

# Independent

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## CM Sindh inaugurates Rs6bln development projects across city

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated approximately worth of Rs6 billion major infrastructure and energy projects across the city during a five-hour visit.

Murad said that these initiatives are aimed at enhancing the city's recreational facilities, road infrastructure, and energy sustainability.

Accompanied by his cabinet members Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, and Waqar Mahdi, the chief minister left CM House and inaugurated two road projects, two solarisation projects, and a football ground at Manzoor Colony, the constituencies of MNA Asad Alam Niazi, Saeed Ghani, and Deputy Speaker Anthony Naveed.

The CM inaugurated three crucial road projects in Districts West and Cen-

tral. The reconstruction of Mirza Adam Road, a 1.6 km dual carriageway, was completed for Rs 901 million. This road, which connects Sher Shah Chowk to Mirza Adam Khan Road, includes a stormwater drainage system to prevent flooding.

The Café Piyala Road, a 4.05 km dual carriageway linking Sakhi Hassan to Rashid Minhas Road, was constructed for Rs 9.753 million. This route provides easier access to important healthcare facilities, such as Cardio Hospital and Mamji Hospital.

Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan Road, another significant project, now offers a 6.1 km main dual track and a 4.35 km dual service track, constructed for Rs 3,367.735 million. This road will ease traffic flow through North Nazimabad and North Karachi, providing a vital alternative to Shahrah-e-Sher Shah Suri.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting.

## Bilawal pays tributes to Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tribute to Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto, acknowledging her exceptional contributions and unparalleled sacrifices in the struggle for democracy, justice and equality in the country.

In a statement on the occasion of her 13th death anniversary, he expressed profound reverence for Begum Nusrat Bhutto's unwavering dedication to the democratic cause.

"Begum Bhutto is a symbol of selfless sacrifice, having given everything in the pursuit of democracy. Her courage and determination in the face of relentless challenges are a testament to her extraordinary legacy," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto highlighted that Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto's influence goes beyond politics. She stood as a beacon of resistance against dictatorship and oppression, guiding Pakistan through some of its darkest days.

## Sindh gov't plans to operate double-decker buses on Karachi roads: Sharjeel

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has shared good news with the public: the Sindh government plans to

Memon. Director Soheb Shafiq, People's Bus Service Manager of Operations Abdul Shakoor, and other officials were in attendance. In the meeting, it was



operate double-decker buses on Karachi's roads and has begun preparations for their procurement. An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam

decided that the Sindh government would purchase 50 new buses for the People's Bus Service.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon directed the Mass Transit Authority and other relevant authorities to expedite the preparations for the bus procurement.

## Police reviewed security measures for Texpo 2024

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Police Chief Javed Alam Odho, Tuesday, instructed to take concrete and coordinated measures and thorough implementation on the action plan for ensuring stringent security of international Textile and Leather Exhibition Texpo 2024 in the metropolis.

The Additional Inspector General of Police Karachi, Javed Alam Odho was chairing a meeting held here to review security arrangements regarding Texpo 2024 being organized at the Expo Center Karachi as well as upcoming defense exhibit IDEAS

2024, said a statement issued here.

DIG East, DIG South, DIG Traffic, DIG CIA, DIG Special Branch, DIG Security, SSPs Security and other officers participated in the meeting in which the police chief was given a detailed briefing regarding the security of the Texpo 2024 exhibition.

The police chief emphasized on thorough implementation on the security strategy and action plan envisaged for Texpo and IDEAS 2024 and also directed to take extraordinary steps in terms of maintaining the traffic flow.



ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the newly constituted Special Parliamentary Committee held to deliberate on name of the next chief justice of Pakistan in Parliament House.

## Amid PTI-SIC boycott Parliamentary committee approves Yahya Afridi's nomination as CJP with two-thirds majority

**Monitoring Desk** ISLAMABAD: The special parliamentary committee responsible for appointing Pakistan's next Chief Justice has approved the nomination of Justice Yahya Afridi with a two-thirds majority, forwarding his name to the prime minister for final approval.

The decision came after a meeting lasting over an hour and a half, attended by the committee members on Tuesday. The Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, had also hosted a dinner for the members of the committee.

The parliamentary committee was formed to select the country's top judicial position, but its proceedings were initially



Justice Yahya Afridi.

marred by the absence of key members.

The committee initially postponed its meeting, which was set to discuss the three senior-most judges nominated for the position: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, and Justice Yahya Afridi. These judges represent the most senior ranks of Pakistan's Supreme Court, and one of them is

expected to succeed the current Chief Justice, Qazi Faiz Isa.

Despite the absence of PTI and Sunni Ittehad Council members, the committee pressed ahead with the judicial appointment process.

The Secretary of Law and Justice presented the profiles and qualifications of the nominated judges, which included their legal careers, educational backgrounds, and timelines of their judicial appointments.

After reviewing the profiles, the committee approved Justice Yahya Afridi's nomination with a two-thirds majority and forwarded his name to the Prime Minister for final

approval. Justice Afridi's appointment is expected to proceed to the President for formalisation once approved by the Prime Minister.

Earlier, representatives from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Sunni Ittehad Council confirmed their decision to boycott the committee, citing dissatisfaction with the process.

This move delayed the selection of the next Chief Justice.

The decision not to participate was conveyed by PTI's Barrister Gohar Ali Khan following a meeting with parliamentary representatives in the speaker's chamber. "We have made our decision."

## Governor summons SA session today

**Independent Report**

KARACHI: The Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Criminal Prosecution Department has notified that in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under clause (a) of Article 109 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 and other provisions enabling me in this behalf, I, Awas Qadir Shah, Acting Governor of Sindh, hereby summon the Provincial Assembly of Sindh to meet on Wednesday the 23rd day of October, 2024 at 04:00 p.m. at the Sindh Assembly Building, Karachi.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Hassan Nourian, Iranian Consul General during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## SFA finds expired mustard oil in Korangi factory

**200kg harmful monosodium glutamate seized in major operation in Tando Allahyar**

**Independent Report**

KARACHI: On the instructions of Provincial Minister for Food, Jam Khan Shoro, the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) has intensified its operations to enforce food safety standards across Karachi and Tando Allahyar. In a series of inspections, significant violations were uncovered, leading to penalties and the suspension of production units, underscoring SFA's commitment to public health.

