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Justice Yahya Afridi takes oath as 30th Chief Justice of Pakistan

PM Shehbaz, COAS Munir, Supreme Court judges, other top officials attend ceremony; SC proceedings will be available for the public through live streaming-CJP; Summons full court meeting on Oct 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday administered the oath to Justice Yahya Afridi as the Chief Justice of Pakistan in an oath-taking ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Services Chiefs, Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers, judges of the Supreme Court, high courts, former chief justices, law officers, office bearers of the lawyers' bod-

ies, lawyers, and media persons. Justice Yahya Afridi was nominated by a special parliamentary committee as the next CJP among the three senior most judges of the Supreme Court under the newly adopted 26th Amendment of the Constitution, and a summary in this regard was afterwards forwarded by the prime minister to the president, who accorded approval to the appointment of Justice Afridi as the 30th CJP.

Born in Dera Ismail Khan on January 23, 1965, Justice Yahya was enrolled

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail inaugurating ICU during his visit to Dr. Kalemullah Health Foundation Hospital

Provision of education, health & water to masses our top priority, says Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that it is our top priority to provide education, health and water to the people.

The Governor said that it is especially our responsibility to provide health and education facilities in remote areas of the province.

He said that he doesn't believe in raising mere slogans, but on the practical work.

The Governor was speaking on occasion of visit to a private hospital

here on Saturday. He inaugurated the Intensive care Unit of the hospital.

The Governor said that it seems that our dream has been materialized. He expressed satisfaction over the facilities available for patients in the hospital. He also assured to provide facilities to the hospital saying that the necessary facilities would be provided so the patients are facilitated there.

Meanwhile, he also visited different parts of the hospital and reviewed the facilities for the patients.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam addressing a Press Conference along with APHC leadership on Kashmir Black Day at Media Center PID Zero Point

Muqam assures Kashmiri people of complete Pakistani government's support

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam on the observance of Kashmir Black Day saluted the courage and valour people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), who had rendered countless sacrifices in their struggle for realization of the basic rights.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of the 77th anniversary of Kashmir Black Day, marked to protest India's illegal occupation of Kashmir on October 27, 1947 -

the minister assured the Kashmiri people of complete Pakistani government support in their struggle for the right to self-determination and termed the Indian subjugation of Kashmiris a gross human rights violation.

Engr Amir Muqam was accompanied by All Parties Hurriyat Conference Leaders including Muhammad Farooq Rehmani and Parliamentary Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan MNA Anwar ul Haq Chaudhry.

The minister said that October 27 was the blackest day in world history when India on this day in 1947 landed its army in Kashmir and illegally occupied the valley against the will of the people.

He urged the international community to play an effective role in resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolution and the aspiration of the Kashmiri people.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administering oath of office to Justice Yahya Afridi as the Chief Justice of Pakistan at an oath-taking ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz and Chief Minister KPK Ali Amin Gandapur are also present

PM felicitates Justice Yahya Afridi on taking oath of CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday felicitated Justice Yahya Afridi on taking oath of the office of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and expressed his good wishes for him.

The prime minister, earlier attended the oath taking ceremony of CJP at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi's experience, acumen and legal expertise would provide guidance to judiciary towards dispensation of justice and strengthening the rule of law, PM Office Media Wing with media, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

He further expressed his confidence that under the CJP's leadership, the judiciary would continue providing justice to the public with honesty.

Governor greets Justice Yahya Afridi on assuming office of CJP

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has congratulated Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi on assuming office of the Chief Justice of Pakistan.

In a felicitation statement issued here on Saturday, the Governor expressed best wishes and success of new Chief Justice of Pakistan.

He expressed the hope that there would be positive impacts in the country during period of his service.

Patents of 9 refused to anti-polio drops: 21 polio affected children in Balochistan include 16 boys and 5 girls

QUETTA: In all 21 cases of polio virus have been reported from different districts of Balochistan during this year.

According to the Health Department sources, the polio virus affected children are included 16 male and five female.

As per a report of the Health Department, 17 polio affected children are aged three years and above. One of the polio virus infected child is aged nine months while a girl is aged around 12 years.

It may be mentioned here that 21 polio cases were reported from 11 districts of the province.

A total of six polio cases were reported from Killa Abdullah with three reported from Pishin and two each from Pishin, Zhob and Chaman.

Similarly, one polio case was reported from Killa Saifullah, Dera Bugti, Kharan, Naushki, Jhal Magsi and Loralai.

The Chief Minister Balochistan and other concerned high ups have expressed deep concern over the surge in polio cases in the province.

Meanwhile, in view of the increasing number of polio cases, the anti-polio campaign is scheduled to be launched in the province from October 28, 2024.

PM Shehbaz condemns Israeli strikes on Iran, warns attack threatens regional peace

Foreign Office urges United Nations Security Council to step in to prevent further conflict

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the recent act of Israeli aggression against Iran.

In a post on his X handle, he said such actions threaten not only regional peace and stability but also violate principles of sovereignty and international law.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan stands with Iran and its other neighbours in pursuit of peace. He urged all parties to act with restraint to avoid further escalation.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Foreign Office also strongly condemns Israel's strikes against Islamic Republic of Iran in the early hours today.

In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said Israeli military strikes

against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran are a grave violation of the UN Charter and the international law.

She said these strikes undermine path to regional peace and stability and also constitute a dangerous escalation in an already volatile region. She added that Israel bears full responsibility for the current cycle of escalation and expansion of the conflict.

The Foreign Office Spokesperson called on the UN Security Council to play its role for the maintenance of international peace and security, and to take immediate steps to bring an end to Israeli recklessness in the region and its criminal behaviour. She said the international community must also play its role for restoring regional peace and security.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Federal Minister for Trade Jam Kamal Khan and others in a group photo

CM attends oath taking ceremony of new CJP, greets on assuming office, expresses best wishes

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti participated in the ceremony of oath taking of the new Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi held in Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on Saturday.

Besides him, the Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur and other high ups and personalities participated in the oath taking

ceremony. The Chief Minister congratulated Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi on assuming the office of Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti also expressed best wishes for the Chief Justice Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi.

Meanwhile, in a felicitation message issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister hailed the appointment of Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi as Chief Justice of Pakistan.

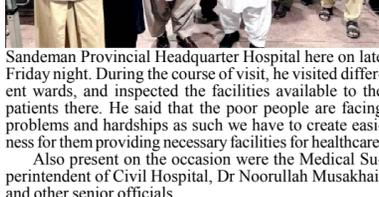
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GoB determined to improve healthcare system in Balochistan: Bakht Kakar

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has stated that the government is determined to improve healthcare system in the province.

He said that the healthcare sector is facing numerous challenges including shortage of doctors and nurses besides medicines. However, it is our responsibility to meet the shortage of medical staff and medicines.

The Minister Health was on surprise visit to the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital here on late Friday night. During the course of visit, he visited different wards, and inspected the facilities available to the patients there.



He said that the poor people are facing problems and hardships as such we have to create ease for them providing necessary facilities for healthcare.

Also present on the occasion were the Medical Superintendent of Civil Hospital, Dr Noorullah Musakhail and other senior officials.

The MS of Civil Hospital briefed the Minister Health about the overall functioning of the hospital.

Complete solidarity to be expressed with Kashmiri people all over country including Balochistan today: CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has categorically stated that complete solidarity would be expressed with Kashmiri brethren all over the country including province today (Sunday).

In a message issued here on Saturday marking 27th October, the Chief Minister said that this day is the day to reveal the illegal occupation of India on Kashmir and atrocities unleashed against the Kashmiri people.

He said that every Pa-

kistani condemns the Indian occupation in Kashmir, which was made by India in Sri Nagar in 1947. He said that we can never forget that black day.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that India has unleashed cruelty and barbarism to suppress the basic rights of Kashmiri people.

However, the movement of self determination is continued even today, and the morale of Kashmiri people is high, he mentioned adding that they are fully active in their struggle for rights.

The Chief Minister

said that India had violated the international laws on August 5, 2019. However, the Kashmiri people have been determined against Indian occupation rejecting its unjustified steps.

The Chief Minister said that Pakistan expresses complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people supporting their right of self determination.

He also stressed that it is necessary to resolve the Kashmir issue for establishing sustainable peace in the region, in accordance with the United Nations resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri people.

President strongly flays suicide attack in NW

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives of innocent civilians and police personnel in a suicide attack in Mir Ali area of North Waziristan.

Strongly condemning the suicide attack on a police check post, the president said the attack on the policemen was a cowardly act. "Terrorists will never succeed in their evil designs," the president said in a statement issued by the President House.

He stressed the need for taking all possible measures to completely eradicate terrorism.

Paying tribute to the martyred personnel, President Zardari prayed for patience for the bereaved families, and wished a swift recovery for the injured.

Four cops among eight martyred in NW suicide blast

MIR ALI (Online): 8 persons including 4 security officials were martyred in a suicide attack on police check post in area of Mir Ali in North Waziristan on Saturday.

On information heavy contingent of security forces and rescue personnel reached the scene.

Bodies and injured were shifted to nearby hospital forthwith. Rescue operation was started.

According to police blast was suicide attack and citizens were also hit in the explosion.

Security forces cordoned off the area and started search operation.

A senior police officer said a suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden rickshaw into a joint checkpoint of military and

police. He said that a military vehicle was also targeted in the attack.

The officer said five injured had been shifted to Miranshah hospital where some of them are said to be in critical condition.

Meanwhile, security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati has condemned the attack as a coward attempt. He also expressed sorrow over death of security officials and citizens in the attack.

A day earlier, ten soldiers of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) were martyred when terrorists launched a fierce attack on an FC checkpoint in Darazinda, Dera Ismail Khan.

کشمیر کے مقتل میں سر بلند اہل کشمیر
صبح آزادی دیکھے گی وادی جنت نظیر

27 اکتوبر

یوم سیاہ

ہندو قوا سوچ، غیر قانونی قابض بھارتی افواج کی قتل و غارتگری اور ظلم و بربریت کا سامنا کرتے
اہل کشمیر کی لازوال جدوجہد کو سلام!

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Saudi Arabia begins Hajj preparations: Ashrafi

LAHORE (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council and Secretary General of the International Council for Respect of the Holy Mosques Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi has said that Saudi Arabia has already begun preparations for the upcoming Hajj season.

Speaking at an event hosted by the Mizab Group on Saturday, Ashrafi urged Pakistani pilgrims to respect the dignity of their country while in Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is uniquely strong.

Ashrafi highlighted the spiritual significance of Hajj and Umrah, and elaborated on the deep bond between Pa-

kistan and Saudi Arabia, a relationship that is distinct and profoundly supportive.

He praised recent efforts to bolster Pakistan's economic stability, noting that 132 Saudi investors had visited Pakistan at the request of the Saudi Crown Prince, engaging in business-to-business agreements that reflect the close ties between the two nations. Ashrafi also called on Pakistani pilgrims to avoid behaviors that could reflect poorly on Pakistan, such as begging or attempting to bring prohibited items like drugs into Saudi Arabia.

He remarked on Pakistan's independence and sovereignty, particularly as a nuclear nation, ac-

knowledging that during Pakistan's nuclear development, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Libya were among its strongest supporters.

Saudi Arabia had established 35 to 36 companies dedicated to facilitating pilgrims this year, said Ashrafi and added that this Hajj season will be smoother than in previous years.

Ashrafi commended the solidarity shown by the government and people towards Palestinians.

He highlighted the All Parties Palestine Conference held on October 7 at the President's House where representatives from all major political parties united to demonstrate support for the Palestinian cause.

Zain steps down as party's deputy parliamentary leader in NA

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA, Zain Qureshi stepped down as the party's deputy parliamentary leader in the National Assembly.

Zain Qureshi, who has been issued a show-cause notice by the party over his alleged indiscipline during the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment, said that he resigned from the post to ensure impartial inquiry.

