

Independent

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Pakistan, Qatar reaffirm commitment to deepen strategic ties

Pakistan, Qatar PMs discuss trade, investment cooperation, high-level exchanges

DOHA (APP): Pakistan and Qatar on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening strategic bilateral ties, underscoring the importance of shared economic goals and regional stability.

The bilateral relations were discussed in the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, followed by a one-on-one meeting encompassing a wide array of bilateral interests, according to a PM Office press release.

The leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Qatar relations, exploring potential avenues

for enhanced cooperation in trade, potential areas of investment, energy, and culture.

Both the leaders also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest particularly the ongoing genocidal war by Israel against innocent Palestinian people and escalation of tensions in the region.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who is on a two-day official visit here, commended Qatar's stance on Palestinian issue expressed by the Amir during the 79th UNGA held on September 24, 2024.

He appreciated mediation efforts by Qatar for immediate ceasefire and un-

impeded supply of humanitarian aid.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also invited Amir of Qatar to visit Pakistan.

The prime minister's visit marks another milestone in the ever-strengthening partnership and expanding collaboration between Pakistan and Qatar.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani wherein they discussed avenues to further strengthen bilateral relations, particularly focusing on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, energy, and cultural exchange.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Sindh govt improving infrastructure to make city for attracting investment: CM

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his meeting with the Canadian High Commissioner Ms Leslie Scanlon, said that his government, through the Karachi transformation project, was improving the infrastructure to make the city liveable and attracting investment.

The meeting also included the Director General for South Asia in Ottawa, Canada, Ms. Marie Louise Hannan, and Mr. Daniel Arsenault, the Political, Economic, and Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy. The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Secretary, Raheem Shaikh.

During the meeting, Ms Scanlon remarked that Karachi is a beautiful megapolis with abundant investment opportunities. She noted that Canadian food chains currently op-

erating in Islamabad and Lahore plan to open franchises in Karachi.

Mr Shah emphasized that Karachi is the industrial hub of the country, and both the provincial and federal governments are working to establish more special economic zones. He mentioned that the city's infrastructure, including industrial areas, is being developed using resources from the World Bank's Karachi Transformation Project, along with Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives.

Murad Shah outlined several key infrastructure projects, including the completion of the Malir Expressway, the dualisation of the Northern Bypass, and the construction of a road connecting the Seaport to Korangi Causeway, which will link to the Malir Expressway. Additionally, he mentioned the opening of a

new link road that connects the National Highway with the Motorway, facilitating easier transportation of goods to the interior of the country.

During the discussion, the Chief Minister highlighted his government's investment in seawater desalination for drinking water and the treatment of domestic waste to meet both domestic and industrial needs. They also addressed issues of marine and environmental pollution, with Mr Shah stating that treatment plants are being established to responsibly discharge treated sewage and industrial waste into the sea.

He shared that his government has planted millions of mangroves along the coastline, enabling the earning of carbon credits, and expressed plans for the development of another deep-sea port at Keti Bandar.

US State Dept reiterates Imran Khan's matter for 'Pakistani courts to decide'

Says Khan's release not interlinked with Trump's success in polls

WASHINGTON (INP): The US State Department has reiterated its stance on the ongoing legal proceedings against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, stating that it is a matter for the Pakistani courts to decide.

"As we have said many times, legal proceedings against the former prime minister are matters for the Pakistani courts to decide," said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller during a regular press briefing in Washington. Matthew Miller said that there is no truth in claims that Imran Khan could be released if Donald Trump is elected as the new president.

Replying to a question regarding PTI leaders Latif Khosa's claim that US diplomat Donald Lu was involved in a conspiracy to

remove Imran Khan from prime minister office, Matthew Miller said that it is not true. "The allegations that the US played any role in his removal from office are false. We've gone over that many number of times from this podium," Matthew Miller said. He said that Pakistani politics are a matter for the Pakistani people to decide in accordance with their laws and constitution. "Ultimately Pakistani politics is a matter for the Pakistani people to decide in accordance with their laws and constitution".

The spokesperson's remarks came in response to a journalist's statement who mentioned about the involvement of US diplomat Donald Lu in the former prime minister's ouster.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mistuhiko Wada, calls on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Sindh Minister announces ban on misuse of official license plates and emergency lights

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that following the 26th Constitutional Amendment in our country, there has been a shift in the judicial appointment system from the past. This amendment preserves the role of Parliament, which is responsible for creating the constitution and laws. Decisions like those made by Ifthikhar Chaudhary and Saqib Nisar should be set aside, as the objections come from the same individuals who have always opposed such changes. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, in line with his late mother Ms. Benazir Bhutto's vision, united all parties to pass this constitutional amendment. Even though the government had

sufficient numbers, Chairman Bilawal still brought all parties together to secure this approval. Now, the judicial process will be faster and more efficient, cases will be handled promptly, the power of Parliament to remove judges is recognized, and the provinces will receive their rightful representation in the judiciary.

Addressing a press conference at the Directorate of Electronic and Social Media in Karachi, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that we have had judges of international repute, but unfortunately, the environment deteriorated after Ifthikhar Chaudhry.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, held in Karachi.

Mayor Karachi congratulates to Hindu community on Diwali

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Thursday extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Hindu community living in Pakistan and around the world on the occasion of their biggest religious festival, Diwali.

He stated that this festival of lights brings a message of unity, peace, and joy.

He congratulated the Hindu community in Pakistan and worldwide on the happiness of Diwali, expressing that we all share in their joy on this festive occasion and extend our sincere congratulations.

Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab remarked that the role of the Hindu

and scheduled caste communities in Pakistan's development has always been significant. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is a defender of the rights of religious minorities and a proponent of religious tolerance.

The PPP has provided representation to the Hindu community in government and administrative positions, which is evidence that our party aims to see people from all backgrounds, religions, and communities actively participating in the democratic process.

He said that we believe in providing opportunities for all individuals to contribute to the country's development and prosperity.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with High Commissioner of Canada Ms Leslie Scanlon at CM House.

Pakistan reiterates no talks with TTP; asks AIG to act against militant groups

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday ruled out any talks with terror outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and reiterated its call for the Afghan Interim Government to act against the militant groups using Afghan soil to target Pakistan.

The Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, said that Pakistan rejected any offer or advice for talks with TTP as the country had done so on several occasions.

Asked to comment on a statement by an Afghan diplomat in Islamabad, she said Afghan authorities had the responsibility to act against terror groups, pri-

marily TTP as Pakistan had also provided the pieces of evidence to the Afghan authorities. She explained that this was not merely Pakistan's demand but also the international community.

The spokesperson condemned the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and Baalbek region resulting in the tragic loss of civilian lives, including women and children, and the displacement of over a million people.