In Korangi, a detailed inspection of a spices factory revealed critical violations of food safety standards. Expired mustard oil was found in the production of pickles, putting con-

sumers at serious risk. Additionally, products were found to be contaminated with iodized salt, though no such process was carried out during manufacturing. The inspection also highlighted misleading nutritional information, as product labels incorrectly stated the presence of protein and sugar, while neither was present. The factory was also found to lack manufacturing and expiry dates on several packaged items, and poor sanitation was evident with spider webs in the production area. Further non-compliance was noted in the absence of a proper Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) system.

## SHC hears Red Line bus project tree cutting case

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) was informed on Tuesday that the trees cut for the Red Line bus project in Karachi will be compensated with plantation of over 16,000 trees.

The contractor's lawyer told the high court today in the hearing of a petition against tree-cutting that 1564 trees were cut from Malir Halt to Mosmiat, adding that 75% of these trees were Cono carpus.

"We have to plant over 16,000 trees as replacement. We will plant Gulmohar (Royal Poinciana), Sukhchain (Indian Beech) and Neem trees," lawyer informed the court.

"Which tree is the Sukhchain, if it is used to be planted in Karachi, the city has no Sukh neither Chain," Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput said.

## 26th constitutional amendment a milestone for country's stability, public welfare: PM

**Shahbaz Sharif seeks report on surge in polio cases; calls for emergency strategy**

**Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by the parliament with a two-thirds majority would prove to be a milestone for the country's political and economic stability and public welfare.

The prime minister, addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet he chaired, said the new legislation would surely bring ease for the common man who had to suffer owing to inordinate delays in seeking justice.

Besides, he said the 26th constitutional amendment, passed following an in-depth consultation among the ruling coalition and opposition parties, was also an accomplishment of the vision of the Charter of Democracy signed by Shaheed Benazir

Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif in 2006.

He said the tireless efforts led to the successful legislation which also manifested a true spirit of consultation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz thanked the leadership of the supportive political parties including President Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari of PPP, JUI-F's Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Muttahida Qaumi Movement, National Party, Awami National Party, Balochistan Awami Party and, also the independent candidates for their vote.

The prime minister also congratulated on the successful holding of the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) in Islamabad, which he said had uplifted Pakistan's image.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

## Federal gov't should ensure supply of 1600mmcf of gas according to requirement of Sindh: Nasir Shah

**Says Sindh should be represented in Board of Directors oil and gas related companies of the federation**

**Independent Report**

KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that Sindh is currently the largest gas producing province with a total production of 1800 mmcf to 2000 mmcf (MMCF) in the country. 65% of the total gas pro-

duction is being supplied to Sindh while the requirement is 1600 mmcf gas. Under Article 158 of the Constitution, the first right of the province from which gas is extracted is the right of the person who is not being implemented and the people of Sindh province are facing shortage of gas.

He expressed these views today on the occasion of presiding over a high-level meeting of the Directorate of Oil and Gas. Sec-

retary Energy Mosaad Ahmad Khan, Chairman District Council Sukkur Syed Kumail Haider Shah, Director Oil and Gas Khadim Hussain and Aamir Mujbata were also present on this occasion. Minister Energy was told in the meeting that according to Article



172(3) of the Constitution, mineral oil and natural gas should be distributed equally between the federation and the provinces and under the same article, there should be representation of Sindh in the board of directors of as many companies related to oil and gas organized by the federation as PSO, PPL, OGDCL, OGRA, Sui Southern Gas etc.

Despite repeated efforts, representatives of Sindh have not been included.

## Sindh gov't issues notification of revised minimum wages

KARACHI (APP): Sindh government, on Tuesday, enforced minimum monthly wages of Rs37,000 for all the workers of industrial and commercial entities across the province.

Sindh Government has issued the notification of revised minimum wages following the approval of Sindh Chief Minister, said a statement issued here adding that the revised wages would be applicable from July 1, 2024.

The Sindh government in annual budget 2024-25 announced to raise minimum monthly wages of workers to Rs37,000 and now the revised wages-applicable in industrial and commercial establishments working throughout the

province- has come in to force. According to the notification, the female workers will also be paid the same wages as male workers and if the wages were already higher than the minimum threshold in any institution those would not be reduced.

Notification requires compliance of revised wages by all the institutions and relevant industries and commercial establishments working in the province are directed to ensure prompt compliance. In a separate move to ensure access of the workers to their rights and benefits, the Sindh government decided to start a province-wide drive for registration of labour which not only included factory workers.

## CS orders labour deptt to launch worker registration campaign

**Independent Report**

KARACHI: Chief Secretary Sindh Asif Hyder Shah presided over an important meeting of the Labour & Human Resources Department, the meeting was attended by key officials including Secretary of Labour Muhammad Rafique

Qureshi, Secretary of the Workers Welfare Board Saeed Saleh Jumani, and the Commissioner of SSSI. During the meeting, Chief Secretary Shah reviewed the challenges facing the Labour Department and underscored the urgency for immediate action.

He directed the Secretary of Labour to initiate a province-wide registration campaign for workers, with a special emphasis on home-based workers. To enhance the effectiveness of this initiative, he instructed the Secretary of the Implementation & Coordination Department (SGA&CD) to communicate with all Deputy Commissioners to support the Labour Department's efforts. Highlighting the reluctance of many factories to register with the Labour Department, Chief Secretary Shah expressed concern over the deprivation of workers' rightful benefits and protections.





Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**The next chief justice**

The first test of the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment is already here. With Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa retiring by the end of the week — and, according to the law minister, seemingly unwilling to accept any extension in his tenure — all eyes will be on the newly constituted Special Parliamentary Committee, which must nominate the next chief justice from among the three senior-most judges of the Supreme Court under the newly enacted amendments.

This committee, which has been engineered such that it gives the government much more control over who the chief justice shall be, must give a name by today (Oct 22) — ie, within three days prior to the retirement of the chief justice. Given the circumstances in which the amendment has been enacted, it has long been speculated that its main purpose was to block the senior puisne judge, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, from office and/or dilute his authority.

Given the restlessness brewing in the legal fraternity, it is in the government's best interests that such reservations be immediately put to rest. The ruling coalition, which will control the nomination process, must demonstrate that its intent was never to interfere in Justice Shah's elevation and, in recognition of him being not only the senior-most judge of the apex court but also one of its most respected jurists, nominate him as its first choice.

Here, it may be recalled that PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari had last month told various TV channels that "Justice Mansoor will become the next chief justice, I have no doubt about it", and also noted that, "Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah are both respectable figures. Both were part of the bench for Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's case, and they should not be made controversial". He must now stand by his word.

