

# Independent

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## CJP Afridi-led full court discusses steps to reduce case backlog, boost efficiency

ISLAMABAD (APP): A full court meeting of the Supreme Court of Pakistan held on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi.

The meeting was attended by all the judges including Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah who joined through video link.

The meeting was convened to assess the performance of the Supreme Court in the institution and disposal of cases, focusing on measures to reduce case backlog and enhance judicial efficiency.

The registrar provided an overview of the current caseload and outlined the steps towards timely decision of cases.

She presented updated statistics, including that 59,191 cases are currently pending and introduced a newly devised one-month plan based on Case Management Plan 2023 prepared by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. The plan includes setting clear standards, employing information technology to effectively manage all categories of cases.

Reviewing the case management plan, the judges discussed a range of strategies to achieve the plan's targets. Criminal and civil cases, as detailed in the monthly plan, were allocated to specialized two and three member benches to ensure swift and speedy case resolution.

The Judges contrib-

uted valuable insights and recommendations for further system improvement, underscoring their commitment to addressing case backlog.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, participating via video link, offered additional suggestions aimed at reducing the case backlog and improving procedural efficiency initially for one month and followed by three-month and six-month plans.

Chief Justice thanked all the judges for their resolve to implement the case management plan in full, with a commitment to achieve the outlined targets. Progress will be reviewed in the next session of the full court meeting scheduled for 2 December 2024.



ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi presides over Full Court meeting at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

## Memon urges global action to address human rights violations in Kashmir

Sharjeel calls for unity in fight against drug abuse

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that drugs are not only a scourge but can affect anyone at any time. Perhaps this issue has even reached the doors of our elected representatives. To combat it, we must work together and cooperate with one another. Speaking during the question period in the Sindh Assembly, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that the Excise and Narcotics Control Department is working tirelessly to combat drugs. He added that the members of the House are fortunate to have passed the drug bill.

He stated that no matter how powerful the drug dealers are, they will be brought to justice. Currently, the Sindh government has the capacity to treat 400 drug addicts, though private drug rehabilitation centers are also in operation. The scourge of drugs is not limited to Sindh but extends to Punjab, KP, and Balochistan—indeed, all of Pakistan is impacted by this crisis. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that even before I became the Excise Minister, I was committed to fighting against narcotics," he said. He called on elected representatives of the House to support the government by providing lists of individuals involved in the heinous drug trade, assuring that action would be taken.



KARACHI: The Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Saleemullah, along with the Consul General of Japan to Karachi, Hattori Masaru, and others, views the Japan Traveling Exhibition "Yokai Parade", featuring supernatural monsters from Japan, at the State Bank Museum.

## 50,000 new passport applications being received daily: Interior Ministry

Country faces passport issuance delays amid surging applications

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Ministry has reported a surge in passport applications, with 45,000 to 50,000 applications submitted daily, while current resources allow only 20,000 to 22,000 passports to be issued per day. Officials attribute the delays to limited capacity and outdated infrastructure.

In a statement to the National Assembly, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi explained that the system introduced in 2004 was initially sufficient but has since become strained as regional offices expanded from 30 to 223

and foreign missions from 10 to 93. He said over time, the passport offices increased to 223 while Pakistan's missions abroad surged to 93. However, he said the passport production facility was never expanded nor equipped with the technology or equipment to make the printing process "faster and better."

"Presently, the department is facing a very high trend of daily passport applications around 45,000 to 50,000 thousand from field formations, whereas, the production facility can merely cater for 20,000 to 22,000 passports per day."

## BBC challenges 26th constitutional amendment in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) has filed petition in Supreme Court (SC) against constitutional bench set up federal government under 26th constitutional amendment.

Petition has been filed through lawyer Munir A Malik. The petition said establishment of Judicial Commission (JC) and its functioning under constitutional amendment be stopped.

Federal and all the four provincial governments have been made respondents. The petition said members of assembly were forced to cast vote. House was not complete at the time of making amendment.

## Six die, 21 injured as bus falls in gorge in Upper Kohistan

PESHAWAR (APP): At least six people were killed and 21 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a gorge in Upper Kohistan, Rescue 1122 informed on Monday.

The ill-fated bus was on its way from Gilgit to Rawalpindi when it fell into a gorge in Harban area of Upper Kohistan.

The road mishap resulted in deaths of six passengers and injured 21 others. On receiving information, the Rescue 1122 team, police and locals reached the site and retrieved the dead and injured from the bus.

A total of 40 passengers were aboard the bus when it met with the accident.

## 24 international and domestic flights cancelled at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): As many as two dozen international and domestic flights were cancelled at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport due to technical and operations hiccups on Monday.

Emirates flights EK-609 and EK-603 from Karachi to Dubai were called off while Air China flight CA-946 from Karachi to Beijing was also shelved.

Serene Air flights ER-502 and ER-504 from Karachi to Islamabad were cancelled while Serene Air flights ER-522 and ER-524 from Karachi to Lahore were also called off.



ISLAMABAD: The Russian Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Ms. Valentina Matvienko, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## 10.6m children across Sindh to be provided with OPV during drive: CM

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that polio vaccine hesitancy and refusals remain major challenges for polio eradication efforts in the country, particularly in Sindh Karachi and Hyderabad many parents refuse to allow their children to receive the oral polio vaccine (OPV).

He said this while launching the polio eradication campaign along with his cabinet members at SMB Fatima Jinnah School Garden, West. The provincial minister - Syed Sardar Shah, Jam Khan Shoro, Zulfikar Shah, and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, were accompanied by the CM and administered OPV to children under the age of five during the event.

Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Adl IG Karachi Javed Odho, Secretary Health Rehan Baloch, Coordinator EOC Irshad Ali

Sodhar, WHO Director Polio EMRO Region Dr Hamid Jafery, WHO Polio Country Head Dr Zainul Abideen and others attended the meeting.

Shah said that in the week-long campaign, from October 28 to November 3rd, 2024, 10.6 million children under the age of five across 30 districts of Sindh would be provided with oral polio vaccine (OPV) to protect against the debilitating disease. Additionally, 9.5 million children aged 6 months to 5 years will receive Vitamin A supplements to boost their immunity.

Murad Shah said that Vaccine hesitancy and refusals present significant obstacles to polio eradication initiatives in Pakistan. In Sindh, particularly in the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad, a considerable number of parents are reluctant to permit their children to receive the oral polio vaccine (OPV). He

added that the challenge is particularly severe in Karachi, where refusals account for 85 per cent of all refusals documented in Sindh.

Replying to a question, the chief minister said that his government has begun the deployment of government support teams, and engagement of parliamentarians, local council committees, and UC-level local bodies to support efforts. He added that the communications network of social mobilisers on ground is debuted to improve vaccine uptake and reduce refusals in the polio vaccination campaign in October NIDs.

The CM said that with 41 polio cases reported in Pakistan this year, 12 of which have been in Sindh, the urgency of this campaign cannot be overstated. He added that the presence of positive environmental samples in Karachi and other areas



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Polio Eradication.

