

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXVI No. 65, Rabi-us-Sani 22, 1446 AH Saturday October 26, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

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

Six judges skip full court reference; Justice Yahya Afridi, AGP Mansoor Awan pay tribute to Qazi Faez Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said on Friday he may have made many wrong decisions but Allah knows the truth. Justice Isa was addressing a full court reference held in his honour in Courtroom No 1 of the Supreme Court.

Justice Isa shared his experiences and feelings with those who attended the reference. He thanked all his staff, including his guard Fayyaz and the registrar, for their support during his stay in the office.

He referred to the practice of taking notes on pieces of papers during hearing of cases. He said the notes helped him decide a

case according to the facts. "We have to adjudge who is right and who is wrong. The paper may favour a contestant (party) and go against the other," he added. "It is our duty to give justice," Justice Isa said. Chief Justice-designate Yahya Afridi paid Justice Isa tribute and said he learnt a lot from him. He said he was sad that he (Justice Isa) was leaving but glad that "you get time to spend with your family."

Justice Afridi said Justice Isa was an excellent human being. He disagreed with Justice Isa on many benches but "we played our role judiciously."

APP adds: A full court reference was held in the

Supreme Court on Friday in honor of the outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Chief Justice designate Yahya Afridi, Supreme Court judges, ad hoc judges, Shariat Appellate Court judges, bar association representatives and senior lawyers participated in the full court reference.

Speaking at the full court reference, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa thanked Allah Almighty for considering him worthy of the high position and said that he learned a lot during his tenure. He said that the role of lawyers is important in ensuring the delivery of jus-

Continued on page 2



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

PM greets nation as Pakistan Stock Exchange surpasses historic 90,000 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated the nation as the Pakistan Stock Exchange's 100-index exceeded the historic mark of 90,000 points.

In a statement issued by the PM Office, the prime minister said that gradual increase in the stock market since March 2024 reflected growing investor confidence in the government policies.

"Such a swift surge in Pakistan's stock market after 14 years is a result of untiring efforts of the economic team," PM Shehbaz said.

He attributed the 36% increase in the stock market since March 2024, a

significant reduction in the inflation rate and overall economic stability in the country to the efforts of the economic team.

He said the inflation rate had eased down from 38% to 6.9% while the current account had also been in surplus for last two months.

During the previous quarter, he said the Overseas Pakistanis dispatched record remittances worth US\$8.8 billion.

Similarly, the prime minister emphasized that the process of revising the contracts made with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) had also been initiated to provide maximum facilitation to the power consumers.

Furthermore, he said

that the long-term \$7 billion facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would also improve the country's economy.

"Dreams of those wishing Pakistan fell into default have been broken," he said adding that he had pledged with the people that he would not let the country, obtained through millions of sacrifices, fall victim to the consequences of the negligence of those who were incompetent.

He said, "We saved the country by sacrificing our politics."

The prime minister hoped that more good news regarding the improvement of the economy would come in the coming days.

No intention of joining govt, says Fazal

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

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

"I have no intention of joining the government. I am unaware of any such proposal; strong resistance will be made against the 27th constitutional amendment," he added.

Fazl noted that the 27th constitutional amendment is not simple. He refrained from commenting on Sheikh Rashid's remarks, stating that he fundamentally does not believe in retaliatory politics, filing cases against politicians, or banning political protests.

Nawaz Sharif leaves for Dubai

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President and former three-time prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif left Lahore for Dubai on Friday.

Nawaz Sharif travelled to Dubai by Emirates flight EK-625 which took off at 9:04 am. He will land in Dubai at 11:25 am local time.

After one-day stay in Dubai, the PML-N president will proceed to London, where he is expected to hold important meetings. On October 29, Nawaz Sharif will depart London for a four-day visit of the United States.

According to sources, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will also travel to London in the first week of November. After a few days' stay in London, both Nawaz Sharif and Maryam will tour different European countries. The former prime minister will also undergo medical check-up in London.

According to Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) spokesmen, the provincial Punjab CDA has carried a joint operation in the hilly area of Makarwal in which 10 terrorists were killed.

During the operation, the terrorists opened indis-

10 FC soldiers martyred in DI Khan check post attack

President, PM strongly condemn terror attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a tragic incident, 10 soldiers of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) laid down their lives in defense of their nation when Khawarij terrorists launched a fierce attack on an FC checkpoint in Darazinda, Dera Ismail Khan.

The assault, executed under the cover of darkness, was a well-coordinated effort by militants who targeted the Zam FC checkpoint using heavy weaponry.

According to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Interior, the FC soldiers stood firm and courageously fought back, ultimately

mately sacrificing their lives to protect the checkpoint and thwart the terrorists' assault.

The Ministry of Interior spokesperson confirmed that ten FC soldiers were martyred in the confrontation, and three others sustained injuries. Despite the overwhelming threat posed by the heavily armed attackers, the soldiers' bravery prevented the terrorists from advancing further. "The martyred soldiers thwarted the terrorists' attack on the checkpoint by laying down their lives," the spokesperson said, honor-

Continued on page 2

4 cops injured as convoy of prison vans attacked near Sangjani: police

All escaped prisoners including PTI MPs have been recaptured, according to police statement



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Armed suspects on Friday attacked a convoy of three police vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza outside Islamabad, police said.

According to a statement from the Islamabad Police spokesperson, the vans were transferring 82 prisoners to Attock Jail after an appearance before the district magistrate earlier today. The 82 prisoners included two PTI lawmakers and four party workers.

"About 20 suspects

riding in four vehicles attacked the prisoner vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza," the statement read, adding that the suspected assailants were armed with weapons, sticks and stones.

"Four police officers were injured in the attack, while four attackers were arrested," the statement added. "Two vehicles and weapons belonging to the suspects were seized."

Teams were formed to arrest the suspects and po-

Continued on page 2

Writ of state to be established at all costs: Info Minister

PTI orchestrated 'armed attack' on prison vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had orchestrated an armed attack on prison vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza.

"Armed workers of the PTI including a son of the

MPA of the PTI from KPK Liaquat Sahib attacked the prison vans which were carrying 83 detainees, and slowed down near the Sangjani Toll Plaza," said the minister while talking to the media.

He said upto 30 persons in four cars attacked the vans to help the detain-

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police Crackdown on Aid Hamas March under the auspices of Save Gaza Campaign, police arrested the protestors heading towards US Embassy in the Federal Capital.

Punjab police kill 10 terrorists in Mianwali

MIANWALI (NNI): In a major operation in the hilly area of Makarwal, the Punjab Police reportedly killed 10 terrorists during an intense exchange of fire.

The operation was launched following intelligence reports of the presence of 10 to 15 terrorists in the region.

According to Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) spokesmen, the provincial Punjab CDA has carried a joint operation in the hilly area of Makarwal in which 10 terrorists were killed.

During the operation, the terrorists opened indis-

criminate fire on the CTD team, forcing officials to return the fire and killing them on the spot, while several other terrorists managed to escape from the scene, the officials said, adding that a search operation has been launched for the arrest of the fleeing terrorists.

"All officers and men of the CTD and the Elite police remained safe in the firing," he said.

"A search continued in the area, while efforts were afoot to identify the deceased terrorists," he added. Punjab police chief congratulated the Mianwali police on the successful operation against terrorists.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting regarding progress on beautification of city and Quetta Development Package.

CM expresses resent on delay of Quetta's beautification work

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Friday expressed his anger over delay of work on the beauty of Quetta city and especially on Airport Road as directed the concerned authorities to speed up the work.

He shared these views while chairing a meeting regarding progress to the Quetta development package and the measures taken about the beauty of Quetta city.

The meeting beautification of Quetta City and other ongoing development project were reviewed. In the meeting, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Communications and Work Lal Jan Jafar, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shaqaat, Project Director Quetta Development Package Rafiq Ahmed, DG QDA Askar Khan and Special Secretary Finance Aurangzeb Khan Kasi and other concerned officials attended.

Project Director Quetta Development Package Rafiq Ahmed and Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shaqaat briefed the meeting on the progress on Quetta Development Package and the steps taken to beautify Quetta city.

In the meeting, Secretary C&W Lal Jan Jafar while giving a briefing said that the restoration of roads in Quetta inner city is going on and carpeting of all roads would be completed very soon.

In the briefing given by the Commissioner Quetta Division, it was informed that steps are being taken to beautify including Airport Road and Quetta. He said that in this regard, according to the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan, all related issues are being implemented.

The Chief Minister directed that various historical statues and parks planted for the purpose of beauty in Quetta city are damaged due to drug addicts saying that for which it is

necessary to make drug rehabilitation centers functional.

He directed that the Social Welfare Department should take special measures in this regard, the co-operation of private voluntary workers should also be obtained.

The CM said that there is no problem of lack of funding for the respective projects but it is important to ensure that the specified for completion of related work in time.

He instructed that the waste generated in the city should be disposed of in a timely manner and special attention should be paid to cleanliness.

Sarfaraz Bugti said that Quetta is the provincial capital and the beauty of the city should suggest that it is really a metropolitan city. In the meeting, various proposed projects related to the establishment of walking street in Quetta city were also considered and it was agreed to take early steps in this regard.



QUETTA: MPA Shahida Rauf meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti during Assembly session.

Governor emphasizes importance of promoting awareness about Balochistan's beauty

Independent Report QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Jafar Khan Mandokhail, praised the publication of "Balochistan: Air Panoramas & Landscapes" at a ceremony, calling it a vital step in showcasing the province's natural beauty.

The book, authored by Pilot Tahir Khan Kiani and Aziz Jamali, captures Balochistan's breathtaking landscapes and cultural heritage through stunning photography.

Governor Mandokhail emphasized the importance of promoting awareness about Balochistan's beauty

and attracting tourists. He stressed that beauty encompasses human emotions and feelings, not just visual experiences.

The ceremony was attended by Provincial Deputy Chief Minister Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, vice chancellors, provincial secretaries, and literary figures. Governor Mandokhail urged fostering a friendly environment, democratic values, and mutual respect for social stability and trust.

He congratulated the authors on their outstanding contribution and expressed hope for their continued endeavors.

PTI rules out deal behind Bushra Bibi's release on bail in new Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Omar Ayub has categorically refuted rumours of any deal in relation to the release of party founder Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi.

Ayub, also the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, was addressing journalists in Sargodha on Friday, saying, "Bushra Bibi's release is not part of any deal."

He said that Imran's wife was kept in wrongful confinement and "now she is in a safe place". He fur-

ther added that the Toshakhana case against the PTI founder was also false.

The politico's statement comes a day after Bushra, whose incarceration continued at the Adiala jail in a separate Toshakhana-2 case filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), was released from jail after spending around nine months behind bars.

She was initially held after being sentenced to 14 years in prison in January 2024 in the original Toshakhana case.

Govt taking concrete steps to end polio in Balochistan: CS

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Secretary (CS) Shakeel Qadir Khan on Friday said that the provincial government is taking concrete steps to eradicate polio from the province.

He said this while presiding over a high-level meeting regarding anti-polio campaign in the province.

The progress of the previous anti-polio campaign and the preparations for the upcoming campaign were reviewed in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that eradicating polio from the province is a common responsibility of all of us.

He said that scholars, parents, civil society and

people associated with the media should play their role in the national anti-polio campaign because this is a common problem of all and we all have to play a vanguard role to end this deadly virus.

He said that by giving two drops of polio vaccine, we have to protect our children from permanent disability.

Children are our future and we will protect our future.

The Secretary said that the polio campaign must be made successful for a healthy Pakistan and for the success of the polio campaign, the public should fully cooperate with the teams.

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MPs expressing their views on resolutions presented in Balochistan Assembly session

Speakers urge UN to uphold resolutions on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speakers at a seminar in Islamabad raised serious concerns about the credibility of the United Nations, emphasizing the Indian government's ongoing violations of UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Kashmir dispute.

