

Independent

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Karachi

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Vol: 06. No. 238 Rabi-us-Sani 20, 1445 AH Thursday October 24, 2024

Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Textile, leather sectors play key role in industrial labour, poverty alleviation: CM Murad

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Wednesday said that Pakistan's textile and leather sectors are not only critical to the country's exports but also play a key role in industrial labour, poverty alleviation, and economic growth.

"In 2023-2024, Pakistan's textile exports reached \$16.6 billion, while the leather sector contributed \$805 million to the economy," he said while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition (TEXPO 2024) in Karachi today.

The 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition (TEXPO 2024), a flagship event organised by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce at Expo Centre at Expo Centre.

It was attended by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan,

Governor Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, federal and provincial ministers, diplomats, and a large contingent of foreign guests.

The Chief Minister welcomed over 500 international delegates from more than 60 countries, highlighting the significance of TEXPO as a platform for showcasing Pakistan's rich heritage in textiles and leather craftsmanship.

He said that Pakistan's textile and leather sectors are not only critical to the country's exports but also play a key role in industrial labour, poverty alleviation, and economic growth. "In 2023-2024, Pakistan's textile exports reached \$16.6 billion, while the leather sector contributed \$805 million to the economy," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasised the government's efforts to promote a business-friendly environment and diversify export markets.

He mentioned the growing interest from non-traditional markets such as Brazil, Argentina, and Finland, reflected in the presence of delegates from these regions at TEXPO.

Mr Shah also acknowledged the global brands like IKEA, H&M Group, and Boohoo Group attending the event, which further enhances Pakistan's reputation in the international market.

A key theme of the exhibition, "Weaving the Way to Sustainability," underscores the importance of sustainable practices in combating climate change, the CM said and highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to global warming and its commitment to environmentally responsible production processes in the textile and leather industries. He said TEXPO 2024 also includes 'Texpo Talks' seminars on sustainability, and a fashion show showcasing local designers.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry Jam Kamal Khan, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi Chairman TDAP Zubair Motiwala Perform Digital Inaugural of the 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition Texpo 2024 at Expo center.

PM laments global silence on Gaza, assures Palestinian students of full support in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, while lamenting the silence of the international community to halt genocide in Gaza, assured the Palestinian students of every possible facility and quality education in their 'second home' Pakistan.

Addressing a batch of Palestinian students from the war-torn Gaza, the prime minister said that a batch of "shining and outstanding students", have now arrived in their second home.

He said the ongoing massacre of Palestinians was known to the entire world. "It is heart-wrenching to watch brutalities and atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces on daily basis. They have killed more than 43,000

Palestinians while thousands had been maimed and injured," he added.

The prime minister said that cities after cities had been demolished, buildings razed to the ground and the international community had yet to act, and regretted, "Speeches, resolutions and commitments are still to see the light of the day. Whether these are UNSC resolutions or ICJ verdict at the Hague, nothing has helped in bringing ceasefire in Gaza where the world had not seen this kind of carnage in the contemporary history."

The prime minister recollected that during his participation in the United Nations General Assembly session, they heard speeches after speeches of the world leaders about the plight of the Palestinians and as to how Israeli forces

had been committing genocide in this part of the world, but the blood continued to spill on the streets of Gaza, hospitals were smashed, schools bombard and the world was mere a spectator.

The prime minister referred to the international community's interference to bring about peace in different parts of the world including Sudan and Bosnia.

In Bosnia, he said, cries were finally heard after a large number of Muslim population was martyred there. The mass graves were unearthed and finally, the global community came to realization, he added.

Prime Minister Sharif regretted the double standards in this world where the powerful and mighty remained untamed.

President, PM condemn terrorist attack in Ankara

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Ankara, which resulted in the tragic loss of human lives.

In a statement, President Zardari extended his deepest condolences and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Turkey during this hour of grief.

The President said that Pakistan stood in full solidarity with the Turkish brothers and sisters in this difficult time.

He said, we extend our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in this cowardly attack, and we pray for the swift recovery of the injured.

Asif Ali Zardari remarked that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was a global menace and Pakistan, having endured the scourge of terrorism, understood the pain and suffering caused by such brutal acts.

He emphasized that

terrorists were enemies of peace and humanity, reiterating the need for united efforts by the international community to eradicate the scourge of terrorism and ensure a secure future for all nations.

In a social media on X, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he is deeply shocked and saddened by the terrorist attack in Ankara.

Expressing heartfelt condolences to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the people of Turkey over this tragic act, the Prime Minister said Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with its Turkish brothers.

Shehbaz Sharif prayed for the families of the victims as well as speedy recovery of the injured.

It is pertinent to mention that at least four people were killed and four-teen others were injured in a terrorist attack at a Turkish aerospace company near Ankara.

According to Turkish Interior Ministry, two terrorists were also neutralized in the retaliatory fire.



KARACHI: Governor Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi meets Acting Governor Sindh Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah at Governor House.

Law Ministry notifies appointment of new CJP

President appoints Justice Yahya Afridi as next Chief Justice of Pakistan

Justice Afridi set to take oath as top judge on October 26 and serve fixed three-year term in office

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday appointed Justice Yahya Afridi, a Supreme Court judge, as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.

The president made the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi for a period of three years with effect from October 26, 2024, according to a Presidential House press release.

The appointment was made in exercise of the powers conferred under Articles 175 A (3), 177 and 179 of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of Pakistan is pleased to appoint Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Judge of Supreme Court, as Chief Justice of Pakistan, for a term of three years with effect from 26-10-2024.

President Zardari also approved October 26 as the date for administering the oath of office to Justice Yahya Afridi as the

next Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Law and Justice on Wednesday notified the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as Chief Justice of Pakistan for a period of three years.

The notification said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of Article 175 A read with Article 177 and 179 of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of Pakistan is pleased to appoint Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Judge of Supreme Court, as Chief Justice of Pakistan, for a term of three years with effect from 26-10-2024.



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Turkish Minister of National Defense Yasar GÜLER.

OGDCL announces gas discovery in Khairpur, Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has announced a significant gas discovery at the Shahu-1 exploratory well in the Sawan South Block, located in Khairpur, Sindh.

According to a news release of the OGDCL, the Joint Venture for the block comprises OGDCL with a 20% working interest, United Energy Pakistan Limited (UEPL) with 75%, Government Holding Private Limited (GHPL) with 2.5%, and Sindh Energy Holding Limited (SEHL)

with 2.5%. The Shahu-1 well is estimated to produce around 10 million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas.

The discovery has derisked further exploration play in the Sawan South Block and will play a crucial role in boosting the country's energy security through indigenous resources and adding to the hydrocarbon reserves base.

OGDCL is committed to contributing to enhancing Pakistan's domestic energy production.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony held in honour of students of Palestine who recently arrived in Pakistan to complete their medical education.

