

# Independent

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## SC nullifies decision in the case of article 63-A, accepts review appeals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday accepted the review petition and terminated the previous judgment pertaining to Article 63A of the Constitution.

The court ruled that the defecting lawmakers' votes should indeed be counted and said that the detailed judgment would be issued later on.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, announced the short order.

The chief justice said that the review petition of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) was accepted unanimously, adding that the detailed verdict would be issued later on.

Earlier during the proceedings, Pakistan Tehreek

e Insaf (PTI)'s lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar took the stance that his meeting with PTI's founder was not held independently. The lawyer said that the PTI founder had requested that he wanted to give arguments himself before the bench through video link.

On this point, the CJP said that you were making unreasonable request. He said what secret things did you have to discuss with PTI founder? You were only supposed to discuss a constitutional issue, he remarked. Ali Zafar said that the PTI founders had objection on formation of bench and stated that they will not be a part of proceedings. The court on the occasion appointed Barrister Ali Zafar as amicus curiae and asked him to assist the bench. Ali Zafar, as amicus curiae, said that the objection was not against any personality, and instead it was on the formation of bench.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim address a joint press stakeout.

## Pakistan, Malaysia agree to deepen trade, investment cooperation; reiterate stance on Gaza, Kashmir

Shahbaz, Anwar Ibrahim reaffirm commitment to strengthen mutually beneficial partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, defence, and agriculture, besides reiterating their strong positions on regional issues including Gaza and Kashmir.

In a joint press stakeout following their one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks, both prime ministers told the media that their discussions focused on strengthening the bilateral collaboration in multiple areas of mutual interest as well as regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir.

As part of the efforts to boost bilateral trade, both leaders agreed that Pakistan

would export Halal meat worth \$200 million per annum and 100,000 metric tonnes of Basmati Rice to Malaysia.

Total trade between Malaysia and Pakistan stood at USD 1.4 billion with the trade goods included palm oil, apparel, textiles, chemical and chemical-based products, and electronics and electronic products. Among South Asian countries, Pakistan is Malaysia's third-largest trading partner.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that besides discussing the export of Pakistan's Basmati Rice, two sides also discussed the possibilities of exporting Halal meat

worth \$200 million per annum, and assured that his country would make no compromise on the quality.

He said the Malaysian PM had also assured to address the discrepancies in the import of Pakistan's rice into his country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that they had a 'wonderful' meeting to discuss the enhancement of trade and investment, besides exploring avenues of further cooperation in defence, tourism, agriculture, green energy, skilled labour and youth empowerment.

He said both sides were unanimous in believing that the two countries would collectively find new heights in trade and investment cooperation for a

bright future for two nations. Assuring his cooperation to further enhance Pakistan-Malaysia defence and security cooperation, he said that thousands of Pakistani students were currently studying in Malaysia to help strengthen the people-to-people contacts. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Malaysia's development should be emulated as a role model for all Muslim countries where foreign direct investment and exports were on the increase.

He said that both sides also discussed the "heart-wrenching" and "heart-breaking" situation of Gaza where innocent children, men and women were being killed.

## Bilawal says: PPP to participate in JI's March for Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday said that party workers would participate in the March for Palestine being organised by the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI).

A JI delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naem ur Rehman formally invited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to take part in the march during a meeting here at the Zardari House.

The two leaders discussed the war imposed on the Middle East by Israel and the current situation in the region.

Talking to the media, Bilawal said that the world community remained indifferent to the ongoing brutal killings of women and children in Palestine. The top Palestinian leader was martyred in Iran.

Israel had no regard for human rights, rather it was violating them with impunity, he added.

The PPP chairman said that the war imposed by Israel in Palestine and Lebanon was inching towards Iran. "Israel is, in fact, on a drive to forcefully occupy the Palestinian lands for completing its agenda of a 'greater Israel'."

"The PPP stands firm with the Muslims all over the world," he added.

The JI delegation consisted of vice presidents Liaquat Baloch and Mian Aslam, Secretary General Ameer-ul-Azeem and Ameer JI Islamabad Chapter Engr Nasarullah Randhawa.

PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman, Secretary General Nayyer Hussain Bukhari, Naveed Qamar and PPP Chairman's Spokesperson Murtaza Wahab were also present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with media persons along with Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naem ur Rehman after a meeting at Zardari House, in the Federal Capital.

## Sherry Rehman felicitates newly elected EJJ executive body

ISLAMABAD (APP): Environment Journalists Forum (EJJ) Chairman Senator Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday felicitated the newly elected members of the Environment Journalists Forum (EJJ).

In a statement here, she said, "Congratulations to the successful candidates for election to the Executive Body of the Environment Journalists Forum. My felicitations to Ali Jabir for being elected as President and Asghar Hayat as General Secretary of EJJ."

She also congratulated Rozina Ali, Ayesha Naz, Saadullah Saeed, Fauzia Ali, Sohail Butt, and Muhammad Mukhtar for being elected to the Forum's executive body and also to Saqib Rathore, Amna Janjua and Aftab Jahan for being elected as members of the governing body.

"It is hoped that Environment Journalists Forum will play an important role in the development of environmental journalism and the forum will pave the way for improving the quality of reporting on complex and critical issues like climate change," Sherry Rehman said.

The role of environmental journalists has become more important in today's era as the environmental crisis is affecting every corner of the world, she added.

The Environment Journalists Forum's voice and reporting will play an important role in promoting collective action to address environmental challenges, Senator Sherry Rehman said.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf inaugurating Bahria University College of Medicine.

## KMC launches repair, illumination of streetlights alongside construction of roads: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has begun the process of repairing and illuminating streetlights alongside the construction of roads. In a statement on Thursday, he said that this initiative will be gradually implemented across all seven districts of Karachi.

The engineering department has been instructed to maintain the street lights on 106 roads in proper condition and to monitor them regularly. Soon, like the KMC's head office, the streetlights on major roads will also be converted to a solar panel system to ensure they remain lit despite power outages from K-Electric, he said.

The Mayor emphasized a zero-tolerance



President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President Zardari confers Nishan-e-Pakistan award on Malaysian PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has been a prominent advocate of humanitarian causes and Islamic values throughout his political career. His leadership is marked by a profound commitment to promoting social justice and addressing global issues affecting the Islamic world.

He has also been a voice for the causes of self-determination movements and has particularly stood against oppression across the world. He continues to work tirelessly to counter Islamophobia striving to create interfaith harmony by fostering understanding and respect between different cultures and religions.

The president also hosted a state dinner in honour of the visiting Malaysian prime minister and his delegation.



ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan addressing a press conference.

