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Coalition govt, opposition agree on formation of constitutional bench

PML-N and PPP take a step back on the issue of the constitutional court; Constitutional package bill to be tabled in Senate today: Irfan Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): All the political parties, including the opposition, have finally reached a consensus on the formation of a constitutional bench after the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) took a step back on the matter of the constitutional court, sources privy to the development claimed.

The matter, initially focused on the constitutional court, has now advanced to the formation of a constitutional bench, they told Geo News on Thursday.

After high-level discussions, four leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the PPP claimed

an agreement had been reached among all the political parties on the formation of the constitutional bench, as per the insiders.

This comes after another meeting of the special committee on constitutional amendments draft concluded on Thursday. The parliamentary committee's meeting has been adjourned till noon on Friday (tomorrow).

The constitutional package, among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years.

The government had attempted to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its al-

lies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the ruling parties to begin a consultation process.

To pass the constitutional amendments, the government requires a two-thirds majority in parliament, with sources indicating a shortfall of 13 votes in the National Assembly and nine in the Senate.

In his remarks after today's meeting, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan said the government presented its third draft on the judicial package.

In its third draft, the government had talked about a constitutional bench instead of court, he said.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint meeting of University and Boards and Vice Chancellor, held at CM House in Karachi.

Bilawal pays tributes to Karsaz martyrs on their martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid tributes to the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy on their 17th martyrdom anniversary, solemnly commemorating the horrific attack that occurred on October 18, 2007.

Reflecting on the tragic day when 180 brave party workers laid down their lives, he expressed profound sorrow and reaffirmed the PPP's unwavering commitment to the ideals of democracy, justice, and sacrifice in the service of the people.

In a press release issued by then party Media Cell, he said, "The Karsaz bombing was a calculated conspiracy where dictatorship and terrorists joined forces, targeting the truck carrying Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and the central leadership of PPP, amidst a sea of millions who had come to welcome her. Those who attempted to silence the voice of democracy with

terror and violence have failed, and their efforts were in vain."

He further remarked, "The Karsaz tragedy is a solemn reminder of the ultimate price paid by our brave party workers, who sacrificed their lives for the noble cause of democracy. Their courage and selflessness remain etched in the history of our ongoing struggle for a peaceful, democratic Pakistan—a struggle led by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto."

Bilawal Bhutto emphasized that the blood of the Karsaz martyrs continues to inspire the fight against extremism, injustice, and the few forces that have historically sought to suppress the rights of the people.

"Our commitment to the vision of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto remains steadfast. We will continue to defend the rights of every Pakistani and uphold the values of democracy."

SC dismisses petitions against proposed amendments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday dismissed the petitions as withdrawn against proposed constitutional amendments.

A three-member bench of the top court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghani and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan, heard the case.

During the course of proceedings, petitioners' lawyer Hamid Khan Advocate appeared before the bench and prayed to grant permission to withdraw the cases.

The chief justice remarked that Hatri Bypass, the case himself. He noted that another petition is also fixed for hearing along with the objections.

On the query of the bench, the lawyer said that he was withdrawing the two appeals pertaining to objections and others. The court subsequently dismissed the petitions as withdrawn.

Political parties, institutions united for Pakistan's development: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said all political parties and institutions are working together for the development of the country.

Addressing a banquet hosted by him in honour of the senators of government and allied parties in Islamabad today, he said the political parties and people of the country have rendered sacrifices to steer the country out of difficulties.

The Prime Minister said together with the allies, we are moving towards a prosperous Pakistan for the national interest.

Shehbaz Sharif said the country's economy is on a positive trajectory. He mentioned that there has been significant reduction in inflation in a short span and the consistent increase in

remittances is encouraging for the country. Due to economic stability, the country has achieved the targets of 2025 this year.

The Prime Minister said economic stability and diplomatic successes are the outcome of the hard work and sacrifices of the political parties.

Congratulating all the leaders on the successful conduct of SCO meeting, the Prime Minister described it as a major diplomatic triumph which further strengthened Pakistan's diplomatic profile at the international level.

APP adds: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday hailed the successful hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of Government meeting as a major achievement for Pakistan on diplomatic front.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon reviews the arrangement works for the public gathering meeting of Peoples Party (PPP), in Hyderabad.

PPP's 18 October public gathering to be historic: Minister

HYDERABAD: Senior Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit and Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control Department Sharjeel Inam Memon Thursday said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto bravely returned to Pakistan on October 18 despite continuous threats.

Addressing a press conference at Hatri Bypass, he said that People's Party has decided to hold a public gathering in Hyderabad in memory of PPP martyrs who were martyred in the Karsaz blast. Insha Allah, tomorrow's public gathering will make history, with 80,000 chairs already set up at the venue. Hundreds of thousands will attend.

Sharjeel Inam further stated that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's manifesto mentioned constitutional re-

forms, which Bilawal Bhutto is negotiating. PPP has fulfilled all its promises, including the housing scheme for flood victims, with 21 lac houses being built.

and health cards. People's Party never accepts the politics of oppression.

Regarding the lawyers' protest against constitutional reforms, he said Bilawal Bhutto approached various bar associations for support. Speaking at press conference Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi said that October 18 is a dark day in PPP's history, but Hyderabad has always been at the forefront of democracy. PPP prioritizes development in Sindh, unlike KP's prevailing protests and violence. PPP won't support illegal actions or exploitation of government machinery for protests.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by the Ambassador of USA to Pakistan H.E. Donald Blome.

School adoption program: 94 schools assigned to 37 MPAs in first phase

KARACHI: Positive progress has been made in response to a letter written by Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah to the members of the Sindh Assembly regarding school adoption.

Following requests from the MPAs, a notification has been issued to hand over the supervision of 94 schools to 37 MPAs in the first phase.

Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah praised the efforts of the assembly members in adopting schools, calling it a serious approach towards education. In his statement, he mentioned that the fact that assembly members are adopting schools and taking respon-

sibility for their supervision is evidence of their commitment to the progress of education. He further stated that both government and opposition members are united on the matter of educational development, and there should be no negative politics concerning the education of Sindh's children because "children are non-political."

The provincial education minister had invited assembly members to adopt schools in their constituencies through a letter. After the assembly members started submitting proposals for school adoption, and following necessary procedures, the School Education Department issued a notification.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Zhang Ming calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

October 18 Karsaz tragedy deadliest attack ever on any political party in world: Ghani

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has said the Karsaz tragedy of October 18, 2007, is the deadliest attack ever on any political party in the world.

