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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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'No democratic person can go against constitutional package': Ahsan Iqbal

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry on Sunday said that no any democratic person could disagree with the Constitutional Amendment Package of Pakistan. He said that the coalition government had been successful to turn around the economy of the country.

He expressed these views after a meeting with MQM-Pakistan leadership including its Chairman and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Minister Khalid Maqbool

Siddiqui at MQM-Pakistan's Pakistan House. Advisor to PM on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaulah and Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar were also present on the occasion. Ahsan Iqbal said that they provided amount of time to some parties wished to review and consider constitutional amendment. 'We built a consensus, which was a democratic process', he added. He said that the leadership of MQM-Pakistan had continuously assisted with its suggestions on different issues including IPPS

and along with them they successfully resolved IPPS issue. Minister said that they worked very hard to save Pakistan from economic default. It's coalition partners including MQM-Pakistan also played role in the formation of government after general elections.

Recalling the events of past, he said that the democratic process of the country was derailed in the past through Article 58-2B and later a political consensus was developed and constitutional 58-2B was revoked but another way of 58-2B was paved way through

courts and a series of disqualifying elected Prime Minister continued.

Iqbal said that the former elected prime minister Nawaz Sharif suffered illegal sentence, which was not a sentence pronounced against us but it was also against the people and development of the country including CPEC. He said that there was only darkness and damages during the four years from 2018 to 2022 and it was suffered by the nation and the country including Karachi because no development programme was initiated.



KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) delegation, led by Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal, Advisor to PM Rana Sanaulah, and Federal Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, meets with MQM-Pakistan leadership, including Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, at Pakistan House.



KARACHI: Police clash with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) activists for violating Section 144 when they demonstrated against the killing of blasphemy suspect Dr Shah Nawaz Khan and "extremism in Karachi."

Dar asks PTI to withdraw protest call amid SCO moot Pakistan ready to warmly host CHG-SCO meeting; matters within SCO framework to be discussed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday said that Pakistan was ready to host Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting on October 15-16 in Islamabad in which different significant issues would be discussed under the SCO framework.

Talking to media after his visit to review arrangements for the upcoming CHG-SCO meeting, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that certain countries had re-

quested for bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the CHG-SCO which were finalized. Replying to a query, he said that India had not requested for such bilateral meeting and only the matters related to SCO framework would be discussed by the SCO member states at the multilateral forum. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar also accompanied the deputy prime minister and foreign minister during a walk with the mediapersons to provide them first-hand information about the preparations of SCO summit.

Over 100 arrested in Karachi as protesters defy Section 144, clash with police

Monitoring Desk
KARACHI: Clashes between protesters and police erupted in parts of Karachi with the law enforcers arresting hundreds, including women, for violating Section 144 imposed a day earlier. Participants of the 'Sindh Rawadari March' clashed with the police outside the press club when they violated Section 144—banning demonstrations and assemblies of more than five persons across the metropolis.

The police officials noted that over 100 protesters, affiliated with separate groups, were taken into custody from different parts of the metropolis, including outside Karachi Press Club, Metropole Hotel and Jinnah Hospital.

Moreover, sources said that four policemen

sustained injuries amid the clashes and have been shifted to hospital. Speaking to journalists, South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza said that "at least 20 people have been detained so far, including women." More police personnel have been deployed on all the roads leading to the press club.

In another clash near the Governor House, the police fired tear gas shells at the protesters of a religious organisation, which has called a counter-protest at the KPC, forcing its rally to move towards Metropole Hotel.

Amid tear-gas shelling, protesters pelted stones at riot police, injuring two cops, while they also reportedly set a

Bilawal to distribute Benazir Hari Card among 300,000 farmers today

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will distribute Benazir Hari Card among farmers in Chief Minister House, in Karachi, tomorrow October 1 (Monday).

His address will be live telecast and will be viewed in Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas and district Hyderabad.

According to details, Rs8 billion was allocated for the welfare of the farmer community.

During the first phase, the Benazir Hari Card will be distributed among 3,00,000 farmers.

Farmers will also avail of financial benefits and will be able to purchase agricultural goods by using the Benazir Hari Card.

Section 144 imposed in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi administration has imposed section 144 of criminal procedure across the city for four days. Commissioner Karachi imposed Section 144 on the recommendation of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon citing potential threats to peace. A notification has also been issued, reading that the ban is imposed on gatherings of five or more people, processions, and public meetings. To maintain law and order and ensure public safety, the ban will be in effect from October 13 to October 17. It may be noted here that in his letter, the IGP Sindh requested imposition of Section 144 citing potential threats to peace. The provincial police chief said that. The protests and rallies may disrupt peace and cause inconvenience to citizens.

Imran Khan-Israel alliance aims to sabotage SCO Conference: Sharjeel

Independent Report
KARACHI: Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan of attempting to sabotage the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference through alleged ties with Israel.

"The founder of PTI is not working for Pakistan's politics but for the protection of Zionist interests," he remarked while addressing the news conference on Sunday.

Memon claimed that Khan was not engaged in politics for Pakistan's benefit but rather to protect Zionist interests. He suggested that Khan's connections with Tel Aviv were part of a broader conspiracy by hostile forces to undermine the SCO being held in Islamabad from October 15-16.

He described the alli-

ance between PTI and Israel as a compromise on Pakistan's national interests, citing past instances where Khan allegedly conspired to disrupt relations with China during a visit by the Chinese president.

The provincial minister asserted that PTI leadership was adhering to anti-Pakistan agendas supported by foreign enemies, prioritising their interests over the nation's security and sovereignty. He claimed that PTI's think tank was currently operating from Tel Aviv, actively plotting against Pakistan.

Memon stressed that key policy advisors of PTI were based in Israel, working to weaken Pakistan. He alleged that the party received policies, instructions and support from Tel Aviv, with handlers in Israel actively engaged in international lobbying on PTI's behalf.

Lanjar orders action against police officers involved in arrest, torture of women protesters, journalists

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister, Zia ul Hasan Lanjar has announced an action against the police officers who were involved in the arrest and torture of the women protesters and journalists in Karachi on Sunday.

Sindh Home Minister said that two separate protests were held today at Karachi Press Club, Teen Talwar and Metropole by religious organizations and the civil society, despite the imposition of Section 144 in the metropolitan. Sindh Home Minister said that there were concerns about the law and order and main-

taining peace in the city after those announcements, while Section 144 was already announced by the Commissioner Karachi. Therefore, the protestors should have followed the law but the law was violated by them. Sindh Home Minister said that the police detained some people for violating Section 144; the police officers were tortured by the protesters, in which two police officers were injured, while the police van was also set on fire, and the red zone was set on fire, adding that no one is allowed to take the law into their own hands.



ISLAMABAD: Pak Army soldiers and police personnel checking a motorcyclist in front of Parliament House at Constitution Avenue, during security high alert at "red zone" area ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, in the Federal Capital.

Sindh govt actively working on construction of worship places of minorities: Naved

SANGHAR (APP): Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Anthony Naved arrived in Sanghar.