According to Kashmir Media Service, titled "United Nations and the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute," the event coincided with UN Day and was organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). It brought together academics, practitioners, think-tank experts, students, and media representatives.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the UN's crucial role in the Kashmir conflict, commending its support for a solution based on relevant Security Council resolutions. He advocated for a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices, enabling Kashmiris to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. He firmly rejected any attempts to equate this just struggle with terrorism and called on the international community to

fulfill its commitments to the Kashmiri people, urging India to honor its own obligations. He stressed that the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora must actively raise global awareness through extensive parliamentary and media outreach.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the significance of UN Day as an opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the UN Charter and multilateralism. While acknowledging the UN's humanitarian efforts, he noted that both multilateralism and the UN institution are facing challenges from certain member states.

He urged states and the UN to address international peace and security issues based on principles rather than power.

In his address, chief guest Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, reflected on the historical events leading to the ongoing Kashmir tragedy since 1947.



QUETTA: Provincial Amir JUI Maulana Abdul Wasey and MPAs attending dinner hosted by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti



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

10 FC soldiers martyred in DI Khan...

Continued from page 1
in the soldiers' ultimate sacrifice.

Among the martyrs, six soldiers hailed from South Waziristan, while four were from the Karak district. The names of the martyrs have been released, including Naib Subedar Muhammad Jan, Naik Arif, Lance Naik Saeed-ur-Rehman, Sepoy Akhunzada, and Sepoy Hazratullah. Sepoys Mushtaq, Abdul Samad, Imran, Basir, and Mehtab also embraced martyrdom.

Their brave resistance served as a testament to their commitment to the security of Pakistan and the preservation of peace in the region.

Three FC personnel were also wounded during the exchange of fire with the attackers. The injured soldiers—Naik Hamza, Sepoy Hasan, and Sepoy Sabir Ayub—were swiftly transferred to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH)

in Dera Ismail Khan for medical treatment. Their condition is currently stable, and they are receiving the necessary care.

Paying tribute to the martyred soldiers, the spokesperson emphasized that the FC remained unwavering in its resolve to combat terrorism and secure peace for Pakistan.

"We pay tribute to the martyrs of the FC," the spokesperson stated, noting that these great sacrifices only serve to strengthen the forces' determination to eradicate terrorism. The Frontier Constabulary remains committed to eliminating the scourge of terrorism and ensuring peace," the spokesperson added.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday expressed condolence over the martyrdom of 10 FC personnel in a terrorist attack took place in Dera Ismail Khan.

The president strongly

condemned the terror attack and paid tribute to the FC personnel who embraced martyrdom, according to a President House press release.

Lauding the patriotism of the martyred soldiers, President Zardari conveyed his condolence to the bereaved families.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in paradise and for strength for their families to bear the loss.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Dera Ismail Khan and Bannu Districts, which claimed lives of security personnel.

The prime minister paid tribute to the Frontier Constabulary personnel who embraced martyrdom while bravely fighting terrorists in the Drazanda area of DI Khan.

ECP sets deadline for postal ballot applications

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Election Commission of Pakistan has announced that the last date for submitting postal ballot applications for the by-elections in constituency PB-08 Sibi is October 28, 2024. This facility is available to government servants, members of the armed forces, their spouses, and children who are registered voters but are deployed outside their constituency. Additionally, individuals with disabilities who possess a disability logo on their National Identity

Card issued by NADRA are also eligible to apply.

The Commission has instructed returning officers to accept postal ballot applications on a specific form. Election officials, police personnel, and other staff deployed on election duty in polling stations outside their constituency must submit their applications within three days of deployment. This decision aims to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote in the upcoming by-elections.

DC leads open court session in Gwadar

Independent Report

GWADAR: An open court session was held in Gwadar under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Hamood Ur Rehman, where various public issues were discussed openly.

The session was attended by Director General Gwadar Development Authority Shafiqat Anwar Shahwani, Commanding Officer 9 AK Farhan, SSP Gwadar Ziaullah Mandokhail, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Bohir Dashti, Assistant Commissioner Gwadar Mir Javed Ahmed Zehri, Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Gwadar Majid Johar, Tehsildar Gwadar Changiz Baloch, journalists, political and social leaders, civil society representatives, and citizens.

The purpose of the open court session was to bring citizens' issues directly to the attention of relevant authorities, ensuring prompt resolution.

Yar Muhammad Abro passes away

Independent Report

QUETTA: Yar Muhammad Abro, a respected resident of Quetta, passed away after a brief illness. He was the father of Deputy Director Agriculture Extension Quetta, Manzoor Ahmed Abro, and Ali Abro, Zahid Ali Abro. He was also the father-in-law of Dr. Muhammad Alam Baloch, Akramullah Bangulzai, Khalil Ahmed Kurd, Abdul Rauf Rodini, and Bilawal Zehri. The deceased was the grandfather of Arsalan Manzoor and Wahajat Manzoor, and the maternal grandfather of Muhammad Aslam Abro.

4 cops injured...

Continued from page 1

Police also started search operations in different areas, while all escaped prisoners were recaptured by police, according to the statement. "The police teams handled the whole situation very bravely," it added.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police spokesperson confirmed the incident, stating that the assailants numbered between 25 to 30, armed and firing to break the prisoners free. "This was a planned assault, intended to free individuals implicated in terrorism cases related to the recent PTI protests," said the spokesperson.

Armed Forces, CJCSC, services chiefs pay tribute to Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed



RAWALPINDI (PR): The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs, and Armed Forces of Pakistan pay heartfelt tribute to Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on his 76th martyrdom anniversary.

Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed displayed unwavering valour in defending Pir Kaleva Ridge against relentless Indian assaults in 1948. His selfless heroism serves as an enduring inspiration to those safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.

Today's commemoration honours the extraordinary sacrifices of Pakistan's Armed Forces, exemplifying their unyielding dedication to defending the motherland.

We solemnly remember these gallant heroes who laid down their lives for the nation. The nation remains eternally proud of its brave sons.

Writ of state to be established...

Continued from page 1

ees to escape from the custody of the police which had successfully repulsed the attack. Two police personnel got injured, but all those who tried to flee had been re-arrested.

Four assailants including the son of the PTI's MPA have been arrested, while their weapons and two cars were taken into custody, he said, adding interrogation of the arrested persons was underway.

Tarar said rest of the assailants and their cars were being traced and would be taken into custody soon. All those involved in the planning and abetment of the attack would face the law, he added.

The authorities had the CCTV footage of the attack, said the minister while debunking a flimsy story worked out by the PTI which claims that the police had staged the attack and itself opened the gates of the vans for prisoners and then vandalized the vehicles by themselves.

The PTI's reaction over the incident is "ludicrous," he said asking its spokesperson to be ashamed of himself for churning out such lies that showed the party had nothing to do but "deceit and fraud."

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Communication Department District Quetta invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023, Government of Balochistan, from interested contractors / firms for the works listed below: **Earnest Money (2%) in shape of call deposit, Tender Fee Rs. 1500/- in head of account C-02716) and Time limit 30-06-2025 for each work.**

S#	Name of Work	E/Cost
1.	BT ROAD AT GOMAL CHOWK AND LINK STREETS KHAROTABAD QUETTA PSPD NO 1429, Z2024.0589 TSE-242510580753	29.714 M
2.	BT ROAD AT ZARTAJ COLONY AND LINK STREETS KHAROTABAD PSPD NO 1663 Z2024.0588 TSE-242510580763	39.619 M

Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant Category C-5 & above in relevant discipline i.e. CE01 & CE09 registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN, BRA and Sales Tax Department), where applicable. Three Years Relevant Work Experience. Turn-over of last three years. **BID SECURITY:** The bid must accompany bid security in the form of call deposit of amount specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. **TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment (non-refundable) bidding documents fee mentioned above through green challan deposited in the head of account C-02716 civil work through Govt. Treasury / National Bank of Pakistan and bidding documents can also be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk under TSE No. given above against each scheme. **ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The tender documents will be issued from the date of publication of this NIT till date of submission i.e. 11-11-2024 during office hours. **DEADLINE OF BID SUBMISSION:** The technical and financial proposals from intending contractors / firms sealed in two separate envelopes clearly marked with work title and type of proposal must be submitted latest by 11-11-2024 at 1:00 PM at the office of the undersigned. **TENDER OPENING:** The Envelope containing technical bids will be opened on the same day i.e. 11-11-2024 at 2:00 PM in the office of the undersigned before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives. Second envelope containing financial bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened later the date and time of which will be communicated after evaluation of technical bids. **PLACE OF ISSUANCE AND SUBMISSION WILL BE:-** Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Communication Department Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali Road Chaman Pattak Quetta. Telephone No.081-9203275. E-mail Address: secretarycwbalochistan@gmail.com **BID VALIDITY PERIOD:** Ninety (90) Days. Phone 0819203275

Executive Engineer
Communication Works PP&H
Department, District Quetta

PRQ No.1628/25-10-2024

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gov @dpr_gov @dpr_gov @dpr_gov

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed gallop tender on form 'B-I & B-II as per schedule 'A&B' are invited from the approved Government Contractor/Firm of Public Health Engineering Department Balochistan who are enlisted / renewal their name for the current financial year 2024-25 for the following works E/Money 2% in shape of CDR for each work

S.No	Name of Work	Qty	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS WITH SOLAR SYSTEM AT KILLI MARDAN KHAN INAYATULLAH KAREZ GULISTAN IN DISTRICT KILLA ABDULLAH PSPD NO. 5392.		
i)	Supply & Installation of Solar Machinery	1 Set	9305,000/-
ii)	CIVIL WORK (Providing Laying, Jointing of PVC Pipe Line) 1400 Rft	1 Job	592,500/-

The Contractor must have registration with Drilling Directorate I&P Department or PHE Department E&M Division Quetta with tax authority's i.e. as well as will be registered with BPPRA (NTN & sales tax Department) valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in category who have deposited enlistment/ Renewal Fee for the Year 2024-25, Tender fee deposited in head of account C-02725-02 through green Challan form original in National Bank of Pakistan Chaman Rs. 650/- & Rs 1500/- of each work and fulfill all the requirements of BPPRA METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single stage single envelope procedure **BIDDING TENDER DOCUMENTS:** ISSUANCE Tender Form/Documents will be issued to bidders/contractors on publishing of notice in newspaper up to 06-11-2024 at 11 A.M from the presentation of requisite documents i.e tender fee (nonrefundable). Bid security/Earnest Money 2% in shape of call deposit valid. For Supply of Pipe only Manufacturer are participate in the tender. No any authority letter is allowed to another **SUBMISSION** last date of submission is 12-11-2024 at 1:00 PM **OPENING** The tender will be opened on 12-11-2024 at 2:00 PM **PLACE OF ISSUANCE** Submission inquiries and opening will be :- **ADDRESS:-** Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Killa Abdullah **Email Address.** Headclerk10071967@gmail.com **NOTE** It may be noted that no pay order will be accepted/entertained and Firm complete title name should be written on call deposit. Only original Contractor are allowed to Participate in the tenders. Agent/Representative will not be allowed. **CONDITIONS** All the terms and conditions can be seen/obtain in the Office of the undersigned in any office hours

Executive Engineer,
Public Health Engineering
Division Killa Abdullah

PRQ No.1630/25-10-2024

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gov @dpr_gov @dpr_gov @dpr_gov

Govt taking concrete....

Continued from page 1

Fool proof security will be provided to all the teams participating in the polio campaign, he noted.

He said that the polio campaign has to be successful in every way, no negligence would be tolerated, polio is a national problem.

We all have to play our part to remedy this. In this campaign we have to reach every child and administer the drops and cooperate with the administration to convince the refusing parents because it is a common problem of the whole society in order to make the campaign successful/ the Chief Secretary instructed to appoint all the ladies health workers, ladies health visitors of the health department and to dismiss them for neglecting their duties.

He also directed all Deputy Commissioners to attend the evening review

meeting.