## Sindh Home Minister orders enhanced security measures for polio campaign

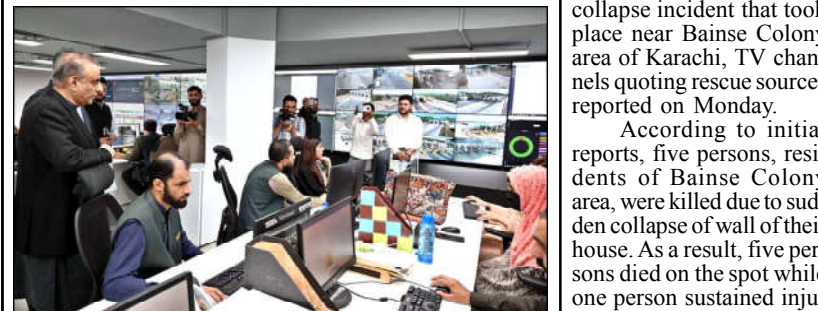
KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, has directed the reinforcement of the advanced intelligence collection system for better coordination and efficiency.

Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar further instructed district SSPs to closely monitor the security arrangements during the campaign. He emphasized that SHO's must be present in their respective areas and provide real-time updates via wireless communication systems.

Additionally, the Home Minister ordered district authorities to ensure proper accommodation and meals for officers and personnel assigned to security duties during the polio campaign.

It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah launched the seven-day anti-polio campaign on Monday.

The minister called for increased police pa-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Privatization, Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan, visits the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters in federal Capital.

## PM to visit Saudi Arabia on Oct 29-30 to attend FII moot

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to undertake an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to attend the 8th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII), being held in Riyadh from October 29 to 30.

The prime minister will be accompanied by key cabinet ministers, according to a curtain-raiser issued by the Foreign Office.

The Future Investment Initiative (FII) serves as an important platform for countries to showcase their economic strength, draw foreign investments, and engage in dialogue to shape a sustainable future.

## Five killed in Karachi wall collapse incident

KARACHI (APP): Five persons were killed in a wall collapse incident that took place near Bainsa Colony area of Karachi, TV channels quoting rescue sources reported on Monday.

According to initial reports, five persons, residents of Bainsa Colony area, were killed due to sudden collapse of wall of their house. As a result, five persons died on the spot while one person sustained injuries in the incident.

Rescue team rushed to the site and started shifting the dead and injured to nearby hospital.

## Pakistan, Russia reaffirm to further strengthen bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Monday reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties in the areas of trade, commerce, investment, agriculture and energy for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

This was discussed at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council Valentina Matvienko at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming the Russian delegation, the president highlighted the historical relationship between

Pakistan and Russia which were marked by mutual respect and a shared commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman Senate Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Aimal Wali Khan, Senator Manzoor Ahmad Kakar, Senator Saleem H. Mandviwala, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt and other senior officials.

While talking to the delegation, the president underscored the need to strengthen cultural linkages through people-to-people contacts and scholarship programs.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah administers polio drop to a child during launching ceremony a week long the Polio Eradication Campaign, on his visit to SMB Fatima Jinnah School at Garden East in Karachi.

## PM vows to make Pakistan a polio-free country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed government's resolve to make Pakistan a polio-free country, stressing the need for unified action in this regard.

"We will not rest until we have permanently defeated polio", he said while chairing a meeting on polio eradication. Commending the efforts of the government's polio team in combating the disease, he directed Coordinator for National Health Dr.

Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and the Secretary of National Health to visit the most affected areas during the recent polio campaign. The prime minister also directed to conduct a third party audit of the anti-polio campaign.

Additionally, he emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the immunity gap. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on recent polio cases and the eradication campaign.

## Present govt determined to eradicating polio from Sindh province: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday said he anti-polio campaign had commenced in the Sindh province.

He said that 12 cases of polio from Sindh was a matter of concern.

The Governor said

that the goal of immunizing 10.6 million children in the province was a welcome initiative. He said that awareness about virus was very essential.

He further said that the present government was determined to eradicating polio from the province.



RAWALPINDI: Deputy Defence Minister, Russian Federation, Col. General Aleksandr V. Fomin called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif at Ministry of Defence.

## Mayor Karachi announces to hold cultural programs at historic sites in city

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab announced that cultural programs would be organized for citizens at historic sites in Karachi, including the Frere Hall, Bagh Ibane Qasim and Khaliq Dina Hall.

He expressed these views during talks after inaugurating the fourth Karachi Biennale (KB) Festival at the Bagh Ibane Qasim, Clifton, as chief guest here Monday.

The participation of a large number of artists and dignitaries from both within the country and abroad in the Festival is encouraging. Soon, citizens will have opportunities to

enjoy music and performances at these historical venues three days a week, which will further enhance the vibrancy of the city, he said.

Also present on this occasion were Karachi Biennale Trust's managing trustee Nilofer Farrukh, curator Waheeda Baloch, Director general parks kmc Junaidullah Khan, foreign diplomats, artists, and distinguished citizens.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab urged citizens to participate in the fourth KB Festival with their families, showcasing that Karachi was a city of vibrant people.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Wave of violence

Another wave of violence is cresting in KP. The past few days have seen multiple attacks that have claimed the lives of a number of security personnel.

On Saturday, eight people, including four policemen and two security officials, were martyred in a suicide blast in North Waziristan. An earlier attack took place in Darazinda, in D.I. Khan district, on Thursday night, when militants stormed a checkpoint and martyred 10 Frontier Constabulary men. The attack, claimed by the banned TTP, was portrayed as 'revenge' for a successful operation a day earlier in which nine militants, had been neutralised by security forces, who have stepped up their operations following the resurgence of terrorism.

This is a time when our forces should be highly vigilant and prepared for the enemy to strike from any quarter. They should also take the fight to the enemy with the support of the civilian population residing in hotspots for militant activity, who may be willing to aid the effort as they are weary of the constant violence.

The rising count of security personnel martyred in terrorist attacks has remained a cause of concern. Among those martyred in the recent attacks was a young off-duty cadet, aged only 19, who was slain in an assault on a Lakki Marwat mosque. It has been reported that the young man fought off the terrorists, laying down his life while saving many others in the process.

It is saddening to contemplate the loss of a life so young, and it compels one to ask how many more soldiers we will lose to such dastardly attacks before the state devises a coherent response mechanism to terrorist outfits, which are growing bolder by the day. It has been argued that Pakistan needs a dedicated counterterrorism force to meet terrorists in asymmetric warfare, as its regular forces are trained to fulfil a different responsibility and equipped with a different skillset. The recent spate of violence has highlighted this need further.

Things have lately been tense in the province due to a three-way stand-off between terrorist outfits, the citizenry and security forces. If recurrent incidents of violence are left unchecked, they will further erode people's confidence in the state and its ability to maintain peace and provide security to its citizens.

