

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 220 Rabi-ul-Awwal 28, 1445 AH Thursday October 03, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Murad directs education dept to complete reconstruction of 3328 flood-affected schools

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah directed the education department to complete the reconstruction of 3328 schools out of 19,808 damaged by the 2022 floods during the current financial year.

He issued these directives while presiding over a review meeting of the school education department here at CM House on Wednesday.

Minister P&D Syed Nasir Shah, Minister Education Syed Sardar Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi and others attended the meeting.

The CM was told that out of 19,808 schools, reconstruction and repair of 3328 schools under different projects have either been started or in the tender process. The CM directed the minister of education to personally monitor the construction work

so that these schools could be reconstructed by the end of June 2025.

During the briefing, the CM was informed that the repair of 1769 schools and the reconstruction of 1559 school buildings have been taken up under 10 different local and foreign-assisted projects for Rs114.3 billion.

They include the SSEIP (flood-affected) project 1026 schools will be repaired/reconstructed for Rs 62.6 billion, for which tenders have been issued. The repair and reconstruction of 31 schools under SSEIP (regular) have been taken up for Rs 4 million and work is in progress. Under the SELECT project, 166 schools will be reconstructed for which tenders have been floated.

Through the DEEP project, 111 schools are under construction for Rs 2.44 billion. In the ASPIRE project, four schools are under construction for Rs12.7 billion. China has

given a grant of Rs 7.6 billion for reconstruction of 100 schools and the scheme is under approval process. Under the PSDP tenders for repair/reconstruction of 456 schools have been floated for Rs10.7 billion. JIACA has also given Rs 419.38 million for repairing and reconstructing of five schools for which bids were under evaluation. Under the ADP repair/reconstruction of 687 schools is in progress for Rs 7.89 billion. Through Maintenance & Repair, 742 schools are being repaired for Rs 3 billion and work is in progress.

Minister Education Syed Sardar Shah told the CM that 824,008 children were enrolled in the 3328 schools damaged by the floods. The CM directed the school education department to keep visiting the schools where repair work has been started or would be taken up to review their educational activities.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of the school education department, held at CM House in Karachi.

Bilawal warns of confrontation if constitutional amendment not passed before Oct 25

“Matter will be resolved peacefully, if the amendment passed before October 25,” says PPP chief

ISLAMABAD (INP): As the coalition government determined to pass a judiciary-centric constitutional package, Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari warned of potential confrontation if the proposed amendments did not pass before October 25 — the retirement date of the incumbent chief justice.

Last month, the coalition government made a futile attempt to pass a “closely-guarded” constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa.

However, the government failed to even table the amendments in parliament after JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman refused to support the government’s judicial package, leaving the contentious amendments hanging in the balance.

Ostensibly, the government was short of 13 votes in the National Assembly and nine in the Senate as the said legislation requires a two-thirds majority in both houses.

In an informal conversation with journalists today, Bilawal — who is leading from the front in pushing the package — warned that if constitutional amendments were not passed before October 25, the country might face a “face-off”-like situation.

“Matter will be resolved peacefully, if the amendment passed before October 25. Otherwise, the situation would lead to confrontation,” he said, adding that amendments would be passed even after October 25 but the situation might turn tense.

He vowed that the PPP will pursue the matter of constitutional court till its completion — a goal he says set in the Charter of Democracy (COD) by slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and the PPP’s manifesto.

He was of the view that the 18th Amendment had restored the supremacy of the Constitution of Pakistan and put an end to dictatorship in the country.

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Nawaz schools Imran on humility amid PTI’s anti-govt campaign

“As you sow, so shall you reap”, PML-N president tells incarcerated PTI founder

LAHORE (INP): Amid ongoing protests by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in different areas of Punjab, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif asked incarcerated party founder Imran Khan to learn humility and refrain from making tall claims.

“You reap what you sow,” the three-time prime minister said to jailed PTI founder while addressing a ceremony related to “Apna Ghar Apni Chat” Scheme. His statement came as PTI continues its anti-government campaign, with party workers and supporters staging protests in different areas of Punjab today (Wednesday).

Without naming the PTI, the ruling party president said the ruling party of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was not interested in the development of the province.

“They come Punjab with tear gas shells,” the PML-N chief said hinting at PTI protesters.

Nawaz also asked which of the “tall promises” the PTI had fulfilled. “Their performance is zero and they stage protest whenever they get a chance,” he added.

“I think such elements should be dealt with strictly.”

Moreover, the former premier also expressed disappointment with his supporters and voters, stating that they never raised their voice against his ouster from power in 2017.

“You never asked that so many good things are taking so why Nawaz Sharif is being removed [from power],” the PML-N chief said adding that proud and dignified nations always raise their voices against any injustice.



KARACHI: Renowned religious scholar Dr. Zakir Naik meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

CJP Qazi Faez Isa rejects PTI’s objection to bench hearing Article 63-A review plea

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Wednesday rejected the PTI’s objection to the formation of the bench hearing review petition of the Article 63-A case.

Earlier, the hearing turned sour when there was a bitter exchange between PTI’s Syed Mustafin Kazmi and the chief justice.

As PTI’s Barrister Ali Zafar came to the rostrum, his fellow counsel Kazmi followed him and objected to two judges — Justice Naem Afghan and Justice Mazhar Alam — on the reconstituted bench.

The chief justice expressed his anger and called police to oust Advocate Kazmi from the courtroom.

When the hearing resumed, Barrister Ali also objected to the formation of the CJP-led bench.

The bench took into account his objection during the proceedings and “unanimously” rejected the objection.

Barrister Ali submitted that he filed the review application late due to which it was not fixed for hearing. Chief Justice Isa asked him when the application was filed; you must have filed it in the morning?

Barrister Ali replied that he filed the application but the office of the Supreme Court did not approve it.

He said he needed time to present arguments. He has to consult PTI founder Imran Khan on the case.

He submitted that you [the CJP] said it is a constitutional matter. “Imran Khan is a former prime minister and is also a petitioner, he understands the constitution and he knows what to say. Consult him on the matter.”

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ISLAMABAD: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab meeting with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

KMC developing 30 large parks across all districts of Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Parks and Horticulture Department of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is constructing 30 large parks across all districts of Karachi, on the directive of Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

Additionally, green belts along major roads and thoroughfares in the city, including three roundabouts, Shahrah-e-Faisal, and Shahrah-e-Pakistan, are also being beautified with greenery and tree planting. High-mast lighting poles are being installed in these parks and roundabouts to ensure proper lighting, said a statement issued on Wednesday.

The Mayor Karachi reaffirmed his commitment to make Karachi beautiful and green, instructing the

Parks Department to expedite the construction and beautification of parks in all districts so that residents can have recreational opportunities close to their homes.

The Parks Department of KMC is actively working on various locations, including Family Park in UC-1 Ibrahim Haideri, Rizviya Society Park, Khori Garden in UC-4 South District, Lyari Town UC-7, Bakhtawar Park in UC-10, Hindu Para Park in UC-13, Shirin Jinnah Colony, Amir Khusro Park Clifton, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Park in Gulshan-e-Hadeed Gadap Town, Shirin Jinnah Colony Park in UC-12, and New Rizviya Society Park in Scheme 33, among others.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif welcoming the prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim upon his arrival on a 3-day official visit at Islamabad.

