

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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## Saudi investment in Pakistan to reach \$2.8bln as MoUs count enhanced to 34: Saudi minister

PM for keeping momentum to develop strong Pak-Saudi economic partnership

RIYADH (APP): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday announced to add another \$600 million to its recently announced \$2.2 billion investment in Pakistan what the Saudi Investment Minister called "only the beginning of something very special."

The announcement was made in a joint press stakeout by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Investment Minister Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, following their "very

productive" meeting encompassing the bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors including trade, finance, agriculture, technology and skilled manpower.

At the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the prime minister is currently on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia where he addressed the 8th edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) on 'Infinite Horizons: Investing Today,

Shaping Tomorrow,' held in Riyadh and joined by the global leaders to discuss how investment could serve as a catalyst for a prosperous and sustainable future.

Accompanied by Advisor at the Royal Court Mohammad Maziad Al-Tuwaijri, Saudi Minister Al Falih told the media that during his recent visit to Pakistan, both sides had signed 27 MoUs for investment worth \$2.2 in Pakistan. He announced that fol-

lowing Prime Minister Shehbaz's meeting with Crown Prince and their discussion, the number of MoUs has increased from 27 to 34 to add \$600 million in investment, taking its volume to \$2.8 billion. Prime Minister Shehbaz said the meetings with the Crown Prince and Al Falih were reassuring and told the media that some of the projects agreed upon during the recent Saudi delegation's visit were under implementation.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Engineer Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court Mohammad Bin Mazayad Al-Tuwaijri in a joint press conference on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment Initiative Conference.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, PPP leader Faryal Talpur, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu cut a cake to celebrate the 101st anniversary of the Republic of Turkey's proclamation at the consulate.

## CJCSC calls on President of Azerbaijan, Military-Civil leadership

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahr Shamsah Mirza on an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan called on President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, Minister of Defence Colonel General Hasanov Zakir Asgar, Foreign Minister, Jeyhun Aziz Oghlu Bayramov, 1st Deputy Defence Minister and Chief of General Staff Colonel General Karim Tofig Oghlu Valiyev and Minister of Defence Industry, Vugar Mustafayev.

During the interaction, both sides appreciated deep and historic relations between the two countries and discussed matters of mutual interest including evolving security dynamics of the region and enhancement of existing defence ties in multiple domains, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The CJCSC highlighted the importance of enhanced military cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and reaffirmed commitment towards peace and stability.

## Dr Azra Fazal says: Provision of safe reproductive healthcare must be a priority

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: "It is imperative that health facilities nationwide integrate contraceptive and post-abortion care services. Lack of counseling is a major contributor to unsafe abortions, so it's essential to educate people about contraceptive options and make them widely accessible," stated Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Sindh. Dr. Pechuho was speaking at the Karachi launch of the Population Council and Guttmacher Institute's report, "Safeguarding Women's Health: Trends, Inequities, and Opportunities in Pakistan's Abortion and Post-Abortion Care Services."

Dr. Pechuho highlighted the need to significantly increase the number of community health workers, underscoring how this shortage affects the quality and reach of healthcare. She also raised concerns about the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, suggesting that it should better incentivize health and population welfare improvements by rewarding provinces with strong health indicators with legislative representation.

Dr. Pechuho further noted that Pakistan's policies on linking abortion with maternal health need alignment with World Health Organization guidelines to enhance the quality of care.

## PM flays Israel's obstruction of UNRWA operation in Palestine

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's actions aimed at obstructing the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The prime minister, who is currently on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh, wrote on his X timeline that by preventing critical relief assistance from reaching millions of helpless Palestinians, Israel was committing yet another blatant violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter.

## PTI senator Sania Nishtar resigns from Senate seat

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI Senator leader Dr Sania Nisar has resigned from Senate seat. According to sources, Sania Nishtar tendered resignation to join an international organisation in Geneva. Sources said that former federal minister Dr Nishtar also sent her resignation to the Senate secretariat. It is pertinent to note that former federal minister Nishtar was elected senator from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2021.

Dr Nishtar is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Gavi, a vaccine alliance. She is an internationally acclaimed public health and development expert having a degree in medicine.

## Governor Sindh calls on State Minister Shaza Fatima

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori held a meeting with Minister of State for Information Technology and Communication Shaza Fatima Khawaja at the Governor House here on Wednesday.

The meeting focused on the importance of IT and communication, alongside discussions on IT courses and other significant areas, said a statement.

Kamran Khan Tessori emphasized that IT and communication are the foundations of modern development, noting that IT courses are actively being conducted at the Governor House under the Governor's Initiative, with plans to expand these courses across the province.

State Minister Shaza Fatima praised the IT

classes under the Governor's Initiative as an excellent step forward.

Later, the State Minister and Governor Tessori visited the IT Market, where the governor briefed the media, highlighting that the IT program was launched last year. Covering 24,500 square feet, the IT Market hosts 32 classes weekly, providing IT education to 50,000 students.

The governor assured that all courses are free of charge and announced the addition of ten more air conditioners for students' comfort.

Expressing her delight during her visit to the Governor House, Minister Shaza Fatima lauded the Governor's IT initiative, noting that the Governor House doors are now open to the public, fostering closer ties with citizens.

## Turkish Consulate Celebrates 101st Republic Day Anniversary

KARACHI (APP): The Consulate of Turkiye in Karachi, organized ceremony on the occasion of 101st anniversary of Republic of Turkiye on Tuesday night.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, MPA Faryal Talpur, Speaker Sindh Assembly Syed Awais Qadir Shah and other personalities attended the program.

The Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi Cemal Sangu welcomed all the guests on arrival at the Consulate.

Addressing the ceremony, Cemal Sangu said the relations and friendship of Turkiye and Pakistan are based on commitment to peace, cooperation and prosperity. Both the countries always stood shoulder to shoulder and share each other's achievement, success and difficult times,

which 6 schools are in Sindh region.

He said in these schools, as many as 30000 students are educated from kindergarten to high schools. Every year Turkish Government is providing scholarships to Pakistani students as well and 250 students got scholarships this year while 5000 students already studying in Turkish universities, he added.

The Consul General also shed light on the cooperation in humanitarian projects under TIKA.

He said the bilateral trade volume of both the countries, had climbed to 1.3 billion Dollars last year and we can increase our bilateral trade to 5 billion dollars in near future.

He said Turkish investment in Pakistan has surpassed 3.5 billion USD and it could be increased to 5 to 10 billion USD.

## PM arrives in Qatar amid trade, investment push by Islamabad

DOHA (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Doha on an official visit from Oct. 30-31 to discuss bilateral ties with a special focus on trade and investment, the premier's office said in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif landed in Qatar on Wednesday on the two-day visit.

At the airport, the prime minister was received by Qatari Minister of State Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Pakistan's ambassador and other diplomatic staff.

