

# Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 222 Rabi-us-Sani 01, 1445 AH Saturday October 05, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## First Pakistan international date palm festival kicks off

### Major investments needed to realise export potential: CM Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah emphasised the need for significant investment to fully tap into Pakistan's export potential, particularly by establishing processing units and storage facilities.

He was speaking at the First Pakistan International Date Festival, where he expressed appreciation for the Khalifa International Award for agricultural products, and thanked the UAE Consulate for its support.

He acknowledged the UAE's cooperation in organizing the International Date Palm Festival at Expo Center Karachi, paying tribute to the farmers and traders showcasing their products.

Shah highlighted that dates are one of the world's most significant crops, known not only for their economic value but also for their rich nutri-

tional content. Shah noted that date cultivation plays an important role in Pakistan's agriculture, covering over 252,000 hectares. In 2022, Pakistan's date production exceeded 730,000 tons, establishing the country's prominence in the global date market.

He further mentioned that Pakistan ranks fifth in date cultivation and is the third-largest exporter by volume, though commercially ranked ninth due to the low prices of Pakistani date products in international markets.

Shah also emphasized that Pakistan's agro-climatic zones hold significant potential for expanding date cultivation, particularly in regions like Khairpur in Sindh, Turbat and Panjgur in Balochistan, Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Muzaffargarh and Jhang in Punjab.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori along with, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi present Khalifa International Award during inauguration Ceremony of 1st Pakistan International Date Palm Festival in collaboration with Khalifa International Award (UAE) at Expo Centre.

## PPP workers will actively take part in Gaza Million March: Khoro

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President Nisar Ahmed Khuro on Friday said that the party workers would actively take part in the Gaza Million March under the auspices of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in Karachi on October 6 and in Islamabad on October 7.

He made the announcement in light of the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Khuro said that the PPP stood in solidarity

with the people of Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon against Israeli aggression.

The PPP leader said that he strongly condemned the Israeli aggression against Gaza, Lebanon and Palestine, and urged the United Nations play its role in stopping the Israeli aggression.

Khuro appealed to all political parties to take a strong united stand against the Israeli aggression by keeping their political differences aside.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi talking to media persons at D Chowk.

## Commissioner Karachi reviews ongoing campaign against illegal profiteering

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi on Friday reviewed the ongoing campaign against illegal profiteering on essential commodities in a meeting held in his office here.

All Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners attended the meeting through video link.

They informed the commissioner about the details of prices checking of goods and actions taken against profiteers.

It was decided that all assistant commissioners will check the prices and quality of goods every day.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the stability in the prices of milk and other commodities. The meeting took notice of the illegal increase in

the prices of mutton beef and eggs.

The meeting was told that in the last one week of September, action was taken against 541 shopkeepers for violating the official rates, and a total fine of more than Rs 2.4 million was collected in one week.

The assistant commissioners of all the districts checked the prices at 1248 places in one week.

In the process, eight shops of wholesalers were sealed, seven shops were sealed in Kemari district while one shop was sealed in South. Legal action will be taken against the involved shopkeepers and will ensure that the official prices are strictly enforced and goods are available to the citizens at the notified prices.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and a delegation of Jamaat Islami led by Amir e Jamaat Islami Haafiz Naeem ur Rehman call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Political parties decide to express solidarity with Gaza, Palestinians on national level

PM to host All Parties Conference on Palestine issue on Oct 7

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said an All Parties Conference (APC) would be held on October 7 to take a unified stance on Palestine issue.

The nationwide Day of Solidarity would also be observed on the day in order to show solidarity with the innocent Palestinian men, women and children facing the worst Israeli brutalities.

The prime minister took the decision to the effect during his meeting with Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and

the Jamaat-e-Islami delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman at the Prime Minister House.

It was also decided in the meeting that on October 7, public gatherings and seminars would be held across the country to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to protest against the ongoing Israeli aggression.

A committee comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Sherry Rehman, Khawaja Saad Rafique, and Nayyar Bukhari was formed for organizing the All Parties

Conference, and supervise events marking the Day of Solidarity.

President Asif Ali Zardari will also attend the All Parties Conference.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended his full support for observing the Day of Solidarity, condemning the ongoing oppression of innocent Muslims in Palestine and Gaza.

The participants of the meeting resolved to raise their voice against the Israeli aggression and worst brutalities against the innocent people in Gaza and Palestine, and

show solidarity with them.

They praised the Jamaat-e-Islami for taking an initiative to express solidarity with the innocent Palestinians and highlight Israeli aggression in Gaza and Palestine.

The JI Ameer also lauded the prime minister's speech at the United Nations General Assembly for raising the issue of ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinians, and commended the walkout by the Pakistani delegation, led by the prime minister, at the start of the Israeli prime minister's speech.

## Russian general lauds professionalism of Pakistan armed forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): Deputy Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Russian Federation, Col General Sergey Yuravich Istrakov who is on an official visit to Pakistan, Friday called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC), General Sahir Shamsah Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on positive trajectory of bilateral defence cooperation and discussed the evolving security situation in the region with a view to promote regional peace and stability, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism.

## Rabi-us-Sani moon sighted

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony announced the sighting of moon of Rabi-us-Sani 1446 AH in pursuance of the decision of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee's meeting on Friday.

According to an official notification, the first of Rabi-us-Sani would commence from Saturday, (October 5).



KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon presides over a high-level meeting attended by Transport Secretary Asad Zamin, Managing Director of Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Hakeem Dayo, Trans Karachi CEO Shumaila Mohsin, and other officials.

## Federal govt to hand over Green Line Bus Service to Sindh govt: Sharjeel

Independent Report KARACHI: The Federal government will hand over the Green Line Bus Service to the Sindh government in December 2024.

The Sindh government has finalized preparations to assume control of the Green Line's operations, said a communique on Friday.

A high-level meeting was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. The meeting was attended by Transport Secretary Asad Zamin, Managing Director of Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Hakeem Dayo, Trans Karachi CEO Shumaila Mohsin, and other officials.

In the meeting, the operations of the Green Line Bus Service were thoroughly reviewed, and Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon received a comprehensive briefing on the Green Line project.

A detailed discussion was also held on the plan to connect the Green Line with the Orange Line project.

During the meeting, Sharjeel Inam Memon directed the swift completion of the project connecting the Green Line with the Orange Line. The meeting also covered discussions on the Sindh Government's ongoing operations in the public transport sector, utility services, and subsidies for the Green Line Bus Service.

Speaking at the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, emphasized that the Green Line project is a vital component of Karachi's public transport system.