"These airstrikes are a violation of Lebanon's national sovereignty and territorial integrity; and constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter.



KARACHI: German Consul General Rüdiger Lotz, and others lighting sunburst on the occasion of the Hindu festival of Diwali at the German Consulate.

EU, Germany join forces to boost climate resilience in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The European Union (EU) on Thursday officially launched its contribution to the ongoing Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) project, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. This partnership enables the project to expand its support to the Government of Sindh, with the key objective of strengthening the resilience of the population against natural hazards and climate change-related risks.

Additionally, it aims to improve the institutional, financial and technical conditions for implementing adaptive and gender-transformative social protection.

The launch event, held at Avari Hotel in Karachi, brought together high-ranking government officials, international organizations and civil society representatives to agree on the way forward.

At the event, Najam Ahmed Shah, Chairman of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh, highlighted the commitment of Sindh to "advancing social protection and ensuring that vulnerable communities across Pakistan are better supported in times of crisis". He also pointed out that by placing girls and women at the center of its work, the project on adaptive social protection helps to improve gender equity and support sustainable development across communities.

President suffers foot fracture on arrival in Dubai

DUBAI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari, suffered a foot fracture last night upon disembarking a plane at Dubai Airport, a President House Spokesperson said on Thursday.

He was immediately taken to the hospital for initial medical assistance. After examination, doctors applied a plaster to his foot, the spokesperson said adding that the plaster will remain for four weeks.

President Zardari has been advised to rest completely at home.

Martyred Army officer, two soldiers laid to rest

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Pakistan Army officer and two soldiers, who lost their lives during counter-terrorism operation in the Bakakhel area of Bannu district, were laid to rest in their ancestral areas with full military honors.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), those who were laid to rest include Major Aatif Khalil Shaheed, Naik Azadullah Shaheed, and Lance Naik Ghazfar Abbas.

Diwali Celebrated at Governor House: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori cuts cake, fireworks displayed

Independent Report

KARACHI: Diwali was celebrated with grandeur at Governor House, where Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori cut a cake alongside the Hindu community and extended his warm wishes to them. A spectacular fireworks display illuminated the event, which was attended by Consul general of various countries. Special guest Mr.



Universe gold medalist Rameez Ibrahim dedicated his gold medal to Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

In his speech at the Diwali celebration, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori expressed that Diwali is one of the globally celebrated festivals, symbolizing joy, love, and happiness for the Hindu community. He conveyed his greetings to the Hindu community on this auspicious day, wishing them continued celebrations filled with joy and prosperity. The event was attended by consuls general, international artists from the World Culture Festival in Karachi, Hindu community leaders, and hundreds of participants. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori highlighted Pakistan as a bouquet of flowers, where each community is a beautiful bloom contributing to the country's fragrance.

Sindh Government to facilitate vanaspati manufacturers with full support: Jam Ikram

Independent Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government has committed to providing comprehensive support to Vanaspati manufacturers, particularly those from Punjab, to establish industries in Karachi.

Speaking at the general body meeting of the Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA), Sindh Minister for Industry and Commerce, Jam Ikram Dharejo, emphasized the government's efforts to foster industrial growth through infrastructure development and improved utility services.

"The establishment of industrial zones has already been initiated, and ensuring security and a business-friendly environment for industrialists is a top priority," said Dharejo during the



event. The PVMA meeting saw the participation of several key industry figures, including Chairman PVMA Sheikh Umar Rehan, Senior Vice Chairman Asjad Arif, Vice Chairman Khalid Islam, Masood Parvez, Basit Ikram, Mian Naveed, Awais Karni, Hamid Ali Malik, Samin Jan, Kynat Raza, Hamid Waheed, Ahmed Ghulam

Hussain and other manufacturers from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Minister Dharejo praised Sheikh Umar Rehan for his leadership, noting that many of his proposals during his tenure at the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) had been implemented, benefiting the business community. He

assured attendees that the Sindh government is committed to resolving key challenges, such as infrastructure development and water scarcity, on a priority basis to facilitate industrial investment. "The manufacturers from Punjab and KPK have shown significant interest in setting up industries in Karachi, and we will ensure they receive the necessary support," Dharejo added, emphasizing that the government under Chief Minister Sindh is working towards creating a favorable business environment. PVMA Chairman Sheikh Umar Rehan expressed gratitude to the Sindh minister for his participation and highlighted the growing interest among manufacturers in investing in Karachi's industrial zones.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Property valuation

The FBR decision to increase its property valuation rates by up to 80pc in 56 Pakistani cities from next month is another attempt to boost tax revenue from real estate transactions and discourage speculative investment in the heavily undertaxed property sector.

Additionally, FBR has extended the scope of property valuation for tax purposes to 12 new cities. The valuations have been changed based on the type of property, its location and other variables. The valuations are raised periodically to close the gap with actual market prices of real estate in order to calculate such taxes as capital gains tax, federal excise and withholding tax, but the authorities have never been able to catch up with the market.

The market value of real estate is normally much higher than government-fixed rates. The entire system of fixing valuation rates for collecting taxes on real estate transactions is indicative of a massive informal, undocumented economy where most sellers and buyers neither want to pay taxes nor disclose the sources or size of their income.

Little wonder, the unregulated sector has emerged as one of the most attractive avenues for investment in Pakistan for wealthy individuals to evade taxes or park their dirty cash. The gains offered by property investments, sweetened by low taxation, also make real estate highly lucrative for corporates.

FBR has been trying to "bring real estate under effective taxation" by determining fair market property prices in major urban centres. However, it has always remained far behind the market because of the deep-rooted financial stakes of powerful lobbies: politicians, businesses, military, bureaucracy and overseas Pakistanis.

A World Bank study estimates that real estate transactions in a comparable economy could generate between Rs600bn and Rs700bn in tax revenues. Tax officials estimate Pakistan's actual collection from real estate transactions to be around Rs200bn. There are several reasons as to why FBR has not been able to effectively tax this large sector.

The existence of the undocumented economy is a major reason. Tax exemptions allowed to certain segments of the population, including military personnel and bureaucrats, is another crucial factor preventing realisation of the tax potential of this asset class. The informality perpetuated by the government in the real estate market, in fact, has led to the creation of a tax-free parallel currency — 'plot files' — which is as liquid as any other asset if not more. The government failure to regulate benami property transactions have complicated the situation. It means that a plot file may change hands multiple times, and for a very long period, without anyone involved in this chain of buyers and sellers paying any tax at all. Market valuation rates, no matter how realistic they are, will not help boost tax revenues without plugging such loopholes in the system.

The third pillar

F.S. Aijazuddin

One would need more than 10 fingers to count the number of lawyers who have governed Pakistan since its inception.