Federal ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Mohammad Aurangzeb, Jam Kamal Khan and Attallah Tarar also accompanied the prime minister. "During this visit, I look forward to productive exchange of views with the Qatari leadership to further enhance our brotherly relations," Sharif said on X after arriving in Doha. "I will also inaugurate a special exhibition at Qatar Museum highlighting the cultural heritage of Pakistan."

Dozens of PTI supporters had gathered at Chancery Lane to stage a protest against Isa, who was attending a prestigious event held at the Middle Temple, after relinquishing charge as the country's top judge.

Qazi Isa was going to attend the ceremony for constituting benches at the Middle Temple. The PTI supporters, led by former prime minister Imran Khan's ex-special assistant Sayed Zulfi Bukhari and former member of National Assembly (MNA) Maleeka Bokhari, Azhar Mashwani and others staged the demonstration to condemn The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple for elevating ex-CJP Isa as a Callee and hosting him at the dinner.

Major Karachi greets Rauf Ata as President SCBA

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has congratulated Rauf Ata on being elected as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). He expressed hope that under his leadership, the Supreme Court Bar will play its role in upholding the rule of law.

The Mayor of Karachi stated that lawyers have always carried on struggle for the restoration of democracy and the rule of law, and will continue to play a key role in the future.

He mentioned that the recent Shanghai Cooperation Conference (SCC) meeting held in Pakistan which was a matter of pride for the whole nation.

The JUI-F Chief said that after the passage of 26th constitutional amendment, the Parliament was bound to discuss the recommendations of Islamic Ideology Council (IIC) for making any legislation, which he termed a big achievement.

He said that earlier the agreement of 40 percent legislators was mandatory for sending any matter to the IIC and this ratio was decreased to 25 percent under the 26th constitutional amendment.

## Commissioner Karachi reviews polio vaccination campaign

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hasan Naqvi on Wednesday visited Natha Khan Shah Faisal Town to review the ongoing polio vaccination campaign.

Syed Hasan Naqvi met with polio teams, received briefings from relevant officers, and made crucial decisions to make the campaign effective. He emphasized that every child must receive polio drops, considering it a national priority.

He also made important decisions during the visit to review the drive for making it effective and asked all Deputy Commissioners to visit their respective districts daily to review the campaign's progress and submit daily reports to the office of commissioner.

He decided that the polio workers will be appointed from local areas to ensure familiarity with the community, increasing the campaign's effectiveness.

It was also decided that special attention will be paid to 378 children in UC Natha Khan Shah Faisal Town who missed vaccination, including 146 who refused.

The Commissioner Karachi directed the DCs to form polio support teams comprising elected representatives, community members, leaders, and officers/officials from various government departments to ensure the success of the anti-polio campaign.

Imran Khan endorses Omar Ayub, Shibli Faraz for judicial commission

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has formally approved nominations for the judicial commission under the newly enacted legislation.

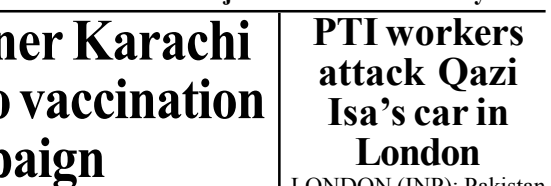
According to party sources, Imran Khan endorsed Omar Ayub from the National Assembly and Shibli Faraz from the Senate as PTI's nominees.

The party plans to forward these names to the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairman of the Senate on Thursday.

The 13-member judicial commission will include two members from the treasury benches and two from the opposition. The Prime Minister's Office had re-



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahr Shamsah Mirza called on Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev.



quired the submission of names for the judicial commission's formation.

It is to be recalled that a special session of political committee of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had released a declaration on Monday in which it decided to formally join the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP).

"It is unanimously decided that members of PTI from both houses would be nominated to join the JCP," said the declaration. In the special meeting of political committee, a detailed briefing was given about the letter of the NA speaker to nominate two member from opposition for JCP, say sources.

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KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, MPA Balochistan Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Secretary Population Welfare Balochistan, Abdullh Khan, DG Health Balochistan Dr. Ameen Mandokhail and others from Sindh & Balochistan participating in the Safeguarding Women Health ceremony.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Court business

It has been quite encouraging to note that the new chief justice has wasted no time putting his house in order.

After promptly reconstituting the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Committee to include the next two senior-most justices after himself, Chief Justice Yahya Afridi had summoned a full court meeting this Monday to review business. By all accounts, the meeting — attended by all judges of the Supreme Court, including senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah via video link — was a successful one.

Held in a collegial atmosphere, it focused on the ways and means through which the Supreme Court can fulfil its core responsibility: delivering timely justice. Though many had speculated that various prickly issues would be brought up when the Supreme Court judges would first meet after the tumultuous end of justice Qazi Faez Isa's tenure, the court seemed more immediately concerned with the case backlog and how it could be reduced expeditiously.

Some may have been expecting bitterness from Justice Shah for being passed over for the chief justice's position. Instead, he displayed grace and magnanimity by placing his detailed plan for cutting down the case backlog before the court, thereby symbolically handing over the baton to the new chief justice. It seems worth mentioning here that this plan had been much anticipated within the legal community, and one of the main regrets cited when Justice Shah was passed over was that it may never see the light of day.

However, it was a much-changed Supreme Court on Monday that reviewed and eventually adopted the Case Management Plan 2023. It appears that not only was the new chief justice keen on restoring the respect previously denied to other senior justices but also on reorienting the court's priorities towards improving institutional performance rather than on external troubles and intrigues. As it faces relentless assaults from multiple flanks, the unity and commonality of purpose on display in the Monday meeting are what will help the Supreme Court endure. Successive tenures marked by polarisation and internal frictions have eroded the institution's powers and left it vulnerable to the other pillars of the state. It must reclaim its space and fulfil its duty to protect the constitutional order.

It is hoped that the institution will not take too long to find its feet again, and once it does, will set about correcting the many imbalances in the tripartite distribution of power that have crept in over the past few years. It is refreshing to see that, after a long time, the judges of the superior judiciary do not seem to be harbouring personal grudges against each other. It is hoped that this spirit will prevail and that the institution will heal quickly in the days to come.

## Trump or Harris?

Mahir Ali

A week from today, nervous tension will be spiking within and beyond the US as the results roll in from what has been hyped up as the most consequential election in American history. The choice, essentially, is between the reinforcement of a deeply unsatisfying status quo and a return to the depressingly entertaining self-immolation of a Trump presidency.

Writing in the context of Nazism and its impact on Germany, Hannah Arendt noted long ago that "those who choose the lesser evil forget very quickly that they chose evil". In recent decades, it has more or less become the norm for the electorate in many democracies faced with a choice between two varieties of what voters might be inclined to detest or distrust. The US easily falls into that category, notwithstanding its posturing as an exemplar, or more absurdly, an enforcer of liberal democracy, given the number of dictatorships its interventions have spawned.