All the democratic forces are united for the survival of democracy: Khuhro

LARKANA (APP): President of Pakistan People's Party Sindh Nisar Khuhro has said in his statement on Wednesday on the occasion of the 13th death anniversary of Madher-e-Jamhoorat Begum Nusrat Bhutto that today is a day of devotion and devotion in the whole of Sindh.

Being celebrated with respect, he said that on this day, we pay tribute to her he said that we follow the her struggle for restoration of the democracy her and continued it.

He said that the services of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the mother of democracy in the restoration of democracy, cannot be forgotten. Begum Nusrat

Bhutto fought the dictatorship bravely.

He said that we salute the sacrifices made by Begum Nusrat Bhutto for the sake of democracy.

He said that all the democratic forces are united for the survival of democracy, constitution, law and supremacy of the parliament and the non-democratic thinkers have always been defeated.

He said that the Bhutto family and the leadership of the People's Party sacrificed their lives in jail and today a social media leader is crying to get out of jail.

The approval of the 26th amendment is a victory for democratic forces and democracy.

Govt. committed in solving problems faced by marble industry: Ikramullah Dharejo

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has said that the Sindh government is serious about solving the prob-

lems faced by the marble industry. He said this today while addressing a function on the occasion of his arrival at the office of All Pakistan Marble Industries Association. On this occasion, Chairman of the Association Muhammad Bilal and other office bearers welcomed the Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo. Office bearers of the association said that more than 450 marble industries were active in Manghopir Industrial Zone.



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Provincial Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo added, "The marble indus-

try is one of the important industries of Pakistan. Pakistan has the best marble reservoirs in the world. He said that People associated with the marble industry should play their effective role in eliminating environmental pollution. Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that the law and order situation in the industrial zones of the province was much better than in the past. Steps were also being taken to remove encroachments in the industrial zones. Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that the government of Sindh stands with the business community and industrialists at all levels. Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has directed that every possible step should be taken for industrial development in the province.

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Provincial Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo added, "The marble indus-

PPP to participate in APHC-AJK Oct 27 program in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday assured All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) that Pakistan People's Party always been the voice of the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and it will participate in program being organized by the Conference in Karachi on October 27.

He said this while meeting with a delegation of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by Convenor Ghulam Mohammad Safi. The delegation members included Advocate Parvaiz Ahmed, Hameed Lone, Syed Aijaz Shah and Majeed Shaikh. Provincial Ministers Saeed Ghani and Zia Lanjar were also present at the meeting.

The delegation convenor said that the Indian government deployed their forces in Kashmir on October 27, 1947.

PPP to table, pass resolutions in Sindh and Baluchistan PAs for constitutional benches formation

KARACHI (INP): The PPP has decided to table and pass resolutions in Sindh and Baluchistan assemblies for formation of constitutional benches in the provinces.

It is to be mentioned here that the passage of a resolution in a provincial assembly with simple majority, is necessary for constitution of benches under clause-7 of the Article 202-A of the newly passed 26th Constitutional Amendment.

The Pakistan People's Party has decided to get resolutions passed promptly in Sindh and Baluchistan assemblies, where it is enjoying majority in provincial houses.

The party has instructed to all its provincial legislators to cast their votes compulsorily, sources said. The Sindh Assembly is likely to be summoned today for resolution required for the constitutional benches.



KARACHI: Sindh's Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Excise, Taxation, and Transport, Sharjeel Inam Memon, chaired high-level meeting of the Excise and Taxation Department was convened in Karachi.

Sharjeel orders action against private vehicles using govt. number plates

Independent Report KARACHI: The Government of Sindh has announced a crackdown on the use of official number plates on private vehicles.

Sindh's Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Excise, Taxation, and Transport, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has directed the Excise Department to take strict action in this regard. A high-level meeting of the Excise and Taxation Department was convened in Karachi, chaired by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. The meeting included key officials such as Secretary Excise Muhammad Saleem Rajput and DG Excise Aurangzeb Panhwar, along with other department officers.

During the meeting, it was reported that the Department of Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control has successfully collected 34% of the annual tax revenue within just three months and 15 days.



QINGDAO: Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari delivers a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Belt & Road Energy Ministerial Conference at Qingdao.

Provincial Minister visits 8 cotton factories

HYDERABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Development Dost Muhammad Rahmon, Environment Secretary Tamizuddin Kahero and Director General SEPA Naem Ahmed Mughal, Regional Incharge of Environmental Protection Agency Shaheed Benazirabad Dr Gul Amir Sambal visited 8 cotton factories located on Mehran Highway 60 Mile Road near Nawabshah.

On this occasion, Regional In-Charge SEPA Dr Gul Amir Sambal said that these cotton factories have received environmental approval from Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has not been achieved and these cotton factories are running without filter plants and dust control system, he further informed that all these factory owners will be given a personal hearing on October 25, 2024.

MQMNA Rana Ansar's son dies in road accident

KARACHI (APP): The son of MQM Pakistan's MNA Raana Ansar and senior journalist late Ansar Naqvi, died in a road accident here on Wednesday, according to private tv channel report.

According to police, the accident occurred due to overspeeding, resulting in death of Shazaib Naqvi and injuries to his friend.

The accident took place near English Boat House at Clifton Bypass.

NA session rescheduled to Friday

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly session has been rescheduled to Friday, October 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

The session was originally set for Thursday, October 24, 2024, at the same time.

A notification regarding the change was issued by the National Assembly Secretariat.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Unliveable cities

Millions of people living in Pakistan's cities will agree with the Asian Development Bank's description of the nation's urban centres as "congested, unattractive and polluted".

In its detailed report Pakistan National Urban Assessment, the ADB has listed the many problems that plague our cities, and offered solutions based on international best practices, as well as local conditions in the country. The study estimates that the current urban population is 93.8m, while projecting that by 2030, nearly 100m people — or around 41pc of the total population — will be living in cities. There are also concerns that urban population counts are underestimated. Unless the state has workable plans to deal with rapid urbanisation, life in our cities may get more challenging than it already is.

The ADB has described the situation in Pakistan as a "messy urbanisation model", indicating a lack of planning, poor infrastructure, and inadequate services. Amongst the challenges our cities face are housing shortages, poor water and sanitation services and deficient solid waste management services. These problems are amplified by the fact that cities are facing funding crunches in an "uncertain" economic environment, while urban governance has been complicated by "partial devolution", resulting in "mutually exclusive governance structures".

Regarding the megacities of Karachi and Lahore, the bank feels the Sindh capital suffers from class division and a "complicated political situation", while the Punjab capital is a victim of "uncontrollable sprawl". Elsewhere, Islamabad faces a mounting housing demand, while Peshawar has seen significant migration, particularly after erstwhile Fata's merger with KP. Yet the ADP notes that Peshawar's infrastructure is "improving", while the Asian lender has praised KP's decentralisation process. Regarding the provision of water to urban areas, the ADB says that while access to water supply and sanitation has improved, changes have been "incremental". Similarly, there has been progress on solid waste management services, yet these remain "limited and inefficient". The ADB says that Pakistan requires a new urbanisation model and stresses the need for empowered local governments in order to undertake sustainable urban planning.