Our founder was a lawyer; our first prime minister a lawyer. Our former prime minister, sentenced to death by a court of law, was a lawyer. Others with law degrees have appeared in court, either as plaintiffs or as defendants. And a few have applied their juridical talents to bending or subverting the law.

One would imagine that Pakistan is awash with lawyers. It has 160,000 plus registered lawyers (98,000 in Punjab alone). In fact, we are not the most litigious nation, by far. Israel is, with 694 lawyers per 100K of population. The US has 401 lawyers per 100K. The UK has 226 per 100K, with almost as many lawyers — 153,600 — as Pakistan, serving a far smaller population.

Yet, the British judicial system, despite its "efficient legal processes, rigorous legal education, and a focus on mediation and arbitration", has a backlog of over 64,000 cases. Pakistan has 2.23 million cases waiting to be decided in all our courts. Of these, as of end December 2023, some 56,000 cases lay unresolved before the Supreme Court.

Anyone commenting on our judicial practices is fearful of being summoned for contempt of court. The unarguable truth today is that many perceive the courts themselves as rebuffing the system of impartial justice they took an oath to uphold.

It would not be unfair to assess the tenure of three recent chief justices of our Supreme Court.

Former CJP Saqib

Nisar (2016-19) began by having himself photographed in full robes and wig in his family parlour, surrounded by relatives. During his tenure, his judicial overreach knew no bounds — visits to the Punjab Institute of Mental Health and an obsession with Lahore's graveyards. He thought nothing of summoning senior law-abiding citizens to his court to pay him court. His connivance with Musharraf's regime in ousting Nawaz Sharif from the prime ministership in 2017 is a less memorable residue of his legacy.

A later successor CJP Umar Ata Bandial (2022-23) gave hope when, in his early days, he made an avowed commitment to clear the backlog of cases that were obstructing the flow of justice. "In his first month as CJP, the Supreme Court decided a record 1,761 cases." Soon, however, he too succumbed, like some fragile submersible, to external pressures.

Some parties accused him of bias, others of inaction. His suo motu action regarding the delay in polls in KP and Punjab in 2023 made him more enemies than friends — as if he did not have enough of the former within his colleagues on the bench. CJP Qazi Isa (2023-24), during his swearing in, kept his wife by his side, to compensate for the humiliation she had suffered at the hands of their detractors. Many applauded when he opened the sittings of the Supreme Court to television.

He wanted the public to see justice being done. Others feared that such exposure would draw the Supreme Court into the glare of reality. They proved to be right. Like royalty after the intrusion of television into their private lives, the

gossamer mystique evaporated, exposing their human frailties.

Television coverage of the Supreme Court hearings became another soap opera. Almost from the outset, the schisms amongst their lordships became apparent. They used the SC courtroom to ventilate their opinions, not their learning. An eloquence of judges degenerated into a quarrel of judges.

To paraphrase Walter Bagehot's observation about parliament, the Supreme Court proved that it, too, "like every other sort of sovereign, has peculiar feelings, peculiar interests; and it may pursue these in opposition to the desires, and even in opposition to the wellbeing of the nation".

The 26th Amendment to our Constitution, conceived in spite and delivered in haste, has destroyed that sovereignty, the once vaunted independence of our judiciary. Judges are now at the mercy of parliament.

The third pillar providing judicial checks and balances in our system has crumbled. The scales of justice have tilted in favour of legislative anarchy.

And for two superseded SC judges, the reward of a lifetime of dedication, hard work and public service has been reduced to naught by an arbitrary constitutional amendment. The novelist W. Gaddis once warned: "You get justice in the next world; in this world, you have the law."

Parliament has bulldozed an unjust law. Future parliaments would do well to heed Bagehot's advice. Their function is "not to win power by awing mankind, but to use power in governing mankind". -- Courtesy Dawn

BRICS & Stone Age

Shahzad Sharjeel

Mukesh Ambani, of the unending wedding ceremonies fame, recently enlightened Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang about the Sanskrit meaning of his company's name and its significance in the logfile of progress.

A little digression: we just witnessed two important conclaves where world leaders and nations aspiring to join their ranks got together to discuss ways of co-operation and agree upon the rules of competition. Pakistan hosted the delegates of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad, and Russian President Vladimir Putin recently welcomed the world leaders at the BRICS summit in Kazan. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the Pakistan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the BRICS meeting. He met Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines.

Easing one of the irritants between them, India and China have agreed to resume patrols along the disputed Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. Soon after Mr Modi returned home, the CEO of Nvidia, a leader in chipmaking and AI, visited India. We, too, can claim that Bill Gates, another tech giant, visits Pakistan more often than he goes to his company headquarters. But alas! He comes here to share his concerns over our horrific failure on the polio front: over 40 new cases so far this year. Who knows what else he discusses while here?

We only hear the bits and pieces about giving each family free-range chicken to have fresh eggs. News on this enlightening front has also dried up since Imran Khan's imprisonment. Returning to Ambani's pearls of wisdom, he informed Mr

Huang that in Hindi, 'Vidya' is the name of Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. In the Vedic scheme of things, one who prays to the goddess of knowledge gets the attention of Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity. In other words, to borrow from the geeky world of IT, knowledge and prosperity are inter-connected on the circuit board of progress; without this connection, the motherboard of any development strategy is nothing but a motherlode of chicken droppings.

It is not as if no one of consequence visited us following the SCO summit. The English cricket team was here. Entire transport systems like the celebrated Metro between Rawalpindi and Islamabad were suspended, and major highways and arteries connecting the twin cities and beyond were routinely closed to facilitate the 20-strong visiting squad's commute between their hotel in Islamabad and the match venue in Rawalpindi.

It is beyond comprehension why these cricketers could not stay at a hotel in Rawalpindi to spare millions of people daily misery on the roads. If the five-star hotel in the garrison city does not meet the visiting princelings' standards, other accommodations are there to give any manor or mansion a run for their money. They can also be put through the rigours of Kakul Academy, albeit much closer to the sea level, while there.

On conclaves and sporting events and their follow-up, one has never heard a squeak from any quarter regarding the gains and investments resulting from these spectacles. It would be great if the Pakistan Cricket Board or some chamber of commerce could tell us about rev-

enue generation or a boost to the local economy from these unending hosting sprees. The state of planning that goes into these adventures could be discerned from the fact that stadium renovations are undertaken without any regard for timelines for the upcoming series. This recently resulted in most matches being played in Multan and Rawalpindi. Lahore has to be skipped, as we cannot risk thousands of PTI supporters turning it into a political ga-la. It is not for no-thing that cricket and the interior ministry are entangled with the same person.

