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CM directs for relocation of KE installations to open 1st segment of Malir Expressway

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, during his visit to the under-construction 39.889 km Malir Expressway, evaluated the project's progress from Zero Point - near Jam Sadiq Bridge to Kathore and expressed his dissatisfaction with the administration due to their inability to relocate the K-Electric (KE) installations, which has consequently delayed the opening of the first segment of the expressway.

The chief minister reached the Zero point of Malir Expressway at Jam Sadiq Bridge, where he was received by Mayor Karachi Muratza Wahab, DG PPP Unit Asad Zamin, PD Niaz Soomro, Engineer Khalid Mansoor and others.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister expressed his displeasure upon discovering that the ready spans were lying on the ground and had not been

installed on the pillars to create a traffic ramp to access the Malir Expressway at Zero Point. When he inquired about the delay, he was informed that K-Electric (KE) had not yet relocated its overhead installation, which was preventing the spans from being fixed on the pillars.

The Chief Minister instructed the Deputy Commissioner to ensure that this issue was resolved within a week, warning that he would take action if it was not addressed. He pointed out that since KE had already been paid for the relocation of its installation, their delays were unacceptable.

Mr Shah drove on the Malir Expressway from Zero Point to Shah Faisal Interchange, and on the way, he discovered that land grabbing had been started on the sides of the expressway. The CM stopped there and called the deputy commissioner and

SSP Korangi on the spot and inquired them why the illegal structures had started developing under their nose. "I'll not allow encroachment even on a single inch of government land," he said and ordered them to bulldoze the illegal structures and compound walls and report him.

The CM directed the PD of the Expressway to ensure the completion of the work by the end of November because he wanted the first segment, Korangi Causeway to Shah Faisal, to be opened for traffic in the first week of December.

Murad Ali Shah, along with his team, travelled along the expressway from Shah Faisal to Quaidabad to inspect the ongoing construction. During the briefing, it was noted that while the expressway itself was ready, the small interchange at Quaidabad had been halted due to issues with land acquisition.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah inspects the progress and quality of the construction work of Malir Expressway, in Karachi.

Pakistan's ports set for growth and global partnerships: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Sunday said that Pakistan's ports were on a promising trajectory, poised for significant growth in the near future. Speaking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan's plans was to establish business partnerships by supplementing nearby ports, with Karachi Port expected to play a pivotal role in bolstering the country's economic position.

"Leading global companies have shown interest in investing in Pakistan's ports, which speaks to the potential for economic growth," he added.

Commenting on PTI's protest call, he said that he has relied heavily on protest-driven politics over the past decade. The government, he asserted, remains focused on economic progress and pro-

viding relief to the public, rather than engaging in negative political propaganda.

He added, "PTI's protest politics lacks public relevance, as it is driven by personal agendas rather than public welfare."

Stressing the government's openness to dialogue, he said doors remain open for principled discussions with elected representatives to address the core national issues.

The minister highlighted recent diplomatic successes, with nine foreign prime ministers visiting Pakistan, which he viewed as a testament to a successful foreign policy.

This progress, he said, underscores the country's positive direction. He also urged the opposition to adopt a constructive role, prioritizing national interest for continued development and stability.

PTI Govt befooling masses on hallow slogans: Amir Muqam

SHANGLA (APP): Federal Minister for SAFRON, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that PTI Government was befooling masses on hallow slogans and indulged them in lies based politics.

He was addressing at peace jirga after turning the 30 years old enmity into friendship between families of Poran Sandori here.

The families of Ayub Khan and Ameer Zareen Khan announced an end of a 30 years long enmity due to reconciliation efforts of Engr Amir Muqam.

Engr Amir Muqam expressed proud of an immense respect given to him by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially Shingla and that he always preferred people welfare over his personal interests.

Report reveals major damages in KP house Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint report by the Communications and Works Department revealed major losses incurred at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad.

As per detail, the report revealed that furniture worth Rs 10 lakh, digital video recorders, cameras, and laptops valued at Rs 15 lakh, and Rs 6 lakh in cash are missing.

Additionally, licensed arms, mobile phones, and other items worth Rs 64 lakh have vanished. MPAs and police personnel's cash totaling over Rs 16 lakh is also unaccounted for. Several important belongings of the Chief Minister are missing as well.

The report estimates that renovating Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House will cost Rs 96.93 lakh.

It is important to note here that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) sealed different blocks of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) House Islamabad following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in the capital city.

UN acknowledges vital role of Pakistani troops in global peace

NEW YORK (INP): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Munir Akram has said that Pakistani police personnel have earned respect for their professionalism and devotion to duty under the banner of UN police.

Addressing a ceremony on UN Police Day in Islamabad, he said the story of UN peace keeping is incomplete without recognizing the vital contributions of UN police.

Highlighting the significant contribution of Pakistan to the UN missions, he said Pakistan has deployed two hundred and thirty thousand troops over the years in forty six peace keeping missions.

He said Pakistani Police woman Shahzadi Gulfaam was the first ever recipient of the International Female Police Keeper Award in 2011.

Munir Akram said Pakistan will continue to play its effective role in enhancing the UN peacekeeping capability.

Ensuring conducive environment for foreign investment top priority: PM

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that ensuring favourable environment for foreign investment in the country is top-most priority of the government.

Talking to a business delegation from the United Kingdom (UK) during a meeting here on Sunday, he said immaculate services are being provided to the business and trader community through 'One Window Operations' under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in the country.

The UK-based renowned business figure Zubair Isa led the business delegation during the meeting.

Inviting the

businesspeople to invest in Pakistan, the PM said country's economy had improved due to dedicated efforts of the government in the recent days, adding that the initiatives had increased confidence of the overseas investors to invest in various ventures in Pakistan.

Ways to discover new vistas to enhance business-to-business ties between Pakistan and the UK were also discussed during the meeting.

The delegation hailed the economic policies of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which had strengthened the economy and put the country on the path to sustainable development.

PIA privatisation to be done in best way: Aleem Khan

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan said on Sunday he had responsibility of selling Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and the best solution would be made in this regard.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that a framework had been made for privatisation of the PIA by the caretaker government. He said that the PIA had a debt of Rs 830 billion, adding that out of that debt, around Rs. 600 billion had been parked in Holdco Company, while Rs. 200 billion had been parked in the PIA. He said all these things had happened before he took charge of his office, adding that he could not change the process which had already been initiated.

Aleem said he had no power to change the framework of privatisation. He said there was procedure of privatisation under which he could privatise anything.

He said he had a responsibility of selling PIA, and not to put it on the right track. He said that he was not responsible for the present condition of PIA and added that he could not deviate from privatisation procedure given to him.

A former privatisation minister was also giving him suggestions, he said and added that he should have implemented those suggestions during his tenure as the minister. He said that the PIA was a national asset and could not be sold at throw-away price. Abdul Aleem Khan said that on the PIA bidding day, he was in Riyadh busy in a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Investment minister. He said that on the day of PIA bidding two meetings were held, one of the privatisation commission, which he presided over, and he also attended the CCOP meeting on the same day.



LAHORE: A delegation of leading businessmen of the United Kingdom calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Indicators show economy looking up in Pakistan: Nawaz

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Mian Nawaz Sharif has said that indicators show that the economy of the country is looking up.

The PML-N supreme returned to London from the United States on Saturday night.

Talking to the media, the PML-N leader said indicators showed that the economy of the country was looking up, adding Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif left no stone unturned to steer the country out of quagmire of economic crisis.