While briefing the meeting, it was informed that the seven-day anti-polio campaign would start from Monday on October 28 across Balochistan.

More than 2,655 million children would be given polio vaccine. 11 thousand teams would participate in the polio campaign. Preparations are completed, cases have been reported from Chaman, Dera Bugti, Kila Abdullah, Quetta, Jhal Magsi, Zhob, Qila Saifullah and Kharan.

Secretary Health Mujib-ur Rehman Panizai, Secretary Population Welfare Abdullah Khan, Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafiqat, Director General Health Amin Mandukhail, Provincial Coordinator EOC Inamul Haq and others while commissioners, deputy commissioners and DHOs participated through video link.

May have made wrong...

Continued from page 1

reference, traditionally attended by Supreme Court justices to bid farewell to the departing CJP, saw a reduced attendance this time.

The oath-taking ceremony of new CJP Justice Yahya Afridi will take place tomorrow. President Asif Ali Zardari will administer the oath to the new CJP.

On Thursday night, a farewell dinner was hosted by the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Pakistan Bar Council in honour of outgoing CJP Qazi Faez Isa.

The event was attended by the nominated Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, Supreme Court judges, and Chief Justices of all high courts.

Justice Yahya Afridi said that the problems of the bar will be solved on priority basis. He said that we got to learn a lot from Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Justice Afridi expressed his best wishes for Justice Qazi Faez Isa and his family.

Speaking on the occasion, Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan said that Justice Qazi Faez Isa in his 15 year service has been firm on constitution, law, democracy and accountability. Justice Isa also has been supporter of freedom of speech and women's rights, he said.

The Attorney General said that Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa gave a historic decision in the Faizabad sit-in case and he explained the role of the law enforcement agencies. Mansoor Usman Awan said that the Justice Isa also decided to live broadcast the proceedings of the cases. He made important decisions like handing over the powers of the Chief Justice to the committee.

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE (CUSTOMS, TAXATION & ANTI-SMUGGLING-I) KARACHI
BLOCK No. 51, PAKISTAN SECTT, SADDAR, KARACHI
BEFORE: MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK (JUDGE)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED UNDER SECTION 87 CR.P.C.

CASE No. 255/2023 **FIR No.01/2023**

THE STATE.....Versus.....MURAD BUX & OTHERS

To,
THE INVESTIGATION OFFICER, ASIF ALI GHUMRO.

Whereas, complaint has been made before this Court that accused **Owner of Goods Transport Company M/s Sitara Zubair Ahmed Goods Transport Co. Hazar Gangni, Quetta**, has committed the offence of **Smuggling** punishable under Section 2(s) & 16 and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Owner of Goods Transport Company M/s Sitara Zubair Ahmed Goods Transport Co. Hazar Gangni, Quetta** cannot be found and where as it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Owner of Goods Transport Company M/s Sitara Zubair Ahmed Goods Transport Co. Hazar Gangni, Quetta** absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made the accused **Owner of Goods Transport Company M/s Sitara Zubair Ahmed Goods Transport Co. Hazar Gangni, Quetta** required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on this **26th day of October, 2024.**

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 10th day of October, 2024.

(SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK)
SPECIAL JUDGE (CUSTOMS, TAXATION & ANTI-SMUGGLING-I)
KARACHI
PID(H)146/2024

Accurate reporting key to tackling trafficking and smuggling: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday emphasised the crucial role of accurate reporting in guiding government actions, particularly in combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, where media plays a vital part.

He expressed these views while addressing an interactive session with journalists on media reporting in Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) and bonded labor in Pakistan organized by the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), where he was the chief guest.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi praised SSDO's initiative and called the awareness session a significant effort in addressing Trafficking in persons and forced labor. He said that media reports on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) play a critical role in shaping national policies

and improving society. "Accurate reporting, based on factual information and current laws, can support the government's efforts in dismantling trafficking networks," he said.

He explained that the police handle cases of internal trafficking within the country, while the FIA is responsible for investigating cross-border trafficking.

The Governor further stressed the importance of protecting the identities and dignity of victims when reporting on these sensitive issues. He encouraged media professionals to evaluate the actions of law enforcement agencies within the framework of the law to improve their effectiveness. He also said that the media can serve as a bridge between victims and governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide legal aid.

On this occasion, Executive Director of SSDO, Syed Kausar Abbas, expressed his gratitude to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and Journalists for

attending the event. He highlighted the growing concern of Trafficking in persons (TIP) and bonded labor in Pakistan. Syed Kausar Abbas stressed that to tackle these issues, media and law enforcement agencies must collaborate with a solid strategy.

He added that it is very important to fully implement the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 to counter this challenge.

During the session, journalists were briefed on national and international laws related to trafficking in persons (TIP). Syed Kausar Abbas informed the participants that Trafficking in persons in Pakistan occurs in two forms, internal trafficking within the country and cross-border trafficking.

He said that children under the age of 18 are most vulnerable with child labor and exploitation in commercial sex being widespread. Both men and women, as well as children and transgender's are victims of this exploitation.



Coordinator to PM on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam taking briefing on the G-Tech Hub initiative at the NUST Islamabad campus.

My City smart application to enable world class amenities on single click: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday apprised the Lower House of the Parliament that a smart city application "My City" would be rolled out soon that would enable world class civic amenities on a single click of their smartphones. He was responding to a query of Members National Assembly (MNAs) with Member Panel of Chairpersons, Syeda Shehla Raza in chair.

Tarar said the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Information Technology Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior were preparing the Smart City App titled "My City" that would provide facilities such as paying utility bills and access to other civic facilities.

He added that efforts are underway to hire international consultants to ensure zoning of the federal capital as an IT Park and

state of the art cancer hospital would be established in Islamabad.

During the interim government, a revised plan was submitted on 22 January, 2024 to the Cabinet Committee to observe international best practices in modernizing mega urban centers through hiring international consultants.

Commenting on the metrobus feeder routes, Attaullah Tarar said the I-16 Sector is under development.

Romina highlights visual arts' role in wildlife protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Friday said that while the climate change impacts grow more frequent and intense, innovative approaches such as painting and visual arts can play a vital role to sensitise policy makers and public about various threats being faced by the wildlife species.

"In the face of escalating threats to wildlife and their habitats, the role of painting and visual art has never been seen more crucial as in today's times of global warming. Artists can effectively use their talents to illuminate the pressing issues surrounding wildlife vulnerability, inspiring action and fostering a deeper connection between communities and the natural world," the PM's climate aide remarked during her

keynote address at an inaugural ceremony of the Wildlife Art Exhibition here at the Pakistan National Council of Arts.

Through compelling imagery, artists' role is of unprecedented importance to highlight the beauty and fragility of endangered species and threatened ecosystems for public awareness. Because, paintings and visual art have always served as powerful visual narratives that hold the power to effectively engage the public, prompting conversations about the urgent need for conservation. Romina Khurshid Alam observed that art possesses the unique ability to evoke emotions and cultivate empathy. Therefore, by exhibiting wildlife in their natural habitats, artists can play an effective role to encourage viewers to reflect on the struggles faced by these creatures.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Muhyuddin Ahmad Wani presenting certificates to the participants during launch of the Pakistan Education Statistics Reports 2022-23, highlighting progress in both formal and non-formal education.

IHC disposed of petition after PTI founder granted lawyer access

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday disposed of a contempt petition after three lawyers were permitted to meet the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder. The meeting was held on court orders, addressing previous complaints that lawyers had been barred from meeting their client.

Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan of the Islamabad High Court heard the case. The contempt petition, filed by lawyer Faisal Chaudhry, alleged that authorities had restricted the

PTI founder's legal team from visiting him, despite a court directive allowing them access.

During the hearing, Chaudhry confirmed that, following the court's permission, he and two other lawyers were able to meet the PTI founder. He claimed the founder's basic rights were being violated in jail and requested the court's intervention to safeguard those rights.

However, Justice Khan declined to address these broader concerns in the current case.

ITP issues alternative routes amid Security measures in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Friday implemented a route plan in light of the current law and order situation, restricting access to Jinnah Avenue via Express Chowk from China Chowk.

A public relations officer told APP that, Embassy Road from the intersection with Fazl-e-Haq Road towards Ayub Chowk is also closed, as well as Embassy Road from the intersection with Nazimud-Din Road towards Suharwardy Road.

Citizens are advised to use alternative routes, including Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Luqman Hakeem Road, and the Polyclinic Underpass to avoid any travel inconvenience.

Islamabad Traffic Police stated that officers are present on the roads to assist citizens and ensure a smooth traffic flow. He said citizens should stay updated on the latest traffic situation by tuning in to Islamabad Police's Radio FM 92.4 or contacting the helpline at Pukar 15.

IG orders officials to eliminate crime from Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) going investigations.

IGP also issued orders to senior police officers to



Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi presided over a crime control meeting at the Central Police Office (CPO) Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the meeting was attended by DIG Headquarters Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, DIG Security Jawad Tariq, and other senior police officers.

During the meeting, IGP reviewed the overall crime situation and crime prevention measures in the federal capital.

He gives necessary directions to the police officers regarding the arrest of accused involved in robbery, murder, street crime, and other cases, as well as obtaining evidence for on-

pay special attention to heinous crimes, street crime, and crime hotspots. He emphasized that protecting the lives, property, and honor of citizens in Islamabad is the utmost priority for the Islamabad Police.

Moreover, the IG Islamabad reviewed the overall security situation in the federal capital. He directed police officers to ensure effective security arrangements to maintain law and order in the federal capital and further emphasized that strict checking should be implemented at all entry and exit points of the city, along with keeping a close watch on suspicious elements.

Interactive Session with Media persons on Media Reporting on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants & Bonded Labor in Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi attends Interactive session with media persons during an event arranged by SSDO.

Pakistan to continue supporting depressed Kashmiris until final resolution: Ch Anwar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Kashmir Affairs, and Gilgit-Baltistan Ch Anwar Ul Haq on Friday said that Pakistan will continue its support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) until the final resolution of the dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions and as per aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Talking to APP, he said that the criminal silence of world over the human rights violation, unilateral decision of August 05, 2019, and non-implementation of UN resolutions has been encouraging Indian to continue with its brutal policies. Kashmiri people are enduring multi-faceted curbs, with their leadership incarcerated and their voice muzzled. However, the ongoing human rights violations cannot dampen the

Kashmiris' just struggle, he added.

He said it was very unfortunate that Kashmir dispute was still unresolved despite agreed resolutions of UNSC.

He was of the view that India has let loose reign of terror in occupied Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiris' voice and punish them for demanding right to self-determination, while on August 05, 2019, it also revoked special status of Kashmir to pave for settler colonization.

The nightmare that started on October 27, 1947, has not ended yet for people of Kashmir who are suffering every single day under the occupational forces, he said.

Currently, India maintains around one million troops in Kashmir, making it the most militarized zone in the world, he lamented.



ISLAMABAD: Art enthusiasts admire the beautiful works at the "Through The Veil of Dreams" painting exhibition by artist Tabinda Chinoy at Gallery 6 in Federal Capital.

Pak education statistics report highlights growth in institutions, enrollments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) has unveiled the "Pakistan Education Statistics Report 2022-23," highlighting encouraging data on formal and informal education across the country. Compared to the previous year, the number of educational institutions has risen by 12%, student enrollment has increased by 3%, and the number of teachers has grown by 19%. Additionally, 74% of primary schools now offer basic sanitation facilities, and 72% provide access to drinking water.

The gross enrollment ratio in primary education stands at 78%, including 83% boys and 72% girls, while the ratios for middle, high, and higher secondary levels are 54%, 43%, and 22%, respectively.

This progress reflects improvements in educational facilities and quality,

playing a crucial role in stabilizing the education system. However, the report emphasizes the need for continuous development to tackle ongoing challenges in the education sector.