Ghani, who is also Pakistan Peoples Party Karachi President, stated this on Thursday while talking to media persons during his visit to the Karsaz monument on the eve of the anniversary of the deadly attack on the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's homecoming rally on October 18, 2007.

The Local Government Minister opined that the vicious forces that at-

tacked the rally on October 18 also carried out the terror attack on December 27 later that year, resulting in the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto.

He recalled that 17 years ago, 170 workers and supporters of the PPP had laid down their lives while hundreds of others were injured as the terrorists attacked the homecoming rally at Karsaz.

He said the PPP's leaders and workers visited the Karsaz monument in Karachi every year on the eve of October 18 to pay tribute to their fellow party activists who had laid down their lives while welcoming their leader.



KARACHI: Leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Siraj Khan Durrani talking with media persons during candlelight vigil for former Premier Benazir Bhutto and praying for the martyred of Karsaz incident 18, October 2007, during a ceremony to pay tribute them, in the Provincial Capital.

Attack on Chinese consulate: Investigating officer identify 4 workers of alleged proscribed BLA

KARACHI (Online): Investigating officer has identified 4 workers of alleged proscribed BLA during the hearing of Chinese consulate attack case in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC). The key witness in the case and investigating officer Nek Muhammad identified 4 workers of banned BLA during his evidence.

Investigating officer Nek Muhammad said in his evidence 3 workers of alleged banned BLA attacked Chinese Consulate on November 23, 2018. I can identify 4 accused who are present in court room.

The accused Ahmad Hasnain, Abdul Latif,

Aslam and Ali Ahmad were arrested in the cases of explosive material and ammunition.

The accused in their confessional statements admitted their involvement in attack on Chinese consulate. The accused provided the facility to terrorists who were killed. They provided arms and explosive material to attackers. The accused had conducted rekkie of Chinese consulate along with terrorists before the incident.

The defence counsel Abid Zaman took the plea of the confessional statements of his clients was not recorded in the said case.

PM meets President to discuss constitutional amendments

ISLAMABAD (INP): PML-N and PPP withdraw from the proposal for federal constitutional courts, agreeing on alternative reforms.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has met with President Asif Ali Zardari at the President house to discuss proposed constitutional amendments and the prevailing political situation.

The meeting on Thursday comes as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) step back from their earlier proposal to establish constitutional courts, Express News reported.

Moreover, during a special parliamentary committee meeting, chaired by Khurshid Shah, discussions were held on the 26th constitutional amendment draft. According to sources, the governing coalition parties and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) have agreed to drop the proposed 26th constitutional amendment.

Fawad heaps praise on Fazal for safeguarding constitution

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday singled out Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for putting up 'actual fight' for protecting the constitution of Pakistan.

Speaking to media outside Islamabad's accountability court, former minister lauded Maulana's point of view regarding constitutional amendment which the latter shared with reporters after calling on Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif alongside top political leadership of other parties including President Asif Ali Zardari for consultations on proposed constitutional package.

Chaudhry, who is a lawyer himself, claimed that Maulana's stance was closest to that of legal community as well as of people who believed in democracy.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo addressing the media on the occasion of the launch of SSC's e-online commerce website in his office.

E-online Commerce to promote cultural heritage of Sindh, says Dharejo

Independent Report
KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has said that the launch of Sindh Small Industries Corporation's e-commerce website will promote Sindh's cultural heritage and encourage artisans associated with this sector. He said this today while talking to the media on the occasion of the launch of Sindh Small Industries Corporation's e-commerce website in his office. MD Small Industries Corporation Sarwat Faheem was also present on this occasion.

The purpose of this Website of Sindh Small Industries Corporation is to promote the cultural heritage of Sindh and encourage the artisans of this sector. Provincial Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo added,

"Sindh Small Industries Corporation is providing a platform for the talented people of Sindh. Sindh products can also be bought online". He said that Small Industries would also get a boost through online e-commerce. An international level exhibition would also be held on this subject under the auspices of the Sindh Small Industries Corporation in December.

Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that the purpose of organizing the exhibition was to bring the cultural heritage of Pakistan, especially Sindh, to light at the global level. The people of Sindh were not second to none in their abilities. "There is a need to introduce their art at national and international level. All means of social media will be used to promote the cultural heritage of Sindh".



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Peoples Party lighting candles in front of a portrait of former Premier Benazir Bhutto and praying for the martyred of Karsaz incident 18, October 2007, during a ceremony to pay tribute them, in the Provincial Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Successful summit

With a focus on multilateralism and Eurasian connectivity, the two-day SCO Heads of Government summit wrapped up successfully in Islamabad yesterday. The prime ministers of China and Russia attended, as well as top leaders and officials from other member states, and observers. The meeting sent the much-needed message that Pakistan was once again open for business and ready to play a central role in multilateral bodies. The major themes of the event, as summed up in the summit's joint communiqué, covered a range of topics, including commerce, the environment, cultural exchanges, etc.

Significantly, the document reaffirmed efforts to set up the SCO Development Bank and increase "the share of national currencies in mutual settlements". The document also observed that the "unilateral application of sanctions is incompatible" with international law. All these appear to be barely disguised jabs at the West, which has weaponised sanctions and the dollar against geopolitical foes such as Russia and Iran, both SCO members. Additionally, the statement emphasised the preservation of "traditional values and cultural and civilisational diversity". For his part, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted climate change as an "existential crisis", while discussing the need for stability in Afghanistan, which, although an SCO member, has not been participating in the group's meetings since the 2021 Taliban takeover. Mr Sharif also observed that the "ongoing genocide in Gaza" could not be ignored. While hosting such multilateral events is routine for states, considering Pakistan's peculiar challenges over the last few years — particularly security issues, financial troubles, and internal political tumult — organising the moot and ensuring the security of such a large number of foreign dignitaries was no mean feat. Fellow SCO states also recognised Pakistan's efforts, while observing in the joint communiqué that the summit was held in a "constructive and friendly atmosphere".

From hereon, it will take time and much effort to translate the SCO vision, particularly concerning a common bank, currency swaps, seamless regional connectivity, etc. into reality. After all, the bureaucracies of all 10 states, with varying systems of government, have to be on board and work towards these common goals, which is a considerable challenge. But while the objectives may be difficult to achieve, they are not impossible. From Pakistan's perspective, regional connectivity with its Eurasian neighbours is essential for economic growth. The country cannot remain isolated in the region. At a time when there is increased fragmentation in the world, and several conflicts are smouldering across continents, platforms like the SCO present an opportunity for states to set aside narrow differences and come together to pursue common goals for the benefit of their people. Rather than negatively viewing this as a revival of 'bloc politics', as some may do, a more optimistic view is required.

