

# Independent

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## Pakistan, Iran condemn Israel's genocidal acts; pledge to coordinate anti-terror efforts

Ishaq Dar reiterated the call for establishing a viable, independent, and contiguous state of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Iran on Tuesday condemned Israel's unrestrained military aggression in the Middle East and its genocidal actions against innocent civilians, and questioned the international community's failure to stop the Zionist regime from its violation of international laws and UN Charter.

In a joint press statement following their meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi told the media that Israel's illegal measures in occupied territories, in violation of international law, international humanitarian law, and the UN Charter, consti-

tuted the root cause of all tensions in the Middle East.

Besides exchanging views on the current situation and developments in the Middle East and across the globe, both sides discussed focusing on the Middle East crisis, the denial of the right to self-determination, and the need for upholding international law and advancing accountability.

In his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said that both sides emphasized the need for reaching an urgent ceasefire, de-escalation, and dialogue, aiming to realize the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

He recalled Pakistan's timely and strong condem-

nation of Israel's military strikes on Iran in grave violation of Iran's sovereignty.

Dar reiterated the call for establishing a viable, independent, and contiguous state of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. "We reject the propensity by occupying powers to equate the right of self-determination with terrorism, which is nothing but a ploy to prolong their occupation and apartheid policies. The long-standing Palestinian issue and the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, which are based on the denial of the right to self-determination, must be addressed through peaceful means.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah unveils the plaque to inaugurate the Fusion Centre of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD). Minister Home Ziaul Hassan Lanjar and IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon are present on the occasion.

## Pakistan desires to strengthen Iran ties through high-level exchanges, multiple cooperation: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed that Pakistan desired to further strengthen its brotherly relationship with Iran through maintaining regular high-level exchanges and enhancing mutually advantageous cooperation across all spheres of shared interest.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Foreign Minister of Iran Seyed Abbas Araghchi, who called on him here, reiterated Pakistan's unequivocal support to the Palestinian people in their just struggle

for self-determination and statehood.

He strongly condemned and expressed grave concern over Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people, according to a PM Office press release.

Welcoming Foreign Minister Araghchi on his first official visit to Pakistan as Foreign Minister of Iran, Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his sincere regards and good wishes to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and President Massoud Pezeshkian.

## Sharjeel, AJK Info Minister discuss national issues

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Information Minister Mazhar Saeed Shah met with Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon at his office in Karachi. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed national issues, as well as matters related to

Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that freedom of media and expression is not merely a principle but a fundamental component of democracy. He emphasized the Sindh Government's commitment to creating an environment where media houses and journalists can work freely, without fear



or threat. "A vibrant, independent media is essential for a transparent and accountable government," he added. He stated that the Sindh Government has been working tirelessly to promote long-term growth in the media industry. "It has been the vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan People's Party, and the Sindh Government to ensure the welfare and protection of journalists and uphold freedom of expression," he said. Under the leadership of the PPP, the Sindh Government is committed to safeguarding press freedom and protecting the rights of journalists.

Among those who came for the meeting were people from the

## Sindh Cabinet to meet with 25 agendas today

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Cabinet has been convened to meet on Wednesday with 25 agendas in the list, in the committee room of the Secretariat of the Sindh Chief Minister.

Cabinet will discuss various items including policy for procurement of vehicles and status of retrieval of government vehicles from unauthorized possessions, renewal of services level agreement for e-stamping in Sindh between the Punjab Information Technology Board and Board of Revenue Sindh for further six months, etc.

## 2 FC personnel martyred, 4 injured in DI Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two soldiers of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) were martyred after an ambush by Khawarij terrorists near Daraban Police Station in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Interior spokesperson, the FC vehicle came under heavy fire by the terrorists, resulting in deaths of two FC soldiers, Sher Rehman and Syed Ameen, and leaving four others injured.

The Ministry confirmed that both martyred soldiers heroically confronted the assailants and attained the high rank of martyrdom while defending their country.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Iran H.E. Seyyed Abbas Araghchi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## CM Murad launches modern Counter-Terrorism Fusion Centre

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated a cutting-edge facility, the Fusion Centre of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), within the provincial police, aimed at enhancing the provincial government's counterterrorism efforts.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IG CTD Imran Yakoob Minhas, and DIG CTD Asif Aijaz Shaikh, along with other senior officials.

The Fusion Centre, established by the National Radio and Telecommunications Corporation (NRTC), is equipped with advanced technology and infrastructure to strengthen the CTD's capacity to combat terrorism. "The provincial government has allocated Rs722 million for the Fusion Centre in the fiscal year

2023-24 to support the centre's operational and developmental needs," the CM said.

The centre is designed as a central hub that integrates online and offline data from all relevant stakeholders, enabling efficient analysis, collaboration, and decision-making. Through the project, the CTD aims to streamline intelligence-sharing and bolster the scientific investigation of terrorism cases and other government-assigned matters.

The Sindh Chief Minister Shah Syed Murad Ali Shah, speaking on the occasion, said that his government was committed to equipping the provincial police with modern resources. "The provincial government has focused on strengthening the Sindh police with improved training, transportation, budgetary support, and essential equipment," he said. He

added that it was the responsibility of the police to protect the lives, property, and liberties of the people of the province.

Mr Shah also discussed the persistent threat of terrorism and expressed his appreciation for the sacrifices made by the police, Rangers, and other law enforcement agencies. "Our law enforcement agencies have played an invaluable role in maintaining law and order, even at personal cost," he said.

The Fusion Centre represents a significant step forward in Sindh's counterterrorism capabilities, as it seeks to improve intelligence-driven policing and enhance public safety across the province.

The Minister Home Ziaul Hassan Lanjar also spoke on the occasion and appreciated the support the chief minister has extended to strengthen the provincial police.



ISLAMABAD: Chief justice Yahya Afridi presiding over meeting of judicial Commission of Pakistan at Supreme Court, in the Federal Capital.

## Education Minister distributes prize cheques to Karachi Board toppers

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Minister for Education Sindh, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, held a special meeting with the top-ranking students of the Karachi Board of Secondary Education exams, honoring their achievements with prize cheques and words of encouragement.

During the occasion

Imran, who earned the second position from Al-Khalil School, was presented with PKR 150,000, while Rukhsar Soomro from Little Fox School, who ranked third, was awarded PKR 100,000. The students' parents were present to witness this momentous occasion.

The education minis-



held at his office, Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah awarded cheques to the position holders, acknowledging their hard work and success.

Hafiz Abdul Rafay, the first-place holder from Government Delhi High School, received a cheque of PKR 200,000. Romaisa

also gifted a laptop to Abdul Rafay, the top-ranking student, as a token of encouragement.

