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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Govt encourages investment chances with new special economic zones, incentives: CM

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah during his meeting with Australian High Commissioner Mr Neil Hawkins said that his government has launched various initiatives to attract both local and foreign investment.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh. The CM and the Australian High Commissioner discussed matters of mutual interest, including investment, climate change, the Indus Delta, Archaeology, and others.

Hawkins said that the Indus Delta was historic and most importantly needed to be protected. At this, the CM said that Pakistan was a water-starved country. "Sindh being the lower riparian province is faced with water shortage, therefore the water required to be released to [downstream Kotri] sea has been an invincible job," he said

and added as a result, sea intrusion has become a big threat.

Shah said that apart from Dhabeji SEZ, other key zones are ready for investment including the Bin Qasim Industrial Park (BQIP) and Korangi Creek Industrial Park (KCIP), where utilities and land are readily available. Additionally, following the Sole Enterprise Special Economic Regulations, 2020, single enterprises investing at least USD 50 million can attain SEZ status, with two such zones already operational in Sindh.

The Sindh Enterprise Development Fund (SED) has mobilized private investments amounting to Rs 7 billion in sectors such as agriculture, mining, and mineral processing, offering a subsidy scheme to boost productivity, the CM said and added this initiative has generated an economic impact worth 10 times the invested amount.

During the discussion,

Mr Shah told the visiting Australian diplomat that the provincial Investment Department has also conducted pre-feasibility studies in key areas such as Stones & Granite, Live-stock, Agriculture, Food Processing, Fisheries, and Dairy which are now available on their website for potential investors. "To further improve the business climate, the Sindh government partnered with the World Bank Group, implementing the Doing Business Reforms Agenda, resulting in Pakistan's 39-position rise in the Ease of Doing Business Index.

According to the chief minister as part of the Competitive and Liveable City of Karachi (CLICK) project, a one-stop regulatory approval system for 16 departments is in development to streamline investment procedures.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, Irfan Neziroglu calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

CJP emphasis ATCs to clear backlog for swift justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi on Thursday expressed concern over the backlog at anti-terrorism courts (ATCs) across the country and emphasized the importance of expediting these cases to ensure justice was not delayed.

A meeting of the Administrative Judges of Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATC) was held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi. The meeting reviewed the performance of ATCs and took stock of key challenges to ensure the swift and efficient dispensation of justice in anti-terrorism cases.

It was attended by monitoring judges from Supreme Court Justice, Jamal Khan Mandokhail (via video link), Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Malik Shahzad

Ahmad Khan and monitoring judges of ATC courts and Prosecutors General from all provinces and ICT.

The meeting was also attended by Registrar, Supreme Court and Secretary, Law and Justice Commission were also present.

Opening the meeting, the Chief Justice welcomed the participants and outlined the purpose of the session, which was to assess the current status and performance of ATC cases, as well as to identify and address barriers to the efficient delivery of justice.

He reminded the participants of the immense responsibility that they carry in dispensing justice, urging them to uphold the law, impartially and without fear or favor.

During the meeting, it was disclosed that a total of 2,273 ATC cases are currently pending in Pakistan, with a significant portion—1,372 cases—awaiting resolution in Sindh alone.

Govt announces public holiday on Allama Iqbal's birthday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal government on Thursday announced the declaration of public holiday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, to be observed on 9th November, 2024 (Saturday).

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division, it was announced that Saturday, the 9th November, 2024 shall be a public holiday throughout the country on the occasion of Allama Iqbal Day.

NA committee reaffirms national stance on Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): National Assembly (NA) committee on Kashmir affairs headed by Rana Qasim Noon has assured that the government was committed with the cause of Kashmir and will continue support to the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) for their just right to self-determination. During a meeting with Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) here on Thursday, he said that Kashmir issue was a national cause as Pakistan was incomplete without Kashmir that's why he said neither the people nor the government could step back from the national stance on the issue.

The chairman committee said Pakistan had fought three wars with India on this issue and the relations with India had been suspended since the unilateral Indian action of 5th August 2019 abrogating article 370 and 35A of Indian constitution paving the way to convert Kashmiri Muslims into minority however, he expressed regret that after the said act, the reaction was not up to the expectations of the people that weakened the Kashmir issue at international level.

Sindh government excels in public service: Memon

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Thursday, said that the Sindh government attaches priority to health and education and billions of rupees were invested to make revolutionary strides in both the sectors.

Sindh government excels in various areas but a negative propaganda campaign was maliciously launched against the People's Party, attributing inaction and negativity to its governance, the senior minister, who holds portfolios of Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, stated while talking to a delegation of Islamabad based journalists here, said a statement issued here.

Terming lives and



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik addressing the Eighth Edition of Future Summit as a keynote speaker.

Tarar, Kundi call for joint efforts to improve law and order situation in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, and Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, met on Thursday to call for joint efforts aimed at improving the law and order situation in the province.

During the meeting at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, both leaders expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and criticized the provincial government's apparent indifference. They discussed potential measures to address and improve the situation.

The conversation also touched on the federal

government's efforts to promote economic development and involve the youth in positive, constructive activities.

Governor Faisal Kundi emphasized that steps would be taken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to steer the youth away from anarchic politics and towards more productive pursuits.

In response, Minister Attaullah Tarar assured that the federal government was fully committed to providing all possible support to enhance security in the province.

Both leaders also agreed on the need for collaborative efforts to improve the education system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Govt increases allowances for judges of SC, High Courts

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government on Thursday increased the perks and privileges for the judges of Supreme Court and high courts.

According to details, the house rent and judicial allowance were increased for the judges.

The house rent has been increased from Rs68,000 to Rs350,000 for the judges of apex court.

Similarly, the judicial allowance was increased from Rs428,000 to Rs1,168,000 for the judges of top court.

Meanwhile, the house rent for the judges of high courts has been increased from Rs65,000 to Rs350,000.

The judicial allowance for the judges of high courts were increased from Rs342,000 to Rs1,090,000.

LG by-polls on 10 vacant seats in Karachi to be held on Nov 14

KARACHI (APP): As many as 68 candidates will contest for 10 vacant seats for local government by-election in Karachi to be held on November 14.

For by elections on these seats, 167 polling stations have been established, all of which have been classified as sensitive or highly sensitive. The vacant seats include the vice chairman of US-5 Yaseenabad in Gulberg Town, Chairman UC-7 Liaquatabad Town and member UC-10 Baldia Town, ward 4.

A total of 68 candidates are contesting for 10 vacant local government seats in Karachi, with polling scheduled for November 14.

Eighth batch of Palestinian students departs for Pakistan

CAIRO (APP): The 8th batch of eight Palestinian students from Gaza departed on Thursday for Pakistan to complete their medical studies.

Pakistan embassy in Egypt facilitated their departure under directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and significant efforts of Global Relief Trust, Doctors of Rahman and Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan, Pakistan embassy in Cairo wrote on its official X account.