Hope triumphant

F.S. Aijazuddin

Someone in the IMF is not familiar with Dr Samuel Johnson's witty definition of a second marriage: "a triumph of hope over experience". The IMF and Pakistan have been in and out of wedlock not twice, but multiple times.

One would have imagined that an institution as experienced as the IMF would spot a habitual offender amongst a pack of its financial delinquents. Apparently not. No sooner had Pakistan digested the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) of \$3 billion extended by the IMF in 2023-24, than it applied for a new loan of \$7bn. Even addicts draw a breath before the next snort.

Recall our predicament in 2023, as we waited desperately for the release of the last \$1.1bn tranche of the SBA. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the IMF MD Mme Georgieva that, if re-elected, he stood "committed to turning over the economy with the help of IMF and development partners".

On her part, Mme Georgieva reminded him that, although he had "built a very convincing case", the IMF Board recalled "the past trust deficit" and reiterated its scepticism about Pakistan's freshest undertakings. She then mollified her Board with the assurance that Pakistan would "deliver on its commitments ... as she had personally met the prime minister and seen his seriousness to deliver".

In reciprocation, our PM expressed his "profound gratitude" for her "support and assistance" and sent her some mangoes in appreciation of "her leadership and professionalism". Apparently, mangoes did the trick. A year later, on Sept 25, 2024, the IMF approved a 37-month Ex-

tended Arrangement for SDR 5,320 million. (around \$7bn). It was an anniversary of sorts. This is the 25th time Pakistan has approached the IMF for a bailout.

To obtain this \$7bn loan and its first tranche of \$1.1bn, Pakistan assured the IMF that it will implement radical changes which will test the public's patriotism and the sinews of our federation. The new programme comes with several conditions, or "bitter pills". These include bringing undertaxed sectors including retail, export, industrialists, developers, and large-scale agriculture into the income tax regime.

The Government has agreed to reduce "non-transparent support through exemptions for privileged sectors like real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, and energy, as well as, through the proliferation of Special Economic Zones". The IMF demands the abolition of SEZs by 2035. CPEC, however, plans into 2030 the expansion of SEZs and Free Trade Zones, especially Gwadar Port.

The IMF programme repeats a familiar mantra — earn more, spend less, and minimise borrowing. The IMF recognises the inherent schisms in Pakistan's political structure: "Political economy considerations and pressures from vested interests could delay or weaken the reform momentum and put at risk still-fragile stability."

The IMF also expects Pakistan to be supported by "development and bilateral partners", ie, the World Bank, ADB, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and China.

The CPEC is the IMF's bugbear. The IMF sought transparent disclosure; Pakistan hid behind legal obfuscation. In 2022, the IMF carped that Pakistan owed more to

China than the IMF and DFIs combined. In 2022, Pakistan owed China \$26.6bn, and the IMF about \$7bn.

The IMF's staff report supporting the \$7bn loan approval contains an odd justification: "Reputational risks would arise if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members that ostensibly enjoy less support. Alternatively, not proceeding with a new programme also raises reputational risks as the new authorities, or other members, may accuse the Fund of not being evenhanded."

The IMF recognises that some debtors have not prospect of being repaid on time, unless a major creditor (China) either reschedules or rolls over or writes off its loans. The Chinese may do the first, possibly also the second. China is not in the business of giving charity without cause.

When will China tire of being Pakistan's banker of the first and the last resort? One suspects it will reconsider its largesse after the next US administration is in place.

For the time being, Pakistan is enjoying the advantage of a pre-US election windfall. The latest IMF loan is spread over the next three years, with periodic reviews. Whichever candidate — Donald Trump or Kamala Harris — wins the White House in November, our \$7bn IMF lifeline will definitely come under scrutiny. President Trump gave a previous prime minister a personal tour of the White House. Will he be inclined to extend a similar courtesy to his successor? Kamala Harris knows Pakistan as India's intransigent neighbour. Her DNA could colour her judgment. Meanwhile, to paraphrase Herbert Hoover: accused are the young, for they shall inherit our national debt. — Courtesy Dawn

Rights review

Rabiya Javeri Agha

Like any country in the world, Pakistan is host to multifaceted and complex human rights issues. The country's marginalised groups, women, minorities, and children frequently face systemic rights violations that are rooted in entrenched power structures.

Perpetrators enjoy impunity, with little rehabilitative support offered to victims. It is thus of little surprise that Pakistan's performance on international indexes is faltering. Pakistan ranked 164 out of 193 countries under the latest Human Development Index, placing it firmly in the "low human development" category in terms of education, health and income levels.

The situation on the ground is worrying, especially when one considers the Government of Pakistan's international commitments under the seven core United Nations human rights treaties it has ratified. These treaties are more than just paper. They create concrete obligations for the government to respect and fulfil key civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all those in its territory. On Oct 17, 2024, the Government of Pakistan's performance pertaining to civil and political rights, as enshrined under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), will come under review before the UN Human Rights Committee.

The committee will engage in a constructive dialogue with the government, at the end of which a list of recommendations will be issued. While Pakistan has ratified the core UN human rights treaties, its commitment to uphold-

ing the rights within remains fragile. The upcoming review underscores the importance of reform. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) plays a pivotal role in this process. In its capacity as an official, independent rights watchdog under the NCHR Act of 2012, it has resolved over 7,900 cases and played a key role in advocating for human rights at home and abroad. Through its research and advocacy, the NCHR has successfully challenged discriminatory practices, secured the release of prisoners, and worked to maintain our operational independence despite challenges. However, these efforts alone are not enough to reverse the systemic issues that hold Pakistan back. Our report to the UN committee outlines Pakistan's legislative and administrative strides, but also highlights persistent challenges in enforcement.