The PML-N stalwart

said his party knew the economic woes of the people of Pakistan and it would provide them with relief from inflated power bills and inflation.

He said, "We will fulfill our dream of making Pakistan Asian Tiger. PIA is nearing default. Whatever we said about PIA, we have an intension to give it a practical shape. "Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is doing good work." During his visit to the United States, Nawaz Sharif met the PML-N workers and leaders and urged the American business community to invest in Pakistan.

CM Murad felicitates armed forces on successful operation in North Waziristan

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah congratulated the armed forces on a successful operation in South Waziristan, on Sunday.

He said that the armed forces bravely defeated 4 terrorists of Fitna al Khawarij.

The Chief Minister Murad said that forces had full capacity to foil all kinds of conspiracies. He said that the operation would continue until the end of the last terrorists.

NA session rescheduled to 4 pm today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly session, initially set for 5 PM, has been rescheduled to 4 PM on Monday, November 4, 2024.

The National Assembly secretariat issued a notification regarding the revised timing, made under Rule 49, sub-clause 2(b) of the National Assembly Rules of Procedure, 2007, at the Speaker's discretion.

The spokesperson said that all members of the National Assembly have been informed of the updated schedule. Its worth mentioning here that following the approval of 26th constitutional amendments, the federal government decided to amend the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act.

Nov 14 cantonment by-polls ECP directs LEAs to ensure impartiality, fairly law enforcement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued guidelines for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) providing security for the Nov 14 cantonment by-polls, directing them to remain impartial and neutral while preventing intimidation and fairly enforcing the law.

In a comprehensive code of conduct for law enforcers, the electoral watchdog emphasised the need to maintain impartiality and neutrality while fostering a peaceful voting atmosphere, assisting the Presiding Officer, provid-

ing guidance to voters, preventing intimidation and fairly enforcing the law.

As per the ECP's code of conduct for the Cantonment Board bye-elections on November 14, 2024, law enforcement personnel, including police, must ensure free, fair, and transparent atmosphere outside polling stations including in Ward No. 06 of Rawalpindi Cantt, Ward Nos. 04 and 08 of Wah Cantt, and Ward No. 02, 04 of Pano Aqil Cantt, so that voters are not intimidated or obstructed in any way while casting their votes.



LAHORE: Citizens heading towards their destinations in the provincial capital in the early hours of the morning, during dense fog.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Privatization Board of Investment & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan held media talk on PIA.

AJK President calls on Scandinavian nations to advocate Kashmir peace

MIRPUR (APP): President Azad Jammu Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has urged Sweden and Scandinavian nations to leverage their political and diplomatic influence to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute, fostering lasting peace in South Asia.

He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum and Member of Parliament of Sweden Anders Tiger, which called on him at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal met-

ropolis on Sunday.

The delegation was comprised of the Chairman of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum Sheikh Saeed, President of Kashmir Council Sweden Sardar Taimur Aziz Kashmiri, Sheikh Usman Tahir, Raja Bilal Mustafa, Ishtiaq Khan, Hafiz Sajid Ahmed, Sikander Sheikh, Sardar Mushtaq, Sardar Zulfikar Roshan, and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the AJK President said that the key to peace in South Asia lies in the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

ECP summons Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned two former prime ministers, PTI founder Imran Khan, and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif - to respond respectively in two separate cases to contempt and disqualification on Tuesday (November 5).

The ECP's case list indicated that hearings for matters involving the two political figures are scheduled for Tuesday.

A notice has been issued to the PTI chairman to record evidence in a contempt case initiated by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in 2022 for allegedly using "Intemperate language" against the chief election

commissioner and the electoral body.

Likewise, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been directed to submit a reply and provide arguments on a disqualification petition filed against Member of the National Assembly (MNA) from NA-262, Quetta, Adil Bazi.

The petition, based on Article 63A, concerns Bazi's failure to vote in favor of the budget and the 26th constitutional amendment.

PML-N President Nawaz Sharif submitted a reference to the National Assembly Speaker against MNA Adil Bazi for not voting on the 26th Constitutional Amendment.



SIALKOT: Minister of Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif listening to the problems of people at his residence.

CTD kills three terrorists in Musakhel operation

PM commends successful operation against terrorists in Balochistan

MUSAKHEL (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department on Sunday eliminated three hard core terrorists in an operation in Musakhel.

In the operation, two terrorists were arrested during the heavy exchange of fire. According to details, during an intelligence-based operation conducted on National Highway, the CTD personnel killed three terrorists. The CTD personnel also recovered large quantities of weapons and ammunition from the dead bodies of terrorists.

A few weeks earlier, the CTD apprehended 18 terrorists carrying out 134 intelligence based opera-

tions (IBO) across various cities of Punjab. According to CTD officials, the IBOs were conducted in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Mianwali, Bahawalnagar, Pakpattan, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Mandi Bahaudin and Khushab.

Officials revealed that three most wanted terrorists of Fitna Al-Khawarij along with weapons and explosive materials were arrested from Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has praised the Frontier Constabulary (FC), the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Concerning measures

An old law is being resurrected. Why? It is a question that the government must answer.

On Friday, the law minister quietly introduced a bill in the National Assembly to give military and civil armed forces the power to 'pre-emptively' detain any individual facing terrorism charges for a period of up to three months. The bill, which proposes several amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act, was quickly referred to the relevant committee by the deputy Speaker without any discussion of its salient features. It aims to resurrect several amendments to Clause 11EEEE of the ATA which had lapsed in 2016.

Specifically, the bill seeks power for the authorities to detain any individual for up to three months if they "pose a threat to national security". The detained individual may not have actually committed a wrong: under the law, "reasonable suspicion" will be good enough for the state to deprive them of their liberty.

The rationale provided for preventive detention has long been the same: in times of insecurity, drastic measures are 'necessary' for maintaining order. Lately, there has been a sharp resurgence in terrorist activity, which has resulted in the loss of many lives, particularly among security personnel. As a result, there is growing pressure on security forces to restore peace in the affected areas and clamp down on militants and miscreants.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's legal system lacks versatility and often appears inadequately equipped to deal with the various challenges faced by security forces and the state while conducting counterterrorism operations and prosecuting dangerous terrorists. For example, it has been a long-standing complaint from security forces that they catch dangerous terrorists after much effort, only to see the courts set them free again. It is in this context that legal cover is repeatedly sought for 'emergency measures' that violate fundamental rights.

But it is hardly as simple as that. There are countless examples of preventive detention laws being used for much more than simply combating terrorism. They have proven extremely useful, for example, for punishing political opponents and dissidents. It cannot be ignored that the language of the amendments proposed by the law minister is vague enough for the law to be used against anyone whom the state wants to put behind bars for a short period. "Reasonable suspicion" can mean anything in a country where ordinary citizens are routinely charged with terrorism merely for participating in unruly protests.

Given how frequently the ATA is used when political opponents are to be taught a lesson, any measure that enhances its potential for abuse should be a cause for alarm. It is for this reason that the government must seek political input and consensus on the changes it is seeking to make and be open about its intentions.

Paper tiger?

Muna Khan

I was a graduate student during the 2016 presidential elections where I learned a lot about American media's coverage of elections. We don't generally make newspaper endorsements in Pakistan but it is a big deal in the US with long histories, dating back to Abraham Lincoln.

Two newspaper endorsements from that time stand out for the reactions they elicited. One, the Chicago Tribune endorsed libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. I happened to be Facebook friends with a leader writer at the paper and witnessed the anger directed at her for the Tribune's decision, which they explained in a lengthy editorial, as endorsements often do.

