfilled and transformed into action unless peace was restored in Gaza and bloodshed immediately stopped over there.

## PTI workers attack Qazi Isa's car in London

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers have attacked vehicle of former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa and his wife Sarina in London, media reports said on Wednesday.

Dozens of PTI supporters had gathered at Chancery Lane to stage a protest against Isa, who was attending a prestigious event held at the Middle Temple, after relinquishing charge as the country's top judge. Qazi Isa was going to attend the ceremony for constituting benches at the Middle Temple.

The PTI supporters, led by former prime minister Imran Khan's ex-special assistant Sayed Zulfi Bukhari and former member of National Assembly (MNA) Maleeka Bokhari, Azhar Mashwani and others staged the demonstration to condemn The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple for elevating ex-CJP Isa as a Callee and hosting him at the dinner. The PTI

activists tried to stop the ex-CJP's car belonging to Pakistan High Commission in London and also attempted to smash its windowpanes. The PTI workers chanted slogans after seeing Qazi Isa's car and even ran along it.

A significant police presence secured the venue's entrance as numerous protesters holding placards shouted slogans denouncing the ex-CJP.

Though a police escort was travelling with Qazi Isa's car, the PTI workers still tried to block the car's path.

While addressing the crowd, Bukhari reiterated the PTI's claims that the former top judge had targeted the Imran Khan-founded party.

The demonstration was joined by British lawyer Barrister Mark McDonald, who also criticised the Middle Temple's invitation to the former chief justice, asserting it should not occur again.

## PTI sends name for judicial commission to PTI founder for approval

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI has sent name to PTI founder for Judicial Commission (JC).

No lawyer is included in proposed names.

According to sources Umar Ayoub, Asad Qaisar, Ali Muhammad Khan and Aamir Dogar have been proposed from National Assembly while Shibli Faraz, Mohsin Aziz and Aun Abbasi have been proposed from Senate.

PTI founder will give final approval to two names among them. One representative of opposition from National Assembly and Senate each will be included in Judicial Commission.

The name proposed by PTI founder will be sent to speaker.

Earlier PTI founder had stopped party from joining parliamentary party.

## PTI senator Sania Nishtar resigns from Senate seat

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI Senator leader Dr Sania Nisar has resigned from Senate seat. According to sources, Sania Nishtar tendered resignation to join an international organisation in Geneva. Sources said that former federal minister Dr Nishtar also sent her resignation to the Senate secretariat.

It is pertinent to note that former federal minister Nishtar was elected senator from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2021.

Dr Nishtar is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Gavi, a vaccine alliance. She is an internationally acclaimed public health and development expert having a degree in medicine.

She has remained special advisor for poverty alleviation and social safety during PTI regime.

## Naqvi condemns attack on Ex-CJP Qazi Faez's vehicle in London

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the attack on former Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and the Pakistani High Commission's vehicle in London.

The Interior Minister ordered NADRA to take immediate action to identify the attackers through video footage.

He said that legal action would be taken against the assailants and an FIR would be registered in Pakistan for further action. Mohsin Naqvi stated that the attackers' ID cards and passports will be blocked.

## PM arrives in Qatar amid trade, investment push by Islamabad

DOHA (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Doha on an official visit from Oct. 30-31 to discuss bilateral ties with a special focus on trade and investment, the premier's office said in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif landed in Qatar on Wednesday on the two-day visit.

At the airport, the prime minister was received by Qatari Minister of State Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Pakistan's ambassador and other diplomatic staff. Federal ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Mohammad Aurangzeb, Jam Kamal Khan and Attaullah Tarar also accompanied the prime minister.

"During this visit, I look forward to productive exchange of views with the Qatari leadership to further enhance our brotherly rela-

tions," Sharif said on X after arriving in Doha. "I will also inaugurate a special exhibition at Qatar Museum highlighting the cultural heritage of Pakistan."

During his visit, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar and Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Prime Minister / Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In these meetings, the two sides will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and explore new of cooperation especially in trade and investment.

The leadership level delegations of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) and Qatar Businessmen Association (QBA) will call on the prime minister to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif arrives at Doha International Airport for his 2 day official visit of Qatar. He is being received by Qatar's Minister of State, Muhammad bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi.

## Fazlur Rehman says: Improving national economy vital for country's stability

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday said that strengthening national economy was vital for country's stability.

He stated this while addressing a ceremony by JUI-F district leadership in his honor.

He underlined the need of forming an effective policy to tackle the menace of terrorism in the country to ensure economic stability.

Fazl said his party would support the government in its all the steps taken for the betterment of the national economy.

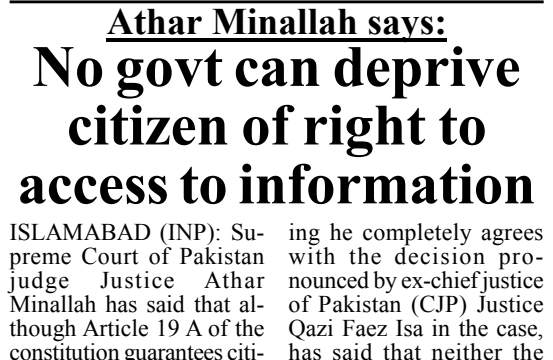
He mentioned that the recent Shanghai Cooperation Conference (SCC) meeting held in Pakistan which was a matter of pride for the whole nation.

The JUI-F Chief said that after the passage of 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment, the Parliament was bound to discuss the recommendations of Islamic Ideology Council (IIC) for making any legislation, which he termed a big achievement.

He said that earlier the agreement of 40 percent legislators was mandatory for sending any matter to the IIC and this ratio was decreased to 25 percent under the 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment.

Commenting on Palestine issue, he said the Pakistan was standing with Palestinian Muslims where the occupying forces have martyred about 50,000 to 60,000 innocent civilians.

He urged upon the governments of Muslim countries to take practical steps to end ongoing genocide in Palestine.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik, visited the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP).

## Athar Minallah says: No govt can deprive citizen of right to access to information

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court of Pakistan judge Justice Athar Minallah has said that although Article 19 A of the constitution guarantees citizens the right to access to information, but the right is subject to certain limitations.