This paper has argued in these columns that the absence of functional and independent LGs is at the root of almost all our urban woes. Sadly, nearly all political parties have tried their best to prevent the emergence of elected and functional LGs, lest these institutions — that are closest to the voter — weaken the patronage networks that power Pakistani politics. To prevent an irreversible slide towards urban dystopia, the state must pay heed to the suggestions the ADB and other experts have offered. Pakistanis deserve cleaner, greener, sustainable cities that offer equal opportunities to all, and are governed by transparent laws and functioning institutions, while urban slums should be replaced with affordable, dignified housing for the working classes.

Aspiring dreamers

Mahir Ali

Among the various things that lately have not gone Imran Khan's way was his predictable elimination from the list of candidates for the post of Oxford University chancellor.

The absurdity of applying for the position would only be compounded if he or one of his advisers were to pursue legal proceedings quering the rejection.

The exclusion criteria state that a nominee "cannot be a serving member of, or a declared candidate for election to, an elected legislature". The obvious implication is that Imran would have been obliged to abandon all his domestic political ambitions to qualify as a candidate.

Writing in Middle East Eye last month, the contrarian British journalist Peter Osborne declared that the PTI "embodies the exact values of freedom and justice Khan learned as a student of politics and economics at Oxford's Keble College 50 years ago". Oxford's shortcomings notwithstanding, equating its values to those of the PTI constitutes a grievous affront to the university — and echoes the sheer ignorance of the Times of Israel blogger Aynur Bashirova, who claims that "Khan has previously shown a willingness to challenge the status quo, particularly in areas like education reform and women's rights". Pakistani feminists and educationists might disagree.

Bashirova's comment focuses more on Imran's reported outreach to Israel via his erstwhile Goldsmith in-laws, while Osborne approvingly cites a single comment on Gaza, contrasting it with the silence of other nominees for the Oxford chancellorship, such as former Tory leader William Hague and Labour minister Peter

Mandelson.

Osborne's endorsement has been challenged by the likes of The Observer's Catherine Bennett, who denounced Imran's candidacy as an insult to "Oxford's female students, past and present" and as a potential gift to "the Taliban and its apologists", and more recently by Kapil Komireddy.

In a column for the Daily Telegraph last week, he wondered whether its alumni and staff were "ready to drag Oxford out of a millennium of darkness and make it an inclusive institution by voting for a candidate who lauded the resurrection of the Taliban... as a 'blessing...'" He goes on to spell out Imran's other inadequacies — lately enhanced by his acolytes in the Pakistani-American Public Affairs Committee endorsing a proto-fascist in a rather more consequential election.

Segments of the Western left inexcusably continue to consider Imran a martyr in the anti-imperialist cause rather than a player in a sordid political game who managed to antagonise too many of his team-mates and sponsors. They fail to recognise that his persecution and prosecutions can be opposed in principle without endorsing his obscurantist ideology. The publicity his hopeless bid attracted, alongside the change of university rules, has likely played a role in attracting an inordinate number of candidates from South Asia with no previous connection to the university, or evidently much idea of what the largely ceremonial, and unremunerated, role of chancellor involves.

Among the 38 candidate statements posted on the university website, Sidra Aftab, a lawyer from Lahore, boasts an "ability to understand the true facts of circumstances

and to deal with daunting deadlines"; another legal eagle, Anwar Baig, considers himself a "well and fit person for this job"; Kashif Bilal vows to "Enhance literacy rate in UK and global world"; Supreme Court advocate Aftab Ahmad Javaid Sheikh lays claim to the position based on "the dynamic experiences" of his life; Kashmaila Rauf considers her experience as Amazon team leader an adequate qualification; Abrar ul Hasan Shapoo restricts his ambitions to "working with honesty and welfare of the university"; Tanya Tajik says her Zumba experience would "help me manage responsibilities of a Chancellor".

Ex-politicians (who have hitherto tended to win the post) in the fray include former Tory leader William Hague and his ex-colleague Dominic Grieve (the only candidate on whose behalf I have been canvassed) and New Labour stalwart Peter Mandelson. Based on the precedence of former British politicians winning the gig, one of them is the likeliest successor to Chris Patten.

This is the first time the vote has been thrown open to the 'convocation' — including all former alumni — rather than restricted to the 'congregation', a terminology that points to Oxford's origins almost a millennium ago as a theological seminary, reflected in its motto Dominus illuminatio mea (the Lord is my light).

Anyone wanting a different motto might have earned my endorsement. As things stand, I have no idea whom I'll vote for when the ballot goes live next week. But, beyond Imran Khan's absence from the list, it's also reassuring that it doesn't particularly matter who wins this sordid (or morbid) contest. -- Courtesy Dawn

Under the sea

Rafia Zakaria

When people think of unexplored frontiers these days, they tend to think of other planets and the universe at large. Space exploration, including successful missions to Mars, have led many to believe that in a couple of generations from now, travel to the moon and Mars will not only be possible but also quite easily achieved.

If you speak to oceanographers, however, they will tell you that the real unexplored frontier is not beyond the heavens but under the sea. The depths of the ocean, they assert, have more secrets and possibilities than moons and planets. Maybe, there is some truth to their assertions, given that oceanographers say that a paltry 20 per cent of the ocean has been mapped.

One expedition in the Atlantic Ocean has found a real 'lost city' beneath the waves and oceanographers say that it is teeming with marine life. While this city is not some lost human civilisation its description is still awe-inspiring. The towering landscape of this marine city is located near the mid-Atlantic Ridge and consists of massive walls, columns and monoliths of more than 60 metres. Many of the white spires spew hydrogen or methane gas into the surrounding water. These, in turn, are believed to provide fuel to trillions of microbes living in the city.

Such a world's existence under the sea is beyond the limits of imagination. This city, along with its rock walls and rich marine life, is said to be over 120,000 years old — an indescribably long pe-

riod of time. But even this marine ecosystem is a blip considering that our planet and life on it is believed to be around four billion years old. Scientists have become fascinated with studying microbes and the ecosystem in this undersea city, because it is an example of how organisms can survive without oxygen. Scientists think that such an undersea ecosystem might provide clues as to the possibility of life in space.

It may take a while before scientists can establish what nutrients the microbes in the lost city are scrounging around for. The lost city might provide clues as to how life may be possible in extreme conditions. As humans we rely on oxygen to survive, and the exploration of new frontiers has thus been guided by the search for nutrients and gases that we consider necessary for our own survival. However, in this ecosystem, scientists hypothesise that the swirling waters could generate favourable conditions for life.