PM stresses further deepening Pakistan-Turkiye trade, defence cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing satisfaction at the growing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye, stressed the need to further deepen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and defense sectors.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with newly-appointed Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu, who called him at the PM House.

The prime minister welcomed Ambassador Neziroglu, who presented his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari on October 28, 2024, and said that he looked forward to working closely with the ambassador to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling the historic, longstanding and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, the prime minister expressed gratitude for Turkiye's consistent support to Pakistan on Kashmir and said that Pakistan would also continue to lend its strong support to Turkiye on its core interests.

The regional situation, particularly in Gaza and the Middle East also came under discussion.

The prime minister conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and reiterated his invitation to the Turkish President to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

A m b a s s a d o r Neziroglu thanked the prime minister for warmly receiving him and assured him of his full commitment and support to further strengthen the strong and historic bonds of friendship between both countries.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Australian High Commissioner of Pakistan; Mr. Neil Hawkins at CM House.

Naqvi reaffirms commitment to Chinese security after Karachi incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad following an incident in Karachi where two Chinese nationals were injured by gunfire from a security guard.

Showing solidarity and diplomatic engagement during his meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong, Minister Naqvi expressed regret over the incident and conveyed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring justice and enhancing security for Chinese nationals in the country.

He conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the injured Chinese nationals and their families, underscoring that Pakistan places the utmost priority on the well-being and security of Chinese citizens, particularly those working on projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He briefed Ambassador Jiang on the incident's details and assured him of a swift, transparent investigation to bring those responsible to justice.

Naqvi highlighted Pakistan's commitment to aligning its developmental goals with robust security measures, referencing China's own model of integrated development and security.

Naqvi stated, "We fully agree with the Chinese approach of combining development with security, and we will ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and projects as a top priority."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong.

Pakistan Steel delegation meets Mayor Karachi, discusses water supply issues

KARACHI (APP): A delegation of Pakistan Steel met Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab here at Chairman's Secretariat at Karsaz on Thursday and discussed the water supply issues of residential area of the Steel Mill, Steel Town, Gulshan Hadeed Phase 1, 2 and Extension Phase 3.

The Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad, Chief Operating Officer Water Corporation Engineer Asadullah Khan, MPAs Sajid Jokhio, Raja Razaq Baloch, Chairman Bin Qasim Town Muhammad Asghar Shaheen and CEO Pakistan Steels Asad Islam was also participated in the meeting via online while Syed Mahmood Abbas Rizvi was part of the Pakistan Steel delegation.

On this occasion, the

Pakistan Steel Mill administration expressed its desire to hand over its water system to the Water Corporation, while the Water Corporation demanded that the complete water system be handed over to the Pakistan Steel Mill.

The Water Corporation officials clarified that if the Pakistan Steel Mill hands over its complete system, including the Zero Point Steel Canal and filter plant, to the Water Corporation, it would ensure water supply in the adjacent areas. In addition, Pakistan Steel Mill should also have to pay its outstanding dues of Rs 11 billion to the Water Corporation as soon as possible because the Water Corporation has to pay its dues to its retired employees.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the State of Qatar, Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, calls on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Acting President for further strengthening bilateral ties with Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Thursday said that Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Qatar and underscored the importance of further expanding bilateral relations in the areas of mutual benefits. He expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of Qatar, Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Talking to the Ambassador, the acting president stated that both brotherly countries had great scope for increasing economic and trade relations. He highlighted that Pakistan offered investment opportunities

and Qatari companies should benefit from the investment-friendly environment of Pakistan. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani applauded Qatar on the successful holding of the FIFA World Cup 2022. The acting president also thanked the Government of Qatar for hosting a Pakistani Diaspora, which served as a strong bridge to promote cultural linkages between the two countries.

Appreciating Pakistan as a business-friendly country, the ambassador said that Qatar's Minister for Investment would soon visit Pakistan with his delegation to explore the possibilities of investment in various sectors.

Sindh Government committed to resolving industrial issues: Labour Minister

Says work on one-window operation underway: We will provide a better business environment for industries: Labour Secretary

Independent Report KARACHI: An important meeting was held at the office of Sindh Labour and Human Resources Minister Shahid Abdul Salam

cerns effectively and promptly. Despite the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) being under federal control, the provincial government is



Thaheem, addressing the issues faced by industrialists. The meeting was attended by a delegation from the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), MPA and Parliamentary Secretary Farooq Awan, Labour Secretary Rafiq Qureshi, and SSSI Commissioner Miandad Rahoojo.

During the discussion, various challenges, including alleged harassment by different departments, were highlighted. The Labour Minister expressed that the Sindh government is serious about resolving industrial issues and is making rapid progress on establishing a one-window operation to address all con-

taking comprehensive steps within its jurisdiction to protect industries from harassment and ensure their concerns are addressed.

The KATI delegation voiced concerns over the heavy taxes and frequent documentation demands from various departments, reiterating the need for a one-window operation and pledging full support for SSSI's awareness initiatives. Labour Secretary Rafiq Qureshi affirmed the commitment to promptly resolving issues and stated that all complaints would be addressed immediately through the one-window operation, aiming to provide a conducive business environment for all industrialists.



KARACHI: A delegation of Islamabad journeilist meet Karachi: Senior Minister of Sindh and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam at SID.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Trump 2.0

Come January and Donald Trump will move back into the White House to begin his second presidential term, having crossed the barrier of 270 electoral college votes needed to clinch the presidency.

A flood of congratulations pouring in from world leaders indicate that global capitals are now preparing to deal with a Trump presidency. Though much of his politics is divisive, Donald Trump has engineered a remarkable return to the top of the American power structure. Felony convictions, assassination attempts, and a lack of coherent policy prescriptions — nothing could stop his march back to the White House.

Domestically, high inflation was likely the biggest trigger that prompted Americans to vote for Mr Trump. The Democrats' hubris — for example, President Joe Biden calling Trump supporters 'garbage' — also played a part in their defeat. In fact, the Democratic party and much of the mainstream media have perhaps failed to properly explore the reasons fuelling 'Trumpism' and the disenchantment of many Americans with mainstream politicians, which helped propel the rise of Mr Trump as a political entity.

On the foreign front, the Biden administration's unyielding support for Israel's genocidal campaigns in occupied Palestine and Lebanon alienated most Arab- and Muslim-Americans — many of whom form significant voting blocs in swing states. Many amongst these constituencies likely voted for Trump not out of any ideological affiliation with the Republicans — who are as pro-Israel, if not more, than the Democrats — but to punish Mr Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

By January, the surprise in many quarters at Mr Trump's return would have fizzled out, and he will have to deliver on his promise of 'making America great again'. Domestically, he will need solid plans to reduce inflation and bring manufacturing jobs back to the US. But to the rest of the world, his real test will lie in ending the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Mr Trump has claimed he could end the Ukraine conflict in "24 hours", and has called the Ukrainian president a "salesman", indicating that US dollars to Kyiv could very soon dry up.