In his additional note on the petition, seeking access to information about the SC employees, the judge has said that despite some restrictions, however, the parliament does not have the power to limit the scope of this constitutional right.

The judge, while saying he completely agrees with the decision pronounced by ex-chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the case, has said that neither the government nor any of its departments can deprive a citizen of the right to access to information.

"Article 8 of the constitution bars the state from doing any such legislation that either infringes upon fundamental human rights or restricts them," he has said, adding neither the apex court could place limitations on individual liberties. "It is simply unimaginable."



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Court business

It has been quite encouraging to note that the new chief justice has wasted no time putting his house in order.

After promptly reconstituting the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Committee to include the next two senior-most justices after himself, Chief Justice Yahya Afridi had summoned a full court meeting this Monday to review business. By all accounts, the meeting — attended by all judges of the Supreme Court, including senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah via video link — was a successful one.

Held in a collegial atmosphere, it focused on the ways and means through which the Supreme Court can fulfil its core responsibility: delivering timely justice. Though many had speculated that various prickly issues would be brought up when the Supreme Court judges would first meet after the tumultuous end of justice Qazi Faez Isa's tenure, the court seemed more immediately concerned with the case backlog and how it could be reduced expeditiously.

Some may have been expecting bitterness from Justice Shah for being passed over for the chief justice's position. Instead, he displayed grace and magnanimity by placing his detailed plan for cutting down the case backlog before the court, thereby symbolically handing over the baton to the new chief justice. It seems worth mentioning here that this plan had been much anticipated within the legal community, and one of the main regrets cited when Justice Shah was passed over was that it may never see the light of day.

However, it was a much-changed Supreme Court on Monday that reviewed and eventually adopted the Case Management Plan 2023. It appears that not only was the new chief justice keen on restoring the respect previously denied to other senior justices but also on reorienting the court's priorities towards improving institutional performance rather than on external troubles and intrigues. As it faces relentless assaults from multiple flanks, the unity and commonality of purpose on display in the Monday meeting are what will help the Supreme Court endure. Successive tenures marked by polarisation and internal frictions have eroded the institution's powers and left it vulnerable to the other pillars of the state. It must reclaim its space and fulfil its duty to protect the constitutional order.

It is hoped that the institution will not take too long to find its feet again, and once it does, will set about correcting the many imbalances in the tripartite distribution of power that have crept in over the past few years. It is refreshing to see that, after a long time, the judges of the superior judiciary do not seem to be harbouring personal grudges against each other. It is hoped that this spirit will prevail and that the institution will heal quickly in the days to come.

## Trump or Harris?

Mahir Ali

A week from today, nervous tension will be spiking within and beyond the US as the results roll in from what has been hyped up as the most consequential election in American history. The choice, essentially, is between the reinforcement of a deeply unsatisfying status quo and a return to the depressingly entertaining self-immolation of a Trump presidency.

Writing in the context of Nazism and its impact on Germany, Hannah Arendt noted long ago that "those who choose the lesser evil forget very quickly that they chose evil". In recent decades, it has more or less become the norm for the electorate in many democracies faced with a choice between two varieties of what voters might be inclined to detest or distrust. The US easily falls into that category, notwithstanding its posturing as an exemplar, or more absurdly, an enforcer of liberal democracy, given the number of dictatorships its interventions have spawned.

Criticism of Donald Trump's Madison Square Garden rally on Sunday has tended to focus on a warm-up comedian's obnoxious description of Puerto Rico as a garbage dump. Even the Trump campaign has disavowed his stance — but, at the same time, distracted attention from echoes of a notorious gathering at the same venue 85 years ago arranged by the German American Bund where an image of George Washington was flanked by Nazi insignia, and the keynote speaker's anti-Semitic, white-supremacist message was greeted with 'sieg heils' by the 20,000-strong multitude.

The f-word — fascism — had been flung at Trump even before a number of disenchanted colleagues from his previous White House stint

endorsed it. After all, the ex-president had doubled down on his traditional pet hate — which involved denigrating all immigrants who entered via Mexico as rapists and murderers — by claiming that Haitian arrivals in Springfield, Ohio, were devouring cats and dogs. The lack of evidence for even a single instance of such behaviour did not matter to him or his acolytes.

The accompanying threat to violently deport millions of 'illegal immigrants' was almost a predictable corollary. It has stirred precious little alarm in the US which had in its initial stages relied on invaders and their slaves plus genocidal assaults against North America's native inhabitants that it should still be unwelcoming to outsiders keen on rebuilding lives that have been shattered all too often because of America-first mentality in Washington.

There is more alarm over Trump's vow to deploy the military against 'enemies from within', a designation that encompasses pretty much all of his domestic opponents, who are obviously being unpatriotic in disdaining his MAGA agenda, which in part reflects the white-supremacist efforts of predecessors that were interrupted by Hitler's transgressions. Trump is hardly a pioneer, though. Richard Nixon, too, had his list of enemies — and he came a cropper within two years of winning an undeserved landslide in 1972.

American voters have picked many obnoxious presidents within living memory, and there has never been any reckoning for their international crimes — from Vietnam and Korea to Chile, El Salvador, Afghanistan and Iraq, among a far longer list. Trump, to his credit, failed to spark any new wars. The claims that he

would have pre-empted both the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Oct 7 alongside its genocidal aftermath in Israel, Gaza and beyond, are easy to denigrate as absurd. But these are hardly defining issues for most voters.

In the case of Israel's genocidal impulses, they matter more on the Democratic side. Kamala Harris has failed to distance herself from the Biden administration's demonstrably fake efforts for a ceasefire, even while its influence has been paramount in forestalling the kind of reversion to Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant had in mind for Iran. Meanwhile, the Kahanist 'ethnic cleansing' in the Palestinian territories proceeds apace. Would a reincarnated President Trump somehow halt it? Dream on. The Arab/Muslim 'community leaders' who latched on to him in Michigan recently are either unwise or ignorant in glossing over his efforts to bury the question of Palestine under the mendacious Abraham Accords.