Malaysian PM arrives to a red carpet welcome

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday warmly received Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is undertaking a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Upon his arrival at the airport, children clad in traditional attire presented bouquets to the Malaysian Premier. He was also given a static guard of honour while 21-guns boomed in the background as gesture of warm welcome.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and members of the federal cabinet were also present to welcome the visiting dignitary.

CM Murad slams PTI’s economic mismanagement

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah stated that the PTI’s mismanagement of the economy has led to two years of recovery efforts.

Speaking at the Karachi Press Club, he noted that while the country faces challenges, it is gradually overcoming them.

Addressing the NFC Awards, Shah emphasised that fulfilling them is a constitutional obligation.

He also criticised K-Electric for burdening Karachi residents and suggested provincial representation on its board.

Shah further highlighted the declining standards in journalism, stressing that the misuse of media has significantly harmed the profession.

Pakistan reports two more polio cases, tally reaches 26

KARACHI (INP): Two more cases of poliovirus have been reported from Sindh, bringing the total number of cases to 26.

The latest cases have been confirmed in Karachi East and Sujawal districts, according to an official of the regional reference laboratory for polio eradication at the National Institute of Health, Islamabad.

“This marks the first case reported this year in both districts,” he said.

According to NIH, this year, Balochistan has reported the highest number of polio cases, with 15 confirmed incidents.

Sindh has reported four cases, Punjab one, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa one, and Islamabad one.



KARACHI: Sindh Information, Excise and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing a press conference.

Sharjeel announces: Excise dept to begin online issuance of premium and personalized number plates from today

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced that the Excise Department, Government of Sindh, will begin the online issuance of premium and personalized number plates starting today, October 3rd. The proceeds will be donated towards the construction of houses for flood victims. The vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is to build 2.1 million homes for those affected by the floods. Philanthropists interested in acquiring premium and personalized number

plates are encouraged to actively participate in this initiative. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that under the Charter of Democracy, the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-N, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), and other parties reached an agreement to ensure that elected governments could complete their terms.

Dharejo directs officers to increase contacts with industrialists to solve problems

Independent Report KARACHI: A meeting, presided by Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo, was held in his office. Secretary Industries and Com-



merce Muhammad Yasin Sher Baloch, MD Site Ghazanfar Ali Qadri and other officers also attended the meeting. In the meeting, the steps taken by the Sindh government for industrial development in the province were reviewed. Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo directed the officers to increase contacts with the industrialists to solve their problems.

Interior Minister reviews preparations for SCO’s meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chaired a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Interior regarding the preparations of upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit.

The meeting was attended by top officials, including the Federal Secretary Interior, Additional Secretaries, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, IG Police Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Deputy Commandant FC, Sector Commander Pakistan Rangers, and representatives from security agencies.

During the meeting, security arrangements for the SCO Summit were reviewed in detail.

The Interior Minister approved a comprehensive plan to ensure foolproof security during the summit. He emphasized the significance of hosting the SCO Summit in Pakistan, stating that several heads of state will attend.

He called it an honor for the entire nation. He stated that special arrangements for beautification and cleanliness of Islamabad will be made on the occasion of the SCO Conference.

The Interior Minister stated that in order to ensure foolproof security, additional personnel from Pakistan Army, Rangers, FC, and Punjab Police will be deployed.



KARACHI: Inspector General of Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon offering Dua after inaugurating Digital Training Block B.

Pak calls for de-escalation of hostilities, conflict resolution in ME

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Wednesday expressed deep concern over the escalating hostilities in the Middle East, urging all parties to prioritize peace.

“In recent months, Israel has increasingly acted in violation of international law and the UN Charter resulting in grave humanitarian crisis.

Israel has endangered regional peace and security with the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The recent invasion of Lebanon has further intensified these tensions, affecting the lives of innocent civilians,” the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

The people of Pales-

tine, Lebanon, and the wider region deserved to live free from fear and violence. It was crucial for all sides to step back from the brink and for the international community to take swift action to de-escalate the situation.

The prevailing culture of impunity and disregard for international law must be addressed urgently, it was stressed.

The spokesperson reiterated Pakistan’s call for the UN Security Council to uphold peace and security in the region, safeguard Lebanon’s sovereignty, and put an end to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Constitutional courts

The decision-makers in Rawalpindi and Islamabad should have taken the hint. Instead, their determination to have the controversial 'constitutional package' bulldozed through parliament with another attempt is now uniting the legal community in anger and indignation.

Over the weekend, some 300 lawyers from across the country — including some of the most notable names in the profession — signed on to an open letter addressed to the judges of the superior judiciary, urging them to refuse to take any part in a 'constitutional court' that is set up under this government's secretive legislative agenda.

Saying that they recognise the Supreme Court and the high courts as the only 'constitutional courts' of the country, the lawyers warned the judiciary against repeating past mistakes, regretting, in particular, that "Our higher judiciary has, for many decades now, lent legitimacy to a sustained assault on our Constitution and on our democracy".

Underlining their opposition to the proposal to set up a new 'constitutional court', these representatives of the legal community have made it clear that, in their eyes, such a court would be considered a PCO court, "and those who take the oath to serve on it will be PCO judges".

This is unusually strong phrasing by the lawyers' community. While they doubtless would have debated the merits and demerits of a constitutional court more congenially in a different context, right now, the brightest minds in the profession are seeing it as an existential challenge: a move that represents a continuation of the series of assaults launched by military dictators on Pakistan's constitutional order in the past.

There is no question that the timing of the move has tainted its intent — perhaps irrevocably. After all, the government has made it clear that it has little regard for the judiciary and its prerogatives. Perhaps the proposal would have been seen more charitably had the government demonstrated that it is as subservient to the law like everyone else. Instead, it chose to disregard, even sabotage, express orders of the Supreme Court on multiple occasions, with the latest being in the reserved seats case.

Given that it has established that it will not obey legal authority except when it is bent in its favour, how can it expect any court established by it to be seen as fair and impartial? It is even more troubling that the government wants to handpick the judge who will sit atop this proposed constitutional court. This will not only compromise the new court further but also potentially sully the reputation of whichever judge agrees to lead it. The lawyers have agreed that they will not engage with this idea because they do not see it as rooted in good faith. The judiciary, too, must soon make its position known.

Unseen horrors

Mahir Ali

When yet another Sudanese civil war erupted in April 2023, the then year-old Russian invasion of Ukraine continued to hog the attention of the so-called international community. Now, as Israel supplements its bombardment of Beirut with ground incursions into Lebanon almost a year after launching an open-ended genocidal assault on Gaza, the intensifying catastrophe in Sudan is still struggling to attract anything more than cursory concern and the usual platitudes.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has a possible explanation. "I think race is in the play here. ... We see the pattern now," he told the BBC last month, after describing the "destruction, displacement, diseases everywhere, and now famine" that he witnessed during a visit to Sudan.

