

# Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 240 Rabi-us-Sani 22, 1445 AH Saturday October 26, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## Full court reference held in honor of outgoing CJP May have made wrong decisions but Allah knows truth, admits Justice Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said on Friday he may have made many wrong decisions but Allah knows the truth. Justice Isa was addressing a full court reference held in his honour in Courtroom No 1 of the Supreme Court. Justice Isa shared his experiences and feelings with those who attended the reference. He thanked all his staff, including his gurad Fayyaz and the registrar, for their support during his stay in the office. He referred to the practice of taking notes on pieces of papers during hearing of cases. He said the notes helped him decide a case according to the facts. "We have to adjudge who is right and who is wrong. The paper may favour a contestant (party) and go against the other," he added.

"It is our duty to give justice," Justice Isa said. Chief Justice-designate Yahya Afridi paid Justice Isa a tribute and said he learned a lot from him. He said he was sad that he (Justice Isa) was leaving but glad that "you get time to spend with your family." Justice Afridi said Justice Isa was an excellent human being. He disagreed with Justice Isa on many benches but "we played our role judiciously." APP adds: A full court reference was held in the Supreme Court on Friday in honour of the outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Chief Justice designate Yahya Afridi, Supreme Court judges, ad hoc judges, Shariat Appellate Court judges, bar association representatives and senior lawyers participated in the full court reference.

Speaking at the full court reference, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa thanked Allah Almighty for considering him worthy of the high position and said that he learned a lot during his tenure. He said that the role of lawyers is important in ensuring the delivery of justice. Qazi Faez Isa said that he is grateful to former Chief Justice Itikhar Muhammad Chaudhry for his selection as the Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court. The Chief Justice thanked all the participants of the full court reference for their presence. The Chief Justice designate Yahya Afridi, in his address on the occasion, reiterated his determination to ensure the rule of law and said that cooperation between the bar and the bench is indispensable for the delivery of justice.



ISLAMABAD: Attorney General Mansoor Usman speaking before a full court reference held at Supreme Court in honour of outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

## Murad to approach center to release Rs22bn FBR collected 2014-21 from Sindh WWF, WPPF collected from trans-provincial entities being deposited in SHC

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has announced that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected over Rs. 22 billion from approximately 500 Sindh-based industrial establishments during the tax periods from 2014 to 2021 but has not transferred these funds to the provincial government. "We will meet with the federal government to resolve various issues, including the release of pending funds and the recovery of the Sindh Workers Welfare Fund (SWWF) and the Sindh Workers Participation Fund (SWPPF)," he said this while presiding over a Friday joint meeting of the Labour and Finance departments at the CM House. The meeting

was attended by provincial ministers Saeed Ghani, Zia Lanjar, Shahid Thahim, Mayor of Karachi Muratza Wahab, Secretary of Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary to the Chief Minister Raheem Shaikh, Secretary of Law Ali Ahmad Baloch, Secretary of Labour Rafiq Qureshi, and others. Mr Shah said that the FBR has collected over Rs. 22 billion from around 500 industrial establishments in Sindh during the specified tax periods but has not allocated any of these amounts to the provincial government. Moreover, he noted that the FBR has collected billions of rupees from trans-provincial entities such as OGDCL, PPL, SSGC, and the Engro group, yet has not transferred any funds to the

Sindh government since 2016-2017, despite consistently collecting the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) and Workers Participation Fund (WPPF) from industrial establishments throughout Pakistan, including Sindh. It was pointed out that, following the passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the power to collect the SWWF and SWPPF from industrial establishments - both intra-provincial and trans-provincial - rests exclusively with the provinces. The CM was informed that the WWF and WPPF collected from trans-provincial industrial establishments amount to Rs. 25.36 billion, which is currently under review by the Sindh High Court and being deposited in the court.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint meeting of the Labour & Finance departments at CM House.

## Sharjeel Inam Memon says Govt's priority is to provide electricity to people of province through alternative and affordable energy sources

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the political upheaval in the country has now come to an end. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari had already directed the Sindh government to focus on public welfare and provide relief to the people. Recently, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah visited Karachi and inaugurated six projects in a single day.

The Pakistan People's Party government in Sindh has delivered exemplary services across all sectors. Addressing a press conference at the Directorate of Social and Electronic Media in Karachi, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, announced that a 2,320 MW solar project has been completed at Dow Medical Campus. Karachi Central Jail has also been fully solarized.



KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing a press conference at the Directorate of Social and Electronic Media in Karachi.

## CS orders prompt resolution to KPC issues, discuss solarization of KPC, MDA plots

**Independent Report** KARACHI: A delegation of Karachi Press Club (KPC), led by its President Saeed Sarbazi and Secretary Shoaib Ahmed, met Chief Secretary (CS) Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah. They held a detailed discussion on the allotment of plots to Karachi Press Club new members, lease of LDA, solarization of KPC, MDA Plots, developmental projects, and other issues. The meeting was attended by Secretary Information Department Nadeem-ur-Rehman Memon, KPC Joint Secretary KPC Muhammad Munsif, Secretary Plot Committee KPC Shams Keerio, Special Secretary Local Government, Director

and other relevant officials. During the meeting, President and Secretary of Karachi Press Club briefed on the problems faced by members, including plot allotment and development schemes. Chief Secretary Sindh listened attentively to the issues and assured full cooperation for the welfare of the Press Club. The Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah, assured the delegation of resolving the issues related to the allocated land for the Press Club and its development. He directed the relevant departments to take necessary actions. He emphasized that the Karachi Press Club is a historical institution, and the needs of its members will be addressed on a priority basis.

## Six SC judges skip full court reference for outgoing CJP Faez Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Six Supreme Court (SC) judges skipped full court reference held for outgoing CJP Qazi Faez Isa. It reported in media that, six Supreme Court judges including Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Malik Shehzad chose to skip the full court reference held in honor of outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa. The reference, traditionally attended by Supreme Court justices to bid farewell to the departing CJP, saw a reduced attendance this time.

## Nawaz Sharif leaves for Dubai

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President and former three-time prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif left Lahore for Dubai on Friday. Nawaz Sharif travelled to Dubai by Emirates flight EK-625 which took off at 9.04 am. He will land in Dubai at 11:25 am local time. After one-day stay in Dubai, the PML-N president will proceed to London, where he is expected to hold important meetings. On October 29, Nawaz Sharif will depart London for a four-day visit of the United States. According to sources, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will also travel to London in the first week of November.



KARACHI: A delegation from the Karachi Press Club, led by President Saeed Sarbazi and Secretary Shoaib Ahmed, met with Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah.



KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani chaired meeting of the PPP Karachi Division.

## Saeed Ghani says PPP to celebrate passage of 26th amendment outside Mazar-e-Quaid on Oct 28

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party Karachi Division has decided to hold a function outside the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah on the evening of October 28, 2024, to express gratitude and celebrate the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment. The decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the PPP Karachi Division held on Friday with Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani in the chair. Ghani chaired the meeting in his capacity as the PPP Karachi President.