He confirmed that the Green Line project will be transferred to the Sindh Government by the Federal Government in December 2024.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairs a high-level review meeting to address the challenges hindering the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone.

## Malaysian PM praises Pak Armed Forces' role in regional peace, stability

RAWALPINDI (APP): Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Friday praised the Pakistan Armed Forces' role in regional peace and stability, acknowledging their professionalism and sacrifices in combating terrorism.

He was talking to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir during a meeting here at the General Headquarters.

The two sides discussed bilateral strategic interests, regional security, and defence cooperation, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Prime Minister Anwar

Ibrahim emphasized on the need for increasing bilateral ties, particularly military relations amongst the two brotherly countries and extended an invitation to the COAS to visit Malaysia in the same context.

The COAS thanked the prime minister for the invitation and appreciated his successful visit to Pakistan, which would help further the enduring and historic ties between the two countries and the militaries.

The Army Chief also attended the investiture ceremony and state banquet held in honour of the Malaysian prime minister at the Presidency.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanges views with Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim during meeting held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

## Imran Khan's sisters among At least 30 arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters in Islamabad

Section 144, peaceful assembly act enforced in Islamabad; Mobile service shut in twin cities due to PTI protest

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: At least 30 protesters have been arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters attempting to reach Islamabad's D-Chowk for a planned party rally.

Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan earlier again called on his supporters to gather for a "peaceful protest" as his party amped up preparations for today's demonstration despite a ban on gatherings.

Another one is also scheduled for Lahore's Minar-i-Pakistan on Saturday. The Islamabad Police on Friday arrested PTI founder Imran Khan's sisters Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan in D-Chowk.

According to details, Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan were arrested in D-Chowk during the PTI protest call as Section 144 was already imposed in the federal capital.

Both the sisters of former prime minister were shifted to the police station.

The PTI has carried out multiple rallies across the country in recent weeks, protesting against the "illegal" imprisonment of its founder and the Election Commission of Pakistan's delay in implementing the reserved seats verdict, as well as to "save the Constitution".

Ahead of its rallies in Islamabad and Lahore earlier this month, the government had issued a set of strict guidelines, which the PTI failed to follow fully, sparking clashes between its workers and the authorities.

## Enabling environment being provided to youth for skill based training: Nasir Shah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to address the challenges hindering the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone.

Secretary Planning Ahsan Iqbal Sumra, along with senior officials from various provinces and ministries, attended the meeting, according to a press release issued by the ministry.

The meeting thoroughly discussed the key pending issues related to the Gwadar Free Zone's development, including water, electricity, gas and sewerage system, the Gwadar Port and the Free Zone and the Gwadar Safe City Project.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed strong displeasure over delays in the Gwadar Safe City project, reprimanding relevant authorities for the unacceptable pace, directing them to expedite the project's completion without further delay.

He said SEDF project had already been launched by Sindh Government in 2012 and it was working

successfully since last one decade. He said PPP government through Peoples Poverty Reduction Project (PPRP) and SRSO have reached out to more than 300,000 lower middle class families to disburse interest free loans for small business initiatives in more than 16 districts of the province.

Recently government has enhanced the loan limit from Rs.200000 to 3 million to support medium size enterprising project, Shah added.

He said recovery of these interest free loans was satisfactory and 90% people were paying back their loans since last 8 to 10 years.

Shah further said that Sindh Government through other donor funded project such as PAIDAR (EU Funding of USD 40 M), IFAD (Funding of USD 163 M) and LivAqua (WB Funded Project of USD 135 M) for Fisherfolk agro based microfinance project.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### High cost of living

Over the past few months, the rate at which the prices of goods and services in the country have risen has slowed significantly. Headline fell to a 44-month low of 6.9pc last month.

This decline, driven by a high-base effect from last year when annual inflation stood at 31.4pc, along with plunging global oil and commodity prices, a stable exchange rate, falling demand due to eroding real wages, and, last but not least, aggressive monetary tightening, exceeds the projections of the government and the market. Latest figures from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics show that both sticky core inflation and the three-month average inflation rates, although higher than CPI inflation, have also fallen to single digits, signalling a substantial easing of inflationary pressures. The narrowing gap between the CPI and core inflation — which excludes energy and food prices — suggests a slowdown in imported inflation.

The improvement in the inflation outlook has already seen the State Bank slash borrowing costs by 450bps to 17.5pc since June. The latest CPI reading has created further room for a cut in interest rates in November and December. The government's recent move to buy back its costly debt of Rs351bn maturing in December from the commercial banks at the much lower rate of 16pc compared to the 20pc-21pc at which it was originally sold, has deepened expectations of monetary easing earlier than anticipated. In fact, private businesses are already calling for an aggressive rate cut next month.

With inflation plunging below the target of 12pc for FY25, the next monetary policy session will test the State Bank's resolve of treading cautiously since risks remain elevated because of tensions in the Middle East and the fragile economic recovery at home.

No doubt, the recent decline in global energy and commodity prices has helped the government reduce domestic oil, transport and wheat rates. However, prices of goods and services consumed by the people continue to rise even as the inflation rate falls below 7pc.

In other words, the cost of living is increasing, though perhaps not as rapidly as earlier, showing that even when the inflation rate decreases, the prices do not. This means there will be no let-up in the pain of middle-class people when it comes to grocery expenses, school fees, and hospital bills. This will persist unless there is a sustainable economic turnaround and a much faster increase in real incomes that outpaces inflation.

With the government facing rising public discontent because of poor economic conditions, the big worry is that it might be tempted to go overboard to appease the voters and try to stimulate faster growth through inflationary measures. Although chances of such an eventuality are low with the IMF breathing down its neck, it cannot be ruled out.

Zubeida Mustafa

"If the pain has often been unbearable and the revelations shocking to all of us, it is because they indeed bring us the beginnings of a common understanding of what happened and a steady restoration of the nation's humanity. The TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] that is guiding us on this journey is the TRC of all of us" — Nelson Mandela

Coming from a leader who spent 27 years of his life in prison on Robben Island crushing stones, these words show sagacity and astuteness. They must be reflected on. Mandela, who led South Africa out of the black hole of apartheid, allowed his people to protest but prevented a bloodbath when the transition took place. Protest was the silent voice of the people's conscience. Hence it had to be peaceful. If it turned violent, then it was not protest but vendetta. And that can never be justified.

Mandela was a shrewd statesman. He understood how his people had been brutalised by their White Boer colonisers and how bitter they felt. Hence he convened a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to listen to the outpourings of people who had suffered all kinds of indignities and injustice. What was the outcome? Nothing in practical terms but it brought closure to the South Africans, enabling them to come to terms with their past and work for their future.