The state must, therefore, move immediately and decisively to wrest back control. While doing so, it must consciously avoid taking any action or decision that may antagonise the citizenry and, consequently, create unnecessary hurdles in the implementation of its policy measures. On the other hand, the civilian leadership of the province must take responsibility for generating a political consensus on how the threat is to be tackled. A concerted effort is needed to rid the country of this menace.

## Gwadar development

Dr Noman Ahmed

Recently, the Chinese and Pakistani prime ministers inaugurated the Gwadar International Airport — virtually from Islamabad. From a development perspective, the airport is a useful addition and set to enhance the aerial connectivity of the emerging port city with the larger region. Better aviation facilities will allow both domestic and foreign visitors to conveniently access Gwadar. The airport shall also enable a swift response to disasters — recall the rain and flooding in Gwadar not too long ago.

However, despite this and other infrastructural development initiatives, Gwadar's overall progress appears stymied — even though the city was touted as a core beneficiary of CPEC for over a decade. Its privileged position in this context is clear from the extension and consolidation of the port infrastructure, projects related to freshwater generation and distribution, the Pak China Friendship Hospital, a technical and vocational institute, as well as the preparation of the Gwadar smart port city master plan. So, when so much development work is being carried out, why do the residents of Gwadar and its adjacent areas seem unhappy?

A study by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund reveals that Gwadar is lagging behind in almost all core social indicators. Only 21 per cent of small children have been immunised; 25pc of children of school-going age are out of school — 46pc of these are girls; 46pc of schools in the district do not have functional toilets; drinking water is available in only 51pc of the schools.

Besides, housing quality is extremely dismal. Only 5pc of homes are constructed with reinforced concrete, while

others are built with mud and other unsuitable material. Only 18pc of residents have access to gas; most use firewood, kerosene and charcoal as fuel.

Livelihood conditions are also challenging. Over two-thirds of the people are directly or indirectly connected with fishing, net repairs, boat construction and repairs, transportation, storage of the catch of the day, etc. The people barely live above subsistence level, and have no opportunity to build assets to improve their lives.

The sale and purchase of developed, semi-developed and underdeveloped land is another visible enterprise. People with financial resources are able to monopolise the acquisition of land for future utilisation and investment purposes. It is of little benefit to ordinary folk who neither have savings nor the capacity to undertake land development ventures. The recent rains and flash floods have caused colossal damage to the life and property of people in the district and beyond. Many households are still reeling from the after-effects.

The worsening law and order situation has compounded the miseries of Gwadar's residents. It is common for unknown assailants to emerge from nowhere, kill and maim innocent people, and then disappear. The regular police control a fraction of the district. The Levies, Frontier Constabulary and other formations are entrusted with the responsibility of securing the area.

More than seven decades of political alienation, mistrust between the state and the people, and the presence of clandestine agents of external invisible powers continue to haunt soci-

ety.

When acts of violence and disturbance cease, an uneasy calm prevails. Scores of missing people — young and elderly — are a lingering legacy in almost every household. The new leadership, whether in the form of the Haq Do Tehreek or the Baloch Yakjehti Committee, are at the forefront of the political and social dynamics of Gwadar and larger Balochistan.

With practically no voice in matters of local governance or the day-to-day running of the area, the people of Gwadar often consider the emblems of re-regional development — such as the new airport or port complex — as a rude joke. Whether it was the

PPP party's Aghaz-i-Huqooq-i-Balochistan package or subsequent development dole-outs, little to no benefit has trickled down to the common folk due to the unresolved discord between the core stakeholders.

Saner voices have suggested that the only way forward to ensure real development in Gwadar is for the authorities to engage with the local people in a serious and meaningful way. Development priorities must be set in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the public.

A small step in this direction could be the launch of ventures to support the local fishermen and boating community. Building cold storages for their catch, constructing boat repair yards and upscaling fishing jetties can be the first step. Locational choices must be made where the fishermen have an advantage. The city's master plan must yield to local preferences in land utilisation. It is the residents of Gwadar who must win. — Courtesy Dawn

## The Muslim vote

Huma Yusuf

As the US election approaches, a question dominates the news cycle: how will Muslim Americans vote? Muslims comprise one per cent of the US population, but are a key constituency in hotly contested states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania. They are single-issue voters this year — Gaza.

American Muslims are dismayed by the Biden-Harris administration's handling of the horrific war in Gaza, and feel dehumanised by Democrats' disdain for the plight of Palestinians. But they have not forgotten former US president Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban' and the Republicans' inherent post-9/11 Islamophobia. Will they choose the lesser of two evils, or walk away from the process?

Polling suggests around 29.4pc will vote for Kamala Harris. This is bad news for the Democrats — 65 to 80pc of American Muslims voted for Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden in 2016 and 2020, while 80 to 92pc voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. Muslim Americans who reject Harris may vote for Trump or a third candidate or abstain altogether.

Muslim Americans' voting predicament may strike a chord for Pakistan's liberal left, which is facing criticism for failing to push back against anti-democratic forces, most recently manifest in the passage of the 26th Amendment. The more captured our state institutions are, the less democratically minded people engage with them. Those who participate in the system are seen as complicit in its degradation. But opting out is tantamount to surrendering our democracy. What's a liberal to do?

Perhaps we can learn some lessons from Muslim Americans.

Don't stop engaging: Muslim Americans respect the power of their votes. Their electoral handwriting is informed, grounded in a detailed understanding of both sides' policies.

Don't fear debate: The Muslim American constituency's views are divided, as captured in a Wisdom of Crowds debate featuring Shadi Hamid and Haroon Moghul. Hamid is stifling the urge to punish the Democrats for supporting Israel's atrocities in Gaza. He's voting for Harris to minimise the overall harm to US democracy that would result from a Trump victory, and because he believes that pro-Palestine voices could find space in a Harris administration and continue to fight from within the system. Moghul, on the other hand, plans to abstain, because he cannot in conscience support a party that has facilitated war crimes.

The commentators disagree, but they're still talking to each other, and remain focused on the shared goals of defending Palestinian rights and strengthening US democracy. Pakistanis who seek the withdrawal of the military from public life are polarised and critical of each other's approaches. They would benefit from constructive debate and collaboration.

Think in terms of institutions rather than individuals: Moghul's criticism of the Democratic Party is largely grounded in principle — the idea that the party is not obeying the rules of democracy. Americans have not voted for the US's growing involvement in the Middle Eastern conflict and, in fact, oppose foreign interventions. The Democrat policy over the past year has even ignored its own members' preferences (77pc oppose

the US sending arms to Israel). Focusing on institutions and systems enables sub-groups to identify common goals, rather than fragment on the basis of individual preference.

Go local: Moghul won't vote for either presidential candidate, but will support local and state-level candidates. He's rejecting party leaders, not the democratic system. In Pakistan too, the best counter to elite state capture is to revitalise local government. This must be a key priority of democracy activists.