## Pak-Iran PFG condemns Israel's aggression in Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) in the National Assembly on Thursday condemned Israel's ongoing military aggression in Gaza and Lebanon, massacring hundreds of civilians.

During a meeting with Ambassador of Iran Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam here at the Iranian Embassy, Pak-Iran PFG Convener Syed Naveed Qamar said the Israeli aggression against the people of Gaza and Lebanon was a grave violation of the United Nations Charter and international law, according to a news release.

He said it was a dangerous escalation that had further endangered peace

and security in an already volatile region.

Qamar reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, saying the people of Pakistan stood in solidarity with the people of Lebanon for their right to live in peace and security. He called upon the international community to take urgent steps to hold Israel to account for its adventurism in the region, and its acts of aggression and genocide.

Underscoring brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran, Qamar reaffirmed the country's commitment to deepen and broaden the existing wide-ranging cooperation with the neighbour.

## SC's decision a correction of 'constitutional error': Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Parliamentary Party Leader in the Senate Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court ruling on the review petition regarding Article 63-A of the Constitution.

It was "a rectification of a major constitutional error, which provides relief not to any political party, but to the Constitution itself," he said in an interview with a private channel, according to a press release.

Siddiqui, who is also Chairman of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, criticised the earlier verdict of a three-member SC bench given two years ago, alleging that an extra clause was inserted into the Constitution to favour a particular political party in Punjab, with the sole objective of replacing Hamza Shehbaz with Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi as the chief minister.

## PTI challenges steps taken by PPC in absence of Justice Mansoor

KARACHI (Online): PTI has challenged the steps taken by practice and procedure committee in the absence of justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

PTI Additional secretary general Firdous Shamim Naqvi has filed petition through counsel Ali Zafar in Supreme Court (SC).

The petitioner has taken plea that September 23 and October 01 decisions of practice and procedure committee comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Amin ud Din be declared illegal.

It was said in the petition that court's proceedings, orders and steps in the perspective of September 23 and October 01 decisions be declared illegal.

Interior secretary and registrar supreme court have been made respondents in the petition.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori presenting a shield to Mr. Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo during a charter reception of Rotary Club of Pakistan Corporate.

## Sindh Excise Dept launches online auction for premium number plates

KARACHI (APP): In a historic initiative, the Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department has launched Pakistan's first online auction for premium number plates.

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced in a tweet and a statement on social media that premium number plates will be auctioned in platinum, gold, and silver categories to raise funds for housing projects for flood victims.

All proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Sindh People's Housing Project to support those affected by the floods.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said this is an important step by the Government of Sindh in its journey toward modern public service. Citizens can register themselves and participate in the online auction to win exclusive number plates while contributing to a worthy cause.

He mentioned that participants can register for the auction through the official website, [www.premiumnumberplates.gov.pk](http://www.premiumnumberplates.gov.pk)

## SSPA working day & night to provide sustainable financing to all marginalized communities

KARACHI: Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah while addressing the closing ceremony of the 8th annual Microsoft conference as a chief guest at a local hotel said that I feel privileged to be here in front of this august forum and speak on behalf of government of Sindh and spell out the vision of my party and provincial government for creating an enabling environment where the young energetic middle and lower middle-class citizen are given skill based training linked with a sustainable increase in their livelihood through small medium enterprises development.

Chairman SECP Atif Saeed, Deputy Governor State Bank Dr. Inayat Ali, Chairman PMU Aamir Khan, Chairman PMU Policy Committee Dr. Rashid Bajwa, CEO Pakistan Microfinance Network Mohsin Ahmed, international financial dignitaries, Academicians and experts from the banking sector participated.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Judicial infighting**

The ongoing spat within the Supreme Court has raised serious concerns about the integrity of the country's highest judicial forum at a time of unprecedented crises.

Instead of articulating their differences through formal judgments, which judges are expected to do, senior justices have taken to airing their grievances in public. Their sparring has eroded the court's power and left it vulnerable. The chief justice has been made the target of much criticism in recent days — owing, perhaps, to his seemingly contradictory positions before and after taking office.

However, to blame any individual would be unfair. Other senior judges equally share the responsibility for the ongoing turmoil. For example, the recent note addressed by the senior puisne judge to the chief justice questioning the exclusion of a third judge from the Supreme Court's apex committee should perhaps not have ended up in the public domain. Nor should, for that matter, the response to it. Indeed, it would have been much better for the issue to have been addressed internally through consultation and debate. Alas, the bitter exchanges have added fuel to the fire. The episode has only solidified the perception that the judges have chosen to take sides against each other and do not wish to work towards a resolution, thus further damaging the judiciary's prestige and weakening public confidence in its ability to function impartially. As other state institutions grow more assertive, continued failure to present a united front will increasingly endanger the apex court's authority. It is also painful to note how the current schism is turning into a rather disturbing reflection of a past crisis. One cannot help but recall former chief justice Sajjad Ali Shah's troubled tenure, which culminated in his downfall because of persistent discord within his court. While that comparison seems crude at this point — and one sincerely hopes that the situation never comes to pass — the present judiciary should guard against the path leading to it.

The judges must recognise that their squabbling has proven to be a godsend for those who have long wished to weaken the court and capture the state. The government's refusal to implement the court's decision in the reserved seats case is example enough of how other institutions will take advantage of the situation.

The responsibility for restoring the court's writ lies with the senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. They must prioritise their institution over their personal differences and make a sincere, concerted effort to resolve their problems. There is time still for them to come together and settle all disputes amicably. The judiciary has survived many challenges in the past, and it can do so again. For that, its leaders must let bygones be bygones and act with wisdom and restraint.

**Modern facsimiles**

F.S.Aijazuddin

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was born in Turkey, in 1881. Since then, facsimiles have been spawned many times: Soekarno in Indonesia, Lt-Col Rawlings in Ghana, Col Nasser in Egypt, Field Marshal Ayub Khan et alia in Pakistan. Each wore the uniform of a patriot, tailored for him, as he believed, by destiny.

Patrick Kinross' definitive biography Atatürk: The Rebirth of a Nation (1964) is a must-read for anyone (in jail or out of it), with time on his hands and thwarted patriotism smouldering in his heart. Atatürk's political ideas assumed a 'coherent shape' early in his life, while he was still a lieutenant at the military training school at Montasir. "He began to devour history as he had previously devoured mathematics and poetry. He read all he could about the career of Napoleon who became (with qualifications) one of his heroes."

Like Napoleon, Atatürk suffered from the highest form of narcissism. "In so far as Atatürk was capable of love," Kinross explains, "he loved his country." In time, Atatürk would have a loyal mistress Fikriye whom he later discarded for a wife, Latife. Fikriye later committed suicide. When Latife became too demanding and possessive, he divorced her. Childless, Atatürk adopted eight children. Turkey though remained the enduring love of his life. That, and the people of Turkey.