Upon his arrival in Sanghar he was warmly welcomed by Pakistan Peoples Party leader Rajesh Kumar Harsadani and Assistant Commissioner Shafiq Ahmed Arisar.

The Chairman of the Municipal Committee Sanghar, Rashid Islam Mughal, was also present.

During the discussion, the Deputy Speaker emphasized that the Sindh government is dedicated to the welfare of the public and ensures complete religious freedom for minorities.

He highlighted that the

Sindh government is actively working on the construction of places of worship for minority communities.

Moreover, he mentioned ongoing efforts to improve road infrastructure, establish educational and health institutions, and create employment opportunities across the province.

After attending a lunch hosted by Rajesh Kumar Harsadani, Naved proceeded to Parsi Goth, where he participated in a scheduled program that had been meticulously prepared for the occasion.

The event at Parsi Goth was inaugurated with great enthusiasm.

CM Murad releases guidelines for 2025-26 ADP preparation

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has issued detailed guidelines to all government departments for the formulation of the Annual Development Program (ADP) 2025-26 in preparation for the upcoming fiscal year.

The directive, issued through the Planning & Development (P&D) department, emphasises the importance of aligning with the prevailing economic conditions, federal policies, and the development agenda of the Sindh government.

Mr. Shah stated that the ADP is designed to focus on sectoral priorities and socio-economic impact while adhering to both federal and provincial government guidelines.

He instructed each department to ensure that the proposed projects align with the government's developmental strategy and contrib-

ute to measurable socio-economic outcomes.

Under the directives of the Chief Minister, departments are required to adhere to the comprehensive guidelines provided by the federal government's Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), which is still pending. They should also follow the specific instructions issued by the CM.

The CM has instructed that the initial edition of the ADP should be prepared based on sectoral priorities and implementation capacity within a budget size to be outlined in the Budget Strategy Paper (BSP). The final allocation will be determined based on the availability of funds from the Finance Department.

The CM's guidelines emphasize that 80 per cent of the total development budget should be allocated to ongoing

schemes.

He stated, "schemes expected to be completed by June 2025 must be finalized according to the original plan period." Additionally, for projects that have already utilized over 70 per cent of their total cost, departments are directed to allocate the remaining funds for completion in FY 2025-26.

The chief minister emphasized that provincial departments must ensure counterpart funds for projects supported by international development partners. Furthermore, the ADP portfolio must be adjusted to address the aftermath of the 2022 floods, focusing on recovery and socio-economic revival.

Acknowledging the financial constraints, Shah encouraged departments to identify new projects that can be implemented under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.



KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Local Bodies Saeed Ghani in a group photo with participants of a ceremony on eve of 94th National Day of Saudi Arabia.

Chinese premier Li due in Islamabad today for a four-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang is scheduled to undertake a four-day bilateral visit to Pakistan from October 14-17, 2024 to meet Pakistan's civil and military leadership and attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Premier Li will be accompanied by ministers and senior officials including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation Agency, according to a curtain raiser issued by the Foreign Office on Sunday.

'Anti-state' elements want to sabotage SCO summit: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) senior leader Saeed Ghani said on Sunday that the anti-state elements want to sabotage the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Expressing his thoughts, Ghani said: "The enemy countries want to stop the arrival of the international delegation in the country. The attack happened at the Karachi airport was part of the conspiracy. He acknowledged the support of Saudi Arabia for the country, saying, "Saudi Arabia has played a substantial

role in reaching the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Saudi Arabia has always extended its support to Pakistan in difficult times."

Ghani expressed optimism that the diplomatic and cordial ties between the two countries will be maintained.

"We should take the maximum benefits from the Saudi assistance to become independent," Ghani stated.

"Over 2.7 million of the Pakistani citizens have been employed in Saudi Arabia," he said.

MQM opposes PTI's protest at time of SCO summit on Oct 15

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protest on the occasion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit is not in the national interest.

Addressing a press conference Mustafa Kamal said that Tehreek-e-Insaf created instability in the name of political campaign.

He said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) founder is directly targeting institutions of the country.

There is no disagreement with politics and protest is a part of politics, Mustafa Kamal said.

Mustafa Kamal said that our politics is not above the dignity and integrity of the country. If the country and institutions are there, we are breathing in peace, Mustafa Kamal said. Mustafa Kamal said that Pakistan's enemies do not want to see stability here.



WALES: Pakistan Army Team participate in Exercise Cambrian Patrol-2024, held in Wales. This year, 128 teams from 42 Countries participated in the Exercise and out of all these teams, Pakistan Army's Team showed Exceptional Performance in the exercise and has been awarded with the Gold Medal.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

A close watch

The IMF's new set of demands from Pakistan as part of its \$7bn rescue package is tough, but in line with expectations.

The government has to swallow this bitter pill to keep the economy afloat. The details of the targets released on Friday show that the programme seeks to help Pakistan rebuild its forex reserves, improve tax-to-GDP ratio, and ensure debt sustainability.

The roadmap outlined by the lender in the document, which also contains firm commitments by the government to execute the agenda, will be implemented through the overhaul of the tax system, energy reforms, privatisation and deregulation, and the rollback of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, the Sovereign Wealth Fund and the Special Economic Zones to "promote investment, and ensure competitive neutrality, and a level playing field" for investors.

The government has further promised to not offer regulatory, spending, tax-based incentives, or any guaranteed returns to a particular set of investors that could distort the investment landscape. It has agreed to increase and impose additional indirect taxes in case of a shortfall of 1pc in tax collection on a three-month rolling basis to cover the gap. Moreover, the authorities have consented to governance reforms and to cut off gas supplies to captive power owned by the rich textile millers. The provinces have committed to undertake reforms to boost tax collection, end interventions in agricultural markets, and take over several spending responsibilities in line with the 18th Amendment.

The IMF document acknowledges the macro-economic stability achieved in recent months. However, this stability is unlikely to translate into growth in the near to medium term unless Pakistan is able to attract significant investor interest, something that does not appear likely anytime soon. In fact, the conditions related to elimination of incentives to foreign companies, especially from China, is going to hit hard the government's plans to woo Chinese manufacturers here under CPEC. How the authorities will deal with it remains to be seen.

While the IMF may ignore some minor deviations from the loan agenda, it is not going to condone any major divergence that might lead the programme off-track since, according to a news report, the Fund remains concerned about the country's commitment to execute the suggested reforms going forward. Its worry that "reputational risks would arise for it if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members that ostensibly enjoy less support" means that it would be monitoring progress on targets more diligently.

Unlike most previous occasions, the 25th rescue loan does not offer Pakistan much of a margin of error. The authorities will be required to prove every six months that they are steadfastly pursuing the IMF-mandated targets to secure the lender's dollars and blessings.

Disgraced media

Muna Khan

Last week, I wrote a piece on Western media's coverage of the war in Gaza for Prism on the Dawn website. I re-read part of Edward Said's 1981 book 'Covering Islam' on how the Western media distorts the portrayal of Islam and depictions of Muslims as "fanatical, violent, lustful and irrational". I often return to this book as it remains relevant. It's a sad indictment on the Western media whose reporting on Muslims and Palestinians has resulted in their dehumanisation over the decades.