As for Israel, Donald Trump is an unabashed supporter of Tel Aviv, and the far right in Israel is jubilant at his return. It remains to be seen how his promises to Arab-American voters to bring 'peace' to the Middle East reconcile with his blatantly pro-Israel bias. Moreover, while the neocon wing of Trump supporters will call on him to expand America's 'forever wars', the America First faction will counsel him to abandon foreign conflicts and focus on the homeland. Time will tell which camp prevails. As for Pakistan, the last few American administrations have maintained lukewarm ties with this country, and there is little to suggest an improvement in relations under the new Trump set-up.

A single life

F.S. Aijazuddin

How many deaths give a single life meaning? In Pakistan, even the massacre of 150 APS students and teachers in Peshawar in 2014 was not enough. They have become a statistic. To the Chinese, every national is priceless. This was brought to the fore at a conference in Islamabad on Oct 29 to celebrate China's 75 years of 'Progress, Transformation and Global Leadership'.

During the conference, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar dilated for over an hour on Pak-China ties. Deviating from his prepared text, he made some unguarded remarks suggesting that President Xi Jinping, during his meeting with our PM, had told him that China regarded Pakistan as an exception in matters of the security of Chinese nationals.

Dar told his audience: "The Chinese are very clear; no matter how lucrative an investment is anywhere, if the security issue is there, they do not send Chinese personnel. Your country is the only exception."

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong publicly contradicted Mr Dar's recollection of the PM/Xi meeting, insisting that for Beijing, "Security is the biggest concern". Jiang continued: "It is unacceptable for us to be attacked twice in only six months," and urged Pakistan to take action against "all anti-China terrorist groups". Alluding to the vulnerability of CPEC, he said: "Without a safe and sound environment, nothing can be achieved."

Our Foreign Office entered the fray. In response to a question during the FO briefing later, a correspondent asked the FO spokesperson whether "any action [would] be taken against

the Chinese ambassador for violating the diplomatic norms and rebuking our foreign minister" (shades of the demarche sent by the previous government in 2022 over US diplomat Donald Lu's "bad manners and sheer arrogance").

The spokesperson responded with the official line that "Pakistan is committed to providing full security to Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan", adding gratuitously that "the statement of the Chinese ambassador is therefore perplexing in view of the positive diplomatic traditions between Pakistan and China".

The Chinese have a better institutional memory than our officials. They have not forgotten that 200 Chinese workers died while building the Karakoram Highway. They are buried in Gilgit. In 2021, nine Chinese workers were killed in a terrorist attack in KP. In 2022, a suicide bomber killed three Chinese instructors at the Confucius Institute in Karachi.

In March 2024, five Chinese nationals were killed in a suicide bomb blast in Shan-gla district. Last month, two Chinese nationals died in an explosion near Karachi airport.

After each of these attacks, our governments have resolved to "resolutely act against all such forces and defeat them". Equally often, the Chinese government has insisted on Pakistan taking "tangible actions rather than [offering] assurances". Why is security of every Chinese so important to Beijing? Because the one-child policy has meant that if anything happened to any individual bread- or noodle-winner, six people would be affected: two parents and four grandparents. The Chinese have a 5,000-year history of resilience, tempered by adversity. Pakistan has a

77-year-old history of insecurity, compounded by debilitating insolvency. China would lose nothing by discarding Pakistan. It has other customers in line on its One Belt, One Road initiative. Pakistan may have strategic value for China, but that interest is not open-ended. Pakistan puts its indebtedness at risk. It owes its iron brother \$26 billion of debt and has \$65bn committed to CPEC projects.

If a single life matters to the Chinese, a single American life, an individual chosen by over 70m US voters, will have significance for billions beyond the Atlantic and Pacific. Donald Trump has claimed the presidency. He has been mandated to decide the world's security.

Trump is a bruised giant, with a narcissistic, insular 'America First' mentality. Kamala Harris promise to "strengthen, not abdicate" America's global leadership cut no ice with American voters. Trump has won. Democracy has only itself to blame. Harris has lost. President Joe Biden is to blame. He (like Queen Elizabeth II) delayed in handing over the sceptre to another generation.

Nato, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, and immigrants should worry. Trump has plans for them. Trump and Russia's Putin feel comfortable with each other. They enjoy a "very good relationship". President Xi expects no quarter from Trump. He is ready and equipped to fight a trade and tariff war with the US and its partners.

Pakistan, however, may be forced to choose between a tired benefactor (US) and an increasingly impatient creditor (China), to whom even one life matters more than CPEC and diplomatic platitudes. -- Courtesy Dawn

Trump & Pakistan

Touqir Hussain

How will the election of Donald Trump affect US-Pakistan relations? Let's first clear up a myth. It is not true that Pakistan had good relations with the US when Trump was president. He wanted to get out of Afghanistan for which he sought former prime minister Imran Khan's help in talking to the Taliban.

Khan was rewarded with a visit to Washington and exceptional public praise from Trump. But once the deal with the Taliban was done, Trump turned his back on Pakistan, leaving no imprint on the relationship.

Trump notices only issues of high public interest, which have political traction. The present state of US-Pakistan relations is not one of them, neither are its domestic dynamics. Trump will most likely continue with the Joe Biden policy of low-intensity engagement with Islamabad, marked neither by significant aid levels nor by sanctions, the two extremes between which the relationship oscillated for much of its history.

There was a search under Biden for a new balance in relations that best responds to the completely changed regional and geopolitical landscape, and the shifting US foreign policy that faces challenges at home and overseas. Rising powers abroad are curtailing America's global primacy by staking a role in reformatting the global economic and strategic order.

At home, the politics and policy of issues like globalisation, China, big power relationships, alliances, and America's 'forever wars' are being reshaped by Trump's worldview, changing the way the US perceives and is perceived by the world.

Under Trump, the relationship will likely be handled by the State Department and Pentagon whose Pakistan policy has had four elements.

The first has been a derivative of US policies towards China, India and Afghanistan. The US would like to limit China's political and economic influence in Pakistan, and it also wants Islamabad to not undermine the centrality of India to its Indo-Pacific strategy. As for Afghanistan, its stability is key to the broader regional security including that of Pakistan.

The second element has been a direct US interest in Pakistan, focused on its economic weakness, potential for political instability, and the threat of extremism and regional insurgency to internal security, from which emerges America's ultimate concern about Pakistan's possible radicalisation or breakdown threatening the safety of its nuclear assets.

The third factor has been counterterrorism. Here, Pakistan is seen in many different roles: partner, target or victim. Washington needs Islamabad's cooperation to act against the transnational terrorists who endanger the US and global security. It would also like Islamabad to deal with any militant threat against India and Pakistan's own stability. Washington is willing to help where possible.

The fourth element is the developing US-Pakistan cooperation in the economic area, principally in energy, IT and agriculture.