The Arizona Republic endorsed Hillary Clinton, backing a Democrat for the first time in its 126-year history. That endorsement drew media attention and elicited the same excitement that PTI supporters felt at 'capturing' Qazi Fazal Isa on video in London. Both editorials led to anger, feelings of betrayal, and conversations about the worth of endorsements, exactly what we're seeing today with two newspapers.

The first is the Los Angeles Times, owned by Patrick Soon-Shiong, a biotech tycoon, who said the paper would not endorse any candidate because it wanted to remain impartial. This led to staff resignations and hundreds of cancelled subscriptions but also put the spotlight on his daughter, Nika, who tweeted about the family's "joint decision" not to endorse. "As a citizen of a country openly financing genocide, and as a family that experienced South African Apartheid, the endorsement was an opportunity to repudiate justifications for the widespread targeting of journalists and on-going war on children."

Her father has denied her involvement, saying she spoke in a personal capacity but she doubled down by tweeting a screenshot of a quote from Ta-Nehisi Coates' interview to The Guardian wherein he says "this is about apartheid" and "I don't have much hope from a [Kamala] Harris presidency". She then followed up with a thread addressing the controversy, saying "I trust the editorial board's judgment. For me, genocide is the line in the sand."

LA Times has endorsed a Republican candidate since its founding in 1881 but stopped after the Watergate scandal in 1976. It resumed endorsements when it backed Barack Obama in 2008, and subsequently all Democrats. It has continually written editorials saying Donald Trump poses a threat to democracy so it's understood the paper is pro-Harris; would an endorsement change anything? And that too days before the election?

Shortly thereafter came the news about the Washington Post's owner Jeff Bezos withdrawing the paper's planned endorsement of Harris. Staff resignations and thousands of cancelled subscriptions followed. There was no family drama here, just Bezos saying endorsements create a sense of bias at a time many Americans distrust the media.

The American Presidency Project wrote that 56 of the largest 60 newspapers that endorse presidential candidates sided with Clinton in 2016, compared to eight of any size for Trump. So, we know that these endorsements don't really sway voters. Perhaps they have outlived their purpose. Maybe editors need to step outside their elite silos and see how they serve their audiences.

Most of the conversation has centred on the problem of billionaires owning the

media — the New York Times family, John Henry of Boston Globe, Rupert Murdoch of NewsCorp, etc. (The Guardian is reader funded and "is unafraid of potential consequences" for endorsing Harris.)

I don't think the problem is their money but the value they place on making money over the purpose of journalism. I suspect the Soon-Shiong family did not want to support Harris' genocidal policies but sent out conflicting messaging because they, like Bezos, perhaps fear reprisal from Trump should he win.

What I've learned from subscription cancellations is that readers value an endorsement for Harris more than the consequences of her support for Israel's maniacal war on Gaza. Since watching the 2016 elections, each one since has been framed as important to democracy's survival and certain communities (women and minorities) are painted as spoilers who don't know what's at stake. This time it's Arab Muslims who are "agonised" by the decision, as Vox put it, "to punish Democrats or stop Trump?" Why must they be portrayed as carrying this "burden" of a difficult choice? Palestine is not just a Muslim or Arab issue, as Nika Soon-Shiong has articulated.

A YouGov poll conducted on Oct 29 saw 47 per cent of respondents say newspapers should not endorse candidates and 28pc saying they should, while 25pc said they did not know. I'm not surprised at the latter because people still don't know the difference between news and opinion. Maybe that's a problem that media owners and editors need to address. -- Courtesy Dawn

Jabalia death march

Muhammad Ali Siddiqi

It will live in history: the Jabalia death march. As reported by Al Jazeera, the fleeing Palestinians were carrying white flags while going through checkpoints, but the Israeli bombardment continued. Correctly did Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi tell US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that what was going on in Gaza was "ethnic cleansing", while the Jewish Voice for Peace has compared it to the Holocaust and asked the American administration to halt arms supplies to Israel.

This paper's issue of Oct 23, 2024, is archival material and tells us more about the misery of the Palestinian people than all words put together. The picture on the front page shows the wreckage of a house. In the background are masses of people forcefully displaced from their north Gaza homes as Israeli planes had rained bombs. They have had no food and water for weeks. Unless I missed it in the voluminous literature on the Der Führer era, I do not think the Luftwaffe ever rained bombs on fleeing Jewish people. The time-yellowed 1,400 pages of John Toland's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic Adolf Hitler contain every act of bestiality perpetrated on the Jews by the Nazi regime but it mentions no such horrifying drama, which I am sure must have satisfied the sadistic instincts of racists like Yoav Gallant in the Benjamin Netanyahu cabinet.

The north Gaza trauma coincided with Israel's latest choice of a war theatre — Lebanon. Such is Israel's fixation with showing off its military power that it used no less than 100 jets on tiny Lebanon. The targets hit included a hospital named after one of Lebanon's most popular prime ministers, Rafic Hariri. This was not a mistake. As I wrote in one of my pieces, it is Israel's official policy to hit hospitals and places of worship to tell the world it doesn't care about what the world thinks of its crimes, with the categorical support it enjoys from Western powers. (In Nuseirat in northern Gaza, Israeli forces hit a school, killing 17 people, including children. Instead of expressing regret it said it was a Hamas command and control centre which was previously a school!)

he said were "completely blocked by debris".

On the very first day of the blitz, codenamed 'Northern Arrows', 558 people, including 50 children and 94 women, were killed while 50,000 fled to Syria. No wonder Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati called the Israeli attack "a war of destruction". However, so thorough is the Zionist control of the international media that on Oct 24, when I googled to check casualties in Tyre what I got was this: "There were no reports of casualties in Tyre, where the Israeli military had issued evacuation warnings ahead of the strikes."

According to Da-niel Levy, president of the US/Middle East Project, there is little possibility of peace in Palestine. According to him: "The game plan — sadly declared openly and publicly by Israel's leaders from the get-go — was an intensification and continuation of the displacement and the denial of Palestinian rights that has gone on for decades, but in a far more gruesome way."

He told Al Jazeera: "We are at a new place in the north of Gaza where the intention is apparently to entirely depopulate that area using war crimes of starvation, of allowing disease to spread; even the prevention of polio could not be continued." According to him, Israeli authorities are implementing the 'General's Plan' aimed at starving, bombing, and forcibly extracting civilians out of the north of the Gaza Strip.

Postscript: Z.A. Bhutto once remarked only Islam can give peace to the holy land because it is the only religion which recognises the rights of the three communities to Jerusalem. -- Courtesy Dawson

Commerce News

Pakistan eyes enhanced trade, economic ties with Uzbekistan amid investment push

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan is in Uzbekistan on a three-day visit aimed at enhancing bilateral trade, commerce and economic ties with the Central Asian state, his ministry confirmed on Sunday, amid Islamabad's efforts to attract foreign investment to improve its economic prospects.

Pakistan has increasingly sought to enhance regional connectivity to landlocked Central Asian states by providing them access to its warm water ports. It recently offered Central Asian states to become part of the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor project, under which Beijing has pledged around \$65 billion in energy, infrastructure and other projects in Pakistan. Khan arrived in Tashkent on Saturday evening marking the start of his three-day visit to Uzbekistan, the commerce ministry said.