An area of grave concern is violence against women. Despite constitutional and legal protections, 23 per cent of married women in Pakistan report physical abuse, while 26pc face emotional abuse. These alarming statistics point to systemic flaws in law enforcement and the judiciary, where patriarchal norms limit justice for victims. With only 18pc of reported rape cases reaching court, the path to justice is fraught with challenges. The economic cost of this violence, estimated at \$189.7 million annually, is a further burden Pakistan can ill afford. Strengthening legal frameworks, providing better protection, and empowering women must become national priorities. Religious minorities in Pakistan also face escalating violence and discrimination. The

misuse of blasphemy laws led to 705 people being jailed by mid-2024, and continues to cause concern, while forced conversions — especially of Hindu girls — underline the vulnerabilities of marginalised communities. While legislative measures exist, enforcement is weak, leaving minority groups exposed to socio-economic and religious persecution. The NCHR has worked diligently to address these issues but recognises that more comprehensive reforms are urgently needed, particularly in tackling extremism and reforming re-ligious education. Torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement remain troubling realities. Despite the passage of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act in 2022, implementation has been slow. Torture is not only a violation of human dignity, but a symptom of larger institutional flaws. Inhumane prison conditions, exacerbated by overcrowding and inadequate medical care, add to the suffering, with pre-trial detainees making up a significant portion of the prison population. Pakistan's international human rights obligations are not just boxes to be ticked — they represent the rights and dignity of its people. As we approach the next ICCPR review, the NCHR will continue to advocate for reforms that bring us closer to fulfilling these commitments. The government must act decisively to improve conditions for women, minorities, and the incarcerated, ensuring that no one in Pakistan is left behind. The future of human rights in Pakistan depends on meaningful action. It's time to turn rhetoric into reality. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan's economy shows signs of recovery amid govt reforms, IMF deal: SBP

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has released its Annual Report on the State of Pakistan's Economy for the fiscal year 2023-24, revealing signs of economic recovery driven by stabilization policies, improved agricultural productivity, and engagement with international financial institutions. The report highlights improved macroeconomic conditions in FY24, supported by

stabilization policies, successful negotiations with the IMF, and a favorable global economic environment. According to the report, Pakistan's macroeconomic conditions improved, supported by stabilization policies, successful engagement with the IMF, reduced uncertainty, and favourable global economic environment. The increase in domestic agricultural productivity also contributed to relatively

better macroeconomic outcomes during the year, the Report added. The real GDP registered a moderate agriculture-led recovery in FY24. A record harvest of wheat and rice, and a rebound in the production of cotton mainly provided boost to agricultural output during FY24.

The report highlights that despite a recovery in real economic activity, the current account deficit further narrowed to a 13-year low as strong growth

in remittances and exports more than offset a slight increase in imports. This, coupled with the Stand-By Agreement with the IMF that catalysed inflows from other multilateral and bilateral sources, helped in the build-up of FX reserves and calming sentiments in the foreign exchange market. The gradual exchange rate appreciation during the year, together with higher-than- envisaged fiscal consolidation.



SINGAPORE: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Ms. Rabiya Shafiq in a meeting with Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) President Lennon Tan and council members.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

Pakistan Charge d'Affaires highlights opportunities for Pak pharma exports to Europe

BRUSSELS (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels organized a webinar in which Chargé d'Affaires Faraz Zaidi emphasized the importance of enhancing Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports to Europe, highlighting the sector's untapped potential.

The webinar titled "Opportunities for Pakistan in the Pharmaceutical Sector of Belgium" was held in

collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

The event attracted significant participation from leading Pakistani pharmaceutical companies, with over 35 CEOs and directors attending the session. The Chargé d'Affaires underscored the Embassy's commitment to fostering stronger trade relations between the two countries, particularly in

high-value sectors such as pharmaceuticals.

Bilal Khan, Trade and Investment Attaché, provided insights into the current state of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Belgium. He discussed key trends and opportunities for Pakistani pharmaceutical exporters and urged stakeholders to leverage Belgium's position as a hub for pharmaceutical innovation in Europe.

SAMENA LEAD PTCL Group wins "Best Business Strategy and Expansion" Awards

ISLAMABAD (APP): PTCL Group, Pakistan's largest ICT services provider, has won the "Best Business Strategy and Expansion" award at the Leadership and Excellence Awards in Digital Development (LEAD) by the SAMENA Telecommunications Council. According to a news release, the prestigious award was presented to Hatem Bamatraf, President and

Iran ready to work with all Pakistani industries: Mehran

LAHORE (APP): Iranian Consul General Mehran Mowahid Far has said that Iran recognises the industrial development of Pakistan and is ready to work with all industries of Pakistan.

He said Lahore is not only a cultural but an industrial city, which has made its name with quality and hard work.

He expressed his views during a visit to

the head office of Pak Tractor Manufacturing Company, Lahore here on Thursday.

He said that more than 20 Iranian companies were participating in the Pakistan Auto Show 2024, to be held at Expo Center Lahore this month, with which both countries would be able to benefit from each other's technology and experiences.

Pak total liquid foreign reserves rise to \$16.11 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan surged to US\$ 16,111.3 million as of October 11, 2024 while the forex reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan increased to \$11,022 million.

The SBP reserves are at a 30-month high since the March 2022 when the central bank possessed liquid foreign reserves of \$11,425.1 billion. The total liquid foreign reserves of the country are also at 29-month high since April 2022 when volume of the total liquid reserves was accounted as \$16,406 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that total liquid foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by \$215 million to \$11,022.7 million during the week ended on October 11, 2024. Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$5,088.6 million during the week under review, it added. Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on October 04, 2024, were \$16,047 million.

PSX raises over Rs1 trillion through via GOP Ijarah Sukuk

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) announced a significant achievement on Thursday, surpassing the Rs1 trillion mark through the issuance of Government of Pakistan (GoP) Ijarah Sukuk (GIS).

This breakthrough was achieved following the successful conclusion of the 13th GIS auction on September 16, 2024 through which an

additional Rs 207 billion was raised for the Ministry of Finance (MoF), said a news release.

The GIS Auctions started on December 8, 2023, and have since witnessed robust participation from the banks, mutual funds and brokerage fraternity, with each auction contributing to the growth of the Shariah-based Government Securities market.

Mujtaba stresses shifting economic focus beyond agriculture, industry

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Finance Minister Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, while addressing the 4th Pakistan Future of Retail Business Summit and Expo at a local hotel here on Thursday, stressed the need to shift Pakistan's economic focus beyond agriculture and industry.

He highlighted the significant role of the retail and wholesale sectors, which contribute over Rs. 20 trillion to the national economy, making up 18pc of the GDP and providing employment

to over 10 million people.

