

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt XXVI No 57, Rabi-us-Sani 14, 1446 AH Friday October 18, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

CM Balochistan, Commander 12 Corps attend Khuzdar Jirga No one to be allowed to create hurdle in way of peace & development of Balochistan: CM

State is standing with the oppressed segments of the society and those challenging it's writ would be dealt with strictly; Bugti tells grand Jirga

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that the State is standing with the oppressed segments of the society and those challenging it's writ would be dealt with strictly.

The Chief Minister asserted that no one would be allowed to create hurdle in way of peace and development of the province.

The Chief Minister was addressing a tribal Jirga in Khuzdar district on Thursday.

The Corps Commander, Lieutenant General

Rahat Nasim, provincial ministers, members of the assembly, tribal elders, elected representatives as well as the civil and military high ups, women and local people participated in the Jirga.

Addressing the Jirga, Mir Sarfraz Bugti announced to provide interest free loans to the educated unemployed youth of the province.

He said that the students of the province are being provided opportunities of higher education within the country and abroad.

He said that the killing

of innocent labourers is a sorrowful act.

He said that the security of people would be ensured by the government anyway.

He said that we would take the people and other stakeholders along for establishing lasting peace in the province.

He said that the provincial government has started viable and timely decision making for complete elimination of terrorism. He said that the government is implementing the zero tolerance policy against the

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Zhang Ming calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Attaullah Tarar accuses PTI of poisoning political culture through well organized campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Thursday accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of poisoning political traditions and culture through a well-organized campaign.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said the country's political traditions were untainted in the past, but PTI has poisoned them through a specific campaign.

He expressed regret, stating that it was unfortunate the opposition members lacked the tolerance to listen to differing view-

points.

He said that all political parties in Pakistan participated in the All Parties Conference (APC) to show solidarity with Palestine, except for PTI, which refused to attend. He further alleged that PTI was running a malicious campaign against national institutions and their leadership.

He said, no one had taken note of their silence on Goldsmith, who has openly supported Israel and tweeted against the people of Palestine.

He also accused the opposition members of never speaking out against

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by the Ambassador of USA to Pakistan H.E. Donald Blome.

Pakistan's first multi-mission satellite becomes operational

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) said on Thursday that in a historic development, Pakistan's first multi-mission satellite, PAKSAT MM1, under the facilitation of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), has become operational.

The operationalisation of the satellite is an important milestone in the country's space and digital development, they said.

Success of PAKSAT-MM1 will help transform Pakistan's communication infrastructure, that will benefit and enrich various IT sectors.

The satellite will provide services such as television broadcasting, community internet, and tele-education to promote local industries. Furthermore, it will help increase internet connectivity in remote areas which will further boost the government's vision of Digital Pakistan.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani giving away shields to Vice Chancellor SBKWU Prof. Dr. Naheed Haque, Abdullah Khan Advocate, Jahan Ara Tabbasum and others during a ceremony organized by Today Women Organization at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University



KHUZDAR: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Corps Commander Balochistan Lt. General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan and other attending Grand Jirga

Coalition govt, opposition agree on formation of constitutional bench

PML-N and PPP take a step back on the issue of the constitutional court; Constitutional package bill to be tabled in Senate today: Irfan Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): All the political parties, including the opposition, have finally reached a consensus on the formation of a constitutional bench after the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) took a step back on the matter of the constitutional court, sources privy to the development claimed.

The matter, initially focused on the constitutional court, has now advanced to the formation of a constitutional bench, they told a private tv channel on Thursday.

After high-level discussions, four leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the PPP claimed an agreement had been reached among all the political parties on the formation of the constitutional bench, as per the insiders.

This comes after another meeting of the special committee on constitutional amendments draft concluded on Thursday.

The parliamentary committee's meeting has been adjourned till noon on Friday (tomorrow).

The constitutional package, among other things, aims to set up a fed-

eral constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years.

The government had attempted to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the ruling parties to begin a consultation process.

To pass the constitutional amendments, the government requires a two-thirds majority in parliament, with sources indicating a shortfall of 13 votes

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif with Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani at a banquet organized in honor of the senators.

Political parties, institutions united for Pakistan's development: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said all political parties and institutions are working together for the development of the country.

Addressing a banquet hosted by him in honour of the senators of government and allied parties in Islamabad today, he said the political parties and people of the country have rendered sacrifices to steer the country out of difficul-

ties.

The Prime Minister said together with the allies, we are moving towards a prosperous Pakistan for the national interest.

Shehbaz Sharif said the country's economy is on a positive trajectory. He mentioned that there has been significant reduction in inflation in a short span and the consistent increase in remittances is encouraging for the country. Due to

Continued on page 2

Women mostly lack awareness, need to how to protect due rights, insists Raheela Durrani

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani has regretfully pointed out that the women lack consciousness about their due rights, adding she stressed that they should know at least where to go for justice in case of violence against them or they are tortured and subjected to any kind of cruelty.

She said that there are many laws for protection of rights of women, however, these must be followed and implemented in true letter and spirit.

She strongly advocated

the need to ensure right of share of women in the family property.

When our religion gives right of share to the women in property then how our society can deprive them of it. The Minister Education was addressing the women youth convention on the rights of women in property and violence against them at the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University here on Thursday.

The convention was attended by the women belonging to different walks of life besides the faculty members and students of the university.

PM meets President to discuss constitutional amendments

ISLAMABAD (INP): PML-N and PPP withdraw from the proposal for federal constitutional courts, agreeing on alternative reforms. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has met with President Asif Ali Zardari at the President House to discuss proposed constitutional amendments and the prevailing political situation. The meeting on Thursday comes as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) step back from their earlier proposal to establish constitutional courts, Express News reported. Moreover, during a special parliamentary committee meeting, chaired by Khurshid Shah, discussions were held on the 26th constitutional amendment draft.

According to sources, the governing coalition parties and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) have agreed to drop the proposed 26th constitutional amendment, which called for the creation of constitutional courts.

PM Shahbaz reiterates Pakistan's commitment to promote SCO's development priorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming wherein he reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to work wholeheartedly for promotion of the organization's development priorities for the benefit of all its member states and the wider region.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG), the prime minister stressed that Pakistan stood ready to work with SCO member states to make the organization more effective and stronger.

Recalling Secretary-General Ming's earlier visit to Pakistan in July 2022, Prime Minister Shehbaz welcomed him in Islamabad and thanked him for the support extended by the SCO Secretariat to Pakistan in organization of the SCO CHG Meeting.

He also thanked Zhang Ming for his dedication and outstanding services as the outgoing Secretary-General of SCO and wished him every success in his future endeavours.

Zhang Ming warmly felicitated the prime minister on the successful organization of the SCO CHG Meeting and its positive outcome.

Pleasant & friendly ties exist between Pak & Qatar: Highly educated & skilled youth can play important role in dev. of Qatar, says Governor



Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that there are pleasant and friendly relations established between Pakistan and Qatar, and we need to benefit from the profitable opportunities of investment in different sectors.

The Governor said that Qatar has made its name and status at the world level in sectors of industrialisation, sports and tourism in very short span of time.

In this regard, the highly educated youth and skilled persons of Balochistan can play important role in development and construction of Qatar.

The Governor was speaking to the member of royal family of Qatar, Sheikh Talal Khalifa Althani, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Thursday.

During the course of meeting, the matters about relations between Pakistan and Qatar and other mutual interests were discussed between them.

Nawaz Sharif foresees thaw in Pakistan-India ties after significant SCO summit

LAHORE (INO): Ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif said on Thursday that the SCO summit, which was also attended by an Indian foreign minister in a rare visit, could be a beginning of normalisation of ties between India and Pakistan.

He made the statement in a meeting with a delegation of Indian journalists who came to Pakistan for the coverage of recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which was also attended by foreign leaders from 10 countries.

The meeting was also

attended by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and senior minister Mariyum Aurangzeb.

Play Video

Stressing the need to revive cricket diplomacy between the South Asian nations, Nawaz said that the Indian cricket team should visit Pakistan for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

"If you ask the Indian cricket team, they would also suggest playing in Pakistan. Despite they are ready to play, however, those who have power to allow them don't grant them permission," he told the journalists.



QUETTA: Managing Director PPL Imran Abbasi meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

SC dismisses petitions against proposed amendments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday dismissed the petitions as withdrawn against proposed constitutional amendments.

A three-member bench of the top court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan, heard the case.

Attack on Chinese consulate: Investigating officer identify 4 workers of alleged proscribed BLA

KARACHI (Online): Investigating officer has identified 4 workers of alleged proscribed BLA during the hearing of Chinese consulate attack case in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC).

The key witness in the case and investigating officer Nek Muhammad identified 4 workers of banned BLA during his evidence.

Investigating officer Nek Muhammad said in his evidence 3 workers of alleged banned BLA attacked Chinese Consulate on November 23, 2018. I can identify 4 accused who are

present in court room.

The accused Ahmad Hasnain, Abdul Latif, Aslam and Ali Ahmad were arrested in the cases of explosive material and ammunition. The accused in their confessional statements admitted their involvement in attack on Chinese consulate. The accused provided the facility to terrorists who were killed. They provided arms and explosive material to attackers. The accused had conducted rekke of Chinese consulate along with terrorists before the incident

Mohsin Naqvi appreciates security agencies for ensuring security of SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi publicly acknowledged the invaluable contributions of various security agencies for their role in ensuring the successful and secure conduct of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Islamabad on October 15-16. The summit, which gathered leaders and representatives from several member states, was marked by high-profile discussions aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and addressing pressing global issues.

Recognizing the extensive efforts involved, Naqvi commended the Pak Army, Islamabad police, and the Civil Administration of Islamabad, alongside the dedicated personnel of Sindh and Punjab Rangers,

Punjab Police, Frontier Constabulary, and Sindh Police. In a press conference held shortly after the summit, Naqvi expressed, "Your unwavering dedication and commitment to security have not only ensured the smooth conduct of this prestigious event but also showcased Pakistan's readiness to foster international cooperation and regional peace."

The security operation for the SCO Summit was meticulously planned, involving thousands of personnel from multiple agencies who worked in tandem to create a secure environment for dignitaries and delegates.

Enhanced surveillance, road closures, and security checkpoints were part of the comprehensive strategy that led to the event's success,

with no security incidents reported. Naqvi highlighted that the collaboration among the various security forces exemplifies a unified approach to national security, which is crucial for hosting international events.

He noted that such cooperation is essential for building trust and stability in the region, an objective that aligns with Pakistan's strategic goals.

As the summit concluded, leaders expressed their appreciation for Pakistan's hospitality and organizational capabilities, further solidifying the country's role as a pivotal player in regional diplomacy.

The Interior Minister's acknowledgment not only reflects the government's appreciation for the hard

work of these agencies but also emphasizes Pakistan's commitment to maintaining a secure environment for future international engagements. In the end, Naqvi reiterated, "Let us continue to work together to ensure that our nation remains a beacon of peace and cooperation on the global stage."

The successful execution of the SCO summit stands as a testament to Pakistan's capabilities in managing high-stakes events while reinforcing the significance of security and collaboration among its various forces, he added.



GENEVA: Special Secretary Senate Hafeezullah Sheikh and Misbah Khar Consultant, Senate Representing Senate of Pakistan in the plenary session of Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments and related meetings of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Being Held In Geneva, Switzerland.

NA passes resolution for hosting successful SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly here on Thursday passed a resolution for the hosting of successful Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

The resolution was presented by Minister for Information and Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar.

The National Assembly extended its congratulations to the President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Government and the people of Pakistan on the successful hosting of the 23rd Council of Heads of Government of the SCO.

The House paid tribute to President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and former Speakers including Asad Qaiser for their contributions towards promoting regional cooperation.

The National Assembly also acknowledged and appreciated the Government of Pakistan's commitment to fully supporting the goals and objectives of the SCO.

The House recognized that this was the first major international event in 27 years hosted by Pakistan, marking a significant milestone. Hosting the SCO summit is a diplomatic

automatic victory for Pakistan, and the House commends the government for its achievements on the international front.

The resolution said, the successful hosting of the SCO Summit has greatly enhanced Pakistan's positive image and it will further strengthen regional trade, peace and stability.

The House also acknowledged the important role of the SCO in addressing political, economic, defense and security issues in the region.

Recognizing Pakistan's strategic importance and active participation in the region, the House affirms that Pakistan's strong stance on key regional and security issues at the SCO conference represents the voice of the Pakistani people.

The House appreciated the crucial role played by the Government of Pakistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Interior, and law enforcement agencies, including the police, Rangers, and the Pakistan Army, in ensuring the success of the SCO Summit.

This National Assembly also praised the efforts of all government institutions for decorating the federal capital beautifully, warmly welcoming the guests, and enhancing Pakistan's stature during the SCO Summit.

Coalition govt, opposition...

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile Ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Parliamentary Leader in Senate Irfan Siddiqui said on Thursday that the bill on contentious constitutional package would be tabled in the upper house of the parliament on Friday (tomorrow) after "three parties reached consensus on a comprehensive draft".

Siddiqui, speaking to journalists in the parliament after attending a special committee meeting on constitutional reforms, detailed that a final draft would be finalised by Friday evening and presented before the Senate in tomorrow's session.

He said that Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar gave a briefing on the draft in the meeting, adding that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the matter as well.

Earlier, the PTI chief claimed that the coalition government's seven Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) would vote against the proposed constitutional amendments.

"The government's numbers are only complete in their books. The government neither consulted its members nor answered our fear," he told Geo News.

He said he had received the news about the seven treasury benches members' refusal to cast vote from reliable sources.

"The government members said they will not vote even if they are disqualified," he said, adding that the legislators believe those voting in favour of the constitutional amendments would be doing so against their consciences.

Probably, he said, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also knew that parliamentary members of his own party were not going to vote for the amendment.

Talking to media, after conclusion of the meeting, PPP leader Syed Khurshed Shah said the constitutional amendments' draft would be completed in two days.

On PTI's opposition to the amendments, he said the PTI members of the committee, Gohar and Ayub, were helpless as they did not have a mandate.

"We repeatedly asked the PTI for a proposed draft but they have not yet presented their amendments," he said.