"Key agenda items include strategic meetings with top Uzbek officials such as Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamsheer Khujiev and Transport Minister Mr. Ilkhom Makhkamov to discuss pivotal projects in trade, investment, and logistics," the ministry said.

Khan's visit will

feature the ninth session of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, and the fourth Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Forum, the commerce ministry said. The session will be co-chaired by Khan and Uzbek Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade Mr. Laziz Kudratov. The ministry said that the Business Forum will host 33 Pakistani business delegates across various sectors for B2B meetings aimed at fostering new partnerships and enhancing trade.



RAWALPINDI: People are busy buying fruits and vegetables in Sahulat Bazaar outside Allama Iqbal Park in the city.

Technology integration key to sustainable development, economic growth : Meher Kashif

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan which strives to accelerate its progress and enhance the quality of life. He said in today's rapidly evolving economic landscape, technology serves as a crucial driver of growth, fostering business transformation and creating development opportunities.

Speaking at a seminar on "Integration of Technology" here on Sunday, he said technology for development was a crucial necessity for

Pakistan's greatest assets was young and dynamic population, constituting almost 64 percent of total population. He said one of the primary areas where technology could make a significant impact was education. With a substantial portion of the population residing in rural areas with limited access to quality education, e-learning platforms and digital classrooms can bridge the gap.

Its positive impacts include productivity enhancement, market expansion and GDP growth. He said one of

Pakistan's greatest assets was young and dynamic population, constituting almost 64 percent of total population. He said one of the primary areas where technology could make a significant impact was education. With a substantial portion of the population residing in rural areas with limited access to quality education, e-learning platforms and digital classrooms can bridge the gap.

Pakistan carpet industry seeks govt support to boost exports

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Chairman Mian Atiqur Rehman said on Sunday that increasing exports is impossible without removing unnecessary obstacles and securing government support. Addressing a review meeting of the Association here, he said organizations like SMEDA should provide financial and technical assistance for establishing carpet production centers in rural areas to increase production. "The 41st

International Exhibition, scheduled for 2025, will be designed according to new trends, for which proposals will be solicited in advance," he added.

PCMEA Patron-in-Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed, Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejaz-ur-Rehman, senior leaders Usman Ashraf, Major @ Akhtar Nazir, Saeed Khan, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Akbar Malik, Saad-ur-Rehman, Faisal Saeed Khan, and others attended the meeting.



HYDERABAD: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union President, Abdul Latif Nizamani addresses during the workers session, at Labour Hall in Hyderabad.

Pak solar boom gains momentum amid rising electricity costs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is undergoing a rapid energy shift resulting in solar energy adoption among different consumer classes.

The Great Solar Rush in Pakistan by Renewables First explores this shift, highlighting Pakistan's growing prominence in the renewable energy landscape of developing nations.

Pakistan imported around 15 GW (worth \$2.1 billion) of solar panels from China over the past fiscal year, the study highlights. Contributing to this transition is the increased electricity tariffs—driving high consumption

households and industries to shift toward solar energy solutions.

In the past year this has resulted in a 10.4% drop in grid electricity demand, with projections indicating further decline emphasizing the need for grid modernization and revised demand forecasts to support decentralized energy generation.

In parallel, falling battery prices are also likely to boost solar adoption, making urgent grid adaptation essential for maintaining the financial viability of Pakistan's utility model.



LAHORE: Artisans making ready-made clothes on a machine in the provincial capital.

FPCCI appoints Sohail Talat chairman special committee on cotton revival

MULTAN (APP): In a significant development aimed at revitalizing Pakistan's agriculture and cotton industry, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) appointed senior leader Malik Suhail Talat as the chairman of a Special Committee on Cotton revival. A formal notification was issued, and a ceremony was held in Multan to mark this important appointment.

The event was attended by FPCCI Patron-in-Chief and former caretaker provincial

minister of Punjab, S.M. Tanveer, Task Force Chairman Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Regional Chairman Zaki Ejaz, and senior business leader Malik Tanveer Arshad, who together presented the official notification to Malik Suhail Talat.

Speaking at the occasion, S.M. Tanveer emphasized the FPCCI's success in reducing interest rate and outlined the organization's commitment to restoring the country's cotton production. He noted that Malik Suhail Talat's appointment as chairman was strategic.

KP Food Authority conducts operations

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) on Saturday conducted operations in various locations at DIKhan.

According to the information, on the direction of Deputy Director Halal Food Authority, Dera Muhammad Asif, different teams of KP FS&HFA checked the quality of food items at various shops.

The teams of KP FS&HFA conducted raids on dairy shops, grocery stores, bakeries, milk shops, food and drink points in different localities of the city. The Authority's team inspected various food items and checked these items at mobile laboratory on the spot besides sending some samples to the laboratory for further examination. The inspection team seized counterfeit and substandard food items including biscuits, cakes, drinks and milk from grocery stores, bakeries and milk shops during the operation.

Ambassador Hashmi Pak China write new chapter in agricultural industry development

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan, China are writing a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China.

"We hope both parties seize the opportunity to further expand cooperation in agriculture, food, and related fields, and work together to write a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China. According to Gwadar Pro, he stated this on the

occasion of a promotional and matchmaking conference for Pakistan's agricultural enterprises took place in the Yangling Demonstration Zone. The event served as a pilot for the 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Key officials from both Pakistan and the Yangling Agriculture Demonstration Zone, along with representatives from various enterprises, gathered to discuss development and explore collaborative opportunities.

Smuggled cigarettes worth Rs. 8 lakh recovered

MULTAN (APP): Police thwarted smuggling attempt of non-Custom paid cigarettes worth around Rs. 800,000 after arresting the bootlegger here at suburban area of Muzaffargarh district. Official source claimed that SHO of Sadar police station foiled the smuggling attempt quite tactfully.

The cigarettes being labelled as platinum, termed a big brand of tobacco were attempted to smuggle out through rickshaw in southern parts of the province at the wee hours. It was dumped underneath the bulk quantity of chaff on floor of the front seat used for the driver.

Governor expresses concern over non release of funds to local government

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi, criticized the provincial government's failure to provide funding to a local government department, labeling it an undemocratic approach. He said this during a meeting with Ejaz Surani, the elected Nazim from Bannu, who briefed the governor on the challenges faced by local representatives. Governor Kundi emphasized that local governments are the "nurseries of democracy," highlighting a disconnect between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) claims of empowering grassroots governance and the provincial

administration's actual behaviour towards local bodies and their representatives.

In response to Surani's concerns regarding issues related to federal departments, Kundi instructed relevant authorities to address these matters promptly.

Meanwhile, the Provincial General Secretary of the All Pakistan Central Muslim League, Atiqur Rehman Chauhan called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and discussed the province's political situation. Governor Kundi emphasized that the resolution of issues can only be achieved through dialogue, asserting that confrontation and violence

are not solutions. He stressed the importance of political parties uniting on a single platform despite their ideological differences, saying that this unity is crucial for the welfare of the province's citizens.

During the meeting, Chauhan provided the governor with a briefing on the political and welfare activities of the All Pakistan Central Muslim League and extended an invitation for him to visit the party's central office.

Similarly, Shoaib Alam Khan, the Provincial Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, along with his son, Hassam Khan, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.



LAHORE: Participants are coming back after participated in Annual Tablighi Ijtema 2024 in Raiwind, at Thokar Niaz Baig in Lahore.

Minister inspects work on Pajagai Park

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Local Government Minister, Arshad Ayub Khan has said that to provide maximum recreational opportunities to the people, provision of all missing facilities at public parks would be ensured on an urgent basis.