Despite knowing all this, I felt foolish when I read how The New York Times told its staff to restrict using words like 'ethnic cleansing' and 'genocide' and avoid 'occupied territories' in their reporting on Gaza. This was revealed by The Intercept in April which received a copy of the internal memo the paper sent to its staff. They also told staff not to use the word 'Palestine' "except in very rare cases". It is mind-boggling.

However, acclaimed author Pankaj Mishra was not shocked when the draft of an article wherein he criticised Israel, submitted to a Canadian newspaper, was returned to him with 'Israel' removed.

Mishra, the recipient of a \$75,000 Weston International Award for his non-fiction writing, was going to deliver a lecture in Toronto last month. Winners get an excerpt from their lecture published in the leading newspaper The Globe and Mail. The paper, however, edited that excerpt with reportedly all 17 instances of Israel cut out. Mishra pulled the excerpt after receiving the edits.

In an interview to The Breach last month, Mishra said he was not surprised as it was "part

of a continuum of such attempts that I've personally encountered to suppress and stifle criticism of Israel".

One of the lines cut from the excerpt said: "My own sporadic attempts to tackle the subject in the past made me aware of an insidious Western regimen of repressions and prohibitions."

The paper also cut: "Even the liquidation of Gaza, which unlike many atrocities, has been livestreamed by both its perpetrators and victims, is daily obfuscated, if not denied, by the main organs of the Western media."

Clearly, it was a political decision to attempt to edit Mishra's excerpt and speaks to the Western media's complicity in covering up the true scale of the crimes committed in Palestine and everywhere else. Lest we forget, the US declared war on Iraq under the guise of 'destroying weapons of mass destruction'; they declared war on Afghanistan to, among other reasons, liberate the women. The government of the day finds powerful allies in papers who support (read: cheer) such policies and it is no different in the case of Gaza.

"We have faced a consistent regime of censorship and suppression," Mishra told The Breach. "Not just Palestinians, not just Arabs, you talk to even some of the most successful writers of non-Western ancestry, and each one of them will tell you many, many stories about editors saying 'We can't do this. Can you change that? Can you rephrase that?'"

Non-white writers often have to acquiesce because they want to be published and options elsewhere are limited. This is how the arts and entertainment as well as the publishing industry

manages people of colour by 'keeping them in their place'.

Perhaps one of the most influential intellectuals in the US right now, Ta-Nehisi Coates, is facing the brunt of Big American media's wrath about his new book 'The Message' which chronicles, among other trips, his 10-day experience in Gaza and Israel in 2023. He has described his trip as "revelatory"; that he didn't think Americans understood the extent of "what we're doing there", adding that he uses 'we' because it wouldn't be possible without US support.

"I don't think I ever, in my life, felt the glare of racism burn so angry and more intense than in Israel," he writes in his book, an excerpt that has widely been shared. But he is subject to much attack, the usual accusations of antisemitism, for telling the truth, which his detractors tell you is 'his truth'. I find this practice of adding pronouns to truth tiresome; truth is meant to be universal and this idea of my truth reeks of a sense of entitlement in the face of what we can see on TV screens.

I laud Mishra for withdrawing his excerpt and refusing to accept the paper's discriminatory edits. His is a small example of the pushback we're seeing to the Israeli-Western media narrative shoved down our throats. Al Jazeera ran a story last week featuring BBC and CNN journalists "alleging pro-Israel bias in coverage, systematic double standards and frequent violations of journalistic principles". I'm sorry it took so long for the truth (see what I did there?) to arrive but I hope it will pick up pace and more audiences will see it for what it is: not the journalism everyone deserves. -- Courtesy Dawn

Kelsen's return

Reema Omer

If the government announces replacing the parliamentary system with a presidential one, would the reason suffice that many democracies in the world have presidential systems? And since parliamentary democracy in Pakistan has "failed", it should be abolished?

Establishing a constitutional court to perform constitutional review by stripping the Supreme Court (SC) of this function is as fundamental a change for the judiciary. Yet, reasons for this change have so far been feeble and rhetorical, if not altogether absent.

Constitutional courts were first established in the beginning of the 20th century in Europe to "defeat the dogma of parliamentary supremacy". Previously, parliamentary sovereignty was jealously guarded, and even the highest courts did not have constitutional review powers.

This gradually changed after World War I. As Austrian jurist Hans Kelsen wrote, "it is no longer possible to rely on the parliament itself to realise subordination to the constitution", and the task of "nullifying its unconstitutional acts must be entrusted to a separate organ, independent of it and of any state authority", ie, a constitutional court.

Gradually, a concentrated model of constitutional courts with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional interpretation proliferated, initially in Europe, and then other parts of the world, including, for example, Russia, South Africa, and Indonesia. The powers of these courts are somewhat different, but their origins are similar. They were established during democratic transition, ostensibly as a check against authoritarianism and to safeguard the

constitution where existing courts did not already have constitutional review powers.

Pakistan's context and judicial system, as is evident, are very different. Here, the SC and high courts already have powers of constitutional review and enforcement of fundamental rights. What is being proposed is to take these powers from existing courts and hand them over to a new 'constitutional court'.

The government has to discharge a very high burden to show why such a change is necessary, and what problems it would fix.

A typical response is that the SC has 'failed': it has weakened civilian governments; delivered populist judgments; and rewritten the Constitution. All this is undeniable. But the 'solution' — that the same powers should be concentrated in a different court — is bewildering.

This 'solution' ignores that any court when it is interpreting the constitution or fundamental rights is likely to deliver rulings perceived as 'controversial'. And where these rulings have political implications, courts will necessarily become politicised. This is inherent to constitutional review and is the experience of many constitutional courts around the world. A few other points should be considered. First, politicisation of the judiciary is not just because of 'judicial activism'. Political parties often bring political disputes to court for adjudication, without utilising other forums of resolution. This needs to change. Second, there is now growing recognition within the SC that legitimising military coups had disastrous consequences, and that courts should respect the separation of powers within the constitutional scheme. It should be seen

whether this leads to course correction.

Third, some safeguards have already been introduced to regulate the SC's powers. An appeal lies from Article 184(3) judgments; a minimum of five judges hear matters of constitutional interpretation; and a committee, instead of the chief justice alone, decides when to invoke Article 184(3).

A lot more, of course, must be done — by the courts and parliament. The judicial appointments process should be made more transparent and inclusive (including ensuring provincial and gender representation). Judicial accreditation should be made more meaningful. And the ambit of Article 184(3) should be clarified. But throwing the baby out with the bathwater would be a grave mistake.

India's Law Commission, as far back as 1984, considered reforming the country's supreme court. It rejected establishing a separate constitutional court, as doing so would involve "extensive and complex changes" to the existing structure. Instead, it recommended "incremental changes" to augment the apex court's competence and capacity.