It would be unfortunate if the government chooses to target Justice Shah merely for the position he took in the reserved seats case, and attempts to 'punish' him by denying him of his much-deserved elevation.

It seems pertinent to point out that there has been an ongoing media and social media campaign against the judges who ruled in majority against the ECP's decisions in the reserved seats issue, and some government leaders gave more air to this controversy in their speeches to parliament when the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment was being tabled.

The independence of the judiciary is enshrined as one of the core tenets of the Constitution, and any move by the government to punish judges for holding independent views will not sit well in these fraught times. Now that it has arrogated more powers over the judiciary to itself, the government must act judiciously and with restraint. It should not stir more trouble for itself.

**Monetising hate**

Nighat Dad | Anadan Chaudhri

The unverified news of a young female student being sexually assaulted at a private college in Lahore has shocked the country. The news, that was made viral via social media and messaging apps, triggered protests, with demonstrations held by college students quickly turning violent across Punjab, and leading to the death of a security guard. The government responded with its usual high-handedness: the law enforcers used excessive physical force and disproportionate legal measures, such as the registration of FIRs, arrest of young students and the imposition of Section 144.

Media outlets have focused on the actions of the state and the administration at the educational institution at the centre of the alleged incident, and to some extent on the content creators ostensibly behind the spread of disinformation. While we must keep an eye on such actors, what is troubling is that the role of social media platforms in amplifying disinformation — in this case, through apparent inaction — has not been probed adequately.

The rapid speed at which social media content is shared shows that disinformation researchers, fact-checkers and media outlets are often unable to debunk "the evolving dynamics of disinformation" in time. Significant public damage has already been done by the time a more accurate picture emerges. Regarding the alleged rape case in Lahore, news outlets and fact-checkers scrambled to provide context, even as the government and other institutions claimed that the attack never happened — a claim that was met with heavy scepticism.

The discourse on current events, locally or internationally, is frequently shaped by accounts on YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, X, Facebook, etc, whose content is shared more than that of the BBC or CNN. Rather than being nuanced and level-headed, however, social media personalities or outlets "routinely promote sensationalist, extreme or false content, rapidly spreading it to vast audiences", according to the UK-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue.

The protests in response to the alleged rape in Lahore bring to mind how the UK, too, fell victim to disinformation this summer. The 2024 riots in the UK were instructive: not only did social media fan the flames of public anger, but a Lahore-based web presence, 'Channel3Now', was found responsible for promoting dangerous disinformation — false news that it was monetising on social media. In Pakistan, to what extent did platforms contribute to the spread of the rumour of a rape in Lahore and the ensuing offline violence? What role did the recommendation algorithms of social media platforms play? And to what extent was the rumour spread by accounts who stood to benefit financially from platform ad revenue-sharing programmes? One can note that in Europe, in order to hold Big Tech accountable, active steps are being taken or proposed. The European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA), 2022, for example, holds social media companies themselves responsible for disinformation, with fines payable of up to six per cent of a platform's global revenue.

In the event of harmful yet legal content shared online, platforms may find themselves being blocked by the government if they are unable to remove harmful, or false material. In the Global South, platforms have been slower to respond or have not responded at all compared to how quickly they might have acted had they been facing the authorities in the US, UK, or EU. Recent events have made this disparity in accountability even more evident, particularly when it comes to addressing the monetisation of disinformation on social media in countries like Pakistan and the larger Global South.

It's time that social media platforms paid the same attention to countries in the Global South in the matter of regulating the monetisation of content and ensuring that the issue of harmful content is tackled effectively and that repeat offenders are removed from social media platforms permanently. Such a proactive approach could prevent governments from imposing more stringent and potentially problematic laws or banning platforms altogether.

CSOs from the Global Majority have a role to play by closely monitoring the enforcement of the DSA in Europe. By understanding how platforms comply with the DSA, these CSOs can use those insights to push for similar measures in their own regions, targeting the harm caused by disinformation and damaging content. This effort includes exposing and addressing the monetisation of hate by content creators who present themselves as journalists, using this label to spread hate and disinformation while profiting from content they misleadingly classify as 'news' or 'journalistic content'. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Economy's black hole**

Dr Nadia Tahir

When debt is accrued, out of a desire for a stable exchange rate, it forms a 'black hole' in the economy. Foreign debt may solve the problem of balance-of-payments and result in a stable exchange rate in the short run, but it can also trigger the 'debt stealer trap', which sucks resources without building productive capacity.

Debt is not a bad instrument especially when modern economics is governed by the rules of trust and credit. An economy can accumulate debt but the rate of increase in debt stock should not exceed the capacity to repay. For sustainable debt, the primary balance must be in surplus and growth in real income should be higher than the increase in debt stock.

Our current imports stand at \$53.2 billion, while exports totalled nearly \$31.1bn in 2023-24. We need \$22.1bn merely to balance our trade. Our imports comprised less elastic consumer goods or essential inputs such as crude oil, edible oil, medicines, paper and steel. In a case such as this, controlling imports shrinks the economy and reduces consumer welfare.

Let us consider the latest data released by the Ministry of Finance on Sept 30, 2024. Our imports were recorded at \$9.53bn, while exports totalled approximately \$4.86bn for July-August 2025. Remittances stood at \$5.94bn, helping the country to have a current account surplus after many years. Dependence on remittances without fuelling domestic productive capacity and skills is again not sustainable. We can have a stable exchange rate in the long run only by increasing exports and remittances simultaneously.

Fortunately, at the moment Pakistan has a stable exchange rate and a declining inflation and interest rate, while the current account is in surplus after a long period of volatile financial indicators. It is a rare combination in our economic history. It reminds us of the halcyon days of 2005-06, but even at that time there was a current account deficit issue. In those days, we undertook some liberalisation reforms and drastically reduced tariff rates. For many, it was just like opening the floodgates of the economy, which doubled our imports.

Recently, the DG Debt (Finance Division), explained the necessity of managing the exchange rate risk to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance. The committee was informed that Pakistan needs \$18.8bn excluding a debt rollover. It was also said that Pakistan has to repay a cumulative amount of \$100bn over the next four years.

Currently, Pakistan's external debt and liabilities are at a modest level. Pakistan's external debt stock was at 43 per cent in June 2023. It declined to 34pc in June 2024. According to the first quarterly report of the Economic Affairs Division "64pc of the total external public debt is concessional with extended maturities".