The meeting decided that the PPP Karachi Division would also fully participate in the rally of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) from the Arts Council to the Karachi Press Club on October 27 to express solidarity with the oppressed people in the Occupied Kashmir region. While chairing the meeting, the Local Government Minister noted that people in the country had been delighted by the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and the role played by the PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in this regard. He said that a large gathering would be held by the PPP Karachi Division at the VIP Gate of Mazar-e-Quaid on October 28 at 6 pm to celebrate this achievement. He said the event would be attended by PPP office-bearers, workers, and supporters from all over the city. He said the PPP's workers from all over Karachi would also fully participate in the APHC rally on October 27 to show solidarity with Kashmiri brethren. The meeting also considered the affairs related to upcoming local government by-polls to be held in Karachi.

## FO clears the air on backdoor diplomacy between India, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch addressing rumors of backdoor diplomacy between Pakistan and India, Baloch firmly denied such claims, it reports in media. She emphasized, "There is no truth in the news of backdoor diplomacy between Pakistan and India." The spokesperson clarified that Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar's recent visit to Pakistan was solely for the SCO Conference, where only formal talks took place. Baloch announced that at the government's special invitation, Palestinian students will be allowed to complete their medical education in Pakistan.

## Cadet martyred in Lakki Marwat mosque attack: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (PR): A 19-year-old army cadet was martyred when armed terrorists opened fire on a mosque during evening prayers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat district on Friday, the military's media wing said. According to a press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Gentleman Cadet Arif Ullah was offering prayers in the mosque when the attack took place. "As soon as Khawarij started firing, he (Arif Ullah) immediately responded and fought the khawarij bravely," the press release stated.

## US envoy reaffirms US-Pakistan partnership in trade, investment

KARACHI (INP): The United States envoy to Pakistan Donald Blome has said that both USA and Pakistan have built a long-term partnership over seven decades, rooted in shared interests across health, education, energy, economic growth, and security sectors. According to a US Embassy press release Friday, the US investments in Pakistan have grown by 50 percent in the past year, underscoring the strong economic ties between the nations. This includes our investments in clean energy and sustainable agriculture through the U.S.-Pakistan Green Alliance, in public health through tuberculosis control, in people-to-people ties, and in preserving Pakistan's rich cultural heritage.

In Ambassador Donald Blome's October 22-25 visit to Karachi, he reinforced the long-term partnership between the U.S. and Pakistan at the closing ceremony of a \$350,000 U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) grant to restore the historic Frere Hall. At the closing ceremony, the Ambassador noted "It's rare for one project, a partnership between the U.S. Consulate and the Sindh Exploration and Adventure Society, to sum up so much of what the United States and Pakistan work on together. After the 2002 bombing that damaged both U.S. assets and Frere Hall, we felt a responsibility to help restore what was harmed."

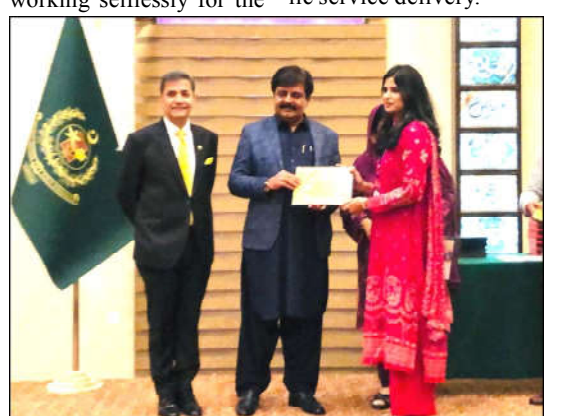


APIA (SAMOA): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar shaking hand with Adviser for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Md. Touhid Hossain on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

## Education Minister calls for bringing back out-of-school-children to schools

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Minister of Sindh for Education, Culture and Tourism, Syed Sardar Ali Shah on Friday called for a need to bring the out-of-schools-children, back to the schools for the brighter future of the next generation. He was speaking as the chief guest at the graduation ceremony of 41st Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) at National Institute of Management (NIM) Karachi. He said that being provincial education minister, all the children enrolled in private and public sectors schools are his responsibility and they should be provided better education. Syed Sardar Ali Shah said that we all should realize our responsibilities towards the society, because working selflessly for the

betterment and welfare of others gives greater satisfaction. He also discussed the historical aspects of the Indus civilization and said that the people of Indus Valley civilization was peace lovers and no evidence of weapons were found from the remains of Indus Valley civilization. Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Instructor NIM Karachi Ms. Samina said that a total 34 participants attended the 10-week long course and this course was mandatory for "in-service" officers in the promotion phase. She said that the principal objective of the course was to strengthen capacities of the participants for effective management to improve public service delivery.



KARACHI: Minister of Sindh for Education, Culture and Tourism, Syed Sardar Ali Shah distributed certificates among the officers who successfully completed the course.

## Sindh gov't, Centre agree to construct M6 Motorway from Karachi to Sukkur,

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government and Centre Thursday agreed to construct the M6 Motorway on a separate track from Karachi to Sukkur, instead of initiating it from Hyderabad to Sukkur. They also agreed to explore the possibility of building the motorway through a public-private partnership (PPP) or through a consortium to be formed by the Sindh and federal governments. The agreement came in a meeting at the CM House which was also attended by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, CM's Secretary Raheem Shaikh,

Secretary Works Mohammad Ali Shaikh, Federal Communication Secretary Ali Sher Mehsud, NHA Chairman Shaharyar Sultan, Director Hassan Shah, Member NHA Sindh Zone Parkash Lehano and Member West Zone Basharat. The Sukkur Hyderabad Motorway project envisages the construction of a 306-kilometre-long, six-lane, access-controlled motorway. The motorway is proposed as a high-speed toll road facility for efficient and safe transportation, which will start from Hyderabad and end at Naro Canal.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Yearly trouble

It is that time of year again. Cities in Pakistan, in particular Lahore, are once more suffocating under the blanket of heavy smog, making it painfully evident that we must move past reactive measures and temporary fixes. With Lahore hitting an Air Quality Index of 394 — nearly four times above healthy levels — and again being ranked the world's most polluted city, air pollution in Pakistan has become a public health crisis begging urgent intervention. Similar conditions prevail across the border in India, where the onset of winter traps pollutants in the air, pushing Delhi into the 'very poor' AQI category. The sources of this persistent problem are well-documented: vehicular emissions, industrial pollutants, and most critically, the widespread burning of crop residue.

Both India and Pakistan have struggled to address the latter, despite the well-established link between stubble burning and deteriorating air quality. In both countries, farmers continue this practice due to expediency and the lack of viable alternatives for clearing fields. Recent reports indicate that farmers in both Haryana, India, and Punjab, Pakistan, are being arrested and fined for burning crop stubble, yet these punitive measures barely scratch the surface of a much larger problem.