Think long-term movement not short-term victories: In their failure to influence the US's Middle East policies, American Muslims are re-allying themselves, created "countervailing incentives" to respond to "the structural incentives that reward pro-Israel positions". This despite the recent political ascendancy of American Muslims: Keith Ellison became the first Muslim Congressman in 2006 — by 2016 US representatives included Somali refugee Ihan Omar and second-generation Palestinian Rashida Tlaib.

In Pakistan, we rally around individuals elevated as democratic saviours. Ours is a politics of emotion, not organisation. The hard slog of building a political movement does not come easy. This is because we are not trained on building democratic systems from the outset. As our state institutions are weakened we should go back to the basics: teach civics at school and empower student unions at university campuses. Systems are best changed from the bottom up, and from within. No matter who wins the US election, Muslim American political participation should endure. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### CM Murad directs Industries dept to improve structural, financial strength of SITE

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Industries Department to prepare a comprehensive business plan for the Sindh Industrial Trading Estate Limited (S.I.T.E) and the Sindh Small Industries Corporation (SSIC) to drive industrialization, boost economy and create employment opportunities.

The SITE and Small industries should be self-sufficient organisations, but they are stuck up in financial crisis due to over employment, lack of planning and absence of business plan, he directed while presiding over a meeting of the industries department to review its issues and development schemes, at the CM House here Monday. The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries Jam Ikram Dharejo, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Industries Yasin Shar, MD SITE Ghazanfar Qadri and others.

The CM was told that SITE LTD cannot disburse salaries and pensions due to excess employment. "There are 1,315 employees and 754 pensioners. The annual expenditure on account of salary, pension, service dues, including outstanding liabilities and miscellaneous per year comes to Rs.2,592 billion against a total revenue/recovery of Rs.2 billion per annum, showing a shortfall of Rs.592,957,861".

Infrastructure at Nooriabad and Kotri is deteriorated condition, whereas funds under ADP 2024-25 amounting to Rs.846,892 million are insufficient to address the issues. To a question, Minister Industries Jam Ikram told the CM that the issue of Sui Gas at Industrial Estate Larkana would be resolved shortly. He added that SSGC, during a meeting with him, assured that a feasible plan for the supply of Sui Gas to Industrial Estate Larkana would be submitted within

one week. The Minister Industries requested the CM to approve an Annual grant of Rs.800 million to resolve the salary and pension issues. He also requested for a one-time grant of Rs.500 for O&M expenditure.

The CM was also requested approval of Rs.2 billion for the rehabilitation of infrastructure at SITE Nooriabad (Phase-II) and Kotri.

The CM was told that SSIC was facing huge financial constraints due to excessive employment from 2008 to 2014 and was even unable to disburse monthly salaries, pensions, and service dues.

There are 656 employees and 268 pensioners on the payroll, while 33 ex-employees are still waiting for their service dues. It was disclosed that Small Industries has 321 excess employees, and their future may also be decided.



ISLAMABAD: The Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ms. Emma Fan called on Chairman FBR Mr. Rashid Mahmood Lagrial today at Federal Board of Revenue Headquarters.

### Maryam increases kisan cards from 500,000 to 750,000

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that 10 projects of farmers worth Rs 400 billion have been made functional in a record period of only six months.

Addressing the Kisan Card ceremony in Hafizabad on Monday, the CM announced to increase the number of Kisan Cards from 500,000 to 750,000, said a handout issued here.

The CM also announced to give free laser leveler to farmers who

cultivated wheat from twelve and a half acres to 25 acres. She also announced to give free tractors to farmers with more than 25 acres.

The CM announced to provide agricultural machinery on rent without any profit to the farmers. She also announced to increase the number of Kisan Card dealers to 3000.

CM Maryam Nawaz personally gave Kisan cards to the farmers and congratulated the farmers belonging to Hafizabad

namely Shah Nawaz Nakokar, Sanaullah, Farhat Razaq, Abdul Ghafoor, Tariq Mehmood Gujjar.

"The trend of agriculture and wheat cultivation in Punjab is increasing. Inflated electricity bills reduce the farmer's profit. I have assigned the task of cultivating vegetables in every city" she said.

The CM said that people only raised slogans for farmers and the PML-N did substantial work for the farmers.

### WAPDA to build 5 small dams in GB to generate 13940MW electricity

GILGIT (APP): Project Director Diamer Bhasha Dam Nizakat Hussain said that WAPDA has a plan to build five small dams in Gilgit-Baltistan with a total capacity of 13940 MW.

While talking to media person at the site of Dame he said that the dams which include Shevik, Skardu Sho, Thargos, Elbo, and Bunji will be constructed by WAPDA and will provide much-needed electricity to the country. Additionally these dams will accelerate industrial development and bring significant changes to food security. According to

Hussain, work on the five dams will commence in Gilgit-Baltistan as soon as possible with Bunji Dam generating the most electricity at 7100 MW. He informed that the smallest power project will be Shevik which will produce 4600 MW.

He added the construction of these dams will not only increase the lifespan of Diamer Bhasha Dam, Dasu, and Tarbela Dams but also enhance their capacity. He revealed that the project aims to increase the height of Diamer Bhasha Dam and deepen the river to extend the life of lower dams.

### Commodities rate re-fixed

FAISALABAD (APP): District Price Control Committee (DPCC) has re-fixed the rates of various commodities to facilitate the general public in Faisalabad.

The DPCC reviewed prices of various items of daily use and decided that white grams (big) would be available at Rs.310 per kg, black grams (small) at Rs.345 per kg and Rs.355 per kg, gram pulses (big) at Rs.380 per kg and Rs.390 per kg, gram pulses (small) at Rs.355 per kg.

### ADB Country Director calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ms. Emma Fan called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Lagrial on Monday at FBR headquarters.

During the meeting, they discussed the progress on ADB funded projects and various other areas of mutual cooperation, said a news release. Chairman FBR apprised about the Transformation Plan which

envisages making FBR more dynamic, modern and in line with the international standards.

The chairman said that the purpose of reforms was to maximise revenue growth while facilitating tax compliance. The Country Director expressed support for FBR's initiatives and reiterated the ADB's resolve to continue supporting the revenue mobilisation efforts in Pakistan.



KARACHI: The Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Saleemullah, addresses the ceremony for the Japan Traveling Exhibition 'Yokai Parade,' featuring supernatural monsters from Japan, at the State Bank Museum.

### Envoy Hashmi meets China leadership Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi held a bilateral meeting with the leadership of the Yangling Agriculture Demonstration Zone Leader, participated in the Global Introduction and Marketing Conference and convened a matchmaking meeting of Pakistani and Chinese businesses working in the field of agriculture during second day of his visit to Yangling, Shaanxi province, China.

Speaking at the Global Introduction and Marketing Conference, Ambassador Hashmi highlighted the priority accorded by the Government of Pakistan to agricultural modernization and technical advancement.

He also noted the need to adopt climate-smart agriculture, improve efficiency of water usage and increase the efficiency of supply chains.

Emphasizing on the synergy between Pakistan vast agricultural resources and China technological prowess, he urged the businessmen of the two countries to take advantage of the boundless opportunities offered by possible joint ventures in the field of agriculture.