Protest is said to be a potent force for political change. Yet few in Pakistan organise themselves to protest against the injustices meted out to them in abundance by the powers that be. Why this apathy? We are such a divided society where

## Act of conscience

what is a bane for one is a boon for the other. People protest if they are directly affected. They turn a blind eye to the injustice that affects the weak and underprivileged classes, who lack the capacity to mobilise themselves and create awareness about the issue that is at the root of the problem.

But that does not mean we do not have protesters. To be a protester, one must be an activist and have a social conscience. These qualities are inborn and it is difficult to inculcate them in a person who inherently lacks empathy and a sense of justice.

The women's movement in Pakistan would not have considerably changed the status of women in the country had we not had women like Anis Haroon and Sheema Kermani and many others who lined sidewalks with banners in their hands. They created original slogans and managed to evoke passion and protest among like-minded men and women. The younger generation went further and the Aurat March was born.

Fearing resistance from civil society, autocratic governments have clamped down on protesters and in fact banned organisations that have organised protests, such as student bodies and labour unions.

That had an impact on the culture of protesting and made the youth apolitical.

Mercifully, we still have men of conscience who have not given up. Take Naeem Sadiq, doing research to unearth facts and gets them from the horse's mouth so that he can convey the magnitude of the injustice being meted out to the powerless — be they sanitary workers or bodyguards employed

by banks and other organisations. Another demand he supports is a ban on guns.

Only recently I discovered another protester of a unique kind. He is Abdul Hamid Dagia, who has been protesting against the injustices done to Karachi since 2015. Eighty years of age, he has chalked up 1,440 one-man protests, which is a record of sorts. A chartered accountant by profession, Dagia held coveted jobs at the Ka--rachi Electric Supply Corporation and the stock exchange until the mid-1990s, when he gave up a stable career that he found dissatisfying because of the abundance of wealth surrounding him and the opportunities it offered for financial misappropriation. It was the inegalitarianism of the situation, leading to injustice, that touched his conscience.

What makes him unique is that he protests single-handedly. Thrice a week, he is out on the road — a quiet, aged figure holding his placard announcing the injustice that is bothering him. His causes are Karachi-centric. One banner says, 'Lawaris Karachi' (ownerless Karachi).

Another is 'Darakhton kee katai bund karo' (stop cutting trees), which earned him the wrath of the KMC's tree cutters who allegedly attacked him. Yet another says, 'Sindh budget dagna, Karachi ka hissa kahan?' ('Do people join you in your protest?') I asked him. He says that an odd passerby or two does come and stand with him for a moment or so. "Once a judge noticed me. He stopped his car and joined me in solidarity," Dagia sahib remarks. A judge with a conscience. We need more of them. — Courtesy Dawn

## Loaded dice

Adeel Wahid

Heads I win, tails you lose. The amendments made to the Election Act, 2017, on the fly, to paper over the various discrepancies in the elections held on Feb 8, 2024, change the entire electoral dynamic ex post facto. After the elections, the purported 'winners' are being given a free pass to change the rules of the game, to maintain their claim of being the winners, upending the manner by which those seeking to question the winning status could have brought that challenge before neutral arbiters.

As in the case of many elections held before, the ones that were held earlier this year were tainted. Concocting numbers in the Forms-47 was the new modus operandi.

In the past, elections have been managed through other means as well. In recent memory, in the 2021 Daska by-elections, almost a couple of dozen presiding officers simply went missing, and remained so for an entire night. They emerged in the morning, to present figures to the Returning Officer that were entirely different from the ones they had before they went missing. At that time, the Election Commission of Pakistan had some teeth; and the top court upheld the ECP's directions for a re-poll in the entire constituency. The returned candidate after the re-poll was from the PML-N — and not a favoured horse then.

That was then, this is now. The intrusions of that time were not kosher, we are told. The intrusions of today, they say, are not only kosher, but are, in fact, necessary. It appears that if meddling took

place in the past, it gives a complete carte blanche for meddling in the present, and also probably in the future.

An election is a competition of sorts. And in any competition, changing the rules ex post facto, that is, after the fact, is considered to be completely out of bounds. In systems where fairness matters, the rules of the games are decided before the game is played. Fairness also dictates that the rules not be changed once the game has been played. In a race, the winner is to be determined in accordance with the rules that exist before the race begins, and in keeping with the manner prescribed by those rules.

But in our system, where fairness has limited value, the reality played out like this: a bunch of candidates were said to be elected. When those contesting against the deemed successful candidates challenged the 'win', the ECP members initially twiddled their thumbs, buying time so that the issue could be punted to the election tribunals.

According to the rules existing at the time, the election tribunals were to comprise the justices of the high courts. On seeing that some may not rubber-stamp the victory, the rules of the game were changed. Into the mix were introduced retired justices, who were previously out of a job but now had been bestowed with one. The dice were loaded.

But what about fairness? What about it, they say. The previous win of the now-out-of-favour horse was also achieved with the help of those who back horses. In the previous round, a horse, in fact, had to be taken out of the race altogether —

disqualified. One may bring up the saying that two wrongs do not make a right, but those who back horses know that one wrong may also mean — even when the wrong is of their own doing — that a strong justification now exists for another.

The Supreme Court in the 'Sunni Ittehad Council' case held, in so many words, that the reserved seats be allocated to a party that was hamstrung, and its members forcibly compelled to take a route that could then be made the reason for being deprived of reserved seats.

Granting those seats to other parties — the beneficiaries — just did not add up to fairness, no matter how the issue was sliced. The current members of the National Assembly, who stood to lose, already having blockaded efforts to check the veracity of the claims questioning their eligibility as members, swung into action again. More amendments followed. The rules of the game were changed some more. Conflict of interest? You bet. Fairness? You tell me.

When the Assembly members, changing all possible rules to remain in power, continued to act in their own interest, which among the institutions of the government, could and should have possibly raised a challenge? The judiciary, probably. And hence, the 26th amendment. The desire to win at all costs is a terrible thing. It makes one forget the basic norms, the ideas of fairness and truth that are necessary for any semblance of the game to remain relevant. But above all, it makes one forget that a win with a loaded dice is no win at all. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### FDI rises by 55%, remittances up by 44%: Dr. Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik said on Friday that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 55%, while remittances have seen a 44% rise.

Addressing a press conference, he highlighted the government's efforts to create an investor-friendly environment, which has contributed to this significant uptick in FDI.

He said that the increase in remittances showcases the trust and support of overseas Pakistanis in bolstering the national economy.

"These figures reflect a positive trajectory for Pakistan's economic stability and growth," Dr. Musadik Malik said, adding that the government remains committed to sustaining this momentum and expanding investment opportunities.