In Pakistan, efforts to mitigate smog have intensified, with the government issuing new school timings and banning fireworks to reduce pollutants. India has similarly implemented emergency actions such as water sprinkling on roads and increasing public transport. However, these are akin to putting band-aids on gaping wounds. The long-term strategies needed to combat this environmental crisis remain elusive. The core issue lies in the inadequacy of agricultural policies that leave farmers with little choice but to resort to environmentally harmful practices. While Pakistan has introduced 'Anti-Smog Squads' to monitor and educate farmers about the dangers of stubble burning, these initiatives are only beginning to take root and are not yet widespread. In India, attempts to promote alternatives, such as subsidising machinery for residue management, have faced significant barriers, including high costs and inadequate outreach. What is missing from both countries' approaches is a strategy that not only penalises harmful practices but also provides long-term solutions. While climate diplomacy between India and Pakistan has been proposed, real collaboration on this issue remains sparse. Both nations could benefit from joint initiatives focused on sharing technological advancements, including affordable super-seeders, and coordinating to monitor and control air quality. Moreover, there is a need to realise that smog is not caused by agriculture alone. Both must invest in renewable energy and modernise industrial processes. Encouraging the use of electric vehicles and enhancing public transport systems are also essential steps that both countries must accelerate. Without a paradigm shift in how air pollution is addressed both Pakistan and India will continue to choke every winter.

## Divine 'amanat'

Amin Valliani

With regards to Pakistan, nature has been very kind and generous. It has endowed Pakistan — a beautiful country — with vast natural resources. It is blessed with all four seasons of the year; it gets sunlight all through the year; it has beautiful landscapes, majestic mountains, glaciers, rivers and a long coastal belt — all with distinct geographical features. We are blessed with fertile lands and a good canal system but internationally, we lag behind in many aspects.

Despite being blessed with considerable gifts of nature, our country finds itself in a chaotic situation. There is no dearth of natural wealth in the country nor do we lack talent. Yet we are unable to tap these resources for our development. Therefore, our currency is weak, our economy is aid-based, and we cannot run our country without IMF bailout packages. Our green passport is currently ranked amongst the lowest worldwide, while millions of Pakistanis live in abject poverty and hunger.

Though we are the trustees of this beautiful land, we have failed to adequately manage the trust. No individual can be charged for this unfortunate condition. However, many attribute this situation to our collective failure to treat Pakistan as a divine trust or amanat. We do not value Pakistan as a divine gift; we have developed a laidback and unconcerned attitude towards its progress and integrity. We live beyond our means and espouse the culture of extravagance; misuse and mismanagement of resources are the main reasons for our difficulties.

This is a time of self-reflection and course correction. A resuscitation process is

the need of the hour. If we want our country to shine internationally, then we should reflect on Quranic verses, especially wherein Allah says, "... Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. ... (13:11)".

There is no doubt that most Pakistanis are sincere, hardworking and God-fearing. They love their country and are ready to make sacrifices for it. But they have not been lucky enough to get an upright and honest leadership in politics, economics, business, trade, and other societal affairs. They deserve a competent, devoted and honest leadership, whose lifestyle reflects the inner and outer aspects of their existence.

The leadership should respect the taxpayer and hold human dignity as sacred. They need to rekindle the national spirit and consider Pakistan as a divine gift, an amanat.

Every inch of Pakistan and its natural resources are part of the divine trust. Therefore, it is necessary to use its resources with utmost care and responsibly, thoughtfully, scrupulously and conscientiously. Allah enjoins believers to "...not betray Allah and the Messenger [PBUH] or betray your trusts while you know [the consequence] (8:27)".

The absence of the notion of amanat has led many to unethical practices.

It has made common people lose their faith in state institutions. The development of Pakistan rests on the strength of its institutions. Unless these are effective and trusted by the people, achieving development and prosperity will become near impossible.

There are numer-

ous examples of failure within institutions. For example, it is very unfortunate that we see state employees drawing their salaries, but these individuals are insincere in the performance of their duties. We, as a nation, utterly lack a national spirit, and as a result, we habitually remain negligent of our duties. For instance, in spite of having sufficient stocks of wheat in the country, the essential food grain was imported recently, causing the state losses in billions of rupees. It was a highly irresponsible act on the part of the authorities concerned.

We see corruption and lawlessness in most departments. The politicians use foul language to embarrass others, they submit fake degrees to stand in elections, police parties kill innocent people in fake encounters, businessmen evade taxes, builders openly violate approved plans of construction to mint more money and use low-quality material, teachers skip classwork in order to privately tutor students while doctors recommend certain drugs for a commission from pharmaceutical firms.

In all these examples, the national spirit is violated. In short, Pakistan suffers from an insincere leadership which cares very little for the people.

We cannot change our present conditions overnight, as we do not have a magic wand. Yet we must strive to forge a national spirit, treating Pakistan as a divine gift. It requires hard work, sacrifice, blood and sweat. Together we can strengthen the foundations of Pakistan and ensure that the country serves as a beacon of hope and progress for future generations. -- Courtesy Dawn

## America's president

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Not so long ago, America's president effectively enjoyed the mantle of world leadership. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1992 had elevated the US to the status of sole global superpower, a position it enjoyed for the best part of two decades.

Today, as China and many other countries openly challenge US-led Western hegemony, the US presidential election reads like a cautionary tale about the deep crisis of liberal politics and the so-called 'rules-based international order'.

Four years ago, Joe Biden's defeat of Donald Trump was hailed as a return to 'normal' and the terminal demise of the far right. In 2024, Trumpism is not only alive and well but the man himself is poised to make yet another victorious bid for the White House.

Trump may still lose, of course, but only someone living in a fool's paradise can argue that the liberal order is thriving. Whilst global capitalism continues to generate huge inequalities, ecological devastation and imperialist wars, the liberal centre protects the elephant in the room, thus creating the conditions for the far right to thrive by directing the rage of disillusioned masses towards paper tigers.

Trump's opponent, Kamala Harris, only came into the race three months ago. Her boss Biden, unable to contain the Trumpian wave, had focused, instead, on backing Israel's onslaught in Gaza, thus earning the moniker 'Genocide Joe'. Harris has made it clear that her foreign policy vision is largely the same as Biden's, and while the ongoing carnage in Pal-

estine and Lebanon will not determine the election, it is already clear that large numbers of traditionally Democratic voters will either abstain or even cast their vote for Trump to punish Biden and Harris.

On the domestic front, America's economy, like most so-called advanced capitalist countries, continues to be mired in a low-growth trap, which can be traced back to the global financial crisis of 2007-09, and even further to the 1970s. Those at the top of the tree, especially Wall Street, munitions, agribusiness and a host of other global monopolies, continue to make a killing, but the majority of working people have been seeing their living standards stagnate or drop for decades.

Trump explains all of this by blaming immigrants and all sorts of governmental welfare programmes. His contemporaries across the Western world do the same. But even as the far right spews relentless hate, Harris and mainstream liberals in the US and beyond will not cut big capital down to size.

The downward spiral will intensify no matter who wins the upcoming US presidential election, mainstream politics in many countries effectively reduced to a battle between the liberal centre (read: centre right) and far right. This crisis of liberal politics is indeed global, and while there is some distinctiveness to what is happening in non-Western postcolonial countries like ours, the broad trajectories are quite similar.

Here also entrenched bourgeois parties like the PML-N and PPP have demonstrated time and again that they are unwilling to break with the establishment-dominated status quo.