Criticism of Donald Trump's Madison Square Garden rally on Sunday has tended to focus on a warm-up comedian's obnoxious description of Puerto Rico as a garbage dump. Even the Trump campaign has disavowed his stance — but, at the same time, distracted attention from echoes of a notorious gathering at the same venue 85 years ago arranged by the German American Bund where an image of George Washington was flanked by Nazi insignia, and the keynote speaker's anti-Semitic, white-supremacist message was greeted with 'sieg heils' by the 20,000-strong multitude.

The f-word — fascism — had been flung at Trump even before a number of disenchanted colleagues from his previous White House stint

endorsed it. After all, the ex-president had doubled down on his traditional pet hate — which involved denigrating all immigrants who entered via Mexico as rapists and murderers — by claiming that Haitian arrivals in Springfield, Ohio, were devouring cats and dogs. The lack of evidence for even a single instance of such behaviour did not matter to him or his acolytes.

The accompanying threat to violently deport millions of 'illegal immigrants' was almost a predictable corollary. It has stirred precious little alarm in the US which had in its initial stages relied on invaders and their slaves plus genocidal assaults against North America's native inhabitants that it should still be unwelcoming to outsiders keen on rebuilding lives that have been shattered all too often because of America-first mentality in Washington.

There is more alarm over Trump's vow to deplore the military against 'enemies from within', a designation that encompasses pretty much all of his domestic opponents, who are obviously being unpatriotic in disdaining his MAGA agenda, which in part reflects the white-supremacist efforts of predecessors that were interrupted by Hitler's transgressions. Trump is hardly a pioneer, though. Richard Nixon, too, had his list of enemies — and he came a cropper within two years of winning an undeserved landslide in 1972.

American voters have picked many obnoxious presidents within living memory, and there has never been any reckoning for their international crimes — from Vietnam and Korea to Chile, El Salvador, Afghanistan and Iraq, among a far longer list. Trump, to his credit, failed to spark any new wars. The claims that he

would have pre-empted both the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Oct 7 alongside its genocidal aftermath in Israel, Gaza and beyond, are easy to denigrate as absurd. But these are hardly defining issues for most voters.

In the case of Israel's genocidal impulses, they matter more on the Democratic side. Kamala Harris has failed to distance herself from the Biden administration's demonstrably fake efforts for a ceasefire, even while its influence has been paramount in forestalling the kind of reversion to Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant had in mind for Iran. Meanwhile, the Kahanist 'ethnic cleansing' in the Palestinian territories proceeds apace. Would a reincarnated President Trump somehow halt it? Dream on. The Arab/Muslim 'community leaders' who latched on to him in Michigan recently are either unwise or ignorant in glossing over his efforts to bury the question of Palestine under the mendacious Abraham Accords.

Would Harris be any better? Yes, marginally, at least on domestic concerns. It matters, for instance, that she defends women's autonomy over their bodies, and on the economic front is slightly less enthusiastic than her rival about redistributing wealth to the rich. But then, false promises are the lifeblood of US elections.

On the global front, the choice perhaps is between a rapid apocalypse or the gradual decline and fall of an empire that has for too long surreptitiously prolonged the age of imperialism. Either way, but especially with Trump, the risk is that the rest of the world will pay the price for decades to come. — Courtesy Dawn

## Take school to the child

Gulmina Bilal Ahmad

Pakistan is in the midst of a critical education crisis, with over 22.8 million children aged five to 16 years out of school, placing it second only to Nigeria in this context. The situation is especially dire for girls, with 53 per cent out of school as compared to 43pc of boys. Declaring a national education emergency, Pakistan identifies poverty, lack of infrastructure, cultural barriers, child labour, and early marriages as core obstacles.

Innovative solutions are required. Traditional efforts focus on bringing children to schools, yet many children living near these institutes of learning don't attend, often perceiving education as irrelevant. This signals a need to (a) connect education with job opportunities and (b) customise schooling to meet children's needs. To date, all conversations have focused on bringing the child to school. We need to now think of the reverse.

A promising model is hybrid technical and vocational education and training, which equips children with job skills alongside basic literacy. Hybrid TVET bridges the gap between education and work readiness, focusing on out-of-school children. It merges academic learning with vocational skills such as carpentry, tailoring, IT, plumbing, and agriculture, enabling children to acquire lifelong learning skills and employment options.

A significant education barrier in rural Pakistan is the lack of accessible schools and training centres. Mobile vocational training units address this by bringing education directly to remote communities. These mobile units,

equipped with training materials and technology, can deliver both academic and vocational education. A few years back, a pilot project was conducted by an international funding agency. Lessons learnt from it need to be mainstreamed and its success amplified.

The mobile model proves especially valuable in conflict zones, where establishing permanent schools is difficult. Flexible schedules allow children to work part-time if essential, and baseline assessments can lead to formal certification.

For girls, community-based learning centres with local women educators can provide safe, culturally appropriate spaces. These centres can offer literacy, numeracy, and skills like sewing, embroidery, and food preparation. Integrating these skills into local economic activities enables girls to contribute through community projects in sustainable agriculture or small-scale businesses.

Expanding internet access, with over 116m mobile broadband users as of 2021, can make online and blended learning transformative, especially in the urban areas. Hybrid TVET can leverage these platforms, using online courses and in-person practical sessions to teach vocational skills. For instance, children can learn IT online and gain hands-on experience in local vocational centres. These online platforms can connect with existing TVET institutions, allowing remote learners access to the same curricula and certifications as in-person students.

Pakistan also hosts a significant refugee population, including over 1.4m registered Afghan refugees, many of

whom face disrupted education. Integrating hybrid TVET into refugee programmes can provide essential skills and education, fostering resilience and rebuilding communities. TVET in refugee camps could offer vocational training in fields like carpentry or tailoring, alongside basic literacy and numeracy to support self-sufficiency.

To further encourage school attendance, conditional cash transfers or stipends can aid low-income families. Expanding the Bena-zir Income Support Programme to include hybrid TVET would incentivise families to enrol children in vocational training.

Programme to include hybrid TVET would incentivise families to enrol children in vocational training, providing financial support where child labour is common. Such financial incentives could be especially effective in rural areas, where families often rely on children's earnings. By offering stipends for participation in hybrid TVET, families' economic burden can be sustainably eased.

Pakistan's out-of-school children represent both a challenge and an opportunity. By adopting innovative solutions like hybrid TVET, Pakistan can educate marginalised children and equip them with the essential job skills. From mobile training units to online platforms and community-based centres, several strategies exist to bring education directly to underserved children.

Hybrid TVET is a flexible, practical answer to Pakistan's education crisis, providing a path to literacy, life skills, and employment.

The time to act is now: Pakistan's children deserve an education that prepares them for a brighter future, and hybrid TVET can unlock that potential. —Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Economy to go forward with sustainable recovery: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the wake of positive developments, the country's economy will continue to observe sustainable recovery in the coming months as it has demonstrated sustained recovery during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-25, the finance ministry said in a report released here Wednesday. According to the monthly Economic Update and Outlook for October 2024, the economy showed constant recovery during first quarter and stability in both, the fiscal and external sectors, has been maintained, supported by significant financial inflows.