A few years back, we celebrated the return of international cricket to Pakistan. Remember, no one wanted to come here after the attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009? One would like to ask who adopted and emboldened the forces who attacked the visiting team. The same benefactors now want us to celebrate the return of international cricket, but to what end, one must ask? To close down entire cities so that some boys could play ball?

Petty differences apart, all religions, ideologies, and philosophies hold the knowledge and its acquisition in the highest esteem. May we be granted some common sense, if not wisdom, to stop being mesmerised by jets doing aerobatics while letting off coloured smoke during parades and boys playing cricket to satisfy the 'boys' vanity.

We need to earn some Lakshmi. We cannot live on borrowed money or ideologies. We must decide whether to pursue a future of BRICS and SCO or be at the mercy of the bricks and stones brigade hell-bent on taking us back to the Stone Age. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Uzbekistan-Pak trade potential needs to increase from current \$311.1 million: Laziz Kudratov

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Laziz Kudratov has said that the current trade volume of \$311.1 million between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is far below its potential which needs to be increased.

The volume of mutual trade from January to September of this year reached US\$311.1 million, reflecting a 9.8% increase compared to the same period last year, Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Laziz Kudratov told APP in Tashkent.

The minister said that considering the economic potential of both nations, discussions are underway to expand the list of products eligible for the

preferential trade regime outlined in this agreement.

He said that by broadening the range of goods covered under the preferential trade agreement, "We anticipate a further boost in trade volumes through reduced customs duty rates in our bilateral trade relations and the creation of favourable conditions for local product exports."

He said that to further strengthen trade and economic cooperation between the two countries a n d promote bilateral industrial collaboration, a preferential trade agreement was signed between Uzbekistan and Pakistan on March 3, 2022.

This agreement came into effect on March 13, 2023, and currently establishes a preferential

trade regime for beans and peanuts cultivated in Uzbekistan, along with industrial chocolate and confectionery items, canned mixtures, copper wire, refrigerators, televisions, transformers, and electrical conductors, he said.

The minister said that with political will and ongoing economic reforms, transit trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan holds significant potential for growth in the future.

Replying to a question, he said that in 2021, a transit trade agreement was signed between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, which streamlined customs procedures for Uzbek long-haul drivers and facilitated the development of the southern transport corridor.



LAHORE: A Women browses and selects handcrafted decorative items especially truck art at a handicrafts shop near Delhi Gate.

NPO, APO collaborate to enhance workplace in surgical industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Productivity Organization (NPO) and Asian Productivity Organization (APO) on Thursday successfully completed a project aimed at improving workplace environment management in Pakistan's surgical instruments industry through lean manufacturing practices. The workshop was held at Sialkot, which brought together

stakeholders, experts, and practitioners to share insights and strategies for implementing lean manufacturing techniques that prioritize workplace environment management, said a news release. During the event, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest methodologies, best practices, and tools to improve efficiency and sustainability within their operations.

PSX continues with bearish trend, loses 1,319 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Thursday, losing 1,319.80 points, a negative change of 1.46 percent, closing at 88,966.77 points as compared to 90,286.57 points on last trading day.

A total of 546,274,609 shares were traded during the day as compared to 614,564,066 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.117 billion against Rs. 27.341 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 437 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 137 of them recorded gains and 240 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 73,617,949 shares at Rs 4.44 per share, Bank of Punjab with 42,667,349 shares at Rs 5.82 per share.



QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Chamber of Commerce meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

DWP Technologies shines at Cisco, Ingram Partner award night 2024

Independent Report

LAHORE: DWP Technologies, a division of Pakistan's leading business conglomerate, DWP Group, has secured two prestigious accolades at the Cisco and Ingram Partner Award Night held on October 23, 2024, in Karachi.

The company was honored with the Cisco Technology Partner of the Year and Security Partner of the Year awards, reinforcing its position as a leader in technology solutions and

cybersecurity.

DWP Technologies was honored as the Cisco Technology Partner of the Year, recognizing its exceptional annual performance and outstanding customer satisfaction across Cisco technologies, including Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI), SD-WAN, Collaboration, and Security. This award highlights DWP's dedication to delivering advanced, customized solutions and ensuring flawless project execution.

Crackdown against sub-standards, illegal manufacturing

Independent Report

KARACHI: As per directions of honorable Minister of Science and Technology, the Director Conformity Assessment CA Islamabad Zone assigned the task to Conformity Assessment Officers of Islamabad Zone for crackdown against Illegal / Sub-Standards and Non-License Products. In this regard Assistant Director and Field Officer conducted Market Surveillance of food and non-food mandatory products.

Non-licensee brands without having PS Mark on label found in Super Stores and were de-shelved. During the crackdown against illegal

keeping in stock and sale, some mandatory items such as Skin Cream, Toilet Soap, Hair Dye, Iodized Salt, Red Chilli Powder, Fruit Drinks, Pickles and Jams were found illegal / Non-Licensee. The Manager of Departmental Stores were given notices to avoid keeping in stocks of mandatory food and non-food items/brands, which are not licensed and duly marked PS logo.

They were also warned that in case of non-compliance of the directives of the Authority, the illegal/un-licensed items will be confiscated and strict legal action will be taken.

Experts, officials convene to unlock Bamboo's benefits for economy, environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Government officials, international organizations and experts on Thursday, in a workshop, explored bamboo's vast potential to address climate change, create economic opportunities, and reduce plastic use, as they gathered to develop a comprehensive national bamboo strategy.

The workshop began with a welcome address by Hammad Shamimi, Additional Secretary of MoCC&EC, (Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental

Coordination), who highlighted the importance of collective efforts in tackling Pakistan's climate challenges.

He noted that the Ministry is committed to sustainable solutions that address the pressing environmental challenges while simultaneously creating economic opportunities.

Bamboo has been used extensively for construction and woven products. Especially, bamboo was successfully used for building transitional and permanent shelters in response to natural calamities such as earthquakes and floods.

Among 1,600 species found globally, more than 900 are in Asia of which three are native to Pakistan: Arundinaria falcata, Bambusa bamboo, and Dendrocalamus strictus.

Bamboo has been used extensively for construction and woven products. Especially, bamboo was successfully used for building transitional and permanent shelters in response to natural calamities such as earthquakes and floods.

Rupee sheds 06 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 06 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.85 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.79. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 96 paise to close at Rs 301.68 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.72, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.82.

Iraqi Ambassador urges for strengthening Pak-Iraq bilateral trade

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Ambassador of Iraq in Islamabad, Hamid Abbas Lafta on Thursday reiterated his country's resolve to enhance its bilateral trade with Pakistani in a range of business and investment areas. He underlined the need to increase the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries.

The ambassador remarked this in his meeting with the top brass of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) which was held during his visit here at the chamber on Thursday.