For this purpose, he said necessary work on ensuring recreational facilities at Pajagai Park has been completed to provide a refreshed environment to the local people.

He said this during a visit to Pajagai Park along with Secretary Local Council Board, Wahid ur Rehman and TMO Azhar Ali Shah here. On the occasion, the Minister urged the people to take their children to the newly renovated park for recreational activities and refreshment. He said during the busy life routine, a visit to a recreational park will provide the minds with a new energy. Besides, he said jogging and playing different games at the park will also maintain their good health.

6 outlaws arrested, arms, liquor recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested six outlaws and recovered illegal arms, liquor from their possessions during crackdown here on Sunday.

According to a police spokesman, Gujjar Khan Police held Roman and recovered 1 rifle 12-bore from his possession and 2 pistols 30-bore were confiscated from Saad and Humayun. Similarly, Civil Lines Police recovered 01 Kalashnikov from Naveed.

Breast cancer awareness seminar

MULTAN (APP): The Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO), in collaboration with Minar Cancer Hospital, organized an awareness seminar focusing on breast cancer prevention and timely treatment here on Sunday.

The seminar saw a large number of female employees working across various MEPCO departments and women residing in MEPCO Colony join the seminar.

In the event Dr. Sidra Mahmood Ali, Consultant Radiologist at Minar Cancer Hospital, highlighted the alarming statistics regarding breast cancer in Pakistan.

Easterly winds from Indian cities pushing polluted air into Lahore: Senior minister

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb addressed the worsening smog situation during a press conference today, explaining that easterly winds coming from India are pushing air from Amritsar and Chandigarh into Lahore.

This has caused the city's air quality index (AQI) to spike close to 1000 over the past two days. Marriyum Aurangzeb noted that since the air speeds up while crossing the eastern corridor and then stagnates over Lahore, it intensifies the pollution already present in the city, creating critically high AQI levels in the morning, which gradually decrease to below 200 by midday. Further deterioration of AQI is expected in the coming week. Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that due to these factors, all private and public educational institutions, from playgroup to grade five, will remain closed from November 4 onward. This includes private schools, which are also mandated to comply. Authorities will use the week to conduct research, mapping, and studies to reassess and determine if extended school closures are needed. Preparations for two additional "green lockdowns" are also underway.

Workshop on training of teachers from merged areas held

PESHAWAR (APP): A two days' workshop conducted under the Special Emphasis Programmes (SEPs) of the Accelerated Implementation Plan II (AIP II) of KP government for the Merged Areas (MAs), was held at Abbottabad.

Masood Ahmed, Secretary E&SED, Faiz Alam, Additional Secretary (R&D), Ms Samina Altaf, Director Education, Mutahir Director DPD, Dr Safia Noor, Anjum, Addl Dir DoESD participated in the event along with senior officials of the department. Munir Ali Shah, Senior Instructor DPD was the Master Trainer of the workshop while UNDP-MAGP team included Mr. Bilal Ahmad Sector Expert and Mr. Imran Malik Implementation Specialist.

Secretary E&SED emphasized that teachers should focus on morality and character building of students. It is indeed our national obligation and duty to produce a generation which should believe in hard work and speak the truth to themselves. We wish that the student who is entering our system today at the age of 5 should become a role model & honest person at the age of 21 in 2040. He also appreciated the role of Master trainers of the program for conducting the program efficiently. This SEP is focused on Transforming Teachers training system. It targets 135 randomly selected primary schools in district Khyber, Mohmand and North Waziristan. The objective of the SEP is to enhance the students learning levels and teaching skills of the teachers of Grade 1-5 in English, Maths and Science. Under this SEP a Tele Learning ecosystem for the coaching and mentoring of teachers was developed to provide them.



PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) KPK Chief, Professor Ibrahim Khan addresses during the Jamiat Talaba Arabia Convention held in Peshawar.

Patwari suspended for dereliction of duties & misuse of powers

MIRPUR (APP): Mirpur Deputy Commissioner Yasir Riaz suspended Qamar Abbas, Patwari of Jangian constituency of Mirpur sub division, it was officially stated.

The DC took the action on the instructions of Commissioner Mirpur Division Ch. Mukhtar Hussain.

And appointed Revenue Officer Mirpur as an inquiry officer to conduct a complete investigation into the

matter and submit the report to the higher authorities, official sources told APP here on Sunday.

According to details, the authorities took the action in response to the board of revenue Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffarabad standing order on receipt of a move from the state police department to identify a concerned site of area and refer the report to the concerned police.

Kohat police arrest killer within 24 hours

KOHAT (APP): Kohat Usterzai Police on Sunday apprehended the killer of 62-year-old Syed Kazim Hussain, a resident of Metha Khan Sherkote, within 24 hours of the incident.

According to sources of Kohat Police, the accused, Israr Hussain, son of Muhammad Khan from Orkazai, was taken into custody by police under the leadership of SHO Usterzai Rehmatullah and ASI Usman Afridi.

Sources further revealed that the motive behind the killing was previous enmity, with the accused shooting and killing the victim in the Kucha Pakka area.

A case of murder has been registered at Usterzai Police Station against Syed Nasir Abbas, the son of the victim.

DPO Mohammad Umar Khan on this occasion, assured that justice will be served, stating that the case will be investigated on its merits.

Rs 1 billion approved for KP police' modern vehicles

PESHAWAR (APP): For the capacity building of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, faced with shortage of modern arms and vehicles, the provincial government has decided to release an advanced grant of Rs one billion rupees for police department to overcome their shortcomings.

A document on Sunday said the grant will be utilized in acquiring B-6 level security vehicles. On procurement of B-6 level protective vehicles, a sum of Rs 800million would be spent while

Rs200 million for the purchase of mine-resistant vehicles. The document said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police were facing an acute shortage of required arms and modern anti-crime vehicles.

To overcome this situation, the document said the KP government has decided to release Rs one billion as an advanced grant. It further confirmed that the provincial cabinet has accorded approval to the release of this advance grant.

International News

Israel kills 52 in northeast Lebanon after a night of strikes in Beirut

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Rescuers searched for survivors Friday after Israeli airstrikes killed at least 52 people and wounded 72 others across northeastern Lebanon, the country's Health Ministry reported. The wave of bombings pounded villages that had previously been spared the worst of Israel's air campaign against the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Israeli warplanes also destroyed dozens of buildings in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, but it appeared most residents had evacuated and there were no reports of casualties.

Despite growing pressure from the United States and others in the international community for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, intensified Israeli strikes against the Hezbollah militant group are expanding beyond Lebanon's border areas. Is-

rael is also fighting a seemingly endless war against Hamas in northern Gaza.

Since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah erupted last year, at least 2,900 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Lebanon, the Health Ministry reports, not including Friday's toll. Health authorities say that a quarter of those killed were women and children.

More than a year of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza has killed more than 43,000, Palestinian health officials say, without distinguishing between civilians and combatants. The war began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting 250 others.

Meanwhile, Israel again carried out deadly air strikes on north Gaza, where the UN calls condi-

tions "apocalyptic", as Lebanon's Hezbollah intensified rocket fire near Israel's capital of Tel Aviv.

Since late September Israel has been engaged in full-scale war against Hezbollah in Lebanon while fighting continues against the Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza.

Israel's military on Saturday said dozens of fighters were killed around Jabalia "in aerial and ground activity". Troops were also operating in central Gaza and Rafah in the territory's far south, it added, while witnesses said Israeli drones and boats opened fire on Al-Mawasi in south Gaza.