He said the country is

expecting around 3% GDP growth due to the policies of the government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The minister expressed optimism that with the increase in GDP, more job opportunities would emerge, improving the living standards of the common people.

Dr. Musadik Malik said that food inflation has decreased by 1.7%, from 48.1%, while overall inflation has dropped to 6.7% from 38%. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have also improved. Growth has been observed in the agriculture and large-scale manufacturing sectors, he added.

He highlighted the government's focus on the information technology sector, mentioning that a large IT delegation from Saudi Arabia is expected to visit Pakistan. The minister also

pointed out that the trade deficit has decreased and Pakistan's stock exchange is achieving new milestones, with the renowned financial journal Bloomberg recognizing it as the most emerging market in Asia.

He said that due to the government's efforts, the confidence of the international community has improved.

He further shared that the Malaysian Prime Minister has completed his visit to Pakistan, while delegations from Saudi Arabia and other countries are expected to arrive for agreements.

He reiterated that the government's priority is to provide maximum facilities to the people. All economic indicators are positive, with exports increasing, the trade deficit decreasing, and inflation dropping to 6.9%, surpassing even expert projections.

### Bilal Yaseen says: Action under way against fraud food business operators

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen has said that strict action is being taken against all those involved in doing fraud in food business.

According to official sources here, the minister, along with Punjab Food Authority director general (DG), carried out an operation in the city area. Raids were conducted on four famous bakeries and 'Nimko' units. On violation,

one unit had been sealed while fine of Rs 0.8 million had been imposed on other three units. As much as 3,200 litres of used and substandard oil had been discarded besides 55-kg of 'Rang Kat' and banned food colours.

Bilal Yaseen said that action had been taken because substandard oil was being used for preparing 'Nimko'.

He further said that poor cleanliness arrangements had been witnessed in the processing area while there was no training or medical certificates of employees.

Bakery and confectionery items were being prepared in untidy area and there was a lot of foul smell as well, he said and added that rats and other insects were also seen in storage area.

Bilal said, "Use of substandard oil and prohibited items in food preparation process results in spreading diseases."

### SBP injects Rs1,012 billion into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs1,012.3 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 4, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenders and accepted 11 bids totaling to Rs1,012.3 billion.

The central bank received 9 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs882.3 billion at the rate of return ranging between 17.56 to 17.65 percent while 2 bids amounting to Rs130 billion were received for the 28-day tenor at the rate of return ranging between 17.60 to 17.61%.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan Central President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

### Azfar says: Pak success hinges on creating sustainable investment climate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Board of Investment (BOI) chairman Azfar Ahsan on Friday emphasized that investment success in Pakistan hinged on supporting and facilitating existing investors which was a crucial step towards creating a sustainable investment climate.

He stressed the critical need for a comprehensive strategy to attract both local and foreign investors.

Azfar Ahsan was speaking as guest speaker at a special talk on

"Pakistan's Investment Landscape: Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward" organised by the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), a news release said.

He strongly advocated for a long-term national approach including framing of a "country strategy" to improve investor confidence and ensure economic stability. Ahsan highlighted the importance of foundational reforms across all sectors of the economy.

He argued that Pakistan must move away from reactive policies and focus on creating a business- and investment-friendly environment. "This requires consistent policy frameworks, regardless of political changes, as well as a commitment to improving infrastructure, governance, institutional capacity, and law and order." These efforts, he noted, would not only attract new foreign direct investment (FDI) but also strengthen relationships with existing investors, which was critically important.

### KPCS directs authorities for full facilitation of gemstone businesses

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry Friday directed the authorities for provision of comprehensive facilitation to investors, entrepreneurs and businessmen of the gemstone sector.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the representatives of the business community and authorities including

Secretary Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Secretary Sports and Director General (DG) Peshawar Development Authority (PDA). The Chief Secretary highlighted the immense untapped potential of the gemstone sector in the province. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa holds a wealth of precious gemstones that, if fully capitalized, can significantly contribute to the province's economic growth.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Tubul, Khairpur and World Virtue carrying Container, Gasoline and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, FOTCO oil Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile three more ships, Apex, Nord Taipei and Al-Deebel are also arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours. Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.

### Short term inflation goes up 0.44 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.44 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on October 03, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.17 points as compared to 317.76 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 13.18 per cent.

The weekly SPI with

the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.68 per cent and went up to 313.20 points from last week's 311.09 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.63 percent, 0.53 percent, 0.49 percent and 0.36 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 (41.18%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 20 (39.21%) items remained stable.



LAHORE: Shopkeeper display pottery to attract customers at his roadside setups.

### People throng UAF to attend Kisan Mela

FAISALABAD (APP): On the fourth day of Kisan Mela held at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), a large

number of farmers thronged the university to enjoy various kinds of recreational and entertainment activities including tent pegging, farmers' convention, art & literature festival.

On Friday, a two-day regional tent-pegging championship concluded in addition to arrangement of a Farmer's Convention at Directorate of Farms in which scientists created awareness about the modern agricultural technology and suggestions

to ensure food security in order to develop agriculture on modern lines.

Moreover, photography and videography were organized in the art and literature festival organized by the Senior Tutor Office. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that tent pegging connects us with the rural culture. The participants in this sport develop a sense of balance and consideration. He said that such competitions not only promote rural culture but also keep our young generation connected with rural traditions.

# CM orders to stop illegal sale, purchase of land in RUDA area

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday approved the establishment of a special police force to prevent encroachment along the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) land. A special meeting related to RUDA was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in which a detailed review of the completion of RUDA

projects and ongoing projects was conducted. CM Maryam Nawaz ordered to stop illegal sale and purchase of land in RUDA areas. In a meeting, it was also decided to cooperate with China and other international organisations for the completion of RUDA projects. Maryam Nawaz was briefed about the progress on increasing the forest area in RUDA

from 20 per cent to 35pc. Chief Executive Officer RUDA Imran Amin gave a detailed briefing about the project. Senator Pervez Rasheed, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari, Chief Secretary, Secretary Housing, CEO RUDA Imran Amin, Principal Secretary and other officials were also present.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif offering Dua after inaugurating first Autism School in Pakistan.

## LG department decides to implement new model of waste collection

LAHORE (APP): The Local Government & Community Development (LG&CD) Department developed a comprehensive plan to implement a new waste collection model across the province. Under this plan, solid waste collected door-to-door will be directly transported to the dumping site. The first phase of implementation will focus on housing schemes managed by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA). This was disclosed in a meeting chaired by Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq at Civil

Secretariat here on Friday. Secretary LG&CD Shakeel Ahmed Mian and Additional Secretary Maria Tariq were also present. During the meeting, the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz "Suthra Punjab" program was reviewed in detail and various suggestions were discussed for the implementation of the new model of sanitation in the provincial capital. Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that garbage will be collected from every house under the supervision of Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC).