Broadly speaking, Pakistan requires an additional \$25bn from exports (7pc ann-u-al growth rate in real GDP) to repay our external debt obligations. To meet the challenge, we need to earn an additional \$2.08bn every month or borrow the same amount. Securing debt from donors and development partners is also becoming difficult. They ask for certain actions to be taken before issuing new debt. For the \$7bn IMF programme, the \$2bn financing gap condition was met by borrowing at commercial rates. This type of commercial borrowing will considerably reduce the average time of maturity of our debt, which is six months for domestic debt and almost 2.5 years for external debt. Without debt restructuring, a stabilised exchange rate will not work for long.

There is another dimension — declining interest rates and inflation can potentially trigger recession, particularly when businesses anticipate lower long-term interest rates, leading to decreased investment and growth. Furthermore, our banking sector growth heavily depends on lending to the government by investing in T-bills. Reducing interest rates may hamper the growth of our banks and saving rates in the near future.

It is observed that exchange rate stability will reduce the imports bill and external debt burden. Without increasing exports earnings, the exchange rate stability will continue to depend heavily on foreign debt, loan rollovers and commercial domestic debt instruments. The more we desire a stable nominal exchange rate the more we have to borrow. This is simple arithmetic. We have managed the immediate default and exchange rate risks. However, stability that is reliant on debt financing is always transitory and increases speculation and uncertainty about the future. In nutshell, the economy means growth for businesses and opportunities, which we have to earn instead of resorting to borrow. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**BISP, ADB join hands to empower beneficiaries**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, in a meeting with the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Emma Fan held Tuesday discussed initiatives for empowering beneficiaries of the programme through imparting skill-based training.

The meeting focused on promoting a future partnership between BISP and ADB, identifying key sectors for skill training of deserving families, facilitating international certifications, providing overseas job opportunities, and strengthening coordination with provincial poverty graduation programs and awareness campaigns for deserving women.

On this occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted that BISP is currently providing financial support to 9.3 million deserving families, a number expected to rise to 10 million by the end of the year. To further economically empower these families, BISP is initiating a skill training program. She emphasized the importance of acquiring international certifications to help beneficiaries secure employment abroad. Senator Rubina Khalid also stressed the need to link existing provincial-level poverty graduation and skill development programs with BISP.

DUBAI: PTCL and Ufone 4G President and Group CEO, Hatem Bamatraf and Alex Lee, Managing Director China Mobile International Middle East exchange memorabilia during the GITEX 2024 Dubai to mark the signing of a network sharing agreement aimed at enhancing connectivity in Pakistan and worldwide, in Dubai.

**Enhance national, Intl connectivity PTCL & China Mobile International partner at GITEX Global 2024**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's largest telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and global telecom and ICT player, China Mobile International Limited (CMI) entered a partnership at GITEX Global 2024 in Dubai, UAE for global network resources sharing. The collaboration allows the two leading players to boost connectivity for their respective customers in the country and across the world.

Waqar Ahmed, Group Director Enterprise Solutions, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Alex Lee, Managing Director, China Mobile International Middle East signed the agreement during GITEX 2024 in the presence of investors, innovators, business leaders and top management on both sides.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met with the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Emma Fan at BISP headquarters.

**Approaches discussed to access int'l capital markets, external creditors**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's delegation, currently attending the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund annual meetings in the United States, met with Alvarez and Marsal Sovereign Advisory Services, wherein approaches were discussed through which Pakistan could access the international capital markets and external creditors.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb is leading the Pakistan delegation to the Annual Meetings WB and IMF,

being held in Washington DC from 21-26 October 2024, said a press release issued by the finance ministry. Other delegates include Finance Secretary, Imdad Ullah Bosal; Secretary Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz and Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad.

The Pakistani delegation held a meeting with the representatives of Alvarez and Marsal Sovereign Advisory Services, comprising Managing Director and Global Practice Leader, Dr. Reza Baqir; Division Executive for Sovereign

**Technical training vital for telecom operators' capacity building: Shaza**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Tuesday that technical training is vital for the capacity building of telecom operators.

During a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Center), Singapore Jia Rong, the minister also discussed matters of mutual interest and relating to capacity building of telecom operators. Secretary IT Zarrar Hasham Khan was also present at the meeting. CEO Asia Pacific Network Information Center briefed the Minister of State for IT about the working of APNIC.

He said that APNIC wanted to start a training program for telecom operators regarding networking. The meeting agreed to forge a comprehensive plan for the training of telecom operators. Member IT, MoITT Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim also attended the meeting. Meanwhile, Pakistan Ambassador to Germany Saqlain Syedah called on Shaza Fatima Khawaja and during the meeting matters regarding relations between Pakistan and Germany in the field of IT and Telecommunication, and facilitation of Pakistani IT companies in Germany were discussed.

Member International Coordination (IC) Imad Memon and DG IC Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi were also present at the meeting.

**Mobilink Bank tops the SBP's banking on equality scorecard for the second year in a row**

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to gender equality and financial inclusion, securing a remarkable score of 82.7 on the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Women Friendliness Grid. This notable increase from last year's score of 71.79 highlights the Bank's continuous efforts in fostering a supportive environment for women borrowers and entrepreneurs, particularly in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

**Cutlery exports increase 6.60% to \$15.268 mln**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of cutlery witnessed an increase of 6.60 per cent during the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-25, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year. The cutlery exports from the country were recorded at US \$15.268 million during July-September (2024-25) against the exports of US \$14.322 million during July-September (2023-24), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

**Independent Report**

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**Technical training vital for telecom operators' capacity building: Shaza**

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## Passage of 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment to augur well for institutions, Governor Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the passage of the 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment by the assembly bodes well for the institutions of the country as it will ensure supremacy of the Parliament. Constitutional amendment will provide quick justice to people. He said this today while addressing a press conference at Governor House Lahore.

Zardari, Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Maulana Fazlur Rehman played a positive role. He paid tributes to all the stakeholders, especially Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stating that he stayed awake for four consecutive nights to make it successful. He said that the 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment is an unprecedented manifestation of national unity and consensus, if future decisions are made in the same way, the country will come out of crises. He said that the constitutional defects have been removed with this

constitutional amendment. Governor Punjab said that the judiciary should not interfere in the affairs of the executive. He said that the procedure for appointing judges in the nineteenth amendment was not correct, which has now been rectified. Regarding the appointment of judges, the democratic powers were sabotaged in 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, and unfortunately, the decisions of the appointments of judges were made in big chambers, later these judges gave decisions according to their personal liking and disliking, which created a great disorder in the society.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing a Press Conference at Governor House.