The PTI MNA said that he has officially responded to the show-cause notice. "I was loyal to PTI founder Imran Khan and my father Shah Mehmood Qureshi and will remain loyal to them," Zain Qureshi added.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with representatives of Moody's credit rating agency.

Shan Masood hails team effort following historic Test series win against England

RAWALPINDI (INP): After enduring a streak of six consecutive defeats, Pakistan's Test cricket captain Shan Masood expressed his elation at finally securing a series victory against England.

Speaking at a press conference following the match, Masood credited the win to the resilience of the Pakistani players and stressed the importance of team effort.

Reflecting on the match conditions, Masood noted that the pitches in Pakistan have not always been conducive to spin bowling, but the team must adapt to various playing environments to succeed.

"To be among the top Test teams, we need to take 20 wickets in all conditions and also ensure we score runs," he remarked, highlighting the challenges posed by the Test Championship format, which includes three home and three away series.

When questioned about the performance of his opening batsmen, Saqib Ayub and Abdullah Shafiq, Masood urged for a more constructive critique. "If

you will talk negatively despite the victory, what should be the answer? This is not an individual sport; it's a team game," he stated, underscoring the importance of unity and support within the squad.

Masood pointed out that the team's strategy involved preparing pitches that favoured fast bowling against Bangladesh while adapting to spinning conditions at home. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by the batsmen and praised the bowlers for successfully claiming 20 wickets during the series.

The captain also addressed the struggles of openers, stating, "Since the start of the Test Championship, the lowest runs have been scored by openers. Saqib Ayub and Abdullah Shafiq are our future; if we do not support our players, the team will continue to see frequent changes."

On the topic of team selection, Masood revealed that after the initial match defeat, the coaching staff and selectors convened to make crucial decisions. He credited the new selection

committee for their efforts, which included the return of spin bowlers Sajid Khan and Noman Ali to the squad.

Concluding the press conference, Masood downplayed concerns about the match finishing on the third day, stating, "It doesn't matter if the match ends on the first day; we just have to win."

Meanwhile, England Test captain Ben Stokes expressed his disappointment following his team's consecutive losses to Pakistan, resulting in a series defeat. In a post-match interview, Stokes reflected on the challenges faced in the last two matches, emphasizing that they did not meet expectations.

"Our last two matches were not good," Stokes remarked, acknowledging the team's need to regroup. "Now our focus will be on the New Zealand series, where we aim to overcome our mistakes."

Stokes, who has been playing cricket continuously for an extended period, noted that losing two matches in a row, especially after winning the first Test,

is never a good feeling. "It's tough to lose like this, but we have to learn and improve," he added.

Despite the disappointing outcome, Stokes praised the Pakistan team for their performance, stating, "The Pakistan team played good cricket." He recognized their ability to capitalize on opportunities and adapt to the conditions, which ultimately led to their success in the series.

Meanwhile Former and serving Pakistan cricketers lavished the Green Shirts with praise over their tremendous Test series victory against England on Saturday.

Pakistan bagged a memorable victory by outclassing England in the third Test to claim the three-match series 2-1 against the visitors.

The national side had been on the ascendancy since claiming a handy first-innings lead of 77 on a track where spinners from both sides dominated.

Noman Ali (6-42) and Sajid Khan (4-69) bundled out England for a paltry 112 in their second innings to

leave Pakistan needing only 36 to win the series.

Pakistan lost the wicket of Saim Ayub before wrapping up victory on day three of the contest.

Pakistan swiftly chased down the target in just 3.1 overs, with skipper Shan Masood (23*) sealing the win to clinch the three-match series.

During the match, Noman and Sajid claimed 19 of the 20 England wickets while Pakistan did not use their lone seamer Amir Jamal at all in the match in a stark indication of how spin-friendly the surface was. Pakistan cricketers who are not part of the game seem to have equally enjoyed the victory as they took to their social media accounts to praise the players' efforts and spirit to drive the team to victory.

"The national players won by exhibiting their best game. The entire team put up a brilliant performance to win the Test series. Sajid Khan and Noman Ali proved their skills by bowling brilliantly. Saud Shakeel showed excellent batting skills by scoring a century," he said.



PESHAWAR: A view of site after fire broke out incident at Fire Tissue Paper and Pampers Factory building as fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, located on Industrial Estate Hayatabad

Senate delegation visits Uzbekistan Senate Secretariat in Tashkent

TASHKENT (APP): The visiting delegation of Pakistani senators, led by Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, met with their Uzbek counterparts at the Senate Secretariat in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The three-member delegation is currently visiting Uzbekistan on the invitation of the Election Commission of Uzbekistan as International Elections Observers.

At the Senate Secretariat in Tashkent, the delegation comprising Pakistani senators Sarmad Ali, Amir Chishti, and Irfan Siddiqui held significant meetings with their Uzbek counterparts, including Senator Ravshanbek Ahimov, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Anvar Tuychiyev, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Uzbek Senate and others.

The Uzbek senate expressed admiration for Pakistan's democratic system and highlighted the robust strategic ties between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Both sides showed a keen interest in further enhancing Pak-Uzbek relations, with discussions revolving around the potential for future cooperation, including parliamentary friendship group exchanges.

The Uzbek Senate provided valuable insights into the election process and the functioning of the Uzbekistan parliament, fostering a better understanding between the two countries.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui reaffirmed Pakistan's high regard for Uzbekistan and pledged continued support for key infrastructure projects such as the trans-Afghan railway initiatives and Gwadar port programs. Additionally, an invitation was extended to the Uzbek counterparts to visit Pakistan, to foster stronger ties and promote cooperation.

As part of their visit, the Pakistani Senators were given a comprehensive tour of the Uzbek Senate hall, where they were briefed on the intricate workings of the Senate.

Speaker of Russian Federation Council to arrive today

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ms. Valentina Matvienko, the Speaker of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, is set to arrive in Pakistan on Sunday for an official visit.

According to a news release, the visit, scheduled from October 27 to 29, was extended by Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani.

This visit is expected to mark a pivotal moment in the growing diplomatic and parliamentary ties between the two nations.

Ms Matvienko's presence is anticipated to further strengthen Pakistan-Russia relations, with engagements planned at the highest levels of leadership.

During her stay, Ms Matvienko is scheduled to meet with Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, the President, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Additionally, she will address a special session of the Senate on Monday, October 28.

CM attends oath...

Continued from page 1

He believed that Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi would play key role for supremacy of law and constitution in the country.

He said that his previous judgments made for dispensation of Justice according to the law and constitution have immense importance.

He said that the role of higher judiciary can't be forgotten in formation of the society based on the equality.

The Chief Minister also said that parliament and judiciary have their own important role for rule of law and supremacy of constitution according to their mandate.

He stressed that formation of the constitutional benches is very unavoidable and adding he hoped that new Chief Justice would take steps for formation of the constitutional benches in his first priority to dispose of the important constitutional matters.

Mushaal said that despite all negative tactics of India, the Kashmiri people never accepted the illegal occupation of India and started the struggle for free-

Bilawal reaffirms commitment to IIOJK self-determination

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed his unwavering support for the Kashmiri people in their enduring struggle for justice and self-determination, as Pakistan and IIOJK observe Black Day to mark the tragic occupation of Kashmir on October 27, 1947.

The Chairman of PPP, in his message, condemned the relentless human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the oppression faced by those demanding basic rights and freedom. "Pakistan stands resolutely with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. Their right to self-determination, enshrined in United Nations resolutions, is a human right that must not be denied through force or injustice," he stated. "We urge the international com-

munity to act decisively to bring peace, justice, and freedom to this long-suffering region."

Bilawal also highlighted the rich legacy of PPP's dedication to the Kashmir cause. He paid tribute to the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whose fierce advocacy for Kashmir remains unmatched, and to the tireless efforts of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who consistently championed Kashmir's voice on global platforms.

He further acknowledged President Asif Ali Zardari's efforts, noting how, during his first tenure, he elevated the Kashmir issue to global prominence, tirelessly championing the rights of the Kashmiri people on the international stage. President Zardari remains steadfastly dedicated to advancing this cause with unwavering resolve.

Kashmiris never accepted illegal occupation of India: Mushaal

BAHAWALPUR (INP): A special webinar was organised at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) on the eve of Black Day.

Senior Kashmiri leader Mushaal Hussein Malik was the chief guest and Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Professor Dr Rubina Bhatti presided over the webinar.

Mushaal said that despite all negative tactics of India, the Kashmiri people never accepted the illegal occupation of India and started the struggle for free-

dom through a popular uprising in 1947 which continues to date.

She appreciated the leadership of Islamia University Bahawalpur Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Kamran and the role of teachers in appraising the issue of Kashmir with the new generation.

With India banning all activities of the Hurriyat Conference, Pakistan is the only voice that is expressing the apologetic conscience of Kashmiris to the world.

PCB chief decides to appoint Rizwan as white-ball captain

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has decided to appoint wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan as captain for national T20 and ODI teams.

Sources said Head Coach Gary Kirsten had recommended the name of Rizwan, adding that selectors had three weight behind the decision.

It comes after the PCB chief held a meeting with Rizwan following a Test series won by Pakistan against England in Rawalpindi. Furthermore, Naqvi had also decided to appoint Salman Ali Agha as vice captain.

Rizwan will replace Babar Azam, who had been appointed Pakistan's white-ball captain in March earlier this year.

Home series: Pakistan relish sweet smell of success after almost four years

Real story on how release of Bushra Bibi became possible comes to open

ISLAMABAD (Online): The real story of how release of Bushra Bibi became possible has come to open.

According to sources efforts by Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur led to make the release of Bushra Bibi possible.

CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur had sought commitment for release of Bushra Bibi by ending October 5 protest.

Reaching D chowk by Ali Amin Gandapur after leaving protest rally on motorway was part of deal. Ali Amin Gandapur had announced to end October 5 protest in return for release of Bushra Bibi.

Staging no protest on the occasion of SCO conference was also part of deal. Shifting Bushra Bibi to KP following her release too stands linked to already set deal.

Bushra Bibi will stay in KP for some time.

Reaching KP house from D Chowk and later moving to KP assembly on October 5 was also part of

deal.

Ali Amin Gandapur had announced about good decision to come fore by taking members of assembly into confidence. Postponing protest on October 15 was also included in deal.

Earlier too much efforts were made for release of Bushra Bibi but these could not bear fruit.

The release after 15 minutes of issuance of rookbar became possible as a result of deal.

The vehicle which was used to take Bushra Bibi out of jail after her release was also sent by Ali Amin Gandapur.

Sources said PTI founder today too expressed resentment with party leaders for not leading protest. He expressed dismay with the party leaders who met him.

PTI founder expressed resentment with Suleman Akram Raja in separation.

PTI founder expressed displeasure over leaving workers in lurch in D-Chowk.

Imtiaz Wani says:

Pakistan's support vital for Kashmiri self-determination

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Hurriyat Leader Imtiaz Wani emphasized that India's substantial military presence in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir has not deterred the Kashmiri people from pursuing their right to self-determination.

In a Radio Pakistan interview, Wani vowed to persist in the freedom fight, thanking Pakistan for unconditional support, adding, Pakistan's unwavering support has been a beacon of hope for the Kashmiri people in their relentless quest for self-determination. "We, the Kashmiris are thankful to the government of Pakistan and its nation for an unconditional support to the Kashmir cause," he mentioned.

He praised that the Pakistan had effectively highlighted Kashmir dispute on all international forums. The recent resolution passed by National Assembly of Pakistan is another proof of this unwavering support by Pakistan in advocacy of Kashmir people," he further highlighted.

Justice Yahya Afridi takes oath as 30th...

Continued from page 1

as an advocate of the High Court in 1990 and as an advocate of the Supreme Court in 2004. He also served as an Assistant Advocate General for the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and as a Federal Counsel for the Government of Pakistan while in practice.