In an informal conversation with the students, Minister Shah emphasized the importance of lifelong learning, stating that achieving a top position is merely the beginning.

## SACM concerned over gas load-shedding in Karachi, other parts of Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister and General Secretary PPP Sindh Senator Waqar Mehdi expressed concerns over the unannounced gas load shedding in Karachi and other parts of Sindh as winter approaches.

He highlighted that half of Karachi is enduring unannounced load shedding, while the rest struggles with low gas pressure.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Senator Mehdi demanded of the federal government to take notice of the issue experiencing millions of people living in the city.

He requested to end gas load-shedding and ensure provision of uninterrupted gas with full pressure to people of this mega city.

## With representation from all four provinces JCP approves 7-member Constitutional Bench

Justice Aminuddin Khan nominated as head of constitutional bench

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Tuesday approved a seven-member Constitutional Bench with representation from all four provinces for a term of two months.

The JCP, reconstituted under the 26th Constitutional Amendment, convened its first meeting chaired by Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan / Chairman of the Judicial Commission here at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan, Attorney-General

for Pakistan, Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, Member of the National Assembly, Mr. Umar Ayub Khan, Member of the National Assembly and Ms. Roshan Khurshid Bharucha.

The Commission considered the formation of a Constitutional Bench within the Supreme Court to consider constitutional matters/cases. The Chief Justice expressed the views of the judges regarding the Constitutional Bench under Article 175(A) of the Constitution and suggested certain duration of the Bench. Other participants also expressed their views on the matter which was considered and thoroughly debated.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessoro and Managing Director YTH Event Organizer Muzamil Athar signing a MoU for holding of Pak-UAE Jiu-Jitsu Friendship Cup

## Lanjar orders formation of committee for airport security

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: A high-level meeting held at the Sindh Assembly building under the chairmanship of Provincial Home Minister Ziaul-Hassan Lanjar, focused on key issues and reforms related to the airport security.

The Minister emphasized conducting a security audit and ensuring that all stakeholders are involved in the process. He directed the immediate implementation of orders to form a committee for airport security matters.

The committee will include the Additional Chief Secretary Home Iqbal Memon, Additional IG Karachi, DIGs East, CTD, SB, SPU, Joint Director of Intelligence Bureau, ASF, Civil Aviation Authority representatives from law enforcement agencies.

The committee's responsibilities will be creating SOPs for foreign nationals and assigning security-related duties.

For enhanced security around and within the airport, the Home Minister instructed the installation of additional CCTV cameras. He also directed the committee to prepare a comprehensive SOP detailing the responsibilities of each institution and official for review. He said that the security for foreign nationals will be strengthened further, ensuring exceptional safety measures. Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar expressed the commitment to work diligently and emphasized the need to maintain this level of dedication.

The meeting was attended by ACS Home, IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IGP Karachi, the Joint Director of IB, DIGs, CTD, Special Branch, and representatives from other law enforcement agencies.



## KMC receives 228m under MUCT collected through K-Electric in just one month: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said that Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) received a cheque of Rs 228 million in terms of Municipal Utility Charges & Tax (MUCT) collected through K-Electric bills in just one month and KMC aims to collect Rs 3 billion annually from municipal taxes.

Speaking at a press conference at KMC's head office on Tuesday, alongside Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said it was time to question those who opposed the collection of municipal taxes through K Electric.

He said that the amount collected under MUCT will be used for development projects across the city as well as for paying pensions and dues to municipal employees. Details of these receipts and expenditures will be available online, he said.

Barrister Murtaza said that bold and strict decisions were made to make the KMC financially self-sufficient, and the benefits are beginning to show. "Who will answer for Rs 10 billion in losses incurred by KMC over the past three years due to their negative propaganda? Why were they trying to strangle this city?" he asked.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Smog hazard

The Punjab government would be keen to forget its first year of treating smog as 'a year-round epidemic' instead of a seasonal issue.

The policy shift, announced in July this year, has so far failed to yield the desired results. Indeed, the air quality in Lahore is now worse than it has ever been, with the Air Quality Index exceeding 1,000 on Sunday for the first time ever. Children have been told to stay at home this week as primary schools up to Grade 5 have been shut by the provincial government due to the smog hazard.

The polluted air, which carries hazardous chemicals many times over the standards set by the World Health Organisation, can cause a host of respiratory diseases, as well as strokes, heart disease and lung cancer. Children are particularly at risk because of their underdeveloped respiratory systems and propensity to breathe more rapidly, which causes them to inhale more pollutants relative to their size than adults.

Of course, combating smog was never going to be easy, no matter how keenly the Punjab chief minister wanted to see it prevented this year. Though the provincial government has attempted to clamp down on all sources of pollution, including restaurants emitting excessive smoke from their barbecues, the Pakistan Air Quality Experts' Group, comprising leading air quality experts, researchers, doctors and scientists, deems these measures ill-planned, insufficient and therefore unlikely to have a meaningful impact on the larger problem.

Another factor has also been blamed extensively by the Punjab authorities: cross-border pollution from India, from where smoke from stubble-burning and fireworks during the recently concluded Diwali celebrations are blowing over this week into Pakistan. The Punjab chief minister is now seeking a joint effort by the two Punjab governments to combat the smog crisis, which, the WHO warns, is reducing the life expectancy of the citizens residing in their territories.

With the authorities told to go back to the drawing board — the provincial environment minister on Monday said they will "use this week to conduct research, mapping, and studies to reassess and determine if extended school closures are needed" — this is a good time to reflect on past policies that have led to this point, and to plan more extensively about how the crisis can be averted in future.

It should be acknowledged that the catastrophe unfolding in Lahore has been years in the making; it is the product of our authorities' repeated failure to recognise the environmental impact of rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. The smog crisis in Lahore should also serve as a stark warning to administrators of other urban centres. If immediate steps are not taken to address pollution, millions more may soon find themselves choking on toxic air.

## Domestic violence and abuse in Pakistan

By Muzna  
Abdul Shakoor

Domestic violence and abuse are rampant in Pakistan with many victims living miserable existences at the hands of their respective abusers. I suggest amendments to modernise the system as much as possible to walk in step with the whims of time and society, but those are only words on paper. The law provides for so many checks & balances that though at every stage it tries to reach out to a helping hand to vulnerable women, few come forward, with a case getting reported in Punjab alone every half-hour. There are many reports out there that physical and sexual assault inclinations continue to be on the rise among women, as well as other kinds of abuse. Compounded by institutional sexism, low literacy rates, and a lack of economic diversity, this will require a comprehensive response: from increased victim support, public awareness campaigns, and more robust legal care.