In the afternoon, he also attended China-Pakistan Agriculture Matchmaking Meeting and interacted with Chinese and Pakistani businessmen and encouraged B2B partnerships between the two countries.

### Foreign service personnel briefed on economy at FPCCI: Atif Ikram

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that the apex body has briefed the group of personnel from Foreign Service of Pakistan (FSP) at its Head Office in Karachi — with the aim to orient them on macroeconomic issues & challenges; export promotion requirements of the business community; trade diplomacy and branding of a country's export offerings on an international scale.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh elaborated that the FSP delegation was told that IT & IT-enabled Services; value-added agricultural produce; processed foods; blue economy &

infrastructure; processed minerals & chemicals and export of skilled workforce should be given priority in promoting Pakistan's



economic, investment and trade relations. Mr. Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI,

stressed that foreign services representatives and trade & investment officers of Pakistan should act like salesmen of the

country; and, position Pakistan — as a country — a formidable brand in the export markets.

## KP CM for early issuance electronic Property Cards in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday directed the Revenue department to issue electronic Property Cards to citizens of merged district as soon as possible so that they could easily access their land records using mobile application.

Presiding over a meeting of Board of Revenue here, he said that issuance of electronic Property Card was an important initiative of the provincial government in relation to revenue reforms, adding that the provincial government was implementing effective use of information and communication technology for land record reforms.

He said that the Card would bring transparency in all matters of land records and would help end disputes related to property ownership in addition to the provision of various facilities.

Earlier, the CM was informed during briefing that the Property Card would act as an e-passbook enabling the citizens to easily access all their land

records by scanning the QR code on the property card through a smartphone.

The officials of Revenue department said that the Card would curb forgery in land record as the details of land owner in all the districts would be recorded in this card and could be verified through a mobile application facility.

Apart from Provincial Minister of Finance, Additional Chief Secretaries, Senior Member of Board of Revenue and other concerned officials attended the meeting.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the 87th Board of Directors meeting at Punjab Health Initiative Management Company.

## Azma Bokhari says: Govt employees in KPK protesting for salaries

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that universities are shutting down in KPK due to lack of funds. She said the people of the 'Fitna Party' are dreaming of hospitals going bankrupt in Punjab. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, government employees can be seen protesting daily over unpaid salaries, she added.

Azma said new hospitals are being built in Punjab, and renovations of existing hospitals are underway. Work has already begun on Punjab's

first cancer hospital, while a cardiology hospital in Sargodha is in progress, she said and added that the construction of PIC-2 in Lahore will also commence soon. She expressed these views in response to a statement by Barrister Saif. She remarked that a person sitting in Peshawar seems to think that government hospitals in Punjab are going bankrupt, which is quite absurd. People from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are still receiving treatment in Punjab's hospitals.

## Lunch hosted for KP Governor

LAHORE (APP): Former Punjab Assembly Speaker Sardar Muhammad Sibtain Khan hosted a lunch for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi here on Monday.

On the occasion, country's political situation came under discussion.

Muhammad Sibtain Khan lauded the efforts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor regarding construction of Dera Ismail Khan Kallur Kot bridge.

This bridge would play major role in connecting people besides promoting economic activities, he added.

## Punjab Home secretary reviews implementation of prison reforms

LAHORE (APP): Home Secretary Punjab Noor Ul Amin Mengal presided over a meeting to review the progress on the installation of modern cameras in prisons across Punjab.

It was decided in the meeting that 9,200 modern cameras would be installed in 43 jails of Punjab under the Safe Prisons Programme. The Home Secretary directed the Safe City Authority to complete the survey on the installation of cameras in prisons across Punjab within a week. The Home Secretary directed that body cams, public address system, access control

## Two killed in road accidents

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons were killed while three others sustained serious injuries in a road accident in Faisalabad during last 12 hours. Rescue 1122 spokesman said on Monday that Abdul Ghafoor (60) along with his wife Hanifan Bibi (52) was travelling on a motorcycle when their two-wheeler met a road accident near Chak No.252-GB.

As a result, Abdul Ghafoor died on the spot whereas, Rescue 1122 shifted his wife to Allied Hospital-II in a critical condition. Meanwhile, Allah Ditta (52) r/o Chak No.409-GB was killed while Irfan (20) and Shazia (50) were injured serious when a speedy motorcycle.

## Anti-corruption court begins proceedings in Chiniot Mines Case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-corruption court on Monday formally began proceedings in the Chiniot mines and minerals case against former Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan and others.

The court issued notices to the involved parties, scheduling the trial for November 26, and adjourned further proceedings. Anti-Corruption Court Judge Sardar Iqbal Dogar presided over the hearing, during which Sibtain Khan appeared and marked his attendance. The case, previously handled by an accountability court, was

transferred to the anti-corruption court on October 9, 2024, following the restoration of certain amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law.

In addition to Sibtain Khan, several other individuals, including Salman Ghani, Muhammad Aslam, Abdul Sattar Mian, and Imtiaz Ahmad Cheema, were named as accused.

The charges against Sibtain Khan allege that he misused his position to award a multi-billion-rupee contract to a firm of his choice in 2007.

## ANF arrests five accused with over 82 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force in nine operations conducted in different areas arrested five accused and recovered over 82 kg drugs worth Rs 6.4 million, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that ANF is making efforts to net drug dealers particularly those supplying drugs to the students of different educational institutions.

He said, 500 grams hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Islamabad.

## CM inaugurates anti polio vaccination drive

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has formally inaugurated anti-polio vaccination drive and administered anti-polio vaccination drops to children at Services Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS), here on Monday.

The CM said that children must be given polio vaccine to save them from lifelong disability. She set a target of zero polio in the province.

The CM appealed to the parents to administer anti-polio vaccination drops to their kids. She took a baby named Naira in her lap and loved her, administered her vaccine drops and gave her candies. She also gave gifts of candies to other children after administering them anti-polio vaccine drops.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with polio workers, and appreciated their services. She had a group photo with them, and advised them to work hard.

Earlier, the CM was briefed by the authorities concerned about the anti-polio app. She was briefed, "During the anti-polio campaign, more than 20 million children will be given polio vaccine."



KARACHI: A large number of students gather to attend Aptitude Test Examination ceremony of the IT courses program under "Bano Qabil Mega Project 4.0" organized by Al-Khidmat Foundation, held at North Karachi Hockey Stadium in Karachi.

## Zero tolerance policy adopted against timber mafia: Pir Musawwir

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Forests and Climate Change, Pir Musawwir Khan has said that the Forest Department had adopted zero tolerance policy against the timber mafia to contain timber smuggling.

He was presiding over a review meeting of Forest Development Corporation (FDC) here Monday wherein Managing Director Forest Development Corporation Muhammad Asif gave a detailed briefing on the achieved targets of the department during the last 50 years and overall performance.