Pakistan has received first tranche of US\$ 1.03 billion under International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme, reinforcing macroeconomic stability. Moreover,

successful hosting of SCO summit 2024 in Pakistan are paving the way for business and market confidence, it says.

According to report, the agricultural sector is benefiting from mechanization-based productivity. During FY2025 (Jul-Sep), imports of agricultural machinery increased by 115.9 per cent to \$29.7 million. Urea offtake during Kharif 2024 recorded at 2,746 thousand tonnes while DAP offtake stood at 642 thousand tonnes. Overall fertilizer production during Jul-Sep FY2025 increased by 3.7 per cent to 2.45 million tons compared to last year. During Kharif-2024, water availability remained satisfactory. During Jul-Aug FY2025, the production of wheat threshers increased by 22.8 per cent compared to last year. All these factors will positively impact the

growth of agriculture sector.

Meanwhile, Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) on MoM basis observed a substantial growth of 4.7 per cent in August 2024, reflecting the revival of economic activities. However, it has observed a slight dip of 0.2 per cent during Jul-Aug FY2025, compared to 2.5 per cent contraction in last year. On the other hand, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation has been on a consistent decline, reaching 44 months low in September. During Jul-September FY2025, CPI Inflation stood at 9.2% while it was 29.0% in the same period last year. YoY CPI Inflation in September 2024 was recorded at 6.9% - lowest level in 44 months, compared to 9.6% percent in the previous month and 31.4 per cent in September 2023.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, Navios Tempo, MSC Positano, Doris, Sc Hong Kong and Milaha Ras Laffan scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Pakistan Gas Port Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile a 'Green Genie' scheduled to load/offload Rice also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a hydrocarbons carrier 'South Port' left the port on today morning while five more ships, Navios Tempo, MSC Positano, Scarlet Rosella, Sc Hong Kong and Zarrar Hanif are expected to sail on today.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Vice President Quetta Chamber of Commerce Mirwise Khan meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

### Maritime Minister for boosting blue economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Wednesday visited the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), where he emphasized a coordinated approach to developing key maritime sectors like aquaculture, green shipping, and tourism in a bid to revitalize Pakistan's maritime economy.

During his visit, Minister Shaikh was briefed on NIMA's work in shaping maritime policies and promoting research.

NIMA officials presented an overview of Pakistan's maritime sector, pointing out that it currently contributes less than 0.2% of the nation's GDP, far below the global standard of 8-10%. This discrepancy, they argued, underscored the need for strategic reforms and investments.

### Minister discusses issues related to CM Kisan Card

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashaq Hussain Kirmani on Wednesday chaired a meeting at Bank of Punjab Head Office Lahore in which present status and issues related to Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card were reviewed.

Secretary Agriculture, Punjab Ifikhar Ali Sahoo and Bank of Punjab President Zafar Masood also attended the meeting.

NIMA's partnerships with local, national, and international stakeholders were also discussed as crucial for growth in Pakistan's maritime sector. The institute highlighted how these collaborations are working to create new opportunities and expand Pakistan's maritime footprint. In a series of discussions, Shaikh and NIMA representatives explored various areas within the Blue Economy, underscoring the need for a cohesive national action plan to fully utilize the country's ocean resources.

Both sides agreed on the importance of coordinated efforts among MoMA, NIMA, and other maritime stakeholders to ensure sustainable growth across all maritime sectors. Minister Shaikh reiterated his commitment to supporting NIMA's mission.

### Pakistan, Maldives agree to form joint working groups on various sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Maldives here on Wednesday agreed to form joint working groups on various sectors under the framework of the Pakistan-Maldives Joint Commission.

According to press release issued by Economic Affairs Division (EAD), High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan, Muhammad Thoha called on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahsan Ali Khan Cheema.

During the meeting both sides agreed to extend their bilateral ties in key sectors.

Minister Ahsan Ali Khan Cheema proposed the creation of sector-specific

Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Tourism, Trade, Labour, Investment & Aviation under the framework of the Pakistan-Maldives Joint Commission.

The High Commissioner welcomed the proposal and assured that Maldives will send their official representation for these Working Groups in the near future. Both sides agreed to hold the Inaugural Session of the Pakistan-Maldives Joint Commission in early 2025.

The Minister informed that Pakistan was keen to explore new avenues for cooperation with Maldives in key priority areas.

He welcomed the Maldivian side to explore the industries of Halal meat, Agricultural Products, Fruits and Surgical Instruments in Pakistan.

The High Commissioner, while emphasizing the physical proximity between Karachi and Maldivian Port, assured of his efforts to enhance bilateral trade between both countries.

The Minister also highlighted the significant role both countries can play in regional and international forums including SAARC and OIC on significant issues such as stronger climate action.

### Rupee sheds 05 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.79 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.74.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.35 and Rs 278.85 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 49 paise to close at Rs 300.72 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.23, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

### SECP engages to advance "Insured Pakistan" initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Reporting Service. This outreach is meant to promote insurance and associated benefits in Pakistan, as outlined in SECP's five-year strategic plan—Journey to an Insured Pakistan, concluded first round of its provincial outreach in Punjab and Sindh.

High-level meetings were held with Excise and Taxation, Transport and Mass Transit, and Labour and Human Resource Department in Sindh.

In Punjab, meetings were held with General Excise and Taxation department, and Crop

The focus of the discussions centered on incorporating agricultural insurance into disaster risk financing strategies and national food security policies, introducing compulsory occupational health insurance, and strengthening the enforcement of mandatory group life and motor third-party insurance.



FAISALABAD: A worker busy in his work in a local Garments factory in the city.

### Pervaiz pledges support to strengthen CCP

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik here on Wednesday visited the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), underscoring the role of the Commission in checking market failure and protecting consumers from anti-competitive practices.

During his visit, Malik conveyed the Ministry's commitment to bolstering CCP's capacity to increase its effectiveness, whether through legislative reforms, follow-up on court cases or

capacity-building initiatives.

Addressing CCP's officials, he emphasized the need for a comprehensive review of the Competition Act to ensure it remains modern, effective, and relevant as well as to address the challenges being faced by the Commission.

"Competitiveness in markets is vital for protecting consumer interests. It also encourages new startups and attracts investments," said Malik.