## CM chairs 18<sup>th</sup> cabinet meeting, takes measures for environmental protection

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the provincial cabinet to discuss and decide on important agenda items including historical measures for environmental improvement. The Cabinet approved amendments in the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1965 to increase fine for vehicles that emit smoke. It was briefed that a vehicle operating without a Vehicle Fitness Certificate will be

financed and impounded after a one-time notice. The Cabinet also approved a historic initiative to eliminate environmental pollution, and to introduce single-use plastic culture in Punjab. It also gave approval to set up District Plastic Management Committees to address enforcement issues. DCs and DPOs will be chairpersons of District Plastic Management Committees while traders and other relevant authorities will

be their members. The District Plastic Management Committees will have the power to impose fines to ensure implementation of plastic elimination campaign. They will also have the power to seal factories manufacturing non-standard and environmentally non-friendly plastic bags besides lowering the registration and renewal fee of a quality and environment-friendly plastic bag manufacturing factory.

## KP CM inaugurates BRT Pabbi Route

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur inaugurated the new Pabbi Route of the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system here on Tuesday at Chamkani BRT Station. A large number of the senior officials, including the Secretary of Transport, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) TransPeshawar and the Managing Director of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA) were also present on the occasion. The newly launched Pabbi route connects Pabbi Bazaar to Sardar Garhi BRT Station, spanning a total of 16 kilometers. The route includes 13 stops: Pabbi Terminal, Pabbi

Bazaar, Kajhoor Stop, Pabbi Railway Station, Girls Degree College, WAPDA Town, Taru Jabba, Tarnab Farm, Kala Mandi, Jhagra, Shahad Market, Chamkani, and Sardar Garhi. According to the TransPeshawar spokesperson, the route will operate from 6:30 AM to 7:00 PM, with buses running every 20 minutes providing travel facility to an estimated 4,000 passengers daily. The one-way travel time for the route is approximately 33 minutes. The spokesperson further stated that with the inauguration of the Pabbi route, the total number of BRT routes has increased to 18, expanding the network's reach and providing enhanced convenience to passengers.



HYDERABAD: Ration distribution is underway among Hindu Community in connection of Diwali celebration organized by Al-Khidmat Foundation, at Circuit House Mandir in Hyderabad.

## KP becomes first province to launch education card

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur, presided over a key meeting of the Department of Education where he announced an education emergency to promote education in the province. As part of this initiative, the province will introduce an education card, similar to the Sehat Card. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be the first province in Pakistan to launch this program. The Education Card will initially be started in nine underdeveloped

districts, including Upper and Lower Kohistan, Kolai Palas, Torghar, Upper and Lower Chitral, Tank, and Upper and Lower South Waziristan. Children attending government schools in these areas will receive 1,000 rupees per month, and they will also be able to get free admission to registered private schools. In the first phase, 40,000 children will benefit from this program. Additionally, girls in grades 6 to 10 across the province will receive 500 rupees per month as an educational stipend.



SARGODHA: Chairman HEC, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, addressing the opening ceremony of the 7th International Conference on Applied Zoology held at the University of Sargodha.

## KP Governor appoints two SACM

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday appointed two special assistants to the chief minister on the advice of the latter. A notification issued here said that Tufail Anjum and Rengez Ahmad have been appointed as special assistants with immediate effect.

## ANF recovers over 17 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover over 17 kg drugs worth Rs 1.6 million and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation, 10.8 kg hashish was recovered from Quetta bus terminal in Karachi and an accused was arrested. 5 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of another accused rounded up on Mansoor GT Road, Attock.

## PHC orders KP Govt to submit court verdict's implementation in VCs appointment case

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday ordered the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to submit a compliance report about implementation of its verdict in appointment of Vice Chancellors in several public sector universities in the province. A two members bench consisting of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Mohammad Ijaz Khan directed the respondents to submit compliance report about the implementation of the court's judgment in the

appointment case of Vice Chancellors in several universities of KP. The court ruled that contempt of court proceedings would be initiated against the respondents in case of non implementation of the PHC's judgment. Five senior academicians have filed petition in Peshawar High Court seeking initiation of contempt of court proceedings against the KP Chief Secretary and three other respondents accusing them.

## Notorious bandit arrested after police encounter in Kasur

KASUR (APP): A dangerous bandit wanted for serious crimes was arrested in an injured condition following a police encounter near Mustafabad, Kasur on Tuesday. According to the police, police identified the injured suspect as Ali Hasan, son of Siddiq Sukna from Ghang Kahna, Lahore. He was part of a group of three bandits who robbed a citizen named Ishaq of Rs 16,000 and other valuables near the canal.

## Accused entitled to obtain copy of police raid recording: LHC

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has declared that individuals accused in criminal cases are entitled to receive a complete copy of the video recording made during police raids. A two-member bench comprising Justice Farooq Haider and Justice Ali Zia Bajwa passed the directions while hearing a criminal appeal filed by an accused involved in a case registered under anti-narcotics law. The petitioner's

counsel argued that his client was facing trial in a case registered under the anti-narcotics law. He submitted that his client filed an application with a request to provide video recording of the raid in the form of USB but the trial court rejected the request. He argued that the video recording of the raid was crucial for a fair trial and requested the court to issue necessary directions for the purpose.

# International News

## Putin hosts BRICS summit in Russia under shadow of Ukraine war

**Monitoring Desk**  
KAZAN: Russia wants to showcase the rising clout of the non-Western world, but Moscow's partners from China, India, Brazil and the Arab world are urging President Vladimir Putin to find a way to end the war in Ukraine. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual BRICS summit will take place from 22 to 24 October. The BRICS group now accounts for 45% of the world's population and 35% of its economy, based on purchasing power parity, though China accounts for over half of its economic might. Putin, who is cast by the West as a war criminal, told reporters from BRICS nations that "BRICS does not put itself into opposition to anyone", and that the shift in the drivers of global growth was simply a fact.