The PTI too acquired power at the behest of the establishment but it is telling that so many young people continued to support it even after things soured between Imran Khan and the army top brass. The PML-N, PPP and other usual suspects offer no respite from the ravages of the system, and in fact, are reinforcing Pakistan's militarised political economy. The PTI possesses only a mythical hero with a notional magic wand, but for many, this is much better than accepting the mediocrity and collaborationism of the Sharifs and Bhuttos.

In America, Pakistan and beyond, there is only one way out of this cul de sac — to acknowledge that global capitalism and various related manifestations of (liberal) imperialism are exacerbating material deprivations and hateful ideologies. Only a left-wing politics with a genuinely popular social base can break the cycle. It is cruel irony that Trump (and prominent supporters of his like Elon Musk) call Harris and the Democrats 'radical leftists', even though the latter are anything but.

Around the time that Trump first came to prominence, mainstream politicians with a genuinely leftist pedigree like Bernie Sanders were also contending to win over the support of working people. In a similar vein, Jeremy Corbyn was staking a claim to moving the British Labour Party meaningfully towards the left. The Sanders-Corbyn wave, and many others like it, was decisively defeated.

Both in the Western world and here at home, left-progressive forces must regroup and try again. Else we will remain at the mercy of military establishments, plutocrats and the far right. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Finance minister highlights positive economic trends at investors' fora

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb attended a series of investor fora organized by Citibank, Standard Chartered and JP Morgan and highlighted positive trends of economy.

The minister, who is leading Pakistan delegation to the Annual Meetings WB and IMF, being held in Washington DC from 21-26 October 2024, briefed investors about the positive performance of the economy during the last fiscal year (2023-24) and expressed satisfaction that all economic indicators were moving in the right

direction. According to press release issued by finance ministry here, the minister highlighted important reforms in the taxation, energy, SOEs, privatization and right-sizing of the government and especially talked about the role of the provincial governments in increasing tax-to-GDP ratio and the National Fiscal Pact signed by the Federal Government.

He also talked about reforms being carried out in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the statement added. Aurangzeb in a meeting with President Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al

Jasser, acknowledged bank's role as a reliable partner in Pakistan's progress and appreciated its financing in diverse sectors such as energy, transportation, education and health.

He especially talked about the visit of Saudi Minister for Investment to Pakistan for business-to-business (B2B) engagements with the private sector.

He lauded IsDB's investment in Mohmand dam, along with other members of the Arab Coordination Group, which could serve as the template for co-financing of similar and even bigger projects in future.

### Rupee gains 20 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 20 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.64 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.84.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.20 and Rs278.70 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 50 paise to close at Rs300.58 against the last day's closing of Rs300.08, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.82, whereas a decrease of 21 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.19 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs360.40.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 05 paise and 07 paise to close at Rs 75.59 and Rs73.91 respectively.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, accompanied by Governor SBP, held a meeting with the lead team of JP Morgan Bank.

### Governor SBP highlights promising outlook, improvements in Pakistan's economy

KARACHI (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, highlighting significant improvement in the national economy and its promising outlook said that the economy is headed in the right direction with recovery of economic activity and expectation of further real GDP growth in FY25.

He expressed the views during meetings with delegates from international rating agencies and key glo-

bal investors during the events hosted by leading financial institutions, including Standard Chartered, JP Morgan, Bank of America, and Jefferies, on the sidelines of the 2024 IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Washington, DC, said a statement issued here on Friday.

The SBP governor provided an overview of Pakistan's significantly improved economic indicators over the past year and

pointed out that SBP's prudent monetary policy stance and the government's fiscal consolidation have played a crucial role in restoring macroeconomic stability in the country.

Governor acknowledging challenges faced by the global and emerging economies including Pakistan emphasized the necessity of tough yet essential policy responses to address the macroeconomic challenges.

### SSCI chief presents proposals to ease Pak, Afghan transit trade

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President Fazal Moqem Khan on Friday presented comprehensive proposals to remove hurdles in Pak-Afghan bilateral and transit trade.

The SSCI chief, headed a delegation of traders, gave proposals during a meeting with Chief Collector Custom Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar Jamil Nasir held at Model Custom House here.

The meeting agreed to establish

coordination and relations between SSCI and Customs Office to speed up the consignments' clearance process at Azakel dry port, making Peshawar dry port functional and issues, allied with cross border trade.

Senior vice president of the SSCI Abdul Jalil Jan, former president Faiz Muhammad Faizi, members of executive committee of the chamber Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, Aftab Iqbal, Ashfaq Ahmad, along with traders were present on the occasion.

### SBP injects over Rs4.25trl in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs4,255.9 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO) on Friday.

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 25, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted total 27 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs4,232.9 billion.

### Dubai's Aviation sector contributes 27% to GDP in 2023, expected to rise to 32% by 2030

KARACHI (INP): Emirates Group and Dubai Airports have released an economic impact study reaffirming aviation's pivotal role in Dubai's economy.

The study, compiled by global research firm Oxford Economics, provides insights into the sector's current and projected contributions, assessing direct, indirect, and induced economic activity as well as the catalytic impact of aviation-driven tourism, a press release said here Friday.

In 2023, the aviation sector, including Emirates Group, Dubai Airports (covering Dubai International and Dubai World Central - Al Maktoum airports), and other avia-

tion entities, contributed AED 137 billion (USD 37.3 billion) to Dubai's GDP, accounting for 27% of the total.

This figure includes the core impact of AED 94 billion from aviation operations and AED 43 billion from aviation-facilitated tourism. By 2030, this contribution is expected to rise to AED 196 billion, representing 32% of Dubai's GDP.

The sector also played a significant role in employment, supporting 631,000 jobs in 2023, equivalent to one in five jobs in Dubai. With projected growth, an additional 185,000 jobs will be created by 2030, bringing the total to 816,000 jobs.



Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi inaugurated Pakistan Pavilion at 31st China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair.

### Bank of Khyber to support CPEC projects: MD

PESHAWAR (APP): Acting Managing Director, Bank of Khyber (BoK) Irfan Saleem Awan has that BoK is ready to provide full support and assistance to investors involved in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

The bank has opened branches in key locations like Rashakai Economic Zone and Jalozai, specifically to cater to the needs of businessmen and investors, ensuring ongoing contributions to CPEC's development. Awan shared these remarks while speaking to the media during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural

and information center. He praised the strong and enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, calling it a global model of cooperation.

He noted that China's significant investments in Pakistan, particularly in KP are propelling the province into a new era of development and prosperity.

During his visit, Irfan Saleem Awan toured the various galleries, signed the friendship wall, and left his comments in the guest book. He remarked that being at China Window felt like stepping into a Chinese city.



ISLAMABAD: Famous Economist Kaiser Bengali addressing during a seminar at National Press Club in the Federal Capital.

### German market possessed potential for Pakistani entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce (AHK) representative, Florian Walther on Friday said Pakistani entrepreneurs had the potential to grow in German market.

Talking to private news channel, he said that the trade relationship between Pakistan and Germany is important for development of both the countries.

all the stakeholders should play their positive role to boost the trade relationship between the two countries.

He said that the role of media, political leadership and Civil society at all cultural level was important in this regard.

"I believe this is an important part of my role, that I am not only presenting German business here, but also representing Pakistan when I go to Germany," he added.