Medics and Gaza's civil defence rescuers on Saturday reported three people killed in a strike on Nuseirat, in central Gaza, a day after AFP images showed the blood-stained shrouds of several people killed there in an Israeli strike.



Palestinians view the damage after Israeli forces withdrew from the area around Kamal Adwan hospital, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip.

Protests over Spain flood response interrupt visit by king to stricken Valencia suburb

VALENCIA: Hundreds of residents of a Valencia suburb particularly badly hit by last week's deadly floods protested on Sunday during a visit by Spanish King Felipe and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, with some throwing mud at them. Chanting "Murderers, murderers!" they vented pent-up anger over what has been widely perceived by local residents as tardy alerts from the authorities about the dangers of Tuesday's storm and flooding in the Valencia region, and then a late response by the emergency services when disaster struck.

The central government has said issuing alerts to the population is the responsibility of regional authorities. The Valencia authorities have said they acted as best as they could with the information available to them.

Taiwan reports rise in Chinese military activity as US election nears

TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry said on Sunday it had spotted 35 Chinese military aircraft, including fighters and bombers, flying to the island's south on the way to exercises in the Pacific, a second day in a row it has reported such activities.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory despite the strong objections of the government in Taipei, regularly sends its military in the skies and waters near the island seeking to enforce its sovereignty claims.

China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment on the missions, reported just days before Tuesday's US presidential election.

US flies long-range bomber in drill with South Korea, Japan in reaction to the North's missile test

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: The United States flew a long-range bomber in a trilateral drill with South Korea and Japan on Sunday in response to North Korea's recent test-firing of a new intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the U.S. mainland, South Korea's military said.

North Korea on Thursday tested the newly developed Hwasong-19 ICBM, which flew higher and stayed in the air longer than any other missile it has fired. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called it "an appropriate military action" to cope with external security threats posed by its rivals.

On Sunday, the U.S. flew the B-1B bomber to train with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets near the Korean Peninsula, demonstrating the three

countries' firm resolve and readiness to respond to North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile programs, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The trilateral aerial training was the second by South Korea, the U.S. and Japan this year, the statement said.

The U.S. often responds to major North Korean missile tests with temporary deployments of some of its powerful military assets such as long-range bombers, aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines to and near the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea typically responds angrily to such U.S. actions, calling them part of a U.S.-led plot to invade the North and performing additional weapons tests.

Harris campaigns in Michigan, Trump hits eastern battleground states

Monitoring Desk

DETROIT: Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris campaigns in Michigan on Sunday while her Republican rival Donald Trump will stop in three eastern battleground states in the final days of an election that could be decided by a small slice of American voters.

Opinion polls show a historically close race, and both campaigns say they are not sure who will prevail in the seven states that are likely to determine the outcome on Tuesday.

A poll showing Harris leading in Iowa—a state Trump won easily in the past two elections—raised the possibility of an unexpected outcome, though another poll showed her trailing in that state.

Harris is due to campaign in East Lansing, Michigan, a college town in an industrial state that is viewed as a must-win for the Democrat.

She faces skepticism from some of the state's 200,000 Arab Americans who are frustrated that the sitting vice president has not done more to help end the war in Gaza and scale back aid to Israel. Trump visited Dearborn, the heart of the Arab American community, on Friday and vowed to end the war in the Middle East.

Trump is due to hold rallies in three smaller cities that could help him galvanize the rural voters who make up an important part of his base. He starts the day in Litzitz, Pennsylvania, before heading to Kingston, North Carolina in the afternoon and ending with an evening rally in Macon, Georgia. It will be the first day since last Tuesday that the two candidates are not campaigning in the same state. On Saturday, their planes shared a swath of tarmac in Charlotte, North Carolina, where both candidates held rallies.

Moldovans vote in presidential runoff amid fears of meddling

Monitoring Desk

CHISINAU: Moldovans were voting on Sunday in a presidential election that has been overshadowed by meddling allegations and could see Moscow claw back influence in the country at a time when it is trying to draw closer to the European Union.

Pro-Western incumbent Maia Sandu, who has accelerated the nation's push to leave Moscow's orbit and join the EU, faces Alexandr Stoiianoglo, an ex-prosecutor general backed by the traditionally pro-Russian Socialist Party.

The fortunes of Sandu, who set Moldova on the long path of EU accession talks in June, will be closely followed in Brussels a week after Georgia, another ex-Soviet state hoping to join, re-elected a

ruling party seen as increasingly pro-Russian.

Polling stations opened at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) and close at 9 p.m. (1900 GMT). Moldova's future has been thrown into the political and diplomatic spotlight as the war in neighbouring Ukraine rages to the east. Stoiianoglo says he supports EU integration but also wants to develop ties with Russia in the national interest. He wants to try to revive cheap Russian gas supplies and said he would meet with President Vladimir Putin if Moldovans wanted it.

"I voted for a free, stable and blossoming Moldova that isn't standing with its hand out, but develops in harmony based on relations with the West and East," he said after casting his ballot.

Iran stages rallies to mark 1979 hostage crisis

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iranian demonstrators gathered on Sunday outside the former US embassy in Tehran to mark the anniversary of the 1979 hostage crisis that has for decades shaped relations between Washington and Tehran.

The hostage crisis began in November 1979 following the Islamic revolution led by Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini which ousted the Western-backed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

Students loyal to Khomeini stormed the embassy building and held 52 staff hostage for 444 days while demanding that Washington hand over Iran's recently toppled shah, who was being treated in the United States for cancer.

No durable peace until world's occupied people granted right of self-determination: Pakistan

NEW YORK (APP): Lasting international peace and stability will remain elusive until the people under foreign occupation, like those in Kashmir and Palestine, are allowed to exercise their right to self-determination, acting Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Usman Jadoon, told a visiting 23-member delegation from the US War College.

"The right to self-determination is one of the fundamental pillars of the UN Charter," Ambassador Jadoon said at his meeting with the delegation at the Pakistan Mission in New York.

In the course of briefing the delegation members about Pakistan's role and work at the UN, he apprised them of its stance on the various regional and international issues, highlighting the decades-old Kashmir dispute and efforts to seek its resolution peacefully.

The UN Security Council resolutions, which calls for a UN-supervised plebiscite to decide the wishes of the Kashmiri people, provide the framework for the resolution of

the Kashmir dispute.

On combating terrorism, the Pakistani envoy referred to the enormous sacrifice made by Pakistan, saying, "Afghanistan has become a hub where the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was using the Afghan soil to consistently target Pakistan."

There were valid concerns about the TTP forming an alliance with other terrorist outfits, principally Al-Qaeda, with its implications for regional peace and security.

Pakistan, he said, shared the expectations of the international community about political inclusivity, and provision of educational and employment opportunities to women in Afghanistan, while underscoring that equal attention needed to be paid to the counter-terrorism aspect as well.