An interesting report in the New York Times, a couple of months ago, focuses on the oceanic exploration. It refers to the journal Science, which published a report about a 30-member expedition that had managed to drill deep into the lost city to access a vast expanse of rare rocky material, which may support the work of scientists who believe that life began under the ocean and through basic microbes that survive in inhospitable underwater conditions. The large amount of rocky material will lead to systematic scientific studies that can help us understand pro-

cesses integral to the origin of life on Earth.

This particular expedition — named the 'Building Blocks of Life' — drilled into a rocky seabed located at a distance of 2,250 kilometres from Bermuda. According to the NYT, "Its tallest spire rivals a 20-storey building." It was due to the efforts of an international consortium of 20 countries that made the exploration possible — an example in global cooperation that could be replicated to solve other scientific puzzles.

The consequence of such scientific discoveries can transform human beings' understanding of themselves and of life on Earth. The story of tiny organisms surviving on almost nothing links up with the unknown frontiers of life. Just like it felt impossible that any kind of life would exist in the mega depths of the ocean, so it had seemed that life would be impossible in the depths of space.

Delving deep into these little understood frontiers of exploration inevitably makes one aware of the small fraction of time in which human beings have existed on Earth. The idea of billions of years in which microbial life existed on our own opens up questions about where planets and moons that seem austere and lifeless really are in their life cycle. When we do not see life on the surface of planets or moons in a form that we are familiar with, it does not mean that there isn't any life at all.

The seeming emptiness of new frontiers could mean simply that life is in a long state of gestation — a period that lasts millions of years here on Earth. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Steps on to provide energy to industries on cheaper rates: Jam Kamal

KARACHI (INP): Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan has expressed the government's commitment to boost textile and leather industry by facilitating it with modern and eco-friendly technology.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the fifth edition of International Textiles and Leather Flagship Exhibition (TEXPO) of Pakistan being held from October 23 to 25 at the Expo Center Karachi Wednesday, the Commerce Minister said that textile and leather products account for 60 per cent of Pakistan's national

exports. On the occasion, the Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan along with Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karream Kundi, and Chairman Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Zubair Motiwala performed the digital inauguration of the Texpo 2024.

Jam Kamal Khan said this exhibition is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the existing relationships and forge new partnerships, ensuring mutual growth and success for all stakeholders.

He said that we are

working closely with the private sector to promote value addition and product diversification, particularly in non-cotton apparel, performance/active wears, technical textiles, sports and high fashion shoes, leather accessories, while promoting the concepts of circular economy and use of smart and sustainable materials.

He said that we are also focusing on enhancing our design capabilities (replacing the physical samples to 3D prototypes) and creating high-end products that command premium quality in international markets.



HYDERABAD: Worker busy in preparing design on the handkerchief and traditional fabric by machine at a local textile factory.

PSX reaches historic level of 87,194.54 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rs 26.824 billion against Rs.25.024 billion on the last trading day. Positive sentiments prevail over the 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for third consecutive day on Wednesday and continued with bullish trend, gaining 727.96 more points, a positive change of 0.84 per cent, reaching all time high level of 87,194.54 points against 86,466.58 points on the last trading day.

A total of 699,294,030 shares were traded during the day as compared to 722,209,194 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at

Food exporters delegation to visit S.Arabia

LAHORE (APP): A high-level delegation of food and snacks exporters will visit Saudi Arabia next week to further explore new markets in the kingdom.

Leader of the delegation Shahid Imran, convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional standing committee on food and snacks told the media here on Wednesday that the visit aims to strengthen trade ties between the two countries by showcasing Pakistan's diverse range of food products, including snacks, spices, and processed foods.

He said this initiative is part of Pakistan's broader strategy to increase its global food exports, targeting the Middle East as a crucial growth area. By establishing stronger trade connections, Pakistan aims to enhance its export portfolio and contribute to the economic growth of both countries through mutually beneficial trade partnerships, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting on Road Shows in China.

Aurangzeb hails China's positive response on debt re-profile

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb hailed China's positive response on Pakistan's request to extend debt repayment periods for projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In an interview with Bloomberg, on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, Aurangzeb said that the South Asian nation was looking to increase the maturities for debt taken for power plants to "create enough space" to lower electricity prices.

"We have just started that discussion and the response is encouraging,"

Belgian envoy encourages Pakistani businessmen to leverage EU Market access

LAHORE (INP): Belgium serves as a gateway to Europe which is a valuable opportunity for Pakistani businesses to expand their presence in the EU market.

These remarks were made by the Ambassador of Belgium, Idesbald Vander Gracht, during his meeting with the President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mian Abuzar Shad. LCCI Executive Committee Members were also present at the meeting. The Ambassador

Aurangzeb said. "These are early days in terms of those negotiations."

The former JP Morgan Chase & Co. banker discussed debt with Chinese officials during a July visit to China.

Aurangzeb emphasized the need for Pakistan to maintain fiscal discipline and increase the tax-to-GDP ratio from below 10% to 13.5%. Pakistan has been a regular borrower, having engaged in 25 programs with the IMF. Ideally, the government plans to initiate discussions on obtaining additional financing from the IMF through its climate resiliency fund during the Pakistani delegation's time at the meetings in

Washington, he said.

To reach its goal, Pakistan will target sectors such as retail and agriculture, which have previously opposed taxation. The provinces will move forward with legislation related to agriculture by January, aiming to start tax collection by July, he added. Pakistan has been a flagship destination for China's Belt and Road Initiative, which has provided lending to developing countries and helped the nation overcome decades-long electricity blackout issues. It is now seeking to extend the maturity of debt for nine power plants built by Chinese companies under the multibillion-dollar economic corridor.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday gained 01 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.73.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.30 and Rs278.80 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.44 to close at Rs299.46 against the last day's closing of Rs300.90, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Ali Pervaiz says: Govt committed to tackling tax fraud

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power, Ali Pervaiz Malik, informed the National Assembly on Wednesday that the government is taking serious steps to address tax fraud and evasion.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding large-scale evasion and misappropriation in the collection of General Sales Tax (GST), the minister said that, in addition to legislative measures, efforts are underway to strengthen the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) through enhanced technology and human resource capacity.

He said that the government collected Rs 3.5 trillion in sales tax

during the fiscal year 2024.

He said that robust measures are being implemented to curb tax evasion, with new laws aimed at preventing fraud in the collection of sales and other taxes.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing sales and income tax challenges seriously.

Sharing details of ongoing efforts to combat tax fraud, he said, that Rs 701 billion in fraudulent activities had been detected as of July 2023.

The government successfully blocked fraudulent claims of Rs 606 billion in input tax. Additionally, Rs 4 billion has been recovered, while cases worth Rs 95 billion are currently being tried in courts.



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

Pakistan earns \$11m from travel services' export in Jul-Aug

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$111.313 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the two months of the fiscal year 2024-25.

This shows an increase of 4.99 per cent as compared to the US \$106.020 million worth same services provided during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

(PBS) reported.