We are not as fortunate as, let alone reports informed by the opinions of constitutional scholars, we don't even have a draft for the proposed 'constitutional court' to deliberate upon. After nearly 70 years, Kelsen has made a return in Pakistani politics. In 1958, the SC misapplied his theory of "revolutionary legitimacy" to legitimise Ayub Khan's coup d'état. Now, instead of ensuring the "subordination of parliament to the Constitution", the government is distorting his idea of a constitutional tribunal to control the judiciary. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Geoeconomic shifts demand greater economic integration: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman lauded the reports titled "The Glorious 11 Years - How Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories. "Pakistan seeks to strengthen regional cooperation by fostering economic ties with our partner nations, and China stands at the very top," Gilani said. He highlighted Pakistan's strategic location, abundant natural resources, and a sizeable workforce as factors that make it an attractive destination for

foreign investment. He stressed the importance of business-to-business linkages, noting that sustainable partnerships can attract foreign direct investment, promote technology sharing, and facilitate knowledge exchange between the two nations.

Commenting the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan for organizing the event, Gilani said that the reports offer valuable insights into the contributions, operational status, and investment confidence of Chinese companies in Pakistan.



H.E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, emphasized the importance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX Global starting.

Malik lauds Dr Yunus's call for India-Pakistan coop. to revive SAARC

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday hailed the recent statement of Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor of the interim government of Bangladesh calling upon India to temporarily set aside its issues with Pakistan in order to revive the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Commenting here, he lauded Dr Yunus for his pragmatic approach, emphasizing that regional collaboration was crucial

for the economic prosperity of all SAARC nations. He noted that political differences between India and Pakistan had long hampered the progress of the organization, affecting trade, connectivity, and development across South Asia.

He underscored the importance of unity within SAARC, stating that resuming dialogue and fostering cooperation could lead to unprecedented regional growth.

240 poultry units distributed among farmers

LODHRAN (APP): The Livestock Department distributed 240 poultry units among farmers across the district to promote poultry under the Propagation of Backyard Poultry program to prevent stunted growth among children.

Deputy Director Livestock Lodhran, Dr Waqar Aslam, told APP here on Sunday said that the units consisted of five hens and one cock given to farmers at Rs 3300 per unit on first come, first served basis.

Poultry units were distributed only after farmers received training at a workshop on how to breed chicken and how to get them treated in case of an illness.

He said that the poultry units were sent to various veterinary hospitals at three tehsils of district Lodhran where from the units were distributed among farmers. He said that the initiative not only would make peoples' access to healthy diet easy but also bring profits to the owners.



ISLAMABAD: Citizen busy in shopping at Weekly Bazaar at Sector G-10, in the Federal Capital.

Leghari says electricity tariffs to drop 8-10% per unit soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Leghari on Sunday issued warning to electricity thieves and corrupt officials for termination from their assignments who involved in corrupt practices.

He said that all those who involved will face the music from next month.

The minister vowed that the consumers can expect significant relief as power tariffs drop by 8-10% per unit in the near future.

In an exclusive

interview with a private news channel, minister expressed hope that power sector reforms are expected to bring good news for the public in the coming months, with anti-theft measures being implemented to increase transparency in the power system.

The goal is to provide reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity to citizens, he added.

Minister for Power warned to take stringent action against officers involved in power theft,

stating that those found guilty of corrupt practices will be terminated from service starting next month.

Leghari directed for stern action against the corrupt officers within the power sector and decided to take a zero-tolerance policy in this regard.

The minister emphasized that the government will adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards officers engaged in power theft, whether involvement proved today or during past.

President RCCI says: SCO summit paramount in enhancing bilateral relations between member states

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed hope that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit being held on October 15-16, will serve as a catalyst for further regional connectivity and cooperation between the states.

RCCI President, Usman Shaukat in a statement issued here on Sunday said that the SCO summit is paramount in enhancing bilateral

relations between the member states.

"Pakistan being the host of this year's summit will play a key role in promoting bilateral relations and regional connectivity", he added and said that the event is a pivotal moment for regional cooperation and shaping a shared future.

Usman Shaukat highlighted that Pakistan's strategic location positions it as a natural hub for trade and connectivity within the SCO.

E&T dept records Rs 530m tax recovery in first quarter

MULTAN (APP): Excise & Taxation department reported a significant increase in tax recovery during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, collecting Rs 530 million compared to Rs 485 million in corresponding period. This impressive growth represented an additional Rs 45 million in revenue collection over the previous year. Official sources said on Sunday that the increase followed the announcement of a property tax rebate package by the Punjab Excise department, offering a 5 percent discount on property taxes from July 1 to September 30, 2024.

Traders, economists condemn PTI's protest call amid SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Traders and analysts Sunday expressed grave concerns over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call ahead of the highly anticipated Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference, urging the party leadership to reconsider and postpone their decision.

Talking to PTV news channel, economists slammed PTI's protest call during the SCO Summit as "self-destructive," citing concerns over economic instability and damage to Pakistan's global image. The protest, scheduled for October 15 has sparked

widespread criticism, with many urging PTI to reconsider their decision.

Business community in Islamabad stressed that the SCO conference, a vital platform for promoting regional economic cooperation and hoping that PTI's leadership will reconsider their decision for the nation's economic

interests instead of personal interest. "This move will undermine Pakistan's credibility in the international community. We need to focus on economic diplomacy, not political posturing, said a renowned economist Dr Noor Fatima.



MULTAN: Vendors are busy preparing flower garlands at their roadside setup.

101,790 Kissan cards issued to farmers in South Punjab

MULTAN (APP): As many as 101,790 kissan cards have so far been distributed among farmers against the set target of 344,391 cards in three divisions of South Punjab.

According to Agri department sources, Kissan Cards were being provided to farmers as per direction by Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahu and Special Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Sarfraz Ahmad Magsi. A total of 696,886 applications were received from growers for Kissan cards on 8171 and Rabta App in three divisions of South Punjab including

Multan, DG Khan and Bahawalpur.

The agri department received 128,331 Kissan cards while 182,605 cases were approved by the Bank of Punjab till October 12. Similarly, 215,275 applications were received by farmers for Punjab Chief Minister's Green Tractors scheme across South Punjab. As many as 184,077 applications were uploaded on online portal while 31,198 applications of non-computerized Mouzas were received manually at Deputy Director Agriculture Extension offices concerned.

Governor urges PTI to defer protest call in national interest

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) should stop pursuing selfish political goals and call off the October 15 protest at D-Chowk, Islamabad in the larger national interest.

In an interview with APP here on Sunday, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that prime ministers of nine countries would arrive in Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15 and matter of pride for political forces present a positive instead of taking to "I understand force but when it national prestige, politics, avoid put Pakistan adding that fall if PTI called off week or so. On the Governor Punjab said PTI leadership needed to understand that politics of obstinacy had brought them to the verge where one wrong step could be fatal for their firebrand politics, adding that there was no room for stubbornness in politics. He urged the PTI leadership to take the path of dialogue and play productive role in taking the country ahead rather than leading it to anarchy.