Two incidents in Kinross's biography present little known facets of Atatürk's innate egalitarianism. One day in Sofia, Atatürk notices a peasant being denied service in a tea house. He chides the waiter: "As long as the peasant is not master of the country, there can be no real

progress in the country." From this was born his slogan: "The peasant is master of this country."

In another, at a dinner given by the Soviets in their embassy, he tweaked his communist hosts: "I don't see among us any of the men who prepared this feast." Within minutes, the cook and other servants were called to the "classless table".

Daringly for his time, Atatürk advocated gender equality. In a national meeting of teachers, he taunted the organisers: "Why did you make them sit apart from the men? Don't you trust yourselves, or have you no faith in the virtue of these ladies?"

Regarding religion, Kinross tells us that Atatürk was not for the eradication of Islam. What he sought was "to disengage it from the condition of being a political instrument, which it had been for centuries of habit".

Kinross describes Atatürk's tortuous efforts to reform the Turkish alphabet. Atatürk spent hours poring over old and new dictionaries in search of "pure Turkish words". His aim was to purify the language of Arabic and Persian infusions. Eventually, he compromised by "naturalising" words that had no Turkish equivalent. Atatürk's achievement was to give his countrymen a language and alphabet comprehensible to anyone who had learned the new ABC, thereby reinforcing "Turkishness".

Muslims in India saw in Atatürk's Turkey the possibility of a viable Muslim state. The Indian khilafat committee evidenced its support through an Indian fund. Its contributions were used for the construction of a new parliament building in 'Angora' and the foundation of Turkey's first nationalist bank.

Western historians have written much about Winston Churchill's dis-

astrous failure at Gallipoli in 1915-16. Kinross provides a corrective account from a Turkish perspective. He highlights Atatürk's military success there as a military commander, despite being heavily outnumbered.

Even in defeat, though, Churchill admitted that "loaded with follies, stained with crimes, rotted with misgovernment, shattered by battle, worn down by long disastrous wars, his Empire falling to pieces around him, the Turk was still alive". Many Pakistanis will recognise in Churchill's words the present condition of our beleaguered homeland.

Kinross analyses traits found in many of our own Atatürk facsimiles: "Kemal was not born for cooperation, except in so far as necessity demanded it. He was born to dominate. Aware of this, [his closest supporters] while following him loyally, had watched him warily. They accepted his leadership but remained on guard against the personal ambition that conditioned his patriotism."

In one paragraph, Kinross comes uncomfortably close to our present political situation. Gen J.G Harbord, an envoy of US president Woodrow Wilson, meets Atatürk. He asks him how he proposes to reconstruct Turkey: "Kemal as he talked had been playing with a string of prayer beads [...] He pulled the string apart, and the beads were scattered all over the floor. Picking them up one by one, he remarked that here was the answer to the general's questions. He meant to draw the pieces of his country together."

It took Atatürk only 15 years (three times a Pakistani prime minister's ordained term) to restring his rosary into today's Turkey. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Bringing them home**

Rabiya Javeri Agha

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan is a crucial opportunity to address an important humanitarian and diplomatic issue — the signing of a long-awaited prisoner transfer agreement. A PTA would allow our nationals imprisoned in Malaysia to serve the remainder of their sentences in Pakistan, close to their families and communities. This is a matter of protecting the fundamental rights and dignity of our citizens, many of whom are vulnerable and facing harsh conditions abroad.

Pakistani prisoners in Malaysia have skyrocketed to 463 as of September 2024, a staggering 55 per cent surge in just seven months from February's count of 299. More disturbingly, it marks a massive 142pc increase since September 2022. These numbers don't just represent statistics; they reflect disrupted lives and separated families, underscoring an urgent need for action and diplomatic intervention.

These Pakistanis face a range of charges, from immigration violations and petty offences to more serious crimes, often under harsh laws like the Dangerous Drugs Act. Many face harsh penalties due to inadequate legal representation, language barriers, and limited consular support. Pakistan must act by securing a PTA with Malaysia, following the example set by neighbouring countries such as Iran.

A growing prisoner count highlights the need for systemic solutions. With international labour migration key to Pakistan's economy, protecting citizens abroad is vital. Over 85,000 Pakistanis in Malaysia contributed \$71 million in remittances in 2024 alone.

However, these migrant workers often find themselves at a disadvantage as foreign nationals in Malaysia's strict immigration system, leading to prolonged detentions and harsh sentences.

A PTA would allow our nationals to serve their sentences in a familiar environment where they can access support networks, family visits, and culturally sensitive legal assistance. Without a PTA, these individuals remain isolated, facing legal challenges and the emotional toll of separation from their families.

In recent years, Pakistan and Malaysia have strengthened commercial ties through increased trade and migration. As this relationship continues to grow, it is imperative that both nations ensure adequate protections for their citizens. The high rate of Pakistani migration to Malaysia means that more Pakistanis will inevitably face legal issues abroad. The absence of a PTA would mean continued detentions under foreign systems.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's empathy for human rights is well-known, making this visit a timely opportunity to bring the issue to the forefront of diplomatic talks. His recent leadership in signing a PTA with Iran in 2024 serves as an example that Pakistan can follow. Malaysia's consistent engagement with Iran and other countries demonstrates a growing international recognition of the importance of these agreements. Since 2020, Malaysia has signed PTAs with Ukraine, Brunei, and Iran facilitating not only the transfer of prisoners but also strengthening diplomatic and consular relations. With Pakistan's rapidly increasing population in Malaysia, it must aim to be the next country to

formalise such an agreement.

In light of this pressing issue, the National Commission for Human Rights of Pakistan is taking proactive steps to address the situation. We are collaborating closely with S U H A K A M, Malaysia's National Human Rights Institution, to gather comprehensive data on Pakistani prisoners in Malaysia. This partnership allows access to crucial information that might otherwise be difficult to obtain. We are also working in tandem with the Pakistan High Commission in Malaysia, which has been instrumental in sharing data and providing support for our efforts.

NCHR and SUHAKAM's collaboration facilitates better understanding of the situation and strengthens diplomatic ties between our two nations. By working together, we can ensure that Pakistani prisoners' rights are protected, and their cases are handled with care and consideration. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's state visit presents a unique opportunity to address this critical issue. His human rights commitment makes him an ideal partner for Pakistan. The NCHR-SUHAKAM collaboration sets a strong foundation for PTA discussions, showing both countries' commitment to this humanitarian concern. It is time for Pakistan and Malaysia to sign a PTA. This is a diplomatic necessity and moral obligation. NCHR is ready to support the Pakistani government, using our collaboration with SUHAKAM and the Pakistan High Commission to uphold Pakistani nationals' rights abroad. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited launches high-performance, fuel-efficient NH-850 tractor**

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited launched its latest product the New Holland NH-850. The 85-horsepower engine tractor is designed to set new standards in modern farming.