Justice Yahya Afridi was elevated to the Bench of the Peshawar High Court as Additional Judge in 2010 and later confirmed as a Judge of the Peshawar High Court on March 15, 2012.

Justice Afridi became the first judge from the Federally Administered Tribal Area to assume the office of the Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court when he took oath on December 30, 2016 and served in that office until his elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on June 28, 2018.

Meanwhile the newly appointed Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Justice Yahya Afridi decided Supreme Court's (SC) proceedings will be available for the public through live streaming.

CJP Justice Yahya Afridi decided to provide live streaming services in all Supreme Court courtrooms, the sources said. The service will require the consent of parties involved, maintaining confidentiality for female litigants.

This move would also allow global access to court proceedings, enabling overseas Pakistanis to watch their cases live.

The sources CJP Justice Yahya Afridi tasked Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar to supervise the



QUETTA: Hazardous smoke rises from a chimney of a brick-kiln causing tremendous environmental pollution without any check by the relevant authorities, located on Saranan area of Quetta

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Sunday October 27, 2024

Selling PIA

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's assertion that the government hopes to finalise the delayed privatisation of the national carrier next month indicates that issues with shortlisted bidders interested in buying PIA will be resolved soon.

His words were preceded by the parliamentary secretary for communications claiming that the "financially unviable" PIA would be auctioned on Oct 30. Previously, the government had hoped to sell the loss-making airline by June. The minister, who is attending the annual IMF and World Bank meetings in Washington, blamed the delay on macroeconomic instability and insufficient time given to prospective investors for due diligence of the company.

"The reality is, when any foreign investor comes in, or even the local investor, who is going to put in a substantial amount of money, they want to ensure that the foundation is there," he said. He noted that bidders for both PIA and the Islamabad airport also required scrutiny — another factor that led to the extension of the privatisation timeline.

The last time the government postponed PIA's auction was a month ago when it was reported that the bidders had demanded changes to Pakistan's tax laws that would have placed them on an equal tax footing with foreign investors. They also wanted the freedom to change existing terms of employment of the company's staff, and modifications in sale conditions related to the re-capitalisation of the carrier for refreshing and expanding the fleet with an investment of nearly \$800m to make it financially viable.

However, it had been reported then that the authorities' refusal to give PIA special tax treatment less than a week before final bids to buy the airline were due had dampened buyer interest, forcing the authorities to postpone the auction of the 60pc government stake in the state-owned company for at least a month. It is still not known if these and other issues raised by the potential investors have been resolved.

While some investor concerns are legitimate and buyers should not be compelled to absorb the financial burden of surplus employees, others seem to have been raised to force the government's hand to make the deal even sweeter amid reports that the authorities would give in to their demands in order to meet the new IMF funding programme.

With the government already taking over most of the airline's liabilities — its debt of more than Rs600bn, the pension bill of its retired employees, and so on — the bidders' attempts to force more concessions from the authorities is not acceptable. For the sake of transparency and to prevent any controversy from erupting, the government should make clear the details of the deal it has offered the bidders and the demands they have raised.

Abdul Moiz Jaferi

Imagine if after a career-defining struggle a judge reaches the pinnacle of his profession. And within four months of this peak, his stature is reduced to the extent that the only major difference of opinion amongst lawyers who have witnessed his conduct in court is whether he is an agent or merely a pedant.

After a first-day full-court intent on putting matters right, the things retired chief justice Qazi Faez Isa did not do are perhaps as telling as the things he did. Peshawar High Court chief justice Waqar Seth had declared hundreds of military trials to be shamolic and the continued internment of citizens illegal. The Supreme Court under Umar Bandial suspended this judgment; but it was not listed under CJP Isa. The Balochistan High Court declared that the land given to DHA was illegally allotted. This judgment was also suspended, but was again

not listed under CJP Isa.

The legality of the military courts remains undecided and dozens of civilians continue in military custody. When Baloch activist Mahrang Baloch marched to the capital with women and children protesting against enforced disappearances, the top judge did not notice that they were assaulted, water-cannoned and beaten back home.

To see or not to see was almost always the question. He couldn't see when the caretaker set-up exceeded its constitutional mandate under his watch. He didn't question the Election Commission's clear contempt of the Supreme Court ordering elections in KP and Punjab. But he could see overreach when petitioned in the public interest by a real estate developer who alleged an ISI chief had used his authority to raid his home. The allegation was against Faiz Hameed, the architect of the campaign against the judge.

Later in November, he could not see any

standing to sue when he refused to hear a public interest petition on the overall issue of missing persons because he felt this was an individual's personal grievance. Towards the end of this busy month, the registrar of the Supreme Court rejected a petition against the illegal and abrupt deportation of thousands of Afghan settlers, noting that the petition didn't raise a question of fundamental rights.

Then came Jan 13; the CJP couldn't see that the ECP had a peculiar interest in the PTI. The party was denied its electoral symbol, and the decision rendered was vague enough and rendered late enough (on the night of the deadline) to cause chaos amongst the last-day filers for the upcoming election. The ECP used it to deny the PTI its status as a political party, and sowed enough confusion for it all to become relevant when the PTI candidates, who won anyway, asked for the reserved seats to be allotted to their party.

It was during the hearing related to reserved seats that CJP Isa admitted that the idea that the PTI was no longer a political party was a misinterpretation of his order by the ECP. It was a misinterpretation that could have been avoided with one line of clarity in the original order itself, or by way of a simple press release.

When it was argued before CJP Isa that the harassment of PTI members in the run-up to the elections was being reported by the media, he claimed he did not watch television news. He didn't know who Fayyaz ul Hassan Chohan or Imran Riaz Khan were when told they were missing or abducted, but did recognise Akbar S. Babar as a founding member of the PTI. In the Monal restaurant case, he was able to perceive that the owner's relationship with a federal secretary afforded influence over government decision-making.

There was a time when he would refer to WhatsApp forwards in

judicial orders arguing that development funds might have been misused by PTI MNAs and an inquiry was appropriate. As chief he took suo motu action against illegal tree-cutting. But when Barrister Gohar of the PTI at the podium said his house had just been raided and his family assaulted, he felt this was an issue for the police to handle and moved on.

Donald Rumsfeld had known unknowns. The CJP had seen unseens. When the Supreme Court suspended the reserved seats awarded by the ECP to everyone but the PTI in May 2024, he apparently wanted to form a bench which comprised everyone who would not be chief justice. He could see that the reserved seats case would determine the government's ability to effect a constitutional amendment which related to chief justices.

Much later, after a first attempt at passing the amendment had failed, he apparently could not see the link between his

reversing the 63-A floor crossing judgment in review and how it would open the door for the government to coerce opposition lawmakers because he didn't know of any constitutional amendment being in the works.

When six judges of the Islamabad High Court wrote to complain about finding cameras in their bedrooms and their parents being abducted and stood before them in the dark of the night, CJP Isa wanted to know who wrote the letter and questioned them one by one. He then wanted to ask the prime minister to have it all investigated. He wanted to make clear these incidents were from before he became chief. Under his watch, covert mission creep became a constitutional amendment. On his retirement release, Sardar Tariq Masood spoke of how on the Day of Judgment, the fair-minded judge would be blessed with the comfort of standing in the shadow of the Creator. If I ever become a judge and do what CJP Isa managed for the past year, I would pack a hat.

Transnational organised crime

Tariq Khosa

The 12th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) was held in Vienna on Oct 14-18, 2024.

It was heartening to note the surge in civil society representation which increased by over 90 per cent. Some 200 NGOs/CSOs participated and interacted with senior delegates of 192 state parties to the UN Convention during the plenary and around 65 side events.

The outgoing president of the COP mentioned the addition of three states, including Pakistan, to the list of countries that have ratified the UNTOC's Trafficking in Persons Protocol since 2022. During the general discussion on the convention, the DG FIA made a formal statement on behalf of the Pakistani government, highlighting the progress achieved in the review process.

During the review of the implementation of UNTOC, this writer, representing an alliance of 35 Pakistani NGOs/CSOs and 65 national experts on organised crime, had the

opportunity to present civil society's outlook on a strategy to ensure meaningful civil society engagement to achieve two outcomes. The first of these outcomes was that civil society perspectives were incorporated into the UNTOC review mechanism process in an impactful manner; and the second, the CSO community working against organised crime came together on a single platform to engage with the review mechanism.

One of the key initiatives of the UNODC is to initiate voluntary country-specific 'pilot initiatives' by interested member states, aimed at strengthening cooperation between the concerned national authorities, CSOs, academia, and the private sector. Mexico was the first country to launch the pilot initiative. Pakistan was the second globally, and the first in Asia, to launch the pilot initiative on the UNTOC review in Islamabad in September 2022.

Since then, Kenya and Angola have also launched voluntary pilot initiatives. Chile is to follow soon. In a special side event on strengthening multi-stake-

holder collaboration against transnational organised crime, Pakistan was cited in the context of international best practices regarding a joint strategy by the state and civil society to undertake meaningful engagement during the first cluster of the review mechanism on 'criminalisation and jurisdiction'. A trilateral cooperative framework between the Pakistani government, the civil society alliance and the UNODC has provided the impetus for laying a long-term roadmap for the UNTOC mechanism under forthcoming review clusters.

Civil society in Pakistan has published two annual reports for 2022 and 2023 on the progress in implementation of the review mechanism. The interior ministry established an UNTOC review secretariat in the National Police Bureau where some experts from civil society were embedded to deliberate on responses to the self-assessment questionnaires required to be submitted to Pakistan's two peer review countries.

The credit for these initiatives goes to the Pakistani government's national focal person, currently the

DG of the newly established Anti-Money Laundering Authority. One must also acknowledge the proactive and responsive engagement approach adopted since 2022 by our current and former ambassadors, the permanent representatives of Pakistan's mission in Vienna.

Since the adoption of the UNTOC (2000-2003), long negotiations on the review mechanism were initiated following the first COP in 2004. In 2018, at the ninth COP a mechanism was agreed on. However, civil society's access to the review process remained a key point of contention. The actual operation of the review mechanism started in 2020 when Pakistan was placed in the first group of 62 countries to commence the review process. Pakistan could not initiate the review process as the national focal person had not yet been appointed by our government.

However, on the initiative of civil society, the government appointed one in January 2022. Fortunately, as a professionally sound senior police officer, he happened to be the notified national expert on organised crime. Since then, Pakistan's

progress in the review process has been impressive, with almost all the cluster-1 review requirements fulfilled. The only delay is on the part of the peer review countries.

Representatives of Pakistan's civil society alliance have participated in all the dialogues held in Vienna since 2022 on the three UNTOC Protocols on Firearms, Trafficking in Persons, and Smuggling of Migrants. In addition, civil society initiated following the first CD (constructive dialogues) on international cooperation and technical assistance. Based on the experience and interactions over the last three years, the Vienna-based Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, came up with the first-ever civil society declaration on the UNTOC during the recent COP. The clear objectives are to raise the level of civil society engagement with member states, ensure that its inputs are coordinated and disseminated effectively, highlight key procedural and substantive issues, and build a strong global network of collaboration.

The 2024 Vienna civil society UNTOC declaration is aimed at pushing back against efforts to limit or silence civil society voices, and

at protecting and defending those uncovering corruption and related efforts contributing to organised crimes. It recognises the unique position of civil society as a bridge-builder and reaffirms the need for integration of civil society engagement with communities and victims. It recommends survivor-centric, trauma-informed and human rights-based approaches.

The declaration seeks a better and coordinated whole-of-society approach to dealing with serious and organised crimes. As we approach the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UNTOC, the slow pace of the review mechanism since 2020 is a cause of concern. All parties need to redouble their efforts and raise their commitment to ensuring the effective implementation of the convention.

While the efforts of Pakistan's institutions and civil society in this endeavour have been recognised by the international community in the first phase of the review mechanism, it is essential that long-term political commitment is ensured for holistic implementation, in active collaboration with partners in civil society.