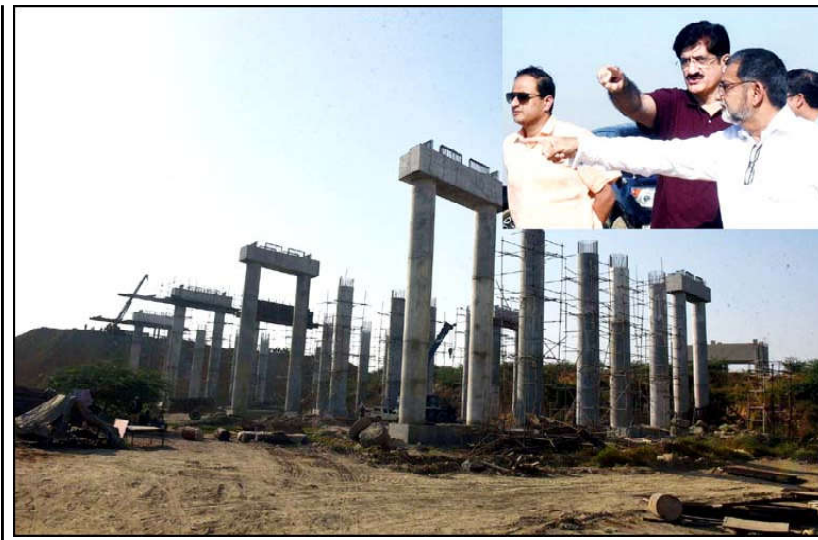
Ambassador Jadoon said that developing countries were making efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, and fight the adverse aspects of climate change if given access global concessional finance. He said that mounting debt

liabilities, and increase in fuel and commodity prices had created formidable challenges for the economies of developing countries.

"Pakistan has been advocating the reform of international financial architecture in a manner that it is equitable and fair and helps the Global South overcome development deficits," he said.

On UNSC reform, Ambassador Jadoon said that Pakistan, as part of Uniting for Consensus (UFC) group, opposed any additional permanent in the Security Council, arguing it would only increase its paralysis. Pakistan, he said, advocated increase in the non-permanent members to make the 15-member body more effective, representative and accountable.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session during which the visitors asked about the Jammu and Kashmir dispute; India-Pakistan bilateral relations; Ukraine and Gaza wars; climate threat; counter-terrorism, and Pakistan's priorities as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.



KARACHI: A view of Malir Expressway where pillars of a bridge have been installed to lay spans, inset shows Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah being briefed on the progress of the work, in Karachi.

Pakistan-China economic ties strengthen through SIFC initiatives, SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's economy shows signs of stabilization through the Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) efforts and various agreements with China, marking a significant milestone in bilateral cooperation.

During the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit hosted by Pakistan, Chinese Premier's visit resulted in several key agreements, including a \$6.8 billion investment for the ML-1 railway project, to be completed in three phases.

The bilateral cooperation extends to infrastruc-

ture development, with agreements for a \$400 billion motorway project from Sukkur to Hyderabad and a \$1 billion road project on the Karakoram Highway. Additionally, both nations inaugurated the Gwadar International Airport, constructed at a cost of \$200 million under CPEC.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the State Bank of Pakistan and the People's Bank of China for currency swap arrangements. The agreements also encompass cooperation in food security, healthcare, and education sectors through SIFC facilitation.

CM grieves over death of Prof. Tariq Mehmood's father

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the death of the father of JPMC Cyberknife head Professor Dr. Tariq Mehmood.

The Sindh Chief Minister also prayed for high ranks of the deceased in Jannah and patience for his bereaved family, a CM's spokesman said.

Lahore's AQI reaches unprecedented levels

LAHORE (APP): Smog reigns in the city of gardens, Lahore is still number one among the most polluted cities in the world.

Air pollution in Lahore soared on Sunday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) briefly reaching an "unprecedented" level of over 1,000 despite the Punjab government intensified efforts and a "green lockdown" in the city.

Data from a global air quality monitoring platform, AQI, showed air quality at 1,067 between 8am and 9am on Sunday. It was the highest in the world.

The average level of smog in the provincial capital has also crossed the alarming level, making Lahore's mean air quality index 650.

Apart from this, the smog has increased to an alarming level in Multan also, due to which citizens have common complaints of breathing problems and eye irritation.

Sikh delegates commends Pakistan's minority rights efforts

LAHORE (APP): Ranjeet Singh Kahloon, leader of a 50-member Sikh delegation from Jamrud Club in Silicon Valley, California, praised Pakistan's efforts to protect the rights of minority communities, particularly the Sikh population.

During a meeting with Mian Kashif Ashfaq, CEO of the Pakistan Furniture Council, here on Sunday, Kahloon expressed appreciation for the secure and respectful environment afforded to Sikhs in Pakistan.

He emphasized that Sikh community was living peacefully and comfortably across the country, experiencing freedom and protection in their cultural and reli-

gious practices. He highlighted that Pakistan's commitment to minority rights strengthens the bonds between different communities, fostering unity and mutual respect.

The delegation's week long visit also reflected a growing sense of trust and goodwill between Sikhs abroad and Pakistan. He commended Pakistan's consistent efforts to maintain harmony and respect for diversity, which he believed set a positive example in the region. Kahloon expressed gratitude to Mian Kashif Ashfaq for warm hospitality and the facilities extended to Sikhs visiting sacred sites, including the Kartarpur Corridor.



NEW YORK: Pakistan Ambassador to US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh addressing during community event held at the Consulate General of Pakistan.

Selling of textbooks proved to be false

By Nazir Siyal

KARACHI: The alleged issue of selling textbooks proved to be completely false, every student in all secondary schools of Malir district has the required textbooks, while Shah Latif Drama concocted this entire drama to cover up their corruption practices and tarnishing the reputation of institution.

According to details, officials from the Department of Sindh Education had issued formal letters a week ago to deposit and collection of government textbooks at the Korangi Regional Warehouse, with all relevant distribution details provided to senior officials and the district session judge.

In an investigation by the journalist, when officials from the Malir Education Department were contacted, and teachers also claimed that all required textbooks had been delivered to secondary schools

across Malir, and that the textbooks were dispatched from the Korangi warehouse through an official letter.

However, police, for their personal gain, staged this entire drama, maligning the institution and its officials.

This scribe also contacted Abdul Jabbar, the suspended Subject Specialist and Additional District Education Officer (DEO), who stated that all facts would be presented to the inquiry committee constituted and everything is clear.

According to him an official letter dated October 31, 2024, and a prior letter from the district session judge No. D&SJ/AM/3708 dated October 26, 2024, all details regarding the textbooks were provided to the district session judge under DEO's letter No. DEO/ES&HS/Malir/Admn/2280/2024 dated October 29, 2024.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Latifabad No.12 are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of influential people, at Hyderabad press club.

Ambassador AliSher hints Pak-Uzbekistan direct flights from November

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan AliSher Tukhtaev announced that direct flight operations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan will start at the end of the current month of November 2024, describing it as important for the business community of both countries.

At present, the businesses of both countries, including the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), want to take advantage of the direct flight operation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and play their role in promoting bilateral economic and trade relations between the two nations, the ambassador said.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan AliSher Tukhtaev said this during his meeting with President Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) Rana Muhammad Siddique Khan at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad.

On the occasion, both sides discussed the promotion of bilateral economic

and trade relations between the two countries and the possibility of an upcoming visit of the business delegation of GCCCI to Uzbekistan.

The Ambassador said that the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce should play its due role in bilateral trade and business between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and exchange delegations with Uzbekistan.

He welcomed the decision of the President of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce to take a trade delegation to Uzbekistan and assured the business delegation of GCCCI to get full cooperation in Uzbekistan, describing it as important for bilateral trade.

He said that the business community of Pakistan can work in Uzbekistan in textile, Chemicals, IT, wood production and many potential sectors. Uzbekistan is geographically located in the centre of Central Asia and can play a vital role in connecting the 80 million population of Central Asia with Pakistan, he added.