During the months under review, personal travel services increased by 4.82 per cent, from US \$104.380 million last year to US \$109.411 million during July-August 2024-25. Among these personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure rose by 4.82 per cent while the education-related expenditure increased by 61.37 per cent.

CM KP reviews police strengthening initiatives

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur chaired a meeting to review progress on initiatives aimed at strengthening the police force.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the creation of new police positions, ongoing recruitment, vehicle purchases, and related matters. Due to the current security situation, 1,356 new police positions have been established in southern districts.

The recruitment of 1,200 constables is nearing completion, with appointment letters expected soon. Positions for sub-inspectors,

assistant sub-inspectors, and head constables are being filled following standard procedures.

The Chief Minister increased the quota for recruiting children of police martyrs as assistant sub-inspectors from 5% to 12.5%. So far, 246 positions have been filled under this new quota, with specific allocations in various regions: 85 in Peshawar, 51 in Mardan, 24 in Dera Ismail Khan, 25 in Kohat, 35 in Malakand, and 26 in Bannu. An additional 72 assistant sub-inspectors will be recruited soon in Peshawar, Malakand, and Dera Ismail Khan. A case to fill 1,153 positions under the in-

service quota has been submitted to the Public Service Commission, along with a case for 631 sub-inspector positions under the 25% quota for current assistant sub-inspectors.

The police vehicle procurement process is ongoing at a budget of 802 million PKR, which includes the purchase of 34 double cabins, 15 single cabins, 30 single cabin vehicles, and 15 bikes. Additionally, work is underway to bulletproof 79 vehicles at a cost of Rs. 760 million.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for prompt completion of recruitment and vehicle purchases.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Federal Commerce Minister, Jam Kamal and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Hamid Khan lawyers leader Revenge of ousting Nawaz, Gilani being taken from the entire judiciary

LAHORE (Online): Senior lawyer Hamid Khan has said the lawyers community from all over the country will observe "Youme Najat from Qazi Faez Isa" on October 25.

How enormous harm Qazi Faez Isa has inflicted on judiciary and constitution, no one else has caused ever before to judiciary. Justice Yahya Afridi should not accept government offer. He should become chief justice on his turn and secure his name and honor, he said

this while addressing a press conference here Wednesday in Lahore High Court Bar. Hamid Khan said the revenge of ousting Yousuf Raza Gillani and Nawaz Sharif is being taken from the entire judiciary. The judges who had expelled you have gone. We say to justice Yahya Afridi you are good judge. You should become chief justice on your turn. The motive behind making chief justice the judge who is at No 3 is pitting judiciary against judiciary.

MPAs calls on CM; discuss public issues

LAHORE (APP): Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Safdar Hussain Sahi and Muhammad Zubair Khan called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif at her office here on Wednesday.

The CM discussed pressing public issues and the development needs of their constituencies. The meeting also addressed the overall political situation in the country and party matters within the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized the party's commitment to serving the public.

One killed, four injured on road

FAISALABAD (APP): A man was killed while four others sustained serious injuries in an accident in the area of Dijkot police station.

Rescue 1122 Spokesman Zahid Latif said on Wednesday that two speeding vans collided with each other while saving a rickshaw on Samundri Road. As a result, 32-year-old Sufyan Ashfaq of Chak No 44-GB died on the spot whereas the Rescue 1122 shifted Sajjad Ali Muhammad Irfan, Tariq Ali and Aqib Riaz to the Allied Hospital-II.

Governor Kundi pays tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Qasuria

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday paid tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto, known as the mother of democracy on the occasion of her death anniversary.

The Governor highlighted her sacrifices for democracy and the nation, saying that her contributions will always be remembered.

to guide advocates of democracy.

Meanwhile, Governor Kundi on Wednesday expressed his condolences on the death of renowned educator Professor Dr. Fazal Rahim Qasuria, calling his loss a significant blow to the academic community.

In his condolence message, he extended sympathies to Dr. Qasuria's brother, former provincial minister Abdul Haleem Khan Qasuria, and his family, wishing them patience during this difficult time. Kundi praised Dr. Qasuria's invaluable contributions to journalism and research, praying for his soul to find a high place in paradise.

Kundi emphasized Begum Nusrat Bhutto's exemplary role in the struggle against dictatorship, saying that she remains an inspiration for women across the country. He remarked that her political insight and principled stance continue



PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Sarmad Salim Akram addresses during the Media Cricket League organized by Peshawar Press Club in Peshawar.

Illegal appointments in PA case against Pervaiz Elahi others: LHC adjourns hearing

LAHORE (Online): Anti Corruption Court (ACC) Lahore has adjourned till November 13 hearing of illegal appointments in Punjab Assembly (PA) case against former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and others.

Sardar Muhammad Dogar judge of the court heard the case Wednesday.

The counsel submitted one day exemption plea of

Pervaiz Elahi in the court.

The exemption plea said Pervaiz Elahi is unwell and doctors have advised him for bed rest. It is requested the court to accept his one day exemption plea.

The court while expressing displeasure over non appearance of Pervaiz Elahi remarked one or other accused becomes absent on every hearing to avert indictment.



PESHAWAR: Members of All Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Goods Transport Association block road during protest in favor of their demands.

PHC seeks federal, KP governments' responses over security of judiciary

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Wednesday sought a reply from the federal and provincial governments over security of the judiciary in the province.

The bench comprising Chief Justice, PHC Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed while conducting a hearing on law and order situation in the province as filed by the KP bar council, expressed concerns over the security situation in the province.

The CJ PHC passed strong remarks on the issue of judges' security and

said that "we cannot hold guns ourselves, the government has to take the issue of judges' security seriously."

On this occasion, Advocate General and Additional Attorney General also appeared in the court. The court sought answers to six questions on the matter, however the Advocate General KP said that the Inspector General of Police had requested a two-day time to submit a detailed reply.

The Chief Justice noted on this occasion that "One incident after another happens in the province; we are in more danger."

Police seize large drug consignment

KASUR (APP): Police in Kasur have seized a large consignment of drugs and arrested a notorious drug dealer during the operation on Wednesday.

According to the police spokesperson, the operation was led by the Station House Officer (SHO) of Sadar Patu Police Station. During a targeted blockade, the police arrested a major drug dealer known as Amin, alias Amini from the Bhopwal Mor area.

The authorities recovered 20 kg 630 grams of hashish, 1 kg 200 grams of ice (crystal methamphetamine) and a substantial amount of cash from the accused.

The police revealed that the arrested individual, Amini is involved in the large-scale supply of drugs in Patuki and other districts. At the time of the arrest, the accused was allegedly supplying drugs from his residence in Chak 69. The District Police Officer (DPO) of Kasur, Mohammad Isa Khan stated that the police are conducting intensive operations to rid the society of the drug menace in line with the vision of the Chief Minister of Punjab.