Muffled outrage

Arooj Waheed Dar

The recent alleged rape case and the events that followed on the campuses of the Punjab Group of Colleges (PGC) across the province underscore two critical issues in the country: gender-based violence (GBV) and the repression of youth. The systemic marginalisation of young voices, exacerbated by economic disempowerment, gender discrimination, political exclusion, and unnecessary censorship has created a volatile environment where pent-up frustrations can easily surface. Triggered by social media posts from unverified accounts, the alleged 'fake rape' case sparked youth outrage, intensified by poor handling by the university administration and law enforcement.

There is no denying that GBV is pervasive across society. But why did this particular case galvanise the youth? It may have done so because it provided an opportunity for young people to unify and organise; the youth found a common cause to rally around. The moment allowed them to challenge 'oppressive' authority — both governmental and academic — while becoming a force to be reckoned with. Moreover, for young women, many of whom experience GBV daily, this case created a relatively safer space within educational institutions to voice their anger and frustration.

Overall, the situation highlighted the extraordinary potential of youth when given the opportunity to unite, underscoring the need for lawmakers and provincial heads to harness this collective energy and channel it effectively rather than allowing it to fester and cause further discontent.

The government and other stakeholders must

acknowledge that the PGC case was not an isolated incident; rather it was a manifestation of years of pent-up frustration faced by marginalised segments of society — particularly women and youth — who endure being silenced and various other forms of abuse and injustices on a day-to-day basis. The lack of economic opportunities for the young demographic adds to their frustration, turning the situation into a ticking time bomb. Hence, long-term fixes for both youth development and GBV must be prioritised.

Foremost, there is a need for the promotion of participatory politics so that young people have a platform from which to engage in political discourse, influence decision-making processes, and advocate for new and emerging issues that matter to them. This includes the reinstatement of student unions across all educational institutes, and the establishment of functional and representative youth forums at the district level with equal gender representation. Ensuring these bodies are free from political interference is crucial.

Much of the youth's resentment stems from a lack of economic independence. Therefore, policymakers must prioritise their economic empowerment, focusing on the provision of decent jobs. While labour laws exist on paper, the reality is that the political economy often enables the powerful to evade accountability, reducing these laws to mere words and leading to the widespread exploitation of young workers. The government must take decisive action to ensure the effective implementation of these laws, prioritise the establishment of labour unions and create

job opportunities that are free from nepotism. Equally important is digitally empowering the youth, especially women, enabling them to access economic and educational opportunities more equitably.

Additionally, strengthening legal frameworks surrounding GBV, particularly with regard to implementation, is essential. This entails not only enacting the existing laws that protect individuals from GBV, but also ensuring the provision of survivor-centric support services. These measures should be complemented by proper referral mechanisms and awareness campaigns to educate both the youth and the broader community about their rights and the resources available to them.

While youth development has been a significant part of political discourse lately — albeit often limited to lip service — many policymakers steer clear of acknowledging the prevalence of GBV. The taboos surrounding GBV can only be dismantled when policymakers and government representatives openly discuss these issues and the collective need for action. Provincial leaders must show genuine commitment by engaging key stakeholders and implementing strategic measures to tackle the problem with the required sensitivity.

The multiplier effect of neglecting both the youth and GBV could trigger a catastrophe that the nation may be unprepared for. A nuanced approach to addressing these issues is essential, or we risk allowing anti-state actors to exploit this neglected demographic, turning what could be an opportunity for progress into a source of perpetual instability.

Teachers' needs

Ali Nawab

At the launching ceremony of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) project to be implemented in Sindh a couple of years ago, I asked the then leader of the initiative whether they had conducted any assessment of teachers' needs. His response was typical: "We know their needs." This has been a major issue with the reform initiatives in education in Pakistan. The interventions usually disregard contextual realities and the needs of teachers, and thus fail to bring any significant change to classroom practices, despite spending huge resources.

Imagine a multi-grade setting where one or two teachers are expected to engage four to six grades in a school. Ironically, these teachers have been trained for mono-grade teaching. Accommodating children usually from disadvantaged backgrounds, these schools make up the large majority of schools in Sindh.

Unfortunately, these schools, the teachers and, ultimately, the students barely receive any attention from the 'reformers'. Social justice proponents argue that resources should be channelled to the neediest dwelling at the end, the leakages will be enough to fulfil the needs of those surrounding the channel.

The majority of CPD projects not only disregard the real needs and realities of teachers but also neglect the principles of change. Scholars believe that change initiatives should be as simple as possible. When teachers are expected to work on too many fronts such as both content and

pedagogy, failure is very predictable. The focus of reform initiatives is usually on the technicality of change rather than the practices and beliefs of people who will be affected by the change. When the deep-rooted beliefs and practices of teachers are neglected, it is unlikely that the 'visible changes' will reach the stage of becoming an accepted norm of the classroom. Even if there are some innovations, like 'bubbles on the water surface' they will disappear as soon as the project concludes.

Most importantly, CPD interventions in Pakistan are less informed by the latest trends in the professional development of teachers. The traditional CPD models, where teachers are sent out of school to attend programmes have been found to be less impactful mainly because of their sporadic nature, being accessible to only a limited number of teachers, the lack of relevance to teachers' real issues and the mode of delivery where teachers are treated as passive receivers of knowledge transmitted through 'experts'.

The shift is now from professional development to professional learning with the assumption that teachers' work necessitates ongoing learning, rather than one-time 'development'. Job-embedded learning, workplace learning, collaborative learning, communities of practice, mentoring, peer coaching, lesson study and many other school-based professional learning approaches have, therefore, replaced the traditional approaches to professional development.

Teachers are expected to engage in collaborative inquiry in their workplace where they

collectively identify their context-specific issues and find contextual solutions for those issues building on their own capacity — something like a magpie that builds its nest out of the materials in the locality.

Change agents, however, still intervene with the traditional cascading model where the actual lesson alters as it reaches the classroom passing through so many channels and sources. Consequently, when some impartial observers evaluate the intervention, they will come to the conclusion that no-thing has changed radically at classroom level for students — the ultimate beneficiaries of these interventions. Ironically, without such evaluation of what worked and what didn't, change agents approach other agencies who intervene with their own models, assumptions and agendas, and the process continues.

The need of CPD for teachers in Pakistan especially in Sindh is intense given that the pre-service teacher education programmes that the majority of teachers attend are considered to be outdated and theoretical, barely preparing them for effective teaching.

However, to make the CPD interventions impactful for teachers and ultimately for our students, we should revisit our approaches through considering the real needs of teachers, principles of change and latest trends in the professional development of teachers. Continuing with the common hegemonic process of universalising practices of economically powerful nations without considering our contextual realities may have serious long term implications for education.

CM approves 500 electric buses project for Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a joint meeting of different departments at CM House here Saturday to review the progress of the projects in the pipeline and some new projects that could be launched with the assistance of the donor agencies.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon, Minister Energy Nasir Shah, Minister Industries Jam Ikram, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah and concerned secretaries.

During the meeting, the CM observed that Karachi's public transport system was overwhelmed by its growing population and outdated fleet, resulting in overcrowded, inefficient, and environmentally harmful services. He added that the induction of Peoples Bus Service, electric Buses and

Pink Buses have made a difference but even then a big fleet of buses was required to resolve the public transport issue of the city.

Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon told the CM that to tackle these challenges and promote sustainable urban mobility, his department had proposed him the induction of 500 fully electric buses into the city's transportation network. He added that the move would enhance the commuter experience, reduce traffic congestion, and significantly lower air pollution.

The CM said that the proposal of the transport department has started discussions with the donor agencies, and hopefully, he will secure the funds. He directed the P&D and transport departments to finalise the required paperwork.

300 Diesel-hybrid Buses: Cm Murad Shah said that the transport system across Sindh,

outside of Karachi, was in dire need of modernisation and expansion to meet the growing demands of its population. "As the province continues to develop economically and socially, the current public transport offerings struggle to keep pace," he said.

Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon said that his department was working on a proposal aiming to procure 300 diesel-hybrid buses, allocating 60 buses to each of the five divisions of Sindh, to enhance connectivity, improve environmental standards, and ensure a reliable and efficient mode of transport for all residents. He said 60 buses would be given to each Division - Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas and Shaheed Benazirabad.

Another project of procurement of 300 EV buses for Intercity Transpiration in the province was discussed in the meeting.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the meeting regarding Agricultural Initiatives.

Govt's farmer-friendly policy starts producing results: Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a special meeting convened to discuss agricultural affairs in Punjab, here on Saturday.

The CM highlighted the government's commitment to supporting farmers, saying that the first true farmer-friendly Punjab government in history is reaping the benefits of its tireless efforts. The session provided a comprehensive briefing on the expected increase in rice production, which could potentially boost exports by one billion dollars.

Last year, Punjab exported rice worth four billion dollars, and projections for the current year indicate exports could reach five billion dollars. There is also a significant increase anticipated in both the area under rice cultivation and overall

production. In addition, a 30 per cent increase in wheat production is forecasted. The government has mandated wheat cultivation on all government-owned agricultural land across Punjab. Chief Minister Nawaz emphasized the importance of leveraging technology to enhance agricultural output, urging the adoption of modern and scientific methods along with appropriate machinery. She said farmers will have access to affordable seeds and other agricultural inputs for wheat cultivation.

During the briefing, it was noted that over 1.14 million farmers have registered for the Kisan Card program, with more than 417,000 cards printed and around 300,000 distributed. Over 296,000 cards have been activated,

and more than 500,000 farmers have received their Kisan Cards. A network of 2,600 registered dealers is available across Punjab to facilitate this initiative.

The meeting was briefed that over 1.5 million farmers have registered on the CM Green Tractor Program portal, with a lottery to be held for 9,500 tractors among 100,000 applicants. Of those applying, 64 percent own five acres of land, 28 percent own 12.5 acres, and 8 percent have up to 50 acres. Briefing further revealed that in terms of professional support, 993 agriculture graduates are currently providing guidance to farmers to increase wheat yields. The construction of four agricultural malls in Punjab is progressing rapidly, and the government has provided 737 super seeders at subsidized rates to support farmers.

SHC orders to conduct MDCAT test again within 4 weeks

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has ordered to conduct MDCAT test again within four weeks.

The court announced short order in the case of alleged irregularities in MDCAT test.

Justice Salahuddin Panhwar said to counsel for PMDC "your hands are tied where there are powerful people. Announce the result of MDCAT test today. Were Rs 8000 per candidate taken. This is too high for poor person. Apparently this examination has been compromised."

Counsel for PMDC said we will implement whatever decision is given by court.

Counsel for FIA told the court mobile of those who participated in examination process are on forensic. One person had deleted messages which were recovered. Physical evidence has also been found. The court remarked orders be obtained from chief secretary Sindh, secretary health and secretary universities. Tell us after asking that Sindh government will provide what facilities if IBA conducts test again.

Additional chief secretary said we make consultations with IBA Karachi on court orders.

SHC remarked why on the orders of court. This is your job. There is no need of court's order.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council, Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi and Shahid Mahmood Anwar at the Hajj seminar in a local hotel.

Kashmiris to grant their right to self-determination need of time: Murtaza

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Former federal minister and secretary General PML-N KP Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Saturday said that the international community should know the sensitivity of the Kashmir issue and it is the need of the hour that Kashmiri people were given their rights as promised in the light of United Nation UN resolutions.

He expressed these views while talking to APP here.

Murtaza Abbasi said that on non-implementation of UN resolution on the referendum in Kashmir people of the Kashmir are suffering Indian occupation forces brutalities.

Murtaza Abbasi reiterated the unwavering political, the moral and diplomatic support of the people and Government of Pakistan to the struggle of Kashmiri people to safeguard their fundamental rights including their right to self-determination.

He further said that the UN should cancel the membership of India for not holding a plebiscite in Kashmir and said that on 27 October, the Kashmiris will mark this day as 'black day'. On this day Kashmiris ask all the civilized world to understand the cause of the dispute and the pain that they have suffered for it, the struggle that they are not willing to give up, adding he said.