Pakistan sense series-levelling win over England after Sajid heroics

Sports Desk
MULTAN: Pakistan were in a strong position to win the second Test and level the series after removing both England openers on a tricky Multan pitch on Thursday with spinner Sajid Khan being the hero.

The hosts set England a daunting target of 297 before Sajid dismissed Ben Duckett for a duck and fellow spinner Noman Ali had Zak Crawley (three) to leave England on 36-2 after three hours.

Ollie Pope and Joe Root were unbeaten on 21

and 12 respectively with 261 still needed for victory and two days left.

Before that, middle-order batsman Salman Agha scored 63 and together with Sajid (22) lifted the home side from a precarious 134-5 with a ninth-wicket stand of 65, taking Pakistan to 221 in their second innings.

England spinners Shoaib Bashir (4-66) and Jack Leach (3-67) had set the visitors on course for another victory but England did not help themselves, dropping Agha on four and then six.

In the end, it was Brydon Carse (2-29) who dismissed Agha, caught in the slip, before fellow pacer Matthew Potts got Sajid out to wrap up the innings. Pakistan, who made 366 in their first innings, trail the three-match series 1-0 following an innings loss in the first Test, also in Multan.

Earlier, off-spinner Sajid took 7-111, his second five-wicket haul, to bowl England out for 291 on a turning pitch, recycled from the first Test when it was a batting paradise.

No non-Pakistani issued any CNIC or passport, stringent verification guards in place: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Thursday informed the lower house of the Parliament that stringent data verification guards were in place and no non-Pakistani had been issued any CNIC or passport.

He was responding to the queries of Member National Assembly (MNA), Shear Karman and MNA, Noor Alam Khan raising concerns over alleged illegal issuance of Pakistani CNICs and passports to Afghan nationals.

Attaullah Tarar informed the House that there had been new scanners and latest machines installed at Passport offices across the country whereas the entire system was streamlined to ensure better and foolproof facilities.

"Three-tier scrutiny of Afghan nationals' documents for passport that are mandatory for attestation from a gazetted officer, re-verification of the attestation issuing authority and before final issuance of the passport of CNIC, the data of the applicant is confirmed through the Family Registration Certificate (FRC) data of NADRA," he said.



RAWALPINDI: A view of tear gas fire toward student during for protest against the alleged rape in Lahore. More than 150 students have been arrested.

India all out for record home Test low of 46 against New Zealand

BENALURU (INP): The whole Indian team was bowled out for record home low in a Test match against New Zealand in Bengaluru.

Earlier, New Zealand fast bowler William O'Rourke took three wickets, including that of Virat Kohli, as India collapsed to 34-6 at lunch on day two of the weather-hit first Test in Bengaluru on Thursday.

India won the toss and elected to bat in tricky overcast conditions after the first day was lost to rain and were soon in trouble. Rishabh Pant was not out 15 when lunch was taken after Matt Henry induced Ravindra Jadeja to loop a catch to point to become the fourth Indian to be out without scoring.

Tim Southee struck the first blow in the seventh over with the score on nine, bowling India captain Rohit Sharma through the gate with a sharp inswinger after he had made just two. O'Rourke struck in his first over to get Kohli caught at leg gully without adding to the score, silencing the home crowd.

Sarfaraz Khan came in at number four after replacing Shubman Gill, who had neck stiffness. But he only lasted three balls, Devon Conway taking a good one-handed catch at wide mid-off to leave India reeling at 10-3 inside 10 overs. There followed a brief interruption for rain but there was no respite for India when the players returned. O'Rourke sent back Yashasvi Jaiswal, caught by Ajaz Patel for 13 with the score on 31 and KL Rahul, caught behind by Tom Blundell, for yet another duck as India slumped to 33-5.

Lahore police debunks fake assault video, arrests 24 for vandalism

Independent Report
LAHORE: CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana addressed a press conference at Police Lines Qila Gujjar Singh to clarify the alleged assault on a student at a private college. The incident, which went viral on social media, was deemed fake after thorough investigations.

CCPO Kamyana stated that Lahore police took immediate action, interrogating the implicated security guard from Sargodha. The police thoroughly checked the 12-hour long CCTV footage from the college, finding no evidence of the

assault incident. Students whose videos had circulated on social media were also questioned, and inquiries were made at all local hospitals to check for relevant patients, but no evidence was found anywhere.

The CCPO announced the arrest of 24 individuals for damaging public property, with FIRs registered against them. Further FIRs are being filed against additional individuals.

This swift response demonstrates the police's commitment to maintaining law and order in the city.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

No one to be allowed to create...

Continued from page 1

miscreants. He said that the security institutions can make success against the miscreants only with support of the people.

The Chief Minister said that the objective behind holding Jirgah is clear that all stakeholders of the province are on one page for the cause of peace. He said that a peace Jirgah highlights the fact that the masses of Balochistan are standing by their security institutions for the lasting peace in province.

He said that as majority population of the country comprises youths, so we are providing opportunities of livelihood to them. For the provincial government has launched several programmes aimed at bringing the state and youths closer.

He said that it is an endeavour of the provincial government to impart technical education to youths.

He stressed that all stakeholders should play their key role in development of the province moving ahead with collective

approach. Meanwhile, the tribal elders thanked the law enforcement agencies and Chief Minister Balochistan for the endeavours made for establishing peace in the province.

The participants of Jirgah also expressed pleasure and trust on the government and armed forces.

They also offered fatiha for the departed souls of martyrs during Jirgah. The Chief Minister gave patient hearing to the regional issues and assured to resolve them.

He announced to send students of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University Khuzdar campus on all Pakistan study tour.

He also announced to send students of final year of government boys degree college Khuzdar on the study tour.

He also directed to the concerned authorities to expedite implementation on the ongoing development projects in Khuzdar. In addition to this, he directed to DIG police to speed up the operation against narcotics in the area.

AC reserves judgment on plea for transferring RSM reference against PM, Hamza Shehbaz

LAHORE (Online): Accountability Court (AC) has reserved judgment on the plea in connection with transferring Ramzan Sugar Mills reference against Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz Sharif.

Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani of ATC took up for hearing plea seeking transferring Ramzan Sugar Mills reference against Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz.

Anwar Hussain representative of PM Shehbaz Sharif appeared in the court.

Application for one day exemption in respect of Hamza Shehbaz was presented which was approved by the court.

NAB prosecutor said reference be transferred to anti corruption court.

There is no objection over transferring the reference to anti corruption court.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship seized 1.3 Tons Of Narcotics during Focused Operation Himalayan Spirit in North Arabian Sea.

Attaullah Tarar accuses PTI of poisoning

Continued from page 1

the atrocities committed by Israel against the innocent people of Palestine.

Tarar said that with the help of NGOs, the government had sent relief items to Gaza and Lebanon to support the war-ravaged people.

He also criticized the PTI for writing letters to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to push Pakistan towards default, orchestrating the May 9 attacks, vandalizing memorials of martyrs, and calling for protests during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit.

Despite the PTI efforts, the government successfully conducted the event in Islamabad, he added.

Tarar recalled that although the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had been political opponents, there was decorum and mutual respect between both parties. He cited how Nawaz Sharif was the first leader to visit the hospital after Benazir Bhutto was martyred, demonstrating respect across political lines.

"PTI's founder turned political opposition into enmity," the minister added, stressing that the

political tolerance of the PML-N had been perceived as weakness.

He said, when the PTI Chairman was injured after falling from a crane, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif suspended his election campaign and personally visited him at Shaukat Khan Hospital. "After the elections, Nawaz Sharif himself visited Bani Gala and advocated for working together for the betterment of the country," he added.

The minister also recounted how, during Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's imprisonment, he was denied a phone call to his ailing wife. He accused PTI of introducing a culture of dragging women into political disputes, citing the midnight arrest of Faryal Talpur from a hospital and Maryam Nawaz's arrest on false charges in front of her father.

He mentioned how fake cases were filed against the families of Abdul Aleem Khan and Jahangir Khan Tareen, and how Rana Sanaulah was arrested in a fabricated case.

Tarar recalled the time when Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif mother passed away, yet a judge insisted on continuing cross-examinations.

"Today, the PTI cries foul, claiming political vic-

timization of women, but they crossed all limits during their tenure," he said. He also accused the PTI of dissolving national and provincial assemblies and violating the Constitution and the law during their time in power.

He also highlighted the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where PTI allegedly abducted and detained its people. "The empty benches here today—were they cleared by the police or Rangers?" he questioned.

Tarar referred to PTI's recent threats of dire consequences if anyone betrayed their leader. He expressed concern over these threats, particularly in relation to supporting constitutional amendments. "No one will be allowed to take the law into their own hands. The writ of the state will be established," he asserted.

Describing the period from 2018 to 2022 as the darkest time in Pakistan's political history, Tarar said PTI's entire approach was based on retaliatory politics.

He noted that PTI was uncomfortable with the arrival of 12 world leaders in Pakistan, which restored the country's role in the region and ended its international isolation.

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer Building CWP&H Department District Musakhail Only Electronic bid invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents for the work mentioned below. The work estimated cost and other information of works as under tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023 Govt. of Balochistan as required from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rule. Bid Security 2%, Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No.	Description	Amount
1	CONST OF GGHS BARG PUSHT, CONST. OF GBPS SALATA MAIN, CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY AT DURUG MUSAKHAIL DISTRICT MUSAKHAIL TSE-242510572903	50.00 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan public Procurement Rules-2014. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** Eligibility Criteria & Evaluation Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single stage - Two Envelop Bidding Procedure. **BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The Bidding document can be downloaded for www.bppra.pk and the same can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of prescribed tender fee deposited in the head of account C-02716 NBP Bank green chalan is verified by treasury. **DEAD LINE OF SUBMISSION:** only E-Bid submit in the web site before 04, November, 2024 at 10:30 Hrs. **Opening:** Technical Bids will be opened on the same day i.e. 04, November, 2024, at 11:30 Hrs before procurement committee in the presence of bides. **Address:** The Executive Engineer Building CWP&H Department District Musakhail

Executive Engineer (Building)
CWP&H Department
Muskhail

PRQ No.1527/17-10-2024

www.dprgob.pk | [@atpr_gob](mailto:atpr_gob) | dpr.gob | dpr.balochistan

PM Shehbaz vows to make life affordable for people

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed commitment to continue collaborating with global partners with an emphasis on inclusive growth, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

In a message on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17, the Prime Minister said that eradicating poverty is not just a moral duty but a fundamental cornerstone for achieving sustainable development and ensuring peace and prosperity for all.

"From ensuring food security to addressing housing needs, our policies are geared towards creating long-term economic resilience," the prime minister said.

Today, he said, on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, "Pakistan stands united with the global community in reaffirming our commitment to a world where no individual is left behind, where opportunities for success are not limited by one's background or circumstances."

Eradicating poverty was not just a moral duty but a fundamental cornerstone for achieving sustain-

able development and ensuring peace and prosperity for all, he added.

The prime minister said that their government had always placed the people at the heart of every policy.

"Through our social safety net initiatives, we have made significant progress in alleviating poverty and ensuring that our most vulnerable citizens are supported. We believe that lifting people out of poverty is not just about immediate relief but about creating sustainable pathways to economic empowerment. Our targeted efforts aim at empowering communities, especially women and children, and giving them the tools they need to build a better future," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

He further said that their initiatives such as the PM Youth Business, Agriculture Loans, Digi-Skills-free IT trainings and the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund were transforming lives by providing financial assistance and technical support to millions of families.

Poverty eradication was also at the forefront of the 17 Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), which Pakistan remained fully committed to achieving, he said, adding that they would continue to collaborate with their global partners and work towards these goals with an emphasis on inclusive growth, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

"We are also proud of the progress made in empowering women and ensuring that their contributions are integral to the nation's economic and social fabric," he added.

On the day, the prime minister also extended his deepest appreciation to all those, both in Pakistan and around the world, who were working tirelessly to eradicate poverty.

By coming together with shared purpose and determination, they could create a future where every individual, no matter their circumstances, has the opportunity to thrive and succeed, he observed.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, the prime minister reaffirmed the unwavering dedication to this cause, and invited all sectors of society to join them in building a more prosperous, equitable, and inclusive world.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal addressing during an event organized by the Ministry of Planning on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Chairman PAEC says: Extensive awareness, proper research and firm belief can turn tide against cancer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar Thursday said that extensive awareness about early diagnosis and treatment of cancer accompanied with proper research exploring the reasons of cancer prevalence and a firm belief can turn the tide against cancer.

Chairman PAEC was addressing as chief guest at a breast cancer awareness event arranged by PAEC's Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology Lahore (INMOL), in line with October being the breast cancer awareness month all over the world, said a news release received from Lahore.

Chairman PAEC said that he feels rather humbled by the services of 19 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECs) spreading from GINOR cancer hospital in Gilgit to KIRAN in Karachi, INMOL in Lahore and NORI in the Capital, along with one diagnostic center i.e. DCN at Narowal. "I feel proud when on international forums like International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), I am told that PAEC's cancer hospitals are among the leading cancer care centers," he added.

In his presentation on this occasion, Director INMOL, Dr. Amira Shami shared some alarming figures about cancer prevalence in the country especially breast cancer.

"Unfortunately we are at the top in South East Asia region when it comes to breast cancer cases. In Pakistan, breast cancer comprises 24% of all cancer cases while in the West this percentage is 11.7%," she said.

She stressed on the need of early diagnosis as the best strategy to cope with all types of cancer.

In her presentation Dr. Amira Shami also highlighted the role of the 20 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECs) being run by PAEC all over the country, in general, and INMOL at Lahore, in particular, for spreading awareness about the disease, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, irrespective of the stage of cancer and financial status of the affected person.

She said that INMOL started functioning on April 10, 1984 and has over 40 years of excellence and unwavering commitment to cancer care.

The director also shared with the august gathering that INMOL has been referred as Center of Excellence and Referral Center by International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) in the year 2000 and several doctors, scientists and engineers from abroad have been trained at INMOL under the IAEA Fellowship Program.

Chairman PAEC also inaugurated new machines that have been recently added in INMOL which included Digital PET-CT, Digital Mammography with CEM, CZT SPECT-CT – all of which are first of their kind in Pakistan. He also visited upgraded radio pharmacy and theranostics facilities.