He further said that

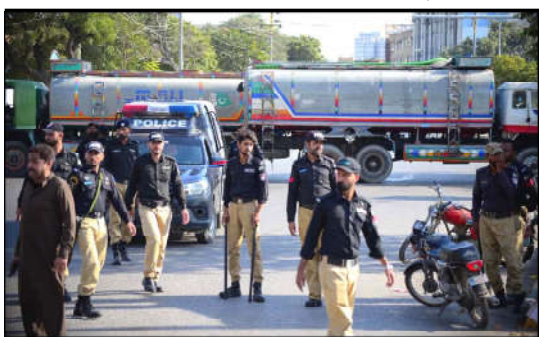
# CM Punjab approves more funds for police martyrs' families

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken another commendable step for the welfare of police martyrs' families by approving an increase in funds for home purchases.

Through the dedicated efforts of IG Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, funding for housing purchases for police martyrs' families has been raised, ranging from Rs. 5 million to Rs. 20 million. Under this new

initiative, the fund for purchasing homes for the families of martyred constables and head constables has been increased by Rs. 5 million, bringing the total to Rs. 18.5 million. Similarly, families of martyred ASIs and sub-inspectors will now receive a total of Rs. 24.5 million, reflecting an increase of Rs. 7 million. For the families of martyred inspectors and DSPs, the fund has been increased by Rs. 10

million, while families of SPs and SSPs will see an increase of Rs. 12 million. Families of DIGs and officers of higher ranks will now receive an increase of Rs. 20 million for home purchases. IG Punjab expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, noting that the increase in funds will ease the challenges in purchasing suitable housing and offer improved living conditions for the families of martyrs.



KARACHI: View of road leads towards CM House and red zone area seen closed while police officials stand alert to avoid untoward incident due to rally of Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP), in Karachi.

## Sardar Saleem says: Responsibility of the govt to protect the life and property of people

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, progress on ongoing development projects in the province and administrative issues were discussed. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that it is the responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of the people and provide them facilities. Governor Punjab said that the success or failure of the

government policies depends on the implementation of these policies and bureaucracy plays a key role in this regard. Governor Punjab further said that the ongoing development projects in the province should be completed soon to make it easier for the people. He emphasized that there is a need to improve public service delivery in the government departments. Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the IT Forum organized by Innovation Labs at Governor House Lahore as Chief Guest.

## ANF recovers over 81 kg drugs in 13 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 13 operations across the country managed to recover over 81 kg drugs worth more than Rs 10 million and arrested 12 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that 4 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Hyderabad.

## Three killed, two injured as truck hits two bikes

SARGODHA (APP): Three people were killed and two others sustained injuries as a speeding truck hit two motorcycles here at Sahiwal Shahpur Road near Mouza Chakrala in the jurisdiction of Sahiwal Police Station, on Friday.

Rescue-1122 District Emergency Officer (DEO) Mazhar Shah told APP that Ayesha (10) Haani (12) Hamza (2) Zamab (8), Khursheed Bibi (14), all residents of Jora Jaeger were heading to Sargodha on two motorcycles when a speeding truck hit them.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh, Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Health minister stresses research, transparency in medical universities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique underscored the Punjab government's commitment to fostering quality research and maintaining transparency in the financial management of medical universities across the province. He was presiding over the 16th Syndicate Meeting of Rawalpindi Medical University at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education on Friday.

During the meeting, the minister highlighted the Punjab government's ongoing support for quality education within

government medical institutions. He confirmed all resolutions made in the previous, 15th Syndicate meeting, and announced that the revised budget for the financial year 2023-24, as well as the budget for 2024-25, had been approved. Key decisions made included the allocation of funds from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for the 2023-24 fiscal year, approval of expenses from the previous year, and authorization for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment for affiliated hospitals including Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital.

## SFA seizes 10,000 kilograms of substandard spices during major raid in Surjani Town

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: In a significant operation, the Sindh Food Authority's Vigilance team conducted a raid on a large spice manufacturing factory located in Surjani Town, seizing 10,000 kilograms of substandard and hazardous spices. Spokesperson for the Sindh Food Authority stated that over 400 bags of contaminated spices were found during the inspection, indicating severe violations of hygiene and food safety standards. The inspection was

led by Food Safety Officer Mehboob Ali Bhatti, who, along with his team, carefully examined various sections of the factory. During the inspection, it was revealed that insects, cone flour, and choker had been mixed with spices, leading to the immediate sealing of the factory. The spokesperson added that cockroaches, cats, and spider webs were found in the production area of the factory, highlighting the extremely poor sanitary conditions.

## SIU arrests four of robbers gang

KARACHI (APP): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) in an action in Khwaja Ajmer Nagri area arrested four alleged members of a gang that robbed citizens coming from abroad and robbed banks/money changers inside Pakistan at gunpoint.

According to SSP SIU Muhammad Shoaib on Friday, the unit also recovered three 30 bore pistols and two stolen motorcycles. The motorcycles were stolen from the limits of Joharabad police station by the arrested accused.

## Several flights called off at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): Several flights from Karachi Airport have been cancelled due to technical and operational reasons. According to flight schedule, AirBlue flight PA-807 from Karachi to Multan has been cancelled while SereneAir flight ER-524 from Karachi to Lahore has also been called off. Moreover, Karachi to Lahore AirSial flight PF-143 has been cancelled and Karachi to Islamabad AirSial flight PF-125 was also suspended. Similarly, PIA flight PK-368 from Karachi to Islamabad has been called off while PIA flight PK-310 from Karachi to Quetta was cancelled and Karachi to Sukkur PIA flight PK-536 was cancelled as well.

## APHC-AJK delegation meets United Kashmir Welfare Alliance Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The delegation of All Parties Hurriyat Conference led by APHC-AJK Chapter Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi met the officials and workers of United Kashmir Welfare Alliance Karachi.

They discussed the ongoing human rights situation prevalent in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ongoing suppression by Indian occupation forces.

The visiting Hurriyat delegation highlighted the ongoing killings, forced disappearances and human rights violations of Kashmiris by the Indian troops in the occupied ter-

ritory and strongly condemned the atrocities inflicted on innocent Kashmiris.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi emphasized on highlighting the long-standing dispute of Kashmir at the global level, saying that India is committing serious violations of human rights in Kashmir, which cannot be ignored anymore and will be raised on international forums. Safi highlighted the difficulties faced by the people of IIOJK, saying that the voice should be raised for the rights of Kashmiris not only in Azad Jammu and Kashmir but in the whole world.



KARACHI: Artists perform traditional folk dances on the closing day of the 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition, TEXPO 2024, at the Expo Center.

## One in 9 women suffering from breast cancer: Speaker

KARACHI (INP): To facilitate early detection of breast cancer, the Naimat Begum Hamdard University Hospital has decreased the charges for mammography by 50 per cent.

According to a press release Friday, the charges for ultrasound of women facing the risk of having the disease have also been reduced appreciably.

This was announced during an awareness seminar held in connection with the Pinktober activities at the Hamdard University's College of Medicine and Dentistry.

The chief guest on the occasion was vice principal of the college Prof Dr

Muhammad Mubeen. A large number of faculty members and students attended the function.