Murtaza Abbasi reiterated the unwavering political, the moral and diplomatic support of the people and Government of Pakistan to the struggle of Kashmiri people to safeguard their fundamental rights including their right to self-determination.



MUZAFFARABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar giving shield to winners at the end of the annual Parents' Day event organized in Cadet College.

Anti-encroachment operation seals 18 shops, removes 195 banners

LAHORE (APP): The Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) has sealed 18 shops and removed 195 banners and streamers from various city locations during a crackdown against encroachment mafia, here on Saturday.

In line with the directives from Deputy Commissioner (DC), Syed Musa Raza, regulations squads under the supervision of MCL chief officer, Shahid Abbas Kathia, have been activated across all zones to remove encroachments and temporary stalls.

During the move, seven truck-loads of confiscated items were also shifted to the MCL junk yard.

DC emphasized that traders should proactively clear encroachments in front of their shops.

He warned of strict action against violations, stating that encroachments significantly disrupt traffic flow. The removal of temporary structures has already improved traffic conditions and he reaffirmed that no encroachments would be tolerated in key areas.

Zonal officers will continue monitoring designated business areas to ensure compliance.

The cooperation of the trading community and the public was essential in keeping the city free of encroachments, he added.

Faculty, final year students of FLC visit Judicial Academy

PESHAWAR (APP): Following its tradition, a delegation of students of LLB final Semester of the Frontier Law College, Peshawar, (FLC) visited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy here along with Akhtar Ali Khan, the founder and Director of the college, Justice @ Syed Yahya Zahid Gillani Principal, FLC and faculty members of the college. A special ceremony was organized to commemorate

this visit, attended by Aurangzeb Khan Khalil, Director General (Acting) KPJA, Zia Ur Rehman, Dean Faculty, Dr. Qazi Attallah, Senior Director Research & Publication, Faryal Zia Mufti, Director Instructions-I, Wajid Ali, Director Instructions-II, Syed Mansoor Shah Bukhari, Research & Publication Officer, Sajid Amin, Admin officer and others were also present on the occasion.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Irrigation, Jam Khan Shorro visiting different section after inauguration of Hydro Informatics Centre at Civil Lines on Saturday.

NAB DG assures compensation, justice to 250 affectees

LAHORE (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore, under the supervision of Director General Amjad Majeed Aulakh, conducted its monthly open court session at the regional bureau office, here on Saturday.

The session was attended by over 250 affectees to seek justice and recovery of their looted money. The DG listened to all affectees and issued on-the-spot instructions while updating them on the progress of their ongoing cases.

Affectees from various housing societies and Ponzi schemes, including State Life Cooperative Housing Society, Palm Vista Housing, Prime Zone, and Bold Vision, as well as employees of ForU Real Traders, New Lahore City project, Qasim Garden, Defence Paradise, Faisalabad and employees

of Rahim Store participated in the Open Court session.

Regarding Palm Vista Housing, the DG NAB Lahore justified prompt action on complaints and revealed arrest of two directors named accused Mahmood Tariq and Amer Azeem. The accused persons face allegations of embezzling Rs1.4 billion from 295 affectees in said scam.

To further investigations and recovery of looted funds, the accused have been remanded to custody until October 30. The DG also informed affectees that efforts are underway to repatriate the main absconding accused named Qasim Khan, through Interpol. However, all movable and immovable assets of those involved in the fraud have been frozen. State Life Cooperative Housing Society affectees sought affiliation and NOC from NAB.

Provincial emergency operations Center officials discuss Polio campaign

SANGHAR (APP): Provincial Emergency Operations Center for Polio, represented by Director Irshad Ahmed Sohder and Team Leader Ahmed Ali Sheikh of the Sindh Emergency Operations Center, met with Deputy Commissioner Sanghar, Dr. Imran Hassan Khawaja, to discuss the upcoming polio vaccination campaign.

During the meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Dr. Imran briefed the officials on the overall health status and conditions within the Sanghar district.

The provincial officials expressed satisfaction with the district administration's performance, despite a recent polio case. They emphasized that the focus should now be on the forthcoming campaign, urging engagement with all community sectors to ensure the success of this national mission. Assistant Commissioner Sanghar Shafiq Ahmed Arisar, District Health Officer Dr. Daulat Jamali, Polio Focal Person Dr. Farooq, Aftab Ahmed, and other officials were also present at the meeting.

"We express our solidarity with the Kashmiri people and raise our voice for protection of their rights. We hope that international forums will recognise the seriousness of the issue and play a role.

CM flays suicide attack in NW

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has strongly condemned the suicide attack at a checkpoint in North Waziristan, which resulted in the martyrdom of four officers.

In her statement, the CM expressed profound grief and sorrow over this tragic incident, conveying heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.

CM Maryam Nawaz honored the bravery and sacrifice of the martyred officers, recognizing their commitment to maintaining peace and security in the region.

Arora expresses solidarity with Kashmiris

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora has expressed solidarity with Kashmiris on the eve of Kashmir Black Day, observed every year on October 27, the day India had illegally sent its armed forces into Kashmir in 1947.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, he said this day is not only a tragedy for the Kashmiri people but also an example of human rights violations at the global scale. He stressed the need to remember the day by supporting the right to self-determination of Kashmiris and urged the international community to address the challenges faced by the Kashmiri people due to India's aggressive policies.

"We express our solidarity with the Kashmiri people and raise our voice for protection of their rights. We hope that international forums will recognise the seriousness of the issue and play a role.

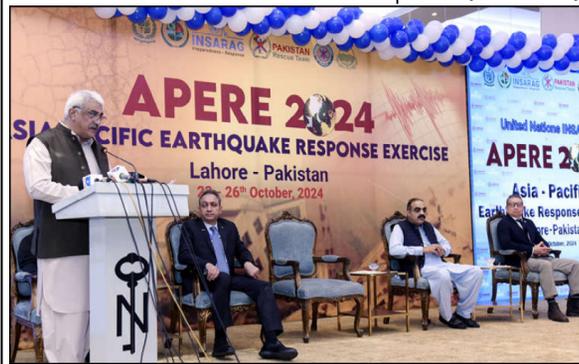
UN INSARAG Asia-Pacific Earthquake Response Exercise-2024 concludes

LAHORE (APP): The United Nations INSARAG Asia-Pacific Earthquake Response Exercise-2024 (APERE) successfully concluded in Lahore.

A total of 274 international delegates from 23 countries and humanitarian partner organizations participated in Lahore Pakistan to share the best international practices and strengthen coordination and cooperation amongst the rescue teams.

On behalf of the Government of the Punjab, Pakistan Provincial Minister for Emergency Services, Khawaja Salman Rafique, formally bid farewell to the distinguished delegates in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan Rescue Team is certified by the United Nations International

Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and that's why, Pakistan holds the chair for the Asia-Pacific region this year and due to this exercise was hosted here in Pakistan. He emphasizing the significance of global collaboration, stated, "By working together, we have enhanced our capabilities and improve international cooperation. It was an honor for Pakistan to host this global event, and I am confident that we have learned from each other's expertise to serve humanity better." He congratulated Dr. Rizwan Naseer and team for their outstanding efforts in organizing this significant event. Secretary of Emergency Services, Dr. Rizwan Naseer acknowledged the international delegates.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Emergency Services Khawaja Salman Rafique addressing the participants during International Rescuers Challenges ceremony.

Sindh has its unique historical identity: Ayaz

HYDERABAD (APP): The second session of the 'Latif Literature and Musical Festival' was held, during which Shabbir Kumbhar presented a presentation on "Sindhu Likhat and Siraj."

On this occasion, the guest of honor, Ayaz Latif Palijo, stated that Sindh is a land of peace and love, which has its unique historical identity.

He remarked that Sindh has provided an intellectual, literary, and historical figure in the form of Siraj Memon, who has given us an excellent book like "Parhado Soi Sad," which has become a beacon for our youth regarding Sindh's historical identity, language, and intellectual movement.

He emphasized that these are not just words but history aimed at

dispelling the despair among the youth of Sindh. He suggested that young people should "meet themselves" and take time for self-reflection while setting aside modern distractions.

He noted that Siraj contributed to several historical struggles, including the writing of the voter list in Sindh and the novel "Aathoon Manho."

During this occasion, Shabbir Kumbhar presented his presentation titled "Sindhu Likhat and Siraj," during which he stated that there is an attack on Sindh's history and that it is being claimed that this is not the Indus civilization but rather the Harappan civilization.

He mentioned that the Sindh language has its own history, and Sindh's language, literature,

Dacoit killed, 2 escape after police encounter

FAISALABAD (APP): One dacoit was killed while his two accomplices managed to escape after police encounter in the area of People's Colony.

Police spokesman said here on Saturday that SHO Madina Town, on a tip-off, conducted a raid in Mohallah Saad Bela to arrest the accused involved in a case registered at Madina Town police station under various provisions but the three outlaws opened indiscriminate firing on the police party.

The police also returned fire in self-defence and during this encounter, one of the outlaws was killed after receiving bullets fired by his own accomplices whereas his two accomplices managed to escape under the cover of firing.



KARACHI: Pakistani lawyers hold a rally against Constitution (Twenty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 2024 in Karachi.

Rana Tanveer highlights auto industry importance in economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Saturday emphasized the importance of the auto industry in country economic development.

While addressing the Pakistan Auto Parts Show 2024, the minister praised the local manufacturers' ability to produce high-quality parts and expressed optimism about the industry's future, said a news release.

"Pakistan is one of

the 40 automobile manufacturing countries in the world", he added.

Tanveer urged all the stakeholders to worked hard to accelerate industrial and agricultural development.

"Pakistan manufacturers are capable of producing highly complex parts to international standards", he remarked.

The minister said that the participation of local and international companies in the event will

bring new innovation in the industry.

He highlighted that the exhibition is important to promote industrial development and strengthen Pakistan's economy.

During the event the minister also visited various manufacturing units.

The event was organized by Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers at Expo Center Lahore.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain addressed the Pakistan Auto Parts Show (PAPS) 2024, organised by the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) at Expo Centre.

Punjab Governor says: Overseas Pakistanis playing important role in the economic development of the country

LAHORE (APP): The delegation of New York Chamber of Small Corporations, led by founder Syed Alamdar Hussain Shah, met Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Former Member of Provincial Assembly, Information Secretary People's Party Central Punjab Shehzad Saeed Cheema was also present on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that overseas Pakistanis are playing a very important role in the economic development of the country. He said that

Governor of Punjab about various problems faced by them. They apprised Punjab Governor of the forced payment of tax on mobile phones at airports and confiscation of mobile phones for non-payment. Governor Punjab assured the delegation to immediately contact the concerned department to resolve the issue. The delegation also invited Governor Punjab to attend a prize distribution ceremony of New York Chamber of Small Corporation as chief guest. The delegation comprised Dr. Rafi Gillani, Dr. Hammad Ahmed Khan, Mr. Umar Shahzad, Shahla Hammad, Mr. Safdar Ali and Muhammad Waqas.

On this occasion, delegation informed the

FBR proposes new rules for import of vehicles by tourists

LAHORE (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Saturday issued a draft amendment to Pakistan's Customs Rules 2001, introducing significant changes to the temporary import rules for vehicles brought into the country by tourists.

must provide an advance bank guarantee to customs authorities. The customs collector will be able to extend the stay of the vehicle by three months after receiving the guarantee.

For the same vehicles re-entering Pakistan, a limited temporary stay of only 14 days will be permitted, with an exception for vehicles operated by foreign tour agencies, which will be allowed a second three-month entry within a year.

The amendment allows tourists to keep their vehicles in Pakistan duty-free for up to three months, provided specific conditions are met, said an FBR notification issued here.

According to the FBR's notification, tourists wishing to bring their vehicles into Pakistan must submit a declaration affirming that they will not transfer ownership of the vehicle while in the country.