Besides, the Chairman PAEC, the event was graced by Member Science PAEC Dr. Masood Iqbal, Secretary PAEC Zulfiqar Ahmed Khan, DG NM&O, Dr. Shazia Fatima and other dignitaries.

Among others, doctors, paramedics, students and people from all walks of life attended the seminar.

The highlight of the cancer awareness event was the presence of cancer survivors who also shared their success stories in combating against cancer.

The cancer survivors shared their personal cancer journey, dispelled myths and taboos associated with cancer and motivated the cancer patients to fight against the disease with willpower and faith.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.

Groundbreaking is expected to commence soon after the completion of preliminary work.

Chairman Randhawa pledged regular visits to the project sites to monitor progress and prevent delays.

The CDA is committed to completing these vital infrastructure projects on time, significantly enhancing traffic flow and connectivity across Islamabad.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.

Groundbreaking is expected to commence soon after the completion of preliminary work.

Chairman Randhawa pledged regular visits to the project sites to monitor progress and prevent delays.

The CDA is committed to completing these vital infrastructure projects on time, significantly enhancing traffic flow and connectivity across Islamabad.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.

Groundbreaking is expected to commence soon after the completion of preliminary work.

Chairman Randhawa pledged regular visits to the project sites to monitor progress and prevent delays.

The CDA is committed to completing these vital infrastructure projects on time, significantly enhancing traffic flow and connectivity across Islamabad.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.

Groundbreaking is expected to commence soon after the completion of preliminary work.

Chairman Randhawa pledged regular visits to the project sites to monitor progress and prevent delays.

The CDA is committed to completing these vital infrastructure projects on time, significantly enhancing traffic flow and connectivity across Islamabad.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.

Groundbreaking is expected to commence soon after the completion of preliminary work.

Chairman Randhawa pledged regular visits to the project sites to monitor progress and prevent delays.

The CDA is committed to completing these vital infrastructure projects on time, significantly enhancing traffic flow and connectivity across Islamabad.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

SC issues written order regarding dams funds case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday issued written order regarding hearing dated October 9, related to Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand dams' funds.

The order was authored by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa.

The court directed that the amount of the dam funds be transferred to the Public Account of the Federation and after this the accounts maintained in the name of 'The Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dams Fund' should be closed. It said that a sub-account in the Public Account of the Federation be created or other appropriate measure be taken to enable the said amount to be lent to the best rated private scheduled banks so that mark-up can be earned thereon and when any amount is required for the construction of the said dams the amount collected and mark-up accrued thereon should be so utilized. The order said, "As regards the Implementation Bench we were informed that vide order dated 9 January 2019 five Judges of the Supreme Court were designated as the Implementation Bench, namely, Justice Sh. Azmat Saeed, Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Faisal Arab, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar. The Implementation Bench was constituted by a Bench of this Court comprising of the then Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Faisal Arab, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar. However, the record does not show that the Implementation Bench (constituted on 9 January 2019) undertook any work or that the progress reports submitted by WAPDA were ever examined by it."

The court said, "If the Implementation Bench did not examine the progress reports then their submission is pointless. Moreover, except for one, all the Hon'ble Judges of the Implementation Bench have since retired and were not replaced by this Court. WAPDA's counsel also stated that preparation of progress reports consumes time, money and effort."

The court said, "If the Implementation Bench did not examine the progress reports then their submission is pointless. Moreover, except for one, all the Hon'ble Judges of the Implementation Bench have since retired and were not replaced by this Court. WAPDA's counsel also stated that preparation of progress reports consumes time, money and effort."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif plants a sapling along with the Premier of Mongolia H. E. Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene.

CDA Chairman reviews progress on Serena Chowk, F-8 Interchanges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the launch and progress of two significant infrastructure projects—Serena Chowk Interchange and F-8 Interchange at PTCL.

The meeting, attended by relevant CDA members, officers, and contractors, focused on ensuring timely and efficient execution of the projects, which are crucial for easing traffic congestion in the capital.

Chairman Randhawa was briefed that the surveys for both interchanges have been completed, and utility relocations for the Serena Chowk Interchange are underway.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.

Groundbreaking is expected to commence soon after the completion of preliminary work.

Chairman Randhawa pledged regular visits to the project sites to monitor progress and prevent delays.

The CDA is committed to completing these vital infrastructure projects on time, significantly enhancing traffic flow and connectivity across Islamabad.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.

Groundbreaking is expected to commence soon after the completion of preliminary work.

Chairman Randhawa pledged regular visits to the project sites to monitor progress and prevent delays.

The CDA is committed to completing these vital infrastructure projects on time, significantly enhancing traffic flow and connectivity across Islamabad.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.

Groundbreaking is expected to commence soon after the completion of preliminary work.

Chairman Randhawa pledged regular visits to the project sites to monitor progress and prevent delays.

The CDA is committed to completing these vital infrastructure projects on time, significantly enhancing traffic flow and connectivity across Islamabad.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timelines set by the Minister of Interior, stressing that soil and piles testing and other tasks must meet the highest quality standards.

The meeting also highlighted the need for close coordination between departments, including IESCO, SNGPL, and the Islamabad Traffic Police, to ensure that Safe City project lines at the sites are properly relocated. This step is essential for smooth execution of the projects.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan presiding over the first working group meeting of the Generation Unlimited Strategic Advisory Council.

Pakistan's hospitality wins hearts at SCO summit: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Spokesperson for Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch Thursday expressed her delight over the successful SCO summit and praised the gracious manner in which it was conducted.

In her exclusive talk with a private news channel, she noted that leaders of all SCO member states took to social media to express their gratitude and appreciation for Pakistan's traditional hospitality, showcasing the country's renowned warmth and welcoming nature.

She explained, "Pakistan has received widespread praise for hosting a successful Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, which took place in Islamabad from October 15-16."

The event brought together leaders from various member states, including China, India, Russia, and Uzbekistan, to discuss regional cooperation and security, she highlighted.

According to Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, the summit was a diplomatic triumph for Pakistan, showcasing the country's traditional hospitality and commitment to fostering strong regional ties.

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also expressed gratitude to Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and the people of Pakistan for the warm welcome he received at the multilateral conference, she mentioned.

"This gesture acknowledges Pakistan's hospitality during the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Islamabad," she added.

The reports were presented by Senator Shahadat Awan in the House on behalf of Chairman of the Standing Committee Faisal Saleem Rehman.

The reports included the bill further to amend the prevention of smuggling of Migrants Act, 2018 (The Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the bill further to amend Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the bill to amend the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Thursday listened issues of various complainants and issued directives to the department concerned for their resolution. DC Memon assured that all citizens would have the opportunity to voice their concerns under the district's open-door policy. On the occasion, he instructed the relevant authorities to address these issues without delay, highlighting that resolving public problems is the district administration's primary focus.

He remarked this at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Programme virtual event on Thursday.

Stiell highlighted that while significant progress has been made over the past decade, with global climate action investments reaching over \$1 trillion last year, current efforts are still far from sufficient. He pointed out that developed nations mobilized more than \$100

billion in climate finance to assist developing countries in 2022, as reported by the OECD.

However, with the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, such as hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Beryl, Stiell warned that both wealthy and poor nations are facing mounting damages, which further strains global supply chains and exacerbates inflation.

"We can't afford a world of clean energy haves and have-nots," he said. Stiell called for immediate global action, emphasizing that trillions more are needed to bolster climate resilience and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has stressed the urgent need for an exponential increase in climate finance to meet the challenges of the global climate crisis.

He remarked this at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Programme virtual event on Thursday.

Stiell highlighted that while significant progress has been made over the past decade, with global climate action investments reaching over \$1 trillion last year, current efforts are still far from sufficient. He pointed out that developed nations mobilized more than \$100

billion in climate finance to assist developing countries in 2022, as reported by the OECD.

However, with the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, such as hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Beryl, Stiell warned that both wealthy and poor nations are facing mounting damages, which further strains global supply chains and exacerbates inflation.

Three reports of Interior Committee presented in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as three reports of standing committee on interior were presented in the Senate on Thursday.

The reports were presented by Senator Shahadat Awan in the House on behalf of Chairman of the Standing Committee Faisal Saleem Rehman.

The reports included the bill further to amend the prevention of smuggling of Migrants Act, 2018 (The Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the bill further to amend Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the bill to amend the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Thursday listened issues of various complainants and issued directives to the department concerned for their resolution. DC Memon assured that all citizens would have the opportunity to voice their concerns under the district's open-door policy. On the occasion, he instructed the relevant authorities to address these issues without delay, highlighting that resolving public problems is the district administration's primary focus.

He remarked this at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Programme virtual event on Thursday.

Stiell highlighted that while significant progress has been made over the past decade, with global climate action investments reaching over \$1 trillion last year, current efforts are still far from sufficient. He pointed out that developed nations mobilized more than \$100

billion in climate finance to assist developing countries in 2022, as reported by the OECD.

However, with the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, such as hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Beryl, Stiell warned that both wealthy and poor nations are facing mounting damages, which further strains global supply chains and exacerbates inflation.

"We can't afford a world of clean energy haves and have-nots," he said. Stiell called for immediate global action, emphasizing that trillions more are needed to bolster climate resilience and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has stressed the urgent need for an exponential increase in climate finance to meet the challenges of the global climate crisis.

He remarked this at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Programme virtual event on Thursday.

Stiell highlighted that while significant progress has been made over the past decade, with global climate action investments reaching over \$1 trillion last year, current efforts are still far from sufficient. He pointed out that developed nations mobilized more than \$100

billion in climate finance to assist developing countries in 2022, as reported by the OECD.

However, with the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, such as hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Beryl, Stiell warned that both wealthy and poor nations are facing mounting damages, which further strains global supply chains and exacerbates inflation.

"We can't afford a world of clean energy haves and have-nots," he said. Stiell called for immediate global action, emphasizing that trillions more are needed to bolster climate resilience and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has stressed the urgent need for an exponential increase in climate finance to meet the challenges of the global climate crisis.

He remarked this at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Programme virtual event on Thursday.

Stiell highlighted that while significant progress has been made over the past decade, with global climate action investments reaching over \$1 trillion last year, current efforts are still far from sufficient. He pointed out that developed nations mobilized more than \$100

billion in climate finance to assist developing countries in 2022, as reported by the OECD.

However, with the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, such as hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Beryl, Stiell warned that both wealthy and poor nations are facing mounting damages, which further strains global supply chains and exacerbates inflation.

"We can't afford a world of clean energy haves and have-nots," he said. Stiell called for immediate global action, emphasizing that trillions more are needed to bolster climate resilience and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has stressed the urgent need for an exponential increase in climate finance to meet the challenges of the global climate crisis.

He remarked this at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Programme virtual event on Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: Machinery is being used for leveling the ground to prepare a green area along the road near Kakpul.

IG Rizvi lauds officers, announces awards for securing SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Thursday congratulated the officers for ensuring peace and order in the federal capital and for the comprehensive security arrangements made for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2024.

A public relation officer told APP, the meeting took place at the Central Police Office Islamabad, with DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, DIG Headquarters Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, DIG Law and Order Shakir Hussain Dawar,

and other senior police officers in attendance. He said IG Rizvi commended the officers for maintaining law and order during recent events in the federal capital. IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi announced awards and an honorarium equivalent to one month's salary to encourage the entire police force, he added.

IG urged all officers to continue striving to protect and serve the citizens with the same dedication.

IG Rizvi said all officers demonstrated bravery and a strong commitment to serving and protecting citizens, maintaining peace and order with zeal.

UN climate chief calls for scaling up climate finance

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has stressed the urgent need for an exponential increase in climate finance to meet the challenges of the global climate crisis.

He remarked this at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Programme virtual event on Thursday.

Stiell highlighted that while significant progress has been made over the past decade, with global climate action investments reaching over \$1 trillion last year, current efforts are still far from sufficient. He pointed out that developed nations mobilized more than \$100

billion in climate finance to assist developing countries in 2022, as reported by the OECD.

However, with the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, such as hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Beryl, Stiell warned that both wealthy and poor nations are facing mounting damages, which further strains global supply chains and exacerbates inflation.

"We can't afford a world of clean energy haves and have-nots," he said. Stiell called for immediate global action, emphasizing that trillions more are needed to bolster climate resilience and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has stressed the urgent need for an exponential increase in climate finance to meet the challenges of the global climate crisis.

He remarked this at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Programme virtual event on Thursday.

Stiell highlighted that while significant progress has been made over the past decade, with global climate action investments reaching over \$1 trillion last year, current efforts are still far from sufficient. He pointed out that developed nations mobilized more than \$100

Cause list of court of Justice Miangul Hassan cancelled

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb of Islamabad High Court (IHC) is on leave due to dengue fever, therefore, cause list of his court has been cancelled.

He will not be available for two days for hearing the case.

Two judges Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir too are not available.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb is on bed rest under doctors advice due to dengue fever.

Cause list of Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri court has also been cancelled for one week. He will not hear the cases till October 23.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui Tuesday expressed optimism that significant progress had been made on constitutional amendments and judicial appointments, with approximately 90% of agreements in place and hopefully reforms will commence in both houses within the next few days.

Senator said three major parties, the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) have

made significant headway on judicial reforms within the Constitutional Package, PML-N senator shared this breakthrough with a private news channel.

He said, "Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has also expressed its support for constitutional reforms, with certain conditions."

"Specifically, MQM has linked its support to stronger local government provisions," he mentioned.

Responding a query, he said crucial meetings took place between key political leaders, including

Nawaz Sharif, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatto-Zardari.

He said, "A complete consensus was reached on the proposed constitutional amendment."

"Major political parties are shifting their focus from person-specific and time-bound goals to addressing the nation's pressing problems," he added.

"This emphasis on solution-driven politics is a welcome change, prioritizing the welfare of citizens over individual interests," he added.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Friday October 18, 2024

Successful summit

With a focus on multilateralism and Eurasian connectivity, the two-day SCO Heads of Government summit wrapped up successfully in Islamabad yesterday. The prime ministers of China and Russia attended, as well as top leaders and officials from other member states, and observers. The meeting sent the much-needed message that Pakistan was once again open for business and ready to play a central role in multilateral bodies. The major themes of the event, as summed up in the summit's joint communiqué, covered a range of topics, including commerce, the environment, cultural exchanges, etc.