Speakers on the occasion explained why every woman should examine her breasts using her own eyes and hands. They also explained in detail how the self-examination process should be carried out.

Regular self-examination by women would drastically reduce the incidence of breast cancer in the country, they added.

It was revealed recently that a 22-year-old woman had breast cancer, said Dr Rabia Yasmeen of the Naimat Begum hospital.

# International News

## Israeli strikes kill 38 people in Gaza's Khan Younis and 3 journalists in southern Lebanon

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Israeli strikes killed 38 people in Gaza and three journalists in Lebanon on Friday as growing worries about supply shortages in Gaza and international pressure for a cease-fire mounted.

The deaths reported by Gaza health officials were the latest in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, where people have in recent days lined up for bread outside the city's only bakery in operation. They come a day after United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Israel had accomplished its objective of "effectively dismantling" Hamas and implored both sides to revive negotiations.

Also on Friday, an Israeli airstrike on guesthouses where journalists were staying in southeast Lebanon killed three media staffers working for news outlets that are seen

as aligned with Lebanon's Hezbollah group and its patron, Iran.

Outside of now-collapsed buildings rented by various media outlets, cars marked "PRESS" lay covered in dust and rubble after the strike, Associated Press photos showed.

The Israeli army did not issue a warning prior to the strike.

Representatives of the news networks and Lebanese politicians accused Israel of war crimes and intentionally targeting journalists. "These were just journalists that were sleeping in bed after long days of covering the conflict," said Imran Khan, a senior correspondent for Al Jazeera English who was among the journalists in the compound. In a social media post, he said he and his team were unhurt.

The Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV said two of its staffers — camera op-

erator Ghassan Najjar and broadcast technician Mohammed Rida — were among the journalists killed early Friday. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said its camera operator Wissam Qassim was also killed in the airstrike on the Hasbaya region.

Al-Mayadeen's director Ghassan bin Jiddo alleged that the Israeli strike on a compound housing journalists was intentional and directed at those covering elements of its military offensive. He vowed that the Beirut-based station, a pan-Arab broadcaster seen as aligned with Hezbollah, would continue its work.

The strike occurred hours after the Israeli military's Arabic language spokesman, Avichay Adraee, directly challenged Al-Mayadeen war correspondent Ali Mortada in online posts and referred to him as "my enemy" in English.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip.

## India, China begin implementing new border pact, ending Himalayan face-off

**Monitoring Desk**  
KAZAN: India and China have begun implementing an agreement to end a military standoff on their disputed Himalayan border, the two sides said on Friday, in the biggest thaw between the Asian giants since deadly clashes between their armies four years ago. Troops who were eyeball-to-eyeball at two points on the frontier in the western Himalayas had begun pulling back, an Indian government source said, heralding an end to the standoff.

The nuclear-armed neighbours struck a deal earlier this week on patrolling the frontier, which then

paved the way for the first formal talks in five years between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of a regional summit in Russia. "According to the recently agreed solution between India and China ... their frontline armies are implementing relevant work, with smooth progress so far," Lin Jian, a spokesperson for China's foreign ministry, said on Friday.

In New Delhi, a government official aware of the details said troops on both sides had started withdrawing from the areas of Depsang and Demchok.

## Trump leads Harris in latest US presidential poll surveys, with economy at centre of voter concerns

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: As the US presidential election approaches, the most recent polls show former President Donald Trump leading Vice President Kamala Harris in the race, with the economy playing a role in voters' decisions. A poll released on Thursday by CNBC's All-America Economic Survey showed that Trump leading Harris 48 per cent to 46pc nationally, with a

margin of error of 3.1pc.

In the seven battleground states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — Trump leads Harris 48pc to 47pc, with a margin of error of 4pc for that portion of the poll. This survey highlighted that many voters view the economy as the most important issue, with a significant number trusting Trump to handle it better than Harris.

## Zelenskiy rejects UN chief's plan to visit Kyiv over Russia trip

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has rejected a plan for the UN Secretary General to visit Kyiv due to Antonio Guterres's attendance at this week's BRICS summit in Russia, a Ukrainian official said on Friday. Kyiv was enraged by Guterres's appearance at the event in the city of Kazan on Thursday and his handshake with its host, Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose forces invaded Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022. Guterres - who called for a "just peace" in Ukraine at the BRICS event and has repeatedly condemned the invasion.

## Canada cuts immigration targets sharply

**Monitoring Desk**  
OTTAWA: Canada said on Thursday it was significantly curbing immigration targets, a dramatic shift that comes as public support for new arrivals declines.

This marks a big pivot for a country with a long-standing reputation as a destination for immigrants, including economic migrants from the developing world seeking better living conditions.

## Putin to look at Black Sea shipping proposals from Turkey's Erdogan

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said his Turkish counterpart, Tayyip Erdogan, had proposed reviving contacts on Black Sea shipping but that he had not yet had time to study the documents.

Putin told Russian state television that Erdogan had "once again renewed these proposals to continue contacts related to shipping in the Black Sea, (and) on some other issues."

Putin met Erdogan at the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"To be honest, I haven't even had time to read the materials that our Turk-

ish partners and friends have given us," Putin said. "Well, let's see. We have never refused this." Turkey and the United Nations helped mediate the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a deal struck in July 2022 that had allowed the safe Black Sea export of nearly 33 million metric tons of Ukraine grain.

Russia withdrew from the agreement in July 2023, complaining that its own food and fertiliser exports faced serious obstacles. Turkey and Guterres have repeatedly tried to get merchant shipping sailing more freely through the Black Sea, which in some areas has been turned into a naval war zone since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

## US, Israeli negotiators to discuss Gaza ceasefire deal in Doha

**US warns against long Israeli campaign in Lebanon, Israeli general says "sharp" end possible**

**Monitoring Desk**  
DOHA: The United States does not want a protracted Israeli campaign in Lebanon, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday (Oct 24), a month into Israel's military onslaught against the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah.

Blinken also said he hoped Iran was getting a clear message that any further attacks on Israel risked its own interests, with the region awaiting the retaliation Israel has vowed for an Iranian missile barrage on Oct 1. US and Israeli negotiators will gather in Doha to prepare the way for renewed talks on a Gaza ceasefire deal which would also entail the release of hostages in the Palestinian enclave, Qatar and Washington said.

Israel said the head of its Mossad intelligence agency would travel to

Doha on Sunday to try to restart the talks. Mossad head David Barnea will meet CIA director William Burns and Qatar's prime minister.

"The parties will discuss the various options for starting negotiations for the release of the hostages from Hamas captivity, against the backdrop of the latest developments," Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's office said. Blinken, speaking after talks with Qatar's prime minister, said it had not yet been determined whether Hamas was prepared to engage in new negotiations, but urged the group to do so. Blinken has been on his first trip to the region since Israel killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, a mastermind of the group's Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel that triggered conflict across the Middle East.

# Down syndrome is not a disease but a chromosomal condition: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Down syndrome is not a disease but a chromosomal condition, stressed the importance of dispelling misconceptions, stating, "Our focus should be on the incredible potential these individuals hold. With the right support and timely intervention, they can lead independent and fulfilling lives."