In cases where the vehicle is not re-exported after the three-month period, the vehicle's owner

positioning in the global textile market, especially in light of political instability in Bangladesh and international sanctions on China, which have led global importers to seek alternatives.

According to various global research reports, these conditions have enhanced Pakistan's role as a favourable market for textile products globally.

Pakistan's textile exports reach 26-month high

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's textile exports surged to a 26-month high in August, reaching \$1.64 billion—a 13 per cent year-on-year increase, due to government policies and facilitation by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, last August, textile exports stood at \$1.46 billion.

Significant growth was recorded across various sectors, with knitwear and bedwear exports increasing by 15%, and ready-made garment exports up by 28 per cent compared to last year.

Analysts attribute the rise to Pakistan's strategic

outlook.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with leaders representatives of United Business Group and FPCCI.

Dastagir highlights digital payment as a smart choice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Head of Fintech, foodpanda Pakistan Usman Dastagir has emphasized the importance of online payment as a smart choice.

ATM trips. It becomes an inconvenience even for the men of the household, who may need to make the required cash available in time for the deliveries to take place.

In today's fast-paced digital world, where work and education are done online, and even essential services like healthcare can be conducted in the palm of your hand, cash is becoming less necessary, said a news release here on Saturday.

However, as we gradually approach 2025, it's time to finally let go of the old ways and embrace the inevitable path of digital and online payments for everyday needs.

Businesses and consumers are increasingly adopting digital payment methods to make life easier. In Pakistan cash remains a trusted payment option, it comes with its own set of complications.

He said paying online is more than just a modern convenience; it's a way to make everyday life easier, safer, and more organized.

Paying with cash for food or grocery ordered online is nothing short of a hassle, especially for homemakers dealing with the busy schedule of everyday life that leaves very little room to make

For stay-at-home wives and mothers, this means less stress and more time to focus on what truly matters—be it family, hobbies, freelancing or just self-care.

ACT Alliance says: Civil society firmly supports FBR in battle with tax evasion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Action to Counter Illicit Trade (ACT) Alliance on Saturday appreciated the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for highlighting Pakistan's ongoing battle with tax evasion, particularly in the tobacco sector.

smuggling and illegal cigarette sales to begin in January, with the recruitment of additional enforcement personnel.

In a discussion with civil society and media representatives here, the ACT Alliance lauded Chairman FBR dedication to addressing this pervasive issue, recognizing that his leadership is critical to securing Pakistan's economic future, said a news release.

According to FBR's projections, tackling these illicit sales could generate Rs. 200-250 billion in additional revenue annually, from Rs. 300 billion to over Rs. 500 billion, or nearly \$2 billion.

During a recent Senate Standing Committee on Finance meeting, FBR reported that an alarming 70 per cent of cigarettes sold in the country evade taxation, amounting to a massive revenue shortfall for the national exchequer.

This projected increase in revenue is crucial for funding essential public services and driving economic growth.

With only 30 per cent of cigarettes on the market being tax-paid, Chairman FBR Rashid Mahmood Langrial, announced a significant crackdown on

The FBR's ambitious transformation plan includes implementing a 100 per cent Track and Trace System (TTS) in the sugar industry by the start of the upcoming crushing season. Additionally, FBR has made significant strides in the cement sector, meeting with industry leaders to ensure that TTS is operational across all production lines in the coming weeks.

Traders protest against sewage overflow in timber market

MULTAN (APP): Traders in timber market staged a protest demonstration against issue of sewerage water and lethargic attitude of Water and Sanitation Authority.

They blocked Vehari Road in protest and demanded immediate resolution of long-standing sewage issues on Circular Road.

The stagnant sewage water has turned into a pond, frustrating local businesses. Timber Market Traders, led by Vice President Qamar Zaman Khan Wazir, expressed serious concerns. Protesters chanted slogans, criticising the WASA management's inaction.

According to Qamar Zaman, sewage issues have plagued the area for many months. Despite repeated complaints to WASA's Subdivision Office, no action was taken. "Business is suffering as customers avoid the waterlogged streets," he said.

He added traders face economic challenges due to declining foot traffic. WASA, however, threatens to cut connections if bills are delayed, he observed.

Gold surges to Rs. 2,000 per tola

LAHORE (APP): Gold prices in provincial metropolis Sarafa market moved up on Saturday after they registered downward trend in previous two days.

According to local Sarafa Association, per tola gold priced increased by Rs2,000 to settle at Rs284,300 whereas the price of 10-gram surged by Rs714 to reach to 243,741.

The price of the precious commodity also registered upward trend in the international market where per ounce price increased by \$22 to settle at \$2,748.

Meanwhile, silver prices remained unchanged in Pakistan as per tola was traded at Rs3,350 while 10-gram was sold for Rs2,872.08.

Earlier, on Friday, per tola gold price plunged by Rs800 to settle at Rs282,300 whereas the price of 10-gram dropped by Rs682 to reach Rs242,031.



CHINA: Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalid Hashmi speaking at the opening ceremony of 31st China Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair (CAF), an internationally renowned platform for agricultural innovation and collaboration, from October 25 to 29.

Kyrgyzstan envoy meets RCCI body

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Avazbek Atakhanov visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and held a meeting with the chambers' top brass to discuss matters pertaining to strengthening economic and trade ties between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Ambassador expressed optimism about boosting the trade volume to \$500 million, underscoring Kyrgyzstan's interest in deepening ties with Pakistan.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat provided an overview of RCCI's ongoing activities and upcoming events, highlighting the potential for joint ventures in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and tourism.

"Pakistan offers unique opportunities, from the bustling port of Gwadar to the scenic Karakoram," he said.

Acknowledging the modest \$20 million trade volume between the two nations, he called for increased interaction and cooperation to realize their shared economic potential.

The ambassador informed that his country's economy has expanded 2.5 times in the last four years, presenting tremendous opportunities for collaboration. "This is the message we want to send to our friends in Pakistan," he said while highlighting the areas of trade and investment for Pakistani traders in his country.



HYDERABAD: Vendor displaying plastic toys to attract the customer at Makki Shah Road.

APSEA urges SBP to further reduce interest rate

MULTAN (APP): All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association (APSEA) has urged the Monetary Policy Committee of the State Bank of Pakistan to reduce the interest rate and bring it to a realistic level, as a decrease in the markup rate would support industries.

In a statement, Chairman APSEA Zain Mahmood noted that the association had appealed to the MPC for a reduction in the markup rate, referencing the extraordinarily high real interest rates and the difficulties facing the industrial sector. APSEA has demanded an immediate reduction of at least 400 basis points in the markup rate.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with Ms. Reta Jo Lewis, President of the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of the United States.

PSX boom indicative of economic stability

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Senior Vice President (SVP) Qaisar Shams Guha has said the boom in PSX is indicative of the much-needed economic stability and it would convince foreign investors to invest in Pakistan.

going on. He appreciated the economic strategy of the present government and paid tribute to the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Commenting on the historic increase in PSX, he said it had set new records within this month and the process was continuously

He said that increase in exports had also provided a solid ground to further trim the policy rate which would help industrialists to get cheap capital for the latest machinery and technology particularly

for the import substitution industry. He said that this situation would also play a key role in improving the quality of their exportable surplus in addition to bringing down import bill.

He said that economists were expecting that PSX would cross the limit of one lac points by June 2025 but the recent improvements are indicating that probably this target could be achieved during this year.

Experts advocate bridging digital divide to unlock economic growth, empower youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): In today's world, technology has become an essential component of daily life, transforming how we live, work, and connect with one another.

potential. Coined by Larry Irving in the 1990s, the term "digital divide" refers to the gap between those who have access to the internet and digital technologies—and the skills to leverage them—and those who do not (Hadi, S. A., 2021).

From communication to healthcare, and from business to education, the rapid evolution of technology is unmistakable.

Muhammad Saad, an IT expert based in Islamabad, in response to few queries by APP emphasizes that bridging this widening digital divide is the country's most pressing challenge. He further states, "The rapid advancement of technology is leaving many behind, particularly in rural areas

and lower-income communities. It's essential that we invest in infrastructure and education to ensure equal access to digital tools for everyone."

The recently released UNDP's inaugural Digital Development Index (DDI) report reveals that over half of the population lacks internet access, with 54.3 per cent of people cut off from this vital resource due to inadequate digital infrastructure and affordability issues.

the contrast with rural areas is stark. Only about 20% of rural households have internet access, compared to 60% in urban regions, according to the report.

Moreover, the report highlights a pronounced disparity in digital development across different provinces and districts in Pakistan, ranging from high to very low levels of digital access. In Punjab, out of the 36 districts, only Lahore and Rawalpindi achieve a 'high' ranking. Similarly, in Sindh, Karachi stands out as the only 'highly digitally

developed' district among its 24 counterparts. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, just two districts, Abbottabad and Peshawar, rank highly out of 32. Balochistan lacks any districts in the high category, though Quetta and Pishin are recognized for moderate digital development.

This digital gap not only results in unequal access to information but also has profound economic implications. A growing number of individuals lack essential digital skills and literacy, hindering their personal economic prospects and negatively impacting national growth.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of New York Chamber of Small Corporations, led by founder Syed Alamdar Hussain Shah at Governor House.

Putin says ball in Washington's court on US-Russia ties

Monitoring Desk
KAZAN: Russian President Vladimir Putin said his relationship with the United States after the presidential elections would depend on what attitude Washington adopts, as he welcomed comments by Donald Trump on his desire to end the Ukraine conflict as "sincere".

But the Kremlin leader struck a hardline tone, warning the West it was an "illusion" to think Russia could be defeated on the battlefield and that any peace deal would have to recognise Russia's control of swathes of Ukrainian territory.

Putin was speaking at the end of the BRICS summit in the city of Kazan, where he had faced calls from some of Russia's most important allies for the fighting in Ukraine to end.

"How Russian-American relations will develop after the election will depend on the United States. If they are open, then we will also be open.

And if they don't want it, then fine," Putin told reporters in Kazan.

Relations between the two superpowers have sunk to their lowest since the Cold War amid Moscow's military offensive on Ukraine.

Next month's US election is set to be critical in the course of future ties and the conflict in Ukraine.

Trump has repeatedly expressed scepticism over Washington's multi-billion dollar aid to Ukraine and claimed that if elected he could end the fighting in a matter of hours.

Putin said Trump "spoke about his desire to do everything to end the conflict in Ukraine. I think he is being sincere. Of course we welcome statements like this, whoever they come from."

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among around 20 leaders that gathered for the BRICS summit, the largest diplomatic event in Russia since Putin ordered troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

The Kremlin leader said Moscow was open to considering peace initiatives and welcomed BRICS leaders offering to mediate.

But he said any deal must consider the "realities on the ground"—a reference to Ukrainian territory controlled by Russian forces.

"We are ready to look at any proposals for peace negotiations that are based on the realities on the ground. We won't accept anything else," he said.

Putin has previously demanded Kyiv effectively capitulate by pulling its troops back as a precondition to ceasefire talks.

And on Thursday he blasted the West for thinking Russia could be defeated on the battlefield.

Moscow's opponents "do not conceal their aim to deal our country a strategic defeat," he said.



Zhao Xing, Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan, meets with Afghan Acting Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Kabir.

Biden apologises for Native American boarding school atrocities

Monitoring Desk
PHOENIX: US President Joe Biden delivered a historic apology on Friday for one of the country's "most horrific chapters": abducting Native American children from their families and placing them in government boarding schools to erase their culture.

From the early 1800s until the 1970s, the United States ran hundreds of Indian boarding schools across the country to forcibly assimilate Native children into European settler culture, including conversion to Christianity.

A recent government report revealed harrowing instances of physical, mental, and sexual abuse, along with the deaths of nearly a thousand children.

"I formally apologise, as president of the United States of America, for what we did," he said in an impassioned speech at the Gila River Indian Community in Laveen Village, Arizona that was streamed live by the White House.