Significantly, the document reaffirmed efforts to set up the SCO Development Bank and increase "the share of national currencies in mutual settlements". The document also observed that the "unilateral application of sanctions is incompatible" with international law. All these appear to be barely disguised jabs at the West, which has weaponised sanctions and the dollar against geopolitical foes such as Russia and Iran, both SCO members. Additionally, the statement emphasised the preservation of "traditional values and cultural and civilisational diversity". For his part, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted climate change as an "existential crisis", while discussing the need for stability in Afghanistan, which, although an SCO member, has not been participating in the group's meetings since the 2021 Taliban takeover. Mr Sharif also observed that the "ongoing genocide in Gaza" could not be ignored. While hosting such multilateral events is routine for states, considering Pakistan's peculiar challenges over the last few years — particularly security issues, financial troubles, and internal political tumult — organising the moot and ensuring the security of such a large number of foreign dignitaries was no mean feat. Fellow SCO states also recognised Pakistan's efforts, while observing in the joint communiqué that the summit was held in a "constructive and friendly atmosphere".

From hereon, it will take time and much effort to translate the SCO vision, particularly concerning a common bank, currency swaps, seamless regional connectivity, etc, into reality. After all, the bureaucracies of all 10 states, with varying systems of government, have to be on board and work towards these common goals, which is a considerable challenge. But while the objectives may be difficult to achieve, they are not impossible. From Pakistan's perspective, regional connectivity with its Eurasian neighbours is essential for economic growth. The country cannot remain isolated in the region. At a time when there is increased fragmentation in the world, and several conflicts are smouldering across continents, platforms like the SCO present an opportunity for states to set aside narrow differences and come together to pursue common goals for the benefit of their people. Rather than negatively viewing this as a revival of 'bloc politics', as some may do, a more optimistic view is required.

Imaan Ali Sheikh | Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

The ongoing war on Gaza, recently recognised as a genocide by the International Court of Justice, has garnered global attention for its devastating humanitarian impact.

However, beneath the immediate human tragedy lies a less visible, but equally alarming crisis: the systematic destruction of Gaza's physical environment and its ecosystem. This environmental catastrophe, which some experts are terming 'ecocide', threatens to have long-lasting consequences that extend far beyond the current conflict, affecting the region's ecology, public health, and future habitability. Moreover, this environmental destruction fundamentally undermines the human dignity of Gaza's residents, depriving them of their basic rights to a clean and healthy environment.

The conflict's impact on Gaza's ecosystem extends beyond the immediate destruction of flora and fauna. The region's biodiversity is under severe threat as habitats are de-

stroyed and food chains disrupted. The loss of vegetation, particularly trees, has far-reaching consequences for local wildlife. Birds and small mammals that relied on these trees for shelter and sustenance may have been forced to migrate or face potential extinction. Moreover, the destruction of coastal areas and marine habitats due to military operations and pollution run-off threatens Gaza's marine ecosystem, thus impacting biodiversity and jeopardising livelihoods.

The alteration of the landscape through widespread destruction and the potential for future urban development plans could lead to irreversible changes in the local ecosystem. The contamination of soil and water resources may persist for years, hampering future agricultural productivity and access to safe drinking water. The loss of arable land due to pollution, erosion, and potential salinisation could have severe implications for food security in a region already grappling with resource scarcity.

Deforestation presents another critical environmental challenge. The destruction of trees, including

Gaza's iconic olive groves, is occurring through multiple mechanisms. Direct damage from bombings and fires has obliterated vast swathes of vegetation. This deforestation not only disrupts local ecosystems but also exacerbates issues of soil erosion and desertification, potentially rendering large areas unsuitable for future habitation or agriculture.

The environmental degradation in Gaza is multifaceted, encompassing issues ranging from water contamination to deforestation. One of the most pressing concerns is the contamination of water sources. The intensive bombardment has damaged water infrastructure, leading to the mixing of sewage and potable water supplies. This contamination renders much of the available water unfit for human consumption, cooking, and basic hygiene practices. The situation is made worse by the collapse of waste management systems, resulting in the accumulation of various types of waste, including hazardous medical waste.

The scarcity of clean water has far-reaching implications. According to media reports, the displaced popu-

lations lack access to basic sanitation facilities, leading to an increase in open defecation and further contributing to the spread of waterborne diseases. The contamination of water sources also poses a significant threat to agriculture. Polluted water used for irrigation can introduce harmful substances into the food chain, potentially causing long-term health issues for the population.

The environmental crisis in Gaza is closely linked to a growing public health emergency. The lack of proper burial facilities for the high number of casualties has led to unconventional and often unsanitary disposal of human remains. Bodies left exposed in the rubble, or hastily buried in mass graves, pose significant health risks. The decomposition process releases bacteria and other pathogens which contaminate soil, groundwater, food, and water resources.

The breakdown of sanitation infrastructure has resulted in a proliferation of disease vectors. Accumulated waste attracts vermin and insects, spreading pathogens throughout the population. The over-

crowded living conditions in temporary shelters, combined with limited access to clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene products, have resulted in rapid spread of skin and other infectious diseases.

Pollutants released from destroyed infrastructure, including potentially toxic substances from damaged industrial facilities, can have lasting impacts on human health. Children, in particular, are vulnerable to the effects of environmental toxins, which can impair cognitive development and lead to chronic health issues.

The environmental crisis also has significant social and economic implications. The degradation of natural resources can exacerbate poverty and social inequality, as communities lose access to traditional livelihoods based on agriculture and fishing. The potential for displacement due to uninhabitable conditions could lead to further social upheaval and strain on resources in neighbouring areas.

The scale and nature of the environmental destruction in Gaza have led some experts to classify these actions as 'ecocide'. This term,

while not yet formally recognised in international law, refers to severe and widespread damage to the environment. The Rome Statute and the Geneva Conventions include provisions that address environmental damage during armed conflict, particularly when such damage is excessive in relation to the concrete and direct anticipated military advantage.

The situation in Gaza underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to environmental protection. It highlights the interconnectedness of environmental, climate, humanitarian, and human rights issues and the need for incorporating them into the charge-sheet against the aggressors. The concept of ecocide raises important legal and ethical questions about accountability for environmental damage. It challenges the international community to consider the long-term ecological consequences of military actions and the responsibility to protect not just human life but also make the aggressor pay for restoration of ecological services and rehabilitation of human settlements. -- Courtesy Dawn

Quacks, rackets and mobs**Khurram Husain**

The connection between citizen and state is becoming frayed to an extent I have rarely seen before.

In our national conversation, most of the reason for why this is happening has been ascribed to the rollback of rights and constitutional protections in recent years, a phenomenon that is accelerating rather than drawing to a close. Part of the reason for this emphasis is the large and outsized voice that lawyers have in our national discourse, and they necessarily see everything through the lens of law, rights and the Constitution.

But there is another reason that is at least equally important and, I will argue, more foundational. That reason is livelihoods. The most ferocious inflationary fire of our history still smoulders in our midst. In the last five years, my own per unit electricity cost has more than tripled. The price of petrol has gone from around Rs100 (or slightly above) to somewhere around Rs260 per litre. The dol-

lar has gone from around Rs150 to Rs270 today, with further devaluations still possible in the months ahead.

I could go on and on to establish the fact that the past few years, whatever starting point you wish to choose, have seen a historic erosion of both wealth and the purchasing power of ordinary citizens. Salaried individuals could have seen as much as 30 per cent of their purchasing power wiped out in the past five years. If you kept your wealth in rupee-based assets, devaluation alone could have wiped out more than half of its value.

This is not normal. These are near historic levels of degradation of the standard of living. And it is not properly understood by us as to how such episodes of severe degradation of the standard of living impacts a citizen. We don't have full appreciation of all the ways in which a population which has stewed so long in the fires of inflation will react and behave.

Here are some examples. Consider the cost of healthcare rising. Some-

body who used to go to a doctor when they or their child was sick and can no longer afford to do so will turn either to homeopaths or spiritual healers. Somebody who cannot find a safe place to keep their money from eroding in value will either seek to dollarise it, invest in 'committees', or place it in pyramid schemes that promise large and rapid returns.

Some universities are seeing declining applications, while in others, applications may not be declining, but conversations with teachers and VCs suggest that the financial stress on students even from 'middle class' backgrounds, those whose families own property, a car, and have multiple children in elite institutions, has risen to the point where it is aggravating behaviours that show a transactional approach to education. More students bickering over grades, for example. Or more students telling their teachers 'we are paying you for this'; and definitely elevated stress levels among the students, with one senior university leader describing the re-

sponse as 'generalised anger' at things around them.

This is the part about inflation that is not properly appreciated. Inflation is not just about things becoming more expensive and leaving people worse off. In its most benign forms, that is what it is. But in aggravated form, of the sort that we have seen in the last four to five years, with the peak hitting around the first half of 2023 but the smouldering remains still around us, inflation can burn away at the rational moorings of a human being and the human's connection with the larger systems of power and control within which we live and pursue our livelihoods and well-being.

At any given time, a certain proportion of the population will certainly be in contact with faith healers and predatory lenders and speculative rackets, to secure their health, finance their consumption, or park whatever little wealth they may possess. But after an inflationary tsunami like the one we have just seen, this proportion rises

dramatically, and the intensity of their engagement with these informal, non-rational sources of income support, wealth management, educational investment all increases. And with this rising arc of rising numbers of people exiting the rationality of the system, come other things.

A large population in the hands of quacks and rackets is more likely, to take one example, to believe in conspiracy theories to explain large developments in their world. In such a population, mobs can be quick to form, violence erupts more readily and social media rumours trigger large crowd behaviours as well as propagate myths that may appear to others as sheer nonsense but exert a powerful grip on those caught up in the mania of the moment.

The vulnerabilities that eventually express themselves as lynch mobs, widespread faith in conspiracy - based disinformation, generalised anger at the world, or any other seemingly irrational belief or behaviour, often have their origins in people's thinking and

behaviour becoming unmoored from the system from which they expect to derive their livelihood.

As the system intensifies its demands from the populace — demands for capturing their incomes to pay for its own expenses, or demands of continuing loyalty in the face of grievous rights violations — it enters a vicious cycle where it cannibalises the sources of its own support to pay for its own dysfunctions. This is what makes the present crisis different from preceding ones.

Expressed purely in economic terms, the present moment is not worse than what Pakistan saw in 2007 and 2008, for instance. The scale of the terror attacks is not larger today than it was back then. What is different this time is the sheer number of people who are expressing their total rejection of the system and its demands, with the latest such expression coming in the form of the Feb 8 vote.

Coercion and repression will not set this equation right. Only dialogue and reconnecting with the people's will can do that.

Hope triumphant**F.S. Aijazuddin**

Someone in the IMF is not familiar with Dr Samuel Johnson's witty definition of a second marriage: "a triumph of hope over experience". The IMF and Pakistan have been in and out of wedlock not twice, but multiple times.

One would have imagined that an institution as experienced as the IMF would spot a habitual offender amongst a pack of its financial delinquents. Apparently not. No sooner had Pakistan digested the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) of \$3 billion extended by the IMF in 2023-24, than it applied for a new loan of \$7bn. Even addicts draw a breath before the next snort.

Recall our predicament in 2023, as we waited desperately for the release of the last \$1.1bn tranche of the SBA. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the IMF MD Mme Georgieva that, if re-elected, he stood "committed to turning over the economy with the help of IMF and development partners".

On her part, Mme Georgieva reminded him that, although he had "built a very convincing case", the IMF Board recalled "the past trust deficit" and reiterated its scepticism about Pakistan's freshest undertakings. She then mollified her Board with the assurance that Pakistan would "deliver on its commitments ... as she had personally met the prime minister and seen his seriousness to deliver".

In reciprocation, our PM expressed his "profound gratitude" for her "support and assistance" and sent her some mangoes in appreciation of "her leadership and professionalism". Apparently, mangoes did the trick. A year later, on Sept 25, 2024, the IMF approved a 37-

month Extended Arrangement for SDR 5,320 million. (around \$7bn). It was an anniversary of sorts. This is the 25th time Pakistan has approached the IMF for a bailout.

To obtain this \$7bn loan and its first tranche of \$1.1bn, Pakistan assured the IMF that it will implement radical changes which will test the public's patriotism and the sinews of our federation. The new programme comes with several conditions, or 'bitter pills'. These include bringing undertaxed sectors including retail, export, industrialists, developers, and large-scale agriculture into the income tax regime.

The Government has agreed to reduce "non-transparent support through exemptions for privileged sectors like real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, and energy, as well as, through the proliferation of Special Economic Zones". The IMF demands the abolition of SEZs by 2035. CPEC, however, plans into 2030 the expansion of SEZs and Free Trade Zones, especially Gwadar Port.

The IMF programme repeats a familiar mantra — earn more, spend less, and minimise borrowing. The IMF recognises the inherent schisms in Pakistan's political structure: "Political economy considerations and pressures from vested interests could delay or weaken the reform momentum and put at risk still-fragile stability."

The IMF also expects Pakistan to be supported by "development and bilateral partners", i.e. the World Bank, ADB, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and China. The CPEC is the IMF's bugbear. The IMF sought transparent disclosure; Pakistan hid behind legal obfuscation. In 2022, the IMF carped that Pakistan owed more to China than the IMF and

DFIs combined. In 2022, Pakistan owed China \$26.6bn, and the IMF about \$7bn.

The IMF's staff report supporting the \$7bn loan approval contains an odd justification: "Reputational risks would arise if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members that ostensibly enjoy less support. Alternatively, not proceeding with a new programme also raises reputational risks as the new authorities, or other members, may accuse the Fund of not being evenhanded."

The IMF recognises that some debtors have no prospect of being repaid on time, unless a major creditor (China) either reschedules or rolls over or writes off its loans. The Chinese may do the first, possibly also the second. China is not in the business of giving charity without cause.

When will China tire of being Pakistan's banker of the first and the last resort? One suspects it will reconsider its largesse after the next US administration is in place.