## Lahore police conduct 3,243 search operations

LAHORE (APP): In connection with the Jummah prayers security, the Lahore police carried out 3,243 search-and-combing operations in various areas of the city. A police spokesman said in a statement on Friday that over 94,000 houses, more than 57,000 tenants, and over 216,000 individuals were checked during operations. More than 338,000 individuals were cleared after verification. Legal action was taken against 1,586 people for violations.

PHC approves transit bail of CM KP till Oct 25 in two cases PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has approved transit bail of Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur in two cases till October 25. Transit bail plea of KP CM came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) PHC Ishtiaq Ibrahim Friday. Alam Khan advocate counsel for the petitioner said CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur has filed petition for transit bail in high court.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the high level meeting to review anti-polio campaign.

## Revolutionary changes underway in Punjab's health sector: Khawaja

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir said on Friday revolutionary changes were being implemented in the health sector under the Punjab chief minister's vision. He made this statement during a meeting with a delegation from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Secretary of Health Nadia Saqib was also present, where the GAVI delegation was briefed on the Expanded

Programme on Immunization (EPI), polio campaign goals, results, child vaccinations, and other related matters by Dr. Mukhtar Awan, Director of EPI. Khawaja Imran shared that the vaccination rate for children under five years old was expected to exceed 92 per cent by the end of October. He highlighted that children aged two to five years, who missed earlier vaccinations, are now being immunized against 12 different diseases.

## NIH issues dengue advisory

LAHORE (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) issued a dengue advisory here on Friday, in the wake of increasing dengue cases in the country. So far this year, 8,909 cases of dengue had been reported in the country, the advisory reads. The purpose of the advisory is to inform the health related institutions about the prevention of dengue. Over 100 countries including Pakistan are suffering from dengue epidemic.

10 killed, 1417 injured in 1371 RTCs in Punjab LAHORE (APP): At least ten persons were killed and 1417 injured in 1371 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 579 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 803 victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 739 drivers, 52 underage drivers, 177 pedestrians, and 476 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

## Kurram tribes assure implementation on ceasefire agreement

KOHAT (APP): In order to maintain law and order and ensure lasting peace in the Tribal District Kurram, a Grand Tribal Jirga was held with Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah in the chair at the Jirga Hall of District Headquarters Orakzai the other day. The grand tribal Jirga beside the Regional Police Officer Kohat Sher Akbar Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kurram Javedullah Mehsud and Deputy Commissioner Orakzai Muhammad Irfanuddin, was also

participated by the authorities concerned of respective departments and institutions. Law Enforcement Agencies, leaders of all tribes of district Kurram, members of Kurram Aman Jirga and Divisional Grand Jirga and Tribal Elders. On this occasion, all the tribes reiterated their cooperation in maintaining peace in the district and full implementation on government writ in future. They also assured to fully abide by the law and avoid any kind of provocation.

## Minister inaugurates Pakistan's largest students' financial aid scheme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Higher Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan inaugurated Pakistan's largest scholarship programme for the financial assistance of talented students in Punjab. In this regard, a launching ceremony was organised at Punjab University in which PU Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ali, Secretary Higher Education Dr Farrukh Naveed, Punjab Higher Education Commission Chief Operating Officer Dr Mansoor Ahmed Baloch, faculty members and a number of students were present. Addressing the ceremony, Minister Hayat said Honhaar Undergraduate Scholarship Programme was the largest scholarship programme in the history of Pakistan under which the fee of 30,000 intelligent students of public and private universities would benefit. The minister said that the fee of the four-year BS degree programme of the intelligent students would be paid every year on behalf of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and every year new students would also be included in the scholarship scheme. He said that the eligibility criteria regarding family income range had been set with the monthly income of Rs300,000 to support upper middle class families in the scholarship programme.

10 killed, 1417 injured in 1371 RTCs in Punjab LAHORE (APP): At least ten persons were killed and 1417 injured in 1371 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 579 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 803 victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 739 drivers, 52 underage drivers, 177 pedestrians, and 476 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.



LAHORE: A teacher performing her duty at a local school as world celebrates the World teacher's Day, also known as International Teachers Day.

## Minister Arora visits Parliamentary Secretary for HR&MA office

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora visited the office of Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights and Minority Affairs (HR&MA) Sonia Asher in Gulberg here on Friday. He held a meeting with the parliamentary secretary and discussed the issues, being faced by religious minorities and their solutions. Arora emphasized the need to ensure protection of rights of religious minorities and the necessity of adopting a joint action plan to address their issues on a priority basis. Sonia Asher also reiterated the commitment to remain united in safeguarding the rights of religious minorities. Coordinator Anil Sahotra, Focal Person Punjab Dawood Sharif Sahotra, former MPA Tariq Masih Gul, Kamran Bhatti and Akab Alam were also present on that occasion.

# International News

## Dozens more killed as Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Israel's military said it had hit Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital, as troops battled the group's fighters near the border and warplanes bombed their strongholds around the country, killing dozens of people over the past 24 hours. The Israeli army's death toll from fighting in southern Lebanon also rose to nine. "Captain Ben Zion Falach, aged 21... fell yesterday (Wednesday), during combat in southern Lebanon," the army said in a statement. Hezbollah also carried out new strikes, targeting what it called Israel's "Sakhnin base" for military industries in Haifa Bay on the Mediterranean coast of northern Israel with a salvo of rockets.

Israel announced this week that its troops had started "ground raids" into parts of southern Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah, after days of heavy bombardment of areas across the country where the group holds sway. The bombing has killed more than 1,000 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry, and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in a country already mired in economic and political crisis. Israel, which has been launching attacks in Gaza since last year after the Oct 7 attack, says it shifted its focus to secure its northern border and ensure the safe return of more than 60,000 people displaced by Hezbollah attacks over the past year. Hezbollah says it has

repelled several land operations by Israeli troops, including with ambushes and in direct clashes. Lebanese security sources say Israeli troops have entered Lebanese territory and been pushed back several times in recent days, without setting up a permanent presence. Rocket sirens wailed constantly in northern Israeli towns, sending residents running for shelter, as Hezbollah kept up its cross-border fire. The Israeli military said it hit "targets belonging to Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut", Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported three air strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, with a source close to Hezbollah telling AFP the target was an evacuated building that housed the group's media relations office.