The violent tussle for power between rival military forces has claimed at least 20,000 lives, mostly among civilians; up to 12 million people have been displaced from their homes; there is mass starvation bordering on famine as the cultivation of food crops has dwindled and the conflict interferes with aid delivery. On top of everything, there are appalling indications of the 2003 genocide in Darfur being resumed by the same perpetrators: the Janjaweed militia, which evolved into the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) now competing for power with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).

The RSF and the SAF jointly carried out the 2021 coup that crushed tentative hopes of a transition to some kind of democracy after a popular uprising in 2019 led to the end of Omar al-Bashir's 30-year dictatorship. The duumvirate formed by Mohamed

Hamdan Dagalo, the RSF chief better known as Hemedti, and the SAF's General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan crumbled when the latter insisted on a relatively rapid integration of the RSF into the regular armed forces. Sudanese civilians have paid the price, as evidenced last week when the SAF embarked on a fresh effort to retake Khartoum.

Both sides have justifiably been accused of atrocities, although the RSF and its associates appear to be well ahead of the SAF in perpetrating sexual violence. Systematic rape as a weapon of war was a prominent part of the Janjaweed modus operandi, and it remains a favourite form of torture for the RSF, alongside arbitrary executions of young males, especially in its vicious campaign against non-Arab ethnic groups.

At the UN General Assembly last month, Burhan, invited as Sudan's de facto head of government despite the limits of his authority, appealed for international initiatives to stop the flow of weapons to the RSF in order to end the war (and, although he didn't say it out loud, consolidate his power). His remarks were widely interpreted as a salvo aimed primarily at the UAE, which, notwithstanding denials from Abu Dhabi, has been outed as the RSF's biggest arms supplier, its largesse ranging from hi-tech Chinese drones to Serbian munitions.

A New York Times investigative report co-authored by Declan Walsh revealed last month how an Emirates Red Crescent hospital in Chad, near the Sudanese border, set up ostensibly to aid refugees from Sudan, mainly treats injured RSF combatants, and is situated next to drone hangars and a munitions storage facility.

The drones help to stave off threats to arms delivery convoys. Back in July, a Guardian report revealed that Emirati passports had been found in a part of Omdurman, across the Nile from Khartoum, after it was retaken by the SAF from the RSF, indicating that the UAE may be "covertly putting boots on the ground". The discovery was described by analysts as "a smoking gun" that called into question Abu Dhabi's denials about its alleged favouritism in the Sudanese conflict.

The UAE president stuck with his narrative during his meeting with Joe Biden last week, as the US president hailed his country as a "major defence partner" — an accolade hitherto reserved for India — and refused to call out the controversial role of a key Gulf ally that is a reliable customer for the US military industrial complex. The UAE leadership, seen as indebted to the RSF for its nation's misadventure in Yemen, may also be guided by Israel's penchant for disregarding the occasional verbal diatribes from Washington, as long as the military and intelligence supply chains it relies on remain intact. And they do.

Sudan is coveted for its vast gold reserves and extended Red Sea coastline, and the UAE is not the only pebble on the beach.

The Wagner Group was once allied with the RSF, but Russia now backs Burhan, reports suggest, alongside the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and even Ukraine — not to mention Iran, Russia and China, alongside the US and its European allies, are all part of the 21st-century scramble for Africa. But the UAE might possibly have trumped them all. -- Courtesy Dawn

New generation

Sohail Habib

At a recent parent-teacher meeting at an elite school, a parent complained of her son's poor performance in Urdu. The teacher told her not to worry, as all his classmates were facing problems in Urdu. This is the dilemma of our new generation, the Gen Z-ers, born between the mid-1990s and the late 2010s. In fact, Gen Z-ers are the first true digital natives, with technology seamlessly integrated into their lives, unlike previous generations, who are digital immigrants. Among their two billion worldwide, Pakistan is home to seven million — the fifth-largest Gen Z cohort after China, India, Indonesia and Nigeria.

American sociologist George Ritzer explains the dilemma of the new generation in The McDonaldisation of Society. 'McDonaldisation' refers to the pervasive expansion of the principles of the fast-food chain: speed, convenience and standardisation for diverse societies and geographies. The ensuing cultural globalisation has the advantage of being democratic in nature, but the associated homogenisation threatens diversity.

Previous generations learnt through auditory delivery and manual practices; Gen Z-ers learn digitally and visually. Not surprisingly, many skills are becoming redundant such as calligraphy, classical music and the learning of oriental languages. Parenting styles are also changing. Previously, we saw helicopter parenting, with excessive parental involvement and control in children's lives. Today, Gen Z students are experiencing a 'CIA' style of parenting, where progress and grades are monitored through technology.

Cultural globalisation also features speed and efficiency, manifested in automated banking services, online shopping and self-checkout counters. However, the downside of excessive automation is dehumanisation which leads to poor tolerance in times of stress. Dubbed the 'loneliest generation', Gen Z-ers face anxiety owing to disruptive technologies, economic uncertainty and loss linked to the Covid pandemic. Moreover, previous generations would spend their free time socialising in person, which releases mood-elevating chemicals in the body. But this is missing in the emoji- and text-driven interactions of our youth on social media platforms today. They frequently suffer from FOMO, 'the fear of missing out', and so cannot stay away from their phones for too long.

Gen Z-ers are relatively more pragmatic than their predecessors. They focus more on skills than on theory and prefer certification over degrees. Although they exhibit more entrepreneurial qualities compared to previous generations, they are more conservative and prudent when it comes to finances. This shift is mainly shaped by the perma-crisis of the 2008 Great Recession, Covid-19 and 9/11 hyper-terrorism.

The new generation prefers personalised experiences, self-enrichment and an adventurous lifestyle. This has spurred local tourism from Kalash to Kumrat and Insta selfies from Deosai to Phander. However, this hyper-mobility has two associated trends. Firstly, there is a hyper-exodus of youngsters from Pakistan. According to the UN World Population 2024 report, 1.6m Pakistanis left the country in 2023. This exodus is more

than the numbers from the two most populous countries: India (980,000) and China (570,000). This may be considered 'brain drain' but also proves to be a primary source of remittances in the long term.

The second trend is the declining attachment to ancestral lands. An example is the third generation of Kashmiris who have settled in the UK. Older generations of the Kashmiri diaspora would invest back in Kashmir and bring the bodies of relatives for burial there. However, the new generation of Kashmiri expats has diminished emotional and financial interest in their ancestral land. A similar trend can be observed in rural-urban migration.

The grooming and blooming of Gen Z-ers in the virtual world has made it a generation of 'scroll & troll'. Like the gig economy's short TikTok reels, McJobs, micro-celebrities and freelancing, our youth display a short attention span and an appetite for instant gratification. This makes it harder to focus on deep learning or long-term projects. Casual relationships — 'situationships' — are developed online and terminated by ghosting.

The age of marriage is moving to the late 20s.

During Juma prayers, worshippers arrive late and leave quickly after the prayers. The reliance of Gen Z-ers on social media has made them more vulnerable to fake news and synthetic content. According to the Global Risks Report 2024, the top five risks that Pakistan faces today include fake news and misinformation.