The hearings of Noor Mukadam, Mariam, Saima Ali, and Qurat-ul-Ain Baloch are a clear message that domestic abuse and violence in Pakistan is even existing. These are just exemplary instances; it is a multifaceted phenomenon with substantial cultural, societal, and economic roots. Patriarchal norms in Pakistan are also often accused of upholding and endorsing violence against women. In many aspects, women are denied their rights and often treated as the property of men, with their autonomy limited.

In his own work-

shop, Iqbal discovered marriage exchanges (watta-satta), seemingly civil agreements that mean women are married off in dreadful marriages. There are cases where divorcing an abusive husband can also ruin social relationships with other family members' families, like Mariam's. Collectively, society stigmatises domestic abuse victims in ways that breed shame and drive them not to seek help out of embarrassment or fear of sharing their experiences.

As if it were not complicated enough to fall in love with somebody of the same sex, they have the fear of becoming social outcasts and pariahs that will bring shame on their families. The biggest other hurdle is financial dependence. Many women, like Mariam, are abused by their breadwinning spouses even faster. With most domestic abuse cases, this financial chokehold is one of the largest obstacles. Limited social safety nets and the increasing reliance of women engaged in circular economic dependency for family upkeep. Financial, legal, and shelter support — for most women, these supports are inadequate and expensive.

The examples of these names such as Noor Mukadam, Qurat ul Ain Baloch, and Saima Ali are a reminder for us that there is an ongoing need to have systemic reforms. The victims had apparently been abused in the home for several years, leading to these women taking their lives. The reaction on social media to these examples of spontaneous salvagery was the realisation that instantly hanging innocent

people or murderers getting off free is no longer an option. Addressing the problem in a unified way, however, is a challenge and one that goes beyond enforcing tougher rape and sexual assault laws — including public information campaigns to challenge negative cultural beliefs about women and supportive resources for survivors.

Zahir Jaffer was arrested in the murder case of Noor Mukadam along with his parents and house workers. The staff, also the security guards, knew about the hostage detention of Mukadam but instead of informing police they informed Jaffer's family. Jaffer's parents were denied bail on August 5 by the court. The case, in connection with other recent cases of violation against women, depicts a monstrous image of the state for its failure to safeguard its daughters.

Pakistan was rated 153rd out of 156 countries on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap 2021 index. It is ranked among the eight countries in the South Asian region, and Afghanistan comes last. Progress has stagnated, the report noted, pushing back the estimated time to close the gap to 136.5 years.

Gender-based violence is significantly underreported in Pakistan, making it difficult to gauge the full scope of the problem. But only the sample cases reflected on social media point to a more telling picture of where the status quo of women has spiraled. There is no end to the tragic roll call of women experiencing violence, being murdered, and raped. The case of Dr. Muhammad Masood is another ex-

ample demonstrating the need to address the complexities in dealing with domestic violence. Following claims of abuse by his ex-wife, Dr. Masood was referred to fitness-to-practice proceedings by the General Medical Council. But in the ruling, the Tribunal found that he had committed acts of domestic violence on his ex-wife and tried to impede proceedings. As a result, he was successfully removed from the medical register, showing how far a domestic abuser can fall and highlighting the importance of professional integrity in healthcare.

Violence in the home is a global epidemic that can take many forms. While domestic violence has existed throughout human history, it became a modern sociopolitical issue with changes in social values, societal morals, and emerging legal rules. Historically, domestic violence was considered a private matter, and patriarchy often allowed or even justified abusive behaviors, particularly by men. This norm is now being challenged as modern society strives for gender equality. Shifts in gender dynamics, including greater female autonomy and workforce participation, have altered intimate relationships, though these changes can provoke resistance, leading to control or violence.

Domestic violence has long-lasting mental health effects, increasing the risk of anxiety, depression, PTSD, and other trauma-related disorders. While modern mental health awareness has brought these issues to the forefront, access to therapy and rehabilitation remains

unequal. Children exposed to domestic violence are also at risk of long-term emotional and psychological damage, an issue now receiving more attention.

New technologies have given abusers additional means to monitor or harass victims, such as through social media tracking, GPS technology, and cyberstalking. The rise of "tech abuse" has led to stronger privacy laws and digital literacy campaigns. On the other hand, technology provides victims new ways to seek help, such as emergency support apps, online counseling, and digital platforms for reporting abuse.

Recent years have seen more focus on engaging men in the fight against domestic violence. Campaigns that challenge toxic masculinity and promote healthy relationships, based on respect and equality, are key to preventing domestic violence. While domestic violence against women is more widely discussed, awareness of male victims has also increased. Social stigmas around masculinity and vulnerability make it hard for men to report abuse, adding another layer of complexity to addressing domestic violence. Ongoing efforts in legislation, education, and support services are essential in shifting societal attitudes about gender roles and relationships.

Addressing domestic violence in Pakistan is a multifaceted challenge that requires collaboration across all sectors of society. By understanding the cultural, social, and economic factors at play,

strategies can be developed to protect and empower victims while working to eradicate the problem.

In conclusion, ending domestic violence in Pakistan is a collective and long-term effort. This complex issue requires changing deeply ingrained cultural norms that perpetuate violence, educating society on gender equality, and improving economic opportunities for women. Financial independence allows women to leave abusive relationships and start new lives. In addition to job opportunities, access to education and vocational training is critical. Strengthening laws and ensuring their enforcement is vital. Domestic violence laws must be tough, and the justice system must handle cases efficiently. Public awareness campaigns can help shift cultural attitudes and inform victims about available resources like hotlines, shelters, and counseling.

Community involvement is key, as local leaders and organizations provide support and advocacy at the grassroots level. Support systems for survivors, from immediate shelter and emergency services to long-term counseling and financial assistance, are crucial for recovery.

As we strive for gender equality and justice, we must amplify the voices of those affected and work together to end the cycle of violence. By addressing the root causes and offering comprehensive support, we can build a society that values and protects all its members.

## Commerce News

### Aurangzeb reviews progress on REMIT initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a meeting of Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade Programme (REMIT) Steering Committee on Tuesday to review the status and progress on the implementation of decisions taken by the Committee in its earlier meeting with regard to revenue mobilisation, investment climate, trade and macro-economy. British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms Jane Marriott and senior leadership from key government ministries, including Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industries and Production, Board of Investment, FBR and REMIT's implementing partners — World Bank, GCSI and ASI, attended the meeting. The Committee reviewed the work done by the stakeholders in different sectors of the economy, particularly revenue mobilisation, investment climate, macroeconomic governance, trade and climate change for the purpose of strengthening macroeconomic stability and improving conditions for high and sustained inclusive growth.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over a meeting with SNGPL authorities regarding Gas issues in DLKhan and all districts at Governor House.