"This is an association of states that says are now part of Russia, even though parts of them remain outside its control, and that it wanted its long-term security interests taken into account in Europe," he said. The BRICS summit takes place as global finance chiefs gather in Washington amid war in the Middle East as well as Ukraine, a flagging Chinese economy and worries that the US presidential election could ignite new trade battles. Putin, who ordered troops into Ukraine in 2022 after eight years of fighting in eastern Ukraine, was peppered with questions by BRICS reporters about the prospects for a ceasefire in Ukraine. Putin's answer was, in short, that Moscow would not trade away the

four regions of eastern Ukraine that it says are now part of Russia, even though parts of them remain outside its control, and that it wanted its long-term security interests taken into account in Europe. Two Russian sources said that, while there was increasing talk in Moscow of a possible ceasefire agreement, there was nothing concrete yet — and that the world was awaiting the result of the Nov. 5 presidential election in the United States. Russia, which is advancing, controls about one fifth of Ukraine, including Crimea which it seized and unilaterally annexed in 2014, about 80% of the Donbas — a coal-and-steel zone comprising the Donetsk and Luhansk regions — and over 70% of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Brics summit in Kazan.

## Iraq says top Islamic State group figure among 9 killed

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAGHDAD: Iraqi authorities announced on Tuesday that security forces had killed nine Islamic State (IS) group commanders, including the banned militant group's top figure in the country, in a raid in the northern mountains. Iraq's Joint Operations Command said in a statement that counterterrorism forces "killed nine terrorists, among them the so-called

governor of Iraq" for IS, naming him as Jassim al-Mazrouei Abu Abdel Qader. Iraqi security analyst Fadel Abu Raghif told AFP that Mazrouei had "assumed control of the [IS] Iraq province less than a year ago". The statement noted that the operation in the Hamrin Mountains was carried out "with technical support" and intelligence provided by the US-led coalition.

## Hezbollah finance chief killed in Syria: Israeli army

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: The Israeli army said on Monday (Oct 21) that the latest commander responsible for funding the Lebanese Hezbollah group was "eliminated" in Syria. The man, whose name was not released, headed the Iran-backed Hezbollah's Unit 4400 that is "responsible for the transfers and the amount of funds" to the group through Tehran's oil sales, army spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said in a statement.

## Blinken back to Middle East to push for Gaza truce

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken left for the Middle East Monday on a new push for an elusive Gaza ceasefire two weeks before US elections, seeing a new opportunity from Israel's killing of Hamas's leader. It will be the 11<sup>th</sup> trip to the Middle East by the top US diplomat since war broke out a year ago, with Blinken on his last visit to Israel in August warning it may have been the "last chance" for a US-led ceasefire plan. That push did not succeed, and the conflict has escalated and expanded since then, with Israel pounding Hezbollah targets in Lebanon and warn-

ing of a new strike directly on Iran, whose clerical leaders back both Hamas and Hezbollah. US President Joe Biden, who personally laid out the ceasefire plan on May 31 that would also free hostages from Gaza, has seen new hope since Israel last week killed Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar. Biden, speaking to reporters on a visit to Germany, said he called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to congratulate him and tell him that Blinken would head to the region. "I told him that we were really pleased with his actions and, further, that now is the time to move on—move on, move towards a ceasefire."

## US defense chief visits Kyiv for talks on how to keep supporting Ukraine's fight against Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin arrived in Kyiv on an unannounced visit Monday, hours after a Russian drone attack on the Ukrainian capital and as Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pushes Western partners to keep providing military support for the war. Austin said on the X platform that his fourth visit shows "that the United States, alongside the international community, continues to stand by Ukraine." Ukraine is having difficulty holding back a ferocious Russian campaign along the eastern front that is gradually compelling Kyiv's forces to give up a series of towns, villages and hamlets. Zelenskyy is urging Western allies to support his so-called "victory plan"

to end the almost three-year war, which is Europe's biggest conflict since World War II and has cost tens of thousands of lives on both sides, including many civilians. His strategy includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia — steps that Kyiv's allies have previously balked at supporting. The Western response has been lukewarm, and Austin was expected to discuss the plan with Ukrainian officials in Kyiv. Zelenskyy said in a Sunday evening video address that his plan had won the backing of France, Lithuania, Nordic countries and "many other allies" in the European Union which he didn't name.

## New mpox variant detected in Germany: health authority

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: An infection with the new mpox variant clade 1b has been detected in Germany for the first time, the Robert Koch Institute health authority said on Tuesday. The infection occurred abroad and was detected last Friday, the institute said, adding that it did not see an increased risk for Germany but was "monitoring the situation very closely". Mpox, a viral disease related to smallpox that causes fever, body aches, swollen lymph nodes and a rash that forms into blisters, has two main subtypes — clade 1 and clade 2. From May 2022, clade 2 spread around the world, mostly affecting gay and bisexual men in Europe and the United States. In July 2022, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared an international public health emergency.

## Ukraine's Zelenskyy says only a US green light on a NATO invitation will sway a reluctant Germany

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine's president is hoping allies will take a more positive stance on his so-called victory plan after the U.S. election, but concedes that its key demand — an invitation to join NATO — is not welcome by some key Western partners, in particular Germany. Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia was also likely looking at the postelection scenario in the U.S. to assess the possibility of cease-fire talks with Ukraine. He assessed that if partial cease-fire deals could be reached over attacks on energy in-

frastructure and Black Sea shipping routes, it would signal the end of the "hot phase" of the war. Zelenskyy spoke to journalists on Monday and his comments were embargoed until Tuesday. On NATO, Zelenskyy said France, Britain and Italy have shown signs of support. Germany has reservations, however, and Zelenskyy believes only a U.S. green light will convince Berlin to accept the idea. "The German side is skeptical about our NATO membership — that's a fact.

## Iran begins constructing wall along Afghan border amidst terrorism threats

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran has decided to build a wall along the Afghan border to safeguard its borders and cope with terrorism threats. Iran has initiated taking stringent security measures as part of counter strategy to regional instability. It merits mention that Iran has devised a three-year security plan to enhance its security and protect its territorial integrity.