In short, technology has transformed the 'global village' into the 'global street', but Gen Z-ers' excessive usage of gadgetry may lead to a 'tech neck'. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

'Pakistan Economy Dashboard' provides easy access to Socio Economic data: Ali Perviaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Ali Perviaz Malik said that 'Pakistan Economy Dashboard' is huge initiative in the direction of making the socio-economic data easily accessible to everyone.

The launch of the Pakistan Economy Dashboard represents a major leap forward in our mission to modernize the dissemination of economic information, he said while addressing the launching ceremony of 'Pakistan Economy Dashboard' here Wednesday.

"I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Economic Adviser at the Finance Division, and his team, whose relentless

efforts have successfully brought this initiative to fruition," he said.

He appreciated the appreciation to the EU-funded PFM-II Programme for providing technical assistance to the Finance Division in these crucial areas.

In today's rapidly evolving global economy, access to accurate and timely economic data is more critical than ever, he said. Ali Perviaz Malik said this portal has been designed to be a user-friendly resource, providing all stakeholders — whether policymakers, researchers, investors, or citizens — with the data they need to make informed decisions.

"We stand on the cusp of a new era in economic management, the in-

tegration of technology into governance has never been more crucial."

He said the Pakistan Economy Dashboard is not just a tool; it symbolizes our commitment to harnessing the power of technology to make governance more transparent, efficient, and responsive.

By adopting such innovative platforms, we are setting a precedent for how data-driven governance can drive real, impactful change in our country, he said.

He said that this initiative marked a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to promote transparency and enhance the accessibility of economic data, particularly for academia and research institutions.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where five ships, Maersk Kinloss, Phoenician-M, Clipper Trent, Ice Fighter and Acadia Park scheduled to load/offload Container, Rices, Fuel oil and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminals, FOTCO oil Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Centurion Signifer and Al-Areesah carrying Coal and LNG are also arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Positano, Maersk Kinloss and Ice Fighter are expected to sail on today. Cargo volume of 95,743 tonnes, comprising 41,664 tonnes imports cargo and 54,079 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,919 Containers.



MOSCOW: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan meeting with President Moscow Chamber of Commerce Platonov Vladimir.

Digital retail payments rise to 84% in FY24, Governor SBP

KARACHI (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, Wednesday, stated that the share of digital payments in total retail payments by volume has risen from 76% in FY23 to 84% in FY24 while the overall number of digital retail transactions has increased by 30%.

The number of transactions processed using mobile and internet banking is growing at an annual rate of 70% and 30%, respectively, he said and added, "This is not surprising as the majority of our population is young and adept at using mobile apps." The governor, while addressing the 13th Bank of the Future Forum, also underscored the SBP's

commitment to fostering innovation and digitalization within the banking sector and paving the way for a dynamic financial sector in Pakistan. He noted that rapid technological change has not only enabled banks to offer innovative financial services to customers but also empowered regulators to ensure compliance effectively and efficiently through advanced data collection and processing capabilities.

To facilitate the entry of IT-enabled, non-banking entities into the financial services industry, the governor said that, the central bank issued the framework for establishing Digital Banks in Pakistan in 2022 and later in-principle approvals were

issued to five applicants who will shortly start pilot operations in the country. The Governor shared that as a result of SBP's efforts, today in Pakistan, we have around 59 million branchless banking wallets, 19 million mobile banking apps, another 3.7 million e-money wallets, and 12 million internet banking users.

Reflecting on SBP's journey of digital transformation starting in 2002 with the Temenos and ERP systems and a data warehouse, Jameel Ahmad said that the Real-Time Gross Settlement System, PRISM, was implemented in 2008 while SBP has recently established state-of-the-art, Tier-3 data center.

Malaysian PM's visit to Pakistan boosts bilateral trade: Iftikhar Ali Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's three-day visit to Pakistan marks a significant step in strengthening the existing bilateral trade relations between the two nations. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, popular octogenarian trade leader of South Asia said that current visit holds substantial potential for enhancing economic cooperation, particularly in key sectors

of trade, investment, energy, agriculture and technology and activity would serve as an opportunity to deepen these relations further. He said visit would lead to the signing of new agreements and memorandum of understandings (MoUs) aimed at diversifying trade portfolios and increasing market access for two countries. He said his visit would underscore the importance of regional partnerships in overcoming economic challenges posed by the global market.

FCCI welcomes Pak-Russia barter trade deals

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Rehan Naseem Bharara has welcomed barter trade deals between Pakistan and Russia in the field of agriculture and urged the government to sign similar agreements with other neighboring countries including China. In a statement here on Wednesday, he said that under this barter trade agreement, Pakistan would import chickpea and lentil and in return it would export rice, mandarins and potatoes to Russia.

Govt committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Wednesday that the present government was committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy. During a meeting with Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula, she said steps were being taken to promote digital payments in the country as it had an important role in driving economic growth and efficiency.

Matters of mutual interest, digitalization and e-governance were also discussed in the meeting, said a news release.

Ethiopia could benefit from Pakistan's experiences in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Shaza Fatima said that boost in relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia in IT and telecom sector was vital. She said the IT and telecommunication sector of Pakistan was rapidly progressing. Shaza Fatima said under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, steps were underway for digital transformation in the country. "The society, economy and governance were being digitalised, she added.

LCCI president discusses economic situation with JI delegation

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad held a meeting with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) delegation, led by its Lahore Ameer Ziauddin Ansari here on Wednesday and discussed the economic situation of the country. LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry also spoke, while Malik Shahid Aslam, Rashid Daud, Shahid Naved and Engineer Ikhtlaq were members of the delegation.

Key initiatives to promote entrepreneurship, create job opportunities and enhance collaboration aimed at fostering economic development in the region came under discussion. LCCI

President Mian Abuzar Shad underscored the importance of a strong partnership between the business community and political entities to address the challenges being faced by the economy. They discussed various initiatives that could enhance trade, promote entrepreneurship and create job opportunities for the youth.

He highlighted the crucial role of the private sector in driving economic development and expressed the LCCI's commitment to working with political leaders to create a conducive environment for business growth. He said that a stable economic framework is essential for attracting investments and improving the overall business climate.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbroker monitors the share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

Exports increase by 14.11% to \$7.875 bln during Jul-Sep 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country increased by 14.11 percent during the first three months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding months of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-September (2024-25) were recorded at \$7.875 billion against \$6.901 billion during July-September (2023-24), according to PBS data. On the other hand, imports into the country also went up by 9.86 percent by

growing from \$12.115 billion last year to \$13.310 billion during the first three months of the current year. Based on the figures, the trade deficit during the months under review was recorded at \$5.435 billion against the deficit of \$5.214 billion last year, showing an increase of 4.24 percent.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports in September 2024 increased by 13.52 percent to \$2.805 billion from \$2.471 billion in September 2023.