The theme of the summit, "Building a Stronger and Smarter Retail Ecosystem," addressed the evolving dynamics of the retail sector. The Minister stated that retail is a vital component of domestic commerce and plays a crucial role in driving national prosperity. He noted the substantial progress in Pakistan's retail landscape, with organized retail stores and the growth of e-commerce bringing local brands like Khaadi.

Maryam asserts Empowering underprivileged will strengthen society

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz asserted that a society could only be strengthened with the empowerment of underprivileged and disadvantaged.

Sharing her message on the International Day for Reduction of Poverty, Maryam stated that poverty wasn't only an economic challenge but its result of inequality in education, health and justice.

She pledged for eradication of poverty through social justice and

economic development taking office of CM, Maryam Nawaz highlighted.

She recalled the projects launched for eradication of poverty including Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar, for the homeless, Kissan Package worth Rs 4 billion for farmers and Himmat Card for special persons.

CM Maryam revealed that skills and economic opportunities programs and other innovative measures were being taken as well as women were being

empowered financially to reduce unemployment and poverty. She took concrete measures for reduction of inflation and rates of necessary items, Maryam Nawaz emphasized.

Punjab CM stressed that mutual responsibility and effort was needed for reduction of poverty.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is being observed today.

This year the theme of the day is "Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment Acting together for just, peaceful and inclusive societies".



LAHORE: Members of Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, at Lahore press club.

No evidence found in private college incident: CCPO Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana on Thursday said that no evidence had been found to confirm the incident at a private college.

Addressing a press conference with DIG Operations Faisal Kamran, the CCPO mentioned that a video related to a private college went viral on social media. As soon as the incident was reported, the college's CCTV footage was reviewed, but nothing was found, he added.

Kamyana said that the hospitals mentioned on

social media were also checked, and the names of the girls in the video were investigated. "One of the girls is married, and the students who have initially spoken about the incident have now retracted their statements. So far, no evidence has been found to confirm the incident," he added.

The CCPO further said that a high-level government committee also declared the incident baseless. Motorcycles were burnt on Wednesday, 24 people were arrested, and students involved in violence were warned and released, he added.

Two police officials suspended over negligence

FAISALABAD (APP): Superintendent of Police (SP) Lyallpur Division suspended two police officials including an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) on the charge of negligence and delinquency.

Police said here on Thursday that ASI Nasir and constable Shafiq Hussain were carrying an accused Atif for recovery of case property when he managed to escape from police custody. Therefore, an inquiry was conducted against both officials and the inquiry officer proved them both guilty.

Eight officers transferred in mild reshuffle in KP Police

PESHAWAR (APP): The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has ordered the posting and transfer of 8 police officers in a mild reshuffle of the officers, said a notification issued by Central Police Office (CPO) here on Thursday.

According to the notification Mr Sajjad Hussain Provl.



PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party Chairman, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao addresses to participant during Annual Foundation Day ceremony held in Peshawar.

Governor Kundi calls for collective efforts to eradicate poverty

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday underscored that eliminating poverty was a national duty, stressing the collective efforts. He said this on the eve of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

He highlighted the need for concrete actions and effective policies aimed at uplifting the marginalized segments of society, enabling them to pursue a path toward prosperity.

Governor Kundi pointed out, "Various

developmental and welfare projects are crucial for poverty alleviation in KP, particularly given the role of terrorism in exacerbating unemployment and poverty in the province."

He said, "Achieving economic stability hinges on maintaining peace, promoting women's empowerment, and engaging youth." He stressed the importance of improving education, healthcare, and employment opportunities as essential steps to uproot poverty. "Pakistan's development is contingent upon providing economic opportunities to its vulnerable

Nobody to be allowed to create law, order situation: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that nobody will be allowed to create law and order situation in Punjab and cause unrest.

While commenting on the press conference of Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar here on Thursday, she alleged that students had been motivated to create unrest from official page of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

She said that people of

Insaf Student Wing were found involved in creating chaos.

She alleged that the PTI defamed a girl and her family as per planning. Azma said police were performing its duty to maintain law and order, and all cities including Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi were normal.

She said that strict action would be taken against all those who spread fake information in this regard and did negative propaganda.



RAWALPINDI: A view of damage building of a college from students during a protest of students in favor of their demands at 6th road in the city.

PHC issues notices to PMDC, KMU over out of syllabus questions in MDCAT test

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench consisting of Justice Shakeel Ahmad and Justice Sahibzada Asad Ullah on Thursday heard a petition filed by the Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) aspiring students from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against out of syllabus questions in MDCAT test and requested for award of grace marks. After hearing of the case the court issued notices to Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDc) and Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar to submit their reply.

Earlier, the counsel of the petitioners Sher Hyder Khan Advocate argued that after so many controversial episodes related to the

MDCAT in the last few years, the test for medical colleges was not fair and transparent this year and there was large-scale protest across the country regarding the irregularities witnessed during the test.

He said that several out of syllabus questions were included in the test which was evidence of mismanagement and inefficiency. He said that the petitioners were qualified and eligible candidates and attempted all the question wherein it was found that some questions in the question paper were having multiple interpretations, higher difficulty level, defective answer wrong answers and confusing one and filed complaints before the Khyber Medical University (KMU).

International News

Israeli FM claims Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar 'eliminated'

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz on Thursday claimed the death in an attack of Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar, who Israel has accused of masterminding the group's attack on October 7 last year.

"The mass murderer Yahya Sinwar, responsible for the massacre and atrocities of October 7th, was eliminated today by IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) soldiers," Katz said in a statement sent to media.

Israel earlier said it was checking whether it had successfully "eliminated" Sinwar in a Gaza operation, in what constitutes a massive blow against the group it has been fighting since last year's October 7 attack.

Israel accuses Sinwar of masterminding the attack and has been hunting him down since the start of the Gaza conflict. Israel's rag-

ing military offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, including women and children.

Sinwar became the group's new leader after the killing of its former political chief Ismail Haniyeh in July. Hamas and Iran blame Israel for Haniyeh's killing, but Israel has not commented on it.

Israel's announcement on Sinwar comes weeks after it assassinated Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in a massive strike in Lebanon, where its military has been waging an offensive since late September. A slew of other Iran-backed commanders have also been killed in recent months.

With Hamas hugely weakened more than a year into the Gaza conflict, Sinwar's death deals a major blow to the organisation. In a brief statement, the military ear-

lier said that during "operations in the Gaza Strip, three terrorists were eliminated".