255 govt schools being outsourced in Sialkot

SIALKOT (APP): Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) Managing Director Shahid Farid said on Wednesday that 255 public sector schools of Sialkot district were being outsourced under the PEPF public-private partnership model.

The aim of this programme is to provide free and quality education to out-of-school children by enrolling them in school. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Sialkot

M u h a m m a d Zulqarnain, the PEF MD stated this while addressing the local community during his visit to Govt Girls Elementary School Haripur Sialkot, says a handout. He said the PEF was equipping 2.6 million male and female students in more than 7,000 partner schools in Punjab with excellent education. MD PEF Shahid Farid said that currently 9.6 million children were out of school in the province and the work.

International News

Xi, Modi meet on Brics summit's sidelines as India, China ties recover from 2020 clash

Monitoring Desk
KAZAN: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first formal talks in five years on Wednesday, signalling that ties between the Asian giants damaged by a deadly military clash in 2020 had begun to recover.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Brics summit in the Russian city of Kazan, the Indian government and Chinese state media said, two days after New Delhi announced that it had reached a deal with Beijing to resolve the four-year military stand-off on their disputed Himalayan frontier. Relations between the world's two most populous nations — both nuclear powers — have been strained since a clash between their troops on the largely undemarcated frontier in the western Himalayas of Ladakh left

20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers dead in 2020.

The neighbours increased their military presence along the icy frontier since, adding tens of thousands of troops and weapons over the last four years.

Modi and Xi had not held formal bilateral talks since although they both participated in multilateral events. Their last summit talks were held in October 2019 in the southern Indian town of Mamallapuram.

The two spoke briefly on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali in November 2022 and exchanged courtesies.

They spoke again on the sidelines of the Brics summit in Johannesburg in August 2023 but ended up releasing different versions of the conversation, indicating the two sides didn't see eye to eye.

Xi skipped the G20

summit hosted by New Delhi the following month, a decision seen as another setback to their relations.

Diplomatic efforts gained momentum in recent months after foreign ministers of the two countries met in July and agreed to step up talks to ease the border tensions.

As India had made improving the wider political and damaged business ties contingent upon finding a solution to the border stand-off, Wednesday's talks between the two leaders are expected to result in potentially more Chinese investment into India.

New Delhi had increased the scrutiny of investments coming from China, blocked direct flights between the two countries and had practically barred issuing any visas to Chinese nationals since the Ladakh clashes.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend the narrow format meeting of the Brics summit in Kazan.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un visits missile bases, cites US nuclear threat

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has visited missile bases to examine their readiness to undertake actions of "strategic deterrence", while calling US nuclear capabilities a growing threat to the country, state media reported on Wednesday.

The US strategic nuclear arsenal poses an "ever-increasing threat" to North Korea's security environment, which demands

that Pyongyang maintain a strict counteraction posture of its nuclear forces, he was quoted as saying by KCNA.

North Korea has been stepping up its development of ballistic missiles and a nuclear arsenal, drawing international sanctions, and forming close military relations with Russia.

Kim's visit to the bases comes amid growing tensions with South Korea and its allies.

UK's Birmingham Airport cancels flights, evacuates after report of suspicious vehicle

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Birmingham Airport in central England has cancelled flights, been evacuated and asked passengers not to turn up after a report of a suspicious vehicle, police and the airport said on Wednesday.

"West Midlands Police is currently dealing with an ongoing incident on-site," the force said on X. "Airport operations are currently impacted, and passengers should not come to the airport at this time."

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 major Western partners, in particular Germany.

V o l o d y m y r 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 infrastructure 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.

He said the U.S. is analyzing his plan, but he doesn't expect a meaningful response until after the Nov. 5 election.

"They said, yes, we've started working on the Victory Plan, they want to analyze everything, and so on. But it's very clear to me that all the major partners, especially during the election period, will be afraid of Russia's reaction," he said. "Because they understand that with this package, we can destroy them."

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.

African progress backslides as coups and war persist

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Nearly half of Africa's citizens live in a country where governance has worsened over the past decade, as deteriorating security erodes progress, according to a new report.

The annual Ibrahim Index of African Governance report found that despite positive progress in 33 countries, overall governance was worse in 2023 in 21 countries, accounting for just under half of Africa's population, compared with 2014.

For several countries, including densely populated Nigeria and Uganda, the deterioration in overall governance had worsened over the second part of the decade, according to the report released by Sudanese-British billionaire businessman Mo Ibrahim's foundation.

Attackers kill 4, injure 14 at Turkish state aviation site

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Four people were killed and 14 others wounded in an attack at the Turkish Aerospace Industries' (TAI) headquarters on Wednesday, the government said, and witnesses said they heard gunfire and a loud explosion at the site near Ankara. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was holding talks in Russia with Vladimir Putin at the time, confirmed the toll, and condemned what he said was a "heinous terrorist attack". Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on X that two attackers

were killed in what he called a terrorist attack, adding three of the injured were in critical condition. TV broadcasters earlier showed footage of armed assailants entering the TUSAS building.

"Two terrorists were neutralised in the terror attack on the TUSAS Ankara Kahramankazan site. Sadly, we have 3 martyrs and 14 wounded in the attack," Yerlikaya said, referring to the Aerospace Industries. The cause and perpetrators of the blast and subsequent gunfire remained unclear.

Iraqi-led attacks kill seven Islamic State operatives, US Centcom says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Iraqi-led strikes and raids killed at least seven Islamic State operatives in Iraq, US Central Command said on Wednesday, a day after Baghdad reported the militant group's commander for Iraq had been killed in a military operation.

A Centcom statement did not identify the operatives but said the attacks were launched against multiple Islamic State targets including senior leaders.

Hezbollah confirms Israel killed Nasrallah's likely successor

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Hezbollah confirmed on Wednesday that Israel killed Hashem Safieddine, the apparent successor of its slain leader Hassan Nasrallah, in a strike, without saying when or where it happened.

The announcement came a day after Israel said he was killed along with other Hezbollah leaders in an air strike in Beirut's southern suburbs three weeks ago.

"We mourn ... the head of the Executive Council of Hezbollah, his eminence the scholar Sayyed Hashem Safieddine," the group said in a statement, adding he was killed by "a criminal and aggressive

Zionist raid" alongside other Hezbollah fighters.

The deeply religious Safieddine, a cleric with family ties to Nasrallah, had been widely viewed as the most likely candidate for the party's top job after the assassination of Nasrallah on September 27 in a huge Israeli air strike on Beirut's southern suburbs.

Safieddine, a member of the group's governing Shura Council, had strong ties to Iran after undergoing religious studies in Iran's holy city of Qom.

The United States and Saudi Arabia had put him on their respective lists of designated "terrorists" in 2017.

US says evidence shows North Korea has troops in Russia for Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States said for the first time on Wednesday that it had seen evidence of North Korean troops in Russia, while South Korean lawmakers said about 3,000 soldiers had been sent to support the Kremlin's war in Ukraine with more to follow.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, speaking in Rome, said it would be "very, very serious" if the North Koreans were preparing to fight alongside Russia in Ukraine, as Kyiv has alleged, though he said it remained to be seen what they would be doing there.