### Pakistan's exports to UK increase by 8.39% in Q1 of FY2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United Kingdom (UK) witnessed an increase of 8.39 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding quarter of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to the UK were recorded at US \$562.749 million during July-September (2024-25) against exports of US \$519.142 million during July-September (2023-24), SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year

basis, the exports to the UK also surged to \$196.379 million in September 2024 against the export of \$167.869 million in September 2023. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to the UK witnessed an increase of 7.27 percent during September 2024 as compared to the exports of \$183.066 million in August 2024, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 7.82 percent in the first three months, from US \$6.952 billion to US \$7.495 billion.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Revenue Mobilisation, Investment, and Trade Programme.

### Planning minister directs 'proactive analysis' of demand & stocks to maintain prices of essential items

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday directed the quarters concerned to conduct 'proactive analysis' of demand and stocks to maintain prices of essential commodities on a regular basis, especially during high-demand seasons like Ramadan and Eid-ul-Azha.

"Preparation for these high-demand seasons should anticipate potential supply pressures to prevent market disruptions and price spikes," he said while chairing a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC). The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Additional Secretary Planning Kamran Rehman, Economic Advisor Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, Chief Statistician Dr Naem Uz Zafar, Joint Chief Economist, Deputy Commissioner ICT, Deputy Commissioner

(MP & FP), and representatives from the Ministry of Food and provincial governments, according to a news release.

The minister also instructed local market committees to play an active role in monitoring demand and supply, ensuring adequate availability of essential commodities.

The NPMC gave every Deputy Commissioner task to maintaining oversight of

district-level stock levels to avert shortages.

The committee reviewed recent inflation data, particularly in food and essential commodities, using insights from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need for data-driven strategies in price monitoring, advocating for detailed reports on inflation drivers to facilitate targeted interventions.

### PSX appointed new CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday announced the appointment of Farrukh H. Sabzwari as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

According to a notice issued by PSX, Sabzwari will assume his office as CEO of Pakistan Stock Exchange on November 18, 2024.

Farrukh Sabzwari has spent more than 25 years in senior management roles in the investment banking industry, both locally and abroad, the press release said adding he had previously served as CEO.

### PTA organizes Telecom Cybersecurity Awards 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) held the Cybersecurity Awards 2024 on Tuesday to honour outstanding achievements in enhancing cybersecurity within Pakistan's telecom sector. In her address, Minister of State for IT and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja reaffirmed the government's commitment to establishing a robust cybersecurity framework critical for the country's economic and digital stability.

She said Pakistan has been recognized in the Top Tier-1 (Role-Modelling) category of the ITU-Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI V5) 2024. This recognition highlights the nation's progress in bolstering cybersecurity and resilience, a testament to the collective efforts of the Ministry, stakeholders in government, industry, academia, and law enforcement agencies.

She said the PTA has introduced critical telecom data infrastructure regulations, encouraging operators to adopt substantial cybersecurity measures to enhance overall preparedness. She shared insights from her recent visit to Karachi, where the Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon 2024 was launched. She announced plans for legislation to establish a National Digital Commission, which will be headed by the Prime Minister and include representation from the provinces and the private sector, to enhance national cybersecurity.

She said, "We will bring legislation in this regard within a week."

### Task force to negotiate about saved amount with 18 IPPs in next phase: Senate body told

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Power was informed on Tuesday that the task force would negotiate about saved amount with the 18 Independent Power Producers (IPPs) from 1994 and 2002, as well as the government power plants in next phase. The committee which met with Mohsin Aziz in the Chair was told that the task force's negotiations would be completed in the next three to six months.

Briefing the Senate Panel, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Power, Muhammad Ali said that the task force was negotiating with the IPPs, and recently, five power plants have been terminated by the task force on the recommendation of NTDC, which resulted in benefit the country Rs. 60 billion annually for the country. He highlighted that the task force has negotiated with the IPPs for the payment of the saved amount which should be paid back to the government of Pakistan.



UAE: Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan along with Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to UAE inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the 10th Edition of Gulfood Manufacturing 2024.

### Canadian investor Luqman says: Hundreds of exploration companies ready to come to Pakistan for investment

Independent report

ISLAMABAD: Luqman Ahmed, a Canadian investor and associated with the mineral industry, visited the capital office of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Canadian investor Luqman Ahmed met the officials of FPCCI.

Vice President of the Federation Tariq Jadoon and Incharge Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Coordination Capital Office Malik Sohail also attended the meeting.

President FPCCI Atif Ikram Shaikh said on this

occasion that there are investment opportunities in Pakistan, the business community is playing a role to restore the confidence of investors, trade and investment between Pakistan and Canada, want to promote, a delegation of Pakistani businessmen will visit Canada and America in March, a delegation of 25 to 30 people will visit.

Speaking on this occasion, Canadian investor Luqman Ahmed said that hundreds of exploration companies are ready to come to Pakistan.

## Governor says: All must unite to eliminate extremism, sectarian violence

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday stressed that we all must unite to eliminate extremism and sectarian violence.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation of Tehreek-e-Nifaz Fiqa Jafariya (TNFJ) at Governor House, led by Provincial President Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah, included senior vice president Maulana Malik Ijlal al-Hyderi, provincial vice president Zulfiqar Haider Jameel, Advocate Zulnoorain Haider, and other members.

The TNFJ delegation raised several important issues concerning the security and welfare of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the nation as a whole.

They demanded the full implementation of all clauses of the National Action Plan to ensure lasting peace and the complete eradication of terrorism in the province and across Pakistan.

The delegation also called for the practical banning of proscribed organizations, enhancing the security of the Peshawar-Parachinar road, constructing alternative routes for the residents of Parachinar, and halting cross-border infiltration.

They further brought up the deteriorating condition of the Mir Ahmed Shah Shrine in Orakzai, and to restore the road leading to the shrine and carry out necessary repairs. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assured the delegation that maintaining peace and order in the province was a shared responsibility.

He expressed optimism about the collective efforts to bring peace to the region soon. "We all must unite to eliminate extremism and sectarian violence. The people of our province are peaceful and peace-loving," he said.



MULTAN: MPA Rana Iqbal Siraj presenting bouquet to the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani upon his arrival at Multan International Airport.

## KP cabinet committee visits judicial academy to discuss new campus development

PESHAWAR (APP): A Special Committee of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet members visited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy, Peshawar (KPJA), to discuss establishment of the KPJA's New Campus, on already acquired/allotted land measuring 150 Kanal, at Regi Model Town (RMT), Peshawar.