"With the timely right and proper support and early intervention, these individuals can lead independent and fulfilling lives."

This statement was made on Friday during the 10th anniversary of the Karachi Down Syndrome Program (KDSP) at the KDSP Conference 2024, titled "Stepping Towards an Inclusive Tomorrow," held in an auditorium on Tipu Sultan Road. Secretary DEPDP Tauha Farooqui and others attended the event.

The Chief Minister emphasised that Down

syndrome is not a disease but a chromosomal condition. He highlighted the importance of dispelling misconceptions, stating, "Our focus should be on the incredible potential these individuals hold. With the right support and timely intervention, they can lead independent and fulfilling lives."

Murad Shah pointed out the significant role of the Sindh government in these efforts. "Since the passage of the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, funding has been allocated for assistive devices, vocational training, and awareness campaigns," he said. He added that this year, the Sindh government dedicated Rs2 billion to partner organisations and an additional Rs 25 million to the Karachi Down Syndrome Partnership (KDSP).

Mr Shah said that the plans were also underway to establish an 'Inclusive City' in Korangi, supported by an initial budget of Rs 5 billion.

Gratitude was expressed to KDSP and partner organisations for their unwavering commitment. The Chief Minister affirmed his pride in supporting these initiatives, reiterating a pledge to promote dignity, independence, and opportunity for everyone.

The event served as a powerful reminder of the ongoing journey towards creating a society where every individual, regardless of ability, can thrive with purpose and respect. Murad Shah said that the KDSP, a pioneering organisation, has reached over 2,300 families through holistic services, advancing its mission to build an inclusive society.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister for Privatisation, AbdulAleem Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Atta Tarar, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin, and others cutting the cake during Kazakhstan Republic Day ceremony, at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.

## Commissioner Karachi reviews measures for price control, prevention of illegal parking

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi on Friday reviewed the steps taken for price control, removal of encroachment, prevention of illegal parking and other civic issues in a meeting chaired by him in the office of Deputy Commissioner Korangi. All Assistant Commissioners, DC Korangi Masood Bhattu, participated in the meeting while DCs and Assistant Commissioners of other districts joined the meeting through video link, said a spokesperson.

In the meeting, it was decided to submit suggestions to the relevant departments for improvement of schools and health centers.

It was also decided that the officials who are negligent in removing the encroachments will be questioned.

In the meeting, all the ACs briefed about the steps taken to solve the civic problems in their respective areas.

The ACs informed the meeting about the details of visits to schools, health units and development projects.

It was decided in the meeting that all the assistant commissioners will prepare a comprehensive report on the steps taken to solve the problems of the schools and health units situated in their respective jurisdictions.

## Pakistan, Bangladesh discuss matters to revitalize SAARC

APIA (SAMOA) (APP): Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to advance high level dialogue and cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

This agreement was reached during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Adviser for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Md. Touhid Hossain, on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa.

This was the first meeting between the two dignitaries, following their assumption of office.

## No intention of joining govt, says Fazal

CHINIOT (INP) - Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman says pitting one province against another reflects a non-political mindset.

Talking to media in Chiniot on Friday, he said that 56 clauses in the amendment were reduced to 22, with five added back, highlighting the accomplishments of this change.

"I have no intention of joining the government. I am unaware of any such proposal; strong resistance will be made against the 27th constitutional amendment," he added. Fazl noted that the 27th constitutional amendment is not simple. He refrained from commenting on Sheikh Rashid's remarks, stating that he fundamentally does not believe in retaliatory politics.

## Japanese CG calls on Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General of Japan, Hattori Masaru, met with Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab at the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's head office on Friday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, during which the Consul General invited Mayor Karachi to participate as a chief guest at the Japan Festival scheduled for November 2024.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab welcomed the Japanese CG to the KMC, highlighting the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan.

He noted that the Japanese government has always shown interest in Pakistan's development and prosperity, particularly praising the role of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) in several development projects in Karachi, which have positively impacted the city's infrastructure.

The Mayor emphasized the significance of Japanese culture and its appreciation among the citizens of Karachi.

He mentioned that the KMC is committed to promoting cultural and educational activities from various countries, and offered full support for organizing a cultural program for Japan at the Frere Hall.

# US ambassador celebrates completion of 'Frere Hall Restoration'

KARACHI (APP): The United States (US) and Pakistan have built a long-term partnership over seven decades, rooted in shared interests across health, education, energy, economic growth, and security sectors. This was stated by US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome during his visit to Karachi, according to a communique issued on Friday.

He said that U.S. investments in Pakistan have grown by 50 percent in the past year, underscoring the strong economic ties between the nations. This includes our investments in clean energy and sustainable agriculture through the U.S.-Pakistan Green Alliance, in

public health through tuberculosis control, in people-to-people ties, and in preserving Pakistan's rich cultural heritage.

He reinforced the long-term partnership between the U.S. and Pakistan at the closing ceremony of a \$350,000 U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) grant to restore the historic Frere Hall.

At the closing ceremony, the ambassador noted, "It's rare for one project, a partnership between the U.S. Consulate and the Sindh Exploration and Adventure Society, to sum up so much of what the United States and Pakistan work on together."



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Nadir Ali Magsi, Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

# PPP Sindh to hold rallies in favour of "26th Constitutional Amendment"

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party Sindh Chapter has decided to hold rallies in all the divisional headquarters of the province on Monday (October 28), in favor of the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. This was stated by provincial president PPP Sindh MPA Nisar Ahmed Khuhro in a statement issued here on Friday.

Khuhro said that the leaders and workers of the People's Party would organize rallies in all the divisional headquarters of the province to celebrate the successful passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment from Parliament. Celebration rallies will be held in Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur and Larkana.

Nisar Khuhro said the district organizations of Pakistan People's Party will fully participate in the meetings to be held in their respective divisional headquarters.

# UAE master chef serves up Emirati feast in Pakistan's culinary capital

KARACHI (INP): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) consulate in Karachi treated residents of Pakistan's culinary hub to Emirati cuisine as it hosted an event at the Arts Council of Pakistan (ACP) to showcase the culture and cuisine of the Gulf country.

The event, titled 'Flavours of the UAE: A Culinary and Cultural Journey,' came as part of over-a-month-long World Culture Festival currently being held at the ACP in the southern Pakistani city. The festival featuring music, theater, dance and fine arts from various countries of the world is running from Sept. 26 till Oct. 30.

To introduce the people of Karachi to the delectable Emirati cuisine, UAE Consul-General Dr. Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi invited a master chef from the UAE who prepared a dozen of mouth-watering dishes at the event.

"I made machboos [rice and chicken cooked in warm whole spices], harees [coarsely-ground cracked wheat, mixed with seasoned meat], balaleet [a sweet and savoury dish popular for breakfast], asida [a dough lump often with added butter or honey], gemat [sweetmeat balls], chebab [pancake], mahalla [a sweetened bread made from flour, water, eggs and seasoning] and a total of 12 such items," said Mainuddin, the chef who had three assistants, said in a media interview.



HYDERABAD Students are participating in a rally to show solidarity with Kashmiri people on 27 October marks as Black Day to condemn the Indian atrocities against Kashmiris and illegal occupation at Latifabad.