The Special Assistant was told that due to the ban on movement of timber, around 670,000 square feet of wood was stored at various depots of the FDC, causing a hefty loss on provincial exchequer. He was further told that for the last one decade the FDC was facing an investment loss of Rs360 million due to ban on movement of timber.

The Special Assistant said coping with environmental issues in the province was a big challenge and cutting of trees for domestic and commercial use and then not planting new trees was a matter of concern.



LAHORE: Chairperson Punjab Women Protection Authority Hina Perviz Butt briefing media regarding launching of new programs.

# International News

## Netanyahu says strikes on Iran 'hit hard' as war on Gaza, Lebanon rages

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Israel's air strikes "hit hard" Iran's defences and missile production, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, but Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the damage from Saturday's attack should not be exaggerated.

With warfare raging in Gaza and Lebanon, direct confrontation between Israel and Iran risks spiralling into a regional conflagration. But a day after the air strikes, there was no sign they would spark another round of escalation.

However, heavy fighting in Lebanon between Israeli forces and Iran-backed Hezbollah, which sharply intensified over recent weeks, continued on Sunday with an Israeli airstrike killing eight people in a residential block in Sidon, medical aid said.

"The air force attacked throughout Iran. We hit hard Iran's defence capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that are aimed at us," Netanyahu said in a speech, calling the attack "precise and powerful" and saying it met all its objectives.

The Islamic Republic has not signalled how it will respond to Saturday's long-anticipated strikes, which involved scores of fighter jets bombing targets near the capital Tehran and in the western provinces of



Displaced Palestinians ordered by the Israeli military to evacuate the northern part of Gaza take a rest as they flee amid an Israeli military operation, in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.

## Spanish PM in India seeking to bolster trade ties

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was welcomed to India on Monday with a flower-filled open-top parade alongside counterpart Narendra Modi, as Madrid seeks to boost investment in the world's fifth-largest economy.

The duo waved to crowds in a vehicle smothered in orange marigold garlands on their way to inaugurate a military aircraft factory, a collaboration between Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus, in Vadodara in Gujarat state.

It is the first visit by a Spanish premier to India for 18 years.

India's defence ministry agreed to a \$2.5 billion deal for 56 cargo and troop-carrying C295 aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space in 2021. While 16 will be assembled in Seville in Spain — with the first deliveries made last year — the 40 remaining will be built in India.

## Around 40 soldiers killed in attack on Chad military base

Monitoring Desk DAKAR: Around 40 soldiers were killed in an attack on a military base in Chad's Lake region on Sunday, the central African country's presidency said on Monday.

President Mahamat Idriss Deby launched an operation to track down the assailants, the statement said.

The presidency did not name the group responsible for the attack.

## Sudanese need protection, but conditions not right for UN force, says Guterres

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the Security Council on Monday for its support to help protect civilians in war-torn Sudan, but said conditions are not right for deployment of a UN force.

"The people of Sudan are living through a nightmare of violence — with thousands of civilians killed, and countless others facing unspeakable atrocities, including widespread rape and sexual assaults," Guterres told the 15-member council.

War erupted in mid-April 2023 from a power struggle between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule, and triggered the world's largest displacement crisis.

"Sudan is, once again, rapidly becoming a nightmare of mass ethnic violence," Guterres said, referring to a conflict in Sudan's Darfur region about 20 years ago that led to the International Criminal Court charging former Sudanese leaders with genocide and crimes against humanity.



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi waving to crowd in India's Gujarat.



Japanese Prime Minister and leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Shigeru Ishiba speaks next to LDP lawmakers during a press conference a day after Japan's lower house election, at the party's headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

## Pressure mounts to oust Bangladesh President Shahabuddin

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh's President Mohammed Shahabuddin faced growing pressure on Monday to quit from leaders of the revolution that toppled autocratic ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August, who argue he was her appointee.

Shahabuddin, 74, widely known as "Chuppu", was elected by parliament in 2023 by Hasina's now ousted Awami League, but while the post is largely ceremonial, his potential removal from the role has sparked fears of a constitutional vacuum.

"Any decision regarding the removal of the president will be based on political consensus," Shafiqul Alam, press advisor to the interim government that replaced Hasina.

## Japan PM under pressure after debacle election

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba was on thin ice on Monday after his ruling coalition was projected to have lost its parliamentary majority in disastrous snap elections.

Ishiba, 67, called Sunday's vote days after taking office on October 1, but voters angry at a slush fund scandal punished his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"We are receiving severe judgement," Ishiba,

## France hijab bans in sports 'discriminatory': UN experts

Monitoring Desk PARIS: United Nations rights experts on Monday slammed decisions in France banning women and girls who wear the hijab from sports competitions as "discriminatory", demanding they be reversed. France invoked its strict rules on secularism to ban its athletes from wearing religious symbols, including the hijab, during the Paris 2024 Olympics.

France's football and basketball federations have also opted to exclude players wearing the headscarf from competitions, including at the amateur level.

These decisions "are disproportionate and discriminatory, and infringe on their rights [of French athletes] to freely manifest their identity, their religion or belief in private and in public, and to take part in cultural life," said a statement signed by eight independent UN experts. "Muslim women and girls who wear the hijab must have equal rights to participate in cultural and sporting life, and to take part in all aspects of French society of which they are a part," they said.

## Swiss president backs lifting re-export ban on arms to Ukraine

Monitoring Desk BERN: Switzerland's president said on Monday she was in favour of revising a ban that currently prevents Swiss-made arms from being re-exported from another country to Ukraine, saying the embargo was hurting her country's industry and security.

Calls for Switzerland to break with centuries of tradition as a neutral state have been growing both at home and abroad since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Its parliament has already recommended that the arms rules be eased.

## NATO confirms that North Korea has sent troops to join Russia's war in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: NATO on Monday confirmed that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia to aid in its almost three-year war against Ukraine and that some have already been deployed in Russia's Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

"Today, I can confirm that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, and that North Korean military units have been deployed to the Kursk region," NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told reporters.

Rutte said that the move represents "a significant escalation" in North Korea's involvement in the conflict and marks "a dangerous expansion of Russia's war." His remarks came after a high-level South Korean delegation including top intelligence and military officials as well as senior diplomats briefed the alliance's 32 national ambassadors at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Rutte said NATO is "actively consulting within the alliance, with Ukraine, and with our Indo-Pacific partners," on developments and that he is due to talk soon with South Korea's president and Ukraine's defense minister. "We continue to monitor the situation closely," he said.

## Pakistan prepares for COP2024, calls for support to combat climate crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal here on Monday chaired a high-level meeting in preparation for the upcoming COP2024 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November, emphasizing Pakistan's urgent call for international support to combat the intensifying climate crisis.

The Minister highlighted Pakistan's critical vulnerability to climate impacts, with recent floods positioning the country as a pivotal case study on the frontlines of climate resilience and adaptation.

"Pakistan is not only the worst victim of the climate crisis but also the most resilient. Despite the devastating floods of 2010 and 2022, our nation has shown unparalleled perseverance. Yet, the scale of these challenges exceeds our capacity, requiring immediate global support," Ahsan Iqbal said.