For the time being, Pakistan is enjoying the advantage of a pre-US election windfall. The latest IMF loan is spread over the next three years, with periodic reviews. Whichever candidate — Donald Trump or Kamala Harris — wins the White House in November, our \$7bn IMF lifeline will definitely come under scrutiny. President Trump gave a previous prime minister a personal tour of the White House. Will he be inclined to extend a similar courtesy to his successor? Kamala Harris knows Pakistan as India's irascible neighbour. Her DNA could colour her judgment. Meanwhile, to paraphrase Herbert Hoover: accused are the young, for they shall inherit our national debt. -- Courtesy Dawn

Rights review**Rabiya Javeri Agha**

Like any country in the world, Pakistan is host to multifaceted and complex human rights issues. The country's marginalised groups, women, minorities, and children frequently face systemic rights violations that are rooted in entrenched power structures.

Perpetrators enjoy impunity, with little rehabilitative support offered to victims. It is thus of little surprise that Pakistan's performance on international indexes is faltering. Pakistan ranked 164 out of 193 countries under the latest Human Development Index, placing it firmly in the "low human development" category in terms of education, health and income levels.

The situation on the ground is worrying, especially when one considers the Government of Pakistan's international commitments under the seven core United Nations human rights treaties it has ratified. These treaties are more than just paper. They create concrete obligations for the government to respect and fulfil key civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all those in its territory. On Oct 17, 2024, the Government of Pakistan's performance pertaining to civil and political rights, as enshrined under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), will come under review before the UN Human Rights Committee. The committee will engage in a constructive dialogue with the government, at the end of which a list of recommendations will be issued.

While Pakistan has ratified the core UN human rights treaties, its commitment to uphold-

ing the rights within remains fragile. The upcoming review underscores the importance of reform. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) plays a pivotal role in this process. In its capacity as an official, independent rights watchdog under the NCHR Act of 2012, it has resolved over 7,900 cases and played a key role in advocating for human rights at home and abroad. Through its research and advocacy, the NCHR has successfully challenged discriminatory practices, secured the release of prisoners, and worked to maintain our operational independence despite challenges. However, these efforts alone are not enough to reverse the systemic issues that hold Pakistan back. Our report to the UN committee outlines Pakistan's legislative and administrative strides, but also highlights persistent challenges in enforcement.

An area of grave concern is violence against women. Despite constitutional and legal protections, 23 per cent of married women in Pakistan report physical abuse, while 26pc face emotional abuse. These alarming statistics point to systemic flaws in law enforcement and the judiciary, where patriarchal norms limit justice for victims. With only 18pc of reported rape cases reaching court, the path to justice is fraught with challenges. The economic cost of this violence, estimated at \$189.7 million annually, is a further burden Pakistan can ill afford. Strengthening legal frameworks, providing better protection, and empowering women must become national priorities. Religious minorities in Pakistan also face escalating violence and discrimination. The

misuse of blasphemy laws led to 705 people being jailed by mid-2024, and continues to cause concern, while forced conversions — especially of Hindu girls — underline the vulnerabilities of marginalised communities. While legislative measures exist, enforcement is weak, leaving minority groups exposed to socioeconomic and religious persecution. The NCHR has worked diligently to address these issues but recognises that more comprehensive reforms are urgently needed, particularly in tackling extremism and reforming religious education.

Torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement remain a troubling reality. Despite the passage of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act in 2022, implementation has been slow. Torture is not only a violation of human dignity, but a symptom of larger institutional flaws. Inhumane prison conditions, exacerbated by overcrowding and inadequate medical care, add to the suffering, with pre-trial detainees making up a significant portion of the prison population.

Pakistan's international human rights obligations are not just boxes to be ticked — they represent the rights and dignity of its people. As we approach the next ICCPR review, the NCHR will continue to advocate for reforms that bring us closer to fulfilling these commitments. The government must act decisively to improve conditions for women, minorities, and the incarcerated, ensuring that no one in Pakistan is left behind. The future of human rights in Pakistan depends on meaningful action. It's time to turn rhetoric into reality. -- Courtesy Dawn

KP govt approves trade corridor, transmission line, solarization, several other key projects

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur chaired a high-level meeting which was attended by the Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments and advisor to CM on Finance Muzamil Aslam.

On the occasion, Chief Minister approved seven public welfare projects which include the provision of life insurance for the entire population of the province, the establishment of the provincial government's own Islamic Takaful insurance company, the launch of a solarization program and Tourism scheme.

The construction of DI Khan Motorway, construction of 120km long transmission line and trade corridor and establishment of debt management fund are also included in the flagship projects of the KP government. These projects will be completed before 2027.

After the health card scheme, the life insurance scheme will be the second major security program of

the PTI government. Under the scheme, five to one million rupees will be paid to the heirs on the death of the head of the family.

It was also decided that the provincial government will also establish an Islamic Takaful insurance company to run the health card scheme and life insurance scheme on a sustainable basis. The provincial govt will also construct Peshawar DI Khan Motorway as International Trade Corridor. This 365 km long motorway will

connect 12 districts of the province and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Punjab and Balochistan.

In the meeting, the provincial government also decided to build its own transmission line. This 120 km long 220 kV transmission line will be laid from Swat to Chakdra. This transmission line will provide power to the local industries at cheap rates from the hydropower plants of the provincial government to be built in Swat and other adjoining areas. With the completion of this project.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint meeting of University and Boards and Vice Chancellor, held at CM House in Karachi.



PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party Chairman, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao addresses to participant during Annual Foundation Day ceremony held in Peshawar.

Governor Kundi calls for collective efforts to eradicate poverty

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday underscored that eradicating poverty was a national duty, stressing the collective efforts.

He said this on the eve of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. He highlighted the need for concrete actions and effective policies aimed at uplifting the marginalized segments of society, enabling them to pursue a path toward prosperity.

Governor Kundi pointed out, "Various developmental and welfare projects are crucial for poverty alleviation in KP, particularly given the role of terrorism in exacerbating unemployment and

poverty in the province." He said, "Achieving economic stability hinges on maintaining peace, promoting women's empowerment, and engaging youth." He stressed the importance of improving education, healthcare, and employment opportunities as essential steps to uproot poverty. "Pakistan's development is contingent upon providing economic opportunities to its vulnerable populations and fostering self-sufficiency," Kundi asserted. The governor also urged the public to actively participate in efforts to eradicate poverty and contribute to the construction of a strong and prosperous society. Meanwhile, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa governor and chancellor of public sector universities has expressed grave concern over appointment of teaching faculty on administrative posts in public sector universities and warned strict legal action under section 12(7) of KP universities act 2012 (amended 2016). A letter available with this agency revealed that the governor addressed the vice chancellors (VCs) of all public sector universities in the province and noted it with grave concern that despite instructions the certain universities had still assigned the charge of administrative posts to faculty members in violation of section 17-A of KP universities act 2012.

No evidence found in private college incident: CCPO Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana on Thursday said that no evidence had been found to confirm the incident at a private college.

Addressing a press conference with DIG Operations Faisal Kamran, the CCPO mentioned that a video related to a private college went viral on social media. As soon as the incident was reported, the college's CCTV footage was reviewed, but nothing was found, he added.

Kamyana said that the hospitals mentioned on social media were also checked, and the names of the girls in the video were investigated. "One of the girls is married, and the students who have initially spoken about the incident have now retracted their statements. So far, no evidence has been found to confirm the incident," he added.

The CCPO further

said that a high-level government committee also declared the incident baseless. Motorcycles were burnt on Wednesday, 24 people were arrested, and students involved in violence were warned and released, he added.

He stated that a case had been registered under cybercrime with the FIA. "If there is any evidence regarding the private college, it should be brought forward, and action will be taken. No proof has been found yet, and both the FIA and police are investigating," he mentioned. He said that the guard mentioned in the incident had taken leave and gone to his village. The guard was called back and included in the inquiry, he said and added that since the incident never happened, there couldn't have been any mishandling. He affirmed that strict action would be taken against those involved in the violence.

Blast damage police vehicle in Peshawar's Ormur area; no loss of life

ISLAMABAD (APP): A powerful explosion rocked the Ormur area of Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday which targeted a police vehicle where fortunately, no casualties have been reported so far, although the blast caused significant damage to the police vehicle.

According to SSP operational, the blast sent shock waves through the surrounding area, causing panic among locals, private news channel reported.

Law enforcement agencies quickly cordoned off the area and launched an investigation into the incident. "We are reviewing footage from nearby CCTV cameras and gathering evidence to determine the perpetrators behind the attack," said SSP operational. According to Police officials, bomb disposal squads were immediately deployed to the scene to scan the area.



PESHAWAR: Teachers and staffs of Peshawar Public School and College are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside KPK Assembly building in Peshawar.

PPP's 18 October public gathering to be historic: Minister

HYDERABAD (APP): Senior Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, and Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control Department Sharjeel Inam Memon Thursday said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto bravely returned to Pakistan on October 18 despite continuous threats.

Addressing a press conference at Hatiri Bypass, he said that People's Party has decided to hold a public gathering in Hyderabad in memory of PPP martyrs who were

martyred in the Karsaz blast. Insha Allah, tomorrow's public gathering will make history, with 80,000 chairs already set up at the venue. Hundreds of thousands will attend.

Sharjeel Inam further stated that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's manifesto mentioned constitutional reforms, which Bilawal Bhutto is negotiating. PPP has fulfilled all its promises, including the housing scheme for flood victims, with 21 lac houses being built.



HYDERABAD: PPP ladies wing ladies workers light-up candles and earth lamps in memory of the martyrs of the Karsaz incident at Mughal House.

PHC issues notices to PMDC, KMU over out of syllabus questions in MDCAT test

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench consisting of Justice Shakeel Ahmad and Justice Sahibzada Asad Ullah on Thursday heard a petition filed by the Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) aspirants against out of syllabus questions in MDCAT test and requested for award of grace marks.

After hearing of the case the court issued notices to Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) and Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar to submit their reply.

Earlier, the counsel of the petitioners Sher Hyder Khan Advocate argued that after so many controversial episodes related to the MDCAT in the last few years, the test for medical colleges was not fair and

transparent this year and there was large-scale protest across the country regarding the irregularities witnessed during the test.

He said that several out of syllabus questions were included in the test which was evident of mismanagement and inefficiency.

He said that the petitioners were qualified and eligible candidates and attempted all the questions wherein it was found that some questions in the question paper were having multiple interpretations, higher difficulty level, defective answer wrong answers and confusing one and filed complaints before the Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar for reviewing the answer keys through independent subject experts and upon their recommendations the petitioners be awarded



RAWALPINDI: A view of damage building of a college from students during a protest of students in favor of their demands at 6th road in the city.

LHC seeks arguments on appeal for bail cancellation of Rasikh Elahi, others

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday adjourned the hearing of an appeal seeking the cancellation of pre-arrest bail granted to Rasikh Elahi, Zahra Elahi, Tehreem Elahi, and others in a money laundering case.

The court sought arguments from the parties for the next hearing, scheduled for October 24.

A division bench, headed by Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry, heard the appeal filed by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

Rasikh Elahi, Zahra

Elahi, and Tehreem Elahi, along with their counsel, appeared before the bench during the proceedings. However, Saira Anwar, a co-accused, did not appear, but her counsel submitted a medical certificate on her behalf. At this, the bench directed Saira Anwar to appear on the next hearing date.

The FIA had approached the high court for the cancellation of bail for Rasikh Elahi, Tehreem Elahi, and other accused, stating that the trial court confirmed their interim bail in violation of the law.

Maryam asserts Empowering underprivileged will strengthen society

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz asserted that a society could only be strengthened with the empowerment of underprivileged and disadvantaged.

Sharing her message on the International Day for Reduction of Poverty, Maryam stated that poverty wasn't only an economic challenge but its result of inequality in education, health and justice.

She pledged for eradication of poverty through social justice and

economic development taking office of CM, Maryam Nawaz highlighted.

She recalled the projects launched for eradication of poverty including Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar, for the homeless, Kissan Package worth Rs 4 billion for farmers and Himmatt Card for special persons.

CM Maryam revealed that skills and economic opportunities programs and other innovative measures were being taken as well as women were being

empowered financially to reduce unemployment and poverty. She took concrete measures for reduction of inflation and rates of necessary items, Maryam Nawaz emphasised.

Punjab CM stressed that mutual responsibility and effort was needed for reduction of poverty.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is being observed today.

This year the theme of the day is "Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment Acting together for just, peaceful and inclusive societies".

ANF seizes 68 kg drugs in two operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting two operations managed to recover 68 kg drugs worth Rs 4.7 million and arrested three suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that in an operation, 48 kg hashish was recovered from bushes in coastal line, Gwadar.

In second operation, 20 kg hashish was recovered from three suspects rounded up near Sumingli Road, Quetta.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act.

Nobody to be allowed to create law, order situation: Azma

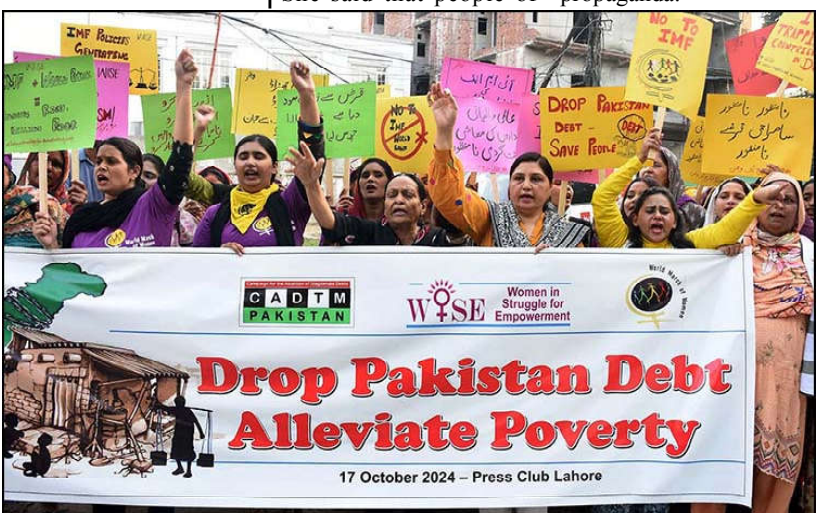
LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that nobody will be allowed to create law and order situation in Punjab and cause unrest.