KARACHI: Workers of the Priya Kumari Recovery Committee hold a sit-in outside the Karachi Press Club.

Missing PTI lawyer Intizar Punjutha returns home

LAHORE (INP): Missing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Intizar Punjutha, on Sunday returned home.

The Attock police earlier recovered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawyer Intizar Punjutha, who had been missing since October 8, from GT Road, Attock.

According to police, the law enforcers signaled a suspicious vehicle to stop on the GT Road but it refused, leading to a brief standoff. The police chased and intercepted the car on which the kidnappers fled, abandoning their vehicle and hostage.

Intezar Panjutha, a senior lawyer who has also represented PTI in different cases, has been rescued by the police. The police said that efforts are being made to arrest the culprits.

Meanwhile, visibly unwell Intizar Punjutha has been shifted to hospital for medical treatment.

It is to be noted here that the PTI lawyer had been missing and a petition for his recovery was filed with the Islamabad High

Court. During the hearing on November 1, Additional Advocate General had assured the court that Intezar Panjutha would be recovered by Saturday.

Earlier in a report submitted to the IHC, IG Islamabad said, "As per the report, there are three sims in the name of Intizar Panjutha, one of the sims have Peshawar's location," IG Police said. "Did you accessed the Peshawar location," the court asked. "The sim has been issued in the name of Intizar Panjutha and activated on December 10. Eight SMS came and two were sent," police chief said.

The IG Islamabad said, according to the IB report, this sim is not being used for Internet. "We have asked to the FIA and the CTD Punjab for the IP address of the WhatsApp."

"As per the report, there are three sims in the name of Intizar Panjutha, one of the sims have Peshawar's location," IG Police said. "Did you accessed the Peshawar location," the court asked.



KARACHI: View of illegal encroachment by pushcart vendors on a road by influential encroachment mafia, which is creating problems for residents and commuters, showing negligence of concerned authorities of anti-encroachment department to draw its attention toward issue, at Quaidabad area in Karachi.

Saleem Memon attends startup synergy model, plant sprint 2024

HYDERABAD (APP): On the directions of the President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, the Vice President, Shan Seghal have attended the event 'Startup Synergy: Model and Plan Sprint 2024' held at Isra University.

Emphasizing the crucial role of training and guidance for young entrepreneurs in the SME sector stated that with Pakistan's youth constituting over 60% of the population, empowering educated youth to venture into business will pave the way for a self-reliant economy in Pakistan.

"If every educated young person harnesses their skills in the field of business, the day is not far

when Pakistan's economy will be able to stand on its own feet," he remarked.

Shan Seghal, who served as an esteemed judge at the event, was joined by Professor Dr. Arifa Bhutto from the University of Sindh and Mr. Zaki Zeeshan.

Organized under the Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) and Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) at Isra University, this two-day event offered an ideal platform for young entrepreneurs, attracting participants from prominent institutions such as SST Public School Rashidabad, the University of Sindh, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, and the University of Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf along with prize winners of 17th CNS Amateur Golf Cup 2024 at MGGC, Islamabad.

DG SBCA reviews progress of Shahrah-e-Faisal beautification project, aiming to transform city's key corridor

Independent Report

KARACHI: In alignment with directives from the Sindh Government, the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) has initiated a major beautification drive aimed at enhancing the facades of buildings along Shahrah-e-Faisal, extending from the FTC Building to the Airport. This initiative seeks to uplift the visual appeal of one of Karachi's busiest thoroughfares, creating a more welcoming and aesthetically pleasing environment for both residents and visitors.

Director General SBCA Abdul Rasheed Solangi on Sunday visited Shahrah-e-Faisal to review the project's progress. Accompanied by senior SBCA officials, the Director General evaluated the ongoing painting and structural enhancement work on 24 buildings within the project's scope. The beautification efforts are focused on key areas in District Malir and District East,

where a significant number of buildings are undergoing facade improvements. In District Malir, 14 buildings have seen 60% of the painting work completed, with decorative lighting installations planned for the upcoming phase to further enhance nighttime visibility and appeal. In District East, the painting and repair work on 10 buildings has reached nearly 75% completion, with detailed facade finishes set to follow in the coming weeks.

In a statement, the DG SBCA Abdul Rasheed Solangi emphasized that the beautification project is being carried out under the directives of Chief Minister Sindh, Chief Secretary Sindh, and Minister for Local Government Sindh. He noted that this initiative underscores the commitment of the Sindh Government to enhance Karachi's urban landscape and improve the quality of life for its citizens. "The beautification of Shahrah-e-Faisal

is a priority set forth by our leadership, and we are dedicated to implementing these improvements with utmost attention to quality and aesthetic standards," he said.

To ensure quality and adherence to standards, each building's exterior is being inspected and evaluated for necessary repairs, fresh paint, and structural enhancements. Local artists have also been engaged to incorporate Karachi's cultural themes into select facades, fostering a unique blend of modern design with traditional aesthetics.

The SBCA remains committed to transforming Shahrah-e-Faisal into a visually appealing avenue that reflects the city's urban development goals. This project not only highlights Karachi's architectural charm but also sets an example for other districts to enhance their infrastructure aesthetics in the interest of beautifying public spaces across the city.



LARKANA: Members of the Organizing Committee Feudalism are holding protest demonstration against the feudalism system in Sindh, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Rotary Club of Mirpurkhas central sparks hope for revival of inactive institutions

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Rotary Club of Mirpurkhas Central held its regular meeting on Sunday under the leadership of President Ali Hasan Noon, with notable attendees including Abdul Rauf Arain, Syed Imdad Shah, Chaudhry Tariq Aziz, and Nadeem Nawab. The gathering was felicitated with flowers and traditional Sindh Ajarkas, setting a vibrant tone for the event.

Special guests Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood Khan and Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori joined the meeting, which aimed to revitalize Mirpurkhas's social organizations. Former President Mohammad Bakhsh Kapri highlighted the city's history as a hub for philanthropic institutions, acknowledging their

decline over time. However, with the election of the Gymkhana Club, new hope has emerged after 28 years.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood emphasized the need to reactivate dormant institutions, including the city's Gymkhana Club, with capable leaders.

Dr. Masood in his address also stressed the importance of good and capable people leading service sectors, as the city's progress depends on them.

The event also saw NRSF District Manager Ayaz Kaka receiving his new membership pin, while Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood and Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori were awarded honorary membership.

SSP Hyderabad inaugurates two-day free eye camp

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Host Lions Club in collaboration with district police Hyderabad organized a two-day free Eye Camp here at the Police headquarters on Sunday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Hyderabad Dr. Farukh Ali inaugurated a free eye camp in which over 600 patients will be operated.

SSP met with office bearers of Lions Club Hyderabad, Governor Lions Club International district governors and office bearers and visited all departments of Lions Club.

He inquired the health of patients, visited OPD and lauded the efforts of organizers of the eye camp to ensure the availability of food, medicines, surgery and other facilities. The President Hyderabad Chamber of small traders and small Industry (HCSTSI) Muhammad Saleem Memon, President Lions club Ashfaq Ahmed Qureshi, Secretary Asif Memon, District Governor Irfan Nathani, Camp Chairman Dr. Iqbal Haroon and other members were also present. SSP Hyderabad on the occasion said that it was a matter of pride that he had arrived in the camp. "I had no idea that facilities like private hospitals were being provided in the eye camp and follow-up was being taken after the surgeries of patients.