"There is evidence that there are DPRK troops in Russia," Austin told reporters, using North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In Seoul, South Korean lawmakers said that North Korea has sent 3,000 troops to Russia and thousands more were expected to follow.

Pyongyang had promised to provide a total of about 10,000 troops, whose deployment was expected to be completed by December, the lawmakers told reporters after being briefed by South Korea's national intelligence agency. The figure of 3,000 is twice the previous estimate of the number of troops already in Russia.

"Signs of troops being trained inside North Korea were detected in September and October," Park Sunwon, a member of a parliamentary intelligence committee, said after the briefing. "It appears that the troops have now been dispersed to multiple training facilities in Russia and are adapting to the local environment." The Ukraine conflict broke out when Russia invaded its neighbour in February 2022 and has since developed into a war of attrition largely fought along front lines in eastern Ukraine, with huge numbers of casualties on both sides.

Message on United Nations Day President reiterates Pakistan's full support to UN charter

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated Pakistan's full support for the UN Charter and its multilateral system and said Pakistan stood ready to collaborate with all the UN Member States to achieve a peaceful and prosperous world for all.

In a message on the occasion of the United Nations Day being observed on October 24, the president said today, Pakistan joined the international community in commemorating the 79th United Nations (UN) Day.

"The UN Charter embodies our collective determination to uphold international law and peaceful co-existence. It also provides for the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace," President Zardari said, in a press release on Wednesday, quoted the president as saying.

Guided by the vision of founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president said, Pakistan had consistently championed the principles of the UN Charter.

"We have maintained a firm and abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role for the promotion of international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights for all. We have also made invaluable contributions to international peace and security, including by serving as a leading military and police contributor to UN peacekeeping operations," he added.

Despite its remarkable achievements over the past 79 years, President Zardari said, the UN Charter's vision of universal peace, development and human rights for all was currently under threat by the blatant violations of its principles and purposes - nowhere more egregiously than in Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

The UN remained an indispensable partner in addressing the pressing challenges being faced by the world today, and for shaping a more equitable future for all, he observed.

"We must revitalize the values enshrined in the UN Charter, by prioritizing peace and actively resolving conflicts, as well as by fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of billions around the world," the president opined.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi in a group photo at the North Bund Forum in Shanghai.

Mayor Karachi says: KMC initiates physical verification for vehicles

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Wednesday said that physical verification process for government vehicles and fuel-powered machinery used by various departments of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has been initiated.

He made these remarks while reviewing the verification process of KMC vehicles and equipment at the KMC Sports Complex under the Department of Store and Procurement.

The aim is to ensure the correct and transparent use of the organization's resources. The verification will cover 600 vehicles and motorcycles used by KMC officers and other staff and 430 service vehicles including generators and other machinery.

This verification process, which started on October 22 will continue until November 20, which will involve checking vehicles from departments including Parks, Fire Brigade, Fumigation, Engineering, Municipal Services, Anti-Encroachment, Land, Katchi Abadi, City Wardens, Estate, HRM, and others. During this verification process, any vehicles not presented before the committee will have their monthly fuel supply cut off.

DC addresses people's concerns in an open court

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur Dr Raja MB Dharejo on Wednesday listened to public complaints in Municipal Commitee Hall of Pano Aqil.

He issued orders on most of the complaints to officers concerned to resolve them on merit.

The deputy commissioner said that resolving issues of the general public is among the top priorities of the government, and directed the heads of district departments including assistant commissioners to show their responsibilities in this regard. Deputy Commissioner Sukkur emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents and providing swift resolutions to their problems. He said that the doors of his office were always open to people as their genuine grievances would be redressed on a priority basis.

The DC reassured attendees that both the government and administration are fully committed to resolving public problems at their doorstep.

The "Open Door Policy" aims to facilitate timely solutions to public grievances and ensure easy access to government offices, allowing citizens to present their concerns without barriers.



KARACHI: View of site after fire broke out incident at spray part shop as fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, located on Malir Liaquat Square area in Karachi.

SAU VC returns from SCO Forum held in China

HYDERABAD (APP): The Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam Dr. Fateh Mari recently returned from the 3rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) International Agricultural University Presidents' Forum, held in Yangling, China.

The forum, which coincided with the 90th anniversary of Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (NWAU), reaffirmed the commitment to advancing agricultural education and strengthening international cooperation among member nations.

According to the SAU spokesperson, during a debriefing with SAU's academic and administrative heads, Dr. Fateh Mari highlighted key developments in global agriculture discussed at the forum, stressing the importance of fostering stronger ties between Pakistan's agricultural education and research institutions and their international counterparts.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto's 13th death anniversary celebrated

SUKKUR (APP): The 13th death anniversary of Mother of the Republic Begum Nusrat Bhutto was celebrated with devotion and respect by the People's Party Larkana district at New Dero House on Wednesday. On the occasion, a congregational prayer was held at New Darrow House through recitation of the Quran. A number of Party workers including former MNA Nasib Chana, PPP leader Nisar Bhutto, Imran Jatoi, Syed Arshad Rashidi and other elected local representatives participated.

In Hyderabad, the Vigilance Team conducted a detailed inspection of a local spice mill. As a result, over 12,000 kg of low-quality spices were seized, including 200 bags of spoiled coriander husk and 100 bags of substandard red chili husk.

Due to severe violations of food safety standards, the owners of the spice mill were fined Rs 300,000, and the facility was sealed.

The Vigilance Team, led by Incharge Ali Asghar and comprising members Eman Fatima, Rajkumar, Awais Lakhair, Bakhtawar Jokhio, and Fahad Kaboro, immediately discarded all confiscated materials.

Open Kachehry in full swing in SEPCO

SUKKUR (APP): On the special instructions of the Ministry of Power Division, a series of open Kachehry are in full swing in the SEPCO region with the aim of solving problems faced by the consumers in electricity bills and other matters immediately.

Chief Executive Engineer Manzoor Hussain Soomro on Wednesday said that public/customers hearings are being conducted in all circles of SEPCO. The public is also being informed about this in advance through the media. All the SDOs along with their teams are ensuring regular holding of open kachehry in their sub-divisions on a daily basis. Superintending Engineers (SEs) and Executive Engineers (XENs) are reviewing these public hearings.

DEOs asked to immediately halt salaries of absent teachers in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Over a thousand teachers across Sindh have been found absent from duty, according to a report submitted by the Scrutiny Committee to the provincial education secretary. The committee was formed to look into the matter of ghost teachers following a number of complaints in Sindh province.

Sources also reveal that a significant number of teachers are currently abroad on extended leave.