He called the roughly 150 years the school system existed one of the "most horrific chapters in American history" and a "sin on our soul."

Tropical Storm kills 76 in Philippines

Monitoring Desk
LAUREL: Homeowners in the northern Philippines used spades and rakes to clear out debris left by Tropical Storm Trami on Friday while rescuers trawled through thick mud looking for the missing as the death toll rose to 76.

Tens of thousands of people were displaced by floods fuelled by a torrential downpour that dumped two months' worth of rain, or 391.3 millimetres, over just two days in Batangas.

"Many are still trapped on the roofs of their homes and asking for help," said Andre Dizon, police director for the hard-hit Bicol region.

In Laurel, reporters saw roads blocked by felled trees, vehicles half-submerged in mud and homes severely damaged by flash flooding.

"We saw washing machines, cars, home equipment, roofs being swept away," Mimie Dionela, 56, told AFP.

As Trami departed the Philippines in the early hours, travelling west over the South China Sea, the storm's death toll was swelling as fresh reports of victims emerged.

In Batangas province, south of Manila, the number of confirmed dead had risen to 43, provincial police chief Jacinto Malinao said. Laurel and the nearby towns of Talisay and Agoncillo accounted for most of the dead in Batangas.

Fearing China's hypersonic weapons, US Navy seeks to arm ships with Patriot missiles

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Fearing China will deploy hypersonic weapons to sink ships in the Pacific, the US Navy is moving forward with a plan to arm some of its vessels with Patriot interceptor missiles, two senior defense officials said.

One industry official said putting the highly agile Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (PAC-3 MSE) interceptors, used primarily in the U.S. by the Army, aboard Navy ships anticipates advances in Chinese missile technology, including the use of highly maneuverable hypersonic weapons.

Integrating the Lockheed Martin-made missiles with ships' air defenses comes amid simmering tension in the Indo-Pacific region as China rapidly modernizes its military, and in the wake of successful missile defense efforts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

How many PAC-3 interceptors the Navy will need is uncertain, but overall demand is "through the roof," said Tom Karako, a missile defense expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

He said there was strong interest from foreign governments adding that the US Army wants to more than double production in coming years.

International court prosecutor who charged Netanyahu faces sexual misconduct accusation

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: As the International Criminal Court's top prosecutor sought war crimes charges this year against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over actions in Gaza, he was engulfed in a very different personal crisis playing out behind the scenes.

Karim Khan faced accusations that he tried for more than a year to coerce a female aide into a sexual relationship and groped her against her will. He's categorically denied the allegations, saying there was "no truth to suggestions of misconduct." Court officials have said they may have been made as part of an Israeli intelligence smear campaign.

Two co-workers in whom the woman confided at the ICC's headquarters at The Hague reported the alleged misconduct in early May to the court's independent watchdog, which says it interviewed the woman and ended its inquiry after five days when she opted against filing a formal complaint. Khan himself was never questioned.

But the matter may not be over.

While the woman declined to comment to The Associated Press, people close to her say her initial reluctance was driven by distrust of the in-house watchdog and she has asked the body of member-states that oversees the ICC to launch an external probe.

An ICC official with knowledge of the matter who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity confirmed that the request remains under consideration.

"This wasn't a one-time advance or an arm around the shoulder that could be subject to misinterpretation," one of the people told AP, speaking on condition of anonymity to shield the woman's identity. "It was a full-on, repeated pattern of conduct that was carried out over a long period of time."



Leader of Social Democrats Vilija Blinkeviciute speaks to the media after the first round of Lithuanian parliamentary elections in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Taiwan court rules parts of parliament reforms unconstitutional in setback to opposition

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan's constitutional court ruled on Friday that key parts of contested parliament reforms pushed through by opposition parties are unconstitutional, dealing a blow to the opposition which had said it was trying to bring greater accountability.

Taiwan's cabinet in May asked the court to review legislation on the reforms that led to fighting in parliament and brought out tens of thousands of protesters, many of whom joined the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in making accusations of Chinese interference.

Taiwan's main opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), had joined forces with the small Taiwan People's Party to push through the legislation, as together they have more seats in parliament than the DPP.

The opposition parties said the legislation was meant to give lawmakers greater scrutiny powers over the government and prevent malfeasance and corruption.

The DPP said it was rushed through without proper discussion and said China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, was supporting the move as a way to undermine the government.

Man pleads guilty to displaying a Nazi symbol at pro-Palestinian rally

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: A restaurateur pleaded guilty Thursday to displaying a Nazi symbol during a pro-Palestinian rally in Sydney in early October.

Alan Yazbek was photographed at the Oct. 6 rally in Sydney's central business district holding a sign that replaced the Star of David on the Israeli flag with a blue swastika, accompanied by the words "Stop Nazi Israel."

The 56-year-old Yazbek was also photographed holding another sign in the green and yellow colors associated with Hezbollah—a designated terrorist organization in Australia—with the words "our boys in green and gold will win."

Paris event raises \$1bn in humanitarian and military support for Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: A Paris conference for conflict-stricken Lebanon on Thursday raised around \$800 million for humanitarian aid but saw little diplomatic progress as fighting continues between Israel and Hezbollah.

"In total, we have jointly gathered \$800 million in humanitarian aid," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told participants at the conference closed.

He added that there were a further "\$200 million for the security forces" bringing the total to "even more than a billion ... with the latest contributions".

The total far outstrips both France's target of €500 million and the €400 million originally requested by the UN for Lebanon, where Barrot said over 2,500 people had been killed and "almost one million" displaced in fighting since late September.

Israel launched a ground offensive against Iran-backed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon after a year exchanging fire over the border following the 7 October, 2023 attack by Hamas.

King Charles acknowledges 'painful' slavery past as calls for reparations intensify

Monitoring Desk
APIA: King Charles said on Friday the Commonwealth should acknowledge its "painful" history, as African and Caribbean nations push for reparations for slavery's role in transatlantic slavery. Representatives of 56 countries, most with roots in Britain's empire, are attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that began in Samoa on Monday, with slavery and the threat of climate change emerging as major themes.

"I understand from listening to people across the Commonwealth how the most painful aspects of our past continue to resonate," Charles said in a speech to the summit. "It is vital, therefore, that we understand our history, to guide us towards making the right choices in future."

The demand for former colonial powers such as Britain to pay reparations or make other amends for slavery and its legacies today is a long-standing one, but has gained momentum worldwide, particularly among the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the African Union. Opponents of reparations say countries should be held responsible for historical wrongs, while those in favour say the legacy of slavery has led to vast and persistent racial inequality.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has rejected calls for reparations and ruled out apologising for the country's historic role but said he was open to engaging with leaders who want to discuss it.



Houses submerged in floodwater due to rains brought about by tropical storm Trami in Cagayan.

With green camo and combat boots, Indonesia's new cabinet kicks off army retreat

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Wearing military fatigues and black combat boots, the newly-appointed cabinet of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto began a mountain retreat on Friday, in an unconventional bonding exercise involving more than 100 members of his new government.

Ministers and their deputies donned caps and camouflage outfits and stood in salute at a parade ground of a military academy in Central Java province to hear briefings from Prabowo, a former special forces commander who was sworn in as Indonesia's eighth president on Sunday.

"We must work in the same rhythm for the same goals. The government doesn't work alone but as a team," Prabowo said, according to a statement from his office, which shared images of the retreat, during which ministers will sleep in air-conditioned tents.

One image showed ministers standing in lines and lunging forward during stretching exercises.

"I don't mean to make you militaristic, that's incorrect... The point of the military way is discipline, loyalty not towards Prabowo but to the nation and the state of Indonesia," 73-year-old Prabowo said.

During breakfast and lunch, Prabowo rang a bell to signal the time to pray before meals, which was then followed by cabinet members shouting "Enjoy the meals" before they ate, said Hasan Nasbi, head of the president's communication office in a statement, adding they also shouted "thank you" at the end.

Harris calls Trump a 'fascist'

Monitoring Desk
PHILADELPHIA: US Vice President Kamala Harris called Donald Trump a "fascist" on Wednesday and warned that her US election rival was "increasingly unstable" as she addressed his reported praise for Adolf Hitler at a town hall event.

The Democrat's fierce criticism came as she answered voters' questions for office and past remarks at the CNN-hosted event in must-win Pennsylvania.

Acknowledging voters' concerns on a variety of top election issues, the vice president said: "They also care about our democracy and not having a president of the United States who admires dictators and is a fascist."

Nasa astronaut hospitalised on return from ISS after eight months

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A Nasa astronaut was flown to a hospital with an unspecified medical issue on Friday shortly after returning to Earth from a nearly eight-month mission on the International Space Station.

The astronaut, who Nasa did not name for privacy reasons, had splashed down off Florida's coast aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule with three other crew members—two Nasa astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut. Nasa initially said the entire crew was transported to the medical centre for additional evaluation and out of an abundance of caution, but did not specify whether all or a portion of the crew had been experiencing issues.

Nasa later said it was one of its astronauts who experienced a medical issue and that the crew had been flown to a hospital in Pensacola, Florida, near the splashdown site.

The three other crew members have since left the hospital and returned to Houston, the space agency said.

Greece investigates nightclub owners suspected of laundering Catholic Church money

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Greek authorities have frozen the bank accounts and assets of five cafe and nightclub owners on suspicion of laundering Catholic church money supplied by two church officials, a senior Greek official and local media said on Thursday.

During a months-long investigation, the country's anti-money-laundering authority found that more than 3 million euros (\$3.24 million).

Musk keeps in touch with Putin, says WSJ; Moscow denies

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Elon Musk, the world's richest man and an avid supporter of Donald Trump, was plunged into new controversy on Friday after a report that he is in regular contact with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Wall Street Journal story, which has been denied by the Kremlin, comes days after the US Justice Department sent a letter to Musk's America PAC warning that its \$1 million giveaways to registered voters may violate federal law.

Musk, 53, the chief executive of SpaceX and Tesla and the owner of X, has thrown his millions, time and considerable influence into sending the former Republican president back to the White House since endorsing him in July.

Musk has reportedly donated \$118 million to his personal pro-Trump political action committee, an organisation which collects funds for elections. He's also appeared on stage with Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania and hosted a series of town halls on his own in the battleground state seen as critical in the November election.

Musk, who supported Barack Obama but has become increasingly conservative in recent years, peppers his 202 million followers on X daily with messages championing Trump and denigrating his opponent, Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.

Many of the posts by the South African-born billionaire decry the number of migrants crossing into the United States from Mexico or echo discredited conspiracy theories.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz has accused Musk of spending millions to help Trump "buy an election" and jokingly suggested that the billionaire—not J.D. Vance—is Trump's real running mate. Trump has pledged if he wins the election to tap Musk to head a "government efficiency commission" tasked with slashing bureaucracy and waste.

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.

"The victims have been left with lasting physical and mental pain and suffering."



Native American children dance at a school near Phoenix, Arizona, before the arrival of President Biden.

President, PM congratulate team Pakistan stuns England to claim first home Test series win in over 3 years

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's spinners outclassed England's batting lineup on Saturday, sealing a 2-1 victory in the three-match Test series and marking a long-awaited home triumph.

The Green Shirts had been on the ascendancy since claiming a handy first-innings lead of 77 on a track where spinners from both sides dominated.

Noman Ali (6-42) and Sajid Khan (4-69) bundled out England for a paltry 112 in their second innings to leave Pakistan needing only 36 to win the series.

Pakistan lost the wicket of Saim Ayub before wrapping up victory on day three of the contest.

Resuming their second innings at 24-3, England collapsed against Pakistan's lethal spin attack led by Noman and Sajid, who took all 10 wickets between them. Joe Root was the top scorer with 33 in an otherwise dismal English performance on a spinning track.

Pakistan swiftly chased down the target in just 3.1 overs, with skipper Shan Masood (23*) sealing the win to clinch the three-match series.