The PIE, in collaboration with JICA and AQAL, hosted a formal event to launch the "Statistics Report on Formal and Informal Education in Pakistan 2022-23." Chief Guest, Secretary Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, Mohayuddin Din Ahmad Wani praised the efforts of the Pakistan Institute of Education and stressed the importance of utilizing these findings for targeted reforms to improve national educational outcomes. Dr. Muhammad Shahid Saroya, Director General of PIE, shed light on the report, stating that the number of educational institutions rose from 313,445 in 2021-22.

DGRE registers 17,738 Madaris till September

ISLAMABAD (APP): Directorate General Religious Education (DGRE) under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is the only department at Federal Level to register Deeni Madaris in the country and has already registered 17,738 Madaris till 11th of September, 2024.

In a written reply, the Senate was told that any Madrasa which wants to get register with DGRE submits its application on standard form. After scrutiny of registration form certificate is then issued.

DGRE has provided financial assistance to 598 registered Deeni Madaris by providing 1196 teachers.

It was also informed the Upper House that DGRE appoints teachers on the recommendations of concerned Madrasa and Wafaq who fulfil the laid down criteria which includes minimum Bachelors Degree with English, Mathematics and General Science subjects.

Senate told 367 Pak students offered hunricum scholarships during last 3yrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar announced on Friday that, under the Bilateral Exchange Scholarships Program (Stipendium Hungaricum), a total of 367 Pakistani students have been awarded scholarships over the past three years. Responding to a question from Senator Shahadat Awan during the Senate session, Senator Tarar provided a provincial breakdown, stating that approximately 123 students received Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships during this period. In a supplementary query, Senator Kamran Murtaza emphasized that these scholarships should be allocated to students from Balochistan based on their domicile.



ISLAMABAD: view of Pakistan, Kashmir and black flags installed on Faizabad bridge in the Federal Capital on the eve of Black Day heald on 27th October.

Chairman NA panel calls for modernization of PTV to safeguard national ideology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting and Member of the National Assembly Pullain Baloch on Friday emphasized the vital role of Pakistan Television Corporation and praised PTV Quetta Centre's dedication to enhancing understanding and unity through its consistent coverage of Balochistan's cultural and social landscape. During the visit, a comprehensive briefing was to him by Syed Faheem Shah, General Manager PTV Quetta along with Gul Shah Bukhari, Program Manager, Javed Ali Hazara, Incharge Bolan.

full support and commitment to addressing the challenges faced by PTV, said a press release. He affirmed the significance of the PTV in fostering national harmony through balanced portrayal of Balochistan's diverse culture and society and praised PTV Quetta Centre's dedication to enhancing understanding and unity through its consistent coverage of Balochistan's cultural and social landscape. During the visit, a comprehensive briefing was to him by Syed Faheem Shah, General Manager PTV Quetta along with Gul Shah Bukhari, Program Manager, Javed Ali Hazara, Incharge Bolan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Pervaiz Ali Sandela and Olympian Khawaja Junaid in Federal Capital.

CDA plans bicycle tracks with sustainability in mind

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA), Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, is pushing forward with an ambitious plan to bring bicycle tracks to Islamabad, blending scenic beauty with sustainable transit options.

A high-level meeting was held on Friday to review the proposed designs, attended by key CDA members, officials, and consultants from the National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK).

The project aims to make cycling a feasible, eco-friendly, and affordable commuting choice in the city.

NESPAK consultants briefed participants on various track design options, all based on an extensive topographic survey. The most suitable design will soon be finalized, focusing on both functionality and aesthetics.

Chairman Randhawa stressed that the tracks should serve as a green transportation alternative while enhancing

Islamabad's visual appeal. He highlighted the importance of phased development that adheres to international standards without compromising affordability.

Exploring potential international funding sources was also discussed to ensure project feasibility. To support sustainability, the Chairman proposed digital advertising boards along the tracks to generate revenue.

Additionally, he emphasized the inclusion of electric bikes and charging stations to make commuting greener and more convenient.

Environmental preservation remains central to the CDA's strategy, with plans to work closely with NESPAK to ensure minimal impact on the city's natural green spaces.

The CDA has reaffirmed its commitment to introducing cost-effective and sustainable transportation solutions that align with Islamabad's vision as a green, livable city.

IRSA releases 106,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 106,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 66,500 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1533.60 feet and was 135.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 35,500 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1193.95 feet, which was 143.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,300 cusecs.

Senate adjourned amid lack of quorum till Oct 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate of Pakistan was adjourned Friday to meet again on October 28 (Monday) at 3 pm for lack of quorum.

As the session of the House resumed after a two-day break, question hour was underway when lack of quorum was pointed out. PPP Senator Saleem Mandviwalla who was presiding over the sitting adjourned the House for reconvening after 30 minutes.

Later, as the House reconvened, the quorum was again pointed out, the count was made but the House was not in order, forcing the Chair to adjourn the session till Monday.

50th death anniversary of writer gha Shorish observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 50th death anniversary of famous journalist, scholar, and writer Agha Shorish Kashmiri was observed on Friday. He was born in Lahore in 1917, British India. Agha Shorish Kashmiri initially gained recognition as a journalist and orator. He started his political career in 1935 when he delivered a historic speech at the Shaheed Ganj Mosque conference.

He was deeply involved in the Pakistan Movement, advocating for Muslim political rights in British India.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Saturday October 26, 2024

Yearly trouble

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

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

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

Faisal Bari

A seven-year-old recently asked me, while crying, why learning was so difficult and took so much time. She was trying to learn to read and write basic Urdu and was having a difficult time. A couple of days ago, a 19-year-old in an economics class I am teaching, also asked me the same question. Why was learning so difficult and why did it take so much time and effort? She was close to tears.

Learning does take time. We are not dealing with information or facts alone. When learning, we are dealing with knowledge acquisition and the development of understanding. It takes time. The same material needs to be presented a number of times to the student; it needs to be contextualised; it needs to be provided in different contexts, in different ways, using different applications and applying it to different cases. The idea is that the child should understand the concepts being presented, their applications and have the ability to play with them and utilise

them for looking at the world or for solving issues she might be facing. Learners need to make mistakes and see them as a necessary means of learning.

Not only is all of the above time-consuming, it also demands a high degree of effort from the student. But, if it is any consolation, the learning process is more or less similar for all. Why is it then that some students struggle more than others? There are differences in ability but these tend to be within a narrow spectrum. And I do not have any insights on what explains individual differences. But my teaching experience of almost three decades points to some general trends too.

Students' ability and willingness to hold ambiguity in place and have patience with it have declined. Students want learning to be instant. The idea of curating ideas, finessing them, working on them for some time till they sink in deeper has become alien to students. Instead, the search is for quick understanding, quick answers, correct answers, and low tolerance

for process.

Is this being driven by the age of Google search and instant internet via phones? A friend's child asked him "what does God look like?". My friend said, "I don't know", and was still thinking about how to explain the concept when the child said impatiently, "why don't you Google it Baba?"

Facts are taken to be knowledge and understanding. Television, internet and social media have definitely increased access to facts, news and views exponentially. But the news and views are pre-packaged and the effort to make them more accessible to the people means students do not have to exert much effort if they want to go with the given news and views and base their own opinions on them.

With the introduction of AI tools like Chat GPT, the trends will be strongly reinforced. If we are only teaching students to have an acquaintance with the facts, news and views, what do we need teachers for? Chat GPT-type programmes could be

much more superior to error-prone human teachers.

Our schools tend to have a large number of subjects and a heavy syllabus for each subject in each grade. English, Urdu, Islamiat, Pakistan Studies, Nazara Quran, mathematics, social studies and science — almost all of these are taught in most grades and the syllabus for each subject is quite heavy with regard to 'learning objectives'. This means teachers are usually more concerned about covering the syllabus and completing all lessons and chapters than how well the students, especially those who might take a bit of time to internalise material, are learning.

The fast pace of the class focuses the student on learning material that she is being exposed to and reproducing it for examinations and tests. It does not encourage the development of reflection, critical (or any other) thinking, and development of understanding. It has no place for making mistakes and learning from them: only the right answers are expected, and that too, all

the time. It does not facilitate the development of an individual's mental prowess, voice and personality.

Our tests and examinations, mostly based on the need to recall what has been taught in class, reinforce the trend towards reproduction rather than reflection, thinking and reimagining. 'Teaching to the test' is a common phenomenon in education. If the test privileges recall, this is what teaching will be about and what teachers, parents and students will focus on.

After schooling in Pakistan I went to university in England, where one of the first pieces of advice I received from a very wise teacher, after he read one of my first essays, was: "Faisal, this is not an essay. It tells me all about what Mill [it was on J.S. Mill's 'On Liberty'] said and what his critics have said, but I did not need you to tell me all this. It is there already. I wanted to know what Faisal thinks about these issues. And this is what is missing from your essay." It does not encourage the development of reflection, critical (or any

other) thinking, and development of understanding. It has no place for making mistakes and learning from them: only the right answers are expected, and that too, all the time. This piece of advice changed the world for me. It changed the way I studied, thought, analysed, argued and wrote. We need wise teachers in our system too. And we need to alter the system, in terms of flexibilities about pace and material and how we test or examine children.

But the changes needed now are a lot more than those that can be carried out in the education sector alone. We need to figure out how to internalise the impact of technology, internet and social media, too. Today's children are being shaped by their screen time and by what they can do online.

It is also shaping the way they access information and their learning processes. Learning requires slowing down and taking time. They are being shaped by instant processes and answers. How this thesis and anti-thesis can be synthesised is the question. -- Courtesy Dawn

Digital Pied Pipers of Pakistan**Shaukat Ahmed**

For years, Pakistan felt more like a cherished memory of childhood and adolescent travels than a living reality, its struggles and triumphs observed from afar.

Preoccupied with our own lives in distant lands, it's easy to feel disconnected. Two years ago, guilted by family and friends as well as a yearning to bridge this chasm, I embarked on a journey to reconnect with my ancestral homeland. My first instinct was to turn to mainstream media, expecting it to serve as a window into the nation's current affairs.

The media landscape I encountered resembled a circus of sensationalism and political pandering, subject to the whim of editorial agendas and the capricious tides of public opinion. A constant diet of political intrigue and impending doom kept viewers glued to their screens, translating into a steady flow of advertising revenue. TV anchors, enamoured of the sound of their own dulcet tones, held court nightly, with an ever-expanding army of self-proclaimed 'Senior Analysts'.

I wondered how every analyst was a Senior Analyst. Had they sprouted fully formed from the earth, armed with an inflated sense of their own significance, the tireless persistence of a broken record, and an uncanny ability to pander to whichever political deity they had chosen to worship? Their most distinctive trait was a penchant for painting with only two colours: the pitch black of vilification or the blinding white of glorification, depending on the narrative du jour.

Disillusioned but undeterred, I turned to social media, signing up for a new Twitter account to create a digital vantage point for observing Pakistan, promising real-time updates and unfiltered perspectives. I did not have too many followers, nor did I want them. Having always been a social media absentee by choice, valuing privacy over online presence, I preferred to observe rather than participate. But if traditional media was a disappointment, social media was a shock to the system. I found myself in a digital battlefield where fake news, vitriol, and extremism reigned supreme. Any at-

tempt at rational discourse or critique would unleash a horde of digital foot soldiers, their responses devoid of substance but overflowing with obscenities and derogatory slurs.

Coexisting in this ecosystem, I encountered another peculiar breed of online denizens: the devoted followers. Keyboard acolytes, existing in a perpetual state of rapture, showered their chosen leaders with endless praise. Their timelines swarmed with reverential video clips set to emotive musical scores, featuring their idols engaged in such riveting activities as strolling or entering rooms. Perhaps, in Pakistan, the ability to ambulate with gravitas was now considered a qualification for leadership.

As I delved deeper into this digital realm, a disturbing reality became obvious. The cacophony of voices, whether spewing vitriol or singing praises, seemed orchestrated by unseen hands. In this realm of bytes and pixels, modern-day Pied Pipers had woven a digital spell, leading Pakistan's youth not to the promise of a brighter future, but down a rabbit hole of toxicity and divi-

sion.