Following the findings of the report, the secretary has directed all district education officers (DEOs) to immediately halt the salaries of the absent teachers, with official notifications issued.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah distributes awards at the 39th Corporate Excellence Awards ceremony, organized by the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP), KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi was also present on the occasion.

At UN, Pakistan says India using enforced disappearances in Kashmir as 'tool of oppression'

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding citizens' rights, Pakistan has told a UN panel that authorities in Indian Occupied Kashmir were systematically using enforced disappearances as "a tool of oppression" to stifle the voice of Kashmiri people.

"While Pakistan remains vigilant in addressing cases of enforced disappearances domestically, we cannot overlook the alarming situation in conflict zones, especially in areas under foreign occupation," Pakistani delegate Sarfraz Gohar said during an interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances held in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

Sindh Food Authority's major operations in Hyderabad and Korangi

Over 12,000 kg of spoiled spices seized from Hyderabad; 2,000 kg of soybean protein seized from Kkorangi

Independent Report KARACHI: On the directives of Provincial Food Minister Jam Khan Shoro, the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) has been conducting extensive inspections across the province to ensure public safety.

During these inspections, the SFA seized a significant quantity of substandard food products. Operations were carried out in Hyderabad and Korangi, resulting in the confiscation of harmful spices and expired raw materials.

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MOHENJO DARO: A tourist delegation from Poland are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

Speakers term SCO Summit 2024 beneficial for Pakistan

HYDERABAD (APP): Speakers at a seminar have said that the Central Asian Republics are landlocked allowing Pakistan to provide a sea route to the SCO members, especially non-coastal Central Asia.

Pakistan's important geographic location gives it an edge in geostrategic, geopolitics and geo-economics. They said that Pakistan was a resource-rich country, while its natural resources included coal, gas and minerals, which gave it an edge in attracting foreign investments.

This they said while addressing the seminar titled "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit (SCOS) 2024: Regional Security, Economic Cooperation & Connectivity" held in Pir Hussamuddin Rashidi Auditorium, Institute of Sindhology, University of Sindh, which was jointly organized by the Area Study Center Far East and Southeast Asia (ASC-FESEA) and the Department of International Relations here on Wednesday.

In his presidential remarks, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sindh, Jamshoro Professor Dr Hamadullah Kakepoto said that exploring trade relations with SCO member countries could further enhance Pakistan's exports. "If free trade and tariff policies are implemented, Pakistan can serve as a potential market for SCO members," he said.

He noted that Pakistan had a whole history of war against terrorism. Through that experience, the country could aid SCO in the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) as Shanghai Cooperation Organization members were prone to security issues.

"Hosting Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit implies Pakistan's growing significance in regional dynamics as the summit was a golden chance for our country to show its capabilities in diplomacy."



HYDERABAD: Dengue patients are under treatment in a dengue ward set-up in Shah Bhitai Hospital on Wednesday. Dengue cases are increasing with each passing day in the city.

Good governance not only a regulatory requirement but fundamental pillar: CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that good governance is the cornerstone of any successful organization, and it is not merely a regulatory requirement but a fundamental pillar for long-term success.

"Through ethical decision-making and transparency, companies can build trust, enhance their reputations, and contribute to a thriving economy."

This he said while addressing the 39th Corporate Excellence Awards hosted by the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) at a local hotel on Wednesday. Senator Sarmad Ali Khan received the CM at the programme.

The CM stressed the critical role of good governance and corporate responsibility in driving sustainable growth and development in Pakistan. The event, which celebrated excellence in corporate governance, brought together business leaders, award recipients, and members of the corporate community.

Shah commending MAP for its unwavering commitment to promoting good governance, ethical business practices, and corporate transparency, said that MAP's leadership over the past four decades has significantly shaped the corporate landscape of Pakistan, setting new standards for corporate excellence.

The CM emphasized the importance of fostering a corporate culture that embraces diversity and inclusion, highlighting that these values are essential for balanced and ethical decision-making. He urged the businesses to stay aligned with global best practices and adapt to international trends, particularly in areas such as sustainability and digital transformation.



NAUNDERO: Leaders and activists of Peoples Party (PPP) are reciting Holy Book (Quran) and offer Fateha for the soul of Begum Nusrat Bhutto on the event of her Death Anniversary held in Naundero.

Arslan pays tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her 13th death anniversary

SUKKUR (APP): Spokesperson to Sindh Government and Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh has said that Madar-e-Jamhuriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto was a metaphor of compassion, patience and courage, who never hesitated to sacrifice for the sake of Pakistan's democracy and the people.

In his statement on the 13th death anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto on Wednesday, paid tribute to her and said that Madar-e-Jamhuriat was a visionary women leader, who led a historic movement against a dictator to restore political and democratic rights to the people of Pakistan.

Arslan said that after the judicial assassination of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, as long as health allowed her, Begum Bhutto continued to fight for people's rights and never sat down silently for a single day.

He further stated that there is no match of this bravery in the political history of the world. She led the public struggle for the restoration of democracy and the constitution while enduring unbearable tyranny for the democracy and people, he said.

AC Larkana hold meeting for Polio eradication drive

LARKANA (APP): Administration of Larkana conducted meeting for the success of the upcoming polio campaign which will start from 28 October to November 2.

Meeting was held on Wednesday Assistant Commissioner Larkana Raja Khan Qureshi chaired the meeting, in which Dr. Mohammad Qasim Dr. Shahzad Patojo (focal person) Dr. Asadullah Abbasi, Mukhtairkar Larkana Habib-ur-Rehman Khoso and the officials of the health department participated.

Speaking in the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Larkana Raja Khan Qureshi said that the health department will start an anti-polio campaign from October 28 to November 2. For this, Tapidar and Kotwar will fully cooperate with the polio teams who will go to their respective areas to monitor the polio teams and through them, information will be taken about the arrival and departure of the teams.



KARACHI: Construction works of Malir Expressway Korangi to Quaidabad Segment is underway under the supervision of local government department, at Korangi Industrial area in Karachi.

Delegation of SUPARCO visits Sukkur IBA university

SUKKUR (APP): A delegation of Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), comprising of its Director General (DG), Shoukat Khan, General Manager (GM), Waqas Shahid, and Manager Anwar Ali Ghayo on Wednesday visited Sukkur IBA University Sukkur to conduct a feasibility study for the development of a Space Science Corner in Sindh.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Asif Ahmed Shaikh, warmly welcomed the delegation and highlighted the university's achievements and offering full support for the project. The meeting focused on the Space Science Corner, envisioned as a public facility to engage children, students, and the community with space sciences through interactive exhibits and educational materials.

Dean of Education, Dr Zaffarullah Sahito introduced the delegation to the university's accomplished science education faculty, showcasing their achievements.

The visitors toured the university's cutting-edge facilities, including the CRAIB, FAB, Real-Time Data Labs, library, and world-class environment.

The SUPARCO delegation was presented with traditional Ajrak and souvenirs as a token of appreciation.