# PPL'S 73rd annual general meeting approves 25% cash dividend

KARACHI (APP): The 73rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) was held here at a local hotel on Friday, where shareholders approved the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, along with the auditor's report.

A final cash dividend of 25% on ordinary shares was also ratified, bringing the total dividend for the year to 60%.

The meeting was chaired by Shahab Rizvi, Chairman of the PPL Board of Directors, who expressed his gratitude to the shareholders for their continued trust and support.

He acknowledged the challenges posed by the current business environment but emphasized PPL's resilience and agility. "Despite external headwinds, PPL has demonstrated remarkable strength, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our employees," Rizvi stated.

Managing Director and CEO Imran Abbasy, highlighted the company's significant accomplishments during the fiscal year 2023-24.

PPL recorded its highest-ever profit-after-tax of Rs. 114 billion and achieved unprecedented collections from customers. He further noted the successful discovery of gas and condensate at Jhim East X-1 in the Shah Bandar Block, alongside four other partner-operated discoveries, underscoring PPL's robust exploration capabilities.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with President Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on the sidelines of WB/IMF annual meetings 2024.

# Cultural night titled "Flavors of the UAE" celebrates at ACP

KARACHI (APP): Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi is currently celebrating the 38-day "World Culture Festival Karachi," and on its 29th day a captivating event titled "Flavors of the UAE" was held at the Jaun Elia Lawn on Thursday night.

This evening showcased the rich culture of the United Arab Emirates and was graced by the presence of UAE Consul General in Karachi, Dr. Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi, along with Sindh's Minister for Culture and Tourism, Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah, and President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Muhammad Ahmed Shah, along with members of the UAE Consulate.

The venue featured an Arabic cultural tent, where attendees could indulge in a variety of Arabic delicious dishes, including kahwa, date tea, sago, luqaimat, khabisa, balaleet, makhi, jabab, and other culinary delights.

A rare white falcon drew the crowd's attention, while a traditional sword dance performance added to the festive atmosphere, with attendees enjoying the lively Arabic music.

Speaking on this occasion, UAE Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi expressed gratitude towards Ahmed Shah and

Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah for providing a platform to showcase Arab culture in Karachi.

He highlighted the warmth and hospitality of the Pakistani people, noting his deep connection with Sindh's culture and people.

He also announced plans for a festival in the UAE to promote Sindh culture in collaboration with the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and the Sindh Culture Department.

Minister for Culture and Tourism, Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah, stated that I am grateful to the UAE Consul General for their support. It is a matter of pride for us to have the UAE participating in this festival. We have gathered artists from Sindh, Pakistan, and around the world for this festival. Each day, this festival is leaving a positive soft image globally.

On one hand, we face the challenge of terrorism, while on the other; the land of Sindh is conveying a beautiful and positive message.

President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Muhammad Ahmed Shah, Said Pakistan and the UAE share brotherly relations, and today, such programs strengthen cultural ties, and our friendship will go a long way.

# 117th Syndicate meeting held at SAU

HYDERABAD (APP): The 117th meeting of the Syndicate of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam, convened under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri on Friday, took vital decisions on academic and administrative matters aimed at enhancing university governance and academic standards.

The agenda covered 15 key items, including the confirmation of the 116th Syndicate meeting's proceedings report and the approval of actions taken on previously passed resolutions. The 2023 annual report was also presented, and new appointments for department chairpersons were ratified, underscoring SAU's commitment to transparency and effective leadership.

# Anti polio rally held to create awareness among parents

LARKANA (APP): A rally was organized in connection with the World Polio Day on Friday.

The District Health Office (DHO) organized a walk which began from the office of the DHO to jannah Bagh Larkana. The walk was led by Assistant Commissioner Larkana Raja Khan Qureshi whereas District Health Officer Dr. Shoukat Ali Abro, District Education Officer Anees u Rahman, Representatives of WHO and a large number of students participated in it.

Speaking to the media, the speakers said that the purpose of the rally is to create awareness among citizens about the eradication of polio and also to make parents aware of the importance of giving polio drops to their children.

# Sukkur barrage bridge to remain close till June 30

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sukkur on Friday announced that the Sukkur Barrage Bridge and surrounding roads will be closed from October 26, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for essential rehabilitation and modernization work. This closure aims to improve the bridge's infrastructure and ensure public safety. The affected roads include Sharfabad Road from Camp C to Sukkur Barrage Bridge, Sukkur Barrage Road end-to-end, and Old National Highway Road, Rohri, from Barrage Museum to Police Station Chuhara Mandi. Senior Superintendent of Police, Sukkur Amjad Ahmed Shaikh has been requested to implement necessary measures to maintain law and order during this period.



KARACHI: Activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) are holding Tafaaz-e-Namose Raisalat (PBUH) March, near Governor House in Karachi.

# Commissioner reviews progress on Hyderabad motorway, Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge projects

SUKKUR (APP): Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi on Friday presided over a high level meeting to review the progress of the M-6 Motorway (Sukkur-Hyderabad) and Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge projects.

The meeting aimed to expedite the completion of these vital projects, crucial for Sindh's development. Abbasi emphasized that the M-6 Motorway and Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge are essential for Sindh's progress, stated that we are committed to completing these projects efficiently, ensuring timely completion and maximizing economic benefits to the people adding that the 306-kilometer M-6 Motorway will connect Sukkur to Hyderabad, significantly enhancing Sindh's transportation infrastructure.

The Commissioner directed officials to resolve land acquisition issues in certain talukas of Khairpur in collaboration with the Survey Department.

He also instructed survey department officials to present records regarding land acquisition in the next meeting. Abbasi warned that no compromises would be made on the quality of work for the Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge, promising strict action against those responsible for delays. The bridge will resolve long-standing connectivity issues between the two districts, facilitating travel. Among others Additional Commissioner-I, Muhammad Aamir Ansari, Additional Commissioner-II Muhammad Hajan Ujjan, Project Director Sukkur Motorway Ikhlaq Nabi Dayo, Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr. M.B. Raja Dharejo.



LARKANA: Residents of Ghulab Bhattu village are holding protest demonstration against the high handedness of police, at Larkana press club.

# Additional Chief Secretary says Mutual agreement for transfer of convicted prisoners from local jails to Iran will be implemented

Independent Report  
KARACHI: In a meeting held on Friday at the Sindh Home Department office, the Consul General of Iran

Muhammad Iqbal Memon, and from the Iranian side, Consul General of Iran in Karachi, Hassan Nourian. The Additional Chief

Secretary of Sindh stated that a mutual agreement for the transfer of convicted prisoners from the local jails to Iran will be implemented.

The meeting reviewed the necessary procedures and requirements for transferring convicted prisoners as outlined in the bilateral agreement between Pakistan and Iran.

The Prosecutor General and IG Prisons also attended the meeting.

and his team participated to discuss essential actions and decisions regarding the transfer of prisoners from Sindh's jails under the bilateral agreement between Pakistan and Iran.

This meeting was convened in light of the recent discussion between the Consul General of Iran and the Chief Minister of Sindh. The special session on prisoner transfers was led by Additional Chief Secretary of Sindh,