The exclusive launch event, hosted at Pearl Continental, Lahore, was graced by the chief guest, Director General Strategic Project of Green Initiatives



(Pvt) Limited, Maj General Shahid Nazir. Congratulating Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited, Maj General Nazir said, "I congratulate Al-Ghazi Tractors for introducing this new variant of 85hp tractors and I can assure you this will become

high in demand in coming days and months because of that a lot of land will be developed. I congratulate the team, for producing this machine with a lot of innovation, Al-Ghazi Tractors will continue the journey of bringing more machines of this kind into the field so that we can serve our farmer community."

The event was well attended by government

officials, corporate clients, dealers, vendors, and Al-Ghazi personnel alike. Among the prominent participants, the CEO Al-Ghazi, Sakib Eltaff, and the Chairman of the Board at Al-Ghazi, Robert McAllister were also present.

**Aamir declares proposed merger between Telenor Pak & PTCL as significant**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim stressed the importance of healthy competition and market repair to drive innovation and benefit customers. Commenting on the proposed merger between Telenor Pakistan and PTCL, Aamir acknowledged it as a significant development for the telecom sector. "While we support initiatives that create synergies and efficiencies, we must also recognize the need for market repair," he stated, referring to the ongoing decline in industry-wide penetration and profitability. "Without addressing these fundamental

issues, achieving the vision of Digital Pakistan becomes increasingly difficult." According to company news release Aamir emphasized that the merger should lead to a healthier, more competitive landscape, which in turn benefits consumers. "Jazz has always supported efforts that push the industry forward, but it's vital that any consolidation ensures a level playing field, fair competition, and customer-centric innovation," he added. He also highlighted the critical need for regulatory fairness, particularly in terms of spectrum allocation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and his Malaysian counterpart Tengku Zafrul Aziz discuss strengthening trade, focusing on rice, halal meat exports, and business cooperation.

**Pak-Malaysia agree for fostering deeper economic, trade cooperation**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to take significant steps towards fostering deeper economic cooperation and exploring new business opportunities that benefit both nations.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, the Malaysian Minister for Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI).

This meeting underscored the brotherly relations both countries cherish in all fields, according to a release issued.

The Minister for Commerce welcomed Minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz to Pakistan and highlighted

the longstanding friendship between the two nations.

Jam emphasized that there is huge potential to grow bilateral trade between the two sides.

The Minister urged for enhanced business engagements to transform this potential into reality.

Moreover, Mr Jam Kamal Khan stressed that there is a potential for growth in almost all the sectors of Pakistan.

He mentioned that Pakistan is exporting high-quality rice and mangoes all over the world.

He apprised the visiting Minister that recently Government of Pakistan had removed the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for rice which will allow

Pakistani exporters to negotiate competitive prices.

He encouraged Malaysia may engage more with Pakistan to import rice.

A significant focus of the dialogue was on the potential for exporting halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia.

The Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to maintaining high halal standards, which are essential for expanding access to the Malaysian market.

He called for facilitation in the accreditation process for Pakistani meat and gelatin exporting companies, emphasizing that cooperation in this sector could greatly enhance trade flows.

Malaysian side acknowledged the difficulties faced by Pakistani businessmen in the procedural processes of JAKIM for exporting meat to Malaysia and reassured their commitment to ease these procedures for Pakistani businesses.

Moreover, Malaysian Minister for Trade invited Pakistan to participate in the activities of the ASEAN as Malaysia is taking the chair of ASEAN.

In closing, the Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to creating a conducive environment for foreign investment, expressing optimism for the future of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

**PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 754 more points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 754.76 more points, a positive change of 0.92 percent, closing at 82,721.77 points against 81,967.01 points on the last working day. A total of 319,879,266 3 shares were traded during the day as compared to 360,987,426 shares the previous trading day.

**Services' trade up by 0.13% in July-August**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of various services witnessed 0.13 percent increase during the first two months (July-August) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding months of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

According to the latest PBS data, Pakistan earned \$1.252 billion from the export of services during July-August 2024 as compared to services' export of \$1.250 billion in

July-August 2023.

On the other hand, the services' imports witnessed a decline of 0.45 percent during the months under review and were recorded at \$1.724 billion as compared to the import of \$1.732 billion in July-August 2023.

Based on the figures, the services' trade deficit shrank by 1.95 percent during the months under review as compared to the corresponding months of previous year.

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Maersk Cabo Verde, Al-Areesh and Centurion Signifer carrying Container, LNG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Port Qasim Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Wednesday. Meanwhile another bulk cargo carrier 'World Virtue' is also arrived at outer anchorage port on same day. Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.

**Over 50 federal, provincial officials trained on integrating Carbon Markets into project**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Over 50 federal and provincial planning officials have been trained on integrating carbon markets into government project approvals in an effort to support Pakistan to combat climate change and meet its international obligations.

SPAR6C, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, organized a two-day Carbon Market Training Workshop for Federal and Provincial planning and development officials, a news release said.

The two-day workshop brought together officials responsible for appraising public investment projects. The event aimed to enhance their understanding of carbon credits and how these can be leveraged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, align with global climate goals and secure vital international financing.



PESHAWAR: President of Petroleum Dealers Association Abdul Majid Khan addressing a press conference at PPC.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, the SPAR6C programme supports developing countries, including Pakistan, in navigating carbon markets.

**Standing committee on livestock holds introductory meeting**

PESHAWAR (APP): The introductory meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Standing Committee on Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives was held Thursday wherein members were briefed by officials concerned about working and ambit of the department.

The meeting was chaired by chairman of the committee, Sher Ali Afridi and attended by members Shafi Jan, Ubaid-ur-Rehman, Tariq Saeed,

IFTIKHARULLAH, secretary livestock and concerned officials.

Secretary Livestock briefed the committee about ambit, performance and future plans of the department.

Later, briefing the media about the meeting, Sher Ali Afridi said the government was committed to increase output of livestock department owing to its importance to strengthen provincial economy.

## AJK President still remembers bleak memory of earthquake

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that painful memories 19 years ago of the tragic October 8, 2005 deadly earthquake that shook Azad Jammu Kashmir and other areas of Pakistan still haunt its inhabitants. "Those who witnessed the ravages of the natural calamity with their own eyes will hardly ever forget it", he said in a message on 19th Anniversary of history's worst killer earthquake being observed on October 8.