## CM Punjab celebrates Diwali, announces welfare initiatives for minorities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced several initiatives to support minority communities during the Diwali celebrations held at 90-Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, here on Wednesday. The CM announced writing a letter to the chief minister of Indian Punjab to undertake joint efforts to eliminate smog. During the ceremony, CM Maryam Nawaz announced issuance of special cards for minority communities, an increase in the number of cards, and the establishment of a Minority Virtual Police Station. She also

highlighted plans to enhance development in minority areas. As part of the celebrations, the Chief Minister lit a traditional Diwali lamp and participated in virtual fireworks, creating a festive atmosphere adorned with traditional Rangoli. In a heartfelt gesture, she interacted closely with Hindu women and took a young girl into her lap, distributing cheques of Rs. 15,000 to 1,400 Hindu families. Addressing the gathering, she assured the minority communities, "If anyone commits atrocities against minorities, I will stand with the victim. We

are all Pakistanis, and Diwali symbolizes peace, harmony, and love." She urged citizens to view smog as a humanitarian issue, not a political one, and expressed her determination to protect minority rights. The CM remarked on the importance of inclusivity, saying, "I felt immense happiness lighting the Diwali lamp. It symbolizes our unity as Pakistanis." She shared her childhood teachings from Nawaz Sharif about treating minorities as a source of pride, stating that all religious celebrations would be honored collectively.



**BUNER: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions and President PML-N KP, Engr Amir Muqam addressing Jirga Members in Buner.**

## CM KP forms commission to resolve matters of discovery of petroleum, gas in NW

PESHAWAR (APP): An introductory meeting of the Provincial Joint Commission constituted by the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to resolve the matters with regard to the recently discovered petroleum and gas resources in North Waziristan, was held here at Chief Minister's Secretariat on Wednesday with Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the Chair. Elected members of National and Provincial Assemblies from North Waziristan, high ups of

energy department and relevant divisional administration, representatives from 11 Corps, SNGPL, Mari Petroleum Company and other concerned institutions attended the meeting. Senior officials of Federal Ministry of Petroleum also attended the meeting via video link. It is pertinent to mention here that the aforementioned Provincial Joint Commission was constituted to protect the rights of the local population with regard to the revenue/royalty of the

recently discovered natural resources in North Waziristan by ensuring fair and just disbursement/ utilization of that development funds. The Commission will also formulate long-term policies/strategies to ensure that the recently discovered natural resources are utilized in the best interests of the country, region, and local population, acting as a liaison amongst committees at district and tehsil level, provincial and federal governments and other stakeholders.

## If federation does not play its role then security problems will not be resolved: PHC

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has remarked if federation does not play its role then security problems will not be resolved. "Will federation wait for letter from province. It has no responsibility of its own. Army officers and jawans are embracing shahadat daily. Does federation not see it, court further remarked. The case related to miserable law and order situation in KP came up for hearing in PHC Wednesday. The court directed additional chief secretary

interior to appear in person. A division bench of PHC comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshid Ali took up the case for hearing Wednesday. Vice chairman KP Bar Council, Additional Advocate General (AAG), DIG and Assistant Attorney General appeared in the court. Justice Ijaz Anwar inquired what is security situation of courts and judges in southern districts. DIG legal told the court security of courts, judges and their residences has been enhanced.



**LAHORE: Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, addressing during meet the press at press club, in the Provincial Capital.**

## PDWP approves 5 developmental schemes

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP), in its 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the fiscal year 2024-25, Wednesday approved five development schemes amounting to Rs 12.042 billion. Chaired by P&D Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan, the meeting approved the following schemes:

1. Central Punjab Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 3,256,401 million
2. South Punjab Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 5,153,816 million.
3. North Punjab

Non-Formal Education Project at a cost of Rs 3,603,508 million.

4. Feasibility Study for the Construction of a Sky Walk Glass Bridge at Murree (PC-II) at a cost of Rs 13,240 million.
5. Preparation of Dossiers for Tentative World Heritage Sites of Harappa and Hiran Minar at a cost of Rs 15,300 million.

The meeting was attended by Secretary P&D Board Dr. Asif Tufail, Chief Economist Masood Anwar, members of the P&D Board and other senior officials.

## Govt striving to combat smog, says Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that the Punjab government has implemented crucial measures to reduce the rising smog and air pollution in Lahore. Addressing in the Punjab Assembly, she announced that 11 areas in Lahore have been designated as smog hot-spots, with Shimla Hill being the most affected. A "Green Lockdown" will be enforced in these areas starting tomorrow, with an official

notification issued, she added. She said that under the Green Lockdown, all construction activities within one-kilometer radius of Shimla Hill and surrounding areas will be strictly prohibited, and the use of commercial generators will be banned. Chingchi rickshaws will be restricted from these zones, and open barbecue activities will be prohibited after 8 p.m. Heavy transport vehicles will also be restricted, and 50 percent of office employees will work from home.

## Two sons, nephew of Ex-Nazim shot dead in Pabbi

PESHAWAR (APP): At least three people including two sons of former Nazim, Wazir Garhi and his nephew were killed when their car was fired at in Pabbi tehsil here on Wednesday. Pabbi police said the incident took place in Dag Behsud area of Pabbi where armed men fired multiple shots on a car, killing three people. The dead included two sons of Malik Jamal Shah, the former Nazim of Wazir Garhi and his nephew.

## Muqam holds meeting with Nazriati Group

BUNER (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr Amir Muqam held a meeting with Nazriati Group leaders on Wednesday. During the meeting, held at residence of Ishfaq Chhattan, the Leaders of Nazriati Group announced to abolish the Group and express full confidence on the leadership of PML-N, president Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Engr Amir Muqam and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, received a press release. Extending full support to provincial president Engr Amir

Muqam, the leaders vowed to work together for strengthening the party. The Nazriati Group leader Abdul Subhan Khan, Malik Imran, group president from Peshawar Arbab Ghulam Haider Khan, group leader from Abbottabad Sardar Abdur Rashid also spoke on this occasion. Provincial President Engr Amir Muqam hailed their decision and termed the decision of abolishment of group as "better late than never". He expressed the resolve to work under the dynamic leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

## Tank police foil arms smuggling bid

TANK (APP): The district police foiled an attempt to smuggle arms during an ongoing crackdown against anti-social elements here on Wednesday. According to police spokesman District Police Officer (DPO) Aslam Nawaz Khan has issued directives to take stringent actions against crimes and these operations had started yielding results. As part of ongoing operations under the supervision of DSP City Circle Saleem Khan, SHO Shahid Mureed Akbar police station, Sher Afzal Khan successfully conducted a significant operation.



**LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique presides over the meeting regarding Lahore Development Plan. Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bukhari, SACM Zeeshan Malik and Rashid Iqbal are also present.**

# International News

## North Korea sends foreign minister to Russia as its troops train to fight against Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korea said Tuesday its top diplomat is visiting Russia, in another sign of their deepening relations as rival South Korea and Western nations say the North has sent thousands of troops to support Russia's war in Ukraine. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said a delegation led by Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui departed for Russia on Monday, but didn't specify the purpose of the visit. In a closed-door hearing at South Korea's parliament, the South's spy agency said Choe may be involved in high-level discussions on sending additional troops to Russia and negotiating what the North would get in return, according to Lee Seong-kweon, a lawmaker who attended the meeting. The announcement of

Choe's visit came hours after the Pentagon said North Korea has sent to Russia about 10,000 troops, who are likely to fight against Ukraine within "the next several weeks." South Korean and Western leaders have expressed concern that North Korean involvement could help prolong Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and that Russia may offer technology in return that could advance the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile program. Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said a "relatively small number" of North Korean troops are now in the Kursk region, where Russia has struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion. He declined to provide a more precise number. A couple thousand more troops are

heading in that direction, he told reporters Tuesday. "As of right now, you know, it remains to be seen exactly how the Russians and the North Koreans will employ these forces," Ryder said, adding that he expects the deployment to be discussed by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and their South Korean counterparts when they meet in Washington this week. South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers it's examining the possibility that some groups of North Korea's military personnel in Russia, including generals or other high-ranking officials, may have already moved to frontline areas. The spy agency said the two sides appear to be struggling to resolve communication issues, although the Russian military is



**Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.**

## Gaza rescuers dig for survivors after Israeli strike kills 93

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA STRIP: Rescuers pulled bodies from the rubble in Beit Lahia on Tuesday after an overnight Israeli strike that Gaza's civil defence said killed 93 people in a residential building. Bodies wrapped in shrouds lay in rows as mourners gathered, with witnesses saying many of those killed were women and children. Around 40 people remained missing under the

debris, the civil defence agency said. Its spokesman, Mahmud Bassal, described the complete destruction of a five-storey home, adding that the area lacked medical facilities to treat the wounded. "The number of martyrs in the massacre of the Abu Nasr family home in Beit Lahia has risen to 93 martyrs, and about 40 are still missing under the rubble," he told AFP.

## CIA director, other officials to visit Middle East for talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US officials including CIA Director William Burns and envoys Brett McGurk and Amos Hochstein will visit Egypt and Israel on Thursday to discuss issues involving Iran, Lebanon, and the release of hostages in Gaza, a US official said as Washington seeks to de-escalate tensions in the region. CENTCOM Commander General Erik Kurilla also is in the region and will visit Israel, the official said on Wednesday.

## US presses ahead with modest Mideast plans despite election uncertainty

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: With the U.S. presidential election just a week away, the Biden administration is not giving up hope for short-term deals for cease-fires between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. But US officials are mindful that political uncertainty in the United States has made the sides reluctant to commit to any significant agreements before it is clear who has won the White House. In the meantime, the Middle East is uneasy about what happens next after Israel struck Iranian military targets over the weekend in retaliation for Iran's barrage of ballistic missile attacks on Oct. 1. U.S. officials said they

believe Israel's attack — whose targets were coordinated with Washington — will not draw an escalatory reaction from Iran. But the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share sensitive diplomatic discussions, caution that nothing is certain. The Biden administration was able to persuade Israel to keep its response limited — gaining assurances it wouldn't hit nuclear or oil sites in Iran that would have escalated the conflict — despite limited US influence as Biden's term wraps up. As Israel's closest ally and a key mediator in the Middle East, the US is still pressing for any movement on a truce despite ledto downs in the past and little expectation of immediate breakthroughs.

## Investors take cover in Asia ahead of US election

**Monitoring Desk**  
PENNSYLVANIA: Investors are selling yen and taking shelter in cash, India, pockets of China's markets and Singapore dollars ahead of a US election that could shake out global money and trade flows. Asia's financial markets stand on the front line of what could be a wild ride when votes are tallied and in the months ahead since the region is an export powerhouse and shares and currencies are sensitive to changes in US trade policies. That has money managers shying away from outright wagers on the outcome and looking instead to reduce exposure to vulnerabilities from Japanese manufacturers to Hong Kong stocks and make bets in India or China that stand to gain regardless of the US leader. "We actually view China as a decent place to

hide," said Jon Withaar who manages an Asia special situations hedge fund at Pictet Asset Management, since the market has a lot of domestic drivers and lower correlation with global asset moves. "The best thing for us to do is just sit on the sidelines and wait," he said, having already cut down on bets in Japan, where tariffs pose a risk for automakers and Hong Kong, where foreign selling of Chinese assets is likely to focus. In the final stretch to the November 5 election, betting odds have Republican Donald Trump leading Democrat Kamala Harris and financial markets have moved to sell US bonds and buy dollars in anticipation that a Trump administration would increase inflation. In Asia, the low-yielding yen is favoured for selling against the dollar.

## Yemen's Houthis launched drones towards Israel's Ashkelon, spokesperson says

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Yemen's Houthis launched drones towards an industrial zone in the Israeli city of Ashkelon, the group's military spokesperson said on Tuesday. The Yemeni fighters, who have been attacking ships crossing the Red Sea since November of last year, say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza and in support of Lebanon against Israeli strikes. The Israeli military said on Tuesday morning that sirens sounded in Ashkelon after a drone crossed into Israeli territory but fell in an open space in the area. Israel condemns the Houthis as terrorists following the instructions of its arch-foe Iran.

## Austria says eight of its UNIFIL troops in Lebanon injured in rocket attack

**Monitoring Desk**  
VIENNA: Eight Austrian soldiers belonging to the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) sustained superficial injuries in a rocket strike on Camp Naqoura near Israel, Austria's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday. UNIFIL is stationed in southern Lebanon to monitor hostilities along the demarcation line with Israel, an area that has seen fierce clashes this month between Israeli troops and Iran-backed Hezbollah fighters. "We condemn

this attack in the strongest possible terms and demand that it be investigated immediately," the ministry said in a statement, adding that it was not clear where the attack came from and none of the soldiers needed urgent medical care. Austria contributes about 180 soldiers to the 10,000-strong force. They are part of a "Multi Role Logistic Unit" that performs roles like transporting goods and personnel, repairing vehicles, supplying fuel and firefighting.

## Iran appoints first Baluch governor in restive Sistan Baluchistan province

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran's government on Wednesday appointed the first governor from the Baluch minority in the country's restive southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan. "Mansour Bijar was chosen as the governor of Sistan-Baluchistan," government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said after a cabinet meeting. Bijar, 50, hails from the Baluch community, a mainly Sunni Muslim ethnic group in a Shia-majority country.

## Harris warns of dangers of another Trump presidency in speech at Jan 6 riots site

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Democrat Kamala Harris warned tens of thousands of people gathered in Washington at her biggest rally that her Republican opponent Donald Trump was seeking unchecked power as their tightening race for the presidency entered its final week. Harris spoke on Tuesday evening to an outdoor rally estimated by her campaign to number more than 75,000 people at the spot near the White House where on January 6, 2021, Trump addressed his supporters before they attacked the US Capitol. "We know who Donald Trump is," Harris said. She said the then-president sent an "armed mob" to the US Capitol to try to overturn his loss in the 2020 presidential election. "This is someone who is unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance and out for unchecked power," Harris

said during what her campaign called her closing argument before a tightly contested November 5 election. More than 53 million Americans have already voted in the election, according to Election Hub at the University of Florida, in a battle that will decide who runs the world's richest and most powerful country for four years. Harris was flanked by American flags on stage and surrounded by blue and white banners that said "FREEDOM" with a well-lit White House behind her. The crowd included older people and college students, people from overseas, from New York and from nearby Virginia. Many women came in groups with other female friends. "It's important that we do not go back to the horrible past policies under President Trump," said Saul Schwartz, a former

# CM, KCCI delegation agree to resolve issues amicably

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that Karachi is the highest revenue-generating city because the provincial government has provided ample business opportunities to the traders.