A view of damaged buildings and debris in the aftermath of a strike amid ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon.

## Russia decides 'at highest level' to remove Afghan Taliban from terrorist list

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry said on Friday that a decision to remove the Afghan Taliban from a list of terrorist organisations had been "taken at the highest level", the state TASS news agency reported. The decision needs to be followed up with various legal procedures in order to make it a reality, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, was quoted as saying. Putin said in July that Russia "considers Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism."

Russia has been slowly building ties with the Taliban since it seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years, but the movement is still officially outlawed in Russia. No country has formally recognised the Taliban as the country's legitimate leadership, although China and the UAE have accepted its ambassadors. Russia added the Taliban to its list of terrorist organisations in 2003. Removing it would be an important step by Moscow towards normalising relations with Afghanistan.

Supreme Court will weigh Mexico's \$10 billion lawsuit against U.S. gun makers WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court said Friday it will decide whether to block a \$10 billion lawsuit Mexico filed against leading U.S. gun manufacturers over allegations their commercial practices have helped caused much bloodshed there. The gun makers asked the justices to undo an appeals court ruling that allowed the lawsuit to go forward despite broad legal protections for the firearm industry. A federal judge has since tossed out the bulk of the lawsuit on other legal grounds, but Mexico could appeal that dismissal. Mexico argues the companies knew weapons were being sold to traffickers who smuggled them into Mexico and decided to cash in on that market. The government estimates 70% of the weapons trafficked into Mexico come from the United States. The defendants include big-name manufacturers such as Smith & Wesson, Beretta, Colt and Glock. They say Mexico has not shown the industry has purposely done anything to allow the weapons to be used by cartels and is trying to "bully" gunmakers into adopting gun-control measures. Originally filed in 2021, the lawsuit was initially tossed out by a district court who cited legal protections for gun makers from damages resulting from criminal use of firearms. Mexico's Sheinbaum keeps doing morning briefings, though her style is unlike her predecessor's. But the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals revived the case under an exception to that law. The gunmakers appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court, arguing they have followed lawful practices and the case has no business in American courts. U.S. District Judge F. Dennis Saylor in Boston again dismissed the case against six of the eight companies in August.

## US discusses strikes on Iran oil sites as Israel presses Lebanon offensive

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: The United States is discussing strikes on Iran's oil facilities as retaliation for Tehran's missile attack on Israel, President Joe Biden said on Thursday (Oct 3), while Israel's military pressed ahead with its campaign against Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah in Lebanon. As Israel weighs its options after its arch-foe Iran launched its largest-ever assault on Tuesday, Biden was asked whether he would support Israel striking Iran's oil facilities. "We're discussing that," Biden told reporters. His comments contributed to a surge in global oil prices, and rising Middle East tensions have made traders worry about potential supply disruptions.

"There is nothing going to happen today," Biden said. On Wednesday, the president said he would not support any Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear sites. Israel's United Nations Ambassador Danny Danon told CNN on Thursday his country has "a lot of options" for retaliation and would show Tehran its strength "soon". A US official said Washington does not believe Israel has decided yet how to respond to Iran. Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, a stronghold of the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah, came under renewed strikes near midnight on Thursday after Israel ordered people to leave their homes in parts of the district, residents and security sources said.

## French 'Golden Owl' treasure hunt ends after 31 years

Monitoring Desk PARIS: A mass treasure hunt launched in France in 1993 appeared to have been solved on Thursday, with the guardian of the elusive "Golden Owl" prize saying someone had finally found it. The find marks the end of a three-decade search across France and a string of legal and financial battles over the Owl, which has inspired thousands of people to test their grey matter against riddles set by a long-dead man. "We confirm that the replica of the Golden Owl was dug up overnight," Michel Becker wrote on a Discord forum used by would-be sleuths to collaborate on the puzzle. The forum has more than 7,000 participants. "Don't go digging", he urged others who might think they had also worked out the answer.

## North Korea's Kim threatens to use nukes if attacked

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country would use nuclear weapons "without hesitation" if attacked by the South and ally the United States, state media reported on Friday. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in decades, with Seoul this week staging a military parade where it showcased its bunker-busting "monster" missile and President Yoon Suk Yeol warned Kim that using

nukes would mean the end of his regime. Pyongyang has also been bombarding the South with balloons carrying bags of trash, and a fresh flurry was seen floating over Seoul early on Friday by AFP reporters. Seoul's military confirmed it had detected the balloons launches overnight. If an enemy's forces were "encroaching upon the sovereignty" of the North, Pyongyang would "use without hesitation all the offensive forces it has possessed, including nuclear weapons."

## Hundreds of Americans leave Lebanon on US contract flights

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The U.S. State Department says some 350 American citizens, green card holders and family members have now left Lebanon on US-organized contract flights this week. The department announced the new number — up by about 100 since Thursday — after another flight from Beirut landed early Friday in Frankfurt, Germany. The flight had the capacity to carry 300 passengers but only 97 people were aboard, it said.

## Iran's Foreign Minister warns his country will retaliate harshly if Israel carries out an attack on

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Iran's Foreign Minister warns his country will retaliate harshly if Israel carries out an attack on Iran. Iran's Foreign Minister is warning Israel that if it carries out an attack on Iran, Tehran will retaliate harshly. "If the Israeli entity takes any step or measure against us, our retaliation will be stronger than the previous one," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, referring to this week's attack on Israel with 180 missiles. Araghchi made the

comments Friday after meeting Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berrri in Beirut. The minister said that Iran's attack on Israel was in "legitimate self-defense" after its attacks on Iran and the Iranian consulate in Syria in April. He said Iran backs any step that leads to a cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah but added this will only happen when a cease-fire in Gaza goes into effect. He said Iran backs any cease-fire on the condition that it "preserves the right of the Lebanese people."

## Malaysia PM to visit Bangladesh, focus on labour issues

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is set to arrive in Bangladesh on Friday for talks primarily focused on labour issues, according to Dhaka officials. This will mark the first high-level visit by a foreign head of government since the interim administration, led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, assumed office following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina's government in August.

## Voices concern over 7 new polio cases CM Murad calls for elected representatives' involvement to avoid refusals

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a provincial meeting to review polio eradication efforts, expressed concern over the detection of seven cases and reaffirmed his commitment to eradicating polio from the province.

The meeting was held at the CM House on Friday. It was attended by provincial ministers, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Saeed Ghani, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Additional IG Police Imran Yakoob, provincial secretaries, and others. The divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners attended the meeting through video link.

Ishad Ali Sodhar, Provincial Coordinator of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) gave a detailed briefing to the CM on the current polio situation and the performance of the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) program.