This tale unfolds to this day not in the quaint streets of Hamelin, but across the vast expanse of Pakistan's social media platforms and messaging apps. The youth of Pakistan, tech-savvy and eager for change, have become pawns in a grand, cynical power struggle. Conscripted as foot soldiers, they find themselves embroiled in a battle that neither serves nor spares them. Demagogues and zealots, emerging from an old guard that has failed the nation for more than seven decades with their recycled strategies, have repurposed these young minds with sinister brilliance into what they proudly call 'keyboard warriors'.

Their calculus is ruthless: the more adverse and chaotic things become for their rivals, the stronger their own grip on power, or the better their chances of riding a wave of discontent back into office. But these digital foot soldiers are no warriors; they are unwitting conduits for deceit, hate, and division.

Watching this digital dystopia unfold, I can't help but wonder: is this the legacy we're leaving for

Pakistan's largest demographic? Nurturing a generation stripped of civility, fuelled by anger, and devoid of the critical thinking necessary for true national progress? The tragedy of this digital devolution is magnified when we consider the untapped potential it plunders. The very devices wielded as weapons of online warfare carry within them the seeds of revolutionary change. Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak birthed Apple in a garage with less computing power than most Pakistani youth hold in their hands today. Jeff Bezos began Amazon's journey selling books from his home and car. Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook from a dorm room. Today, the tech giants born from such humble beginnings have a combined market capitalisation larger than the GDP of 'every' country in the world except the US and China; a profound reminder of what can be achieved when young minds are channelled towards creation rather than destruction.

Pakistan doesn't need a miraculous discovery of oil reserves to change its destiny. The true 'black gold' of the 21st century

isn't buried in the depths of the earth or hidden beneath vast oceans. Instead, it pulses through circuits and flows in streams of code. This digital oil field, infinitely renewable and boundlessly powerful is the new currency of global power.

Are Pakistan's youth less talented, creative, or driven than their counterparts who have changed the world? The answer is a resounding no. What they lack is not ability, but direction and purpose. Our youth are as capable of coding the next revolutionary app as they are of crafting viral tweets. They possess the same potential to pioneer groundbreaking startups as they do to lead digital lynch mobs.

Beguiled and marching to the tune of digital Pied Pipers, Pakistan's youth, wage online wars of attrition, unknowingly holding in their hands the tools that could remake their nation's future. Instead of crafting the next world-changing tech or pioneering a paradigm shift, the potential for innovation, for driving economic growth and social change, is being squandered away in 280-character bursts of anger, abuse and lies.

Divine 'amanat'**Amin Valliani**

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

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

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

This is a time of self-reflection and course correction. A resuscitation process is the need of the hour. If we want our country to shine internationally, then we should reflect on Quranic verses, especially wherein Allah says, "... Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. ..." (13:11)".

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

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

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

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

There are numerous examples of failure within institutions. For example, it is very unfortunate that we see state employees drawing their salaries, but these individuals are insincere in the performance of their duties. We, as a nation, utterly lack a national spirit, and as a result, we habitually remain negligent of our duties.

For instance, in spite of having sufficient stocks of wheat in the country, the essential food grain was imported recently, causing the state losses in billions of rupees. It was a highly irresponsible act on the part of the authorities concerned.

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

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

We cannot change our present conditions overnight, as we do not have a magic wand. Yet we must strive to forge a national spirit, treating Pakistan as a divine gift.

It requires hard work, sacrifice, blood and sweat. Together we can strengthen the foundations of Pakistan and ensure that the country serves as a beacon of hope and progress for future generations. -- Courtesy Dawn

America's president**Aasim Sajjad Akhtar**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Sanders-Corbyn wave, and many others like it, was decisively defeated.

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

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

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Down syndrome is not a disease but a chromosomal condition, stressed the importance of dispelling misconceptions and urged a focus on the incredible potential of these individuals.

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

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

The Chief Minister emphasised that Down

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

Murad Shah pointed out the significant role of the Sindh government in these efforts. "Since the passage of the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, funding has been allocated for assistive devices, vocational training, and awareness campaigns," he said.

He added that this year, the Sindh government dedicated Rs2 billion to partner organisations and an additional Rs 25 million to the Karachi Down Syndrome Partnership

(KDSP).

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

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

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



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

Senior minister outlines anti-smog action plan

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Murrariy Aurangzeb detailed actions under the anti-smog action plan, here on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, she said that certain hotspots in Lahore were now seeing methane clouds overhead and urban heat islands below. Of the 45,000 motorcycles in Lahore, 1,800 emit visible smoke, while approximately 100,000 vehicles, including two- and three-wheelers, along with 1,200 brick-kilns, 60,800 industrial units, and 30-40 cooking stoves, which all contribute to air pollution. Lahore has only 33.3 per cent green area coverage and is home to 15 million people. Air quality

in the city remains unhealthy for 275 days out of the year, and average temperatures have risen by 2.3 degrees Celsius.

Murrariy Aurangzeb urged Lahorites to "declare war" on smog, yet noted that it could take 8 to 10 years to see significant reductions even with dedicated individual and collective efforts. She emphasised that while 30pc of Lahore's smog is carried from India by wind, the remaining 70pc is locally generated. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has been working for six consecutive months on a multi-sectoral mitigation action plan, implementing strict measures across various

sectors. Having completed the first two phases of regulation and awareness, the government is now in the third phase, sharing statistical updates regularly.

All brick-kilns across Punjab have been inspected, and for the first time, instead of merely closing them, authorities have demolished non-compliant kilns.

Of the 700 kilns across the province, 212 in Lahore have been dismantled. Now, all operational kilns use a "zigzag" pattern, with zero-tolerance for violations. Maryam Aurangzeb noted that she personally oversaw the demolition of influential figures' kilns.

CM Punjab approves more funds for police martyrs' families

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

Through the dedicated efforts of IG Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, funding for housing purchases for police martyrs' families has been raised, ranging from Rs. 5 million to Rs. 20 million. Under this new initiative, the fund for purchasing homes for the families of martyred constables and head constables has been increased by Rs. 5 million, bringing the total to Rs. 18.5 million. Similarly, families of martyred ASIs

and sub-inspectors will now receive a total of Rs. 24.5 million, reflecting an increase of Rs. 7 million. For the families of martyred inspectors and DSPs, the fund has been increased by Rs. 10 million, while families of SPs and SSPs will see an increase of Rs. 12 million. Families of DIGs and officers of higher ranks will now receive an increase of Rs. 20 million for home purchases. IG Punjab expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, noting that the increase in funds will ease the challenges in purchasing suitable housing and offer improved living conditions for the families of martyrs.



LAHORE: Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

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

KARACHI (APP): Minister of Sindh for Education, Culture and Tourism, Syed Sardar Ali Shah on Friday called for a need to bring the out-of-school-children, back to the schools for the brighter future of the next generation.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the graduation ceremony of 41st Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) at National Institute of Management (NIM) Karachi.

He said that being provincial education minister, all the children enrolled in private and public sectors schools are his responsibility and they should be provided better education.

Syed Sardar Ali Shah said that we all should realize our responsibilities towards the society,

because working selflessly for the betterment and welfare of others gives greater satisfaction.

He also discussed the historical aspects of the Indus civilization and said that the people of Indus Valley civilization was peace lovers and no evidence of weapons were found from the remains of Indus Valley civilization.

Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Instructor NIM Karachi Ms. Samina said that a total 34 participants attended the 10-week long course and this course was mandatory for "in-service" officers in the promotion phase.

She said that the principal objective of the course was to strengthen capacities of the participants for effective management to improve public service delivery.

Book stall inaugurated at Timergara College

PESHAWAR (APP): Under District Dir lower directives Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan along with District Youth Officer Malik Shahzad Tariq inaugurated the book stall at Government Post Graduate College, Timergara here Friday.

On this occasion, the Additional Deputy Commissioner said the purpose of the book stall is to attract the attention of students towards book reading and enhance their knowledge.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner thanked Youth Officer Shahzad Tariq and his entire team, Principal

Government Post Graduate College Timergara Professor Dr. Saeedullah Jan for organizing the stall.

Professor Dr. Saeedullah Jan welcomed the Additional Deputy Commissioner General on his arrival at the college and gave a briefing about the curricular and extra-curricular activities in the college. The Additional Deputy Commissioner appreciated the college management for its efforts towards quality education and assured support from the district administration.

The principal thanked the district administration for deputing Levies on duty at the college.



LAHORE: Senior Punjab Minister Murrariy Aurangzeb addressing a Press conference about prevention of Smog in Punjab.

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

Independent Report

LAHORE: Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, progress on ongoing development projects in the province and administrative issues were discussed. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that it is the responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of the people and provide them facilities. Governor Punjab said that the success or failure of the government policies depends on the implementation of these policies and bureaucracy plays a key role in this regard. Governor Punjab further said that the

ongoing development projects in the province should be completed soon to make it easier for the people. He emphasized that there is a need to improve public service delivery in the government departments. Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the IT Forum organized by Innovation Labs at Governor House Lahore as Chief Guest. The forum discussed the future of information technology related industries in Pakistan.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the economy of the country can be improved by increasing exports in the field of information technology.

BoR orders immediate opening of antiquities section at Badshahi Masjid

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member of the Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed has ordered for immediate opening of the antiquities section at Lahore's historic Badshahi Masjid to the public, ensuring greater access for both local and international visitors to Pakistan's national, historical and Islamic heritage.

During an inspection of Badshahi Masjid and Iqbal's Mausoleum, the SMBR emphasised the importance of enhancing public facilities and preserving the sites' architectural charm. He was accompanied by Secretary of Auqaf, Tahir Ali Bukhari, Administrator of Badshahi Mosque, Mr. Muhammad Ali, and Director of Conservation and Planning, Mr. Najm-ul-Sajib.

the replacement of worn-out tiles at Iqbal's Mausoleum, noting that previous tiles were imported from India and similar replacements may be sourced internationally if not available locally. Additionally, he mandated the installation of a modern sound system within seven days to facilitate continuous Quranic recitation at the mausoleum.

Further directives included the waterproofing of Badshahi Mosque's building, improvements to drainage, electrical systems and lighting of the minarets. A "camping wall" is also to be constructed to prevent water ingress, and pointing repairs would be carried out on the rooms surrounding the mosque.

The Punjab government had allocated Rs. 350 million.

ANF recovers over 81 kg drugs in 13 operations

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

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

230 grams hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near Bedra Chowk, Mansehra. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

In another operation, 2.4 kg ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Multan Airport.

16.6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused held in Gujranwala while 1.4 kg ice was seized from GT Road Gujranwala and an accused was arrested during the operation.

Three killed, two injured as truck hits two bikes

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

Rescue-1122 District Emergency Officer (DEO) Mazhar Shah told APP that Ayesha (10) Haani (12) Hamza (2) Zainab (8), Khursheed Bibi (14), all residents of Jora Jageer were heading to Sargodha on two motorcycles when a speeding truck hit them. As a result Hamza, Zainab and Khursheed Bibi died on-the-spot, while Ayesha and Haani sustained injuries.

A Rescue-1122 team reached the spot.

Health minister stresses research, transparency in medical universities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique underscored the Punjab government's commitment to fostering quality research and maintaining transparency in the financial management of medical universities across the province.

He was presiding over the 16th Syndicate Meeting of Rawalpindi Medical University at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education on Friday.

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

institutions. He confirmed all resolutions made in the previous, 15th Syndicate meeting, and announced that the revised budget for the financial year 2023-24, as well as the budget for 2024-25, had been approved.

Key decisions made included the allocation of funds from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for the 2023-24 fiscal year, approval of expenses from the previous year, and authorization for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment for affiliated hospitals including Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital.

Governor flays attack on Darazinda check post in DI Khan

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Frontier Corps (FC) check post in Darazinda Dera Ismail Khan, terming it an act of anti-Pakistan elements.

He expressed his condolences to the families of the martyrs.