Would Harris be any better? Yes, marginally, at least on domestic concerns. It matters, for instance, that she defends women's autonomy over their bodies, and on the economic front is slightly less enthusiastic than her rival about redistributing wealth to the rich. But then, false promises are the lifeblood of US elections.

On the global front, the choice perhaps is between a rapid apocalypse or the gradual decline and fall of an empire that has for too long surreptitiously prolonged the age of imperialism. Either way, but especially with Trump, the risk is that the rest of the world will pay the price for decades to come. — Courtesy Dawn

## Take school to the child

Gulmina Bilal Ahmad

Pakistan is in the midst of a critical education crisis, with over 22.8 million children aged five to 16 years out of school, placing it second only to Nigeria in this context. The situation is especially dire for girls, with 53 per cent out of school as compared to 43pc of boys. Declaring a national education emergency, Pakistan identifies poverty, lack of infrastructure, cultural barriers, child labour, and early marriages as core obstacles.

Innovative solutions are required. Traditional efforts focus on bringing children to schools, yet many children living near these institutes of learning don't attend, often perceiving education as irrelevant. This signals a need to (a) connect education with job opportunities and (b) customise schooling to meet children's needs. To date, all conversations have focused on bringing the child to school. We need to now think of the reverse.

A promising model is hybrid technical and vocational education and training, which equips children with job skills alongside basic literacy. Hybrid TVET bridges the gap between education and work readiness, focusing on out-of-school children. It merges academic learning with vocational skills such as carpentry, tailoring, IT, plumbing, and agriculture, enabling children to acquire lifelong learning skills and employment options.

A significant education barrier in rural Pakistan is the lack of accessible schools and training centres. Mobile vocational training units address this by bringing education directly to remote communities. These mobile units,

equipped with training materials and technology, can deliver both academic and vocational education. A few years back, a pilot project was conducted by an international funding agency. Lessons learnt from it need to be mainstreamed and its success amplified.

The mobile model proves especially valuable in conflict zones, where establishing permanent schools is difficult. Flexible schedules allow children to work part-time if essential, and baseline assessments can lead to formal certification.

For girls, community-based learning centres with local women educators can provide safe, culturally appropriate spaces. These centres can offer literacy, numeracy, and skills like sewing, embroidery, and food preparation. Integrating these skills into local economic activities enables girls to contribute through community projects in sustainable agriculture or small-scale businesses.

Expanding internet access, with over 116m mobile broadband users as of 2021, can make online and blended learning transformative, especially in the urban areas. Hybrid TVET can leverage these platforms, using online courses and in-person practical sessions to teach vocational skills. For instance, children can learn IT online and gain hands-on experience in local vocational centres. These online platforms can connect with existing TVET institutions, allowing remote learners access to the same curricula and certifications as in-person students.

Pakistan also hosts a significant refugee population, including over 1.4m registered Afghan refugees, many of

whom face disrupted education. Integrating hybrid TVET into refugee programmes can provide essential skills and education, fostering resilience and rebuilding communities. TVET in refugee camps could offer vocational training in fields like carpentry or tailoring, alongside basic literacy and numeracy to support self-sufficiency.

To further encourage school attendance, conditional cash transfers or stipends can aid low-income families. Expanding the Bena-zir Income Support Programme to include hybrid TVET would incentivise families to enrol children in vocational training.

Programme to include hybrid TVET would incentivise families to enrol children in vocational training, providing financial support where child labour is common. Such financial incentives could be especially effective in rural areas, where families often rely on children's earnings. By offering stipends for participation in hybrid TVET, families' economic burden can be sustainably eased.

Pakistan's out-of-school children represent both a challenge and an opportunity. By adopting innovative solutions like hybrid TVET, Pakistan can educate marginalised children and equip them with the essential job skills. From mobile training units to online platforms and community-based centres, several strategies exist to bring education directly to underserved children.

Hybrid TVET is a flexible, practical answer to Pakistan's education crisis, providing a path to literacy, life skills, and employment.

The time to act is now: Pakistan's children deserve an education that prepares them for a brighter future, and hybrid TVET can unlock that potential. —Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Economy to go forward with sustainable recovery: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the wake of positive developments, the country's economy will continue to observe sustainable recovery in the coming months as it has demonstrated sustained recovery during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-25, the finance ministry said in a report released here Wednesday. According to the monthly Economic Update and Outlook for October 2024, the economy showed constant recovery during first quarter and stability in both, the fiscal and external sectors, has been maintained, supported by significant financial inflows.

Pakistan has received first tranche of US\$ 1.03 billion under International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme, reinforcing macroeconomic stability. Moreover,

successful hosting of SCO summit 2024 in Pakistan are paving the way for business and market confidence, it says.

According to report, the agricultural sector is benefiting from mechanization-based productivity. During FY2025 (Jul-Sep), imports of agricultural machinery increased by 115.9 per cent to \$29.7 million. Urea offtake during Kharif 2024 recorded at 2,746 thousand tonnes while DAP offtake stood at 642 thousand tonnes. Overall fertilizer production during Jul-Sep FY2025 increased by 3.7 per cent to 2.45 million tons compared to last year. During Kharif-2024, water availability remained satisfactory. During Jul-Aug FY2025, the production of wheat threshers increased by 22.8 per cent compared to last year. All these factors will positively impact the

growth of agriculture sector.

Meanwhile, Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) on MoM basis observed a substantial growth of 4.7 per cent in August 2024, reflecting the revival of economic activities. However, it has observed a slight dip of 0.2 per cent during Jul-Aug FY2025, compared to 2.5 per cent contraction in last year. On the other hand, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation has been on a consistent decline, reaching 44 months low in September. During Jul-September FY2025, CPI Inflation stood at 9.2% while it was 29.0% in the same period last year. YoY CPI Inflation in September 2024 was recorded at 6.9% - lowest level in 44 months, compared to 9.6% percent in the previous month and 31.4 per cent in September 2023.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, Navios Tempo, MSC Positano, Doris, Sc Hong Kong and Milaha Ras Laffan scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Pakistan Gas Port Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a 'Green Genie' scheduled to load/offload Rice also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a hydrocarbons carrier 'South Port' left the port on today morning while five more ships, Navios Tempo, MSC Positano, Scarlet Rosella, Sc Hong Kong and Zarrar Hanif are expected to sail on today.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Vice President Quetta Chamber of Commerce Mirwise Khan meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

### Maritime Minister for boosting blue economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Wednesday visited the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), where he emphasized a coordinated approach to developing key maritime sectors like aquaculture, green shipping, and tourism in a bid to revitalize Pakistan's maritime economy.