MoU signed to synergize efforts towards developing micro, SMEs, home based workers

PESHAWAR (APP): In order to continue its journey of evolution, Krafters signs an MoU with Handicrafts Association of Pakistan to synergize efforts towards development of Micro, Small & Medium enterprises and home based workers. Under the MoU both the organizations will endeavor to undertake projects and activities together with particular focus on digital financial inclusion, enterprise development and youth empowerment.

SMEs under Pakistan Innovation Fund (PIF) initiative, Krafters also arranged a session on "Digital Financial Inclusion" at TMA Haripur for women led enterprises of District Haripur. The session, organized in collaboration with JazzCash, focused on the importance of digital financial inclusion, onboarding and its effects towards fostering economic growth, reducing poverty, and empowering individuals. JazzCash team from Islamabad undertook a session on need of digital onboarding to the participants followed by registration of women led enterprises for jazz cash accounts enabling them towards financial economic empowerment. "Digital financial inclusion plays a significant

role in empowering women-led businesses, particularly in developing regions, where traditional financial systems often marginalize women entrepreneurs," observed Syed Zahid Ali Shah, CEO Krafters while speaking at the training session. Krafters in partnership with JazzCash & Government Technical Teachers Training College (GTTC) Peshawar also held a session about "Digital Financial Inclusion" for women led enterprises on GTTC, Hayatabad Peshawar. The event besides creating awareness on digital financial inclusion also involved on-boarding of women entrepreneurs on hashtag #kraftersapp and hashtag #Jazzcash app to lead these women towards economic empowerment.



LAHORE: Disabled blind persons are holding protest demonstration for demanding employment, outside CM House in Lahore.

PA body discuss measures to solve problems of labors

PESHAWAR (APP): The introductory meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Standing Committee on Labor was held here Wednesday wherein members were briefed by the Secretary of Labor about the performance of the department. The meeting was chaired by the chairman of the committee, Muhammad Rishad Khan, and attended by Labor Minister, Fazal Shakoor Khan, Gul Ibrahim, Ubaidur-Rehman, Muhammad Khurshid, Zar Alam and concerned officials.

Secretary labor and officials briefed the committee about the performance of the labor department and plans. Later, briefing the media about the meeting of the Standing Committee, Rishad Khan said matters including child labor, performance, and recruitment were discussed in the meeting. He said that efforts would be made to improve the performance of the department and added that a probe would be initiated to identify recruitments that were made on a political basis.

PTI's education emergency slogan proves false

PESHAWAR (APP): In Dera Ismail Khan, the hometown of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 31 schools lack roofs, while Peshawar has 22, and Upper Dir has 22 such schools, according to media sources. Thousands of students in government schools across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are forced to study under the open sky. Overall, 516 primary, middle, and high schools in the province lack roofs. In settled districts, 344 government schools do not provide shelter to students. According to the Department of Education documents, 172 schools in the merged tribal districts are without roofs. In settled districts, 489 schools operate in rented buildings. In the merged districts, 138 boys' and 34 girls' schools lack roofs.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with PPP MNA Ali Jan Mazari and MPA Haji Abdul Rauf Khoso during meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.

Amir Maqam visits home of martyr child 'Iqtidar' in Swabi for condolences

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Maqam on Wednesday visited the home of martyr child 'Iqtidar' in Swabi for condolences. Prominent PML-N politician and former member of the provincial assembly, Babar Saleem, warmly welcomed the federal minister. Both leaders met the family of martyr child Iqtidar, who lost his life in

the recent Swabi blast, and offered condolences. Amir Maqam comforted the grieving family, stating, "In this moment of sorrow, we stand with you. I will speak to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif regarding your financial assistance." Following this, Amir Maqam, along with Babar Saleem, visited Swabi Hospital to meet those injured in the blast and prayed for their swift recovery. The Medical Superintendent and other officials were also present during the visit.

Constable killed on resistance in dacoity

FAISALABAD (APP): A police constable was killed on resistance in dacoity in Gulberg police limits on Wednesday. According to police, constable Nadeem s/o Sardar was returning home when unidentified armed bandits stopped him near his home situated in Gobindpura. The accused opened fire on Nadeem when he offered resistance. He was taken to hospital where he expired. The body was shifted to the mortuary for autopsy. RPO Dr Muhammad Abid has taken notice and sought a report from CPO Kamran ADil.

Court seeks reply from NAB on Muhammad Khan Bhatti's application

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Wednesday sought a reply from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) regarding an acquittal application filed by Muhammad Khan Bhatti, the former principal secretary to the former chief minister of Punjab, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, in the Gujrat development projects reference. Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani conducted the proceedings, during which Chaudhry Parvez Elahi ap-

peared on a wheelchair, while Muhammad Khan Bhatti and other accused were also produced after being brought from jail. The counsel for the accused requested the court to decide the issue of jurisdiction before indicting their clients in the case. At this stage, Bhatti's counsel submitted an acquittal application, stating that his client had not taken any monetary benefit, and therefore, the court could not proceed against him.

ANF foils drug smuggling bids; recovers 3.5 kg heroin, 7.2kg Ice

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in an operation conducted in Karachi foiled an attempt to smuggle 3.5 kg heroin and 7.2 kg Ice drug abroad through International consignments, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that ANF recovered heroin and Ice drug tactfully concealed in sweets packaging and the international consignments were being sent to four countries.

Transport fares slashed in Punjab after fuel prices reduction: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that public transport fares have further been slashed in Punjab for passing on relief to the common citizens, after a reduction in petroleum prices by the federal government for the fifth time in a row. The biggest fare cut, Rs190, has been applied to the Lahore-Karachi route, she said and added that Punjab is the only province where public fares are reduced whenever petrol and diesel prices dip down. Passengers have started receiving relief after the price reductions. She mentioned that other major reductions

include a Rs 50 cut for the Lahore-Peshawar route and a Rs 20 reduction for Lahore-Rawalpindi. Azma stated that the district administration and Transport department officials are present in the field to ensure the implementation of the fare reductions. New fare boards have been displayed at all bus terminals. "We are also grateful to the transporters in Punjab who cooperate with the provincial government," she added. She further noted that since Maryam Nawaz's government took office, fares in Punjab have been decreasing with the reduction in petrol prices.



KARACHI: Police officials carry out the combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city due to security reasons, at Dalmia area in Karachi.

Education worst affected merged districts: Tarakai

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Wednesday said that education was the worst affected sector due to militancy in the all merged tribal districts. The terrorists had particularly targeted the girls' schools, which were now being made functional, he said while chairing a meeting to review the progress on education sector projects in the Khyber District. Besides, KP Minister for Religious Affairs Adnan Qadri, Member of the National Assembly Iqbal

Afridi and Member of the Provincial Assembly Abdul Ghani Afridi, officers of the District Education Department and students from the Khyber District attended the meeting. The meeting discussed in detail the situation of the education sector, completed and ongoing schemes and other projects. Minister Tarakai assured the elected public representatives that the second shift in area schools would be started within a week, so that all boys and girls of the district get the opportunity of getting education in their respective localities.