## South Korea warns it can send arms to Ukraine after reports of North's troops in Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korea warned Tuesday it could consider supplying weapons to Ukraine in response to North Korea allegedly dispatching troops to Russia, as both North Korea and Russia denied the movements. The South Korean statement is apparently meant to pressure Russia not to bring in North Korean troops in its war against Ukraine. South Korean officials worry that Russia may reward North Korea by giving it sophisticated weapons technologies that can boost the North's nuclear and missile programs that target South Korea. In an emergency National Security Council meeting, top South Korean officials condemned North Korea's alleged dispatch of troops as "a grave security threat" to South Korea and the international community. They described North Korea as "a criminal group" that forces its youths to serve as Russian mercenaries for an

unjustifiable war, the South Korean presidential office said in a statement. The officials agreed to take phased countermeasures, linking the level of their responses to progress in Russian-North Korean military cooperation, according to the statement. Possible steps include diplomatic, economic and military options, and South Korea could consider sending both defensive and offensive weapons to Ukraine, a senior South Korean presidential official told reporters on condition of anonymity in a background briefing. The official said North Korea could attempt to get high-tech Russian technologies to perfect its nuclear missiles. The official said Russia's possible help for North Korea's efforts to modernize its outdated conventional weapons systems and acquire a space-based surveillance system would pose a serious.



## Pak rejects as 'flawed' proposed treaty banning production of fissile material for nuclear weapons

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has reaffirmed its opposition to the proposed treaty banning the production of fissile material used as fuel for nuclear weapons, asserting that States that do not need to produce enriched uranium after having already amassed several tons of it in excess are pushing for this discriminatory pact.

"A treaty which only results in a cut-off in the future production of fissile material would be a non-starter given that it would perpetuate asymmetries and will have no added value for nuclear disarmament," Ambassador Usman Iqbal Jadoon, deputy permanent representative to the UN, told the General Assembly's First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security matters.

"The States, which do not need to produce fissile material after having already amassed several tonnes of fissile material in excess, are pushing for cost-free proposals such as quantitative capping of fissile material as 'the next logical step,'" he said. In these diversionary tactics, he pointed out they are joined with fervour by the States who rely on others for extended deterrence and nuclear-weapon-sharing arrangements.

"If the proponents of the FMCT (fissile material cut-off treaty) are serious in addressing the issue of fissile material production, they should start by rejecting double standards and ceasing nuclear cooperation with a country in South Asia—obviously India—that continues to amass stockpiles outside safeguards and is now on the path of a major breakout in terms of fissile production," the Pakistani envoy said.

"Short of that, their calls for a moratorium or a cut-off treaty ring hollow," he added.

In this regard, Ambassador Jadoon reiterated that FMCT's approach was "flawed" and that its time had long passed.

"The relentless weaponization of new and emerging capabilities and its integration and co-existence with the nuclear domain is further convoluting the security landscape," he said, adding that it would negatively impact the security of the States and exacerbate asymmetries.

Ambassador Jadoon pointed out that India was the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the region and nuclearized the Indian Ocean. It refuses to commit to non-testing, threatens aggression against Pakistan, rejects implementation of resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir of the Security Council, where it wants to sit as a permanent member, and spurs dialogue on restraint measures.

"Also," he added, "the largest nuclear-weapon States, in disregard of their nuclear disarmament obligations, continue to modernize their arsenals."

Ambassador Jadoon, who was speaking in a thematic debate on nuclear weapons, underscored the need to acknowledge the link between nuclear disarmament and the legitimate imperatives that drive States to acquire these weapons.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on relief activities for Gaza and Lebanon.

## Implementation of reserved seats verdict not binding, CJP Isa says in detailed note

"I consider it my duty to point out constitutional violations and illegalities in majority's short order," says CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday issued his dissenting note on the reserved seats case.

In his 14-page note, the CJP said, "I agreed with the short order dated 12 July 2024 authored by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and agree with his detailed reasons thereof which have been issued today.

However, I consider it my duty to point out the constitutional violations and illegalities in the majority's short order of 12 July 2024, and the majority's detailed judgment of 23 September 2024, the order/clarification of 14 September 2024 and the

## Nawaz Sharif, Maryam to depart for London in Nov

ISLAMABAD (INP): PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will leave for the UK in the first week of November.

It reported in media both Nawaz and Maryam will board a flight from Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport and make a stopover in Dubai en route to London.

However, Nawaz Sharif, after staying in London for two days, will then head to the USA on Tuesday and will return after spending four days there.

Earlier, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, known as a close confidant of the PML-N chief, remarked that Nawaz undergoes medical check-ups periodically. He added that if

Nawaz does indeed travel to London, it would be a routine visit though he, too, claimed no knowledge of any specific travel plans.

## ECP directs other petitioners to share intra-party election copies with PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday instructed other petitioners to share copies of their applications concerning Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party elections with PTI and adjourned the hearing of the case until November 14.

A four-member bench headed by Member Sindh Nisar Durani conducted the hearing of PTI intra-party. Chairman PTI Barister Gohar Ali Khan, Akbar S Babar and Naveed Anjum appeared before the commission.

Commission's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa member asked Akbar S. Babar whether he had conducted intra-party elections. Babar responded, "We did not hold any intra-party elections."

Barrister Gohar stated that the High Court had restrained the Election Commission from issuing a final order in intra-party election case.

A member from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa indicated that they do not have the authority to order PTI to hold intra-party elections again.

The commission subsequently directed the other petitioners to share copies of their applications with PTI.

## Palestinian artists organized theater workshop at ACP

KARACHI (APP): On the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the 38-day "World Culture Festival Karachi," organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, a theater workshop titled "Cultural Resistance from Palestine" was held at the Hasena Moin Hall. Palestinian artists Ahmed Tobasi and Zoe Lafferty led the workshop, teaching acting techniques to students passionate about theater.

The artists emphasized the importance of self-identity in creating societal change, stating that individuals cannot bring about significant transformation unless they recognize themselves. Students learned new acting techniques, warmly welcomed the Palestinian artists. The enthusiastic participation of a large number of students reflected their deep interest in the arts.

## Hot, dry weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicted hot and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours. Mainly, hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.

## Shehbaz appeals nation to donate to PM's relief fund for Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has once again appealed the nation especially the affluent ones to actively donate to the Prime Minister's relief fund for Gaza and Lebanon.

Chairing a review meeting in Islamabad regarding aid being sent by Pakistan to Gaza and Lebanon, he said the people including overseas Pakistanis should support the government in helping Palestinian and Lebanese brothers and sisters by depositing donations in IBAN: PK 1 1SBPD00000011111429.

Shehbaz Sharif instructed to conduct a full awareness campaign regarding the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon.

The Prime Minister directed to immediately send two planes of humanitarian aid to Lebanon and Gaza. He said apart from air, relief goods should be sent by trucks.

Directing to accelerate the transportation of humanitarian aid, Shehbaz Sharif emphasized ensuring the aid reaches the deserving ones.