Ambassador Hamid Abbas while underscoring the shared historical, religious, and diplomatic ties between the two nations, noted that approximately two hundred and fifty thousand Pakistani pilgrims travel to Iraq annually, especially to Najaf and Karbala (Arba'in), demonstrating the significant movement of people between the two countries.

While pointing to the low trade volume between Pakistan and Iraq, he highlighted the opportunity for increased commerce.

Smog Control Program: CM Maryam launches super seeder project

LAHORE (APP): Historic era of mechanized cultivation in Punjab begins as Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched the first and biggest Super Seeder project in the country's history.

She inaugurated the distribution of super seeders among farmers at Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kako. She highlighted that the use of Super Seeder will not pollute the environment.

The Chief Minister announced to start modern agricultural equipment rental services in every tehsil. She set a target to start rental service of modern agricultural equipment to farmers at

zero profit in 60-days. She said that the path of development passes through field.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan Muslim League-N government is gaining momentum, adding that no one but the PML-N knows how to perform. She highlighted that there were 300 super-seeders in the whole of Punjab. "We are adding 1000 more from today while 5000 in total will be added in our five years' tenure," she said and noted that to get a super seeder worth Rs 13 lakhs, a farmer will have to pay just Rs 5 lakhs, the remaining Rs 8 lakhs will be paid by the government.

The CM said that

public cooperation is essential to eliminate smog. She added that seeing smoke from a chimney prompts immediate action as the smog spreads many diseases.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that farmers will be given latest agricultural equipment at 60% subsidy while they have bought Rs 10 billion worth of agricultural inputs through Kisan Card.

CM Maryam said that people from Kashmir are coming to Punjab due to cheap bread and low inflation. She observed that one must have to be sympathetic towards people to reduce inflation.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif chairs provincial cabinet meeting held in Lahore.

Governor Kundi calls for unified political stand on provincial rights

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that the province was the most affected due to terrorism and all the political parties should unite to get its rights from the federation.

He emphasized that all political parties must put aside their differences and unite to advocate for KP's rights at the federal level.

He made these remarks at a seminar organized by the Center for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) at the University of Peshawar. The seminar, titled "NFC Award and the Case for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" was attended by members of parliament, political leaders, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, faculty, and students.

During his address, Governor Kundi highlighted the contributions of the Pakistan Peoples Party, which introduced Pakistan's first constitution and, in 2010, promoted equitable resource distribution through the NFC Award.

KP CM inaugurates solarization project for public sector colleges

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, inaugurated the solarization project for government colleges in the province. Initially under this project, installation of a 10KVA solar system has been initiated in 80 government colleges, with already completed in 10 of them.

The Chief Minister formally launched this important project in a ceremony held here at Government College

Peshawar on Thursday. Provincial cabinet members, members of the provincial and national assemblies, relevant government officials, college faculty members, and a large number of students attended the ceremony.

The project includes the installation of a 10 KVA solar system in each college, with a total cost of Rs 2.41 million per college. The solar system is expected to reduce electricity consumption by 1,100 to 1,200 units per month per college, saving around Rs 55,000 in monthly electricity bill for each college.

The installation costs of the solar systems is also expected to be recouped within approximately three years. Similarly, each solar installation is expected to reduce the national grid load by 120 KW of electricity per month per college. If the system is installed in 290 colleges in the province, the national grid would save a total of up to 34.8 MW of electricity per month.

Political stability in vital to economic development of the country: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Punjab House Islamabad. During the meeting, the overall situation of the country was discussed. Both the leaders expressed their determination to work together for the constitutional stability of the country, and the development of Punjab province.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said political stability in the country was vital to the economic development of the country. Governor Punjab said that as coalition partner Pakistan Peoples' Party believed in strengthening the government for political and economic stability in the country.

He said that the challenges faced by the country could be overcome with the supremacy of democracy and rule of law.

Two brothers die, third injured in Nowshera accident

PESHAWAR (APP): Two real brothers were killed, and another was injured when the motorcycle they were riding was hit by a tractor in the Khesghi Payan area of the Nowshera district, police reported on Thursday.

The unfortunate incident took place in Shah Swar Chowk of Khesghi Payan where three brothers travelling on a motorcycle were hit by a tractor trolley.

LDA seals another 187 properties over rules violations

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Thursday sealed another 187 properties during its ongoing crackdown on commercialisation fee defaulters and rules violations here in the city.

Under the directives of DG LDA Tahir Farooq, the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) is conducting daily operations against illegal

commercial buildings and fee defaulters.

Recently, LDA teams have executed actions in various areas, sealing a total of 187 properties. Significant operations took place in Poonch Road, Samanabad, Gulberg, and the Revenue Scheme in Johar Town.

In Gulberg, 22 properties were sealed due to unauthorized commercial use and non-payment of fees.

Father kills stepson

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A man killed his stepson to avenge torture on his wife by her close relatives in a nearby locality. Police said on Thursday that Asiya Bibi, resident of Southern Muradpur at Khairpur Sadaat, had married to Dhani Bakhsh Machi and the couple had three children, 10-year-old Allah Wasaya, six-year-old Abdullah and three-year-old Tayyaba. The women said to have illegitimate relationships with friend of her husband, Pervaiz Machi.

Station Commander says: Irfan Mehsud, a source of pride for nation

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Station Commander Dera Brig. Amir Hayat has said that Irfan Mehsud, a holder of over 100 Guinness World Records, was a source of pride for the area and the country as well. He expressed these views during a meeting with Irfan Mehsud, who holds over 100 Guinness World Records, here at his office on Thursday. The station commander added that the

Pakistan Army will continue to encourage athletes who perform exceptionally in the field of sports.

He congratulated Irfan Mehsud on his historic achievements and offered his support.

He said that Pak Army would continue to extend all possible support for the promotion of sports along with maintaining peace and order in the country.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique addressing the 57th convocation ceremony of CPSP at local hotel.

International News

At least 30 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, hospital hit, says Gaza ministry

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: At least 30 Palestinians were killed in Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, mostly in the north where one attack hit a hospital, torching medical supplies and disrupting operations, the enclave's health officials said.

Beit Lahiya to flush out militants it said had regrouped in the area.

Eid Sabbah, director of nursing at Kamal Adwan - which is in Beit Lahiya - told Reuters some staff had suffered minor burns after the Israeli strike hit the third floor of the hospital.

There were no reports of any casualties at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed and briefly occupied last week. Israel said it had captured around 100 suspected Hamas militants in that raid. Israeli tanks are still stationed nearby.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip called for all international bodies "to protect hospitals and medical staff from the brutality of the (Israeli) occupation".

as U.S. mediators work on a proposal to halt

hostilities between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah. The Israeli military has said its forces are operating in the hospital area based on intelligence about the presence of terrorists and terror infrastructure in the vicinity.