International News

UN Security Council calls emergency meeting amid aggravation in Middle East

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: A day after Iran struck back against Israel after launching a slew of missile attacks in Tel Aviv following killing of top leadership of Hezbollah by the Zionist state, the United Nations Security Council called an emergency meeting on Wednesday to discuss ways to avoid escalation in the Middle East. Recent episodes of bloody confrontation between warring parties of the Middle East brought the matters on edge, culminating into a full-blown conflict in the powder keg region of West Asia. United Nations Secretary General António Guterres once again called for an immediate ceasefire while British Prime Minister Kier Starmer condemned Iran's attack on Israel by reaffirming Britain's unwavering support for Israel's defence. The Brit-

ish PM urged Iranian leadership to abandon support for proxies aiming to target the Zionist state. Earlier, United States of America President Joe Biden also vowed to stand by Israel come what may. Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel in retaliation to the latter's campaign against Tehran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon and the killing of its chief and that of Hamas. Alarms sounded across Israel and explosions could be heard in Jerusalem and the Jordan River valley after Israelis piled into bomb shelters. Reporters on state television lay flat on the ground during live broadcasts. Reuters journalists saw missiles intercepted in the airspace of neighbouring Jordan. Israeli media reports said as many as 100 missiles had been launched.

After about an hour, the military announced there was no longer a threat and "it was decided that it is now permitted to leave protected spaces in all areas across the country", with a "large number" of Iranian missiles intercepted. Reports said between 150 and 200 missiles had been fired in the attack. It was Iran's second on Israel after a missile and drone attack in April in response to a deadly Israeli air strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. Israel vowed to retaliate with an army spokesman saying it would respond at the time and place of its choosing. "This attack will have consequences. We have plans, and we will operate at the place and time we decide," said Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari.



Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani meets with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, in Doha, Qatar.

Iran's president visits Qatar, aims to rally opposition to Israeli crimes

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in Qatar on Wednesday for bilateral talks and a summit at which he said he hopes to enlist Asian countries' help in preventing what he called "Israeli crimes" in the Middle East. Starting his first trip to Qatar as president, Pezeshkian criticised Israel over the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. Iran blames Israel for Haniyeh's assassination on July 31. Israel has neither claimed nor denied responsibility for his death. Since then, Israel has assassinated the leader of the Iran-backed Hezbollah group in Lebanon, Hassan Nasrallah, and sent troops

into southern Lebanon on what it called a limited operation. Iran responded by firing a barrage of missiles at Israel on Tuesday. "We also want security and peace. It was Israel that assassinated Haniyeh in Tehran," Pezeshkian was quoted saying on his arrival in Qatar by Iran's Student News Network. "Europeans and the US said if we do not act, there will be a peace in Gaza in one week. We waited for them to have peace but they increased their killing". Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose country faces conflicts against both Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Iran's Khamenei warned Nasrallah of Israeli plot to kill him, sources say

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned Hezbollah leader Syed Hassan Nasrallah to flee Lebanon days before he was killed in an Israeli strike and is now deeply worried about Israeli infiltration of senior government ranks in Tehran, three Iranian sources said. In the immediate aftermath of the attack on Hezbollah's booby-trapped pagers on Sept 17, Khamenei sent a message with an envoy to beseech the Hezbollah secretary general to leave for Iran, citing intelligence reports that suggested Israel had operatives within Hezbollah and was planning to kill him, one of the sources, a senior Iranian official, told Reuters. The messenger, the

official said, was a senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander, Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan, who was with Nasrallah in his bunker when it was hit by Israeli bombs and was also killed. Khamenei, who has remained in a secure location inside Iran since Saturday, personally ordered a barrage of around 200 missiles to be fired at Israel on Tuesday, a senior Iranian official said. The attack was retaliation for the deaths of Nasrallah and Nilforoushan, the Revolutionary Guards said in a statement. The statement also cited the July killing of Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and Israel's attacks on Lebanon. Israel has not claimed responsibility for Haniyeh's death.

Almost 1.3 million US customers still without power from Hurricane Helene

Monitoring Desk FLORIDA: Almost 1.3 million homes and businesses were still without power in the US Southeast and Midwest on Wednesday after Helene slammed into the Florida Panhandle as a major hurricane on Sept 26, according to data from PowerOutage.us. Those outages were down from around 1.7 million on Tuesday as utilities continued to restore power. In total, the storm knocked out service to around 5.5 million customers, predominantly in the Southeast. Helene's winds, rain and storm surge killed more than 160 people. The utility with the most outages was US energy company Duke Energy in the Carolinas with about 323,000 customers still out in South Carolina and 299,000 still out in North Carolina, according to PowerOutage.us.

Palestinian officials say 51 killed in Israeli strikes on southern Gaza

Monitoring Desk DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes killed at least 51 people in southern Gaza overnight, including women and children, as the military launched ground operations in the hard-hit city of Khan Younis, Palestinian medical officials said Wednesday. Israel has continued to strike what it says are militant targets across Gaza nearly a year after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack ignited the war there, and even as attention has shifted to Lebanon and

Russia rules out nuclear talks with US given its stance on NATO expansion. **Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: Russia has dismissed the possibility of nuclear talks with the United States citing Washington's stance on NATO expansion, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday. "We see no point in dialogue with Washington without respect for Russia's fundamental interests." Bangladesh factories reopen amid garment sector unrest. **Monitoring Desk** DHAKA: Most garment factories in Bangladesh reopened on Tuesday, a day after violent protests over a pay hike left one worker dead and several others injured, officials said. Bangladesh, one of the world's largest garment producers and a supplier to western brands such as H&M, Zara and Carrefour, has been facing widespread protests in recent weeks, leading to the closure of dozens of factories. The protests have worsened an already significant production backlog.

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Myanmar civil war fuels surge in cross-border drug trade, Thailand official says

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Thailand has seen a surge in illegal drugs trafficked from neighbouring Myanmar and a sharp increase in methamphetamine and heroin seizures, as a civil war adds fuel to the regional drug trade, a senior Thai counter-narcotics official said. Apikit Ch.Rojprasert, deputy secretary-general of Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), said the northern region remains the main trafficking route into Thailand, with dealers going through the mountains or on the Mekong river to bring in methamphetamine tablets and crystal meth, also known as ice. Thai authorities say organised crime networks have allied with militias and rebel groups to set up "super labs" in Myanmar's Shan and Kachin States. A junta spokesperson declined to comment for this story but Myanmar's ruling junta has previously said it is committed to working with neighbouring coun-

tries to tackle narcotics. "Because of the armed conflict, the drug trade is one of the factors used to fund weapon purchases or drive the fighting forces," Apikit told Reuters in an interview. "We have to be vigilant about crimes that are linked to drug trafficking and work with neighbouring countries." Myanmar is locked in a civil war, with the military fighting on multiple fronts and losing territory to an armed resistance movement loosely allied with several ethnic minority rebel groups. The military took over the Myanmar government in 2021. Seizure of meth tablets in the first eight and a half months of this year in Thailand's northern provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son increased by 172% from the amount seized in all of 2023 to 346 million pills, ONCB data showed. Seizure of crystal meth in those provinces increased by 39% over the same period to 6.48 tons, the data showed.