The distinguished guests were received by the Director General, Dean and other staff of the Academy. Detailed presentation was given to the Committee. The meeting/presentation was attended Mr. Afab Alam Afridi, Minister for

Law, Mr. Arshad Ayub Khan, Minister for Local Government, Mr. Nazir Ahmed Abbasi, Minister for Finance, Mr. Shah Faisal Utman Khel, Advocate General, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Ikhtiar Khan, Registrar, Peshawar High Court, Mr. Akhtar Saeed Turk, Secretary Law Department, Ms. Talat Fahad, Additional Secretary, Administration Department, Mr. Jehanzeb Shinwari, Director General, KPJA, Mr. Zia ur Rehman, Dean Faculty, KPJA, Dr. Qazi Ataullah, Senior Director Research and Publication KPJA and other respectable guests.

## MNA booked over pilfering electricity by tampering meter

FAISALABAD (APP): Sahianwala police have booked an MNA on alleged charges of pilfering electricity by tampering electricity supply meter in the area of FESCO Subdivision Chak Jhumra No.2. Police spokesman said here on Tuesday that Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Chak Jhumra Subdivision No.2 Adeel Yasin filed a complaint, contending that MNA Ali Afzal Sahi (PTI backed leader) reportedly tampered the electric meter for stealing electricity in Chak 153/R-B.

## KP govt launches mega solarization project for sustainable energy

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the committee for the solarization of government buildings.

The initiative is aimed at addressing power shortages and promoting sustainable energy solutions across the province.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister's Advisor on Finance, Muzammil Aslam, and other key committee members.

The meeting focused on the proposed plan to solarize a wide range of government infrastructure across the province, including hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, police stations, jails, government offices, as well as tube wells and streetlights.

The committee was briefed on the ongoing data collection process regarding the electricity needs of government buildings. So far, data for 13,000 units has been compiled.

To solarize these buildings, approximately 73,000 megawatts of solar system capacity will be required, which will generate an estimated 92 million units of solar electricity annually.

The total estimated cost of the solarization project is approximately 10 billion rupees. Once completed,

## Zero waste to be ensured in cities, villages under 'Suthra' Punjab; Provincial Minister

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Local Government and Community Development, Zeeshan Rafique here on Tuesday said that zero waste would be ensured in cities and villages through 'Suthra' Punjab programme.

Chairing a meeting held here in Commissioner

Office regarding 'Suthra' Punjab the Minister said that the programme was launched on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab and it is a gift for the people.

Members of National and Provincial Assemblies, divisional administration officers, contractors and others attended the meeting.

## Girl killed, brother injured in road accident

MULTAN (APP): A young girl, who was pillion rider, died while her brother sustained injuries when their motorcycle was hit by bus of Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), at Syedwala Bypass, here on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122, both were on their way to their educational institutions when the accident occurred at 8:50 am.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over a meeting with Jazz Cash and Public Sectors Universities representatives regarding Cash Free digitalisation services at Governor House.

## Swati directs for considering historical worth of KP PA

PESHAWAR (APP): Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Saleem Swati has issued directives for considering the historical significance of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Despite its extensive parliamentary history, it has not been properly preserved and highlighted.

Therefore, the Assembly Secretariat requires the services of the University

of Peshawar Arts & Design Department and other relevant provincial departments to preserve this important historical heritage and present it for public exhibition and to students. These thoughts were expressed by the Acting Secretary of the Provincial Assembly, Syed Waqar Shah, during a meeting with Dr. Imrana Ismail, Chairperson of the University of Peshawar Arts & Design Department.

## Police arrest 4 outlaws; recover 9Kg hashish

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during the successful operation against criminal elements arrested four outlaws and recovered 9000 grams of hashish, stolen qingqi rickshaw and a goat from their possession in the limits of Dera Town police station here on Tuesday.

According to the police spokesman, on the direction of the District Police Officer Dera Nasir Mahmood, Police Station Dera Town under the leadership of SDPO Saddam Imranullah Khattak.

## LDA seals 152 properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams conducted operations against defaulters of commercial fee and illegal commercial activities, and sealed 152 properties on different schemes here on Tuesday.

The LDA teams conducted operations in Gulberg, New Garden Town, Allama Iqbal Town, Canal Road, Shalimar Link Road, Main Boulevard Gulshan Ravi, Poonch Road, and Samanabad. The sealed properties includes bakeries, shoe stores, banks, call centers, cafes, solar shops, grocery stores, malls, furniture shops, electronics stores, and others.

In Gulberg and New Garden Town, 37 properties were sealed due to illegal commercial use and non-payment of commercial fees.

In Allama Iqbal Town, 20 properties were sealed and 25 in Sutlej Avenue. The teams sealed 70 properties in different areas including Canal Road, Shalimar Link Road, Main Boulevard Gulshan Ravi, Poonch Road, and Samanabad. The sealed properties includes bakeries, shoe stores, banks, call centers, cafes, solar shops, grocery stores, malls, furniture shops, electronics stores, and others.

# International News

## At least 29 Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes in several areas in Gaza

Monitoring Desk  
RAMALLAH: At least 29 Palestinians were killed early on Tuesday in Israeli airstrikes on tents housing displaced people in several areas of Gaza, including Beit Lahiya, Deir Al-Balah and the town of Al-Zawayda, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

According to Wafa, 20 people were killed in a heavy airstrike on a home in Beit Lahiya, located in the northern part of Gaza, two people were killed when a tent in central Deir al-Balah was hit and four people were killed and others injured in a similar attack on a tent in al-Zawayda.

The 13-month war

between Israel and Hezbollah has killed more than 3,000 people in Lebanon, the country's Health Ministry said on Monday, more than double the number of people killed since their last major war two decades ago.

The war shows no signs of ending, and Israel has said it is carrying out new operations targeting Hezbollah infrastructure across Lebanon and in parts of Syria while Hezbollah continues to launch dozens of rockets into northern Israel.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel the day after Hamas' surprise attack into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 ignited the war in Gaza. Hezbollah and Hamas are both allied with Iran.

For nearly a year, the conflict was mostly contained to the areas along the border between Israel and Lebanon. The conflict dramatically escalated on Sept. 23 with intense Israeli airstrikes on south and east Lebanon as well as Beirut's southern suburbs, leaving hundreds dead and leading to the displacement of nearly 1.2 million people.

Israel began a ground invasion of south Lebanon on Oct. 1, causing wide destruction in border villages but making little advances on the ground inside Lebanon. Israel says it is destroying Hezbollah weapons and command centers near the border, including an extensive tunnel system built by Hezbollah.



Displaced Palestinians make their way after fleeing the northern part of Gaza amid an Israeli military operation, in Gaza City.

## North Korean troops in Russia are shelled by Ukrainian forces, an official says

Monitoring Desk  
KYIV: North Korean troops recently deployed to help Russia in its war with Ukraine have come under Ukrainian fire, a Kyiv official said Tuesday.