Sultan added that the cataclysmic tremors left thousands of people, including men, women and children dead, while many cities, towns and villages were completely destroyed. He said that compensation for the loss of human lives caused by the earthquake was not possible, but the government tried its best to rehabilitate the victims, rebuild and reconstruct the damaged infrastructure.

The president said that the memories of all those who lost their lives on 8 October 2005 were still fresh and alive in our hearts.

He thanked the international community, especially Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, the United Kingdom, European countries and the People's Republic of China, for providing relief and rescue to the people of AJK in the difficult time. The president said

## Bilawal fulfilling Benazir's unfinished agenda, says Hassan

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab General Secretary Syed Hassan Murtaza said on Thursday that party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was dedicated to realising the unfinished mission of his mother, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, with the supremacy of parliament being at the heart of her legacy.

day, he said, "How can those who manipulated the Constitution during their government now claim to be its defenders?"

He said the Bhutto family's contributions to Pakistan's constitutional history, stating, "Bilawal's grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, gave the nation a consensus Constitution, Bilawal's father, Asif Ali Zardari, restored it, and now Bilawal is striving for a new consensus constitutional amendment."

In a sharp rebuke to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi's recent comments on Thurs-

## ANF recovers 58 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas managed to recover 58 kg drugs worth Rs 6.5 kg and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 82 intoxicated tablets, 70 grams ice and 168 grams hashish were recovered from an accused arrested near a college in Lahore.

105 grams opium and 90 grams hashish were recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Lahore.



SARGODHA: Provincial Minister for Higher Education Department Rana Sikandar Hayat addresses the 'Future Innovator contest-2024' seminar held at University of Sargodha.

## Price hike, shortage of essential medicines will not be tolerated: Khawaja

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir has declared that price-hike and shortage of life-saving and essential medicines can never be tolerated.

He made these remarks while presiding over an emergency meeting on Thursday on drug shortages and price hikes, convened on the directives of chief minister Punjab.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted on the factors con-

tributing to the shortages and rising prices of essential medicines. Director General Drug Control Muhammad Sohail provided an in-depth briefing on the current situation. Addressing the meeting, Khawaja Imran Nazir highlighted that the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is deeply concerned about the extraordinary price hikes affecting critical medicines. "The increase in prices of old stock medicines is unacceptable and

will be halted at all costs," he said, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring that the public has access to affordable and quality healthcare.

He assured that every possible measure would be taken to strengthen the pharmaceutical industry and enhance the transparency of the system. He also revealed that surveillance has already been initiated in markets across the province to monitor shortages and price hikes, as per the Chief Minister's orders.

## Minister reviews education department's performance

SARGODHA (APP): A performance review meeting of the Department of Education was held under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat, at the Commissioner's Office, here on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Task Force on Education Mazhar Mahmood, Advisor and Member of the Chief Minister's Advisory Committee Shakeel Bhatti, Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation Malik Shoaib Awan, Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan and Deputy Commissioner Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Waseem, along with parlia-

mentarians and administrative officers. Director of Colleges Sarfraz Gujjar and Chief Executive Officer Education Sardar Akhtar Abbas Baloch provided detailed briefings on their respective institutions.

The minister announced that all 596 vacant teaching positions in government colleges of Sargodha division would be filled with College Teaching Interns (CTIs).

He said that the education-friendly initiative had led to record enrollments in public educational institutions this year, with students achieving top positions at the board level.



BAJAUR: Deputy Commissioner Shahid Ali along with other officials inaugurating Child Protection Unit in collaboration with UNICEF.

## Awareness seminar calls for effective efforts to fight drug abuse

PESHAWAR (APP): The speakers at an awareness seminar on Thursday called for collective and effective measures to curb use of drug among youth and serious social issues arising out of it.

The one-day seminar was organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCECVE) on prevention of increasing drug use among youth and elimination of crime.

The aim of the seminar was to create awareness and solutions to these problems and to provide a platform for all partners where they can come up with better strategies for protection, guidance and rehabilitation of youth. Can discuss effective measures.

Dr Qasim Khan, Director General of

Chief Coordination Officer of KPCECVE Dr Ayaz Khan, while addressing the seminar, said that early knowledge about the hazards of drug use was very important.

He said that drug addiction among the youth increases tendency to engage in criminal activities, adding that it was an alarming issue that not only threatens the health and future of the youth but also the wider security concerns in the region.

He said that the aim of KPCECVE was to promote dialogue for lasting solutions to these problems and to provide a platform for all partners where they can come up with better strategies for protection, guidance and rehabilitation of youth. Can discuss effective measures.

Dr Ayaz Khan called for collaboration between

government agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations to develop a comprehensive strategy for drug prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Professor Dr Abdul Rahman, head of the Islamic Center University of Peshawar, while speaking about the use of drugs in Islam, emphasized that Islam strictly prohibits the use of narcotic substances, and also advocates compassion and rehabilitation for those suffering from the addiction so that they could quit drugs and become useful citizens of the society. In the seminar, renowned psychologists, health experts and KPCECVE officials shed light on the causes of drug

use and the harms and dangers arising from it, and the role of family and educational institutions in preventing drug use.

Vice Chancellor, Khyber Medical University Peshawar Dr Ziaul Haque highlighted the responsibility of educational institutions in creating awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and guiding students towards a healthy and useful life.

He said that KMU was not only educational centers but also useful platforms for creating awareness and promoting positive values among students.

He said that the fight against drug abuse requires the joint effort of teachers, parents and the wider society.

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LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the high level meeting regarding Chief Minister Children Heart Surgery Program at Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department.

## International News

## 65 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza orphanage, school

CAIRO/DOHA: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 65 Palestinians overnight, including in a school sheltering displaced families, medicals said, as Israeli tanks advanced in areas of Khan Younis in the south of the enclave.

Meanwhile, in a joint press conference with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani expressed a resolve to continue mediation efforts to end the war in Gaza amid a heightening of regional tensions.

Qatar has been one of the mediators working on a ceasefire deal in Gaza, although talks have stalled in recent days.

The health ministry in Gaza said on Wednesday that at least 41,689 people

have been killed by Israeli aggression in nearly a year. Israeli tanks carried out raids on several areas in eastern and central Khan Younis before partially retreating, leaving at least 40 people killed and dozens wounded.

Meanwhile in Gaza City, at least 22 Palestinians were killed in two airstrikes.

One Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced families in Gaza City killed 17 people, while another hit the Al-Amal Orphan Society, which also houses displaced persons, killing at least five others, the medicals said.