The messenger, the

CPEC projects' review meeting held ahead of SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahead of the mid-October Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, a high-level review meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects was convened under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal here Wednesday.

The meeting brought together Secretaries and Additional Secretaries from all relevant ministries, reflecting a unified and collaborative approach towards enhancing the bilateral relationship with China, according to press release issued by planning ministry. During the session, an extensive briefing was given on the progress of ongoing CPEC projects. In anticipation of the forthcoming visit of the Chinese Premier, the discussions centered on amplifying cross-sectoral cooperation and preparing a comprehensive action plan aimed at advancing bilateral economic and developmental goals.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the essential role of all ministries in the successful implementation of CPEC, emphasizing that collaboration across government sectors is crucial to unlock the full potential of this flagship initiative.

He stressed the importance of leveraging the upcoming high-level engagement with China to advance business-to-business (B2B) investments, secure concrete deliverables, and showcase Pakistan as an investment destination.

In this context, all ministries were urged to finalize their preparations and proposals to ensure impactful outcomes from the visit.

Minister Iqbal further underscored the urgency of achieving substantive advancements in priority sectors such as infrastructure development, road connectivity, information technology, agriculture, industrial cooperation, education, healthcare, water resources, energy, and artificial intelligence.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening collaboration in these strategic areas, signaling a shared vision for growth and modernization between the two countries.

Reflecting on the historical context, Ahsan Iqbal reiterated that since 2013, Chinese investment and financial assistance have played an instrumental role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy during challenging times.

He highlighted that the government's recent diplomatic engagements underscore its proactive efforts to attract foreign investment and integrate the national economy into global value chains—efforts that will contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth and development.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori presiding over a meeting regarding security arrangements.

PTI failed to timely conduct intra-party elections: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has said that under Sections 208 and 209 of the Elections Act 2017, all political parties are required to hold intra-party elections within five years in accordance with their party constitution.

Initially, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was supposed to conduct its intra-party elections by June 13, 2021, but were not held on time, said a statement issued by ECP here Wednesday.

The ECP served re-

peated reminders on PTI and before serving a show-cause notice on July 27, 2021, it further said. In response, PTI requested a one-year extension, citing COVID-19 pandemic. The ECP granted extension on the request of PTI, extending the deadline to June 13, 2022. However, PTI submitted incomplete intra-party election documents under Form 65 in June 2022 to the ECP and despite repeated reminders, the party continued to delay the submission of required documents.

PTI rally not allowed owing to terrorism concern, SHC informed

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday directed Karachi-East DC to decide on the PTI's request for public meeting in Bagh-e-Jinnah by October 7.

The PTI has filed a petition in the high court after the party's request for public meeting was denied by the district administration.

"Why the PTI is not being given permission for public meeting and matter being kept in pending," Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed questioned. "Public meeting not being allowed after security clearance not issued," DC East district said. "Who is not issuing security clearance," Justice Sayeed asked. "The intelligence re-

ports fear terrorism threat during the public meeting," deputy commissioner said. "The bench had asked in previous hearing for intelligence reports and minutes of meeting," Justice Sayeed said.

SSP East said that the intelligence agencies and district administration in a meeting considered various issues. Because of security concerns public meeting could not be allowed to go ahead," SSP further said.

Court said that the applicant can be issued permission for the event at an alternate venue. "PTI intends to spread anarchy thus it could not be given permission for public meeting," government lawyer told the court.

PIA halts utilizing Iranian airspace following Iran-Israel missile attacks

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has temporarily halted all flights using Iranian airspace after Iran's missile attacks on Israel, as per official orders.

The airline's spokesperson Wednesday confirmed that flight plans are being rescheduled, and Iran's airspace will not be utilized until the situation stabilizes.

PIA uses two air corridors through Iran: the Northern Corridor for routes to Canada and Turkey, and the Southern Cor-

ridor for flights to the UAE, Bahrain, Doha, and Saudi Arabia.

In response to the escalating conflict, Israel and Jordan have also closed their airspace to civilian flights. Several international airlines have suspended flights to Israel and Lebanon amid growing concerns over the war.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued new directives to Pakistan Air Traffic Control (ATC) to tighten surveillance of its airspace.



KARACHI: Members of Lawyers Action Committee are holding protest demonstration against the establishment of the Federal Constitutional Court and proposed constitutional amendments, outside the Supreme Court Karachi Registry building in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic Scholar Dr. Zakir Naik calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Deputy Chairman Senate urges political unity for national progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedada Khan, on Thursday called on all political parties to play an active role in steering the nation out of its current crises.

Speaking during a meeting with a delegation that included Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt; former Member of the National Assembly, Agha Syed Mahmood Shah; Balochistan Provincial Assembly Member, Fazal Qadir Sherani; former

District Nazim, Mir Nizamuddin Lehari; along with tribal elders, social workers, journalists, and students, he stressed that the country cannot afford political instability and unrest at this critical time.

He said that the government is actively working to provide relief to the public and address the nation's pressing issues. He urged all political forces to unite for the country's development and prosperity, adopting strategies that offer real solutions to the people and propel the nation towards progress.

Irfan Siddiqui calls on Fazl, conveys Nawaz's message

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui visited the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday.

Irfan Siddiqui conveyed the special message of the PML-N's President Nawaz Sharif to the JUI-F chief.

During the meeting, ongoing political situation of the country and consultation was held on constitutional amendments.

SRSO hosts activist conference in Thatta

SUKKUR (APP): Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) Thatta team organized a landmark Managerial Activist Conference (MAC) at village Lakho Bhanbhro Union Council, Chatto Chand.

The event aimed to assess the impact of SRSO's interventions under the People's Poverty Reduction Program (PPRP), with a focus on women's empowerment, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

The key attendees included the Parliamentary Secretary and Member of Planning and Development, Ms Sadia Javed, MPA Tanzeela Umme Habib, Imtiaz Hussain Shah Sherazi, District Council Member and former MPA, Ms. Mahreen Soomro, Child Protection Officer, Khadim Hussain Shar, Regional Manager, SRSO, Ms. Rukya, Ms. Azara Kalharo, Qazi Asif, Tariq Ahmed Korai, District Manager, SRSO Thatta, Representatives.

He assured that the Governor's House would fully support investments in the province's abundant mineral resources, tourism, agriculture, and other sectors. The discussion also covered various aspects of economic development projects and investment opportunities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

MAP hosts luncheon in honor of Governor KP

KARACHI (APP): The Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) on Wednesday organized a special luncheon in Karachi to welcome the esteemed Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi.

The event saw the participation of MAP's senior officials and prominent business figures.

Notable attendees included MAP members Farukh Janidi, Muhammad Intisaruddin, Khalid Zaman, Ahmad Zaheer, Advocate Tariq Khattak, Athar Abbas, Suleman Mehdi, Rashid Siddiqui, Ali Hasan Naqvi, Sameer Hussain, Dr. Farhan Isa, Adnan Rizvi, Amjad Waheed, Zubair Qureshi, and Farukh Mazhar.