It was pointed out that Sindh had reported seven polio cases this year, including three from Karachi, two from Hyderabad, and one each from Sujawal, and Shikarpur. On this, the CM emphasised the urgent need for coordinated actions to reach every child and eliminate the threat of polio.

Murad Shah directed the Minister of Health Dr. Azra and the Minister of Local Government Saeed Ghani to improve immunisation by involving elected representatives to avoid refusal.

Secretary of Health Rehan Baloch, Secretary Local Government Khalid Hyder Shah, and commissioners from various divisions shared their insights on the challenges encountered in their respective divisions and the measures being taken to ensure complete immunization coverage. Minister Health Dr. Azra highlighted the progress made during recent campaigns, including the fractional Inactivated Polio Vaccine (f-IPV) campaign in August and the Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID) campaign in September, which successfully vaccinated over 9.4 million children across the province.

The CM expressed concern over the continued detection of the poliovirus in environmental samples, underscoring the need for intensified efforts to safeguard all children from the disease.

Adl IG Police Imran Yakoob (on behalf of IG Police) assured the meeting of the police's unwavering commitment to the safety of frontline workers, recognizing their critical role in reaching every child, even in challenging environments.

Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah reaffirmed the provincial government's full support for polio eradication efforts, stressing that the commitment to wiping out the disease is unshakable.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif bidding farewell to Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim before his departure at PAF Nur Khan Air Base in Rawalpindi.

## Mayor Karachi says: Companies awarded rain-hit road construction contracts asked to commence work

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Friday said that after completing the tendering and scrutiny process for the reconstruction of rain-affected roads in Karachi, companies awarded contracts have been instructed to commence construction work.

In a statement on Friday, he said that 33 roads in the city were being reconstructed in the first phase, and the street lighting system on various roads was also being modernized. All companies have been clearly instructed that there should be no negligence or use of substandard materials in the construction of the roads; otherwise, the responsible company will be immediately blacklisted.

The 33 roads undergoing construction and repair include Habib River Road, Shahrah-e-Orangi, Madinatul Hikmat Road, Lal Shahbaz Qalandar Road, Mahmood Road, Kashmir Road, Nizami Road, Khushhal Khan Road, Razi Road, PECHS, the road from Expo Center to National Stadium, the road from Bab-e-Khyber to Mominabad Police Station, Metroville Road, and others.

Additionally, repairs are being carried out at Chandni Chowk and Kamran Chowranghi, as well as in Nazimabad, Tariq Road, and Umar Sharif Underpass. Repairs are also taking place at Yaseenabad, Natha Khan, Drug Road, NEPA, Sahrab Goth, Golimar, Pakistan Quarters, Baloch Colony, and Karsaz bridges.

Moreover, restoration and repair work on streetlights is being done on Shah Waliullah Road, Ittehad Town Road, Baidia Stadium Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block 13-D Road, Malir 15, Railway Gate, Ibrahim Haidri Road, Bahadur Yar Jung Road, Korangi, Old Queens Road, Club Road, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Sindh Secretariat Road, Gulistan-e-Johar, Continental Bakery, Kamran Chowranghi, MediCare Hospital Sharifabad, New Town Police Station, PIB Colony Road, and others.



HYDERABAD: Members of Shia Ulama Council are holding protest demonstration against the killing of Hassan Nasrallah, Chief of Hezbollah in Israeli Airstrike in Beirut and Israeli cruel, inhuman acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held in Hyderabad.

## ACP stages "Unfit Ball Hai Dunya Mere Aagay"

KARACHI (APP): The play titled "Unfit Ball Hai Dunya Mere Aagay" was performed on the ninth day of the 38-day-long World Culture Festival Karachi 2024, organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan with Grips Theatre Group at Auditorium II.

The play, originally directed by late Imran Aslam and co-directed by Yasmin Ismail. The stellar cast included Faiza Kazi, Ameer Riaz, Aysha Sheikh, Hena Riaz, Khaled Anam, Maria Hussain Shaikh, and Sajeruddin.

The performance delivered a thought-provoking message on safeguarding the environment, emphasizing the dangers of pollution infiltrating food and causing serious health concerns.

The play illustrated practical solutions to mitigate these issues and resonated with both children and adults. Audience, including school students, thoroughly enjoyed the songs in the play.

World Culture Festival Karachi 2024, will continue till November 2.

## Arif Alvi's wife, son moved SHC over dental clinic sealing

KARACHI (INP): Former president Dr. Arif Alvi's wife and son, Awaab Alvi, have moved the Sindh High Court (SHC) against the sealing of their dental clinic in Karachi.

The family of former president filed plea for de-sealing of their dental clinic located at Sindh Muslim Society, a posh area of Karachi.

The petition claims that the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) sealed the clinic as an act of political revenge.

Barrister Ali Tahir, the petitioners' lawyer, stated that Dr. Arif Alvi is being harassed purely on political grounds. The petition further highlighted that the dental clinic has been operational for many years, and no prior notice was given before sealing, which is deemed an illegal action.

## SSUET honored with Brand of the year Award for third time

KARACHI (APP): Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) has been once again bestowed with the Brand of the Year Award by the Brand Foundation for academic excellence and research development. According to press release issued by Director Information SSUET, It is the 3rd time that the university has acquired the Brand of the Year Award. The university played an effective and significant role in transcending traditional disciplinary limitations in pursuit of intellectual fusion and developing a culture of academic enterprise and knowledge entrepreneurship.

## Man killed, another injured in road mishap

NOSHEHRA VIRKAN (APP): A man here on Friday killed while another injured critically on Karrial Road in road accident.

The police spokesman said a person named Muhammad Tayyab, a resident of Moza, Karlay was riding a motorbike when their two wheeler hit tractor trolley.

In a result, Muhammad Tayyab died on the spot while his friend injured critically.

Rescue 1122 team shifted the body and the injured to Tehsil Headquarter Hospital.

The police registered a case and started investigation.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets delegation of Pakistan Business Council at CM House.

## Pakistan urges end to Israel occupation, calls for upholding Palestinian rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Secretary, Amna Baloch reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering stance on Palestine, calling for an immediate end to Israel's illegal occupation and urged the international community to uphold Palestinian rights during a debate at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Thursday.

Addressing the UNHRC debate on the situation of human rights in occupied Palestine, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch presented Pakistan's consistent position on the urgent and imperative necessity of upholding international law, especially at a time of grave threats to regional peace, security, and the credibility of the international system.

She emphasized that all human rights flow from the right to self-determination, which was enshrined in the UN Charter and international human rights law.