It is the first time a Ukrainian official has said that Pyongyang's units were struck, following a deployment that has given the war a new complexion as it approaches its 1,000-day milestone.

"The first North Korean troops have already been shelled, in the Kursk region," Andrii Kovalenko, the head of the counter-disinformation branch of

Ukraine's Security Council, wrote on Telegram. He provided no further details.

Western governments had expected that the North Korean soldiers would be sent to Russia's Kursk border region, where a 3-month-old incursion by the Ukrainian army is the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II and has embarrassed the Kremlin.

U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments say up to 12,000 North Korean combat troops are being sent by Pyongyang to the war under a pact with Moscow.

## Disinfo surge hasn't impacted US polls, says chief of cybersecurity

Monitoring Desk  
WASHINGTON: US cybersecurity agency director Jen Easterly said on Monday that her department has not seen evidence of any activity that could directly impact the outcome of the election, despite a surge in disinformation.

She added that the 2024 election has faced an "unprecedented" amount of disinformation from foreign adversaries.

## Harris vs Trump is too close to call

Monitoring Desk  
WASHINGTON: A presidential election unlike any other in US history entered its last full day with Donald Trump and Kamala Harris scrambling for an edge in a tight contest each portrays as an existential moment for America.

Even after the astonishing blur of events of the last few months, the electorate is divided down the middle, both nationally and in the seven battleground states expected to determine the outcome.

The winner may not be known for days after Tuesday's vote. Former President Trump, a 78-year-old Republican, survived two assassination at-

tempts weeks after a New York City jury made him the first former US president to be convicted of a felony.

Vice President Harris, 60, was catapulted to the top of the Democratic ticket in July - giving her a chance to become the first woman to hold the world's most powerful job - after President Joe Biden, 81, ended his reelection bid after a disastrous debate performance against Trump prompted calls from his party to drop out. For all of that turmoil, the contours of the race have changed little, and opinion polls have shown Harris and Trump running neck and neck since the summer.



Prince William, Prince of Wales, meets the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, at his Official Residence in Cape Town, South Africa.

## Gaza aid situation not much improved, US says as deadline for Israel looms

Monitoring Desk  
WASHINGTON: Israel has taken some measures to increase aid access to Gaza but has so far failed to significantly turn around the humanitarian situation in the enclave, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday, as a deadline set by the US to improve the situation approaches.

The Biden administration told Israel in an Oct.

13 letter it had 30 days to take specific steps to address the dire humanitarian crisis in the strip, which has been pummeled for more than a year by Israeli ground and air operations that Israel says are aimed at rooting out Hamas militants.

Aid workers and UN officials say humanitarian conditions continue to be dire in Gaza.

"As of today, the situation has not significantly turned around.

## Iranian female student who stripped at university is 'troubled', govt says

Monitoring Desk  
TEHRAN: A female student who stripped to her underwear at an Iranian university does not represent a security issue but is a "troubled individual" who is receiving treatment, a government spokesperson said.

The young woman undressed on Saturday at the Islamic Azad University in Tehran, an act that was widely perceived on social media as a protest against Iran's strict Islamic dress code.

"Instead of viewing this issue under a security lens, we are rather looking at it with a social lens and seek to solve the problems of this student as a troubled individual," government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said on Tuesday in the first official reaction to the event.

## Iranian forces kill 8 after deadly attack in southeast: state media

Monitoring Desk  
TEHRAN: Iran's military has killed eight militants in an operation in the restive southeast since a deadly attack last month on a police station, state media reported on Tuesday.

On October 26, militants from the Jaish al-Adl group killed 10 police officers in Taftan county, Sistan-Baluchistan province - one of the deadliest attacks in the region in recent months.

"A total of eight terrorists have been killed" during operations in the province, Revolutionary Guards commander Ahmad Shafahi said, quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

"Fourteen other terrorists have been arrested," including key figures involved in the Taftan attack, he said, adding security forces seized a large amount of weapons and ammunition.

## India's top court overturns northern state's ban on Islamic schools

Monitoring Desk  
NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court set aside on Tuesday an order that banned Islamic schools in the country's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, providing a breather to thousands of students and teachers.

In March, the Allahabad High Court had scrapped a 2004 law governing the schools, called madrasas, saying it violated the constitutional tenet of secularism, and directing that all their students be moved to conventional schools.

## Israeli settlers burn cars in West Bank attack: Palestinians

Monitoring Desk  
AL BIREH: Israeli settlers torched nearly 20 cars early Monday in the occupied West Bank city of Al-Bireh near Ramallah, according to the Palestinian civil defence and an Israeli security source.

An AFP journalist saw several cars completely charred, and the blackened facade of the five-storey building outside which they were parked.

An alert rang "at 3:30am (0130 GMT) signalling that settlers entered the area and committed acts of vandalism," said Rami Omar, head of the local civil defence office.

An Israeli security official told AFP notification of the incident came at 4:00 am and soldiers were sent who arrived on site after the settlers had gone.

The official, who was not authorised to speak publicly on the matter, said 19 vehicles had been burned by settlers.

Israeli police, soldiers and Shin Bet security agency officers collected evidence in Al-Bireh for the investigation, the official added.

Israeli authorities did not yet know where the settlers came from and what their motives were.

## Resilient youth to make Pakistan developed, prosperous country: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Pakistan's youth with its hard work, resilience, and determination would make it a developed and prosperous country.

Addressing the National Youth Summit as chief guest here, he said that Pakistan was founded on the dream of Allama Iqbal, which turned into reality under the leadership of Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The minister said that the youth of the subcontinent gained freedom by supporting the Quaid-e-Azam in the struggle for freedom.

"Through the resolve and determination of the Muslim youth of the subcontinent we achieved the goal of freedom", he maintained.

The youth carried the message of the Quaid-e-

Azam to every nook and cranny of the subcontinent and helped create awareness among the Muslims about the importance of Pakistan.

He said was an honour to address the best and most talented youth of Pakistan present at the event.

He said Pakistan had abundance of talented youth who were playing an important role in the development of the country.

Young people were representing Pakistan on every forum, he said adding that they could shape the world scenario in a unique way.

He said there was a need for a lot of work as far as climate change was concerned.

"We have suffered many losses due to adverse effects of climate change in the shape of floods and cyclones", he remarked.

He expressed the hope that Pakistani youth would play their role in mitigating the effects of climate change.

He said Pakistan's youth were striving for gender equality, better health facilities, and the overall well-being of the people of the country and region.

He said local youth were working in the digital field and Pakistani startups were considered the best in the world.

He said empowering the youth was the need of the hour and the government was taking various steps to empower the youth.