Investment sentiment remains cautiously hopeful. And the US continues to be the top destination of Pakistan's exports.

The sum total of the above points to the need for engagement. What

might impact it, however, is Trump's thinking on certain critical policy areas: less military involvement abroad, decreased military aid, increased pressure on allies to contribute more to their defence, a rise in trade tariffs, and possibly a harder line on China. We do not know how it would play out. Biden's policies had already de-emphasised military aid to Pakistan. The Trump presidency should have no practical effect here. But it is too early to tell whether tariffs would hit Pakistan. Under the last Trump presidency, they affected India, des-pite its crucial role in the Indo-Pacific strategy which Trump will likely continue.

We should not take Trump's offer of help to solve the Kashmir dispute, which he made the last time, seriously. The offer had nothing to do with Kashmir. It was about himself. He wanted to please Pakistan and appear to his base as a popular world leader being looked up to by other countries to solve complex disputes.

Trump's transactional approach will always focus on what a country has to offer America before he does anything for it. Pakistan has to ensure that its ties with the US are handled through quiet diplomacy, especially if they involve issues that incite public interest in the US negatively. That would invite Trump's retribution.

Trump's policies are not knowledge- or institution-based but personality-focused and politics-driven.

They are a one-man show. He is at the centre of his own agenda that goes with the politics of the day. To quote The Guardian, Trump will basically "freelance" his foreign policy. So be prepared for surprises. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain presided over a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board (SAB).

Punjab Governor says: Pakistan is best country in the world in terms of agricultural products

LAHORE (Online): A delegation of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan led by Chairman Faisal Jahangir Malik and Chief Patron Punjab Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah met with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation presented proposals to the Governor Punjab regarding improving rice exports.

Haider Khan said that Pakistan is the best country in the world in terms of agricultural products and its products have a special recognition all over the world. He said that it is a matter of great joy that our rice exports are increasing every year, which is not only increasing the country's foreign exchange but also making the country's name famous at the global level. Governor Punjab said that our basmati rice is an example for the world. He

said that by focusing on other crops along with rice, further improvement can be brought to the country's economy. Governor Punjab said that everyone should work together to make the country better and stronger. He said that stability in the country's economy and increasing business opportunities are the promise of a bright Pakistan. Governor Punjab further said that the doors of the Governor House are always open for you people.

Machinery imports up by 21.68% in Q1 of FY 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall machinery group experienced a substantial increase of 21.68 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (July -September) compared to 2023-24.

The growth in machinery imports would help elevate productivity and spur technological advancements in essential sectors, leading to economic expansion and progress in infrastructure development.

Gold prices decrease by Rs.5,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.5,400 and was sold at Rs.276,800 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.282,200 on last trading day.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 499 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 499.05 points, a positive change of 0.54 percent, closing at 92,520.49 points as compared to 92,021.44 points on the last trading day.

A total of 678,788,064 shares were traded during the day as compared to 889,166,479 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.24.827 billion against Rs. 30.474 billion on the last trading day. As many as 449 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 257 of them recorded gains and 145 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 47 companies remained unchanged.

FM Aurangzeb calls for strengthening Pak-Japan ties thru trade, culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here on Thursday that Pakistan and Japan have significant potential to strengthen their ties through increased exchanges in trade, culture, education and people-to-people interaction.

During the meeting, views on issues of mutual interest, particularly longstanding bilateral cooperation and shared values and perspectives on regional and global matters between Pakistan and Japan, were exchanged.

economic challenges and strengthen its economy. The Minister also shared with the Ambassador an update on the state of the economy and the significant improvement in various macroeconomic indicators. He said the government was determined to pursue its reform agenda as staying the course without any complacency was key to ensuring permanence to the macroeconomic stability achieved during the last 14 months.

Rupee sheds 05 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.94 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.89.

Ejaz advises students to develop future ready skills

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Digital Platforms of Jazz Aamer Ejaz has urged students to stay adaptable, technologically fluent, and resilient to succeed in an evolving job market.

a competitive edge. The audience included final-year computer science students, IST faculty, and management. Describing AI as a collaborative tool he said, "AI isn't artificial intelligence; it's augmented intelligence. It complements your abilities while keeping you in the driver's seat." Citing Jazz's AI-driven products, like the SIMOSA chatbot, he emphasized how such technologies are enhancing user experiences.



LAHORE: A delegation of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan led by Chairman Faisal Jahangir Malik and Chief Patron Punjab Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah in a group photo with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor House.

KP Apex Committee meeting held; important decisions taken

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee, was held on Thursday with the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance, Muzammil Aslam; Corps Commander Peshawar, Lieutenant General Omar Ahmed Bukhari; Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry; Inspector General of Police (IGP) Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur and other senior

civil and military officials. The meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation in detail, with extensive deliberations on improving the security conditions in certain districts of the province and made important decisions to address the challenges.

The participants on this occasion, offered Faeha for the martyrs of security forces and law enforcement agencies, paying rich tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for peace and security. The meeting emphasized the need for

continued joint efforts by all the stakeholders including the civil government, security forces, and the general public to combat terrorism.

It was decided to give the police a leading role in maintaining law and order in certain districts. The participants agreed on enhancing the capacity of the police and civil administration and decided that police force would be provided with bulletproof vehicles on priority basis and immediate recruitment would be carried out to fill vacant positions.

Continuous efforts being made to promote tourism

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Tourism Secretary Farid Ahmad Tarar has said that continuous efforts are being made to promote cultural and tourism development of South Punjab in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister.

He said this at the launch of the 9th TDCP Thal Desert Rally being held in three districts of Punjab: Muzaffargarh, Kot Addu, and Layyah, said a handout issued here. The government was focused on providing equal opportunities for entertainment to the citizens of Punjab, he added.

Farid Ahmad Tarar

emphasized that the Thal Desert Rally not only aimed at promoting automobile tourism but to showcase Pakistan's positive image to the world.

He said that following the directions of Punjab Chief Minister excellent arrangements had been made for the event.

The Secretary Tourism also highlighted the inclusion of female drivers in the event, terming it a welcome development.

He said that such automobile tourism events provide opportunities to youngsters to showcase their skills.

Kundi greets Trump on election victory

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday extended his congratulations to Donald Trump on his success in the U.S. presidential elections.

In a statement, Governor Kundi offered his best wishes to the American people and the newly elected President, Donald Trump, saying that the election results reflect the priorities and trust of the American public.

Kundi expressed hope that under Trump's leadership, the relationship between the United States and Pakistan would grow stronger.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Farooq Awan during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Punjab Governor says: Attention should be paid on agriculture sector as it would boost economy of country

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, while addressing a press conference regarding the problems of farmers, today at the Governor House Lahore along with General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples' Party Central Punjab, Syed Hassan Murtaza said that Pakistan is an agricultural country.