"The credit of Karachi's highest revenue generation in the national exchequer not only goes to the traders but to provincial government also which has developed a congenial environment for trade and commerce," he said this during meeting with delegation of Karachi Chamber of Commerce (KCCI) at CM House.

CM said he wanted from the business community to portray the city as peaceful, business and investment friendly city of the country.

Shah pointed out that for the one last month, a World Cultural Festival with artists from 44 countries has been in progress. "Various national and inter-

national events take place at the Expo Centre Karachi every month, he said, adding that these are loud indicators of improved law and order, stability, ample business opportunities and a conducive environment for people of different professions.

The KCCI delegation raised the issues of utilities such as gas shortage, costly electricity, water, dilapidated infrastructure, transport and others. At this, the concerned ministers discussed the measures being taken by them for the resolution of the issues.

The CM said the federal government was working hard to reduce power tariffs, and his government was also taking measures to make electricity affordable. As far as the shortage of gas is concerned, he would talk to the federal government to provide gas being produced from Sindh so that domestic and industrial needs could be met.

Senior Minister

Transport Sharjeel Memon said that due to ongoing development work of the BRT Red Line, and others flow of traffic has been affected. He added that the pace of work has been sped up so that traffic issues could be resolved.

Memon offered the KCCI members to come over and invest in electric buses and transport, which have excellent returns. He added that the government would give them incentives. At this, the CM asked his senior minister to visit the KCCI and personally offer them to invest in transport.

Minister Home Zia Lanjar said that the liaison between the police and the business community has been developed. All the issues about law & order of the industrialist were being resolved with their consultation, he said. He directed Additional IG Karachi to coordinate further with the KCCI and other traders' associations and resolve their issues.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with his cabinet members in a meeting with a delegation of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) led by its Vice Chairman Anjum Nisar held at CM House in Karachi.

## Shaza Fatima says: Govt wants to make Pakistan hub of IT

KARACHI (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja Wednesday said that the government wanted to make Pakistan hub of information technology.

Addressing an event the Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon 2024 officially launched here, she said special attention was being paid to cybersecurity. Organized by Ignite under the auspices of the Ministry of IT & Telecom, this flagship event marks the beginning of a nationwide series that will see 521 teams from across Pakistan competing in cybersecurity challenges

designed to identify, nurture, and promote local talent in this critical field.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja also expressed her gratitude to all participants, partner organizations, organizers who contributed to the success of the Karachi launch. "Events like the Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon are instrumental in developing an ecosystem of innovation and collaboration in cybersecurity," said Shaza Khawaja. She further said, "I am proud to share that Pakistan has been recognized in the Top Tier-1 (Role-Modelling) of the ITU-Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI\_V5) 2024, re-

flecting our nation's strides in strengthening cybersecurity and resilience. This milestone is a testament to the Ministry's leadership and the dedicated efforts of stakeholders across government, industry, academia, and law enforcement agencies." Secretary IT & Telecom, Zarrar Hasham Khan, highlighted the Ministry's commitment to developing national cybersecurity expertise and capabilities. "The Ministry of IT & Telecom remains steadfast in its pursuit of initiatives that support cybersecurity talent development and innovation across Pakistan.



KARACHI: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing as a Chief Guest of the "Inaugural Ceremony of Digital Pakistan Cyber security Hackathon 2024" local Hotel.

## Balochistan Agriculture Dept. Highlights Organic Farming, Water Management at Karachi Agriculture Conference

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Government of Balochistan Department of Agriculture participated fully in the international sustainable Agriculture Conference 2024 held in Karachi under the leadership of Special Secretary Agriculture Jahangir Kakar.

The two-day conference was organized under the auspices of Pakistan Media Development Foundation, Ripple Concept and Exhibitor TV, which was also supported by Green Pakistan Initiative.

On this occasion, Research Wing, Water Management and Extension Wing of Balochistan Department of Agriculture with the support of WWF also set up a wonderful stalls which was well appreciated by the participants. In the conference, a panel discussion was also organized on sustainable agriculture, organic agricul-

ture, water management and various topics.

The officers of Agriculture Department of Balochistan participated in full and provided awareness about the agriculture situation in Balochistan.

Along with Special Secretary agriculture Jahangir Kakar, DG Research Wing Abdul Rauf Khan Kakar, DG Water Management Mehboob Ali, GPI Balochistan Director Irfan Bakhtiar, Syed Rehman Faraed Deputy Director Extension Wing Lasbela were also present. The two-day international conference was held at a strategic time when agriculture has been identified as a priority sector by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), and agricultural productivity through the adoption of Green Corporate Initiative innovations. Committed to improving capacity.



LARKANA: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Larkana, Mir Rohal Khan Khoso visiting the different areas of district during the Anti-Polio Eradication campaign and reviewed security deployment for polio workers, in Larkana.

## SSUET organises Breast Cancer awareness session

KARACHI (APP): Under the pink ribbon campaign, the Department of Biomedical Engineering of Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology organized a comprehensive and informative Breast Cancer Awareness Session in collaboration with Darul Sehat Hospital. Vice Chancellor of Dawood University of Engineering & Technology (DUET), Prof. Dr. Samreen Hussain was the Chief Guest.

On such a significant day, Dr. Yabinda Sahrish and Dr. Yusra Afzal of Liaquat College of Medicine & Dentistry (LCMD) provided thought-provoking and useful information about breast cancer. The event was attended by the Dean Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture, Prof. Dr. Mir Shabbir Ali, the Dean Faculty of Computing & Applied Sciences,

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif, Sania Tanveer, Kinza Ali, Rabiya Asad, Daniyal Hussain, Amal Fatima including a large number of women and others. Syed Yasir Abbas Abidi provided useful information about the equipment used in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Addressing the seminar, Vice Chancellor Dawood University of Engineering & Technology, Prof. Dr. Samreen Hussain said that what we know is right and what is wrong but don't know how to bridge this gap. Engineers are critical thinkers and analysts who know how to bridge the gap easily. If you find any abnormality, you should discuss it with your immediate family members about the disease without being shy or embarrassed. You need to break this taboo.

## New Secretary Sindh Board of Revenue takes charge

**By Nazir Siyal**  
KARACHI: Sindh Government transferred and posted Mr. Mehboob Ali Siyal, as Secretary Board of Revenue Sindh, against an existing vacancy here yesterday.