"During the operation, it was found that dozens of terrorists were hiding in the hospital, with some even posing as hospital staff," said the military in a statement following Thursday's strike.

Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said on Thursday that one of its doctors at the hospital, Mohammed Obeid, had been detained last Saturday by Israeli forces. It called for the protection of him and all medical staff who "are facing horrific violence as they try to provide care".

Israel's military has accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas of using Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya for military purposes and said "dozens of terrorists" have been hiding there. Health officials and Hamas deny the charge.

Northern Gaza, where Israel said in January it had dismantled Hamas' command structure, is currently the main focus of the military's assault in the enclave. Earlier this month it sent tanks into Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and

hostilities between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah. The Israeli military has said its forces are operating in the hospital area based on intelligence about the presence of terrorists and terror infrastructure in the vicinity.

"During the operation, it was found that dozens of terrorists were hiding in the hospital, with some even posing as hospital staff," said the military in a statement following Thursday's strike.

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ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi and CEO of Al-Ansari Exchange, Rashed Al Ansari inaugurate the consular halls at Pakistan Embassy.

Israel bombards historic Lebanon city as US scrambles for truce

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Strikes rocked the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek, famed for its Roman temples, and its outskirts on Wednesday, hours after Israel issued an evacuation call for the area, AFP reported. The attacks came as US mediators were said to be working on a proposal to halt hostilities between Israel and Lebanon, starting with a 60-day ceasefire.

Meanwhile, in his first speech as Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Naim Qassem has said his group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal

has yet to be presented. Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati also said he was striving for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war within days. "We are doing our best... to have a ceasefire within the coming hours or days," Mikati said during a televised interview with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed, adding that he was "cautiously optimistic".

Baalbek mayor Mustafa al-Shall confirmed strikes hit the city and its surroundings, while state media said "enemy warplanes launched a series of strikes on the Asira area of the city of Baalbek" and in a nearby town.

Germany to close Iranian consulates after execution of dual national

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany will shut all three Iranian consulates in Germany but allow the embassy to remain open in reaction to the execution of a German-Iranian national, the foreign ministry said on Thursday. "Our diplomatic relations are already more than at a low point," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said in New York. Germany has already recalled its ambassador to Iran over Sharmahd's execution and summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to voice Berlin's protest.

Biden calls Trump's supporters 'garbage', puts Kamala in a fix

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: White House rivals Donald Trump and Kamala Harris launched a frantic last week of election campaigning on Wednesday, with the Democrat having to distance herself from comments by President Joe Biden that appeared to label Trump supporters "garbage." Harris traveled to North Carolina and onward to Pennsylvania, focusing again on two of seven battleground states that could determine who wins the closest election in modern US history.

Republican Trump was also in North Carolina on Wednesday — in the town of Rocky Mount, about an hour's drive from Harris's Raleigh rally — and will then head to Wisconsin, where he will appear alongside US sports

star Brett Favre. Trump is expected to reject the election result if he loses, with the Republican already seizing on isolated irregularities caught by election officials to amplify his claims of widespread "cheating."

On Wednesday, Harris had hoped to be basking in the afterglow of a speech attended by tens of thousands outside the White House, where she warned her rival was unstable and itching for unbridled power.

Instead, she was fending off questions about Biden's apparent gaffe when the president reacted to a warm-up speaker at a Trump rally referring to the island of Puerto Rico as "a floating island of garbage" in an off-color joke that risked alienating Latino voters.

Locked in Mideast wars and battered by sanctions, Iran is wary over US presidential election

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: America's presidential election next week comes just after Iran marks the 45th anniversary of the 1979 U.S. Embassy hostage crisis — and for many, tensions between Tehran and Washington feel just as high as they did then.

Iran remains locked in the Mideast wars roiling the region, with its allies — militant groups and fighters of its self-described "Axis of Resistance" — battered as Israel presses its war in the Gaza Strip targeting Hamas and its invasion of Lebanon amid devastating attacks against Hezbollah. At the same time, Iran still appears to be assessing damage from Israel's strikes on the Islamic Republic last Saturday in response to two Iranian ballistic missile attacks. Iran's currency, the rial, hovers near record lows

China detains South Korean on suspicion of espionage

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China confirmed the detention of a South Korean citizen suspected of espionage, saying it had advised embassy officials, but without identifying the individual or detailing the charges. It is the first time a South Korean national is being held under an expanded counter-espionage law that took effect in July last year.

Saudi foreign minister denounces Israel's north Gaza assault as genocide

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia denounced Israeli attacks in northern Gaza as genocide on Thursday, telling foreign investors that some bilateral agreements it has been negotiating with Washington are "not that tied" to normalisation of its relations with Israel.

Speaking on stage at an investment conference in Riyadh, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin

Farhan Al Saud said Israeli actions in northern Gaza could only be described as a form of genocide that was feeding a cycle of violence.

He reiterated the kingdom's position that it would not recognise Israel without a Palestinian state, adding on that proposed step, Saudi Arabia is "quite happy to wait until the situation is amenable," before moving ahead with normalisation.

Nine injured in Russian drone attack on Kyiv, Ukraine's officials say

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: At least nine people were injured, including an 11-year-old girl, and several apartments were on fire after a Russian drone attack on Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said on Wednesday.

Falling debris from a destroyed drone sparked a fire in a multi-storey apartment building in the Solomianskyi district in Kyiv's west, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on his Telegram messaging app.

Security Council warns against attempts to dismantle UNRWA

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council on Wednesday "strongly warned against any attempts to dismantle or diminish" the operations and mandate of the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA after Israel passed a law banning its operations.

In a statement adopted by consensus, the 15-member body expressed grave concern over the legislation adopted by the Israeli parliament on Monday, which is due to come into effect in 90 days and has sparked international condemnation. The council urged Israel "to abide by its international obligations, respect the privileges and immunities of UNRWA and live up to its responsibility to allow and facilitate full, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian assistance in all its forms into and throughout the entire Gaza Strip." UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said Israel's ban on UNRWA,

if implemented, would violate international law, the founding UN Charter and a 1946 UN convention on the diplomatic privileges and immunities granted to UN operations. UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini warned that the organisation's aid operations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip were now at risk of collapse because of the new law. The Security Council "underscored that UNRWA remains the backbone of all humanitarian response in Gaza" and said that no other organisation can replace UNRWA's ability to serve Palestinians in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance. The move by Israel comes as the amount of aid entering Gaza has plummeted to its lowest level all year, according to UN data. A global hunger monitor has warned of a looming famine, and the UN has repeatedly accused Israel of hindering and blocking attempts to deliver aid, particularly to Gaza's north.