He said that attention should be paid on agriculture sector as it would boost the economy

of the country. He said that the government should fix a good support price for sugarcane for the farmers and ensure payment. Governor Punjab said that he will send the demands of the farmers to the Punjab government in writing.

Governor Punjab said that the PML-N and the PPP are coalition partners, adding that this is an alliance of compulsion for the sake of the country's interest.

He said that the

PPP will stand with the PML-N where the country's institutions are damaged and the system is unstable. He said that the government should complete five years as it will bring economic and political stability in the country. In response to a question, the Governor of Punjab said that as the Governor of Punjab, it is his responsibility to identify the areas where there is a deficiency and room for improvement.

Minister warns of health emergency if people show negligence

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir issued a strong warning on Thursday, stating that the government might declare a health emergency if citizens fail to take the necessary precautions against smog.

Talking to the media during an anti-smog campaign at Liberty Market, he highlighted that Lahore had been particularly affected due to eastern winds, which have worsened the air quality. He assured that actions are underway to address sources of pollution.

To support anti-smog efforts, the minister stated

that the government has coordinated with pharmaceutical manufacturers to maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines for smog-related illnesses. He also announced the formation of a daily monitoring group, consisting of representatives from both the pharmaceutical industry and the health department, to ensure a steady supply of these medicines. "All government hospitals are well-stocked with medicines to treat smog-induced ailments," Nazir affirmed. He further urged the public to buy medicines only as needed, to allow equal access for all.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, addressing a press conference regarding the problems of farmers at the Governor House Lahore along with General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples' Party Central Punjab, Syed Hassan Murtaza.

Closure of primary schools in KP exposes Education Emergency claims

PESHAWAR (APP): Educational activities in primary schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained suspended for the third consecutive day on Thursday as teachers continued their protest for acceptance of their demands.

Reiterating their strong stance to continue strike till acceptance of demands for upgradation, President All Primary Teachers Association, Aziz Ullah Khan told media that suspension orders of primary school teachers

will not stop them from justful protest.

He said news regarding reopening of schools was baseless adding that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has invited them to CM House and hoped that the meeting may lead to some solution of the issue. However, he said till the positive outcome of the meeting, the strike will continue.

The protesting teachers also announced to stage a sit-in in front of the Provincial Assembly building on Khyber Road.

One killed, four injured in Pabbi firing

PESHAWAR (APP): A man was killed while four others sustained bullet injuries when cross-firing took place between two groups of Oil Depot Union in Pabbi tehsil of Nowshera district on Thursday. According to a police spokesman, a clash between two groups of the Oil Depot Union left a man dead and injured four others. The dead body and injured were shifted to Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar. Following the firing, a large police force reached the area and collected evidence for investigation; however, locals said that the intine entry of police could have averted the losses.

Breast cancer awareness seminar held at KMU

Independent Report PESHAWAR: In a remarkable gathering to promote awareness and solidarity, KMU Institute of Public Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences successfully hosted the Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar. The event focused on the theme: "We are stronger when we stand together whether as survivors, supporters, or advocates for change."

Guest Speakers Dr. Zainab Jan and Dr. Asad Zamir from IRNUM Peshawar, provided an impactful session on the urgency of breast cancer awareness. They presented global statistics on breast

cancer, emphasizing that early detection is life-saving. Covering symptoms, detection challenges, and barriers faced in low- and middle-income countries like Pakistan, they highlighted the urgent need to address these issues to improve health outcomes.

The speakers discussed risk factors such as lifestyle habits, obesity, and family history, and encouraged attendees to adopt protective practices including regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, and breastfeeding. They also discussed the significance of annual screenings—such as mammograms and clinical breast exams.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for health presides over the high level meeting at Home Department.

International News

Israel strikes on Lebanon kill 40 people around Baalbek, health ministry says

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Areas of Beirut's southern suburbs were seen piled with rubble around severely damaged buildings on Thursday, following Israeli strikes overnight.

The Israeli military ordered residents in the southern suburbs to evacuate several locations on Wednesday. Two waves of bombing followed, one late Wednesday and another early Thursday.

Lebanon's Al Jadeed TV reported there were at least four strikes on Thursday. There was no immediate report of casualties or details on what was hit.

Israel has repeatedly battered strongholds of Lebanese armed group Hezbollah in the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut, with both sides having exchanged fire for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war. But fighting has escalated since late September, with Israeli troops intensifying bombing of Lebanon's south and east and making ground incursions into border villages.

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Israeli strikes on Wednesday around the eastern city of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley killed 40 people and wounded 53, the country's health ministry said. The Israeli military did not comment.

Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah have exchanged fire for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war but fighting has escalated since late September, with Israeli troops intensifying bombing of Lebanon's south and east and making ground incursions into border villages.

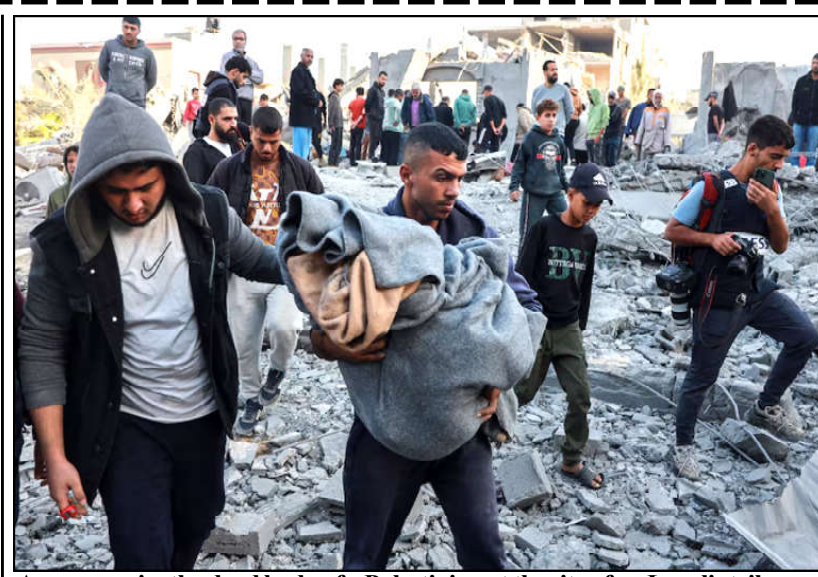
Hezbollah secretary general Naim Qassem on Wednesday said he did not believe that political action would bring an end to hostilities. He said there could be a road to indirect negotiations if Israel stopped its attacks.

"When the enemy de-

cides to stop the aggression, there is a path for negotiations that we have clearly defined - indirect negotiations through the Lebanese state and speaker (of parliament Nabih) Berri," Qassem said.

US diplomatic efforts to halt fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which included a 60-day ceasefire proposal, faltered last week ahead of the US election on Tuesday in which former President Donald Trump recaptured the White House. More than 3,000 people have been killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon over the last year, the vast majority in the past six weeks.