Later on Wednesday, an Israeli strike on the Nuseirat Girls School, where displaced Palestinian families were sheltering, killed three people and wounded 15.

The escalation came after Iran launched a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel on Tuesday in retaliation for Israel's campaign against Lebanon, and Israel vowed a "painful response".

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, locked in nearly a year of war with Israel, celebrated as they watched dozens of rockets en route to Israel. Some of those rockets fell in the Palestinian enclave after being intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defences, but caused no human losses, witnesses said.

Starting his first trip to Qatar as president, Pezeshkian said his country wanted "security and peace", but Israel had triggered an escalation by assassinating Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.



Palestinian rescuers and locals search the debris of a collapsed building in Khan Younis after an Israeli air strike.

## New NATO chief Rutte reaffirms support for Ukraine on Kyiv trip

KYIV: NATO chief Mark Rutte told Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "Your security matters for us" on Thursday during his first visit to Kyiv since becoming the alliance's secretary-general.

Rutte also reiterated NATO's pledge that Ukraine would one day be a NATO member, but Zelenskyy said he wanted the Western allies urgently to provide the kind of active military support that

some of them have given to Israel in its battle with Iran. "Your security matters for us, and your fight for freedom reflects our core principles and values," Rutte told a joint news conference, stressing that his first foreign trip as NATO chief demonstrated the alliance's staunch support for Kyiv.

"Ukraine is closer to NATO than ever before, and it will continue along this path until it secures NATO membership."

## CIA launches drive to recruit informants in China, Iran, North Korea

WASHINGTON: The US CIA on Wednesday launched a new drive to recruit informants in China, Iran and North Korea, adding to what it says has been a successful effort to enlist Russians. The premier US spy agency posted instructions in Mandarin, Farsi and Korean on its accounts on X, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn and the Dark Web on how to contact it securely.

## Six migrants killed by Mexican soldiers during highway chase

CHIHUAHUA: Soldiers chasing suspicious vehicles on a highway in Mexico opened fire and killed six migrants, the defence ministry said on Wednesday.

The patrol found 33 migrants from countries including Egypt, Nepal, Cuba, India and Pakistan, it said, without specifying the nationalities of those killed in the incident late on Tuesday in southern Chiapas state.

The killing happened on the same day that

Claudia Sheinbaum took office as Mexico's new president with a vow to respect human rights and avoid repression by security forces.

The two soldiers who opened fire have been removed from their duties pending an investigation, according to a statement.

It said the patrol saw a vehicle — followed by two flatbed trucks like those used by criminals — travelling at high speed and apparently attempting to flee.

## UN secretary-general warns against further escalation in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief is appealing for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon, warning that escalation to an all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah militants must be avoided "at all costs."

U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, who delivered the message from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, stressed that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be respected.

Guterres spoke earlier Tuesday to Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati and told him the U.N. system is mobilized to assist those in need, Dujarric said. He also ap-

pealed to the international community to urgently support a \$426 million humanitarian appeal to help the people of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the State Department has ordered all U.S. diplomats and their families based in Israel and the West Bank to shelter in place until further notice as the security situation becomes increasingly uncertain with Israel's ground incursion in Lebanon and potential threats of an Iranian missile attack.

"As a result of the current security situation, the U.S. Embassy has directed all U.S. government employees and their family members to shelter in place until further notice."

## Study reveals long-term death toll as cyclones batter the world

PARIS: As a typhoon battered Taiwan and rescuers searched for hurricane survivors in the United States on Wednesday, a study estimated that the long-term death toll of such tropical cyclones is around 300 times greater than official figures.

Hurricane Helene has killed at least 155 people in the southeastern US, Hurricane John killed at least 16 in Mexico last week and two people have died in Taiwan even before Typhoon Krathon makes landfall, expected on Thursday morning.

However the immediate deaths recorded during tropical cyclones — also called hurricanes or typhoons, depending on where they hit — represent just a fraction of the real toll they take on lives in the years after the storm clears, according to new research. And with human-driven climate change expected to help make tropical cyclones more intense, the US researchers called for people in the affected

regions to receive more support.

The research published in the journal Nature is the first to use statistical modelling to estimate how cyclones affect the overall number of deaths in a region over a long time frame, lead study author Rachel Young said. The researchers looked at 501 tropical cyclones that hit the continental US between 1930 and 2015, analysing the number of excess deaths from all causes recorded in the 15 years that followed. The average number of deaths officially reported during individual storms was 24. But if indirect deaths in the years after the storm were counted, the average toll for each was between 7,000 and 11,000, around 300 times higher than government figures, the study estimated.

This would mean that cyclones contributed to between three and five per cent of all deaths recorded in the affected areas on the US Atlantic coast over those 85 years, the study said.

## Italy to host G7 leaders' call on Middle East crisis

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will host a call of Group of Seven (G7) leaders later on Wednesday to discuss the crisis in the Middle East, her office said.

"Italy will continue to strive for a diplomatic solution, including in its capacity as chair of the G7. I have convened a leaders' level meeting for this afternoon," Meloni was quoted as telling her cabinet.

Italy holds the rotating presidency of the G7 — the club of major Western democracies, which comprises the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Meloni told her ministers that there was "deep concern" about latest developments, including Iran's missile attack on Israel on Tuesday and the instabil-

ity in Lebanon, her office said.

"The goal is the stabilisation of the Israeli-Lebanese border through the full implementation of Resolution 1701," she was quoted as saying, referring to the UN resolution which halted the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war in south Lebanon.

"In this framework, Italy has called on the UN Security Council to consider strengthening the mandate of the UNIFIL mission in order to ensure the security of the Israel-Lebanon border," she said.

Italy is a major contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Italian media reported on Wednesday that her government was considering pulling its forces out of the area given the recent border violence.

## Smugglers force migrants to jump into sea; 100 missing in Djibouti

NAIROBI: Rescuers are searching for more than 100 migrants off the coast of Djibouti after smugglers forced them to jump into the sea, the UN migration agency said on Wednesday.

At least 45 bodies have been recovered from Tuesday's incident, a death toll that makes 2024 the deadliest year on record for sea crossings on the migration route between East Africa and Yemen, the International Organisation for Migration said. Another 154 people have been rescued from the two boats, which left Yemen for Djibouti with a total of 310 passengers, IOM said in a statement. "Ongoing search and rescue operations are underway by the Djiboutian Coast Guard.

## Naqvi warns of stern action against protestors during Malaysian PM's visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday warned Pakistan Tehree-e-Insaf (PTI), of stern action against protestors if anyone disrupts law and order at the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan.