Israeli defence agencies "are checking the possibility that one of the terrorists was Yahya Sinwar. At this stage, the identity of the terrorists cannot be confirmed", the statement added.

There was no immediate comment from Hamas.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said that Israel would hunt down "every terrorist" after the military made its announcement. "We will reach every terrorist and eliminate them," Gallant wrote on social media platform X.

Israel has been fighting Hamas since the October 7 attack — which resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures.



Luxembourg's Prime Minister Luc Frieden, Romania's President Klaus Iohannis, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, and President of the European Council Charles Michel attend a European Union leaders summit in Brussels, Belgium.

US warns Israel to boost humanitarian aid into Gaza or risk losing weapons funding

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The Biden administration has warned Israel that it must increase the amount of humanitarian aid it is allowing into Gaza within the next 30 days or it could risk losing access to U.S. weapons funding.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned their Israeli counterparts in a letter dated Sunday that the changes must occur. The letter,

which restates U.S. policy toward humanitarian aid and arms transfers, was sent amid deteriorating conditions in northern Gaza and an Israeli airstrike on a hospital tent site in central Gaza that killed at least four people and burned others.

A similar letter that Blinken sent to Israeli officials in April led to more humanitarian assistance getting to the Palestinian territory, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Tuesday.

UN envoy proposes Western Sahara partition plan

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The UN envoy for Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura, has floated the idea of dividing the territory between Morocco and the Polisario front as a solution to the near five-decades-old dispute, according to remarks seen by Reuters.

The long-frozen conflict, dating back to 1975, pits Morocco, which considers Western Sahara its own territory, against the Algeria-backed Polisario Front independence movement, which seeks a separate state there.

UN report says 1.1 billion people living in acute poverty

Monitoring Desk
GENOVA: More than one billion people are living in acute poverty across the globe, a UN Development Programme report said on Thursday, with children accounting for over half of those affected.

The paper published with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) highlighted that poverty rates were three times higher in countries at war, as 2023 saw the most conflicts around the world since the Second World War.

Moldova says its citizens were trained in Russia to stage riots

Monitoring Desk
CHISINAU: Moldovan police said on Thursday they had uncovered a programme in which hundreds of its citizens were brought to Russia to undergo training to stage riots and civil unrest, the latest in a slew of meddling allegations ahead of Sunday's election. The police said earlier this month that Russia-backed crime groups had bribed a swathe of voters and plotted.

Biden offers both a carrot and a stick to Israel as his term nears an end

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: In his final months in office, President Joe Biden is signaling new willingness to use US military assistance to Israel as both a carrot and a stick to influence its high-stakes confrontation with Iran and Iran-backed militant groups.

But while the approach increases Washington's involvement in Israeli decision-making just weeks before the US presidential election, it is unclear whether it will help achieve Biden's goals, including preventing a broader regional conflict and getting Israel to address the increasingly dire humanitar-

ian situation in Gaza, experts say.

Biden's administration also delivered 100 soldiers to Israel along with an advanced US anti-missile system, a rare deployment that came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government weighs a retaliatory attack on Iran after an Oct. 1 Iranian missile strike.

The Biden administration also delivered Israel a letter on Sunday warning that it must take steps in the next month to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza or face potential restrictions on US military aid.

India blames Canada PM Trudeau for damaging ties over Sikh separatist murder row

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India blamed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday for disastrous diplomatic fallout following the 2023 killing of a Sikh separatist in Canada.

New Delhi held firm its defiant stance towards Ottawa — an approach in sharp contrast to its compliant attitude this week towards the United States, where India is also accused of directing a separate assassination plot.

Canada has alleged that India arranged the killing of a Sikh separatist, naturalised Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar, murdered in the parking lot of a Sikh temple in Vancouver in June 2023.

India has called the allegations "preposterous". But Trudeau, at a parliamentary inquiry on Wednesday, said Canada had "clear... indications that India had violated Canada's sovereignty".

Canada's top envoy to New Delhi, Stewart Wheeler, who India has ordered to leave by Saturday night, has said Ottawa had provided "credible, irrefutable evidence of ties between agents of the Government of India and the murder of a Canadian citizen".

India's foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal on Thursday said they had not seen that evidence.

"Canada has presented us (India) no evidence whatsoever in support of the serious allegations that it has chosen to level against India and Indian diplomats," he said in a statement. "The responsibility for the damage that this cavalier behaviour has caused to India-Canada relations lies with Prime Minister Trudeau alone."

Nijjar — who immigrated to Canada in 1997 and became a citizen in 2015 — had advocated for a separate Sikh state, known as Khalistan, carved out of India.

North Korea says 1.4 million apply to join army amid tensions with South

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean state media said on Wednesday around 1.4 million young people had applied to join or return to the army this week, blaming Seoul for a provocative drone incursion that had brought the "tense situation to the brink of war".

The fiery rhetoric comes after North Korea last week accused Seoul of sending drones over Pyongyang that scattered a "huge number" of anti-North leaflets. The North then blew up inter-Korean roads and rail lines on its side of the border on Tuesday, and warned that the South would "pay a dear price".

The young people, including students and youth league officials who had signed petitions to join the

army, were determined to fight in a "sacred war of destroying the enemy with the arms of the revolution," the official KCNA news agency said.

"If a war breaks out, the ROK will be wiped off the map. As it would be a war, we are willing to put an end to its existence," the KCNA report said, using the initials of the South's official name, the Republic of Korea. North Korea has previously made similar claims about young people scrambling to enlist at a time of heightened tensions, though such statements from the isolated state are difficult to verify.

Last year, state media reported on 800,000 of its citizens volunteering to join the North's military to fight against the United States.

Kenya's deputy president 'very sick' in hospital, lawyer says

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: A lawyer representing Kenya's Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in his impeachment hearing told the Senate on Thursday that the politician was "very sick" and in hospital, after he failed to attend proceedings. The National Assembly voted last week to impeach Gachagua, who helped President William Ruto win an election two years ago but has been assailed by allies of the president over alleged disloyalty and a series of provocative public comments. Gachagua was due to defend himself against the 11 impeachment charges in the Senate on Thursday afternoon, before senators take a vote on whether to remove him from office. "The sad reality is that the deputy president of the republic of Kenya has been taken sick, very sick.

Sindh Excise achieves 27% of its annual tax revenue target

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Excise Department has successfully achieved 27 percent of its annual tax revenue target in the first quarter of the current fiscal year due to the efforts of Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon.