Lebanese rescuers scoured a destroyed apartment building in the town of Barja, south of Beirut, for bodies or survivors after an Israeli strike on Tuesday evening killed 20 people there, Lebanon's health ministry said.



A man carries the dead body of a Palestinian at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip.

UN says Gaza polio vaccination campaign complete

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: The UN said Wednesday its Gaza child polio vaccination drive was complete, with more than half a million children vaccinated despite the Israel-Hamas war raging in the Palestinian territory.

The World Health Organization and the United Nations children's agency UNICEF launched a second round of vaccinations in northern Gaza on Saturday after Israeli bombing halted an earlier attempt to do so.

"The second round of the polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip was

completed yesterday (Tuesday), with an overall 556,774 children under the age of 10 being vaccinated with a second dose," said a joint statement. It "is a remarkable achievement given the extremely difficult circumstances the campaign was executed under". Israel's military has pounded northern Gaza for weeks in a major offensive it says is aimed at stopping Hamas militants from regrouping. An estimated 7,000 to 10,000 children are stuck in "inaccessible areas" in the north and "remain unvaccinated and vulnerable to the poliovirus".

China pledges support for Myanmar's political transition

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China's Premier Li Qiang expressed Beijing's support for Myanmar's political reconciliation and transition efforts in a meeting with Myanmar's junta leader on Wednesday, state media reported.

Li met with Min Aung Hlaing in Kunming, capital of southwestern China's Yunnan province, which shares a border with Myanmar, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Palestinian, Somali Muslim women re-elected to US Congress

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Muslim members of the US House of Representatives belonging to Palestine and Somalia were re-elected on Wednesday.

Rashida Taib, a Democrat and the first Palestinian-American woman in the lower house, returned from Michigan's 13th District for a fourth time.

Taib, who has strong support from the Arab-American community in Dearborn, got 70 percent of the vote. Her Republican challenger, James Hooper, received 26 percent votes.

Hezbollah says tens of thousands of fighters ready to battle Israel

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Hezbollah said that tens of thousands of its fighters were ready to fight Israel, adding that the US election result would have no bearing on the war in Lebanon.

The Iran-backed group's leader also warned that nowhere in Israel would be "off-limits" to attacks, as the Israeli military said about 120 projectiles had been fired across the border on Wednesday.

The Israeli military struck Hezbollah's main bastion of south Beirut after issuing an evacuation warning. Israel and Hezbollah have been at war since late September, when the Israeli military widened the focus of its war in Gaza to securing its northern border with Lebanon. Hezbollah began launching

low-intensity cross-border attacks on Israel last year, in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas following its October 7, 2023 attack.

Efforts to end the war in Gaza that was sparked by the Hamas attack have yet to bear fruit, and the war in Lebanon has killed nearly 2,000 people, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures.

"We have tens of thousands of trained resistance combatants" ready to fight, Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem said in a televised speech marking 40 days since his predecessor Hassan Nasrallah was killed in a strike.

The address was aired after Donald Trump's victory in the US election was announced, but had been recorded earlier.

Mozambique police fire tear gas at biggest protest yet against ruling party

Monitoring Desk MAPUTO: Mozambican police fired tear gas at thousands of protesters in the capital Maputo on Thursday during the biggest demonstration yet against the long-ruling Frelimo party, which was declared the winner of a disputed election last month.

Anger has mounted since election authorities said Frelimo had won the Oct 9 vote, extending its 49-year rule. Human rights groups say at least 18 people have been killed in the police crackdown on protests since then.

The election was hotly contested, with many young people supporting independent candidate Venancio Mondlane, who says the vote was rigged and encouraged demonstrations.

Protesters chanted "Power to the people" and "Frelimo must fall" and some blocked streets with burning tyres and held

homemade signs supporting Mondlane.

"This is it. If we don't stand up now, nothing will change," said Julia Macamo, 55, a street vendor and mother of six who was still shaken by the tear gas she inhaled while protesting in the Maxaquene neighbourhood. "It's time to see the back of Frelimo."

Adriano Nuvunga, director of Mozambique's Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, said the country had never seen such large demonstrations.

Civil society groups and Western observers also said the election was unfair and that results were altered. A Frelimo spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment.

The party has been accused of vote-rigging in previous polls and has denied it. This sparked smaller protests last year.

President Filipe Nyusi has not spoken since the protests escalated.

Philippines confident in US alliance under Trump amid China tensions, envoy says

Monitoring Desk MANILA: The Philippines expects US policy in the Indo-Pacific and support for its treaty ally amid South China Sea tensions to remain steady under Donald Trump, driven by bipartisan resolve in Washington, its ambassador to the US said on Thursday.

Both Democrats and Republicans prioritise countering China's influence, including in the South China Sea, Jose Manuel Romualdez said, suggesting that military cooperation, economic ties and security commitments with the Philippines will continue.

"It is in their interest that the Indo-Pacific region remains free, peaceful and stable, especially given the economic part of it, with trillions of dollars passing through the South China Sea," Romualdez told

Reuters in an interview. US-Philippine security engagements have deepened under President Joe Biden and Philippine counterpart Ferdinand Marcos Jr, with both leaders keen to counter what they see as China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea and near Taiwan. Marcos said in a congratulatory message after Trump's victory: "I am hopeful that this unshakable alliance, tested in war and peace, will be a force of good that will blaze a path of prosperity and amity, in the region, and in both sides of the Pacific."

Under Marcos, the Philippines has increased the number of its bases accessible to US forces to nine from five, some facing the South China Sea, where China has built artificial islands equipped with runways and missile systems.

Joe Biden gets blamed by Harris allies for the vice president's resounding loss

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Joe Biden's name wasn't on the ballot, but history will likely remember Kamala Harris' resounding defeat as his loss too.

As Democrats pick up the pieces following President-elect Donald Trump's decisive victory, some of the vice president's backers are expressing frustration that Biden's decision to seek re-election until this summer — despite longstanding voter concerns about his age and unease about post-pandemic inflation as well as the U.S.-Mexico border — all but sealed his party's loss at the White House. "The biggest onus of this loss is on President Biden," said Andrew Yang, who ran against Biden in 2020.

Thai PM meets Myanmar junta chief on sidelines of summit in China

Monitoring Desk CHINA: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra met Myanmar's junta chief on the sidelines of a regional summit in China on Thursday, in a rare overseas trip by a general grappling with a civil war at home.

Myanmar's ruling military has been battling against a rebellion that erupted after it seized power in a 2021

coup and has largely ignored calls by its Southeast Asian neighbours to cease hostilities and enter into dialogue with its opponents.

"We had a private conversation and there was nothing unexpected," Paetongtarn said of her meeting with Min Aung Hlaing during an interview with Thai reporters. "I offered our goodwill to cultivate peace."