The government will ensure fool proof security arrangements at the time of visit Malaysian Prime Minister, said the minister.

According to the new law, specific place has already been allocated for public and political gatherings with the permission of concerned authorities, he added.

Naqvi said that the protest demonstration is a constitutional right of every citizen but the government will not allow anyone to sabotage the visits of foreign dignitaries.

He said that knowing well about government's action against protest demonstration during the visit of foreign guest, PTI's call to storm Islamabad is an enemy agenda.

Pakistan can not afford even a minor security lapse during the visit of a foreign dignitary. The PTI leadership must re-

view their decision, otherwise the government will not tolerate anyone and an indiscriminate action will be taken against all protestors, the minister added.

Chief Minister KPK Ali Amin Gandapur is a patriot Pakistani and responsible person but the protest call at such an important time does not suite to his stature, Mohsin Naqvi said adding that the government, paramilitary forces, Rangers, FC and capital police is fully prepared to deal with protestors.

He said that the government has also called Pakistan army to ensure security arrangements for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit taking place in Islamabad.

PTI leadership should consider the request of Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman to postpone their protests until these events successfully conclude, Naqvi added.

SCO summit is being hosted by Pakistan after years and the success of the event is a success of every single Pakistani, said the minister adding that summary for holiday on 17 October has been sent to the Prime Minister for approval.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division in Federal Capital.

## To boost bilateral trade PM Shehbaz pledges optimal support for Pak-Malaysian business communities

Pakistan, Malaysia business communities sign 4 MoUs to boost trade relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pledged to offer the best possible facilities to the Pakistani and Malaysian business communities to boost their commercial activities.

Speaking at the Pakistan-Malaysia High Level Business Dialogue, he emphasized the strong bilateral relations between the two countries and highlighted the significance of collaboration between their business sectors for mutual prosperity.

Referring to his dis-

cussions with visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he stated that their meetings were highly productive, wherein they discussed issues being faced by the two countries.

He said the Malaysian prime minister had assured of his complete support for both Pakistani and Malaysian businessmen to collaborate on joint ventures in sectors such as Halal meat, information technology, and other areas of mutual interest.

He said that PM

Anwar Ibrahim's visit would further enhance relations between the two countries.

He said that Pakistan was fully geared up to grab the opportunity of exporting high-quality Halal meat to Malaysia as the agreement to the effect, besides many others, would be finalized during his forthcoming visit to the brotherly country. Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim on the occasion emphasized the importance of close contacts between the business communities of two coun-

tries to foster economic co-operation.

He assured that Malaysia would continue its efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Pakistan.

The business communities of Pakistan and Malaysia signed four Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on Thursday with an aim to promote trade relations between the two countries. According to press release issued by Commerce Ministry, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, witnessed the signing of MoUs.



KARACHI: US Consul General in Karachi Scott Urbom posing for a group photograph along with MD Stock Exchange and others during his visit at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), in the Provincial Capital.

## Turkish Consulate organises event "Love for Turkiye in Pakistan in the context of Hassan Ali Effendi"

KARACHI (APP): The Turkish Consulate General in Karachi, in collaboration with the Yunus Emre Institute, organized a special event titled "Love for Turkiye in Pakistan in the context of Hassan Ali Effendi". The event honored the legacy of Hassan Ali Effendi, the first Ottoman Empire in Sindh and the founder of the prestigious Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU). Effendi's contributions to modern education in Sindh and the historic cultural ties between Turkiye and Pakistan were highlighted throughout the program.

The event commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome speech by Consul General of Turkiye Cemal Sangu. Sangu emphasized the

significance of Hassan Ali Effendi's efforts in fostering a strong bond between Turkiye and Pakistan, particularly in the field of education and cultural exchange.

The academic and literary discussions during the event were enriched by speeches from prominent scholars and intellectuals, including Prof. Dr. Halil Tokar, Professor of Urdu Language and Literature at Istanbul University and Country Coordinator at Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Centers in Pakistan, who delivered an insightful talk in pure Urdu language on the historical ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, complemented by a pictorial survey of these relations dating back centuries from his book "Journey of Friendship and Brotherhood".



HYDERABAD: Residents of Latifabad No. 11 are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of land grabbers, at Hyderabad press club.

## Cyber threats to 27.2% of industrial systems in Pakistan: Kaspersky Reports

KARACHI (INP): Kaspersky's report on the cybersecurity landscape for industrial control systems (ICS) in the second quarter of 2024, revealed a 20% increase in ransomware attacks compared to the previous quarter.

The report underscores a growing threat to critical infrastructure sectors worldwide, with ransomware and spyware posing the most significant risks.

Kaspersky Security Network statistics show that 23.5% of ICS computers globally were exposed to cyberthreats in Q2 2024. ICS systems in Africa remain the most heavily exposed, with 30% of ICS computers attacked, while in the Pakistan the figure is 27%.

Ransomware activity surged, with the percentage of ICS computers affected by ransomware rising by 1.2 times compared to the previous quarter. Kaspersky's report also highlights a continued exposure to scripts and phishing pages as well as to spyware, including backdoors, keyloggers, and trojans, which are often used for data theft and to enable further attacks such as spyware.

"Our findings reveal that while the overall number of attacks on operational technology (OT) computers is slightly down, the rise in ransomware and spyware is concerning," says Evgeny Goncharov, head of Kaspersky's ICS Cyber Emergency Response Team.

## Secretary P&D lauds development activities under SFERP

KARACHI (APP): The pace of development activities carried out under the Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project is commendable and utilisation of funds have also been done in an optimal manner.

These views were expressed by Secretary Planning & Development, Sindh, Jawed Sibghatullah Mahar while chairing a meeting to review the progress made so far under the Project.

Appreciating Grievance Review Mechanism and social environment practices followed by the project, Mahar said such practices would be made part of all Govt projects in future.

## 2 unidentified bodies found in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): Police on Thursday found two bodies of unidentified persons from different areas of Hyderabad.

According to police spokesman the identification of both bodies had not yet been ascertained. He informed that the bodies were found from Pirzada Muhalla in the limits of Pinyari police station and Sheedi Muhalla in the limits of Phuleli canal.

Both bodies were shifted to Civil Hospital for identification.

## Bandits' facilitators kidnap nine people to Katcha area

KARACHI (INP): Facilitators of bandits have kidnapped nine people from Karachi to Katcha area, SSP anti-kidnapping for ransom cell told media here. "The facilitators of dacoits, working as labourers in factories in the city, have sent nine people to katcha area," disclosing kidnapping for ransom from Karachi, SSP Aneel Hyder said.