The Minister noted that while the catastrophic floods of 2010 led to huge number of fatalities, strategic preparedness efforts helped reduce the toll during the 2022 floods.

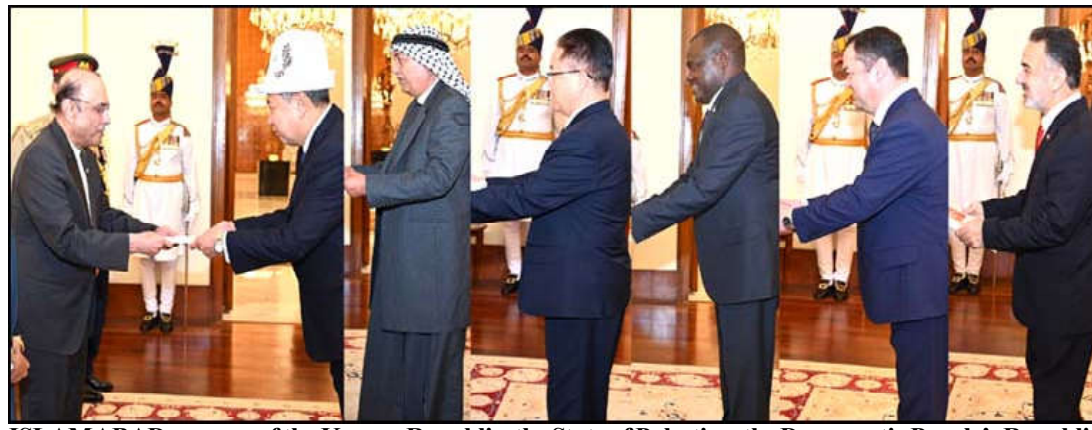
Although three times more severe, these efforts brought fatalities down, underscoring the life-saving impact of resilience plan-

ning. "Our success in mitigating human loss shows that preparedness is not only crucial but lifesaving. However, continued resources and expertise are essential to sustain this progress," he added.

In response to the 2022 floods, Pakistan launched the 4RF (Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework), focusing on reinforcing infrastructure, supporting vulnerable communities, and enhancing adaptive capacity in vital sectors.

Looking ahead to COP2024, Prof. Iqbal highlighted the need to mobilize policy initiatives that promote regional collaboration. He directed preparations for a roundtable to bring together climate experts from academia, international specialists, and environmental organizations to explore collaborative climate solutions.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs; Dr. Abid Qayyum Sulehi of SDPI; Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination; and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



ISLAMABAD: envoys of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Palestine, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, Kenya and the Republic of Turkiye presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## CM Murad says: His govt contests Cholistan Canal at every govt forum

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has firmly said that his government is strongly opposed to the construction of the Cholistan Canal and is currently contesting this issue in the ECNEC.

He said this while talking to the media just after launching the Polio eradication campaign at SMB Fatima Jinnah School, Garden on Monday.

To a question, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that the IRSA authorities had certified to provide water to the Cholistan Canal if commissioned. "On September 20, Minister Ir-

rigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro attended the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and opposed the approval of the canal," he said.

The Chief Minister provided additional details about a recent meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that was originally scheduled for October 11 at 9 a.m but did not take place as planned.

He stated, "Before the meeting, I spoke with Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and informed him that the Sindh government would never accept the Cholistan Canal." He

mentioned that he was assured by the federal minister that the agenda for the Cholistan Canal would be postponed.

"However, the meeting that took place on October 11, 2024, was delayed and ultimately held at 11 p.m, the CM said and added that the Cholistan Canal project was approved in the CDWP despite strong opposition from the Sindh representative, the Chief Minister said and went on saying that he has also written to the Chairman of Planning to express his opposition to the project.

Mr Shah said that the

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) is the final forum where Sindh will contest its case, and the Sindh government has already challenged the Canal in the Council of Common Interests (CCI). He added, "The PPP government knows how to protect the rights of the people of Sindh."

The CM, to another question regarding the increasing number of polio cases, said that the Caretaker government could not take appropriate measures to continue polio eradication drives. Therefore, his government has to face the situation.

## Gilani, Matvienko reaffirm commitment to regional security, bilateral coop.

Moscow desires to enhance Pak-Russia bilateral ties: Valentina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairmen of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, and Speaker of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Ms Valentina Matvienko, on Monday reiterated their commitment to regional security, particularly in combating illicit drug trafficking through joint initiatives.

In a meeting with the Russian delegation led by Ms. Matvienko, the Chairman extended a warm welcome as the two nations marked the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations. The discussions highlighted the evolution of bilateral ties since 1948, with both leaders emphasizing the importance of ongoing cooperation in defense, economic infrastructure, and energy sectors.

He commended Russia's contributions to Pakistan's oil and gas industries and infrastructure development, including significant projects such as the Pakistan Steel Mills and Guddu Thermal Power Station.

He acknowledged the recent momentum in bilateral relations, catalyzed by high-level meetings, especially between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Putin at the SCO summit, where energy cooperation and trade initiatives were focal points.



KARACHI: A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child in Karachi.

## DC inaugurates Anti Polio Campaign in Khairpur

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khairpur, Syed Ahmed Fawad Shah on Monday inaugurated the anti-polio campaign in Khairpur district by administering the polio vaccine drops to children under five years of age at his office.

District Health Officer, Assistant Commissioners, health department officials, WHO representatives, and parents were present at the occasion.

Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Khairpur, a meeting was held to review measures for eradication campaign.

All concerned officers including representatives and relevant department officials were in attendance, while Assistant Commissioners from far flung talukas of the district like Mirwah, Nara and Faiz Gunj other districts participated via video link.

The DC emphasized the importance of administering protective vaccines to children to successfully combat polio, ensuring that no child under the age of five is deprived of the polio vaccine during this time. Health department officials were directed to monitor the polio teams in the field.

## NADRA center inaugurated in District Council Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) resumed its operations in Sukkur city area on Monday.

Chairman, District Council Sukkur, Syed Kamal Hyder Shah along with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr MB Raja Dharejo and Director General (DG) NADRA Amir Ali inaugurated the center.

Earlier, Syed Kamal Hyder Shah visited the center and witnessed the facilities extended to the public.

Talking to media, he said that due to the closure of the NADRA office in Sukkur city, citizens were facing difficulties. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi allocated for the NADRA center in the city to facilitate the public.

He said that previously, there was also a NADRA office in the District Council, so same location has been chosen again. He said that this center will provide facilities for national identity cards, Family Registration Certificates (FRC), and a new iris system has also been introduced.

DG NADRA, Amir Ali Khan announced the launch of a pilot project, which will initially be implemented in selected union councils.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Eesa Nagri are holding protest demonstration against district administration, at Hyderabad press club.

## VC SMIU leads solidarity walk to observe Kashmir Black Day

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Madressatul Islam University organized a walk on Monday to observe Kashmir Black Day and show solidarity with Kashmiri people and raise voice for right to self-determination of Kashmiris.