Planning Minister, Chinese envoy discuss bilateral ties, CPEC progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Thursday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and discussed matters related to bilateral interests and progress of CPEC projects.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Tariq Fatemi; the Secretaries of Communications, Railways, and Interior; as well as senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning, a news release said.

Ahsan Iqbal, in his opening remarks, condemned the recent attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi, emphasizing that Pakistan would take all necessary measures to bring the perpetrators to justice.

He stated, "This heinous act, clearly aimed at damaging Pakistan-China relations, will not be tolerated."

The government and people of Pakistan, the minister, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Chinese friends during this challenging time and extended sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

He assured the ambassador that the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan remained a top priority, and Pakistan would continue working closely with China to ensure the security of Chinese citizens, projects and institutions.

Highlighting the robust bilateral ties, Ahsan Iqbal appreciated the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, emphasizing the need for concrete mechanisms to ensure smooth and effective implementation of bilateral CPEC projects.

"Concerned ministries are developing their roadmap/action plan for effective implementation of consensus reached by the leadership of both countries during the recent visit to make CPEC Phase-II successful and to implement recommendations by the Chinese experts," the minister remarked.

Both sides deliberated on advancing key projects, including the Karachi-Hyderabad section of Main Line-1 (ML-1) and Karakoram Highway (Thakot-Raikot Section) project, and agreed to accelerate the projects' timely execution.

Regarding the Gwadar Port and Free Zone, both sides expressed a mutual commitment to ensuring the continued development of Gwadar in a holistic manner.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong expressed gratitude for Pakistan's comprehensive engagement and stated "during the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to China in June, 2024, leadership of both countries agreed to promote cooperation in the areas of politics, international affairs, pragmatic projects and security."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a ceremony of laying a foundation stone of Ramday University, Thagos, Ghanche.

Lays foundation stone of Ramday University PM terms development of Gilgit-Baltistan as top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday laid the foundation stone of Ramday University to be constructed in Thagos, district Ghanche of Gilgit Baltistan. The ground breaking ceremony was held in Islamabad.

Ramday University is being built under a Trust, with construction set to be completed through the donations of the overseas Pakistanis. Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister extended his heartfelt felicitations to Justice (ret) Khalil ur Rehman Ramday and his all friends on the establishment of Ramday University. "The efforts of all individuals and the institutions who contributed to the establishment of Ramday University are appreciable," he added.

The prime minister said today the foundation had been laid down collectively for a bright future for the children here. He said, "The establishment of an institution of higher learning in a remote area like Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan is highly encouraging."

He expressed his confidence that this university, located at an altitude of 11,000 feet in Thagos, will reach the peak of modern knowledge and research standards. "The role of the private sector in the promotion of education in Pakistan is extremely important," he said adding that graduates from private educational institutions had made Pakistan proud in every field. PM Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that the development of Gilgit-Baltistan and the welfare of its people were among the government's top priorities adding that yesterday, during his visit to Gilgit-Baltistan, 62 affected families from the floods were handed over homes.

Furthermore, he said that a 100-megawatt solar energy project had been launched in Gilgit-Baltistan, which would help meet the region's electricity needs. During his recent visit to Gilgit Baltistan, the prime minister said he also announced the Gilgit-Baltistan Education and Endowment Fund, which would benefit deserving and talented students from the region, enabling them to play a role in the development of Pakistan as constructive members of society.

On the occasion Justice (ret) Khalil-ur-Rehman Ramday said that Ramday University was being established in the Thagos area of Ghanche district, Gilgit-Baltistan, on a 200-kanal area of land. "Ramday University will be one of the highest universities to be built at one of the world's highest altitudes," he said adding that the university would offer education in subjects such as environmental studies, climate change, hydrology, minerals, and others.

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Pakistan's maritime sector earns 90 bln rupees profit in last FY: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh on Thursday said Pakistan's maritime sector recorded a profit of 90 billion rupees in last fiscal year due to strategic initiatives and investments aimed at transforming Pakistan into a regional maritime hub.

Addressing a press conference here at Press Information Department (PID), the minister said the share of maritime earnings in across the globe are almost 8 percent of their GDP, whereas Pakistan's maritime earnings are 0.5 percent of our GDP which is less than 2 billion.

The minister highlighted the growing importance of natural ports, noting that larger vessels are now docking at the country's ports. Previously, ships carried around 4,000 to 5,000 containers; however, vessels with capacities of 20,000 to 22,000 containers are now arriving.

This shift has led to a reduction in global freight costs and significantly increased activity at nearby ports. This year, key among these achievements, the Karachi Port Trust's global ranking improved from 84 to 61, signaling a boost in operational efficiency, he added.

He said the inclination of all companies towards our ports has increased. The world's biggest companies are showing their interests to invest in Pakistan because from here they can transport their goods to Central Asian States easily.

The minister said Abu Dhabi Ports will invest \$330 million over the next three years, and global shipping company Hutchison Ports has agreed to invest \$1 billion. These partnerships reflect Pakistan's growing appeal as a destination for maritime investments.

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KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Sajid Johkio during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

ECP imposes fine on Hafiz Naem over election code violation

KARACHI (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday imposed fine on Hafiz Naemur Rehman after he was found 'guilty' of violating the election code of conduct.

District monitoring officer Muhammad Saleem Abbasi had asked Hafiz Naem, who is also a UC Chairman of North Nazimabad's UC No.08, to appear before the election watchdog or submit reply through his counsel on November 6. The JC chief submitted his reply but failed

to satisfy the ECP over his participation in Bano Qabil event in Gulberg ahead of the local government by-election.

The ECP directed the Hafiz Naem, Gulberg Town Chairman Nusratullah and UC Chairman Farooq Naimatullah to pay fine amount of Rs 10,000 each.

The district monitoring officer in his notice issued to Hafiz Naem had specifically mentioned a ban on large gatherings and events in Gulberg Town ahead of the local government by-election.

PBF optimistic about Trump's victory, its economic impacts

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Business Forum (PBF), following Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 US presidential election, on Thursday expressed optimism that his policies could offer economic benefits for Pakistan.

PBF, according to a statement issued here, is cautiously hopeful that Trump's proposed tariffs on imports from various countries, along with the potential resolution of on-going global conflicts, could lead to lower freight and oil prices—both of which would be a positive sign for Pakistan's economy.

President PBF, Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman anticipated that Trump's focus on boosting the US manufacturing sector will lead to higher tariffs on certain imports, especially goods sourced from Chinese plants that are being relocated elsewhere.

Mehboob pointed out that since Pakistan does not have many such manufacturing plants, it is unlikely that textile exports from Pakistan will face significant tariff impacts. Instead, tax cuts in the US could stimulate demand, which would be a positive sign for Pakistani exports, he noted.



LARKANA: Federal Ombudsman Regional Head Sukkur, Syed Mahmood Ali Shah listening the problems of citizens during open court program held in Larkana.

IGHDS organises workshop on climate change for old farmers of Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Inter Global Human Development Society (IGHDS), Advocate Jameel Ahmed Shakeel has said that Climate change poses a significant threat to older people.