16 which was the country and all should work to image of the country the streets. that PTI is a political comes to the we should give up personal agenda and first," he said, heavens would not the protest for a destructive politics, that the PTI is a political comes to the we should give up personal agenda and first," he said, heavens would not the protest for a destructive politics,

Public cooperation crucial for effective disaster management: PDMA

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director General Irfan Ali Kathia has reaffirmed the authority's commitment to utilizing all available resources to address natural disasters. In a message on International Disaster Reduction Day, observed globally on Sunday, Kathia highlighted the

pervasive impact of climate change, noting that while disasters cause significant harm, they also provide important lessons. The DG stated that the government has implemented revolutionary measures to protect the lives and property of citizens, emphasizing that safeguarding these

Illegal bird dealers fined

SARGODHA (APP): A grand operation of the Wildlife Department against illegal bird dealers is underway. During the operation, eight illegal bird dealers were arrested and fined for violations and 30 protected wild birds were recovered from their shops and sealed. Deputy Director Wildlife Sargodha Region, Arooj Zaheer, along with her team including inspector Ali Raza Abbas, Mudasir Abbas and Ansar Riaz raided Kotmomin, Bhalwal.



GUJRAT: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain inaugurates 54th camp at Aisha Bashir Hospital.



MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Justice High Court Sadaqat Hussain Raja addressing the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected officials of the Central Bar.

Practical steps underway to check inflation: Minister

SARGODHA (APP): Provincial Minister of Zakat & Usher and Secretary General Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Sargodha division, Rana Munawer Ghous Khan, on Sunday said that the government is committed to checking inflation and increasing trade to provide relief to poor people.

Talking to APP, he said that the federal government and all provincial governments were seriously working to address all the current issues under the leadership of Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He said that federal and provincial governments would have to resolve the challenges of inflation. "The country is passing through a difficult situation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set conditions for the government to restrict subsidies.

The government will have to make efforts for balancing supply and demand chain to provide relief to the common man. Improvement in the trade sector is a big challenge for us," he added.

Health minister inquires after girl at Children's Hospital

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Raffique on Sunday inquired after four-year-old Dua Fatima of Bahawalnagar at the Children's Hospital Lahore. Acting on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the minister reviewed the medical care being provided to the patient. During the visit, Professor Tipu Sultan, Medical Director of the hospital, briefed the minister on treatment and facilities available for Dua Fatima.

12 dead, 1585 injured in 1482 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least twelve persons were killed and 1585 injured in 1482 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 677 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 908 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 874 drivers, 78 underage drivers,

Azma Bukhari says: Governor should refrain from interfering in administrative affairs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that the Punjab Governor should refrain from interfering in administrative affairs and avoid playing the role of the opposition, like Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf.

Bokhari pointed out that in Sindh, schools are often found with animals tied up, and there is a rampant culture of cheating and selling entire examination centres. She noted that in the province where the PPP has been in the government for 16 years, a 19th-century education system still prevails. She highlighted

that seven districts in Punjab are at the top with the highest literacy rates, while many areas in Sindh lack schools altogether.

The minister expressed that the Governor should enjoy tea, coffee, and dried fruits at the Governor's House, as he has no role in administrative affairs. She responded to the Governor's statements by mentioning constant media reports about ghost employees and students in Sindh's education department. She emphasized that outside of two areas in Karachi and Hyderabad, literacy rates in the rest of Sindh are virtually zero.



MULTAN: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against killing of Sani-e-Zahra and demanding justice for her, held in Multan.

Shazia Rizwan leads dengue awareness dengue walk

RAWALPINDI (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Information Punjab, Shazia Rizwan on Sunday visited Pir Wadhai Station various bus terminals to examine implementation of dengue SOPs. Talking on the occasion Shazia

intimated stern actions against violations of SOPs devised by the health authority to prevent the dengue fever. She visited the workshops and washrooms of the bus terminals and expressed her satisfaction regarding

cleanliness. She interacted with the passengers during which she urged them to play their due role in the fight against dengue fever.

Later, Shazia led an awareness walk regarding the dengue issues. She distributed dengue awareness pamphlets among the people. The Parliamentary Secretary directed the owners of bus stands to display awareness pamphlets at their terminals to educate the people about their responsibilities regarding dengue preventive measures.

International News

Palestinian officials say 22 killed in Israeli airstrikes

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: The Israeli military renewed its orders for Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip to leave their homes and shelters as troops continue a weeklong offensive against militants. Most of the fighting has centered in and around Jabaliya, which has been pounded by Israeli war jets and artillery. Residents said they have been trapped inside their homes and shelters.

Israel also has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah with waves of heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and a ground invasion at the border after a year of exchanges of fire. Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hamas' ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced

about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

It's been a year since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed into army bases

and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Lebanon's Health Ministry says Israeli strikes kill more than a dozen

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Israeli airstrikes hit multiple areas in southern and eastern Lebanon, killing more than a dozen people and causing damage to hospitals, the Lebanese Health Ministry said, as fighting with the Hezbollah militant group continued.

Nine people were killed in Maisra village in the northeast, with 15 wounded, the ministry said. Four people were killed and 18 wounded in an apartment building on the edge of Barja south of Beirut.

The ministry said Rayak and Tal Chaha hospitals in the Bekaa Valley were damaged, while seven people were wounded in strikes on Brial and Temnine in Baalbek-Hermel province. In Nabatieh, eight people were wounded.

Beirut's southern suburbs, which have previously faced heavy bombardment, have not been struck in the past 48 hours. Hezbollah functions as a state within a state there.



BEIRUT: Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf waves during his visit to the site of an Israeli air strike in the Basta neighbourhood.

Fifth UN staffer hit, as Israel threatens to target ambulances

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: The Israeli army on Saturday threatened to target ambulances in southern Lebanon, claiming they are being used by Hezbollah to "transport fighters and weapons".

The warning came on a day when a fifth staffer of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was wounded in yet another strike, after Israel admitted that its forces fired at a "threat" near a UN peacekeeping position and

that a "hit" was responsible for wounding two Blue Helmets. The incidents of shooting at UN peacekeepers in past few days have sparked a fierce diplomatic backlash. The Israeli military on Saturday threatened the people of Lebanon not to return to their homes. "For your own protection, do not return to your homes until further notice. Do not go south; anyone who goes south may put his life at risk," the military warned.

Nicaragua breaks diplomatic relations with Israel

Monitoring Desk

MANAGUA: Nicaragua is breaking off diplomatic relations with Israel, the Central American nation said on Friday, calling the Israeli government "fascist" and "genocidal." Nicaragua's government, in a statement, said the break in relations was due to Israel's attacks on Palestinian territories.

The nation's congress had, earlier in the day, passed a resolution requesting Nicaragua take action to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Gaza conflict. The conflict, the Nicaraguan government said, now also "extends against Lebanon and gravely threatens Syria, Yemen and Iran."