The meeting was informed that Pakistan is sending tents, clothes, blankets, medicines and food items to people affected by Israeli aggression in Gaza and Lebanon.

It was informed that due to Israeli attacks and blockades, there are difficulties in delivering aid supplies to the affected areas in Palestine and Lebanon.

The meeting was informed that the NGOs who want to send relief goods for the victims of Gaza and Lebanon will be facilitated by the government.

## APHC AJK delegation meets

### JI Karachi leadership to discuss Oct 27 protest rally

KARACHI (INP): A delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC-AJK) Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter, led by its Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, met with the Karachi Jamaat-e-Islami leadership at the Noor-e-Haq Institute, and discussed with it about October 27 anti-India rally in the city.

The delegation included Advocate Parvez Ahmed, Syed Ejaz Ahmed Shah, Abdul Hameed Lone, and Sheikh Abdul Majeed.

The APHC-AJK delegation informed the JI leaders about the protest rally to be held in Karachi on October 27, which marks a Black Day, to condemn the ongoing Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

## Arslan pays tribute to Bilawal Bhutto on 26<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment

SUKKUR (APP): Spokesperson to Sindh Government and Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Tuesday paid tributes to Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his efforts on 26<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment. He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was working tirelessly on the 26<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment.

"The PPP has always represented the aspirations of the people, crediting Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visionary leadership and the continuity of public politics," he added.

Barrister Arslan said that the purpose of this amendment was to unite the nation and strengthen the federation.

## DC reviews anti-polio campaign measures

SUKKUR (APP): A meeting regarding the polio campaign was convened under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) in Khairpur on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by the District Police Officer, health department officials and heads of relevant departments.

## Mayor Hyderabad chairs meeting regarding annual development programme schemes

HYDERABAD (APP): Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro on Tuesday presided over a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Aabdin Memon at Mayor Secretariat Civic Center regarding Annual Development Program schemes. Chief Executive Officer Hyderabad Water and Sewerage Corporation Zahid Khemtito, Executive Engineers Asghar Khawaja,



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami addressing foreign course members of PN Staff Course during their visit to Naval Headquarters

## Commissioner for making polio campaign successful

HYDERABAD (APP): Divisional Commissioner Bilal Ahmad Memon has said that Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah and Chief Secretary Syed Asif Haider Shah have given clear instructions that during the 7-day anti-polio campaign starting from October 28, the polio campaign should be brought to successful with the mutual cooperation of political and local government representatives of all districts.

## DC Sanghar urges for enhanced anti-polio efforts after revealing positive case

HYDERABAD (APP): A meeting of representatives from all social organizations operating in district Sanghar was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Dr. Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja. Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the recent detection of a polio case in the district, emphasizing the need for heightened awareness and increased efforts to combat polio.



KARACHI: Former President of Supreme Court Bar Munir A. Malik and President of Karachi Bar Association Amir Nawaz Waraich along with other lawyers holding a press conference in connection with the protest movement of lawyers against the 26 constitutional amendments at Karachi Press Club.

## SAU, Sindh HEC Collaborate for 5-Day Faculty Dev Training Prog

HYDERABAD (APP): In a concerted effort to enhance faculty competencies and elevate the standard of education, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam, in collaboration with the Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC), has launched a 5-day Training of Trainers (ToT) program as part of its Faculty Development Program (FDP).

According to the University spokesperson, the initiative was designed to strengthen the teaching skills of young faculty from SAU's main campus, Khairpur College of Agri-

## Pakistan's delegation briefs IMF officials about array of reforms to improve economy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistani delegation comprising Secretary Finance Imdad Ullah Bosal and Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed met with the Deputy Managing Director of the IMF Kenji Okamura in Washington DC.

The Pakistan delegation highlighted measures to expand fiscal space by broadening the tax base, aligning the provincial Agriculture Income Tax regime with the federal income tax regime, rationalizing subsidies, rightsizing the government, and reducing energy sector costs.

Discussions also covered stimulating private sector development, building climate resilience through Resilience and Sustainability financing and pursuing prudent monetary and external sector policies.

## NA speaker, British MP call for strengthening Pak-UK partnerships

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and British MP Mohammad Yasin on Tuesday vowed for strengthening Pakistan-UK partnerships, especially parliamentary cooperation.

During a courtesy visit at Parliament House, British Member of Parliament from the House of Commons, Mohammad Yasin and Speaker emphasised the importance of furthering the strong partnership between Pakistan and the United Kingdom across multiple areas of mutual interest, including enhanced parliamentary cooperation.

## Sukkur Police tightens nose around criminals

SUKKUR (APP): Under the leadership of City SSP Sukkur Amjad Ahmed Shaikh, the Sukkur police have successfully tightened the nose around criminal elements through an effective patrolling plan, snap-checking, surprise checkpoints and other strategic measures.

As per SSP's Spokesperson, Shahjahan Soomro, the district has seen a remarkable reduction in crime rates during the ongoing year. There has been a substantial improvement in law and order since the posting of SSP Amjad Ahmed Shaikh.

He said that incidents of robbery have decreased by 90 percent, while incidents of burglary have dropped. Notably, there has been a reduction in murder cases which was a major achievement for the Sukkur Police, he added.

## DC Sukkur chairs meeting to review anti-Polio campaign

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Dr Raja MB Dharejo here on Tuesday chaired a review meeting to assess the performance of the previous five-day anti-Polio campaign.

During the meeting, DHO Sukkur provided a detailed briefing on various aspects of the campaign and highlighted the issues and successes encountered.

It was reported that the polio teams went door-to-door over the five-day campaign to administer polio drops to children, alongside conducting awareness campaigns against polio in various areas. Deputy Commissioner Sukkur praised the efforts of the teams involved in the campaign, stating that the anti-polio initiative is a national duty

and all departments must exert their utmost efforts to ensure its success.

He directed the Health Department to resolve the issues faced during the previous campaign on a permanent basis and to enhance the training of teams for future campaigns, so that access to the polio vaccine can be ensured for every child.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the success of the anti-polio campaign is not only reliant on the hard work of the teams but also requires the cooperation of the public. He appealed to parents to fully support the polio teams and to ensure their children receive the polio drops, in order to achieve the national goal of eradicating polio.

KARACHI: Neurology Awareness and Research Foundation (NARF) President, Dr. Muhammad Wasay addresses during the Free Stroke Screening Camp on the eve of World Stroke Day, at Karachi press club.