During the match, Noman and Sajid claimed 19 of the 20 England wickets while Pakistan did not use their lone seamer Aamir Jamal at all in the match in a stark indication of how spin-friendly the surface was. "Like London buses, they come together," said Masood while referring to their back-to-back wins in the series. "The first win came after a long time and it was backed up by a series win. It's special," he remarked.

"To be here and standing as the winning team, it's the most special thing for us [...] So many characters in this series and everyone has chipped in," added the captain.

Sajid, who finished with a 10-wicket match haul, was adjudged player of the series.

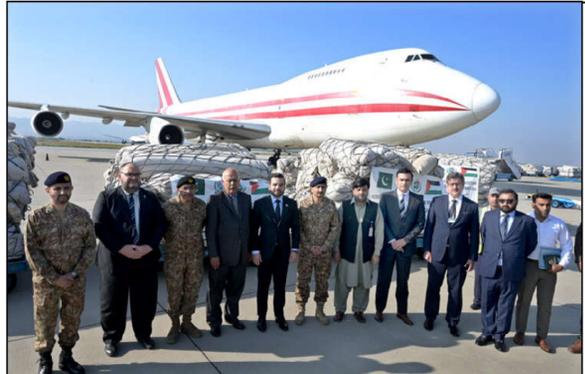
He and Noman claimed 39 of the 40 English wickets in the last two Tests since their selection after the series opener.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Saud Shakeel was adjudged player of the match for hitting the lone hundred in the spin-dominated contest.

Expressing his views on the series, England captain Stokes said: "We got put in some challenges in the last few games and weren't able to match those challenges."



RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Cricket team celebrate to win the last match as well as the series by 2-1 against England Cricket team at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.



ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson of the Federal Government on Legal Affairs, Barrister Aqeel Malik in a group photo with the Deputy Head of Mission of the State of Palestine, Nader K. Alturk. On instructions of Prime Minister, Pak NDMA dispatches 13th Consignment of 100 tons for people of Gaza from Islamabad International Airport to Amman, Jordan.

Pakistan urges application of World Court's actions on Palestine to Kashmir as well

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The International Court of Justice's set of measures on Palestine's case represents a significant contribution towards the resolution of the conflict, a top Pakistani diplomat told the UN General Assembly, emphasizing that those steps must also be applied to the situation in Indian occupied Kashmir.

"The role of the ICJ has become even more indispensable today," Ambassador Munir Akram said in his remarks in a debate on the work of the World Court, while highlighting the threats to global peace and security and violations of the UN Charter and its principles – especially that the use of unilateral force – have multiplied.

"Many peoples, particularly the people of Palestine and occupied Jammu and Kashmir, continue to be subjected to foreign and colonial occupation and denied their right to self-determination," the Pakistani envoy said, noting that genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed, with impunity, by some rogue States.

While the Security Council is virtually paralyzed by the frequent use of veto power by some of the Security Council permanent members, he said, the ICJ has played a prominent role in upholding the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

"The Court's Advisory Opinions and its provisional measures represent a significant contribution to unravelling the issues involved in the case of Palestine and in setting out the basis for the resolution of the conflict," Ambassador

Finance Minister lauds ADB's partnership with Pakistan

WASHINGTON (INP): Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has appreciated Asian Development Bank partnership with Pakistan to support its development agenda. He expressed these views while talking to President of the Asian Development Bank Masatsugu Asakawa in Washington. The Minister also welcomed the launch of the new ADB office in Islamabad and expressed the hope for early finalization of ADB's Country Partnership Framework. Muhammad Aurangzeb commended the Bank for completing the Capital Adequacy Framework and for exempting Pakistan from surcharges beyond exposure limits for the next three years. He also appreciated ADB's support for a Policy-Based Loan of USD 500 million for the Climate & Disaster Resilience Enhancement Program, scheduled for consideration by ADB's Board on 29th of this month. During the meeting, both sides agreed on the importance of domestic revenue mobilization, regional cooperation.

President urges international community to take action on human rights abuses in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called upon the international community to exert pressure on India to halt its ongoing human rights abuses in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris, and implement UN Security Council resolutions.

"Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination," the president said in a message on the occasion of 'Kashmir Black Day', 27 October 2024.

The president said always expressed its unwavering solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters and it will continue to extend its full moral, diplomatic and political support to them until the final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In his message on the occasion of 'Kashmir Black Day' – 27 October 2024, the prime minister said on this day 77 years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar. India has since stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people to determine their own destiny.

7th Central Convention of National Party starts with Dr. Abdul Malik in chair

QUETTA (APP): The 7th National Congress of the National Party commenced on Saturday with the president of the party, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch in the chair.

The central convention of the National Party will continue for four days in Quetta in which delegations of the party from all over the country would be participated in the event. The Congress of the National Party was organized on the commemoration of Mukhtiar Bacha, the former President of the National Party, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. On the first day of the Congress of the National Party, former Chief Minister Balochistan and Member of Provincial Assembly, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, addressed the opening ceremony and welcomed all the delegations coming from all over the country. On the occasion, the Chairman National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting and Member of the National Assembly Pullain Baloch, Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi and members of the Provincial Assembly were also present.

CM greets cricket team & nation on Test series victory against England

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has congratulated the Pakistan cricket team and nation on victory in the Test series against England.

In a felicitation message issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that nevertheless, Pakistani team demonstrated good play against England in the Test series. He especially praised performance of spinners saying that they showed nice and impressive performance in the series.

The Chief Minister expressed best wishes for the Pakistan team and hoped that the team would continue the pace of victory in future as well.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Masatsugu Asakawa, President Asian Development Bank (ADB).

CM pledges to reopen all closed schools In all 65 chronic absentee teachers dismissed in Pishin

Independent Report
QUETTA: In all 65 chronic absentee teachers have been dismissed from the government service in Pishin district.

Moreover, the Chief Minister has also issued orders to dismiss 800 absentee teachers.

The dismissal of absentee teachers would be made after fulfilling all necessary legal requirements for dismissal.

Meanwhile, in a tweet on his social media account, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that 65 chronic absentee teachers have been dismissed while continuing the process of reforms in the province. The Chief Minister said that we are determined to reopen every closed school and ensure attendance of 100 percent children in the schools.

According to an official notification issued here by the District Education Officer Pishin and Chairman District Education Authority, all the teachers dismissed from service were found chronic absentee since long, but were drawing salaries.

As per the notification, the absentee teachers were also issued notices and provided opportunity of personal hearing, but they were failed and found guilty of misconduct.



LAHORE: Chairman PEMRA Muhammad Salim Baig visiting the stall during the book fair at the Press Club.

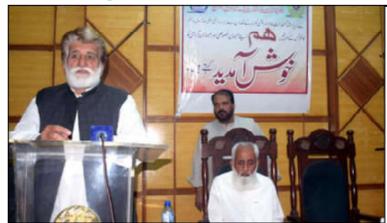
Ahsan Iqbal calls for unity to achieve economic goals

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday underscored the imperative need for stability, peace and continuity of policies in Pakistan, emphasizing that collective efforts from all political parties were crucial for the nation's progress.

In an interview with a Private news channel, he criticized PTI leadership for creating instability in the country and warned against politicizing national institutions. He emphasized, "Political stability and policy continuity are crucial for Pakistan's development."

"By promoting a positive narrative and highlighting the country's achievements, Pakistan can move forward towards a more prosperous future," he added. He believed, "Pakistan requires a political consensus where all parties fulfill their roles, with the foundation of this consensus deeply rooted in the principles of law and the constitution."

Ahsan Iqbal responding to a query stressed, "The 26th Constitutional Amendment is crucial for strengthening Pakistan's democracy, highlighting the need for broad consensus among all political parties to drive the country's development through vital judicial reforms." "This collective effort aims to introduce significant changes to the judicial system, ensuring a more representative and inclusive appointment process," he added.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Naseem ur Rehman Khan Mulakhail addressing Serat-un-Nabi (SAWW) Conference organized by Balochistan Blind Relief Association.

CJP Afridi reverses Isa's decisions, reinstates Justice Munib to committee

ISLAMABAD (INP): Newly appointed Chief Justice Yahya Afridi has reinstated Justice Munib Akhtar to the Judges Committee, reconstituting the panel with Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and himself at the helm.

It reported in media, this decision follows a formal notification issued by the Supreme Court Registrar regarding the establishment of the Practice and Procedure Committee. In a notable shift, Justice Aminuddin Khan has replaced Justice Akhtar in the three-member Practice and Procedure Committee.

The newly appointed Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Justice Yahya Afridi, has reconstituted a key Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Committee, reinstating Justice Munib Akhtar.

Commissioner Quetta assures to resolve issues of traders within week

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has assured that the issues of traders community would be resolved within a week.

The Commissioner was speaking to the office bearers of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry during visit to the Chamber here on Saturday.

He said that the cleanliness campaign was launched in Quetta after 14th August this year.

He pointed out that 1600 tons of garbage is produced daily in the city. Of the total, only 400 tons of garbage is lifted, he added.

The Commissioner mentioned that around 3 million tons of garbage is lying in different localities of the city.

He said that there are 800 sweepers in Quetta with 90 percent aged upto 50 years.

He said that the private sector has been given the task of lifting garbage at Rs. 900 million.

He said that the Chamber of Commerce would be given 100 acres of land for plantation of trees.

The Commissioner said that complete ban is being imposed on the dairy farms in Quetta. All dairy farms are being shifted to outside from October 28.

Bushra Bibni released due to my efforts: Gandapur

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur has acknowledged Bushra Bibi has been released due to his efforts.

He said this while talking to journalists on the occasion of oath taking ceremony of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) in Aiwane-Sadr Saturday.

He also told the journalists reasons for proceeding to Peshawar by Bushra Bibi instead of Lahore.

To a question from journalist how he felt coming in Aiwane-Sadr and attending oath taking ceremony, he said CJP hails from his area. Invitation was also received therefore, he deemed it proper to attend the ceremony. When Justice Mansoor Ali Shah accepted it on his own then why I would not have attended the ceremony.

To a question from journalist on deal and release of Bushra Bibi he said Bushra Bibi was released due to his efforts. It is a good thing. In future good things will happen too. I will go to the extreme end for release of Imran Khan.

House of former senator blown up in S Waziristan

PESHAWAR (APP): Unknown miscreants destroyed the house of former Senator Saleh Shah in Upper South Waziristan, police informed on Saturday.

According to police sources, miscreants blew up the house of former Senator Saleh Shah with explosive, completely razing the structure to the ground. Soon after receiving information, security forces and police reached the site and cordoned off the area before initiating a search operation.



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq addressing the ceremony of Rahmat Trust at Gujra.

DPM Dar, UK FS agree to work for deepening bilateral partnership

APIA (SAMOA) (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar had a productive meeting with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on the sidelines of Commonwealth Meeting (CHOGM2024) in Apia, Samoa, where they agreed to work together for deepening Pakistan-UK partnership and taking it to next higher level. During the meeting, they discussed wide range of topics including strengthening Pakistan-UK relations across multiple areas of mutual interest. Deputy Prime Minister Dar extended a warm invitation to UK Foreign Secretary to visit Pakistan.

Meanwhile Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his New Zealand counterpart Winston Peters on Saturday have agreed to jointly explore avenues of deepening ties between the two countries.

Pak dispatches 13th relief consignment for Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Saturday sent 13th shipment of humanitarian aid to the war-affected people of Gaza.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) dispatched the assistance on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The consignment included 100 tonnes of winterized tents and blankets, which was dispatched from Islamabad to Amman (Jordan) for people of Gaza.

The send-off ceremony was held at Islamabad International Airport, which was attended by the Advisor on Legal Affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik, Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan Zuhair M. H. Darzaid, representatives of the NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Armed Forces of Pakistan.



QUETTA: Commissioner and Administrator Hamza Shafiqat addresses to gathering during ceremony on his visit to Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) in Quetta.