He said that all over the world Pakistani youth was known for resilience and innovation.

He said it was the youth of this country that created a separate state for Muslims and they will save this country and take it to great heights.

Pakistani youth, he opined not only have the potential but can reshape the future of the world as we are moving towards a common shared future of humanity.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the course participants of 26th National Security Workshop at Naval Headquarters Islamabad.

## PPP to win local body by-elections on Nov 14: Waqar Mehdi

KARACHI (APP): The Secretary General PPP Sindh Senator Waqar Mehdi has expressed confidence that the people across Sindh, particularly in Karachi, will bring PPP to victory in the upcoming local body by-elections scheduled on November 14.

He emphasized that only the PPP is truly committed to addressing the people's issues and ensuring sustainable solutions.

Senator Mehdi shared these views while presiding over a crucial meeting focused on the by-elections.

Attendees included PPP Karachi Division's district presidents, general secretaries and candidates for local body positions.

During the meeting, district presidents briefed on preparations for the by-elections, and candidates for UC Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, and Ward Councilors.

The meeting also decided that election cells will be established in every UC and ward in Karachi Division, with an extensive door-to-door campaign underway.

## Shaikh appreciates role of UN bodies in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mohamed Yahya, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh. Geir Tonstol, representative of International Labor Organization, also participated in the meeting.

The minister welcomed both guest on their arrival in ministry of maritime affairs. Discussion started from maritime sector, the minister said that International Maritime Organization (IMO) of United Nations and Ministry of Maritime Affairs are working collectively to address the issues of Pakistan's maritime sector.

## Two killed, one injured in Parachinar firing

PESHAWAR (APP): Two persons were killed and a woman sustained injuries in a firing incident that took place near Ochat area located near Lower Kuram, Parachinar, tv channels quoting police reported on Tuesday.

According to details, unidentified gunmen opened fire on two vehicles going towards Parachinar from Peshawar. As a result of firing, two persons died on the spot, while a woman sustained injuries in the same incident.

A police team rushed to the site and shifted the dead and injured to nearby hospital.

Police have cordoned off the area to trace the culprits behind this firing. However, no success was made so far till the filing of this report.

Police arrest six accused, recover liquor, mainpuri, gutka

HYDERABAD (APP): Police in its continued drive against criminals on Tuesday arrested 6 accused including absconders. According to a police spokesman, Station House officer (SHO) Pinyari police station Inspector Liaquat Ali along with staff during patrolling arrested two drug suppliers Kamran Qaimkhani and Hamza Malik and recovered 20 liters of illicit liquor.

In another drive, SHO Hussain abad police station while conducting crackdown in different areas arrested a drug supplier Majeed Solangi and recovered 10 liters of illicit liquor, while apprehended a mainpuri supplier Abbas alias Nabeel Yousofzai and recovered huge quantity of mainpuri from his possession. Meanwhile, forte police acting on a tip-off arrested two absconders Ashfaq Ahmed Shaikh and Zahid Hussain Bengali.

Police have registered cases against drug suppliers under the law.

## Guard opens fire, leaves two Chinese injured in Karachi factory

KARACHI (INP): A security guard opened fire in a factory in SITE area of Karachi on Tuesday injuring two Chinese nationals, police said.

"The security guard escaped from the scene after shooting," police said.

The latest shooting took place at a factory in Karachi's SITE industrial area, after which two injured Chinese citizens were rushed to Liaquat National Hospital.

Deputy Inspector General of Police South, Syed Asad Raza, said the factory guard opened fire at the Chinese nationals after an argument. He did not name the factory, specify

whether the Chinese nationals were employees there or what the argument was about.

"According to preliminary investigation, the guard opened fire after a heated argument with the Chinese nationals, leaving two Chinese citizens injured," Raza said.

"Two Chinese nationals have been brought to hospital. Both are under treatment," Dr. Amjad Rizvi, a hospital spokesman said.

Sindh Home Minister Zia ul Haq Lanjar has directed police to conduct a "thorough investigation," his office said.



KARACHI: Police stand guard at a factory where two Chinese workers were shot and injured by a private security guard in Karachi.

## ACP will host 17-day long Awami Theater Festival 2024, from 8 Nov

KARACHI (APP): The Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi has announced a 17-day long "Awami Theater Festival 2024" from November 8. A press conference regarding the 17-day "Awami Theater Festival 2024" was held at Hasena Moin Hall on Tuesday.

President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah, Intellectual and humorist Anwar Maqsood, senior actor and Vice President Arts Council Munawar Saeed, and Secretary Ejaz Farooqi provided a briefing.

A large number of artists attended, including

Drama Committee Chairman and senior actor Syed Shehzad Raza Naqvi, Asjad Bukhari, Iqbal Latif, Parvez Siddiqui, Saleem Afridi, Adam Rathore, and Shakeel Shah.

President Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah announced that the opening ceremony of the "Awami Theater Festival" will be held on Friday, November 8. He mentioned that recently, the Arts Council organized the world's largest festival in history, featuring theaters from Kosovo and Palestine, physical theater, as well as music and dance performances.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Republic of Turkey, Irfan Neziroglu, calls on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## 26th amendment 2 senior judges of SC demand of CJP to constitute full court to hear petitions

ISLAMABAD (Online): Two senior judges of Supreme Court (SC) has written letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi for formation of full court in connection with 26th constitutional amendment.

They have placed other demands too including formation of full court. The letter was written by justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar to the CJP. In the letter both the senior judges

demanding for fixing the 26th constitutional amendment case before full court during the current week.

It was said in the letter that it was decided in October 21 committee meeting to fix 26th amendment case in full court for hearing. Case will be heard by full court from November 4. No cause list was issued despite committee decision. Both of senior judges had demanded of CJP to convene committee meeting on October 31.

## Finance minister meets Ambassador Munir Akram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, who called on the Finance Minister at Finance Division here Tuesday.

During the meeting, matters related to follow-up and progress on meetings, consultations and discussions held between the minister and stakeholders, including heads of leading financial institutions, commercial and investment banks, bilateral partners, think tanks and government officials came under discussion. Ambassador Munir Akram highlighted Pakistan's efforts for underscoring the need for climate justice, scaling up climate finance and trade reforms.

## AIB to support Pak in meeting development goals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Terming Pakistan as an important partner country, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on Tuesday reiterated commitment to supporting the country in meeting development goals and overcoming climate-related challenges through policy and budgetary support.

The reiteration was made by AIIB delegation led by its Vice President Client Region and Project Finance Global, Konstantin Limovskiy that called on finance minister here, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

During the meeting, the AIIB team briefed the Minister about the Bank's portfolio investment in Pakistan, including projects initiated in the hydro power generation.