"Aggression and settler-colonialism in Palestine could no longer be rewarded with impunity," she said adding that Israel's illegal occupation must end and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination must be realised to avert genocide and apartheid.

## Army called in ahead of SCO summit in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to ensure law and order situation in the federal capital during the forthcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, the federal government approved the deployment of Pakistan Army's troops in Islamabad under Article 245 of the Constitution.

Islamabad is all set to host the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting on October 15 and 16 with major foreign leaders, including Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting the country.

According to the notification a "requisite strength" of the Pakistan Army, in aid of civil power, will be deployed from Oct 5 to 17 to maintain law and order situation with respect to SCO moot and visits of VIP delegations for the said meeting.

## Commissioner orders strict enforcement of official prices to curb profiteering

HYDERABAD (APP): The Divisional Commissioner Bilal Ahmed Memon directed officials to enforce official prices in markets across Hyderabad division to provide relief to the public. He expressed these views during a meeting held at the Commissioner's office, which was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abiden Memon, Assistant Commissioners, Food Department officers, Director Bureau of Supply and Price Control Sindh and Market Price Committee officers. All Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of the division joined via video link.

According to a hand-out, during a meeting, Commissioner Bilal Ahmed Memon stressed the need for immediate action, citing reduced inflation and petrol prices. Representatives from the Food Department, Market Price Control Committee and Deputy Commissioners briefed Commissioner on past month price implementation strategy.

Bilal Ahmed Memon ordered officials to update price lists, conduct market visits and take strict action against non-compliant traders, imposing fines under the Sindh Essentials Price Control Act 2023.

He directed Deputy Commissioners to personally visit wholesale markets and enforce price regulations. He said that the move aims to pass on benefits of reduced inflation and petrol prices to consumers, and with strict measures, authorities aim to curb profiteering and ensure public relief.



JAMSHORO: VC LUMHS Prof, Ikram Din Ujain offering Dua after laying foundation stone Construction of girls Hostel at LUMHS.

## KU seminar provides invaluable insights into modern career development strategies

KARACHI (APP): The Department of Psychology of the University of Karachi organized a seminar "Next Step" at the KU Audio Visual Centre which provides participants with invaluable insights into modern career development strategies.

The event featured key speakers and professionals from various fields who offered their expertise on topics such as LinkedIn optimization, professional branding, and navigating corporate environments, said a statement on Friday.

One of the speakers, Learning and Development Manager at Pakistan Refinery Limited Summan Saqlain talked about LinkedIn optimization and career advancement and emphasized the significance of maintaining a professional profile on LinkedIn, distinguishing it from platforms like Facebook.

She shared that the importance of LinkedIn followers and how a polished online presence can enhance job prospects was thoroughly explained. She encouraged students to focus on their skills, qualifications, and industry relevance while showcasing their professional strengths.

The Chief Executive Officer of You Pitch Live advocated youth for participation in start-ups, motivating them to explore future entrepreneurial endeavors. His talk focused on the balance between principle of emotion, practicality, and logic when pursuing start-up ventures and future career paths.

Another speaker, grooming and styling coach, Hiba Ali stressed the value of appropriate attire during job interviews. She mentioned that it was noted that research on company requirements and values prior to interviews is crucial for candidates to align themselves with the company's vision.

She said that preparation and awareness of industry trends were also discussed as essential components for interview success.



KARACHI: People are participating with their animals in the walk taken out by the Government Veterinary Hospital on the occasion of World Animal Day.

## Pakistan making landmark strides on foreign policy front under PM Shehbaz: Tarar

I advise Gandapur to focus on uplift of people of his province rather than staging smaller protests: Information Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that Pakistan under leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been making landmark achievements on foreign policy front.

"Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan was highly successful and productive as many agreements and MoUs were inked to increase cooperation and trade between the two brotherly countries," he said while addressing a press conference here.

He said Pakistan enjoyed brotherly and friendly relations with Malaysia and during his visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim took forward matters regarding trade and investment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had invited the Prime Minister of Malaysia to visit Pakistan on the occasion of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh.

Tarar informed that Halal meat and rice exports from Pakistan to Malaysia will be increased and initially one hundred thousand tons of rice will be exported.

He said it was worth appreciation that Malaysian PM stated that his country supported Pakistan's demand for implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir dispute.

About national economy, he said it was improving and it will become more stable with the visits of world leaders to Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference.

## UAE ambassador calls on Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM House on Friday. UAE Consul General to Karachi Bakheet Ateeq



Al Remeithi and Secretary to Chief Minister Rahim Shaikh were also present on the occasion. They discussed investment, trade relations, bilateral relations and mutual affairs. A detailed discussion was held on the standard cultivation of dates in Sindh province. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that they intended to plant high-quality date palm plantations in Sindh. The Sindh government wanted to promote palm cultivation, he added. The UAE ambassador said that the United Arab Emirates would provide full cooperation to the Sindh government.

## DC stresses all-out efforts to implement official rate lists

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr Raja MB Dharejo here on Friday directed the authorities concerned to take strict action against profiteers.

The Price Magistrates should make all-out efforts to implement the official rate lists and ensure the rate lists of the essential items must be displayed on the shops, he instructed.

Strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the profiteers, Deputy Commissioner Sukkur said that the violation of the official rates would not be allowed.

He informed that the district administration had increased the number of the price magistrates which helped ensuring the implementation of the fixed prices of essential commodities.

The Sukkur district administration was striving to ensure provision of the essential commodities to the citizens at fixed rates, he added.



KARACHI: Resident of Shersha block road during protest against shortage of electricity.

## SALU celebrates World Teachers' Day: VC unveils plans for faculty development

SUKKUR (APP): Vice Chancellor (VC), Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur, Professor Dr. Yousuf Khushik has said that we live in a global village in the twenty-first century and many problems in the universe need to be worked on and, it may be feasible with the support of your teacher and the knowledge you have acquired through your studies.

He expressed such views while speaking on "World Teachers' Day 2024" organized by the Department of Economics at Shah Abdul Latif University, on Friday.

He said that October 5th is a day of dedication and that people celebrate it all over the world to honor the contributions made by teachers. We are also commemorating the day to give teachers the lavish accolades they deserve because they play different roles such as mother, father and friend for the student's mental as well as career growth, Vice Chancellor said that who helps students become capable members of society.

Appreciating the faculty members and students for organizing such a wonderful event, he stated that faculty members and students celebrated the day's significance and gave heartfelt tributes to teachers and their contributions to society everywhere. On the occasion, Amir Hussain Shar, the dean of Management Science and other faculty members appreciated the role of Vice Chancellor in fostering academic excellence in the university and his vision to take this university to the zenith.