At UN, Indian and Pakistani delegates spar over Kashmir after Ambassador Akram's speech

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistani and Indian delegates Wednesday engaged in a fresh verbal duel at the United Nations that resulted from an earlier speech by Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram in which he called for applying the International Court of Justice's actions on Palestine to Jammu and Kashmir as well.

Speaking in a UN General Assembly debate on the work of ICJ last Friday, Ambassador Akram said that the World Court's set of measures on Palestine's case represented a significant contribution towards the resolution of the conflict, and emphasized that those steps must also be applied to the situation in Indian occupied Kashmir.

"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 had said, noting that genocidal, war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed, with impunity, by some rogue States.

On Wednesday, Indian delegate R. Maythili reacted to Ambassador Akram's sharp comments and accused him of misusing the UN forum. She then claimed that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India, saying that Pakistan was in occupation of a part of that state.

Pakistani delegate Rabia Ijaz hit back at India immediately.

"Jammu and Kashmir is not an integral part of India, it is a disputed territory as is evidenced by all UN Maps and official documents," she told the 193-member Assembly.

The UN Security

Council resolution 47 (1948), the Pakistani delegate said, notes the desire of India and Pakistan that "the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan should be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite". That call for a plebiscite was reiterated in several Security Council resolutions.

India, she said, accepted this decision and is bound to comply with it in accordance with Article 25 of the UN Charter. "It cannot be wished away by India through legal acrobatics."

Terming India's attempts to deny its illegal occupation of Kashmir as a travesty, Ms. Ijaz said that only an occupier would oppose the implementation of Security Council resolutions that promised self-determination to the people of the disputed territory.



Federal Minister for Planning & Development, Ahsan Iqbal Chairing a meeting to review the progress of ongoing projects under the CPEC in Islamabad.

Shaza Fatima, Tessori distribute ration bags among deserving people

KARACHI (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecom Shaza Fatima along with Khan Tessori distributed ration bags among the deserving families at Governor House.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of State said that the distribution of ration bags among the beneficiaries under the Governor's initiative was a commendable step.

She said that with this initiative, the needy people are supporting their children.

Shaza Fatima said she was happy to distribute ration bags among needy families.

PNS saves stranded fishing dhow with 23 fishermen in Gulf of Aden

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Navy Ship ZULFIQUAR while deployed on Regional Maritime Security Patrol rescued an Iranian Fishing Dhow AL MUHAMMADI with 23 fishermen onboard, stranded over 1200 Nautical Miles from its home port.

PNS ZULFIQUAR promptly responded to distress call of Fishing Dhow AL MUHAMMADI. Upon communication with Pakistan Navy Ship, Fishing Dhow reported a seriously injured crew member as well defective engine and requested for necessary assistance.

PNS ZULFIQUAR swiftly responded and dispatched its medical and technical teams which provided First Aid to the injured fisherman who had severely injured his hand while repairing the boat's engine.

PM, Amir of Qatar visit gallery of Pakistani artworks at National Museum of Qatar

DOHA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani visited the gallery of Pakistani artworks titled "Manzar: Art and Architecture of Pakistan from 1940s to Today" in the National Museum of Qatar on Thursday.

After attending bilateral delegation level meetings, the Amir of Qatar and the Prime Minister traveled together to the museum.

The Amir of Qatar and his sister Sheikhha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani who is also Chairperson of Qatar Museums showed the prime minister the artworks in the exhibition and introduced organizers and the Pakistani artists in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude for holding the art gallery titled "Manzar" and promoting the Pakistani artists.

He said holding of this exhibition was a matter of pride for every Pakistani.

The prime minister emphasized that establishment of "Manzar" art gallery based on Pakistani artworks reflected the strong brotherhood and social bonds between Pakistan and Qatar.

During the visit, the prime minister met with renowned Pakistani architect Nayyar Ali Dada, Pakistani photographers, painters, calligraphers and other artists. Pakistani paintings, photography, calligraphy and other artworks were displayed in the exhibition.

The artworks of Shakir Ali, Sadeqain, Gul Ji, Zubaida Agha, Kamil Ali Mumtaz, Nayyar Ali Dada and several other Pakistani artists were exhibited in the exhibition.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with the Prime Minister of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

Over 55,000 children benefit from education reforms in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The education pilot Sindh Technical Assistance for Development through Enhanced Education Programme (STADEEP), supported by the European Union and UNICEF, concluded on Thursday with over 55,000 children benefitting from this five-year programme.

STA DEEP introduced decentralized approaches to school management, digital monitoring systems and professional development trainings for teachers to empower the School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) to become more equitable and responsive to student needs.

"We are pleased to announce the success of our school clustering model, which has significantly improved monitoring and strengthened the capacity of teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders."

Secretary School Education Zahid Ali Abbasi expressed gratitude to the European Union and UNICEF for implementing this globally recognized system and said they eagerly anticipate continued collaboration with UNICEF and the EU to embark on this exciting journey toward achieving quality education." Traditionally, Sindh's education department has functioned under a centralized model.



LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Sikh Yaatri delegation from USA at State Guest House.

KMC initiates repair of Malir River Bridge, adjacent road

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Metropolitan Corporation - KMC's Engineering Department initiated the rehabilitation and repair work of the Malir River Bridge and the adjacent road, on the directives of the Mayor Karachi Barister Murtaza Wahab.

Under this project, the road from Anwar Baloch Hotel to Murgahi Khan Bus Stop is being repaired and carpeted,

Qatar charity visits Sanghar to review ongoing welfare projects

HYDERABAD (APP): A delegation from Qatar Charity, led by Country Director Ameen Abdul Rehman, visited Sanghar to review various ongoing welfare projects. Accompanied by Program Coordinator Waqas Haleem, Media Officer Jahanzaib Khan, and Development Project Coordinator Muhammad Ashraf Mughal, the team assessed initiatives focused on providing clean drinking water, constructing mosques and shops, distributing sewing machines, installing solar pumps, and other community support programs in the district.

Sindh Minister Sharjeel Memon applauds new PBA officials, stresses ethical journalism

Independent Report KARACHI: Senior Minister of Sindh and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, congratulated the newly elected officials of the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), stating that the leadership of the PBA will promote ethical journalism and broadcasting in

SHC to hear plea against 26th Amendment

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday fixed plea against passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment for hearing.

SHC Chief Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui heard the petitions against the recently passed amendment where he remarked that the constitution was a matter of the parliament, not judiciary, wondering if the applicant had read the Article 239 of the constitution.

He further told the applicant about the SHC's limited authority in this regard, adding that the lower courts couldn't supersede the authority of the Supreme Court.

He went on to say that the parliament was elected by the people of Pakistan unlike courts. Later, the court sought answers from respondents including the Attorney General of Pakistan, the Advocate General Sindh and others within two weeks.