## Indus Shield Chinese exercise 2024 concludes

RAWALPINDI (APP): Indus Shield-Chinese, a bilateral module of Exercise Indus Shield 2024, being conducted separately between Chinese and Pakistan Airforces has concluded at an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force.

The exercise witnessed participation from People's Liberation Army Air Force of China, with its personnel and high-tech equipment comprising AESA Radar and Long Range BVR Equipped J-16 & J-10C fighter aircraft, Lethal HQ-22 Surface to Air Defence system, Potent Airborne Electronic Warfare YTG-9 Platform, alongside KJ-500 Airborne Early Warning system pitched against PAF's J-10C and JF-17 Block-III fighter jets simulating con-

## Participants of 26th National Security Workshop visit NHQ

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants of the 26th National Security Workshop, led by Director General Institute of Strategic Studies and Research Analysis (ISSRA) Major General Muhammad Raza Aizad, visited Naval Headquarters here Tuesday.

The workshop participants received a briefing on contemporary maritime

challenges and Pakistan Navy's response options, including PN's contributions to maritime awareness and socio-economic development of coastal communities, said a news release issued by Director General Public Relations (Navy).

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf also engaged with the participants.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presenting shield to DIG Operations Islamabad Police Syed Ali Raza at Parliament House. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Gulam Mustafa Shah and other Members of Parliament are also present.

## SFA launches province wide inspection of educational institution canteens to ensure safe, nutritious food for students

Independent Report

KARACHI: In a proactive move to safeguard the health and well-being of students across the province, the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) has initiated a thorough inspection campaign targeting canteens in

Hyderabad and Thatta. During these inspections, FSOs are meticulously assessing multiple aspects of food safety, with a strong focus on the hygiene and cleanliness of the canteen environment. This includes thorough checks on kitchen and food preparation areas, storage facilities, and serving stations, as maintaining a clean environment is essential to prevent contamination. Labeling practices are also being carefully evaluated, with FSOs ensuring that all food items display clear ingredient lists, nutritional information.



KARACHI: View of site after fire broke out incident at a building as fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, located on Bolton Market area in Karachi.

## Ayaz Sadiq says Pak-Kazakhstan parliamentary contacts pivotal to further solidifying existing bi-lateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said that parliamentary contacts between both the parliaments of Pakistan and Kazakhstan could play a pivotal role in further solidifying the existing bi-lateral ties.

During the meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin who called on him at the Parliament House, Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan highly values its cordial ties with Kazakhstan and both the countries are tied in the eternal bond of shared religion, history and culture.

He also said that enhancing ties between both nations is pivotal for regional growth and prosperity.

During the meeting, it was discussed to enhance collaboration and cooperation between both the countries in the fields of agriculture, education, information technology, infrastructure and trade.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized Pakistan's strategic geographic position as a key facilitator of global trade, asserting that the country has significant potential to

enhance bilateral cooperation in agriculture, energy and IT sector.

He said that Pakistan's strengths in agriculture and investment present valuable opportunities for both nations.

Yerzhan Kistafin acknowledged the importance of fostering stronger ties between the two countries, emphasizing the need for sustained dialogue to enhance cooperation in various sectors.

He commended Pakistan's role in connecting Central Asia with global markets and expressed Kazakhstan's readiness to deepen bilateral relations.

The Ambassador also congratulated Pakistan on successfully hosting the recent SCO Summit 2024.

While highlighting the historical significance of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan's visit to Pakistan to attend the SCO Summit, he said that Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov is the first ever Kazakh PM in history who visited Pakistan.

He expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the summit, which aims at bolstering regional cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Mohamed Yahya, United Nations Resident Coordinator, calls on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh.



MOHENJO DARO: A tourist delegation from Germany (German Family) are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

## SECP conducts start up summit 2024, in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a press briefing at its Head Office in Islamabad on the upcoming Pakistan Start-up Summit.

A press release issued here said the event, scheduled for November 11 and 12 in Karachi, is a transformative platform for Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The technology has changed the way business is done

Innovative products, payment channels and modes of business have given birth FinTech, EdTech, HealthTech and InsureTech companies worldwide. In Pakistan technology-driven businesses are on the rise, however, the room for growth and potential opportunities it provides are manifold.

The summit is designed to foster an environment of innovation and collaboration, providing stakeholders with an opportunity to explore cutting-edge solutions, examine the latest regulatory developments, and address pressing challenges and opportunities across key sectors, including finance, technology, education, and logistics.

With a strong focus on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient business models, the summit will cover essential themes such as embedded finance, data protection, peer-to-peer lending, and digital financing solutions, all tailored to meet the unique needs of Pakistan's dynamic market landscape.

"Pakistan's start-up ecosystem has immense potential, and this summit is an essential step toward realizing that potential," said the Chairman SECP. "Through knowledge-sharing, collaborative discussions, and actionable insights, we aim to empower start-ups to thrive and scale."

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## University of Larkano, University of Sri Jayewardenepura initiate landmark collaboration

LARKANA (APP): The University of Larkano, Pakistan, and University of Sri Jayewardenepura (SJP), Sri Lanka, have embarked on a pioneering international collaboration to start joint research projects, academic exchanges, and innovation across disciplines, benefiting students and faculty from both institutions.

The first meeting, held virtually on Tuesday was hosted by Dr. Sanullah Mastoi, Head of International Affairs and Focal Person for the Faculty of Science at the University of Larkano. Key representatives from both universities participated, including distinguished leaders from SJP: Prof. Padmalal, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dushan, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Prof.

Heenkenda, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Subasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Jayaweera, Dean, Faculty of Computing, Dr. Dharmaweera, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Ruwini, Director, International Affairs Division, Dr. Isuru, Senior Lecturer, Department of Accounting, Dr. Sampath and Senior Lecturer in Polymer Science. From the University of Larkano, the following delegates joined to discuss the collaboration's goals:

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Usman Keerio, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Samiullah Sohu, Dean, Faculty of Education, Dr. Mohsin Shaikh, Focal Person, Faculty of Computer Science, Dr. Khalil Zohaib Kamboh, Director of Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Taufiq Ahmed

Soomro, Director, ORIC, Dr. Syed Abid Ali Shah, Chairman, Electrical Engineering and Dr. Khalid Solangi, Chairman, Mechanical Engineering.

Both universities shared their vision for this alliance, focusing on initiatives such as faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects, and academic development programs across faculties like science, engineering, social sciences, and computer science.

"This partnership will create pathways for our faculty and students to broaden their academic experiences and knowledge while contributing to advancements in various fields," said Prof. Dr. Muhammad Usman Keerio, Vice Chancellor of the University of Larkano.