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon chaired a meeting of the Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department while Secretary E&T and Narcotics Control Muhammad Saleem Rajput, DG Excise Aurangzeb Akbar Panhoor, DG Narcotics Control Usman Ghani Siddiqui, and other officials were in attendance, said a statement on Thursday.

The meeting was told that The Excise Department collected Rs 55.48 billion in the first three months against a target of Rs 203 billion for the fiscal year.

On the occasion, Sharjeel Memon praised the department's performance for its success in the quarter and provided immediate instructions to further streamline operations.

He also issued orders to make the motor vehicle tax system online within 15 days. Additionally, professional tax and excise duty collections, along with other services, were discussed.

The meeting also covered manpower augmentation and procedural improvements to enhance the department's capacity and achieve future goals.

Sharjeel emphasized that the motor vehicle tax system must be made online within 15 days to make the tax process more convenient and efficient for citizens.

He stated that the provision of efficient services is the top priority of the Sindh Government, and it must be ensured that people can pay all taxes from the comfort of their homes.

He said that more public priority numbers should be added to attract more participants to the online auction of premium number plates as a means of raising funds for flood victims.

Further steps must be taken to ensure the success of the online auction for premium and personalized number plates.

The Senior Minister stated that an awareness campaign should be launched to promote the new systems of the Excise Department and encourage citizen participation. He emphasized that the Government of Sindh is committed to modernizing the tax system and ensuring transparency, efficiency, and convenience for the public.



ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of Mongolia H.E. Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene along with a delegation meets Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan, Mongolia agree to form JMC, inter-parliamentary union to boost cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Mongolia on Thursday agreed to form a Joint Ministerial Commission to enhance cooperation in trade, tourism, agriculture and mining sectors, and an inter-parliamentary union to expand the bilateral parliamentary ties.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Mongolian counterpart Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene here on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of Government

(CHG) Meeting, according to a PM Office press release.

In the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz suggested that both sides should explore new avenues of mutually advantageous cooperation with a particular focus on trade, investment, people-to-people contacts and connections.

He offered the Mongolian side to send civil servants to training institutions in Pakistan and also proposed to declare 2025 as the year of Pakistan-Mongolia Friendship to bolster the

brotherly ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz warmly welcomed Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene and noted that his visit marked a new chapter in the history of the bilateral relationship, defined by mutual respect, goodwill and amity.

Felicitating him on his re-election as the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Shehbaz Sharif stated he looked forward to working closely with Oyun-Erdene in the days ahead to further strengthen cooperation

between the two countries.

Oyun-Erdene warmly felicitated the prime minister on the successful conduct of the SCO CHG Meeting and appreciated Pakistan's leadership role as SCO CHG Chair.

He reciprocated that Mongolia shared Pakistan's desire to build stronger and closer bilateral relations through joint efforts and collaboration.

The Mongolian prime minister also planted a sapling in the lawn of the Prime Minister's House.



KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon chaired a meeting of the Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department while Secretary E&T and Narcotics Control Muhammad Saleem Rajput, DG Excise Aurangzeb Akbar Panhoor, DG Narcotics Control Usman Ghani Siddiqui, and other officials were also attend the meeting.

Sindh Govt decide to install electricity meters in all govt residential colonies

Finance Committee approved to pay dues of K-electric and various other projects

Independent Report
KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Energy, Development and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani chaired a high-level meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Finance in which the financial affairs of various departments including the liabilities of K-Electric were also considered.

Both Ministers unanimously approved the pay towards the water and electricity dues of the Labor Department office located

in the State Life Building and it was decided to install electricity meters in the residential colonies of all government institutions. Among other approvals in the meeting, salary dues of the former employees of Larkana Development Authority, Sanction of pay construction of Malir River Bridge including the sanction of pay construction of water courses of the Department of Agriculture and recruit a Chief Engineer to look after the legal affairs of the Building Department.



HYDERABAD: Candidates who intend to get admission in first federal university in Hyderabad, solving their paper on computer in the pre-entry test at a local institute on Auto Bhan road.

Govt should focus on issues of KU: Altaf

KARACHI (INP): Expressing serious concern over financial issues of the government-run universities in Sindh, especially the Karachi University (KU), Pasban Democratic Party PDP Chairman Altaf Shakoore here demanded of the government to resolve these issues on urgent basis to facilitate students.

He said the government-run universities have increased fees and decreased students' facilities. Various student alliances have been protesting against the university managements, affecting educational activities in campuses. The situation is the Karachi University is said to be worrisome where the students' alliances have been protesting against the vice chancellor.

Altaf Shakoore asked the Higher Education Commission and the federal and provincial government to increase the funding of government-run universities to facilitate the students belonging to low income families.

He demanded to introduce new job market oriented courses and degrees in both morning and evening programmes to raise enrollment which would also help bring more financial resources.

He said Karachi University has a big scope for introducing new disciplines.

He said there was a project to open a medical school in the Karachi University but this project was put on the ice for reasons unknown.

SCO summit boosts Gwadar port's regional significance: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Thursday praised SCO summit as a resounding success, highlighting its potential to unlock new regional connectivity, opportunities and expressed optimism that exports will receive a significant boost through Gwadar Port, particularly as China relocates its industries to Pakistan.

Federal Minister expressed optimism about Gwadar Port's potential to drive Pakistan's economic growth while speaking to PTV news channel. He emphasized that the port's success is crucial for the country's economic progress, he added. China's decision to relocate its middle industries to Pakistan is expected to significantly boost the country's economy, he further mentioned. This strategic move will not only improve economic growth but also create numerous job opportunities for the local workforce.

Electricity meters to be installed in all Sindh govt residential colonies

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Cabinet Sub-Committee on Finance, Thursday, decided to install electricity meters in residential colonies of all government departments and institutions and also granted approval for paying off dues of K-Electric and various other projects.

The Sub-Committee on Finance, in a meeting jointly chaired by Sindh Minister for Energy, Development and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani, brought under consideration financial affairs of various departments including the liabilities of K-Electric, said a statement issued here.

Both the ministers unanimously approved the payment of water and electricity dues of the Labor Department office located in the State Life Building while another amount was approved to pay off salary dues of the former employees of Larkana Development Authority.

NAPHA violation of financial obligations abandoned 'Low-Cost Housing Project' in Ali Pur: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar Thursday said the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority (NAPHA) failed to fulfill its financial obligations that led to financial constraints causing slow progress of low-cost housing project at Ali Pur Farash.