While commenting on the press conference of Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar here on Thursday, she alleged that students had been motivated to create unrest from official page of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. She said that people of

Insaf Student Wing were found involved in creating chaos.

She alleged that the PTI defamed a girl and her family as per planning. Azma said police were performing its duty to maintain law and order, and all cities including Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi were normal.

She said that strict action would be taken against all those who spread fake information in this regard and did negative propaganda.



LAHORE: Members of Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, at Lahore press club.

Two police officials suspended over negligence

FAISALABAD (APP): Superintendent of Police (SP) Lyallpur Division suspended two police officials including an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) on the charge of negligence and delinquency.

Police said here on Thursday that ASI Nasir and constable Shafiq Hussain were carrying an accused Atif for recovery of case property when he managed to escape from police custody. Therefore, an inquiry was conducted against both officials and the inquiry officer proved them both guilty.

Sindh govt should establish orphanage for children, old aged

LARKANA (APP): Sindh Human Rights Commission Chairman Iqbal Detho said that where human rights are violated, the Sindh Human Rights Commission investigated the matter properly.

He expressed his views in Press Club Larkano on Thursday.

He said that the purpose of visit to Larkana was to hold a meeting with organizations working for human rights at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

He said that there was a security problem in Darul Aman in Larkana which has been resolved by providing it. A new committee is being formed including providing legal assistance to the women in Darul Aman. Efforts are being made to provide artistic education to women by organizing a festival for artistic learning in Darul Aman.

He said that there is no orphanage home in Larkana so that children can be protected and cared for there and no old age home in Larkana where elderly women and men can stay. Likewise, there is no old

age home in Hyderabad. He said that the Women and Children Jail was shifted from Larkana to Sukkur due to which women and children incarcerated face difficulties in the respective courts.

He told that there is no law regarding the protection of women who have arrived for asylum automatically by the Darul Aman administration, including making recommendations about other laws of the Darul Aman will be submitted to the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Committee.

Police Women's Complaint Cell is not cooperating with Women's Welfare Department due to which women's problems are not being solved.

A vigorous campaign will be ensured from Larkana to ensure maximum participation of women in the police, which requires the support of the media.

He said that in Larkana, other committees, including the Public Safety Committee, are inactive, which will be met with the District and Sessions Judge to activate them.

Pakistan's economy shows signs of recovery amid govt reforms, IMF deal: SBP

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has released its Annual Report on the State of Pakistan's Economy for the fiscal year 2023-24, revealing signs of economic recovery driven by stabilization policies, improved agricultural productivity, and engagement with international financial institutions. The report highlights improved macroeconomic conditions in FY24, supported by

successful negotiations with the IMF, and a favorable global economic environment. According to the report, Pakistan's macroeconomic conditions improved, supported by stabilization policies, successful engagement with the IMF, reduced uncertainty, and favourable global economic environment. The increase in domestic agricultural productivity also contributed to relatively

better macroeconomic outcomes during the year, the Report added. The real GDP registered a moderate agriculture-led recovery in FY24. A record harvest of wheat and rice, and a rebound in the production of cotton mainly provided boost to agricultural output during FY24.

The report highlights that despite a recovery in real economic activity, the current account deficit further narrowed to a 13-year low as strong growth

in remittances and exports more than offset a slight increase in imports.

This, coupled with the Stand-By Agreement with the IMF that catalysed inflows from other multilateral and bilateral sources, helped in the build-up of FX reserves and calming sentiments in the foreign exchange market. The gradual exchange rate appreciation during the year, together with higher-than-expected fiscal consolidation.



SINGAPORE: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Ms. Rabia Shafiq in a meeting with Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) President Lennon Tan and council members.



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

Pakistan Charge d'Affaires highlights opportunities for Pak pharma exports to Europe

BRUSSELS (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels organized a webinar in which Chargé d'Affaires Faraz Zaidi emphasized the importance of enhancing Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports to Belgium, highlighting the sector's untapped potential.

The webinar titled "Opportunities for Pakistan in the Pharmaceutical Sector of Belgium" was held in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

The event attracted significant participation from leading Pakistani pharmaceutical companies,

with over 35 CEOs and directors attending the session. The Chargé d'Affaires underscored the Embassy's commitment to fostering stronger trade relations between the two countries, particularly in high-value sectors such as pharmaceuticals.

Bilal Khan, Trade and Investment Attaché, provided insights into the current state of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Belgium. He discussed key trends and opportunities for Pakistani pharmaceutical exporters and urged stakeholders to leverage Belgium's position as a hub for pharmaceutical innovation in Europe.

The webinar also

featured guest speakers from Belgium, Eric and Olivier, who delivered a detailed presentation on the regulatory framework governing the Belgian pharmaceutical industry.

Their insights covered critical aspects, including registration processes, market entry strategies, and compliance standards, providing participants with practical knowledge to enhance their export readiness.

Speaking on the occasion, Faraz Zaidi remarked, "Belgium presents a promising opportunity for Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector to expand its footprint in Europe.

PSX raises over Rs1 trillion through GOP Ijarah Sukuk

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) announced a significant achievement on Thursday, surpassing the Rs 1 trillion mark through the issuance of Government of Pakistan (GoP) Ijarah Sukuk (GIS).

This breakthrough was achieved following the successful conclusion of the 13th GIS auction on September 16, 2024 through which an additional Rs 207 billion was raised for the Ministry of Finance (MoF), said a news release.

The GIS Auctions started on December 8, 2023, and have since witnessed robust participation from the banks, mutual funds and brokerage fraternity, with each auction contributing to the growth of the Shariah-based Government Securities market.

PSX has been instrumental in the offer of GIS through provision of a state-of-the-art auction system and support for the entire lifecycle of the GIS, from issuance till maturity.

PSX enjoys a unique

position amongst global exchanges that offer primary issuance of Government Debt.

PSX plays a pivotal role in enabling the GOP to raise funds through the Capital Market Infrastructure Institutions (CMIIs). A driving factor for its success is the diverse range of Sukuk on offer; these include discounted, fixed rate, and variable rate instruments.

This is accompanied by a wide range of tenors on offer - 1 Year, 3 Year, 5 Year, and 10 Year GIS - that were added after the inaugural auction to meet the varying needs of the government and investors alike. In addition to facilitating an active primary market for GIS, PSX also hosts an equally efficient secondary market and is committed to enhancing its liquidity which aligns with PSX's broader goal of market development. This effort of market development includes enhancing the market depth and investor participation in the primary and secondary.

Finance Minister briefs US Ambassador on key reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday reiterated the government's resolve to carry on with broad-based reforms on taxation, energy and state-owned enterprise (SOE) fronts.

The minister was talking to United States (US) Ambassador Donald Blome who called on him and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation, said a news release.

Aurangzeb said the government was committed to raising the country's tax to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio to 13.5 per cent by plugging leakages and bringing untaxed

sectors in the net. He said the government under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had approved a comprehensive transformation plan for Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and brought in experts on the Board of PRAL (IT arm of FBR).

The minister called the macroeconomic reforms "work in progress" and pointed to more serious challenges of climate change and child stunting which threatened to perpetuate inequalities and disrupt the pace of economic growth and stability in Pakistan over the medium to long term.

Pakistan looked

forward to build climate resilience through adaptation reforms and averting malnutrition with the technical and financial support of development partners for ensuring holistic development goals, he added. US Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's efforts for improving macroeconomic stability and lauded the government for initiating challenging and bold reforms, particularly in the taxation and energy sectors.

He reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in technical and development initiatives, and promoting high-quality US investment for economic growth of Pakistan.

Price of gold surges

LAHORE (APP): Gold prices in Pakistan reached another record high amid ongoing upward trend in the international market on Thursday.

According to Lahore Sarafa Association, per tola gold price surged by Rs. 700 to settle at Rs. 277,900 while the price of 10-gram surged by Rs. 600 to reach Rs. 238,254.

The yellow metal registered significant gains in the international market where per ounce price moved up by \$7 to hit \$2,682.

Meanwhile, silver prices in Pakistan saw no change as per tola and 10-gram were traded at Rs. 3,050 and Rs. 2,614.88, respectively, in local market.

It is worth mentioning here that a day earlier, gold prices in Pakistan moved up to Rs. 277,200 per tola after registering an increase of Rs. 2,200. The price of 10 grams inched up by Rs. 1,886, settling at Rs. 237,654.

SAMENA LEAD PTCL Group wins "Best Business Strategy and Expansion" Awards

ISLAMABAD (APP): PTCL Group, Pakistan's largest ICT services provider, has won the 'Best Business Strategy and Expansion' award at the Leadership and Excellence Awards in Digital Development (LEAD) by the SAMENA Telecommunications Council. According to a news release, the prestigious award was presented to Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO of PTCL & Ufone 4G in recognition of the company's relentless efforts to innovate and broaden its market presence. Moreover, the award recognizes PTCL Group's exceptional business strategies, which have enabled the company to take challenges head-on, make strategic decisions, and successfully position

itself on a path of sustained growth and success. Commenting on the achievement, Hatem Bamatraf said: "PTCL Group's success at the SAMENA LEAD Awards 2024 is a reflection of our commitment to driving growth through strategic business expansion. This recognition highlights the strides we have made in contributing to the telecom sector and positions PTCL as a leader in the highly competitive global telecom industry. It is a testament to our dedication to excellence, innovation, and delivering exceptional customer satisfaction across the region." PTCL Group has always been at the forefront when it comes to business strategies that have allowed it to remain competitive in the dynamic market.



LARKANA: Farmers threshing rice crop in a traditional way at their field near Ratodero Road.

Minister says: SSIC's e-commerce website to promote Sindh's cultural heritage

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has said that the launch of Sindh Small Industries Corporation - SSIC's e-commerce website will promote Sindh's cultural heritage and encourage artisans associated with this sector.

He said this Thursday while talking to the media on the occasion of the launch of SSIC's e-commerce website in his office.

MD Small Industries Corporation Sarwat Faheem was also present on this occasion.

The purpose of this Website of Sindh Small Industries Corporation is

to promote the cultural heritage of Sindh and encourage the artisans of this sector.

Dharejo added, "SSIC is providing a platform for the talented people of Sindh. Sindh products can also be bought online".

He said that Small industries would also get a boost through online e-commerce.

An international level exhibition would also be held on this subject under the auspices of the Sindh Small Industries Corporation in December.

He said that the purpose of organizing the exhibition was to bring the cultural heritage of Pakistan, especially Sindh,

Pak total liquid foreign reserves rise to \$16.11 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan surged to US\$ 16,111.3 million as of October 11, 2024 while the forex reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan increased to \$ 11,022 million.

The SBP reserves are at a 30-month high since the March 2022 when the central bank possessed liquid foreign reserves of \$ 11,425.1 billion. The total liquid foreign reserves of the country are also at 29-month high since April 2022 when volume of the total liquid reserves was accounted as \$ 16,406 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that total liquid foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 215 million to \$ 11,022.7 million during the week ended on October 11, 2024.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 5,088.6 million during the week under review, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on October 04, 2024, were \$ 16,047 million.



GUJRANWALA: Farmer ploughs field with the help of heavy machinery to earn his livelihood to support his family, at a field in Gujranwala.

Iran ready to work with all Pakistani industries: Mehran

LAHORE (APP): Iranian Consul General Mehran Mowahid Far has said that Iran recognises the industrial development of Pakistan and is ready to work with all industries of Pakistan.

He said Lahore is not only a cultural but an industrial city, which has made its name with quality and hard work.

He expressed his views during a visit to the head office of Pak Tractor Manufacturing Company, Lahore here on Thursday. He said that more than 20 Iranian companies were participating in the Pakistan Auto Show 2024, to be held at Expo Center Lahore this month, with which both countries would be able to benefit from each other's technology and experiences.

KP govt to facilitate mineral sector investors

PESHAWAR (APP): In a bid to promote business and investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's mineral sector, a high-level meeting was held on Thursday at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade office in Peshawar.

The meeting aimed to address the challenges faced by investors and businesspersons in the sector and streamline governmental processes to ensure ease of doing business. The meeting was chaired by Abdul Karim Tordher, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Industry, Commerce, and Technical Education. Key attendees included the President of the Frontier Mines Association, Sher Bandi Khan Marwat, Director of Business

The Iranian consul general said that there were six major tractor manufacturing companies in Iran, which could work jointly with Pakistan for tractors and spare-parts. He said that there were immense opportunities for Pakistani businessmen in the Iranian market and his country was in dire need of tractor spare-parts in particular.

Chief Executive Officer of Pak Tractor Manufacturing Company Hamza Wazir said he had worked with various Iranian companies in the past in which they used to supply tractor spare-parts and generators to Iran.

He said a delegation of his company would visit Iran soon to get firsthand knowledge of Iran's tractor manufacturing industry. Earlier, on arrival of

Facilitation Iqbal Sarwar, and officials from SMEDA, FBR, and other relevant departments.

During the session, representatives from the Mines Owners Association highlighted the obstacles investors encounter in various government departments and called for support in line with the government's business-friendly policies.

The association also presented suggestions for enhancing cooperation between the industry and government agencies. Abdul Karim Tordher directed all concerned departments to expedite support for the sector, emphasizing that the government's primary objective is to boost economic growth.



LAHORE: Fruit and Vegetable Market Lahore President, Yasir Bhatti addresses to media persons during press conference, at Lahore press club.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships, APL Qingdao, Maersk Kensington, Haj Muhammad, Akti-A, San Nicolas and Qing Quan Shan scheduled to load/offload Container, Cement, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Marginal Warfage-4 and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containership 'APL Qingdao' left the port on today morning while another containership 'Maersk Kensington' is expected to sail on today afternoon. Cargo volume of 221,321 tonnes, comprising 169,567 tonnes imports cargo and 51,754 tonnes export cargo carried in 7,404 Containers (5,091 TEUs Imports & 2,313 TEUs Export).

Mujtaba stresses shifting economic focus beyond agriculture, industry

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Finance Minister Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, while addressing the 4th Pakistan Future of Retail Business Summit and Expo at a local hotel here on Thursday, stressed the need to shift Pakistan's economic focus beyond agriculture and industry.

He highlighted the significant role of the retail and wholesale sectors, which contribute over Rs. 20 trillion to the national economy, making up 18pc of the GDP and providing employment to over 10 million people.