Governor Kundi said that incidents like the Darazinda attack are intolerable and reflect the persistent threat posed by terrorists.

He emphasized that these groups have made life unbearable for the citizens.



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

Humayun Khan unveils digital marketing initiative at Central Jail Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Prisons, Humayun Khan on Friday launched a comprehensive plan aimed at promoting handmade products and small-scale manufacturing by inmates, utilizing innovative digital and traditional marketing strategies during his visit to Central Jail Peshawar.

The goal of these projects is to enable inmates to become successful citizens by imparting education and vocational skills.

Humayun was accompanied by Abdul Karim Tordher, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Industries, Commerce, and Technical Education, Higher Education Minister Meena Khan, Social Welfare Minister Syed Qasim Shah, Director of Youth Affairs Nauman Mujahid, Inspector General of Prisons Muhammad Usman Mehsud, CEO of Metrix Hassan Nisar, and Superintendent of Central Jail Peshawar Waseem

Khan. Talking to APP about his visit, Humayun Khan emphasized the role of digital marketing in expanding the reach of Products made by prison inmates.

"We are dedicated to empowering our inmates through education and rehabilitation, enabling them to create marketable products that compete effectively," Humayun said. Humayun Khan reiterated his vision to improve the production of small-scale manufactured products in prison and to connect these products with the outside market, possibly through digital marketing within the prison world.

"This initiative is not just about production; it's about transforming lives," Humayun added. Abdul Karim Tordher expressed commitment to connecting inmates with technical education institutions, ensuring they acquire diverse vocational skills. "If Peshawar Central Jail requires additional support,

Anti-polio drive targets 795,877 children in Sialkot district

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sialkot Muhammad Zulqarnain has said that during the five-day anti-polio campaign, starting from October, 28 in Sialkot district, the anti-polio teams have set a target of immunising a total of 795,877 children.

To achieve this, a total of 6,288 polio workers and staff will perform their duties and are being trained. He stated this while reviewing the final preparations according to the micro-plan of the national polio campaign in the meeting of the district anti-polio committee at the DC office here on Friday.

The DC said that in order to make the anti-polio campaign successful, 2,676 mobile teams would visit homes, schools and madrasas, 133 fixed teams would be deployed in rural and primary health centres, dispensaries, EPI centres and hospitals, while 69 roaming/transit teams would perform the national duty at lorry stands, bus stops and important.



FAISALABAD: A large number of students traveling in a dangerous way on rooftop of passenger bus may cause any mishap and needs the attention of concerned authorities.

Gilgit Police Chief vows to make district crime-free

GILGIT (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gilgit Zahoar Ahmed has announced a crackdown on criminal activities in the region.

During a media talk at the Gilgit Union Office on Friday Zahoar Ahmed stated that a special team has been formed to eradicate drug trafficking in the district. He also mentioned that security measures have been tightened for the full security of Chinese working in district Gilgit.

warned that strict legal action will be taken against individuals spreading religious hatred on social media. He emphasized that maintaining peace in Gilgit is a top priority and that merit-based actions will be taken to achieve this goal without exceptions. The SSP also mentioned that efforts are being made to reduce motorbike theft in the region and that several motorcycles have been recovered so far. He assured that every possible step will be taken to eliminate crime from Gilgit.



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

Finance minister highlights positive economic trends at investors' fora

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

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

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

He also talked about reforms being carried out in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the statement added.

Aurangzeb in a meeting with President Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, acknowledged bank's role as a reliable partner in Pakistan's progress and

appreciated its financing in diverse sectors such as energy, transportation, education and health.

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

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

Meanwhile, the minister had a luncheon meeting with the leadership and members of the US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC).



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

Subcommittee orders Seed Corporation to enhance production, processing

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Cabinet's subcommittee has directed the Sindh Seed Corporation to increase production, improve processing and submit a comprehensive progress report on it. Sindh Minister for Agriculture Sardar Muhammad Bux Mehar chaired the meeting whereas Sindh Minister for Irrigation Department Jam Khan Shoro & Sindh Minister Culture Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Secretary Agriculture Rafique Ahmed Burri and others were present in the meeting.

The subcommittee

emphasized the need for the Sindh Seed Corporation to adopt international standards, ensuring improved seed quality and increased crop yields. The Provincial Minister for Agriculture Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mehar stated, "We aim to empower the Sindh Seed Corporation to produce world-class seeds, boosting agricultural productivity and income for farmers and the corporation."

The meeting highlighted key areas for development, including enhancing seed quality, developing new varieties and expanding production

to include cotton, rice, wheat and other essential crops. Upgrading processing plants with modern technology and providing high-quality seeds to farmers at affordable rates are also prioritized. The Sindh Minister for Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro stressed the importance of modernizing seed processing, while Minister for Culture Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah emphasized educating farmers on advanced agricultural techniques. Secretary Agriculture Rafique Ahmed Burri and MD Sindh Seed Corporation Mushatq Ahmed Soomro briefed.

KP Govt to support fish farmers to restore flood damaged farms

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Minister for Livestock and Fisheries and Cooperatives Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousafzai has said that the government will extend all possible assistance to restore the fisheries farms that were partially damaged or completely destroyed during the 2022 floods.

He expressed these views while talking to the delegations of Trout Fish Farmers Association from Swat and other districts of Malakand division here in his office on Friday.

Besides, Director General (DG) Fisheries Muhammad Arshad Aziz, DG Livestock (Research) Dr Ijaz Ali, President of Trout Fish Farmers Association Mutwakil Khan, Fazal Mabood Khan and Deputy Director of Fishery Malakand Sajjad Khan and other concerned officers also present on the occasion.

farmers related to fishing business will be solved on priority basis.

In this regard, the Minister immediately contacted the Deputy Commissioner, Swat and issued him necessary instructions to him and on the demand of the association, directed the officers of Swat and Malakand to immediately take all measures to prevent and cure fish diseases.

He also directed the inspection of fisheries farms and redressal of the grievances of their problems and provision of full technical assistance and guidance to the farms to increase the breeding and production of fish.

On this occasion, the Director General Fisheries said that with the support of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) workshop will be organized very soon in Swat which the farmers will be imparted training on modern lines about trout fish feed, breeding and treatment of diseases to further promote the trout industry in these areas.

The provincial minister said that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is taking serious steps to solve the problems of trout farmers and all the problems of

the provincial minister said that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is taking serious steps to solve the problems of trout farmers and all the problems of

the provincial minister said that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is taking serious steps to solve the problems of trout farmers and all the problems of



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

Bank of Khyber to support CPEC projects: MD

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

The bank has opened branches in key locations like Rashakai Economic Zone and Jalozi, specifically to cater to the needs of businessmen and investors, ensuring ongoing contributions to CPEC's development. Awan shared these remarks while speaking to the media during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural and information center. He praised the strong and enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, calling it a global model of cooperation.

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

During his visit, Irfan Saleem Awan toured the various galleries, signed the friendship wall, and left his comments in the guest

book. He remarked that being at China Window felt like stepping into a Chinese city.

He emphasized that China has consistently supported Pakistan in times of need, and this enduring friendship is a source of pride for Pakistanis. President Xi Jinping's reference to Pakistan as an "iron brother" further solidifies the bond between the two nations, he added.

Regarding the bank's performance, Awan said that as a government institution, the Bank of Khyber is committed to providing all possible banking services for the province's economic growth and its customers. The bank is launching several initiatives, including interest-free loans, to support its customers, especially the youth, he added.

He said that the repayment rate for small loans has been satisfactory, and the bank is focusing on expediting loan disbursement. On the topic of opening accounts, Awan explained that, like all banks, they must adhere to the regulations of the State Bank of Pakistan.

He stressed the need for strengthening collaboration between SCCI and Custom Dept to address all issues with mutual initiatives and gave comprehensive proposals in this regard.

The meeting agreed to establish close coordination and relations between SCCI and Customs Office to speed up the consignments' clearance process at Azkhel dry port, making Peshawar dry port functional and issues, allied with cross border trade.

Senior vice president of the SCCI Abdul Jalil Jan, former president Faiz Muhammad Faizi, members of executive

committee of the chamber Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, Aftab Iqbal, Ashfaq Ahmad, along with traders were present on the occasion.

The meeting was also attended by Collector Custom (Appraisal) Mateen Alam, Collector Custom (Preventive) Ziaul Shams and Addl Collector Customs Torkham Shakir Muhammad.

Fazal Moqem appraised the meeting regarding traders' apprehensions and concerns about slow process of goods consignments clearance, hurdles in Pak-Afghan mutual trade, transit trade, operational matters, customs squads, and other problems.

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

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

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

He further said that all the stakeholders should

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

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

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

The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.800 and was sold at Rs.282,300 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs.283,100 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.686 to Rs.242,027 from Rs.242,713 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.221,858 from Rs.222,487, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

recorded at US \$427.634 million against US \$365.107 million last year, data said.

During July-September 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$367.789 million against \$332.164 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$296.619 million against \$299.166 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$354.804 million against the exports of US \$367.025 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$200.877 million against \$129.221 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$188.104 million against US \$144.547 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$130.169 million against US \$130.770 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$152.318 million against US \$136.588 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$175.640 million during the current year compared to US \$149.271 million last year whereas the exports to Turkey stood at US \$94.238 million against US \$90.423 million.

recorded at US \$427.634 million against US \$365.107 million last year, data said.

During July-September 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$367.789 million against \$332.164 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$296.619 million against \$299.166 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$354.804 million against the exports of US \$367.025 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$200.877 million against \$129.221 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$188.104 million against US \$144.547 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$130.169 million against US \$130.770 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$152.318 million against US \$136.588 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$175.640 million during the current year compared to US \$149.271 million last year whereas the exports to Turkey stood at US \$94.238 million against US \$90.423 million.

recorded at US \$427.634 million against US \$365.107 million last year, data said.

During July-September 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$367.789 million against \$332.164 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$296.619 million against \$299.166 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$354.804 million against the exports of US \$367.025 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$200.877 million against \$129.221 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$188.104 million against US \$144.547 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$130.169 million against US \$130.770 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$152.318 million against US \$136.588 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$175.640 million during the current year compared to US \$149.271 million last year whereas the exports to Turkey stood at US \$94.238 million against US \$90.423 million.

recorded at US \$427.634 million against US \$365.107 million last year, data said.

During July-September 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$367.789 million against \$332.164 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$296.619 million against \$299.166 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$354.804 million against the exports of US \$367.025 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$200.877 million against \$129.221 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$188.104 million against US \$144.547 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$130.169 million against US \$130.770 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$152.318 million against US \$136.588 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$175.640 million during the current year compared to US \$149.271 million last year whereas the exports to Turkey stood at US \$94.238 million against US \$90.423 million.

recorded at US \$427.634 million against US \$365.107 million last year, data said.

During July-September 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$367.789 million against \$332.164 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$296.619 million against \$299.166 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$354.804 million against the exports of US \$367.025 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$200.877 million against \$129.221 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$188.104 million against US \$144.547 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$130.169 million against US \$130.770 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$152.318 million against US \$136.588 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$175.640 million during the current year compared to US \$149.271 million last year whereas the exports to Turkey stood at US \$94.238 million against US \$90.423 million.

Weekly inflation eases by 0.22%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.22 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on October 24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.09 points as compared to 319.79 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 15.15 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed decrease of 0.18 per cent and went up to 313.16 points from last week's 313.74 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, decreased by 0.23 percent and 0.21 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 13 (25.49%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 28 (54.90%) items remained stable.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed decrease of 0.18 per cent and went up to 313.16 points from last week's 313.74 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, decreased by 0.23 percent and 0.21 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 13 (25.49%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 28 (54.90%) items remained stable.



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

SSCI chief presents proposals to ease Pak, Afghan transit trade

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

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

The meeting agreed to establish close coordination and relations between SCCI and Customs Office to speed up the consignments' clearance process at Azkhel dry port, making Peshawar dry port functional and issues, allied with cross border trade.