Sindh Government Launches new procedure for sports club funding applications

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Abdul Aleem Lashari has said that Provincial Sports Minister Sardar Muhammad Bakhsheh has instructed that all resources should be used for sports activities and he wishes that the quality of sports here should be improved.

He further added that the government of Sindh has formulated a new procedure for applying for financial support for sports clubs and sports organizations.

He said that the National Games will be organized in the month of February, the date of which will be announced soon. He said that Sindh Games will start from Hyderabad, in this regard, they are going to start a program called Youth Hunt.

It should be of international level. In the meeting, held at Sindh Sports Board Hostel, the Provincial Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs said that we

Pakistan Fashion Couture exhibition to be held in Saudi Arabia on Nov. 16

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Fashion Couture exhibition will be held on Nov. 16 in Riyadh to showcase Pakistani fashion in the Saudi market, featuring a variety of designers and their collections, a media handout said on Wednesday.

The fashion practiced in the South Asian country is an eclectic blend of traditional and modern styles, reflecting Pakistan's cultural heritage. From the intricate embroidery and ornate patterns of traditional clothing to the bold and edgy designs of contemporary fashion, Pakistani fashion is a reflection of the country's diversity and creativity.

Fashion designers from Saudi Arabia and other countries will also participate in the event, fostering "cultural harmony" between the two sides, in addition to promoting Pakistani fashion globally.

"For the first time, a fashion exhibition will take place on November 16 in Riyadh," the media handout by Pakistan Fashion Couture said, quoting its top official, Adnan Bashir Khan. "This event will showcase Pakistani apparel, jewelry, and other fashion items, with participation from renowned Pakistani designers."

Two Karachi hostages recovered from Shikarpur katcha area

KARACHI/SHIKARPUR (INP): Police and Rangers in a joint operation recovered a hostage from Garhi Tegho katcha area after exchange of fire with bandits, police said.

"Bandits fled from the scene after shootout and a hostage recovered," SSP Shahzaib Chachar said. "Recovered hostage has been identified as Sherdil," police officer said. "He was kidnapped from Karachi's Singer Chowrangi," according to police.

"Police has launched a search operation in the area to arrest fleeing bandits," SSP further said.

Moreover, a team of the anti-violent crime cell (AVCC) police in a raid in Shikarpur recovered a hostage, who was called to Shikarpur from Karachi, with honey trap and taken hostage.

Community effort leads to polio vaccination breakthrough

SUKKUR (APP): In a significant achievement, the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) has successfully mobilized communities in Ghotki district to vaccinate their children against polio.

Previously, some families had refused vaccination.

Through dialogue and engagement with community leaders, influencers, and refusal cases, SRSO's efforts paid off.

According to a release on Thursday, the community agreed to administer the polio vaccine to their children.

Mayor Larkana chairs meeting of development programs

LARKANA (APP): The Municipal Corporation Larkana (LMC) Mayor Advocate Anwar Ali Lular chaired a meeting on Thursday.

In the meeting, Mayor Larkana and Deputy Mayor M. Amin Shaikh and District Council members expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri people and condemned the illegal Indian occupation of Kashmir.

The Muslim Ummah was asked to take action against the oppression of the oppressed people of Palestine and to implement



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Munam Zafar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Diwali celebrations held at Sanghar Government Degree College

HYDERABAD (APP): During the event, Professor Nawaz Kanbar distributed traditional Diwali gifts and sweets among Hindu students. The festivities also featured a lively display of fireworks. Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Kumar and Advocate Sunil Kumar highlighted the significance of Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, describing it as a celebration of the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and a reminder of the values of service and compassion.

The college students participated with high spirits, sharing Diwali greetings with their Hindu classmates, symbolizing unity and cultural harmony.

Diwali Celebrated in North Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): Hindu-dominated areas across northern Sindh reverberated with the sound of firecrackers on Wednesday night, the eve of Diwali, as community members kicked off three-day celebrations of the annual festival.

After night-long festivities during which men, women, and children lit earthen lamps and candles at their homes and temples, decorated streets and lanes with colorful bunting, and exchanged greetings, families distributed sweets among relatives and friends to mark the festival of lights.

On Thursday morning, devotees visited temples for worship and prayed for the well-being, happiness, and prosperity of all their community members.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Mola Bux Chandio addresses to media persons during press conference, at his residence in Hyderabad.

SFA raids factory producing unhealthy chocolates in Malir

Independent Report KARACHI: The Sindh Food Authority conducted a significant operation by raiding a factory in Malir that was producing unhealthy chocolates. This

operation was carried out under the directives of Provincial Food Minister Jam Khan Shoro.

The raid was executed by a joint team from Malir and Thatta, led by In-Charge Malir, Nadeem Asghar Shar.

Director General Sindh Food Authority Muzamil Hussain Halepoto said that during the operation, more than 500 kilograms of expired raw materials for chocolate production were recovered. Director General

Halepoto further informed that the factory has been sealed immediately, and the expired chocolates, rancid oil, and cream found there have been disposed of.

He also pointed out that there were extremely unsanitary conditions and poor storage practices for raw materials in the processing area, posing a threat to public health.

A fine of 500,000 rupees has also been imposed on the factory, leading to its closure.



KARACHI: Maritime Security Patrol rescued an Iranian Fishing Dhow AL MUHAMMADI with 23 fishermen onboard, stranded over 1200 Nautical Miles from its home port.

SMBB Medical University holds condolence reference for late Pro. Dr. Fouzia Kashif

LARKANA (APP): Shaheed Muhtarma Benazir Bhutto (SMBB) Medical University Larkana on Thursday organized a condolence reference to pay tribute to the personality and services of late Professor Dr. Fouzia Kashif of Chandka Medical College Larkana. The event was attended by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nusrat Shah, Professor Dr. Kashif Iqbal Taibani and Deans and faculty members and family members of late Prof. Dr. Fouzia Kashif.

On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor of SMBB Medical University Professor Dr. Nusrat Shah said that Professor Dr. Fouzia Kashif was a doctor with a sensitive heart and she had been my PG student. She

always wanted to do something, her death created a great vacuum for the University, he said.

Asghar Ali Sheikh, brother of Prof. Dr. Fouzia Kashif, said that Dr. Fouzia was a good sister, a good daughter, a good wife, a good friend, a good mother and a good doctor.

Dean Professor Dr. Gulzar Ahmed Shaikh said that Dr. Fouzia Kashif was a brave woman, today we have lost a good person.

Principal Professor Dr. Zamir Ahmed Soomro said, Dr. Fouzia was a prominent student during her student days as she was junior to me, she was a socially active woman, she was a mentor to her students and she led a successful life in every respect.