The theme of the summit, "Building a Stronger and Smarter Retail Ecosystem", addressed the evolving dynamics of the retail sector. The Minister stated that retail is a vital component of domestic commerce and plays a crucial role in driving

national prosperity. He noted the substantial progress in Pakistan's retail landscape, with organized retail stores and the growth of e-commerce bringing local brands like Khaadi and Nishat to international prominence, boosting the country's export revenues.

Despite these successes, the Minister acknowledged challenges, particularly the fact that 90% of the retail sector operates informally, hindering its full potential. He emphasized the need to modernize regulations and implement a single-window compliance system at all levels of government. "Streamlining the regulatory framework will encourage retailers to formalize their businesses, enhance tax contributions, and foster a more competitive market."

CDNS achieve Rs 210 billion mark in yearly reserves target

ISLAMABAD (APP): Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has realized a target of Rs 210 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 12 percent of the annual target in the first quarter of current fiscal year, from July 1 to October 16.

The CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP on

Thursday. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth of the Islamic economy in the country.

Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs 1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30. National Savings has

set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed the 100 percent of the annual target."

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said.

He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

Israeli FM claims Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar 'eliminated'

Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz on Thursday claimed the death in an attack of Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar, who Israel has accused of masterminding the group's attack on October 7 last year.

"The mass murderer Yahya Sinwar, responsible for the massacre and atrocities of October 7th, was eliminated today by IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) soldiers," Katz said in a statement sent to media.

Israel earlier said it was checking whether it had successfully "eliminated" Sinwar in a Gaza operation, in what constitutes a massive blow against the group it has been fighting since last year's October 7 attack.

Israel accuses Sinwar of masterminding the attack and has been hunting him down since the start of the Gaza conflict. Israel's raging military offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, including women and children.

Sinwar became the group's new leader after the killing of its former political chief Ismail Haniyeh in July. Hamas and Iran blame Israel for Haniyeh's killing, but Israel has not commented on it.

Israel's announcement on Sinwar comes weeks after it assassinated Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in a massive strike in Lebanon, where its military has been waging an offensive since late September. A slew of other Iran-backed commanders have also been killed in recent months.

With Hamas hugely weakened more than a year into the Gaza conflict, Sinwar's death deals a major blow to the organisation. In a brief statement, the military earlier said that during "operations in the Gaza Strip, three terrorists were eliminated".

Israeli defence agencies "are checking the possibility that one of the terrorists was Yahya Sinwar. At this stage, the identity

of the terrorists cannot be confirmed", the statement added.

There was no immediate comment from Hamas.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said that Israel would hunt down "every terrorist" after the military made its announcement. "We will reach every terrorist and eliminate them," Gallant wrote on social media platform X.

Israel has been fighting Hamas since the October 7 attack — which resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures.

Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza has killed 42,438 people, mostly civilians, according to data from the health ministry.

Following the attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to crush Hamas and bring home all 251 hostages seized by fighters in their cross-border assault.



Luxembourg's Prime Minister Luc Frieden, Romania's President Klaus Iohannis, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and President of the European Council Charles Michel attend a European Union leaders summit in Brussels, Belgium.

US warns Israel to boost humanitarian aid into Gaza or risk losing weapons funding

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration has warned Israel that it must increase the amount of humanitarian aid it is allowing into Gaza within the next 30 days or it could risk losing access to U.S. weapons funding.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned their Israeli counterparts in a letter dated Sunday that the changes must occur. The letter,

which restates U.S. policy toward humanitarian aid and arms transfers, was sent amid deteriorating conditions in northern Gaza and an Israeli airstrike on a hospital tent site in central Gaza that killed at least four people and burned others.

A similar letter that Blinken sent to Israeli officials in April led to more humanitarian assistance getting to the Palestinian territory, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Tuesday.

UN envoy proposes Western Sahara partition plan

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: The UN envoy for Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura, has floated the idea of dividing the territory between Morocco and the Polisario front as a solution to the near five-decades-old dispute, according to remarks seen by Reuters.

The long-frozen conflict, dating back to 1975, pits Morocco, which considers Western Sahara its own territory, against the Algeria-backed Polisario Front independence movement, which seeks a separate state there.

UN report says 1.1 billion people living in acute poverty

Monitoring Desk

GENOVA: More than one billion people are living in acute poverty across the globe, a UN Development Programme report said on Thursday, with children accounting for over half of those affected.

The paper published with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) highlighted that poverty rates were three times higher in countries at war, as 2023 saw the most conflicts around the world since the Second World War.

The UNDP and the OPHI have published their Multidimensional Poverty

Index annually since 2010, harvesting data from 112 countries with a combined population of 6.3bn people.

It uses indicators such as a lack of adequate housing, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, nutrition and school attendance.

"The 2024 MPI paints a sobering picture: 1.1 billion people endure multidimensional poverty, of which 455 million live in the shadow of conflict," said Yanchun Zhang, chief statistician at the UNDP.

"For the poor in conflict-affected countries, the struggle for basic needs is far harsher and more desperate battle."

Moldova says its citizens were trained in Russia to stage riots

Monitoring Desk

CHISINAU: Moldovan police said on Thursday they had uncovered a programme in which hundreds of its citizens were brought to Russia to undergo training to stage riots and civil unrest, the latest in a slew of meddling allegations ahead of Sunday's election.

The police said earlier this month that Russia-backed crime groups had bribed a swathe of voters and plotted to disrupt this weekend's presidential election and referendum on the country's European Union membership aspirations.

Biden offers both a carrot and a stick to Israel as his term nears an end

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: In his final months in office, President Joe Biden is signaling new willingness to use US military assistance to Israel as both a carrot and a stick to influence its high-stakes confrontation with Iran and Iran-backed militant groups.

But while the approach increases Washington's involvement in Israeli decision-making just weeks before the US presidential election, it is unclear whether it will help achieve Biden's goals, including preventing a broader regional conflict and getting Israel to address the increasingly dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, experts say.

Biden's administration announced on Sunday it would send about 100 soldiers to Israel along with an advanced US anti-missile system, a rare deployment that came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government weighs a retaliatory attack on Iran after an Oct. 1 Iranian missile strike.

The Biden administration also delivered Israel a letter on Sunday warning that it must take steps in the next month to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza or face potential restrictions on US military aid.

India blames Canada PM Trudeau for damaging ties over Sikh separatist murder row

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: India blamed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday for disastrous diplomatic fallout following the 2023 killing of a Sikh separatist in Canada.

New Delhi held firm its defiant stance towards Ottawa — an approach in sharp contrast to its compliant attitude this week towards the United States, where India is also accused of directing a separate assassination plot.

Canada has alleged that India arranged the killing of a Sikh separatist, naturalised Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar, murdered in the parking lot of a Sikh temple in Vancouver in June 2023.

India has called the allegations "preposterous".

But Trudeau, at a parliamentary inquiry on Wednesday, said Canada had "clear... indications that India had violated Canada's sovereignty".

Canada's top envoy to New Delhi, Stewart

Wheeler, who India has ordered to leave by Saturday night, has said Ottawa had provided "credible, irrefutable evidence of ties between agents of the Government of India and the murder of a Canadian citizen".

India's foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal on Thursday said they had not seen that evidence.

"Canada has presented us (India) no evidence whatsoever in support of the serious allegations that it has chosen to level against India and Indian diplomats," he said in a statement.

"The responsibility for the damage that this cavalier behaviour has caused to India-Canada relations lies with Prime Minister Trudeau alone."

Nijjar — who immigrated to Canada in 1997 and became a citizen in 2015 — had advocated for a separate Sikh state, known as Khalistan, carved out of India.

North Korea says 1.4 million apply to join army amid tensions with South

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea state media said on Wednesday around 1.4 million young people had applied to join or return to the army this week, blaming Seoul for a provocative drone incursion that had brought the "tense situation to the brink of war".

The fiery rhetoric comes after North Korea last week accused Seoul of sending drones over Pyongyang that scattered a "huge number" of anti-North leaflets. The North then blew up inter-Korean roads and rail lines on its side of the border on Tuesday, and warned that the South would "pay a dear price".

The young people, including students and youth league officials who had signed petitions to join the

army, were determined to fight in a "sacred war of destroying the enemy with the arms of the revolution," the official KCNA news agency said.

"If a war breaks out, the ROK will be wiped off the map. As it wants a war, we are willing to put an end to its existence," the KCNA report said, using the initials of the South's official name, the Republic of Korea. North Korea has previously made similar claims about young people scrambling to enlist at a time of heightened tensions, though such statements from the isolated state are difficult to verify.

Last year, state media reported on 800,000 of its citizens volunteering to join the North's military to fight against the United States.

Japan's ruling LDP at risk of losing majority in election, media polls show

Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: Japan's ruling party may lose its majority in the lower house, according to media polling ahead of the Oct. 27 election, meaning it would likely have to rely on coalition partner Komeito to stay in power.

The Liberal Democratic Party may not reach the 233 seats it needs for an outright majority in the 465-seat chamber, the Nikkei newspaper said on Thursday. The LDP has held sole control of the chamber since it returned to power in 2012 after three years in opposition.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's government already depends on Komeito for a majority in the upper house. Extending that reliance to the more powerful lower house could give the group, backed by Japan's largest Buddhist lay organisation, a greater say in policymaking.

"I think that the LDP will cover, along with its coalition ally Komeito, the majority that it needs," said Michael Cucek, a professor specialising in politics at Temple University in Tokyo.

If the LDP is relying on Komeito to reach a majority, that will give more leverage to a party that has

pushed back on some of the LDP's more hawkish security policies in the past, he added.

Komeito has been less willing than the LDP to embrace policies including giving Japan's military longer-range missiles and removing restrictions on weapons exports that have stopped Tokyo from sending arms to Ukraine or Southeast Asian nations that oppose Beijing's territorial ambitions in the South China Sea.

Nobuyuki Baba, the head of the Japan Innovation Party, the third-largest group in the lower house, has not ruled out working with the LDP after the election, media reported. He supports expanding Japan's military capabilities and has said he would also back an amendment to Japan's pacifist constitution to officially recognise the armed forces.

The Nikkei said its nationwide poll, conducted along with the Yomiuri newspaper, garnered responses from 165,820 people randomly contacted by phone on Tuesday and Wednesday. A poll by broadcaster TBS showed on Wednesday released the LDP may lose about 30 seats, while Komeito may shed a small number.



Members of Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, attend a plenary session in Moscow, Russia.

China won't renounce use of force over Taiwan; Xi visits frontline island

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China will never commit to renouncing the use of force over Taiwan, the government in Beijing said on Wednesday after another bout of war games and a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to the scene of a famous defeat for Taiwanese forces.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, staged a day of large-scale drills around the island on Monday that it said were a warning to "separatist acts" following last week's national day speech by Taiwan President Lai Ching-te.

"We are willing to

strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification with the utmost sincerity and endeavour," Chen Binhua, spokesperson for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, told a regular press briefing in Beijing.

"But we will never commit ourselves to renouncing the use of force," he said. That is, however, aimed at the interference of "external forces" and the very small number of Taiwan separatists, not the vast majority of Taiwan's people, Chen said. Taiwan has close though unofficial relations with the United States, a major arms supplier, and its allies.

Bangladesh court orders arrest warrant for ex-PM Sheikh Hasina

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi court on Thursday ordered an arrest warrant for ex-leader Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August after she was toppled from power by a student-led revolution.

"The court has [...] ordered the arrest of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and to produce her in court on November 18," Mohammad Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, told reporters on Thursday.

Kenya's deputy president 'very sick' in hospital, lawyer says

Monitoring Desk

NAIROBI: A lawyer representing Kenya's Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in his impeachment hearing told the Senate on Thursday that the politician was "very sick" and in hospital, after he failed to attend proceedings. The National Assembly voted last week to impeach Gachagua, who helped President William Ruto win an election two years ago but has been assailed by allies of the president over alleged disloyalty and a series of provocative public comments.

Gachagua was due to defend himself against the 11 impeachment charges in the Senate on Thursday afternoon, before senators take a vote on whether to remove him from office. "The sad reality is that the deputy president of the republic of Kenya has been taken sick, very sick."

US says India has removed alleged agent in assassination plot

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States said on Wednesday it had been informed by India that an intelligence operative accused of directing an assassination plot on US soil is no longer in government service.

The action by New Delhi represented a sharp contrast to its defiant approach to similar charges from Canada, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday accused India of violating his country's sovereignty.

An Indian committee

set up to examine the US case visited Washington for talks on Tuesday—a tension-easing diplomatic process that came just as the row between India and Canada was escalating much more publicly. "We've received an update from them on the investigation that they have been conducting. It was a productive meeting," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. "They did inform us that the individual who was named in the Justice Department indictment is no longer an employee of the Indian government."

EU, seeking allies, holds first summit with Gulf states

Monitoring Desk

BRUSSELS: The European Union held its first summit with the Gulf states on Wednesday, part of EU diplomatic courting of Gulf states as it seeks new economic allies and enlists international support to isolate Russia.

Its aim in meeting the six wealthy Arab states in the Gulf Cooperation Council was to deepen cooperation and recognise those countries' influence particularly in conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Sydney beaches closed due to toxic 'tar balls'

Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: Beaches in Sydney including the iconic Bondi were closed to bathers on Thursday after hundreds of black balls suspected to be toxic washed up on the city's shores.

Waverley Council said it had closed Bondi, Bronte and Tamarama beaches as a precaution, while neighbouring Randwick Council has closed an additional four beaches to the south. Bondi and Maroubra Beach to the south were later reopened. "The wellbeing of our community is paramount. That's why Council has taken the precaution to close our beaches."

Georgia judge blocks ballot counting rule and says county officials must certify election results

Monitoring Desk

ATLANTA: A judge has blocked a new rule that requires Georgia Election Day ballots to be counted by hand after the close of voting. The ruling came a day after the same judge ruled that county election officials must certify election results by the deadline set in law.

The rulings are victories for Democrats, liberal voting rights groups and some legal experts who have raised concerns that Donald Trump's allies could refuse to certify the results if the former president loses to Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris in next month's presidential election. They have also argued that new rules enacted by the Trump-endorsed majority on the State Election Board could be used to stop or delay certification and to undermine public confi-

dence in the results.