"Four hostages have been recovered, while efforts are underway for safe recovery of another five abductees," SSP said. These are the cases which have been reported to police, he said. He said the bandits used to demand over 10 million rupees ransom money for safe return of the hostages.

## Egyptian, Ethiopian envoys call on NA speaker ; discuss bilateral relations, regional, int'l issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly (NA) Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday said Pakistan valued high its cordial ties with Egypt and intended to further expand the existing relations through enhanced parliamentary and economic cooperation.

He expressed these views in a meeting with Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan who called on him at the Parliament House.

Ayaz Sadiq said the relation between the two brotherly countries was based on common religion, culture, history, mutual respect and brotherhood. He expressed grave concern over the current situation in the Middle East and condemned Israeli aggression in

Palestine and Lebanon. He urged upon the international community to play its role in ending Israeli occupation and aggression so that durable peace can prevail in the region.

Highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, the speaker said parliamentary diplomacy could play a vital role in strengthening the bilateral relations.

He further said the exchange of parliamentary delegations would enable parliamentarians of both countries to learn from each other's experiences.

He also said enhanced contacts between Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) of both countries would result in strengthening of bi-lateral

relations as well.

Ayaz also extended invitation to his Egyptian counterpart to visit Pakistan along with parliamentary delegation.

Egyptian Ambassador Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan appreciated the remarks of the speaker for further expanding relations between both brotherly countries and parliaments. He further said Egypt attached great importance to its cordial relation with Pakistan.

He also commended Pakistan's efforts for promotion of durable peace in the region.

Later on, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jemal Beker Abdula also called on the speaker at the Parliament House.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) MPA Muhammad Aamir Siddiqui along with others addresses to media persons during press conference outside Sindh High Court building in Karachi.

## DRAP issues recall alert for suspected, fake anti-rabies vaccines

KARACHI (INP): The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has issued a product recall alert regarding the availability of suspected and fake anti-rabies vaccines in the market.

According to DRAP, the suspected vaccine, "Shore-Rab," is manufactured by an Indian company but is not registered with DRAP. The specific batch in question is marked as "RO10821."

DRAP warns that the use of this unregistered anti-rabies vaccine poses a severe health risk, particularly to individuals bitten by dogs.

The alert was sent to the DRAP field force, provincial drug authorities, health professionals, and pharmacies.

The quality and safety of the fake vaccine remain unclear, and

it could potentially lead to an increase in rabies infections.

Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan has called for a thorough investigation into the supply chain of this counterfeit vaccine and urged pharmacies and distributors to immediately check their stocks.

DRAP's field force is instructed to conduct surveillance in the medicine market to identify the suppliers of the fake vaccine and seize the affected batch.

Medical professionals are advised not to administer the suspected "Shore-Rab" vaccine to patients suffering from dog bites.

Pharmacies and distributors have been urged to report any stock of the counterfeit vaccine immediately to DRAP.



LARKANA: Leaders and activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for demanding release of PTI Chairman Imran Khan, held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

## ECC approves increase in ARV retail price, ANF allowances

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Thursday approved many proposals including a summary proposing increase in retail price of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) from Rs 891.65 to Rs 1,980 per vial of 0.5ml dose. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the ECC meeting, which among others was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain; Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari and Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik along with federal secretaries and senior officers from the ministries and divisions concerned.

The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, in its summary, informed the committee about the short supply of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) at Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad Islamabad.

It was told that the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) used at Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad was manufactured by the National Institute of Health Islamabad, which was currently priced at Rs 891.65 whereas the WHO approved ARV was sold at Rs 2,126.40 and the non-WHO approved ARV at Rs 1,266.14 in the market.

After due consideration, the ECC approved the proposal to increase the Maximum Retail Price of ARV manufactured by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, from Rs. 891.65 to Rs 1,980 per vial of 0.5ml/ dose to cover the landed cost of imported material and ensure its sufficient production and supply to the public sector hospitals. The committee also approved a proposal for increase in the rate of Special Allowance (equal to 20 Daily Allowances) for the employees of Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on a par with other Federal Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori condoling with Chairman Community Policing Karachi Murad Ali Sohni over sad demise of his wife.

## Proposed constitutional package Lawyers organizations of Islamabad announce to convene APLC on Oct 7

ISLAMABAD (Online): All lawyers organizations of Islamabad while forging unity against proposed constitutional amendment has announced to convene All Pakistan Lawyers Convention (APLC) on October 7.

All the representative bar associations, Islamabad High Court Bar, Islamabad district bar and Islamabad Bar Council while rejecting the proposed constitutional package have announced to put up resistance.

Islamabad High court bar, Islamabad district bar and Islamabad bar council held joint press conference Aleem Abbasi of

Islamabad Bar council held joint press conference along with other office bearers.

All the three representative bar associations rejected constitutional package besides announcing to hold Pakistan Lawyers convention on October 7 against constitutional package. Aleem Abbasi said that we not only reject it but also we will put up resistance to stop them. Amendments are being made based on specific political parties and persons.

Aleem Abbasi said following the implementation of these amendments, SC judges will have no more powers than a session judge.

## DC directs action against increase of essential commodities

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abideen Memon has taken notice of the continuous increase in the prices of essential commodities by profiteers as reported in the media.

In this regard, he has directed all Assistant Commissioners to take action. Following these instructions, the Assistant

Commissioner of Latifabad imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 each on two poultry shops and two grocery shops. Similarly the Assistant Commissioner of the City conducted raids on milk shops in Resham Gali and Police Line checking prices and imposing a fine of Rs. 20,000 on shopkeepers selling milk at higher than the fixed rates.



KARACHI: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Junior along with others addresses to media persons regarding the killing of a doctor in Mirpurkhas, held at Karachi press club.

## Awareness session for LHWs, LH Supervisors held

KARACHI (APP): An awareness session was organized by the international organization, Nutrition International for lady health workers & lady health supervisors here at Korangi District Health Office.

The objective of the seminar was to orient participants on the importance of fortification of Vitamin A & D in edible oil/ghee, iron, folic acid, calcium, and iodine for better health and fulfilling the requirement of micronutrient deficiencies.

Zonal Manager, Nutrition International Zainul Abidin, said that the shortage of vitamin A and D in the country was a matter of great concern. To fulfill micronutrient deficiencies,

mill owners have been bound by law in the country for the fortification of vitamin A & D. As per that law no mill will produce edible oil and ghee without fortifying required vitamins. Sindh Food Authority will take strict action against the mill owners not following the fortification law. So the public should use fortified oil.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Manager, Nutrition International Mueen Qureshi informed that lack of Vitamin A & D causes many diseases related to eye and bone weakness. For this, during the public awareness sessions, women and men should be aware that open oil.