The purpose of the luncheon was to discuss business opportunities, investment prospects, and ways to enhance the business environment in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In his address, Governor Kundi highlighted the economic development and business opportunities in the province, emphasizing its potential for investors.

MAP members shared their experiences and offered suggestions regarding potential investments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Governor Kundi expressed gratitude to the attendees, stating that such events play a crucial role in fostering strong relationships between the business community and government representatives.

He assured that the Governor's House would fully support investments in the province's abundant mineral resources, tourism, agriculture, and other sectors. The discussion also covered various aspects of economic development projects and investment opportunities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The session given approval of declaring 'Kute-Ji-Qabar (Dog's Grave) in Qambar-Shahdadkot district as provincial heritage site for preservation.

The meeting also declared Karachi's Parsi Institute Compound, Jahangir Kothari Hall, Katrak Swimming Bath, Cantonment Quarters and Malir's Sayad Hashmi Reference Library as provincial heritage sites.



LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Sharjeel Noor Chana presided over the meeting regarding submit comments of pending cases in the courts as soon as possible, at his office in Larkana.

Najmi directs superintendents to arrange for installation of online cameras on every farm



Independent Report
KARACHI: Advisor to Chief Minister Sindh for Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam presides over an important meeting regarding the performance of livestock farms of the

farms in a transparent manner and to make proper arrangements to make the livestock farms ideal, including keeping the animals on the farms for the protection of the government property.

Syed Najmi Alam directed the farm superintendents to arrange for the installation of online cameras on every farm. He said that along with animal tagging, posting of a veterinary doctor on each farm is also necessary to keep a record of animals of each breed so that the animals on the farm can be fully vaccinated and treated for other diseases.

Najmi Alam said that the farm superintendent assigned to each farm would keep his residence.

AKU and Roche, Pakistan's joint efforts bring relief to cancer patients

KARACHI (INP): On September 30, 2024, the leadership and healthcare professionals of the Aga Khan University came together to celebrate the generosity of Roche, Pakistan, in providing access to cancer care at AKU's Hospital in Karachi.

Since 2018, Roche Pakistan under its access programme, has provided medicines to patients at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent individuals from receiving the treatments they need.

This initiative has not only eased the burden of medical costs for many families but has also restored the hope and dignity of those fighting cancer.

This six-year partnership between AKU and Roche has benefited over 1500 cancer patients treated at AKUH. What brings the two organisations together is their shared goal of making high-quality life-saving cancer treatments accessible to patients who can't afford them.

Livestock Department in which the Provincial Advisor for Livestock was given a complete briefing about the farms. Syed Najmi Alam urged all the officers involved in the meeting to use the public funds of the

Anjuman Tajiran Sindh felicitates newly body of SITE association

HYDERABAD (APP): The Central president Anuman-e-Tajiran Sindh Waqar Hameed Memon and central leaders have felicitated Abdul Rehman Rajput, Jahaanagir Barkat and Ahsan Moeed Shaikh to elected President, Vice president and Vice Chairman of Hyderabad SITE association. According to a press release, Central president Anjuman-Tajiran Sindh Waqar Hameed Memon, Central leaders Ali Raza Arain.

Pakistan, Denmark sign MOU for restructuring in Pakistan's Maritime sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Wednesday signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the behalf of Pakistani government and Denmark's Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs Morten Bodskov from the Danish government.

Denmark's Ambassador to Pakistan Jacob Linulf presented the signed document of Danish Minister in this ceremony, said a press release.

After this MOU, Maersk (Danish Shipping Company) was ready to invest almost two billion dollars in Pakistan's maritime sector. Minister for Finance Mohammad Aurangzeb, Minister for

Commerce Jam Kamal, Minister for Industries Rana Tanveer, Additional Secretary Maritime Affairs Umar Zafar Sheikh and Secretary SIFC Jameel Qureshi were also present in this MOU signing ceremony.

On this occasion, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh said that we are extremely thankful to the Government of Denmark on this remarkable breakthrough in maritime sector. He further added that as results of this memorandum ministry could integrated logistics hubs in all ports, establish deep water container terminal in Karachi, create International Maritime Organization (IMO) and European Union (EU)-compliant ship recycling facilities in Gaddani.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah addresses to media persons during press conference on the occasion his visit to Karachi press club.

Commissioner chairs meeting regarding electricity

HYDERABAD (APP): A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider to resolve the problems in electricity supply in Benazir Institute of Urology and Transplantation (BIUT) Shaheed Benazirabad.

On the occasion, Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider directed SE HESCO to ensure power supply in BIUT

while taking steps for immediate solution of low voltage and other power problems. So that better health facilities can be provided to the patients by ensuring the electricity supply.

SE HESCO Farman Ali assured to solve the problems in the electricity supply in BIUT. UT Coordinator Mohammad Amin Dhraj and Electrical Engineer Khuram Baloch participated in the meeting.

Jl appeals Karachiites to join million march on Oct 6

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar inaugurated a model street and a park in Karachi's FC Area, here on Wednesday.

The model street was named after the late deputy Town Nazim Liaquatullah, Syed Shahabuddin, whereas the park was entitled as Tipu Sultan Park.

The JI leader also visited a camp in the same town, set up in connection with the Solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon

Week. Town Chairman Abdul Haseeb and other JI leaders were accompanying Monem Zafar.

Speaking on the occasion, Zafar said that the entire Muslim Umma will have to get united in order to refrain Israel from further terrorism.

It is the high time for Pakistanis and other Muslim leaders to shun the apologetic and cowardice approach towards Israeli aggression in the region, he said.

Divisional Commissioner Mirpurkhas attends Seerat conference

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Divisional Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Uqeli on Wednesday emphasized the Prophet's (peace be upon him) life as a guiding model for personal and societal improvement.

Addressing a Seerat conference at Ajrak Club Hall, Uqeli encouraged students to follow the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) teachings in their daily lives.

starting from home and social circles.

The event, organized by the Directorate of Schools, Mirpurkhas Division, aimed to raise awareness about the Prophet's (PBUH) life among students.

Uqeli praised government school students' achievements, attributing their success to teachers' dedication.



Supporters of Palestine Foundation, light candles and earthen lamps in front of the portrait of Hassan Nasrallah, while taking part in a protest gathering to condemn an Israeli air strike against Hezbollah's headquarters in Karachi.

SSP Khairpur reviews crime situation of distt

SUKKUR (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Khairpur, Dr. Samiullah Soomro, on Wednesday said that no laxity would be tolerated for the safety and security of the citizens.

He was chairing a meeting to review the crime situation in the district. All SDPOs and SHOs of all the police stations attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the overall crime situation in the Khairpur district.

Speaking on the occasion, the SSP Soomro warned the officers that no

laxity towards the safety and security of the citizens would be tolerated and strict disciplinary action would be initiated against them.

He said, "We are servants of the people, and their safety is our prime priority," he added.

He further directed all relevant officers to arrest the offenders involved in heinous crimes, especially dacoits snatching, robbery, and murder cases, adding that the ratio of the challan of the cases and recoveries should be increased.