Senior vice president of the SCCI Abdul Jalil Jan, former president Faiz Muhammad Faizi, members of executive

committee of the chamber Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, Aftab Iqbal, Ashfaq Ahmad, along with traders were present on the occasion.

The meeting was also attended by Collector Custom (Appraisal) Mateen Alam, Collector Custom (Preventive) Ziaul Shams and Addl Collector Customs Torkham Shakir Muhammad.

Fazal Moqem appraised the meeting regarding traders' apprehensions and concerns about slow process of goods consignments clearance, hurdles in Pak-Afghan mutual trade, transit trade, operational matters, customs squads, and other problems.

He stressed the need for strengthening collaboration between SCCI and Custom Dept to address all issues with mutual initiatives and gave comprehensive proposals in this regard.

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

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

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

He stressed the need for strengthening collaboration between SCCI and Custom Dept to address all issues with mutual initiatives and gave comprehensive proposals in this regard.

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

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

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

He stressed the need for strengthening collaboration between SCCI and Custom Dept to address all issues with mutual initiatives and gave comprehensive proposals in this regard.

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

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

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

He stressed the need for strengthening collaboration between SCCI and Custom Dept to address all issues with mutual initiatives and gave comprehensive proposals in this regard.

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

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

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

He stressed the need for strengthening collaboration between SCCI and Custom Dept to address all issues with mutual initiatives and gave comprehensive proposals in this regard.

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

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

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

He stressed the need for strengthening collaboration between SCCI and Custom Dept to address all issues with mutual initiatives and gave comprehensive proposals in this regard.

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

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

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

He stressed the need for strengthening collaboration between SCCI and Custom Dept to address all issues with mutual initiatives and gave comprehensive proposals in this regard.

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

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

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

Rupee gains 20 paisa against dollar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

German market possessed potential for Pakistani entrepreneurs

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

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

He further said that all the stakeholders should

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also on Friday, an Israeli airstrike on guesthouses where journalists were staying in southeast Lebanon killed three media staffers working for news outlets that are seen as aligned with Lebanon's Hezbollah group and its patron, Iran.

Outside of now-col-

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

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

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

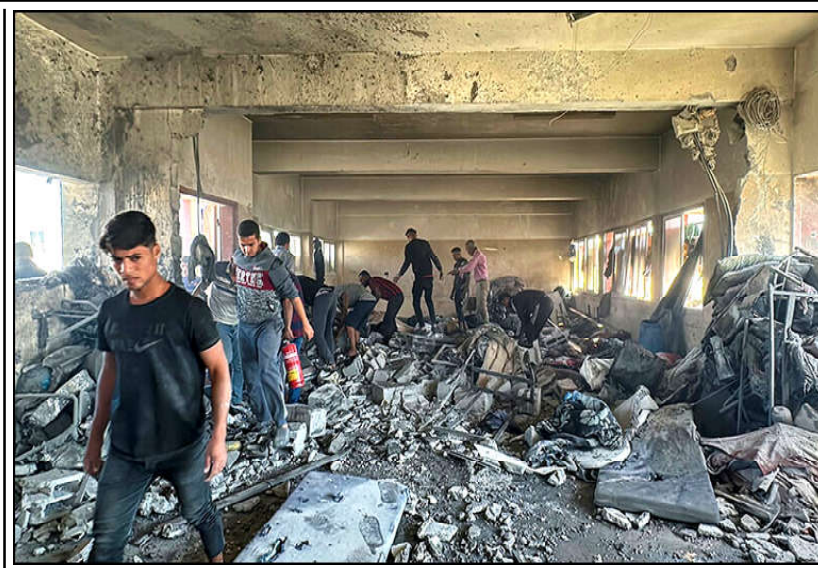
The Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV said two of its staffers — camera operator Ghassan Najjar and broadcast technician Mohammed Rida — were among the journalists killed early Friday. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said its camera operator Wissam Qassim was also killed in

the airstrike on the Hasbaya region.

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

The strike occurred hours after the Israeli military's Arabic language spokesman, Avichay Adrae, directly challenged Al-Mayadeen war correspondent Ali Mortada in online posts and referred to him as "my enemy" in English. The X post ended with the English phrase "Take care." Mortada was not involved in the strike.

Lebanon's Information Minister Ziad Makary said the journalists were killed while broadcasting what he called Israel's crimes, and noted they were among a large group of members of the media.



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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: As the US presidential election approaches, the most recent polls show former President Donald Trump leading Vice President Kamala Harris in the race, with the economy playing a role in voters' decisions.

A poll released on Thursday by CNBC's All-America Economic Survey showed that Trump leads Harris 48 per cent to 46pc nationally, with a margin of error of 3.1pc.

In the seven battleground states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania

and Wisconsin — Trump leads Harris 48pc to 47pc, with a margin of error of 4pc for that portion of the poll.

This survey highlighted that many voters view the economy as the most important issue, with a significant number trusting Trump to handle it better than Harris.

According to the CNBC survey, 42pc of voters believe they would be better off financially if Trump is elected, compared to 24pc for Harris.

Around 29pc felt their financial situation would remain the same no matter

Ukraine's Zelenskyy claims North Korean troops will be deployed by Russia in coming days

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: North Korean troops are poised to be deployed by Russia on the battlefield in Ukraine as early as this weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed Friday.

Western officials have warned that such a development would stoke the almost three-year war and bring geopolitical consequences as far away as the Indo-Pacific region.

Zelenskyy said Ukrainian intelligence had determined that "the first North Korean military will be used by Russia in combat zones" between Sunday and Monday.

He said on Telegram that the deployment was

"an obvious escalating move by Russia." He didn't provide any further details, including where the North Korean soldiers may be sent.

Russia has been conducting a ferocious summer campaign along the eastern front in Ukraine, gradually compelling Kyiv to surrender ground.

But Russia has struggled to push Ukrainian forces out of its Kursk border region following an incursion almost three months ago.

North Korean units were detected on Wednesday in Kursk, according to Ukraine's Main Intelligence Directorate, known by its acronym GUR.

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

Russia withdrew from the agreement in July 2023, complaining that its own food and fertiliser exports faced serious obstacles.

Turkey and Guterres have repeatedly tried to get merchant shipping sailing more freely through the Black Sea, which in some areas has been turned into a naval war zone since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

US, Israeli negotiators to discuss Gaza ceasefire deal in Doha

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

Israel said the head of its Mossad intelligence

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

"The parties will discuss the various options for starting negotiations for the release of the hostages from Hamas captivity, against the backdrop of the latest developments," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

Blinken, speaking after talks with Qatar's prime minister, said it had not yet been determined whether Hamas was prepared to engage in new negotiations, but urged the group to do so. Blinken has been on his first trip to the region since Israel killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, a mastermind of the group's Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel that triggered conflict across the Middle East.

UN calls for urgent action to avoid catastrophic warming

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: The United Nations on Thursday said nations have just months to supercharge their climate plans and called for massive global action to avoid devastating warming.

The UN Environment Programme's annual Emissions Gap report was released ahead of COP29 climate talks in Azerbaijan and a looming deadline for countries to update and improve their carbon-cutting commitments.

New targets matter because the current crop of climate plans put the world on track for catastrophic warming, the UN said, risking devastating consequences for humanity and irreversible tipping points on land and in the oceans. Emissions are still rising when they need to be falling. And fast. Here are some key takeaways:

Planet-heating pollution — largely from burning oil, gas and coal but also

from things like farming and forest loss — rose 1.3 per cent in 2023 from the previous year. That took emissions to a new record high of 57.1 billion tonnes of CO2 or its equivalent in other greenhouse gases. Each year of rises further imperils the possibility of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — long identified as a limit for a relatively climate-safe world, albeit one still roiled by severe impacts.

To keep 1.5C in play, emissions need to be slashed more than 40pc by 2030, from 2019 levels. That means a nine per cent annual reduction in global emissions to 2030, UN chief Antonio Guterres said.

To put that in context, the fall in 2020 emissions due to extraordinary lockdowns and travel restrictions was roughly five percent compared to the previous year.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Lebanese Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Azmi Mikati in London, Britain.

EU Commission chief promises Bosnia flood aid, support for reform on membership path

Monitoring Desk

SARAJEVO: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Friday promised support for Bosnia as the troubled Balkan country struggles with reform needed to advance toward membership in the European Union.

Von der Leyen was in Bosnia as part of a trip this week to aspiring EU member states in the Western Balkans to assure them that EU enlargement remains a priority for the 27-nation bloc. From Bosnia, von der Leyen went on to neighboring Serbia.

The Western Balkans countries — Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia — are at different stages in their applications for EU membership. The countries have been frustrated by the slow pace of the process, but Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has propelled European leaders to push the six to join the bloc. Bosnia gained candidate status in 2022 while EU leaders in March agreed in

principle to open membership negotiations, though Bosnia must still do a lot of work.

"We share the same vision for the future, a future where Bosnia-Herzegovina is a full-fledged member of the European Union," said von der Leyen at a joint press conference with Bosnian Prime Minister Bojana Kristo. "So, I would say, let's continue working on that. We've gone a long way already, we still have a way ahead of us but I am confident that you'll make it."

The Commission on Wednesday approved the reform agendas of Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia following a green light from EU member states. That was a key step to allow payments under the growth plan upon completion of agreed reform steps.

"The accession process is, as you know, merit-based ... we do not look at a rigid data but we look at the merits, the progress that a country is making," said von der Leyen.

LRA rebel commander jailed in Uganda for war crimes in landmark case

Monitoring Desk

KAMPALA: Thomas Kwoyelo, a mid-level commander in the notorious Lord's Resistance Army rebel group, was sentenced to 40 years in prison in Uganda on Friday for war crimes including murder, rape, enslavement, torture and kidnap.

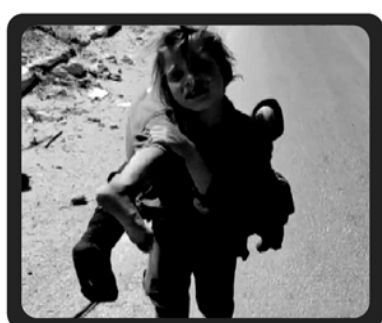
Kwoyelo was convicted of dozens of war crimes in August, the first time an officer of his seniority had been tried by Uganda's judiciary.

Founded in the late 1980s with the aim of overthrowing the government, the LRA brutalised Ugandans under the leadership of Joseph Kony for nearly 20 years as it battled the military from bases in northern Uganda. The insurgents carried out horrific acts of cruelty, including rapes, abductions, hacking off victims' limbs and lips and using crude instruments to bludgeon people to death. "The convict played a prominent role in the planning, strategy and actual execution of the offences of extreme gravity," Justice Duncan Gasagwa, one of the four judges, said.

Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon

Government & People of Pakistan Determined to Support Gaza & Lebanon in this Turmoil

YOUR DONATIONS, CASH, CHEQUE OR ONLINE TRANSFER CAN BE GIVEN AT ANY NEAREST BANK DEPOSIT YOUR FINANCIAL DONATIONS IN:



Title of Account	PM Relief Fund for Ghaza and Lebanon
IBAN	PK11SBPD000000111114292
RAAST ID	0111114292

For further details please visit:
www.pmo.gov.pk/pmrfgl

SHARE THEIR PAIN



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of Pakistan
/GovtofPakistan www.moib.gov.pk



BLESSINGS AND HOPES SHALL RAIN

PID(1)2889-D/24

Tarar vows strong media drive, counter narrative against drugs usage among youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday vowed to launch a comprehensive media campaign in the upcoming week to raise awareness about drug trafficking and counter the narrative against drug usage among youth.

Responding to questions from members of the National Assembly regarding the government's strategies on narcotics control and human trafficking, Tarar emphasized the stringent measures in place, including capital punishment and life imprisonment under Section 9C, to tackle drug-related crimes.