During his visit, Minister Shaikh was briefed on NIMA's work in shaping maritime policies and promoting research.

NIMA officials presented an overview of Pakistan's maritime sector, pointing out that it currently contributes less than 0.2% of the nation's GDP, far below the global standard of 8-10%. This discrepancy, they argued, underscored the need for strategic reforms and investments.

### Minister discusses issues related to CM Kisan Card

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashaq Hussain Kirmani on Wednesday chaired a meeting at Bank of Punjab Head Office Lahore in which present status and issues related to Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card were reviewed.

Secretary Agriculture, Punjab Ifikhar Ali Sahoo and Bank of Punjab President Zafar Masood also attended the meeting.

NIMA's partnerships with local, national, and international stakeholders were also discussed as crucial for growth in Pakistan's maritime sector. The institute highlighted how these collaborations are working to create new opportunities and expand Pakistan's maritime footprint. In a series of discussions, Shaikh and NIMA representatives explored various areas within the Blue Economy, underscoring the need for a cohesive national action plan to fully utilize the country's ocean resources.

Both sides agreed on the importance of coordinated efforts among MoMA, NIMA, and other maritime stakeholders to ensure sustainable growth across all maritime sectors. Minister Shaikh reiterated his commitment to supporting NIMA's mission.

### Pakistan, Maldives agree to form joint working groups on various sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Maldives here on Wednesday agreed to form joint working groups on various sectors under the framework of the Pakistan-Maldives Joint Commission.

According to press release issued by Economic Affairs Division (EAD), High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan, Muhammad Thoha called on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahsan Ali Khan Cheema.

During the meeting both sides agreed to extend their bilateral ties in key sectors.

Minister Ahsan Ali Khan Cheema proposed the creation of sector-specific

Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Tourism, Trade, Labour, Investment & Aviation under the framework of the Pakistan-Maldives Joint Commission.

The High Commissioner welcomed the proposal and assured that Maldives will send their official representation for these Working Groups in the near future. Both sides agreed to hold the Inaugural Session of the Pakistan-Maldives Joint Commission in early 2025.

The Minister informed that Pakistan was keen to explore new avenues for cooperation with Maldives in key priority areas.

He welcomed the Maldivian side to explore the industries of Halal meat, Agricultural Products, Fruits and Surgical Instruments in Pakistan.

The High Commissioner, while emphasizing the physical proximity between Karachi and Maldivian Port, assured of his efforts to enhance bilateral trade between both countries.

The Minister also highlighted the significant role both countries can play in regional and international forums including SAARC and OIC on significant issues such as stronger climate action.

### Rupee sheds 05 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.79 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.74.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.35 and Rs 278.85 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 49 paise to close at Rs 300.72 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.23, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

### SECP engages to advance "Insured Pakistan" initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Reporting Service. This outreach is meant to promote insurance and associated benefits in Pakistan, as outlined in SECP's five-year strategic plan—Journey to an Insured Pakistan, concluded first round of its provincial outreach in Punjab and Sindh.

High-level meetings were held with Excise and Taxation, Transport and Mass Transit, and Labour and Human Resource Department in Sindh.

In Punjab, meetings were held with General Excise and Taxation department, and Crop

The focus of the discussions centered on incorporating agricultural insurance into disaster risk financing strategies and national food security policies, introducing compulsory occupational health insurance, and strengthening the enforcement of mandatory group life and motor third-party insurance.



FAISALABAD: A worker busy in his work in a local Garments factory in the city.

### Pervaiz pledges support to strengthen CCP

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik here on Wednesday visited the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), underscoring the role of the Commission in checking market failure and protecting consumers from anti-competitive practices.

During his visit, Malik conveyed the Ministry's commitment to bolstering CCP's capacity to increase its effectiveness, whether through legislative reforms, follow-up on court cases or

capacity-building initiatives.

Addressing CCP's officials, he emphasized the need for a comprehensive review of the Competition Act to ensure it remains modern, effective, and relevant as well as to address the challenges being faced by the Commission.

"Competitiveness in markets is vital for protecting consumer interests. It also encourages new startups and attracts investments," said Malik.



## CM Punjab celebrates Diwali, announces welfare initiatives for minorities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced several initiatives to support minority communities during the Diwali celebrations held at 90-Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, here on Wednesday. The CM announced writing a letter to the chief minister of Indian Punjab to undertake joint efforts to eliminate smog. During the ceremony, CM Maryam Nawaz announced issuance of special cards for minority communities, an increase in the number of cards, and the establishment of a Minority Virtual Police Station. She also highlighted plans to enhance development in minority areas. As part of the celebrations, the Chief Minister lit a traditional Diwali lamp and participated in virtual fireworks, creating a festive atmosphere adorned with traditional Rangoli. In a heartfelt gesture, she interacted closely with Hindu women and took a young girl into her lap, distributing cheques of Rs. 15,000 to 1,400 Hindu families. Addressing the gathering, she assured the minority communities, "If anyone commits atrocities against minorities, I will stand with the victim. We are all Pakistanis, and Diwali symbolizes peace, harmony, and love." She urged citizens to view smog as a humanitarian issue, not a political one, and expressed her determination to protect minority rights. The CM remarked on the importance of inclusivity, saying, "I felt immense happiness lighting the Diwali lamp. It symbolizes our unity as Pakistanis." She shared her childhood teachings from Nawaz Sharif about treating minorities as a source of pride, stating that all religious celebrations would be honored collectively.