The State Election Board last month passed the rule requiring that three poll workers each count the paper ballots — not votes — by hand after the polls close. The county election board in Cobb County, in Atlanta's suburbs, had filed a lawsuit seeking to have a judge declare that rule and five others recently passed by the state board invalid, saying they exceed the state board's authority, weren't adopted in compliance with the law and are unreasonable.

In a ruling late Tuesday, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney wrote, that the hand count rule "is too much, too late" and blocked its enforcement while he considers the merits of the case.

McBurney on Monday had ruled in a separate



Students queue to take meals from free nutritious meals program trial at an elementary school in Sukabumi, West Java province, Indonesia.

Pakistan, Mongolia agree to form JMC, inter-parliamentary union to boost cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Mongolia on Thursday agreed to form a Joint Ministerial Commission to enhance cooperation in trade, tourism, agriculture and mining sectors, and an inter-parliamentary union to expand the bilateral parliamentary ties.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Mongolian counterpart Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene here on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting, according to a PM Office press release.

He offered the Mongolian side to send civil servants to training institutions in Pakistan and also proposed to declare 2025 as the year of Pakistan-Mongolia Friendship to bolster the brotherly ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz warmly welcomed Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene and noted that his visit marked a new chapter in the history of the bilateral relationship, defined by mutual respect, goodwill and amity.

re-election as the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Shehbaz Sharif stated he looked forward to working closely with Oyun-Erdene in the days ahead to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Oyun-Erdene warmly felicitated the prime minister on the successful conduct of the SCO CHG Meeting and appreciated Pakistan's leadership role as SCO CHG Chair. He reciprocated that Mongolia shared Pakistan's desire to build stronger and closer bilateral relations through joint efforts and collaboration.

In the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz suggested that both sides

Felicitating him on his



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar visiting Balochistan Institute for Nephrology Urology Quetta. Secretary Humbejir Rehman Panzezi is also present

DPM Dar felicitates nation on successful conclusion of SCO CHG conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday felicitated the nation on the successful conclusion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting held in Islamabad.

"As our guests depart Islamabad after attending the 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, I wish to congratulate the Pakistani nation on the successful conclusion of the Confer-

ence and thank all the Government departments/officials/bodies for their valuable contributions in making the event memorable," the Deputy PM wrote on his official X account.

With the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the lead, he said ministers and officials under the ministries of interior and information, Capital Development Authority, and leadership of our security and law enforcement authorities, gave their best and fullest support.

NDMA continues aid to conflict-hit Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) continues to provide humanitarian aid to the war-affected people of Gaza and Lebanon on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The second consignment of aid was dispatched on Thursday from Karachi to Lebanon. This aid shipment, sent by NDMA in collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation, comprises approximately 100 tons of supplies, including medicines, ready-to-eat meat, tents, tarpaulins, warm bedding, winter clothing, and powdered milk. The aid was dispatched via flight from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, to Beirut, Lebanon, a news

release said.

The send off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by the representatives from NDMA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Al-Khidmat Foundation and local administration. During ceremony, the attendees emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-torn populations of Palestine and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities.

They reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting their brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration by welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.



Pakistan and Italian Navy ships during bilateral exercise in North Arabia Sea.

Senate adopts resolution felicitating govt on successful SCO meeting

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate on Thursday passed a resolution congratulating the government for successfully holding the SCO Council of Heads of the Government meeting in Islamabad.

The resolution was moved by Senator Sherry Rehman.

The resolution expressed the confidence that the progress made at this event will go a long way in Pakistan's growing geo-economic profile and role in enhanced regional connectivity, investment, infrastructure, climate and security goals.

The Senate today passed the Deposit Protection Corporation Amendment Bill, 2024.

It was moved by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. In his remarks, the Fi-

nance Minister said the Bill is aimed at further strengthening the financial system.

The Establishment of Special Court (Overseas Pakistanis Property) Bill was also passed by the House.

It was moved by Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Salik Hussain said the legislation is aimed at addressing the property related issues of overseas Pakistanis.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb laid before the House the National Forensics Agency Bill, 2024. The chair referred the Bill to the Standing Committee concerned.

The House has now been adjourned to meet today at two pm.

ECP fixes Oct 28 as last date for postal ballot

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday fixed Oct 28 as the last date for receiving applications for postal ballot papers for by elections to the Provincial Assembly, Balochistan PB-08, Sibi.

In a statement, ECP said that the facility, under the law, has been extended to the persons in government service, members of armed forces, their wives and such of their children as are registered voters and ordinarily reside with them provided they are stationed at a place other than the place in which their constituency is situated.

Persons with any physical disability who are unable to travel and hold a national identity card with a logo for physical disability issued by the national database and registration authority (NADRA) can also vote via postal ballot, the poll body said, adding persons who are detained in prison or held in custody are also entitled to vote by postal ballot.

IMF okays increase in BISP stipend amount

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a major increase in the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) stipend amount.

According to IMF, the quarterly stipend for BISP recipients will increase by Rs. 3,000, raising the total quarterly stipend to Rs. 13,500 from January who currently receive Rs. 10,500.

The IMF is working to enhance the BISP and its administrative systems, in collaboration with the World Bank.

The BISP has a budget of Rs. 599 billion for the current financial year, accounting for 0.5% of Pakistan's GDP.

This represents a 27% increase from the previous year.

Dr Rubaba grieved over death of Humayun Marri

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, expressed deep sorrow over the passing of former caretaker Chief Minister, former Chairman of the Senate, and former Provincial Minister Nawabzada Mir Humayun Marri.

She stated that Nawabzada Humayun Marri's services will always be remembered, and his demise is a great loss to the nation. She prayed for Allah Almighty to grant the departed soul a place in Jannah and to give strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss.



ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of Mongolia H.E. Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene along with a delegation meets Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

NAPHDA violation of financial obligations abandoned 'Low-Cost Housing Project' in Ali Pur: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar Thursday said the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority (NAPHDA) failed to fulfill its financial obligations that led to financial constraints causing slow progress of low-cost housing project at Ali Pur Farash.

He said while responding to the query of Member National Assembly (MNA), Aliya Kamran's query pertaining to abandoned and in complete projects of Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the slow pace development of Ali Pur Farash project on behalf of

the Interior Minister.

Attaullah Tarar said Ali Pur Farash project was not abandoned by the CDA but rather non-fulfillment of contractual obligations, non-payment by NAPHDA and violation of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between CDA, NAPHDA and FWO led to halted financial progress.

"It is 66% complete and remaining halted due to financial constraints and unfulfilled contractual obligations," he said.

Cost escalation in Ali Pur Farash project has increased multiple times and the matter should be referred to the committee concerned, he said.

The Speaker National Assembly referred it to the Standing Committee on Interior.

The Minister for Information informed that the Margalla Avenue extension till Bari Imam was the new road development project that would be completed in next two months as swift progress was underway.

He added that the Serena Chowk underpass was conceived by the Minister Interior which was under the original plan to facilitate foreign guests and high profile functions which would start from Serena Chowk to Jinnah Convention Center would be launched soon.

SCO summit boosts Gwadar port's regional significance: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Thursday praised SCO summit as a resounding success, highlighting its potential to unlock new regional connectivity, opportunities and expressed optimism that exports will receive a significant boost through Gwadar Port, particularly as China relocates its industries to Pakistan.

Federal Minister expressed optimism about Gwadar Port's potential to drive Pakistan's economic growth while speaking to PTV news channel.

He emphasized that the port's success is crucial for the country's economic progress, he added.

China's decision to relocate its middle industries to Pakistan is expected to significantly boost the country's economy, he further mentioned. This strategic move will not only improve economic growth but also create numerous job opportunities for the local workforce, ultimately enhancing the overall standard of living, he said. Responding to a query, he said the SCO summit's successful conclusion has earned Pakistan widespread appreciation for its exceptional hospitality. It is an honor to have hosted this prestigious event, showcasing our country's capability to organize high-profile international gatherings seamlessly, he added.

FC carry out successful anti-smuggling operations

QUETTA (INP): Frontier Corps Balochistan along with other agencies is carrying out successful anti-smuggling operations in different areas of the province. The FC successfully foiled smuggling of illegal goods in the areas of Dera Murad Jamali, Barkhan, Pishin, Chaman, Nushki, Zhob and Panjaji during the past one month.

In these operations, the FC seized sixty-six metric tons sugar, more than five thousand three hundred liters Iranian diesel, seven hundred seventy-two tyres, twenty-nine metric tons milk powder and six metric tons betel nuts, Non-Custom vehicles, cigarettes and China salt.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ali Tareen in a group photo with Chairman Public Accounts Committee of Punjab Assembly Ali Haider Gilani and others during visit of Balochistan Assembly

Fawad heaps praise on Fazal for safeguarding constitution

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday singled out Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for putting up 'actual fight' for protecting the constitution of Pakistan.

Speaking to media outside Islamabad's accountability court, former minister lauded Maulana's point of view regarding constitutional amendment which

the latter shared with reporters after calling on Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif alongside top political leadership of other parties including President Asif Ali Zardari for consultations on proposed constitutional package.

Chaudhry, who is a lawyer himself, claimed that Maulana's stance was closest to that of legal community as well as of people who believed in democracy.

Over 150 arrested as violent protests against alleged Lahore rape spread to Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (INP): At least 150 violent protesters were arrested in Rawalpindi as police used tear gas to disperse students demonstrating against the alleged rape of a Lahore student.

Last week, reports related to the alleged rape of the private college student went viral on social media, prompting the police to arrest a security guard at the college who was allegedly involved in the incident.

Enraged by the alleged incident, students mobilised on social media and staged protests outside different colleges in Lahore in the past few days. On Monday, at least 28 were injured due to clashes with the security guards of the college and police.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has declared that the alleged rape was "fabricated news", blaming the PTI for spread-



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Rababa Buledi addressing on seminar on Woman Rights organized by Today Woman.

Amir presides meeting to review preparations about Kashmir Black Day

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and State & Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Engineer Amir Muqam on Thursday presided the meeting and reviewed the preparations regarding October 27 Kashmir Black Day.

In a statement, the minister said that Pakistanis had already given a clear message to the world that Kashmiri people were residing in their hearts.

He categorically stated that India had oppressively occupied Kashmir, which had been rejected by the Kashmiris.

He emphasized that an all-parties conference should be called on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to pressurize India to impede

its barbarism and genocide on innocent Kashmiris.

Amir Muqam said that Pakistan would continue its unwavering support to its Kashmiri brothers and sisters, adding that it was our national duty to remain Kashmir issue alive till independence.

"Pakistan would continue to provide political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri brothers until they achieve the right of self-determination according to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), he said.

Federal Ministries, Gilgit-Baltistan and the representatives of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) governments briefed the minister regarding the preparations and arrangements for Kashmir Black Day.



QUETTA: Chairman Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women Fouzia Shaheen meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Sustainable economic development must eradicate inequality, poverty: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan on Thursday said that sustainable economic development is essential for eradicating poverty and economic empowerment in the country. Wealth creation, equal distribution of wealth, and economic competitiveness in society are necessary to eradicate poverty and sustainable economic development in the country, the minister said.

The Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives said this while chairing a roundtable consultation on Targeting Zero poverty, here in the auditorium of Planning Development and Special Initiatives.

The minister said that quality education, gender equality and maintaining peace and justice in the society must be for sustainable economic development and prosperity in the country. Meanwhile, he announced a task force for sustainable economic development to remove inequality in the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said that this is the era of economic ideologies and the world is now distributed in geo-economic blocks and technology and export-driven economies are performing in the modern world. He said that data science and technology play a significant role in the economic development of modern states and countries.

Bilawal pays tributes to martyrs of Karsaz tragedy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid tributes to the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy on its 17th anniversary, solemnly commemorating the horrific attack that occurred on October 18, 2007.

Reflecting on the tragic day when 180 brave party workers laid down their lives, he expressed profound sorrow and reaffirmed the PPP's unwavering commitment to the ideals of democracy, justice, and sacrifice in the service of the people.

In a press release issued by then party Media Cell, he said, "The Karsaz bombing was a calculated conspiracy where dictatorship and terrorists joined forces, targeting the truck carrying Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and the central leadership of PPP, amidst a sea

of millions who had come to welcome her. Those who attempted to silence the voice of democracy with terror and violence have failed, and their efforts were in vain."

He further remarked, "The Karsaz tragedy is a solemn reminder of the ultimate price paid by our brave party workers, who sacrificed their lives for the noble cause of democracy. Their courage and selflessness remain etched in the history of our ongoing struggle for a peaceful, democratic Pakistan—a struggle led by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto."

Bilawal Bhutto emphasized that the blood of the Karsaz martyrs continues to inspire the fight against extremism, injustice, and the few forces that have historically sought to suppress the rights of the people.

BNP being kept away from democratic struggle: Agha Hasan concerned about disappearance of Senator Qasim Ronjho, son of Nasima Ehsan

Independent Report QUETTA: The central Secretary Information of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Agha Hasan Baloch has expressed concern about disappearance of the party's Senator Qasim Ronjho and son of Senator Nasima Ehsan from Islamabad and demanded of the government to ensure their immediate recovery.

He was addressing joint press conference along with other party leaders here at the Quetta Press Club on Thursday.

Agha Hasan Baloch mentioned that Senator Qasim Ronjho had gone for dialysis in Islamabad the other day (Wednesday) and since then, there are no whereabouts of him. Similarly, son of party's Senator Nasima Ehsan is also missing, he pointed out.

He condemned the raid at the lodges in Islamabad and harassment of party's senior leader,



Sajid Tareen Advocate.

He said that the people are not disappeared to use as a tool for getting the constitutional amendment passed.

He said that we are political and democratic people, and as such have always made democratic politics. However, adding he alleged that the party is being kept away from the political and democratic struggle. He also said that the federation has not comprehended the issue of

Balochistan till now.

He said that hatred are being created instead of sorting out the issue of Balochistan. He demanded of the government to ensure recovery of the party's senator Qasim Ronjho and son of Senator Nasima Shah immediately, otherwise strong stance would be adopted. He also stressed that the Establishment should take real representatives of the province in confidence to improve situation in the province.