He was speaking at the day-long workshop, titled 'Climate Change and Older Farmers of Sindh' said a release on Thursday.

He said that climate change directly or indirectly affects all human beings, adding that the national climate strategies must take into account the capabilities, rights and vulnerabilities of older people. Full participation of people of all ages in these strategies is essential to make them successful, he said.

At present, he said that there are 11 million old people in Pakistan and the number will increase in the next 20 to 25 years. Most of them face health issues since we lack good health facilities in the country, said the CEO IGHDS.

Current year so many people lost their lives across northern Sindh including Karachi and Hyderabad due to heatwave and most of the victims were elderly people.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal.

Public complaints against any government department will be redressed immediately: Sohail

Independent Report

KARACHI: On the order of Sindh Ombudsman Muhammad Sohail Rajput, drinking water was provided to the residents of Jinnah Colony Latifabad No. 12. The residents of Jinnah Colony had submitted a complaint against WASA Hyderabad in the Ombudsman Sindh regarding the non-supply of drinking water. The Ombudsman of Sindh Mohammad Sohail Rajput, on the complaint, summoned MD Wasa Hyderabad and Executive Engineer Latifabad Water Supply (M) Division to the office of Ombudsman

Sindh and ordered them to provide drinking water to the residents of Jinnah Colony immediately.

On the other hand, the residents of Jinnah Colony expressed their gratitude in writing to the Sindh Ombudsman for providing drinking water and solving the problem immediately. The Ombudsman of Sindh Muhammad Sohail Rajput has said that citizens' complaints against any government departments will be redressed immediately; they should submit their complaints to the Ombudsman of Sindh for immediate resolution of their problems.



LARKANA: Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro distributing Shields among best teachers during the Best Teachers Awards Ceremony held at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Auditorium Hall in Larkana.

TIKA continues to support JPMC for providing free of cost treatment

KARACHI (APP): Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) organized a ceremony to hand over updated ultrasound devices (Color Doppler) which were used in the Radiology Department of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), one of the largest Training and Research Hospital of Pakistan.

According to statement, the ceremony was attended by Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi Dr. Cemal Sangu, TIKA Karachi Coordinator Halil Ibrahim Basaran, chairman Patients Aid Foundation Mushtaq Chhapra, Shabir Diwan, Pro. Dr. Tariq Mahmood among others.

Turkish Consul General addressed the ceremony

after visiting projects carried out by TIKA in the Hospital.

Dr Sangu said, "The transformation of JPMC since the early 1990s is remarkable."

He expressed his gratitude for TIKA's contribution to this transformation in the hospital.

Board Member and Faculty of JPMC Dr Tariq Mahmood said, "TIKA projects carried out in the hospital has a great social impact and provides important contributions especially for families with insufficient financial situation. He also thanked TIKA and Turkiye for its uninterrupted support."

TIKA Karachi chief Halil Ibrahim Basaran said, "TIKA will continue to contribute to JPMC."

Nadeem Sibtan" paintings exhibition held at PNCA

KARACHI (APP): Nadeem Sibtain's solo exhibition was held at the Pakistan National Council of Art (PNCA) Art Gallery Karachi National Museum on Thursday.

Vice Consul General of Iran, Ghulam Abbas Zaboli inaugurated the ceremony.

Different walks of life took a deep interest in the portraits. Most of the portraits were made in charcoal which is itself a very hard task for an artist. Nadeem Sibtain centralised this exhibition to Yeoman's work from Great Spirits for Humankind, this inspiration also can be seen in his portrait work.

Government College University Hyderabad launches digital cyber lab

HYDERABAD (APP): Government College University Hyderabad (GCUH) has inaugurated a modern digital cyber lab. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Zarif inaugurated the lab at the Academic Block.

Prof. Dr. Imtiaz Ali Brohi, Computing Faculty, briefed the Vice Chancellor, heads of departments, and senior faculty members about the lab's facilities. He said the digital cyber lab is equipped with modern PCs, software, and resources for computer, IT, data science, and cybercrime students. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Zarif emphasized that science and technology have transformed the world, and Pakistan must adapt quickly.

HEC Sindh chairman for further improving quality of education

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Higher Education Commission Chairman Dr Tariq Rafi on Thursday said that steps are being taken to further improve the quality of education in the province, with the support of the Sindh government.

He expressed these views while addressing the certificate distribution ceremony held here at NIPA after the conclusion of the three-day training program.

The training program was participated by 34 Deans of Public and Private Universities. Dr Tariq Rafi expressed his pleasure over

the participation of Deans of private universities in the training program.

Dean was in a very important position in an educational institution, he said and hoped the universities of Sindh would benefit from this program.

He said that the objective of this training is to increase the capabilities of the universities. He said that HEC will continue to organize more training programs for the capacity building of universities. Dr Tariq Rafi thanked the Chief Minister of Sindh for his cooperation in that regard.



ISLAMABAD: Brig Gen Hujjatullah Qureshi Deputy Minister of Defence & Armed Forces Logistics Islamic Republic of Iran called on Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami at Naval Headquarters.

8th 'Adab Festival' to be held on Nov 10

KARACHI (APP): The eighth 'Adab Festival' will be held here on Sunday (November 10) at Habitt.

This was announced by founder and director of the Adab Festival and Managing Director (MD) of Lightstone, Ameena Saiyid.

Ameena Saiyid said, "One festival will be held here at Habitt, Tipu Duktan Road, from 11 am to 10 pm. This festival is being held in Karachi annually."

She acknowledged Adab Festival's partners, Sindh Government, Goethe Institute, Vgoteo, Institute of Business Management, Habib Metropolitan Bank, the British Council, Magnus Investments, and Habitt Karachi, for their tremendous support for organizing the event.

"Adab Festival is a new Silk Route through which our traditions and culture, literature, the arts, and their luscious fruits can travel and enter people's hearts in every part of Pakistan and the world," Saiyid said.

"Festival is free and open to all; the organizers and partners want everyone in the community to love, experience, and enjoy books and literature," he added.

Adab Festival belongs to the community. Its program is carefully crafted to spark critical thinking, subvert dominant discourses, nurture alternative viewpoints, and provide fertile ground for creative exchange, intellectual exploration, and visionary thinking.

The Adab Festival will open at 11 a.m. with a play by Khaled Anam and his Grips Theatre group for ages 8 to 80. It will close with a show by Anwar Maqsood. Speakers at Adab Festival include Imrana Maqsood, Miftah Ismail, Yasser Latif Hamdani, Dr Ali Usman Qasmi, Omayr Aziz Saiyid, Dr Abed Chowdhry, Syed Naved Husain, Faisal Jahangir Malik, Omar Shahid Hamid.



KARACHI: Renowned economist and former SBP governor, Dr. Ishrat Hussain giving away souvenirs to panelists at the Eighth Edition of Future Summit.