Mr. Mehboob Ali Siyal will take charge as Secretary Revenue on Wednesday. A vibrant Officer of Sindh Government committed to resolve the issues in the areas and to serve the department far better and prove himself. According to Secretary Mehboob Ali Siyal there was a need for technological advancement in the sector and to rethink ideas for revenue services in future. He will try to utilize all his skills and continue practices to the objectives he said.

## Farewell ceremony held in honour of Asif Khuhro

SUKKUR (APP): A farewell ceremony was held in honour of Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), Asif Khuhro at SRSO complex, a spokesperson said on Wednesday.

He said that, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Muhammad Dital Kalhoru graced the ceremony as chief guest, while other senior managers and officials were also present on the occasion.

## Seminar held on child protection

LARKANA (APP): An awareness seminar on child protection was held on Wednesday organised by Child Protection Unit Larkana with the support of SAGA, Indus and Larkana Press Club.

Child protection activist Balqees Saba, Human Rights Commission Larkana In-charge Ahmad Wadhwa, Child Life Coordinator, Syed Javed Shah, General Secretary of SAGA Larkana, Deputy Director of Child Protection Tayyab Korejo and others participated.

Addressing the seminar, the leaders said that the incidents of kidnapping, killing and sexual violence of children are increasing in the society, which must be prevented.

## D C Sanghar urges parents to vaccinate children against polio

SANGHAR (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Sanghar, Dr. Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja, has emphasized the significance of protecting children from polio, describing it as a dangerous disease that can permanently disable children.

He urged parents to ensure that all children under five years receive the polio vaccine, which is being administered by Polio teams through a door to door campaign.

In a recent review meeting on the polio campaign held in Tando Adam, Dr. Khawaja informed APP that the polio drive, which started on October 28, will

continue until November 3. "Public cooperation is essential for the eradication of polio," he stated. Daily meetings are being held at the Deputy Commissioner's office to monitor progress.

He noted that several challenges have been identified, particularly in Union Council 4 of Tando Adam, and additional guidance and support will be provided to polio workers to overcome these obstacles.

Dr. Khawaja highlighted the significance of Tando Adam in the current campaign, pointing out that a polio case had recently been reported in UC Kumb Darho.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh is taking briefing in National Institute of Maritime Affairs.

## Preparation for Diwali in full swing, District admin assures full cooperation

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The preparations for Deepavali (Diwali), the big festival of the Hindu community, are in full swing in the district, and the district administration has assured full cooperation for holding festival in peaceful manners.

At the main Mandir of the city "Lal Mandir" Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas, Dr. Rashid Masood Khan, SSP Mirpurkhas, Shabbir Ahmed Sitar brought sweets to join the joy of the Hindu community and reviewed the security arrangements.

Lal Mandir administration Lohana Hindu Panchayat President Kiran Hari Ram Kishori Lal, Ramesh Kumar Vanshi Mal and Babu Suresh Kumar thanked the district administration and said that the Hindu community in Pakistan was independent to perform their rituals and do business in open air, adding "We are grateful to the Government of Pakistan for giving us equal rights."

On this occasion, the management of Lohana Hindu Panchayat Lal Mandir, Kiran Hari Ram Kishori Lal, Ramesh Kumar Vanshi Mal and Babu Suresh Kumar thanked the district administration and said that the Hindu community in Pakistan was independent to perform their rituals and do business in open air, adding "We are grateful to the Government of Pakistan for giving us equal rights."



LARKANA: Members of Solangi community are holding protest demonstration against the killing of Sohail Solangi who died in the custody of Police and demanding justice for him, in Larkana.

## Envoy to UAE praises Pak companies as Beautyworld Middle East concludes

KARACHI (INP): During his visit to the Beautyworld Middle East, Pakistani Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi expressed satisfaction with the popularity of the products presented by Pakistani companies.

He praised the innovative and high-quality products of national exhibitors during his visit to Pakistan's pavilion.

According to details, the exhibition, which began on October 28 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, successfully concluded on Wednesday.

## At UN, Pakistan calls for steps to offset threats to regional, Intl security

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Reaffirming that international peace and security depended on stability at the regional levels, Pakistan has called for the preservation of balance in the defence capabilities of states at the lowest level of armaments and military forces. Speaking at a key U.N. panel, Pakistani delegate Atif Raza also underscored the special responsibility of militarily significant states in promoting regional security.

"Several regions have reaped the benefits of applying these principles: Conventional arms control, risk reduction, and confidence-building measures (CBMs) have laid the groundwork for peace in many regions of the world," Raza, a Counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, told the General Assembly's First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security issues.

"However, when a state spurs these regional

approaches because it perceives its global ambitions as incompatible, it obstructs the path to peace," he said in the debate on 'Regional Disarmament and Security'.

"Such denial isn't just a regional issue; it destabilizes the entire global order," the Pakistani delegate added. Confidence-building measures could lead to favourable measures for the peaceful settlement of existing disputes, he said, adding they should not become an end in themselves.

"They (CBMs) also cannot act as a substitute nor a precondition for steps towards peaceful settlement of disputes," Raza said. "Without progress towards eliminating underlying disputes and causes of mistrust between states, the utility of CBMs diminishes."

A stable balance of conventional forces and weapons, he said, was necessary to ensure strategic stability, particularly in regions mired in tensions.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh of Vietnam on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment Initiative (FII) Conference.

## 39th MAP Awards Meezan Bank wins 'Best Company in Financial Category' Award

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, has been honored with the prestigious 'Best

award, for the third consecutive year, highlighting its contributions to the success of Islamic banking in Pakistan.



Company in the Financial Category' award at the 39th Corporate Excellence Awards, hosted by the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) at the Marriott Hotel, Karachi. The event brought together prominent government officials, dignitaries, thought leaders, regulators, and leading business community from across the country. Meezan Bank has won this prestigious



HYDERABAD: Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Kashif Ali Qadri along with Asghar Ali Tunio, Station House Officer (SHO) addressing a press conference regarding arrest of criminals, in Hyderabad.

## SAU and SFA join forces to ensure safe, high-quality food for Sindh

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam and the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) have entered a partnership aimed at ensuring the public has access to safe, high-quality food while actively working to eliminate harmful products across Sindh.

As part of this initiative, the SFA will offer paid internships and merit-based employment opportunities to SAU graduates, with plans to activate a testing laboratory at the university under SAU's expert guidance.

During a recent visit to SAU, SFA Director General Muzamil Hussain Halepoto, along with Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Saleemullah Odho, met with Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri. The discussion focused on collaborative measures to enhance food

safety standards and promote healthy food choices throughout the province.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri highlighted the



roles in food safety. DG SFA Muzamil Hussain Halepoto announced an immediate recruitment drive within SFA, including positions for Food Safety Officers and paid internships aimed at engaging current SAU students.

The partnership will also upgrade SAU's food testing laboratory, enabling it to perform comprehensive tests on milk, water, meat, and other essential food items to meet rising safety demands.