Italy's Meloni tells Israel's Netanyahu attacks on UN peacekeepers are unacceptable

Monitoring Desk

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has told her Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu that attacks on U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon are unacceptable, her office said on Sunday. "Prime Minister Meloni reiterated the unacceptability of UNIFIL being attacked by Israeli armed forces."

ASEAN urges early accord on South China Sea code, end to Myanmar violence

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: Southeast Asian leaders called on Sunday for swift agreement on a code of conduct for the South China Sea based on international law, while demanding an immediate halt to fighting in Myanmar and inclusive peace talks to end its civil war.

The ASEAN chairman's statement represents the consensus from meetings ended on Friday of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos, which included diplomats from the United States, Russia, China, Japan, India and South Korea.

Confrontations have been rising in disputed wa-

ters of the South China Sea between China, which claims sovereignty over almost all the vital waterway, and ASEAN members including the Philippines and more recently Vietnam.

The rows have raised risks of an escalation that could eventually involve the United States, which is bound by treaty to defend the Philippines if it is attacked.

The sea, where \$3 trillion worth of trade passes annually, was been a major point of contention at the ASEAN meetings, particularly with Russia and China objecting to a reference to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a US official said.

As Hezbollah and Israel battle on the border, Lebanon's army watches from the sidelines

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon, Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants have clashed along the border while the Lebanese army has largely stood on the sidelines.

It's not the first time the national army has found itself watching war at home from the discomfiting position of bystander.

Lebanon's widely beloved army is one of the few institutions that bridge the country's sectarian and political divides.

Several army commanders have become president, and the current commander, Gen. Joseph Aoun, is widely regarded as one of the front-runners to step in when the deadlocked parliament fills a two-year vacuum and names a president.

But with an aging arsenal and no air defenses, and battered by five years of economic crisis, the national army is ill-prepared to defend Leba-

non against either aerial bombardment or a ground offensive by a well-equipped modern army like Israel's.

The army is militarily overshadowed by Hezbollah. The Lebanese army has about 80,000 troops, with around 5,000 of them deployed in the south.

Hezbollah has more than 100,000 fighters, according to the militant group's late leader, Hassan Nasrallah. Its arsenal — built with support from Iran — is also more advanced.

Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters have been clashing since Oct. 8, 2023, when the Lebanese militant group began firing rockets over the border in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza.

In recent weeks, Israel has conducted a major aerial bombardment of Lebanon and a ground invasion that it says aims to push Hezbollah back from the border and allow displaced residents of northern Israel to return.

Sister of North Korean leader lashes out at South Korean drones

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea's Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, on Saturday warned Seoul of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones are found flying over Pyongyang.

She also criticised the South Korean military over its response to the North's claim that South Korean drones entered the sky of the capital city in a statement carried by state media KCNA.

On Friday, North Korea's foreign ministry accused South Korea of sending drones into Pyongyang at night this week and last and that the intrusion demanded retaliatory action.

In response, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it could not confirm the North's accusa-

tions. "The fact that the means which carried the leaflets is the very drones is the core of the seriousness of the recent incident," Kim was quoted as saying, referring to anti-North Korea leaflets.

Kim said the blame lies with the South Korean military if it failed to identify drones sent by a non-governmental organization crossing the border.

North Korea has been floating thousands of balloons with trash attached into the South since May, exacerbating tensions between the two countries.

Pyeongyang says they are a response to some activists and North Korean defectors in South Korea who fly balloons into the North carrying aid parcels and leaflets criticising leader Kim Jong Un.

Poland to suspend right to asylum after border tensions

Monitoring Desk

WARSAW: Poland plans to temporarily suspend the right to asylum as part of a strategy to limit illegal migration amidst tensions with Belarus, which Warsaw accuses of channelling migrants across its border.

"One of the elements of the migration strategy will be the temporary territorial suspension of the right to asylum," Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Saturday. "I will demand this, I will demand recognition in Europe for this decision," he told a congress held by his liberal Civic Coalition (KO) grouping, the largest member of Poland's coalition government. Tusk said the right to asylum was being used by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Russian President Vladimir Putin and by people smugglers in a way that goes against the essence of the right to asylum.

Iran has no red line in defending itself, foreign minister says

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iran said on Sunday that it has "no red lines" in defending itself, as the Middle East anxiously braced for Israel's response to missile attacks from its arch-foe two weeks ago.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi's comments appeared intended to dispel suggestions that Iran would absorb an Israeli strike without a further response, as Tehran did earlier this year when Israel last struck Iran after a volley of Iranian missiles.

"While we have made tremendous efforts in recent days to contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Araqchi said in a post on X.

Iran fired more than 180 ballistic missiles at Israel on Oct. 1 amid an escalation in fighting between Israel and its proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah. Many were intercepted in flight but some penetrated missile defences.

Gilani says: Govt committed to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate risks associated with natural disasters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate the risks associated with natural disasters. "We are working to strengthen early warning systems, enhance disaster preparedness at the community level, and invest in resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change," he said in a message on the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction.

"We join the global community in raising awareness about the importance of reducing disaster risks and building resilience in the face of natural calamities. This day serves as a reminder of the vulnerability of nations like Pakistan to the growing threats of climate change and environ-

mental disasters," he added. "Pakistan, a country with a diverse geography and a rich cultural heritage, has been deeply impacted by the devastating effects of climate change," the chairman highlighted.

He said, "Pakistan has witnessed the tragic consequences of natural disasters, from floods displacing millions and destroying livelihoods, to earthquakes that have shattered communities and infrastructure."

"Each disaster has not only caused untold human suffering but has also strained our economy and resources, underscoring the urgent need for effective disaster risk management and climate resilience," Gilani said.

He further said, "The increasing frequency and intensity of floods, particularly the catastrophic floods of recent years, have

highlighted the critical importance of preparedness and adaptation measures."

"I urge all Pakistanis to take active steps to learn about disaster risks and contribute to disaster reduction efforts. By educating ourselves and others, we can save lives and protect our communities from the worst impacts of natural disasters," he said. Gilani reminded, "Climate change is not just a local issue but a global one." "Pakistan is among the countries that contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet we are disproportionately affected by its consequences," he added.

He called on the international community to take bold and immediate action to reduce carbon emissions and support vulnerable nations like Pakistan in building resilience against the impacts of climate change.



KARACHI: Leader of PPP Sharmela Farooqi cutting ribbon to inaugurate Cancer Awareness Walk organized by Radiology Department JPMC.

High level meeting reviews arrangements for Jalsa in Hyderabad on October 18

Independent Report
KARACHI: A high-level meeting was convened at Shirazi House, Thatta, under the leadership of Provincial Minister Auqaf, Religious Affairs, Zakat and Usher Department Sindh Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, to finalize arrangements for the upcoming Jalsa in Hyderabad on October 18.

The Jalsa will commemorate the martyrs of the October 18 tragedy and pay tribute to their unparalleled sacrifices. In attendance were key political figures and community leaders, including Sikandar Shah Shirazi, Syed Ismail Shah Pagaro Shirazi, and Hanif Memon, along with

a large gathering of local dignitaries and representatives from various communities across Thatta. The meeting was a significant step towards mobilizing support for the event and ensuring a strong turnout from the region.