During the session, Tarar underscored the significance of mass narcotics destruction, revealing that recent operations have dismantled drug rackets valued at billions of rupees. He commended the Anti-Nar-

cotics Force (ANF) for its relentless efforts, noting the sacrifices made by its officers in the fight against drug trafficking.

"From August 2023 to October 2024, we have made substantial progress in tracking and apprehending gang leaders," Tarar stated.

He acknowledged the persistent issue of drug use in schools and urged for it to be addressed by a relevant committee, calling for collaboration among all political parties to devise effective solutions. "I would welcome the formation of a special committee to tackle this issue, ensuring that both opposition and treasury members are included," he added.

Highlighting the efforts of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government, Tarar noted the establish-

ment of an Inter-Agency Taskforce aimed at enhancing coordination between provincial and federal governments in anti-drug operations. He praised the Sindh government for its capacity-building initiatives and stressed the importance of ongoing collaboration with provincial authorities to strengthen anti-narcotics efforts.

He mentioned the 90s PTV drama "Dhuwan," which subtly addressed the issue of drug trafficking and the glamorization of villains in the media. He expressed hopes for future films to further counter this narrative.

The minister acknowledged the historical context of the ANF, which was first established in 1957 and reconstituted in the 1970s, and highlighted its global reputation as an effective anti-narcotics force.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz presiding over a meeting regarding anti-encroachment and operation against land grabbers across the province

At UN Pakistan calls for ending women's suffering in occupied Kashmir & Palestine

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Reaffirming its strong commitment to advancing the gender perspective in UN peace operations, Pakistan has called for ending the suffering of women and girls under foreign occupation such as in Kashmir and Palestine.

"The most egregious violations against women and girls occur in situations of foreign occupation, since one of objectives of the occupation is the subjugation of the occupied population, among whom women and girls are the most vulnerable," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council on Thursday.

"This is the case in

occupied Jammu and Kashmir where in 1990, over 100,000 Kashmiri men, women and children were killed," the Pakistan envoy said in a debate on 'Women, Peace, and Security'.

In this regard, he called on the Security Council to address "the dire and unacceptable" situation of women and girls under foreign occupation.

Over 60 speakers took part in the day long debate, calling for women's involvement in Peace Processes and participation in decision-making on equal footing with men.

On his part, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan was the first country to

endorse the UN Secretary General's Declaration of shared commitments which identified Women, Peace and Security as a central priority to strengthen UN peacekeeping, pointing out that the country's political commitment was matched with practical steps in the field. As an example, he said, Pakistan dispatched in 2019 its first all-female community engagement team to Africa, which undertook several successful initiatives including vocational training for local students, teachers and women. An increasing number of Pakistani women peacekeepers in recent years have served as doctors.



QUETTA: Officers of Balochistan Civil Services Academy Quetta meeting with Commissioner Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat.

Chairman NA body on Information visits PTV Quetta Center

QUETTA (APP) Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, National Assembly, Pullain Baloch on Friday visited PTV Quetta Center.

On this occasion, General Manager PTV Quetta Syed Faheem Shah, Program Manager Gul Shah Bukhari, Bolan Incharge Jawad Ali Hazara and Heads of the Engineering, Administration, Finance, Design, News, Current Affairs and IT departments provided a detailed briefing to the chair-

man.

Speaking on the occasion Pullain Baloch said, "Pakistan Television is the national institution safeguarding the ideological borders of the country, and modernizing it is the need of the hour."

Pullain Baloch praised the role of PTV Quetta Center in promoting the soft image of Balochistan, stating that the Government of Pakistan will utilize all resources to resolve the issues faced by the PTV Quetta Center.

Police officer killed, driver injured in Bannu firing

BANNU (APP): A police officer was killed while the driver of the van sustained serious injuries in a firing incident that took place in Bannu area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, tv channels quoting police reported on Friday. According to details, unknown outlaws opened fire and killed a police officer travelling by police van while the driver was also injured. Police rushed to the site and shifted the police personnel identified as Saeed Rehman to nearby hospital.

RDMC supports re-opening of two primary schools after 13-years closure in Chagai

QUETTA (APP): After thirteen years, two primary schools in the remote villages of Bedok and Sarzay of district Chagai have reopened, with the support and efforts of the Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), a joint venture between Barrick and the governments of Balochistan and Pakistan.

This initiative is part of RDMC's commitment to community development while developing a world-class copper-gold mine in the Reko Diq area, a press release issued on Friday said.

RDMC's community investment portfolio is guided by the Community Development Committees (CDC), which have local stakeholders and commu-

nity leaders as key members. The CDC of the Fan Sediment area of the Reko Diq project, in which these two villages are located, proposed the reopening of the primary schools so that the local communities' children can have access to quality education.

RDMC responded by hiring teachers to make the schools functional and provided free uniforms, books and stationery to the students. As the original school buildings are in dilapidated condition due to years of disuse, the process to rebuild the infrastructure of the schools will be initiated soon by RDMC. For now, classes are being held in alternative spaces offered by local communities eager for their children to begin

learning.

Giving details of RDMC's educational initiatives, Community Investment Team Lead, Mohammad Essa Tahir said, "Education is one of the five pillars of sustainable development on which the company's community investment program is based, which includes access to health, water and environment, food security and local economic development.

Currently, we support seven primary schools in our project area, serving 368 children, and we aim to expand our educational initiatives throughout the Chagai district to provide more opportunities for learning and skill development."



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

Bugti orders to expedite anti-encroachments operation

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Friday has ordered to expedite the operation against encroachments across the province and strengthen measures to retrieve the occupied land of the government.

In a meeting presided over by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, the progress of the anti-encroachment and operation against land grabbers across the province was reviewed and the complaints registered against the occupation of land in the Chief Minister's Complaint Cell were considered.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan ordered to speed up the anti-encroach-

ment operation and directed to retrieve all the occupied lands from the land mafia.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that no one is above the law and action should be taken against the encroachers without any delay.

In the meeting, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat, while giving a briefing, said that the land in Chashma Achozai was retrieved from the occupation mafia and all the encroachments except six mosques and four madrasas have been removed.

Members of Provincial Assembly, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, IG Police Balochistan and senior officials participated in the meeting.

NA witnesses introduction of two bills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly here on Friday witnessed the introduction of two bills, including the Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The bills were introduced by the Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture, Attaullah Tarar in the house. The other bill introduced by the minister was the Naturalization Act, of 1926 [The Naturalization (Amendment) Bill, 2024].

Additionally, the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the State Bank of Pakistan on the state of Pakistan's economy for the year 2023-2024, along with the Governor's Annual Report 2023-2024, was laid before the House.



QUETTA: Chairman Standing Committee Information and Broadcasting Phulain Baloch meeting with General Manager Syed Faheem Shah during his visit to PTV Quetta center

NA passes unanimous resolution expressing solidarity with Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly of Pakistan on Friday unanimously passed a resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on "Black Day."

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam, presented the resolution on the 77th anniversary of the Indian invasion of Kashmir on 27th October 1947. The resolution reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to supporting the Kashmiris in their struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination.

It said that lasting peace and stability in South Asia are contingent upon the final resolution of the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The House reiterated its rejection of India's continued efforts to change the internationally recognized disputed status of India's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, its demographic structure, and its political landscape. The resolution also condemned the prolonged detention of thousands of political activists and the banning of several Kashmiri political parties.

PM lauds Punjab Police operation to kill 10 terrorists in Mianwali

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the Punjab Police for carrying out a successful operation in the Mulkhahel area of Mianwali in which 10 terrorists were killed.

The prime minister lauded the timely and effective anti-terror action by the Punjab Police and its Counter Terrorism Department, according to a PM Office press release.

"The entire nation feels proud of its brave policemen."

IK's sisters get bail from ATC

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday granted bail to Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's two sisters - Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan. ATC Judge Abual Hasnaat Zulqarnain conducted hearing of the case and after listening to the arguments from both sides, he approved post-arrest bail plea of Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan against surety bonds worth Rs20,000 each.

Islamabad Police arrest JI leader Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Police on Friday arrested former senator of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Mushtaq Ahmed during a march organized by the party to express solidarity with the people of Gaza, ARY News reported. As per details, Mushtaq Ahmed along with 20 workers of JI was arrested from outside the Faisal Mosque during the Save Gaza March protest. The Islamabad police said the arrests were made after the protestors tried to march to US Embassy.

AJK President calls for unified stance on Kashmir issue

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has stressed the need for a unified stand on the Kashmir issue.

Addressing a dinner hosted in honor of heads of various political parties in the state capital on Thursday, AJK President said the leadership across the political spectrum must come together to effectively promote the Kashmir cause.

"There is a dire need for the top leadership representing different political and religious parties to rise above partisan politics and work together for the freedom movement of Kashmir," the president said.

He noted that with the

main Hurriyat Conference leadership languishing in Indian jails, "it is our shared responsibility to become a voice for the voiceless Kashmiri brothers and sisters".

Referring to the growing importance of social media, the AJK president said these platforms could be used to expose India's "brutal face" and human rights violations against the Kashmiri people.

The event was attended by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, former Prime Ministers Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan and Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan and other senior political leaders.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti enquiring about health of senior journalist Qaiser Butt.

Kashmiris to observe Black Day on October 27 against Indian occupation

SRINAGAR (INP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and the world over will observe the 27th October, (Sunday) as Black Day to convey to the world that India has occupied their motherland illegally and against their aspirations.

According to Kashmir Media Service, it was on 27th October in 1947 when Indian troops in total violation of the spirit of the Partition Plan of the Sub-continent had militarily invaded Jammu and Kashmir and illegally occupied it against the will of the Kashmiri people.

The day will be marked by a complete shutdown by the people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. Protest marches, rallies and seminars will be

held in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and all over the world to condemn the invasion of the territory by Indian Army on 27th October, 1947 as well as to convey to the world that India has occupied their motherland illegally and against their aspirations.

According to the observation of the shutdown and Black Day has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by other organizations. The APHC leaders, have called upon the Kashmiris to demonstrate to the world, on Sunday, that they would not rest till Jammu and Kashmir was to get freedom from Indian slavery. They urged the global community to come forward for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and take notice of the gross human rights violations.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa in a meeting with Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

PTI's approach has cost Pakistan dearly, time to move forward: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Friday said that political stability was needed, saying the country can no longer afford divisive and negative politics.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan has already paid a heavy price for the instability fueled by political discord.

He said that the cur-

rent government was working toward economic recovery and improving Pakistan's global image.

He pointed to several economic indicators, stating that inflation had dropped from over 40 percent to 6.7 percent, while the stock exchange, which previously crashed to 27,000 points, has now crossed the 90,000 mark. He also noted a 44 percent increase in remittances and a reduction in the trade deficit."

Free Media a cornerstone of democracy: German Envoy

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Embassy of Germany and the Embassy of the Netherlands, both members of the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC), hosted a panel discussion titled "Media Freedom and Democracy - Challenges and Opportunities".

This event brought together journalists, diplomats, and community members for an open dialogue about the crucial role of media in shaping democ-

racy. Both representatives of the countries emphasized the role of a free press in strengthening democracy and fostering informed societies. Commenting on the occasion, Ambassador Alfred Grannas highlighted: "A free press is a precondition for a thriving democracy; this is why, for instance, we offer journalists from all over the world additional training courses with the DW Academy, both in Germany.

Mufti Gulab Kakar says Black Day to be observed in Balochistan on Oct 27

QUETTA (APP): Ex Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) Mufti Gulab Khan Kakar on Friday said that black Day would be celebrated in Balochistan against the Indian usurpation of Kashmir on the occasion of October 27.

Talking to APP, Former, MPA of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), Mufti Gulab Khan Kakar said that on October 27, India had used its forces to

suppress and subjugate the innocent people of Occupied Kashmir and dropped off at Srinagar but the passion of Kashmiris for Hurriyat is still intact.

He said that we would support Kashmiri people at international level under democratic process in order to dispose of ugly face of India.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam wants referendum of Kashmir according to United Nations resolutions.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding anti-polio campaign in the province.