**BUNER: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions and President PML-N KP, Engr Amir Muqam addressing Jirga Members in Buner.**

## CM KP forms commission to resolve matters of discovery of petroleum, gas in NW

PESHAWAR (APP): An introductory meeting of the Provincial Joint Commission constituted by the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to resolve the matters with regard to the recently discovered petroleum and gas resources in North Waziristan, was held here at Chief Minister's Secretariat on Wednesday with Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the Chair. Elected members of National and Provincial Assemblies from North Waziristan, high ups of energy department and relevant divisional administration, representatives from 11 Corps, SNGPL, Mari Petroleum Company and other concerned institutions attended the meeting. Senior officials of Federal Ministry of Petroleum also attended the meeting via video link. It is pertinent to mention here that the aforementioned Provincial Joint Commission was constituted to protect the rights of the local population with regard to the revenue/royalty of the recently discovered natural resources in North Waziristan by ensuring fair and just disbursement/ utilization of that development funds. The Commission will also formulate long-term policies/strategies to ensure that the recently discovered natural resources are utilized in the best interests of the country, region, and local population, acting as a liaison amongst committees at district and tehsil level, provincial and federal governments and other stakeholders.

## If federation does not play its role then security problems will not be resolved: PHC

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has remarked if federation does not play its role then security problems will not be resolved. "Will federation wait for letter from province. It has no responsibility of its own. Army officers and jawans are embracing shahadat daily. Does federation not see it, court further remarked. The case related to miserable law and order situation in KP came up for hearing in PHC Wednesday. The court directed additional chief secretary interior to appear in person. A division bench of PHC comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshid Ali took up the case for hearing Wednesday. Vice chairman KP Bar Council, Additional Advocate General (AAG), DIG and Assistant Attorney General appeared in the court. Justice Ijaz Anwar inquired what is security situation of courts and judges in southern districts. DIG legal told the court security of courts, judges and their residences has been enhanced.



**LAHORE: Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, addressing during meet the press at press club, in the Provincial Capital.**

## Govt striving to combat smog, says Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that the Punjab government has implemented crucial measures to reduce the rising smog and air pollution in Lahore. Addressing in the Punjab Assembly, she announced that 11 areas in Lahore have been designated as smog hot-spots, with Shimla Hill being the most affected. A "Green Lockdown" will be enforced in these areas starting tomorrow, with an official notification issued, she added. She said that under the Green Lockdown, all construction activities within one-kilometer radius of Shimla Hill and surrounding areas will be strictly prohibited, and the use of commercial generators will be banned. Chingchi rickshaws will be restricted from these zones, and open barbecue activities will be prohibited after 8 p.m. Heavy transport vehicles will also be restricted, and 50 percent of office employees will work from home.

## Two sons, nephew of Ex-Nazim shot dead in Pabbi

PESHAWAR (APP): At least three people including two sons of former Nazim, Wazir Garhi and his nephew were killed when their car was fired at in Pabbi tehsil here on Wednesday. Pabbi police said the incident took place in Dag Behsud area of Pabbi where armed men fired multiple shots on a car, killing three people. The dead included two sons of Malik Jamal Shah, the former Nazim of Wazir Garhi and his nephew.

## Muqam holds meeting with Nazriati Group

BUNER (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Provincial PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr Amir Muqam held a meeting with Nazriati Group leaders on Wednesday. During the meeting, held at residence of Ishfaq Chhattan, the Leaders of Nazriati Group announced to abolish the Group and express full confidence on the leadership of PML-N, president Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Engr Amir Muqam and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, received a press release. Extending full support to provincial president Engr Amir Muqam, the leaders vowed to work together for strengthening the party. The Nazriati Group leader Abdul Subhan Khan, Malik Imran, group president from Peshawar Arbab Ghulam Haider Khan, group leader from Abbottabad Sardar Abdur Rashid also spoke on this occasion. Provincial President Engr Amir Muqam hailed their decision and termed the decision of abolishment of group as "better late than never". He expressed the resolve to work under the dynamic leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

## Tank police foil arms smuggling bid

TANK (APP): The district police foiled an attempt to smuggle arms during an ongoing crackdown against anti-social elements here on Wednesday. According to police spokesman District Police Officer (DPO) Aslam Nawaz Khan has issued directives to take stringent actions against crimes and these operations had started yielding results. As part of ongoing operations under the supervision of DSP City Circle Saleem Khan, SHO Shahid Mureed Akbar police station, Sher Afzal Khan successfully conducted a significant operation.

## PDWP approves 5 developmental schemes

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP), in its 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the fiscal year 2024-25, Wednesday approved five development schemes amounting to Rs 12.042 billion. Chaired by P&D Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan, the meeting approved the following schemes: 1. Central Punjab Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 3,256,401 million. 2. South Punjab Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 5,153,816 million. 3. North Punjab Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 3,603,508 million. 4. Feasibility Study for the Construction of a Sky Walk Glass Bridge at Murree (PC-II) at a cost of Rs 13,240 million. 5. Preparation of Dossiers for Tentative World Heritage Sites of Harappa and Hiran Minar at a cost of Rs 15,300 million. The meeting was attended by Secretary P&D Board Dr. Asif Tufail, Chief Economist Masood Anwar, members of the P&D Board and other senior officials.



**LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique presides over the meeting regarding Lahore Development Plan. Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bukhari, SACM Zeeshan Malik and Rashid Iqbal are also present.**

# International News

## North Korea sends foreign minister to Russia as its troops train to fight against Ukraine

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea said Tuesday its top diplomat is visiting Russia, in another sign of their deepening relations as rival South Korea and Western nations say the North has sent thousands of troops to support Russia's war in Ukraine. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said a delegation led by Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui departed for Russia on Monday, but didn't specify the purpose of the visit. In a closed-door hearing at South Korea's parliament, the South's spy agency said Choe may be involved in high-level discussions on sending additional troops to Russia and negotiating what the North would get in return, according to Lee Seong-kweon, a lawmaker who attended the meeting. The announcement of Choe's visit came hours after the Pentagon said North Korea has sent to Russia about 10,000 troops, who are likely to fight against Ukraine within "the next several weeks." South Korean and Western leaders have expressed concern that North Korean involvement could help prolong Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and that Russia may offer technology in return that could advance the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile program. Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said a "relatively small number" of North Korean troops are now in the Kursk region, where Russia has struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion. He declined to provide a more precise number. A couple thousand more troops are heading in that direction, he told reporters Tuesday. "As of right now, you know, it remains to be seen exactly how the Russians and the North Koreans will employ these forces," Ryder said, adding that he expects the deployment to be discussed by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and their South Korean counterparts when they meet in Washington this week. South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers it's examining the possibility that some groups of North Korea's military personnel in Russia, including generals or other high-ranking officials, may have already moved to frontline areas. The spy agency said the two sides appear to be struggling to resolve communication issues, although the Russian military is



**Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.**

## Gaza rescuers dig for survivors after Israeli strike kills 93

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Rescuers pulled bodies from the rubble in Beit Lahia on Tuesday after an overnight Israeli strike that Gaza's civil defence said killed 93 people in a residential building. Bodies wrapped in shrouds lay in rows as mourners gathered, with witnesses saying many of those killed were women and children. Around 40 people remained missing under the debris, the civil defence agency said. Its spokesman, Mahmud Bassal, described the complete destruction of a five-storey home, adding that the area lacked medical facilities to treat the wounded. "The number of martyrs in the massacre of the Abu Nasr family home in Beit Lahia has risen to 93 martyrs, and about 40 are still missing under the rubble," he told AFP.

## CIA director, other officials to visit Middle East for talks

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US officials including CIA Director William Burns and envoys Brett McGurk and Amos Hochstein will visit Egypt and Israel on Thursday to discuss issues involving Iran, Lebanon, and the release of hostages in Gaza, a US official said as Washington seeks to de-escalate tensions in the region. CENTCOM Commander General Erik Kurilla also is in the region and will visit Israel, the official said on Wednesday.

## US presses ahead with modest Mideast plans despite election uncertainty

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: With the U.S. presidential election just a week away, the Biden administration is not giving up hope for short-term deals for cease-fires between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. But U.S. officials are mindful that political uncertainty in the United States has made the sides reluctant to commit to any significant agreements before it is clear who has won the White House. In the meantime, the Middle East is uneasy about what happens next after Israel struck Iranian military targets over the weekend in retaliation for Iran's barrage of ballistic missile attacks on Oct. 1. U.S. officials said they believe Israel's attack — whose targets were coordinated with Washington — will not draw an escalatory reaction from Iran. But the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share sensitive diplomatic discussions, caution that nothing is certain. The Biden administration was able to persuade Israel to keep its response limited — gaining assurances it wouldn't hit nuclear or oil sites in Iran that would have escalated the conflict — despite limited U.S. influence as Biden's term wraps up. As Israel's closest ally and a key mediator in the Middle East, the U.S. still is pressing for any movement on a truce despite setbacks in the past and little expectation of immediate breakthroughs.

## Investors take cover in Asia ahead of US election

Monitoring Desk PENNSYLVANIA: Investors are selling yen and taking shelter in cash, India, pockets of China's markets and Singapore dollars ahead of a US election that could shake out global money and trade flows. Asia's financial markets stand on the front line of what could be a wild ride when votes are tallied and in the months ahead since the region is an export powerhouse and shares and currencies are sensitive to changes in US trade policies. That has money managers shying away from outright wagers on the outcome and looking instead to reduce exposure to vulnerabilities from Japanese manufacturers to Hong Kong stocks and make bets in India or China that stand to gain regardless of the US leader. "We actually view China as a decent place to

## Austria says eight of its UNIFIL troops in Lebanon injured in rocket attack

Monitoring Desk VIENNA: Eight Austrian soldiers belonging to the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) sustained superficial injuries in a rocket strike on Camp Naqoura near Israel, Austria's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday. UNIFIL is stationed in southern Lebanon to monitor hostilities along the demarcation line with Israel, an area that has seen fierce clashes this month between Israeli troops and Iran-backed Hezbollah fighters. "We condemn

## Iran appoints first Baluch governor in restive Sistan Baluchistan province

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran's government on Wednesday appointed the first governor from the Baluch minority in the country's restive southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan. "Mansour Bijar was chosen as the governor of Sistan-Baluchistan," government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said after a cabinet meeting. Bijar, 50, hails from the Baluch community, a mainly Sunni Muslim ethnic group in a Shia-majority country.

## Harris warns of dangers of another Trump presidency in speech at Jan 6 riots site

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Democrat Kamala Harris warned tens of thousands of people gathered in Washington at her biggest rally that her Republican opponent Donald Trump was seeking unchecked power as their tightening race for the presidency entered its final week. Harris spoke on Tuesday evening to an outdoor rally estimated by her campaign to number more than 75,000 people at the spot near the White House where on January 6, 2021, Trump addressed his supporters before they attacked the US Capitol. "We know who Donald Trump is," Harris said. She said the then-president sent an "armed mob" to the US Capitol to try to overturn his loss in the 2020 presidential election. "This is someone who is unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance and out for unchecked power," Harris said during what her campaign called her closing argument before a tightly contested November 5 election. More than 53 million Americans have already voted in the election, according to Election Hub at the University of Florida, in a battle that will decide who runs the world's richest and most powerful country for four years. Harris was flanked by American flags on stage and surrounded by blue and white banners that said "FREEDOM" with a well-lit White House behind her. The crowd included older people and college students, people from overseas, from New York and from nearby Virginia. Many women came in groups with other female friends. "It's important that we do not go back to the horrible past policies under President Trump," said Saul Schwartz, a former



## Mushahid identifies leadership, adaptability as drivers of China's global success

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Mushahid Hussain Seyed on Wednesday cited effective leadership, stable policies, adaptability, and a peaceful foreign policy as key factors in China's ascent to global prominence. He, in his introductory remarks while chairing the "China at 75: A Journey of Progress, Transformation and Global Leadership," celebrating 75 years of the founding of People's Republic of China, highlighted China's peaceful rise to global leadership without invasion, aggression, occupation, or colonization, attributing its success to peaceful leadership, stability, adaptability, and commitment to learning. The conference was hosted by Pak-China Institute.