Addressing the attendees, Provincial Minister Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the overwhelming response, particularly from those who traveled from remote areas on short notice. He highlighted the importance of the October 18 rally, urging everyone to honor the memory of the martyrs by participating in large numbers.

Arabian Sea Low-Pressure turns into tropical Depression

KARACHI (INP): A low-pressure system developing over the Arabian Sea on Sunday intensified into a tropical depression. If this system develops into a storm, it will be named "Dana," as proposed by Qatar.

The Met Office on Saturday issued a second alert regarding the low pressure in the central Arabian Sea, stating that the system has strengthened and its distance from Karachi has decreased to 900 kilometres, down from 1,000 kilometres.

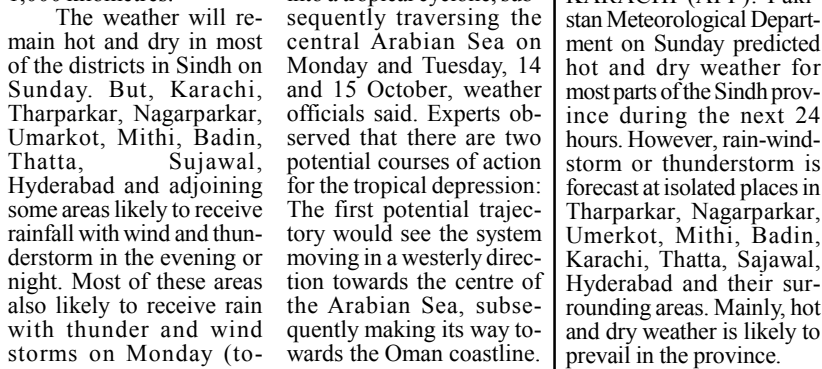
The weather will remain hot and dry in most of the districts in Sindh on Sunday. But, Karachi, Tharparkar, Nagarparkar, Umarkot, Mithi, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Hyderabad and adjoining some areas likely to receive rainfall with wind and thunderstorm in the evening or night. Most of these areas also likely to receive rain with thunder and wind storms on Monday (to-

morrow).

Currently, there is no indication that this system will affect Sindh and Baluchistan coastal areas in Pakistan's coastal belt. The Cyclone Warning Centre in Karachi is monitoring the situation.

The weather officials said that if the weather system does develop into a storm, it will be named "Dana," meaning a precious and beautiful pearl in Arabic.

It is expected that the depression would intensify into a tropical cyclone, subsequently traversing the central Arabian Sea on Monday and Tuesday, 14 and 15 October, weather officials said. Experts observed that there are two potential courses of action for the tropical depression: The first potential trajectory would see the system moving in a westerly direction towards the centre of the Arabian Sea, subsequently making its way towards the Oman coastline.



KARACHI: Sindh Rawadari March, along with civil society and religious organisations chant slogans during protest rally from Teen Talwar to the Karachi Press Club against killing of Dr Shahnawaz Kunhar despite the enforcement of Section 144. Dr Shahnawaz, who had been accused of sharing blasphemous posts on social media, was shot dead under mysterious circumstances during a gun battle with the police in Mirpurkhas



MUSCAT: H.H. Sayyida Hujaija Bint Jaifar Al Said, International Ambassador for Social Responsibility, H.E. Faisal Bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Imran Ali, Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman cutting cake at the inauguration of First Pakistan Oman Business Forum.

Tarar highlights economic progress, international ties ahead of SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, stated on Sunday that Pakistan has made significant progress this year in both foreign policy and economic sectors, adopting an open approach towards trade and investment.

Speaking with foreign media correspondents about the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit scheduled for October 15, Tarar emphasized that "Pakistan is emerging on the international stage, and the world is beginning to recognize its true potential." He highlighted the recent successful visit of Malaysian Prime

Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan, during which key discussions on bilateral relations, investment, and cooperation took place.

During this visit, the Malaysian PM announced an increase in imports from Pakistan, including rice and Halal meat. Tarar remarked, "Exports of rice, Halal meat, and other commodities to Malaysia will further strengthen the relationship between our two countries."

Additionally, Tarar noted a high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia, led by the Saudi Minister of Investment, recently visited Pakistan and signed several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) valued at \$2.2 billion to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Sharjeel says PTI following anti-national agenda

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Information, Excise and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that the founder of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) was not working for Pakistan's politics but for the protection of Zionist interests.

In a communique issued on Sunday, he said that PTI leadership was following foreign, and anti-national agendas.

Sharjeel said that PTI's absence from APC against Israeli aggression in Palestine had exposed its ties with Israel.

Ahmed Idrees Chohan assumes charge as acting President of HCSTSI

HYDERABAD (APP): The President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, has departed for China on account of personal business engagements. In his absence, the Senior Vice President, Ahmed Idrees Chohan, has taken over as Acting President. According to the Chamber's spokesperson, Ahmed Idrees Chohan will oversee all affairs of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry and will continue to safeguard the interests and welfare of the business community.

Shah Farman resigns as senior advisor to KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman has resigned from the cabinet due to his responsibilities as a member of the accountability committee formed to monitor performance of the provincial government. According to the resignation, Shah Farman maintained that as a member of the accountability committee he would be affected therefore he had resigned as an advisor.

PIA flight from UAE to Islamabad makes emergency landing in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight, PK-144, en route from Al Ain to Islamabad, made an emergency landing in Karachi after a technical fault was detected on Sunday.

Aviation sources revealed that the Airbus A320 encountered a hydraulic system malfunction near Quetta, causing the aircraft to rapidly lose altitude.

The crew managed to bring the plane down safely at Karachi Airport, averting any potential disaster.

PTI to delay Oct 15 protest if meeting with Imran granted: report

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced that it will hold 'massive' protests on October 15 at Islamabad's D-Chowk, if the party is not allowed to meet party founder Imran Khan.

While speaking to a private TV Channel, PTI Central Secretary Information Sheikh Waqas Akram set a condition for the government to withdraw from the announced protest.

"Allow party founder

Imran Khan's meeting with his family and lawyers or face massive protests on October 15," Sheikh Waqas Akram said.

He said that the government has banned meetings with Imran Khan for the last five or six weeks, adding that even lawyers and family members are not allowed to meet him.

We have no contact with our leader (Imran Khan) and reports of mistreatment in jail are concerning.



HYDERABAD: Rescue workers busy in work after Lahore bounded train Karachi Express derailed near Hyderabad railway station.

Karachi Express derails shortly after departure from Hyderabad, railway traffic disrupted

HYDERABAD (INP): Two bogies of the Karachi Express derailed near the Hyderabad Railway Station shortly after the train's departure on Sunday.

The incident occurred in the Railway Yard, and while there were no casualties or injuries reported, railway operations were significantly impacted.

Station Headquarter Officer (SHO) Railway Police Ghulam Hussain Brohi confirmed that no loss of life occurred as a result of the derailment. He further stated that technical teams from Pakistan

Railways promptly arrived at the scene and began efforts to restore the derailed bogies.