The walk was led by Vice Chancellor SMIU Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai and participated by deans of different faculties, chairpersons of academic departments, officers, other employees and students. The walks started from the Main Building of SMIU and was culminated at the I.T. Tower of the university. Earlier, the Directorate of Students' Affairs and Counselling (DSA) of SMIU organised a solidarity program at the auditorium of the varsity where Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai condemned the illegal occupation of Kashmir by India and atrocities meted out with innocent Kashmiri people by Indian forces.

He stressed upon the UN, world community and peace-loving people of the globe to raise voice behind the just struggle of Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination and urge India to end its occupation of Kashmir and extra judicial killing in occupied Kashmir. "The world should come forward to resolve the issue of the occupied Kashmir and save the population and beautiful land of Kashmir."

## Aleem Khan lauds NHA's 100pc revenue surge, M-Tag implementation, technical upgradation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday visited the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters, inspected the National Traffic Operation Center and commended Pakistan's motorway and GT road notable revenue growth and technological upgrades.

Aleem Khan expressed satisfaction over the transition of 99 percent of vehicles on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway to the M-Tag system, which has greatly reduced traffic congestion and streamlined toll operations. "The shift to M-Tag has improved traffic flow significantly and I am pleased with NHA's efforts to modernize the toll collection process," Aleem Khan stated.

Aleem Khan further highlighted the record-breaking financial achievements of the NHA, reporting a 100 percent increase in revenue, with the projected target rising to Rs 110 billion from last year's Rs 64 billion.

"This is an unprecedented milestone, marking the first time a public institution will generate an additional Rs 50 billion in revenue," the minister said.

The federal minister directed the NHA to reduce cash lanes across all motorways and increase the number of M-Tag booths.



HYDERABAD: Son of Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Rawal Sharjeel along with Lala Jaffar Khan, District Health Officer inaugurating the Polio Eradication Campaign in Tando Jam.

## Syed Najmi Alam pushes for new talent recruitment in Sindh's Livestock and Fisheries Sector

Independent Report KARACHI: Advisor to CM Sindh on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam has decided to request the Sindh government to give opportunity & recruit new generation qualified people for the Livestock and Fisheries department, so that they can play an important role in our department with their experience.

In the next financial year, we will request the Sindh government to recruit such trained youth in our department. These views were expressed by Syed Najmi Alam giving a briefing in the Livestock Planning and Monitoring Directorate.

In the meeting, Director Planning and Monitoring Dr. Mubarak Jatoi gave a complete briefing with the help of slides on the big screen. Deputy Secretary Livestock Owais Al Hasan and Fida Hussain Lashari were also present on this occasion.

Various suggestions made by Director Planning were considered.

Syed Najmi Alam said that we want to give priority to local breeds of animals in the 20-year livestock program so that we do not run a program to import animals from abroad.

This will also save national exchequer and our local breeds can be better positioned so that we can develop our milk and meat production process.

Syed Najmi Alam said that we have called an important meeting tomorrow to take suggestions of private property owners in which we have invited private property owners from across Sindh.

He added that just as we are working for the development of the Livestock Department, we are also working for the development of the Fisheries Department.



KARACHI: View of burning dumper, which torched by angry mob after an accident killed a motorist, at North Karachi Power House area in Karachi.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of the Industries Department, at CM House in Karachi.

## Nadeem ur Rehman Memon oversees progress on Press and Media registration act in Sindh

KARACHI: Secretary Information Nadeem ur Rehman Memon presiding over a meeting to review the progress into the draft document pertaining to the Sindh Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Book Registration Act on 28-10-2024 (Monday) here at his office.



Director General (PRs), Muhammad Saleem Khan, Director Information (P&D) Muizzuddeen Peerzada, Director Information (Advt), Muhammad Yousuf, Kaboro, Director Information (Press) Hizbullah Memon, Director Information Social Media, Akhtar Ali Surhio, Director Information Legal Syed Azeem Shah, Director Information Publications Imtiaz Ali Joyo, Director Information Electronic Media Aziz Ahmed Hakro, Director Press Information Abdul Majid Khan and other officers of Information Department are present on the occasion.



LARKANA: Leaders and activists of Peoples Party (PPP) are holding celebration rally on approval of the 26th constitutional amendment, held in Larkana.

## Anti-Polio drive intensified amid presence of virus in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The district administration of Sukkur has intensified its efforts to make the anti-polio campaign, initiated from today (Monday) to November 3, a success. This comes amid a rise in polio cases in the country and the consistent presence of the poliovirus in Sukkur's environmental samples for the past 12 months. In this regard, a meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Dr. M.B. Raja Dharejo to discuss the anti-polio campaign. This was the third meeting in two weeks, highlighting the urgency and importance of the issue.

The administration aims to ensure the campaign's success, particularly in the light of the persistent presence of the poliovirus in the region's environmental samples. The campaign is focusing on vaccinating children under the age of five to protect them from the crippling disease. The meeting reviewed the micro plan at the Union Council level and strict instructions were issued to the in-charges of polio teams, including the Health Department, PPHI, EPI, and local government, directing them to take the campaign seriously and warning that any negligence will not be tolerated.

Deputy Commissioner Sukkur has warned that strict legal action will be taken against those providing fake data, and accountable persons from polio teams and Union Council in charge will be held responsible and terminated from their employment. He directed that timely identification of parents who refuse polio vaccination drops should be ensured, so that counseling can be provided to persuade them.

## SSP Qamber directs for providing foolproof security to Polio teams

LARKANA (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Qamber Shahdaddot Muhammad Kaleem Malik has directed to provide strict security for the protection of polio teams across the district.

Talking to APP here Monday, he said that he visited and checked the security arrangements at various transit points established in the district and issued necessary instructions to the police officers and jawans. He said that a total of 971 policemen have been deputed for duty for the ongoing polio campaign across the district to protect polio teams in the entire district.

## Pakistan Navy announces Recruitment of Sailors

SUKKUR (APP): Pakistan Navy has announced recruitment for Sailor A-2025 with the registration deadline set as 3rd November.

According to the announcement by Pakistan Navy Recruitment and Selection Center Sukkur on Monday, the male candidates with a matric pass can apply online for various positions, including Technical, Naval Police General Duty, Marine, Naib Khateeb, Steward, Musician, Driver, Sanitary Worker, and Direct Entry Sailors in PT Branch.

Eligible candidates with Pakistani citizenship have been advised to apply online through Pakistan Navy's website [www.joinpaknavy.gov.pk](http://www.joinpaknavy.gov.pk) by November, 3, 2024.

## Police arrest drug peddler, recover illicit liquor

HYDERABAD (APP): Police in its continued drive against narcotics and criminals on Monday arrested a drug peddler and recovered illicit liquor from his possession.

Station House officer (SHO) Sakhi Pir Police station Sajid Ali Abbasi alongwith his staff during patrolling arrested an accused Syed Majid and recovered a drum filled with illicit liquor.