Reflecting on China's recent history, Senator Mushahid Hussain summed up China's 75 years in what he termed were '3 R's': Revolution under Chairman Mao, Reform under Deng Xiaoping and now peaceful Rise under President Xi Jinping. Referring to his interaction at an American think tank in Washington, DC, where Senator Mushahid Hussain was asked: 'which side are you on, to which he retorted: 'Pakistan is on the right side of history, and the course of contemporary history is determined by the Asian Century, where China is our reliable strategic partner'.

He also appreciated Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's role in raising voice for Dr Afia Siddiqui at highest levels of the Biden Administration and inviting Palestinian students from Gaza to study in Pakistan. The conference was uniquely marked by international representation from South Asia, featuring Mahbub Alam, Leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party; Ahmed Thariq, Member of Parliament from the Maldives; and Achyut Prasad Mainali, Member of the Federal Parliament of Nepal. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan expressed heartfelt gratitude to Senator Ishaq Dar for his attendance, despite his 32-hour journey from Samoa, underscoring the significance attached to the event. Ambassador Jiang celebrated the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), now joined by over 150 countries, as a testament to China's commitment to shared prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi meeting with Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Malki.

## Governor KP, Saudi Ambassador held meeting to discuss bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi met with Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Saeed Al-Malki, here on Thursday. Accompanying the Governor was Ahmad Karim Kundi, Parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly. During the meeting, Governor Kundi praised the role of the Islamic Development Bank in the Chashma Lift Canal project and expressed gratitude to the Saudi government, the

Ambassador, and the bank. He emphasized that this initiative is not only vital for Dera Ismail Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but is also a significant step towards Pakistan's overall development and prosperity. The Governor said that the project is expected to usher in an agricultural revolution in the region, opening new avenues for economic growth. The Governor said that Saudi Government always helped and support Pakistan and it's people during any critical situations.

## Chinese delegation calls on CDA chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Chinese delegation called on Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Wednesday to discuss the mutual cooperation regarding the establishment of Tier Four Data Center in Islamabad. Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) welcomed Chinese interest in the digital economy, stating that Pakistan can benefit from China's experiences in the area of big data centers and digitalization. It is noteworthy that the Chinese delegation showed their keen interest in investing in establishing Tier Four Data Center in Islamabad.

## Wafaqi Mohtasib highlights commitment to human rights in insurance oversight

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has said that Pakistan was among the few countries in the world which has unique distinction of establishing a dedicated insurance ombudsman institution which offers a sound oversight mechanism for judicial protection of the interests of various stakeholders. He was addressing an international webinar organized by the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) in cooperation with the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat on Wednesday. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi is the current President of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), which is a 47-member strong non-political, professional body of ombudsman institutions in the Asian region. Addressing the participants Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi

said that the commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights is a cornerstone of the country's Constitution. Pakistan has ratified several human rights instruments on the subject and is committed to achieving the collective aspirations of the internationally recognized human rights regime, he added. He referred to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council and underlined the need to address the adverse human rights impact resulting from the business activities. The institution of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO), therefore, has a significant role in promoting and protecting the best standards of business practices in the insurance industry, he added.

## Renowned artist donates painting to PNCA

ISLAMABAD (APP): A renowned artist, Tabinda Chenoy has generously donated a significant painting from her art collection to the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). A significant painting from her latest collection has been added to the PNCA Gallery, enhancing the institution's growing repertoire of contemporary artwork. Alongside this contribution, Tabinda Chenoy has also donated a beautifully crafted book of her paintings titled "Between Dreams and Reality, which is now available at the PNCA Library for art enthusiasts, students, and scholars. "PNCA is deeply grateful to Tabinda Chenoy for her invaluable contribution.

## IGP Islamabad orders proactive measures against criminal elements

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, presided over high-level meetings at the Central Police Office and Safe

gated all officers, and sternly reprimanded those exhibiting poor performance. He instructed SDPOs to take action against crime in their respective areas and emphasized the need for a

available resources. He emphasized the importance of apprehending judicial fugitives and wanted absconders, as well as taking strict action against those providing them shelter.



City Islamabad. The meetings were attended by DIG Headquarters Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, DG Safe City Shakir Hussain Dawar, SSP Operations, SSP Safe City, all zonal SPs, and SDPOs. During the meetings, IGP Islamabad assessed the overall crime situation in the federal capital, inter-

comprehensive strategy to prevent crime and improve performance. The IGP Islamabad said that, all officers should formulate a special plan to eradicate serious crimes, ensuring effective crackdowns against those involved in robbery, theft, and other crimes by utilizing modern technology and

Officers were ordered to conduct indiscriminate operations against vehicles with tinted glasses, and with blue lights. Furthermore, IGP Islamabad directed the officers to enhance the effectiveness of the Dolphin Squad's to ensure the prevention of criminal activi-



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins.

## PMYP and Australia join hands to empower youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Wednesday said that as many as 186 billion rupees had been distributed among young entrepreneurs to foster economic development and self-sufficiency. During a meeting with the Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins to discuss various initiatives and collaborations aimed at empowering the youth of Pakistan, he emphasized his long-standing commitment to youth affairs, having served in this domain since 2002.

Mashhood highlighted the significant strides made by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) as the first political party to introduce a comprehensive youth policy. The discussions also focused on the potential for cultural exchange programs between Australia and Pakistan, particularly in the areas of sports and education. Rana Mashhood proposed initiatives for mutual training in sports, aimed at enhancing skills and building partnerships. Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins expressed his admiration for

the talent and potential of Pakistani youth, stating, "The youth of Pakistan are an asset to the nation." He also announced plans to introduce new scholarships for Pakistani students, reinforcing Australia's commitment to supporting education and skills development. Moreover, Commissioner Hawkins expressed a keen interest in enhancing cooperation in sports, particularly hockey, highlighting the importance of collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme to implement strategic initiatives in this field.