Railway traffic on both the up and down tracks was halted immediately following the incident. Four trains, including Millat Express and Zakraya Express, were stopped at different stations.

Millat Express and Zakraya Express were held at Hyderabad Railway Station, while Sir Syed Express was stopped near Bohari. Operations to clear the tracks and restore normal traffic flow are currently underway.

Tarar lauds China for helping Pakistan overcome energy crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday extended deep gratitude to China for helping Pakistan to overcome worst energy crisis faced by the country in the early years of previous decade.

Delivering his speech at the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan ceremony here, he said the friendship between Pakistan and China spanned over decades and many generations.

"The friendship between Pakistan and China is being passed down from generation to generation," the minister said adding that the people of Pakistan and China had emotional at-

tachment to each other.

Tarar remarked that Beijing had supported Islamabad in all circumstances and this friendship had gone through storms and difficult times successfully and proved unbreakable.

He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the manifestation of closeness and ideal friendship between the two countries.

"CPEC is not only a project for the prosperity of Pakistan and China, but also for the entire region," the minister opined.

Energy projects including Sahiwal Coal power project, Thar Coal Project, Karachi Port Energy project were launched by China under CPEC.



KARACHI: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi Munum Zafar Khan visiting stalls at Expo Center.

Amb. Tirmizi underlines significance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX Global

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday emphasized the importance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX Global.

He said that Pakistan was proud to be recognized as the "Tech Destination of the Year 2024" by GITEX Global, which was a testament to the country's progress in the IT and tech industries. Ambassador Tirmizi said that this recognition reinforced Pakistan's status as an emerging hub for digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

As GITEX Global 2024, the world's largest technology exhibition, approaches its opening from October 14 to 18, Pakistan will be significantly represented at this prestigious event, a press release said.

With a contingent of 24 leading exhibitors from the country, Pakistan aims to showcase its growing capabilities in the IT sector.

Tirmizi emphasized that GITEX Global offered an ideal platform for companies to connect with global tech leaders, investors, and potential partners.

He further said that it was a unique opportunity for their exhibitors to showcase their capabilities and explore collaborations.

The Government of Pakistan is facilitating a 156-square-meter exhibition space at the Dubai World Trade Centre where Pakistani companies are poised to make a lasting impression.

At this time, the government sources told APP here on Sunday that special ceremonies will be held in all ten districts of Azad Jammu Kashmir to celebrate the day with simplicity. Speakers will highlight the historic significance of the founding day. Besides, 'Fateha' will be offered for the Kashmiri martyrs, besides offering special prayers for the early success of the Jammu & Kashmir freedom movement.

The government's founding day anniversary will be observed with prime focus to elaborate on the due role of this base camp of the Kashmiri freedom movement for raising the Kashmiris indigenous struggle for freedom at an international level.

AJK all set to celebrate 77th founding anniversary of AJK government on October 24

MIRPUR (APP): The preparations have begun to celebrate the 77th founding anniversary of the Azad government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir on October 24 in a befitting manner with the renewal of the pledge to continue the Kashmir freedom movement till it reaches its logical end, besides utilizing all possible resources for ensuring progress and prosperity of the liberated territory.

On this day (October 24, 1947) the AJK territory had been liberated by the valiant sons of the soil from the clutches of the India-backed despotism Dogra regime.

Highlighting the programs scheduled for celebrations to observe the day in Azad Jammu Kashmir, AJK

government sources told APP here on Sunday that special ceremonies will be held in all ten districts of Azad Jammu Kashmir to celebrate the day with simplicity. Speakers will highlight the historic significance of the founding day. Besides, 'Fateha' will be offered for the Kashmiri martyrs, besides offering special prayers for the early success of the Jammu & Kashmir freedom movement.

The government's founding day anniversary will be observed with prime focus to elaborate on the due role of this base camp of the Kashmiri freedom movement for raising the Kashmiris indigenous struggle for freedom at an international level.



LARKANA: Police officials carry out the combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city to maintain law and order situation, in Larkana.

As many as 9,787 out of 21,809 candidates take SU entry test at Jamshoro campus

HYDERABAD (APP): The phase-wise entry test for admission to various bachelor's degree programmes for the academic year 2025 began at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, on Sunday. A total of 9,787 candidates, including 1,938 female students, took the test in the first phase out of as many as 21,809 candidates seeking admission against almost 11,000 seats in 70 disciplines of bachelor's degree programmes offered by the university.

SU Vice-Chancellor Professor (Meritorious) Dr Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro reviewed the test process and personally supervised it. He expressed his satisfaction over the arrange-

ments made by various committees for the exam. Prof VC SU main campus Prof Dr Abdul Sattar Shah, registrar Dr Mushtaq Ali Jariko, director admissions Prof Dr Ayaz Keerio, Dr Arfana Mallah, Dr Misbah Bibi Qureshi, Dr Hamadullah Kakepoto, Dr Khalil ur Rehman Khoumbhati, Dr Agha Asad Noor, Dr Nek Muhammad Sheikh, Dr Anila Naz Soomro, Dr Rabia Asma Memon, Dr Tania Mushtaq, PD Ghulam Shabbir Abbasi, Dr Muhammad Younis Leghari, Dr Kiran Sami Memon, Dr Muhammad Aqeel Bhattu, Dr Ali Nawaz Siyal, Munawar Rajar, Ghulam Saqib Buriro, Engr. Sajjad Shah, Engr.

Murad Shah and others accompanied the VC during his visit.

The test started at 10:30am and lasted 90 minutes. Separate blocks were set up for the 1,938 female candidates at the Institute of Biochemistry, Institute of English Language & Literature and Institute of Art & Design. The 9,787 male candidates were accommodated in the Faculty of Arts, Department of Media & Communication Studies, Department of Zoology, M.A. Kazi Institute of Chemistry and Faculty of Engineering & Technology.

During the first phase of the entry test, the candidates appeared represented various districts across Sindh, which

included Dadu 1,809 candidates including 458 females, Ghotki 598 candidates including 30 females, Jacobabad 292 candidates including 39 females, Karachi division 50 candidates including 21 females, Kashmir-Kandhkot 278 candidates including 20 females, Khairpur Mirs 790 candidates including 93 females, Larkana 710 candidates including 131 females, Matiari 773 candidates including 205 females, Naushehro Feroze 1,184 candidates including 248 females, Qambar-Shahdadkot 661 candidates including 123 females, Sanghar 1,411 candidates including 380 females, Shaheed Benazirabad 526 candidates including 95 females, Shikarpur 333 candi-

dates including 54 females, Sukkur 232 candidates including 19 females and 140 candidates including 22 females from Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Speaking to the media, VC Dr Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro attributed the smooth, orderly and peaceful holding of the test to the 'best strategy' adopted for the major event. He pointed out that holding the test in two phases helped avoid mess owing to a huge number of candidates and also keep the expenses at a lower side. He noted that the number of candidates this year was higher than in the previous year which showed students.