He said while responding to the query of Member National Assembly (MNA), Aliya Kamran's query pertaining to abandoned and in complete projects of Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the slow pace development of Ali Pur Farash project on behalf of

the Interior Minister.

Attaullah Tarar said Ali Pur Farash project was not abandoned by the CDA but rather non-fulfillment of contractual obligations, non-payment by NAPHA and violation of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between CDA, NAPHA and FWO led to halted financial progress.

"It is 66% complete and remaining halted due to financial constraints and unfulfilled contractual obligations," he said.

Cost escalation in Ali Pur Farash project has increased multiple times and the matter should be referred to the committee concerned, he said.

The Speaker National Assembly referred it to the Standing Committee on Interior.

The Minister for Information informed that the Margalla Avenue extension till Bari Imam was the new road development project that would be completed in next two months as swift progress was underway.

He added that the Serena Chowk underpass was conceived by the Minister Interior which was under the original plan to facilitate foreign guests and high profile functions which would start from Serena Chowk to Jinnah Convention Center would be launched soon.



LARKANA: Excise and Taxation Department of Sindh, Director Larkana, Sher Muhammad Shaikh addresses to media persons during press conference, at his office in Larkana.

Sindh govt should establish orphanage for children, old aged

LARKANA (APP): Sindh Human Rights Commission Chairman Iqbal Detho said that where human rights are violated, the Sindh Human Rights Commission investigated the matter properly.

He expressed his views in Press Club Larkana on Thursday.

He said that the purpose of visit to Larkana was to hold a meeting with organizations working for human rights at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

He said that there was a security problem in Darul Aman in Larkana which has been resolved by providing it. A new committee is being formed including providing legal assistance to the women in Darul Aman. Efforts are being made to provide artistic education to women by organizing a festival for artistic learning in Darul Aman.

He said that there is no orphanage home in Larkana so that children can be protected and cared for there and no old age home

in Larkana where elderly women and men can stay. Likewise, there is no old age home in Hyderabad.

He said that the Women and Children Jail was shifted from Larkana to Sukkur due to which women and children incarcerated face difficulties in the respective courts.

He told that there is no law regarding the protection of women who have arrived for asylum automatically by the Darul Aman administration, including making recommendations about other laws of the Darul Aman will be submitted to the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Committee Police Women's Complaint Cell is not cooperating with Women's Welfare Department due to which women's problems are not being solved.

A vigorous campaign will be launched from Larkana to ensure maximum participation of women in the police, which requires the support of the media.



HYDERABAD: PPP ladies wing ladies workers light-up candles and earth lamps in memory of the martyrs of the Karsaz incident at Mughal House.

Mohsin Naqvi appreciates security agencies for ensuring security of SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi publicly acknowledged the invaluable contributions of various security agencies for their role in ensuring the successful and secure conduct of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Islamabad on October 15-16.

The summit, which gathered leaders and representatives from several member states, was marked by high-profile discussions aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and addressing pressing global issues.

Recognizing the extensive efforts involved, Naqvi commended the Pak Army, Islamabad police, and the Civil Administration of Islamabad, alongside the

dedicated personnel of Sindh and Punjab Rangers, Punjab Police, Frontier Constabulary, and Sindh Police.

In a press conference held shortly after the summit, Naqvi expressed, "Your unwavering dedication and commitment to security have not only ensured the smooth conduct of this prestigious event but also showcased Pakistan's readiness to foster international cooperation and regional peace."

The security operation for the SCO Summit was meticulously planned, involving thousands of personnel from multiple agencies who worked in tandem to create a secure environment for dignitaries and delegates.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif with Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani at a banquet organized in honor of the senators.

Home Minister reviews security for Hyderabad public gathering

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia Hassan Lanjhar paid a special visit to the Hyderabad public gathering site to review security arrangements. He was accompanied by Provincial Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro, DIG Hyderabad, and SSP Hyderabad. The public gathering is being held to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy.

During the visit, DIG Hyderabad briefed the home minister on the security and

traffic plans for the public gathering venue and its key routes. The minister reviewed the security measures inside and around the public venue, including the stage area and routes designated for senior leadership of the Pakistan People's Party and members of the national and provincial assemblies. Zia Ul Hassan Lanjhar inquired about the deployment of security forces and additional personnel, directing the DIG to ensure that all necessary security measures have been made.

SFA seizes 700 litres of substandard cooking oil in major crackdown in Karachi

Independent Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Food Authority (SFA) Team led by Arjeel Memon Deputy Director Operations East has carried out a significant operation against the use of substandard oil in the Jacob Lines area of Karachi.

During the operation, a large quantity of hazardous loose oil was recovered from a cooking oil depot.

The SFA spokesperson confirmed that 700 liters of unsafe cooking oil were confiscated and later

disposed of by the authority. The production of the facility was immediately suspended, and a fine of Rs 50,000 was imposed on the factory due to its unhygienic conditions.

According to the SFA, the factory was in violation of food safety standards, which led to the severe action being taken.

Director General Sindh Food Authority, Muzamil Hussain Halepoti, reaffirmed that no compromise will be made on the quality of food products.



HYDERABAD: Members of All Sindh Law Student Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hyderabad press club.

HCSTSI hailed recent SCO summit as historic achievement for Pakistan

HYDERABAD (APP): The Acting President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Ahmed Idrees Chohan, along with Vice President Shan Elahi Sehgal, hailed the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit held in Islamabad.

According to the press release issued here on Thursday, they commended the diplomatic efforts by the Government of Pakistan that played a crucial role in restoring the nation's global image. This conference not only holds immense significance on the diplomatic front but is also poised to significantly boost the country's economy by attracting foreign investment.

Acting President Ahmed Idrees Chohan remarked that the participation of over ten international delegations, including key representatives from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, India, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, honored Paki-

stan on the global stage. He further highlighted that the presence of Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang and Russian Prime Minister Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin brought greater international attention to the conference. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's strategic meetings with global leaders, coupled with agreements in trade, commerce, and energy sectors, will strengthen Pakistan's economy and generate new employment opportunities.

Vice President Shan Elahi Sehgal especially appreciated the recognition Pakistan received as an emerging hub in the IT sector during the summit. He emphasized that multiple agreements have been signed, providing fresh opportunities for the country's youth. Moreover, the enhancement of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) energy projects between Pakistan and China will address Pakistan's energy needs, fueling economic activity in the country.