## IGNHMP signifies parents, teachers role in officials' children success

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General (IG) National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP), Salman Chaudhry, emphasized the role of parents and teachers in the success and exceptional achievements of the children of motorway police officers and employees. He shared these views while addressing a special ceremony at the Central Police Office here Wednesday to honour the achievements of Mohammad Zaim Haider, the son of Motorway Police Assistant Muhammad Nadeem Haider, who recently joined the Pakistan Air Force as GD Pilot

and Junaid Iqbal son of Motorway Police Head Constable Naveed Iqbal, who won a gold medal in the international Cambrian Patrol competition held in Wales, UK currently serving in the Pakistan Army. Salman said that every effort would be made to encourage the youth at all levels for a bright future while agreements have been made with prestigious educational institutions across the country to provide scholarships for outstanding students among Motorway Police employees' children so they can secure admissions in top institutions.

## ATC approves bail of 532 PTI workers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has approved bail plea of 532 accused of PTI who were sent for identification parade. Judge Abul hasnat Zulqarnain of ATC took up bail pleas of the accused for hearing Wednesday. Ansar Kiyani and other lawyers appeared in the court on behalf of the accused. The court ordered to release the accused against surety bonds worth Rs 20000 each. The court had discharged 28 accused from the case. It is pertinent to mention here cases are registered against 532 workers of PTI in 11 police stations including Sangjani and secretariat.

## MoHR to organise 8th meeting of implementation commission on prison reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Secretary for Human Rights, Allah Dino Khowaja, chaired the 8th meeting of the Implementation Commission on Prison Reforms. The session was attended by Home Secretaries from Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Inspector General (IG) of Prisons from Balochistan, AIG of Prisons from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and representatives from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of National Health Services and Regulation, National Commission for Human Rights, and the Director General for Human Rights, along with senior officials from provincial departments.

Rules, aiming to improve prison conditions and ensure the humane treatment of incarcerated individuals. The Commission reviewed critical issues, including the problem of overcrowding in prisons and the need for the establishment of a new prison in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The current facilities, particularly for under-trial prisoners, were deemed insufficient, posing serious health and safety risks. The Commission also recommended constructing hospitals and residential facilities for jail staff, with particular emphasis on addressing security and sanitation concerns in existing facilities. Provincial governments were urged to adopt Punjab's model of healthcare services within prisons, with a focus on mental health and primary care.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights Saba Sadiq and Deputy Director Women Welfare and Development Centre Ismat Afridi, cutting the cake during a ceremony Breast Cancer title "Awareness seminar and Medical Camp" at Women Welfare and Development Center, in the Federal Capital.

## IHC suspends ATC decision on granting physical remand of Imaan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) decision regarding physical remand of Imaan Mazari and her husband. IHC has issued notice to Islamabad police. The ATC decision regarding 3-day physical remand of renowned lawyer and social worker Imaan Mazari and her husband Hadi Ali Chatha was suspended by IHC. The appeal plea filed by Imaan Mazari and her

husband Hadi Ali Chatha against 3-day physical remand came up for hearing before IHC division bench comprising Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz Wednesday. Counsel Qaisar Imam appeared in the court. Counsel Qaisar Imam took the plea 3 days remand has been given in respect of the petitioner. Under the directives of court, counsel Qaisar Imam read out remand order.

## AIOU approves two new programs BS IR, Psychology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Wednesday granted formal approval to the two new four-year undergraduate programs—BS in International Relations and BS in Psychology. The approval was given during a Faculty Board meeting for its Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, presided over by Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. In addition to these new programs, the board endorsed the academic schemes for BS, MS/ MPhil, and PhD programs

across various departments, along with other curriculum and teaching-related matters. Addressing the faculty, Dr. Sahir highlighted AIOU's commitment to introducing educational programs that address contemporary social and economic demands, aligning with the vision of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood. He stressed the importance of prioritizing educational quality, emphasizing that fostering genuine knowledge is more valuable than merely awarding degrees.



ISLAMABAD: DMA staff loading encroachments on a loading truck during anti-encroachments operation at Sittara Market, in the Federal Capital.

## Overseas Pakistani Faisal wins 2024 UK volunteer of year award

ISLAMABAD (APP): Syed Muhammad Faisal Sami, UK Head of Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF), (Dawat-e-Islami) has won the 'UK Volunteer of the Year 2024', in recognition of his dedicated humanitarian efforts both in the UK and internationally. His efforts include food distribution, health services, drug prevention, and disaster relief worldwide. Awarded by Charity Today, he was recognized for his exceptional contributions to supporting vulnerable communities in the UK and globally. Faizan Global Relief

Foundation (FGRF) is well-known for its dedication to humanitarian efforts, addressing relief needs both locally and globally. Its initiatives cover a broad spectrum, including disaster relief, food distribution, educational programs, and health services. FGRF aims to empower communities, alleviate poverty, and foster social welfare through its outreach programmes and charitable projects. Under the leadership of Syed Muhammad Faisal Sami, FGRF UK has made significant strides in addressing pressing social issues.

## CDA to automate procedure for allocating open spaces in capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) will automate the procedure for allocating open spaces in Islamabad. It was decided in a meeting chaired by Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa here Wednesday. Randhawa instructed that a plan be presented for the allocation of open spaces according to categories. He directed improvements in the fee collection system for open spaces by adopting modern technology. He also instructed that a comprehensive system for open space allocation be developed by the Law, BCS and DMA departments. Moreover, Chairman

CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa stated that action should be taken against the permanent installation of structures in allocated open spaces. Additionally, he directed for taking action against companies engaging in unauthorized advertising within the city. The meeting also reviewed the condition of graveyards in the city and the Islamabad Beautification Plan. The Chairman stated that the land allocated for the expansion of the Muslim graveyard in Sector H-11 should be developed. Similarly, the land allotted for the Christian graveyard in H-8/1 should be developed immediately.

## IRSA releases 115,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 115,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 62,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1529.99 feet and was 131.99 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 34,500 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1188.90 feet, which was 138.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,800 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively.