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Condemns Israeli actions in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran PM calls for immediate ceasefire, lifting of Israeli blockade of Gaza and arms embargo on Israel

Reaffirms call for free Palestinian state at Arab-Islamic Summit; Says humanity is being tested and failing in Gaza; Calls for accountability of unabated Israeli war crimes; Atrocities against Palestinians rightfully labelled as 'genocide'

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday while regretting the 'deafening silence' of the international community over the systematic genocide of the people of Palestine, called for swift action to safeguard the inalienable rights of the oppressed Palestinians, by ensuring the establishment of an independent state.

Addressing an Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, the prime minister said that as Ummah, they were duty bound by their religion and conscience to stand resolutely with the people of Palestine more than ever before, 'we should not let this genocide and oppression to persist.'

The prime minister

stressed that this conference must call for immediate and unconditional ceasefire, impose an immediate arms embargo on Israel and lifting of Israel's blockade against Gaza, ensuring prompt delivery of food water, electricity and medical aid.

The prime minister also called for holding of accountability of Israel for its war crimes, besides, urging the summit to pursue the adoption of UNGA special session's resolution 10/24 that followed up a historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJA).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also demanded a comprehensive review of Israel's membership of the United Nations.



He said for more than a year, Gaza had fallen into endless darkness and despair with families torn apart, buildings, schools and hospitals blown up.

He alarmed at the silence of international community which shut its eyes in the face of such crimes

committed against Palestinians, adding the atrocities being committed against Palestinians had been rightfully labeled as genocide not only by media, but also by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

"With each passing day, every moral code has

been flagrantly been violated by Israel yet the killing and destruction continuing with no end in sight," he observed.

The prime minister questioned as to how long this annihilation be ignored. Israel has been emboldened with the international

community's indifference and inaction. "There has been utter disregard for the humanity's repeated calls for a ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian relief and protection of civilians".

While houses with the occupants were being blown up, he said, the most sophisticated weapons were being supplied to Israel.

Indeed, it was assured of unconditional assistance and support.

The prime minister said the International laws which were meant to protect the vulnerable had been torn to shreds.

"Humanity is being tested and failing while Gaza bleeds, the world watches in deafening silence," he added.

Zardari thanks President Xi for goodwill message, plans visit to China soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday extended gratitude to the Chinese President Xi Jinping for the goodwill message, adding that he would visit China in near future on a suitable date.

In his letter dated November 3, President Xi expressed concern over the President of Pakistan's injury and conveyed his best wishes for a speedy recovery, according to a press release issued by the President House Press Wing.

President Xi, in his letter reaffirmed the deep friendship between Pakistan and China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also extended a warm invitation for President Zardari to visit China.

President Zardari stated that he was deeply moved by the messages inquiring his health by the leadership and people of China.

"I will visit China in the near future at an appropriate time," the president said.

He said this visit will further strengthen the long-standing and ironclad bonds between the two countries.

Both leaders highlighted the importance of the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between the two countries.

President Xi emphasized the commitment to building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

President Zardari thanked President Xi Jinping for his insight, leadership, and cooperation in advancing Pakistan-China relations.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Chief of the Australian Army during meeting held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Pakistan, Australia vow to strengthen defense cooperation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Chief of the Australian Army called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan here Monday at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

During the meeting, both leaders exchanged in discussions covering matters of mutual interest, particularly the global and regional security environment, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The COAS emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for its ties with Australia, noting the importance of strong bilateral relations in promoting shared goals of peace and stability. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in defense and security, recognizing the value of continued collaboration for regional and global peace, it further said.

Stuart commended Pakistan's efforts in countering terrorism and expressed his resolve to deepen bilateral defense and security cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, the Chief of the Australian Army laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada to honor Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm welcome, with a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army presenting a guard of honor to him.



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar speaks at a press conference. Lanjar confirmed the arrest of two suspects involved in the Karachi airport attack last month that targeted Chinese officials.

Zia announces reward Rs50 million for CTD

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, announced a reward of Rs. 50 million and commendation certificates for the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and its team for their significant achievements in apprehending terrorists involved in a high-profile case.

Additionally, recommendations for QPM (Quaid-e-Azam Police Medal) and PPM (President's Police Medal) awards are being made for the CTD officers and their team.

At a press conference held at the Central Police Office in Karachi on Monday, and according to the press release issued by the Home Ministry, the minister praised the CTD's role in the arrest of terrorists involved in the airport attack. Also present were IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IGP CTD Imran Yaqub Minhas, DIG CTD, and others senior officers.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Russia Ambassador, Albert Khorev during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Sharjeel Memon discusses ways to enhance cooperation with UAE envoy

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Monday, discussed ways to strengthen shared values and enhance cooperation in various fields with Consul General of United Arab Emirates in Karachi Bakheet Ateeq Al Remethi.

In the meeting between Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Emirati Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al Remethi, it was agreed to further promote economic and social development and cooperation, said a statement issued here.

The Sindh Senior Minister, on invitation by the UAE envoy to join his country's National Day celebrations, assured to celebrate the national day of brotherly Islamic country United Arab Emirates with fraternal enthusiasm.

The CG Al Remethi, said that the UAE government was going to set up

free medical camps in various cities for the people of Sindh.

Sharjeel Memon commended the efforts of Arab Emirates for the development of Pakistan, especially Sindh, and said that mutual brotherly relations between the UAE and Sindh span decades, Arab Emirates is our long-time brother country and its efforts for the people of Sindh are vivid and unforgettable.

He said that the people of Emirates have stood by the people of Sindh in every difficult time and UAE investment is playing a significant role in the infrastructure, health and education sector of Sindh.

The provincial government is committed to enhance the partnership for promoting peace and prosperity and deepening these relations, the minister vowed.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon exchanges views with UAE Consul General, Bakheet Ateeq Al Remethi during meeting held at his office in Karachi.

Rubina vows promotion of Pakistan's cultural heritage through crafts

KARACHI (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid has emphasized the significance of preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage through traditional crafts and art. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Alfa Mall as a chief guest, BISP chairperson stressed the importance of integrating these timeless products into the modern fashion world, providing opportunities for BISP's Hunarmand beneficiaries to connect with the modern

world. Alfa Mall, a pioneering digital trading platform revolutionizing the fashion industry. The event brought together influential figures from the fashion world, marketing professionals, government officials, and corporate entities.

"Hunarmand art and crafts products are a testament to Pakistan's cultural and traditional history", she said and added, "It is essential we revive, preserve, and project these treasures, introducing them to the modern fashion world.

Haji 2025 to cost upto Rs 1.2m: Salik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, and Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday said the next year Hajj would cost upto Rs 1.2 million under the Government's Hajj Scheme 2025.

Announcing the Hajj Policy 2025, the minister said the Hajj is expected to range between Rs 1,075,000 and Rs1,175,000, with an additional amount of Rs 55,000 for the cost of the sacrificial offering.

Regarding pilgrim accommodations, the minister stated that applicants selecting double-bed and triple-bed options in Makkah will be required to make additional deposits of Rs 220,000 and Rs 75,000, respectively. He said the pilgrims would get an opportunity to pay for Hajj in installments under the Hajj Scheme 2025.

The first installment of Hajj dues, amounting to Rs 200,000, must be deposited along with the Hajj application, he said, adding the second installment of Rs 400,000 must be submitted within ten days of the balloting.

Cooking oil, ghee prices see massive hike

KARACHI (INP): In a major blow to household budgets, prices of cooking oil and ghee have risen sharply in November 2024, with a hike of up to Rs60 per kilogram in the open market. The increase comes even as the country recently recorded a slight decline in its inflation rate.

According to market reports, the price of first-grade ghee and cooking oil has surged by Rs54 per kg, while the rates for second and third-grade varieties have spiked by Rs60 per kg.

This steep rise has pushed the retail price of first-grade ghee and oil from Rs505 to Rs559 per kg, leaving consumers grappling with soaring costs. The price for second-grade ghee, which was previously set at Rs440 per kg, has now jumped to Rs500. Meanwhile, the retail prices for ghee in general have reached between Rs525 and Rs530 per kg, depending on the area.

Pakistan, Russian experts to discuss revival of Steel Mill next week: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that efforts to revive Pakistan Steel Mill are making progress as an online meeting is scheduled for next week between Pakistani experts and representatives from Russia, which will be followed by an on-site visit from a Russian delegation to the Steel Mill. It marks a significant advancement in the mill's restoration.

This development was discussed during a meeting between CM Syed Murad Ali Shah and Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev, who visited him at the Chief Minister's House on Monday.

CM Shah was accompanied by his Secretary,

Raheem Shaikh, while the Russian Ambassador was joined by Russian Consul General Andrey Fedorov, Third Secretary Pavel Imanov, and Attache Ekaterina Zhigach.

At the start of the meeting, CM Shah emphasized the historical importance of the Pakistan Steel Mill, which was established in Karachi in 1974 with assistance from the Russian government during Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's tenure. He added, "The Steel Mill was a gift from Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and has provided employment to people from across Pakistan." He said that the Pakistan Peoples Party has a

strong commitment to the mill's revival.

According to the Russian Ambassador, the upcoming online meeting will involve discussions on the technical aspects of the project, including participation from a representative of the Sindh Industries Department.

Following this, the Russian delegation will visit the Steel Mill for further assessments. The CM and Ambassador Khorev agreed that a modern plant will be installed to replace the outdated infrastructure, with hopes that this revival will restore employment for its workers.

CM Shah and Ambassador Khorev discussed potential investment opportunities in Sindh.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addresses the media with Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev at Governor House.

Russian Ambassador calls on Governor Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Pakistan Albert Khorev called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House on Monday.

Pakistan-Russia relations and other matters of mutual interests were discussed during meeting of the both dignitaries.

According to Governor House spokesman, the Russian envoy was presented guard of honour on arrival at the Governor House.

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, while talking to the Russian top diplomat, said Pakistan and Russia want the best relations to each other and Russian Federation wants to prove its friendship in the current economic situation.

Governor Kamran Tessori and the Russian Ambassador hoisted the flags of both the countries. The Russian Consul General

in Karachi was also present on the occasion.

Russian Ambassador also penned his impressions in the guest book and also visited the Quaid-e-Azam Gallery.

Ambassador Albert Khorev was served with Karachi's famous burger and "Matka Tea".

Tessori said that Russia and Pakistan enjoy very good relations. He also referred the recent visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia to Pakistan.

Governor said that the Russian Ambassador has been invited to invest in the province.

Later, Governor Kamran Khan Tessori presented a cap and shawl of honor to the Russian Ambassador and the Consul General.

The Russian Ambassador also planted a sapling at the Governor House as part of the tree plantation campaign.



KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Senator Rubina Khalid addressing the inauguration ceremony of Alfa Mall.

China to continue support Pakistan in fighting terrorism: Lin

BEIJING (APP): China will continue to support Pakistan in fighting against terrorism and attempts to undermine mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries will not succeed, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said on Monday.

China reiterated that terrorism is a common enemy of humanity.

It's a shared responsibility of the international community to fight terrorism and prevent tragedies from happening again, he said during his regular briefing in response to a question regarding the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan. He said, "We are firm in our commitment to protecting the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions overseas." He remarked that China and Pakistan have the resolve and capability to foil any attempt to harm China-Pakistan relations and ensure that terrorists will pay the price.

Two suicide bombers arrested during IBOs

QUETTA (INP): Two suicide bombers have been arrested in Balochistan during intelligence-based operations (IBOs).

It reported in media that two suicide bombers have been apprehended during targeted operations across various areas of Balochistan. The arrested terrorists were reportedly planning attacks on security forces and foreign nationals in Karachi.

The mastermind behind a planned suicide attack on Chinese engineers near Karachi Airport's signal has also been detained in Windar. Additionally, four other terrorists were arrested from various locations during intelligence-based operations (IBOs).

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Time to deliver

Countries, big and small, are gathering today in Baku, Azerbaijan, for COP29.

Pakistan's participation in the climate summit will centre on three daily events at its pavilion, focusing on climate justice, energy transition, and gender-responsive climate policies. We will showcase our commitment to climate adaptation and sustainability with national initiatives such as the Living Indus project and Recharge Pakistan. However, the real challenge lies in securing meaningful financial support for these programmes.

Never has it been more urgent to take climate action. While developed nations are trumpeting a rise in international public adaptation financing from \$22bn in 2021 to \$28bn in 2022, the truth is it is a meagre increase. For Pakistan alone, the World Bank estimates a need of \$348bn by 2030 for climate resilience. Add to this the current pledges to the Loss and Damage Fund, which stands at a mere \$770m, and it is clear that global financial commitments are grossly inadequate.

Senator Sherry Rehman's call for 'Internationally Determined Contributions' from developed nations in aid of climate-vulnerable countries deserves serious consideration at COP29. The fact is that countries like Pakistan, which hardly contribute to global emissions, bear disproportionate climate impacts. The devastating floods of 2022, causing \$30bn in damage, and this year's severe cross-border smog in Punjab show our vulnerability to sudden disasters and chronic pollution.

This year's discussions will focus on creating a new climate finance goal that surpasses the previous \$100bn annual commitment set by the Paris Agreement. Developing nations are advocating for climate finance to be provided with major concessions or as grants, instead of the typical loans, to alleviate their growing debt burdens. Azerbaijan's proposed \$1bn Climate Finance Action Fund, funded by fossil fuel producers, aims to support disaster response and community initiatives, offering a fresh approach to financing.

Pakistan's government seems to be concerned about our participation at the summit. The parliamentary committee on climate change has stressed transparency and measurable outcomes. In the long run, success will require more than just government action. The private sector must be engaged and provincial climate initiatives strengthened.

The Global Climate Finance Framework, already signed by 15 nations, offers Pakistan an opportunity to strengthen its position in climate negotiations. Pakistan must leverage its moral authority as a climate-vulnerable nation while displaying a serious commitment to adaptation and mitigation at home.

Climate summit

Huma Yusuf

Over 140,000 people displaced by flooding in Sindh this August are living in unbearable conditions. They sleep in tents, scrape by on one meal a day, and die from water-borne diseases. They fear more hunger as, according to Amnesty International, 500,000 acres of the province's farmland lies flooded. Most are steeped in crushing debt, having taken fertiliser on credit to sow fields that remain waterlogged. This is the long tail of climate catastrophe.

The fate of our climate-affected compatriots lies in the hands of world leaders gathering today in Baku for COP29, the UN climate change conference. Unfortunately, the mood is despondent. Donald Trump's re-election as US president has given this COP the air of a non-starter. Trump's climate denial threatens to rationalise inaction by countless others.

The host's priorities also raise questions about the sincerity of the COP process. Azerbaijan is hooked on fossil fuels, with oil comprising 90 per cent of its exports. Videos leaked this week show the chief executive of the country's COP29 team seeking to strike more fossil fuel deals on the summit's sidelines.

This poor momentum will be further derailed by low turnout by key stakeholders. Leaders from France, Germany, the US, China, India and Brazil aren't bothering to show up, nor is the prime minister of Papua New Guinea, one of the most climate-vulnerable island nations, describing the summit as a "waste of time".

Thankfully, Pakistan is attending. What we'll get in Baku is a reality check.

Pakistan last year launched an ambitious National Adaptation Plan but its main climate plan still takes the form of a demand for climate finance.

This is not an irrational position given that by World Bank estimates we need investments totalling \$348 billion over the next seven years to tackle climate change. COP29 will clarify that we need more than a begging bowl to address this need.

Baku is being termed the 'Finance COP' because the key agenda item is determining a 'new collective quantified goal' — a new global funding plan for climate action. The ask is material — the UN Standing Committee on Finance estimates \$9 trillion are needed for mitigation and adaptation over the next five years.

Agreeing on a climate finance target is one challenge. Then the world must jointly decide who pays, when, how much, and how. Negotiations will be fraught and possibly unproductive, but there are some certainties that Pakistan should plan for. The era of handouts is over. Developed countries will not hand over climate finance without a fight, especially not since over 40pc of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been produced in the past 30 years, and two-thirds of these by developing countries. Developed economies will not contribute more unless developing yet high-emitting countries such as China, Russia, Brazil and India chip in too.

Consequently, climate finance may appear in various guises. It's no longer just about loss and damage grants or multilateral development bank projects. China, for example, resists official climate commitments under COP agreements, but going by a Centre for Global Development (CGD) analysis, is already a net provider of climate support totalling \$34bn between 2013 and 2021, primarily through lending by its state banks.

Diversified climate

financing will require recipient countries to beware of climate debt. Most funding will take the form of 'global investment flows for climate action' rather than dole-outs. Expect more private sector involvement (in the form of loans), mobilisation promises, and diversions of existing development finance and aid. Learning lessons from CPEC, Pakistan should avoid climate packages that increase the debt burden.

The direction of travel is towards self-sufficiency.

Countries need to revamp their Nationally Determined Contributions (proposing GHG cuts and adaptation plans) by February ahead of COP30 in Brazil. Agreements at Baku will also increasingly take the form of co-financing, for example, the 'buy one get one free' model proposed by Jonathan Beynon for the CGD which envisages developed countries matching every dollar committed to climate mitigation or adaptation by developing countries.

One thing is certain, the climate finance agreed in Baku this week will go to countries that will put it to good use. So far, that's not us. As a recent Institute of Strategic Studies brief points out, our political instability, weak governance, lack of bankable projects, and paucity of data to evidence climate needs are all deterrents to climate funding. So are sociopolitical dynamics such as the disinterest in community engagement and tendency to suppress grassroots initiatives, which are seen as the bedrock of climate action. It'll take more than asking to address our climate challenge. — Courtesy Dawn

Colonial mindsets

Abraham Shah

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was recently accused of having a 'colonial mindset' by fellow lawmakers for declining to discuss slavery reparations in the Commonwealth Summit in Samoa. PM Starmer claimed his denial stemmed from a desire to "look forward" rather than holding 'discussions on the past'.

The construct 'colonial mindset' is a powerful one, for as authors like Frantz Fanon, Edward Said and Bernard Cohn explain, colonialism was as much an exercise in psychological control as it was of physical domination. The brown denizen of the brown continent, for instance, was forced to recognise and internalise the white man's superiority — a mental trauma that people of colour continue to carry today.

This perpetuation of colonial forms of control — both covert and overt — necessitates a scrutiny of PM Starmer's dismissal of even discourse around slavery and reparations.

Defence couched in 'looking forward' remains unsatisfactory as well, primarily because as we witness today, the past continues to inform and shape the present.

Dismissal of an open and honest conversation on past depredations is thus not only flawed but also points towards a deeper malaise: the inability to recognise how modes of control continue to operate, which disenfranchise the Global South. This takes on numerous forms: harsher immigration policies and hate towards refugees, heightened surveillance of black and brown bodies and communities, condoning genocide and the contrasting responses to Ukraine and Palestine.

In some aspects, therefore, PM Starmer is correct; there is a dire need to look forward, but any efforts to mould the future must actively engage with structures of injustice inherited from the past. This requires a critical discourse on colonialism, race, gender, Islamophobia, inequality and the global financial structure.

The inability to launch or sustain critical discourse highlights yet another fundamental concern: the dearth and sheer impotency of modern political discourse and activism. Ever since the advent of neoliberalism in the 1970s and the rise of the 'new left', the ideological spectrum in the political landscape has drastically shrunk, converging on what Tariq Ali calls the "extreme centre": a vapid political domain where economic exigencies emphasising GDP growth dominate other concerns.

This phenomenon is not limited to the UK. It is prevalent across the world, including in the US where conversations on race and drastically rising inequality are jettisoned in favour of economic growth.

This has resulted in an 'indistinguishable political elite', to yet again quote Tariq Ali, one that offers little alternative or solutions to impending crises. Conversations on means of production, inequality, and curtailing capitalism are dismissed as 'too radical', further revealing this dearth of imagination and political alternatives. Instead, half-baked solutions are proffered that do not address underlying causes. The inability to effectively tackle climate change globally or address land-use and developmental models triggering smog in Pakistan serve as examples.

Dissent, however,

finds avenues for expression. This occurs on the margins through the rise of populist movements including Donald Trump's and the far right which are casually dismissed by the mainstream. Very often, this dissent manifests in violence as we saw with the Occupy Wall Street Movement in 2011 and the more recent Islamophobic hysteria in the UK. Present upheavals across the world — protests in Pakistan against a private educational institute, the overthrow of Hasina Wajid in Bangladesh or farmer agitation in France can all be contextualised in the larger economic and political failings of our day.

What does all this mean for the Global South? First, we must actively recognise the past and not dismiss its continuous impact on our lives. Justifications of colonialism including "they gave us railways and the penal code" too must be criticised, recognising how colonialism altered the very social fabric and psyches of non-white societies. This backdrop must then inform attempts at reform that highlight not just reparations but also change in immigration and employment policies in the West, and greater First World responsibility to combat climate change.

Considering the anaemic political environment, this is a protracted struggle but it is a necessary one to rectify centuries of historical injustice. Individuals such as Bell Ribeiro-Addy and Clive Lewis — British lawmakers who called out PM Starmer on his stance on reparations — and dissenting voices like Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar in the US — show us that silver linings do hide behind the clouds.

— Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Shaza Fatima says: 'Pak-US Tech Investment Conference' to help foster collaboration b/w two countries'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Monday that the 'Pak-US Tech Investment Conference' marked a significant milestone for Pakistan's IT industry and would help foster collaboration between companies of two countries deeply involved in the future of innovation.

While addressing the first-ever Pak-US Tech Investment Conference 2024 through a video link, she said, "Pakistan's technology sector has shown promising growth in the past few years, driven by a vibrant ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and an

unwavering commitment to growth."

"Our ICT exports have shown a remarkable 25% growth," she said.

"We are committed to building on this momentum until we reach the \$25 billion goal that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has given us," she added.

The minister said, "The event is a critical step in achieving that goal, as it provides a platform for U.S. and Pakistani businesses to come together," she added.

She said, "By providing secure cyberspace to businesses, the government of Pakistan has made significant progress in that regard."



ISLAMABAD: Women visiting stalls during ten days Folk Festival Lok Mela at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 356 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Monday, gaining 356.64 more points, a positive change of 0.38 percent, closing at 93,648.33 points as compared to 93,291.68 points on the last trading day.

A total of 815,188,409 shares were traded during the day as compared to 763,255,174 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 37,324 billion

against Rs.30,206 billion on the last trading day. As many as 454 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 227 of them recorded gains and 184 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 43 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Cernyco PK with 98,601,408 shares at Rs 4.52 per share, Pak Elektron with 78,094,188 shares at Rs 29.01 per share and K-Electric Limited with 70,187,495 shares.

She said, "As a result of the Global Cybersecurity Index of the ITU, Pakistan has been ranked in Tier-1 (role modeling), alongside global leaders such as the United States and Japan.

Shaza Fatima said, "This reflects our collective efforts in cybersecurity, including initiatives like the National Cyber Security Policy, CERT rules, nCERT, Cyber Security Regulations, Hackathons, cloud-first policy, etc." She said, "Pakistan has also made notable advancements in the UN E-Government Development Index, rising 14 places compared to its position in 2022."

She was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Alfa Mall, a pioneering digital trading platform revolutionizing the fashion industry, in Karachi, said a news release.

The event brought together influential figures from the fashion world, marketing professionals, government officials, and corporate entities.

During the meeting, various aspects of bilateral ties and ways for further enhancing cooperation and collaborations in the field of trade and commerce between Pakistan and Denmark were discussed. The Minister highlighted the role of Pakistani diaspora in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan.

Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar apprised the Minister about the current state of bilateral ties and the scope and opportunities for further business ventures and collaborations.

He also highlighted the role of Pakistani expatriates settled in Denmark for strengthening bilateral ties and promoting commerce and cultural exchanges between both the countries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh along with the officers of Ministry of Maritime Affairs in meeting with the senior officials of Danish Shipping Company Maersk Line in Islamabad.

Rubina emphasizes promotion of country's handicraft industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Monday emphasized the significance of preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage through traditional crafts and arts.

During her keynote speech, Rubina Khalid stressed the importance of integrating these timeless products into the modern fashion world, providing opportunities for BISP's Hunarmand beneficiaries to connect with the modern economy.

"Hunarmand art and crafts products are a testament to Pakistan's cultural and traditional history. It's essential we revive, preserve, and protect these treasures, introducing them to the modern fashion world, we should also take it as an opportunity to uplift our underprivileged artisans and skilled BISP beneficiaries," she stated.

VEON, Jazz delegation visits PTA headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation from VEON Group and Jazz visited the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), engaging in productive discussions with Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman, on strategic initiatives to further digital transformation across Pakistan.

According to a news release, the delegation, led by Augie K Fabela, Founder & Chairman of the

FM welcomes APM Terminals' investment offer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday welcomed APM Terminals' commitment to invest in Pakistan and assured full support in facilitating the Group and providing them with a level-playing and investment-friendly climate.

The minister was talking to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of APM Terminals, Keith Svendsen who called on him here, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

The call-on meeting was also attended by Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar, Pakistan's Ambassador to Denmark, Rene Pii Pedersen, Managing Director A.P. Moller Maersk Singapore, Ahmed Hassan, SVP of A.P. Moller Maersk Group, and Sander Riemersma, Head of Portfolio Strategy APM Terminals.

The discussion focused on the progress made as a follow-up on the signing of a Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU) last month between government of Pakistan and government of Denmark to enhance bilateral cooperation and accelerate sustainable economic growth through promoting and enhancing green and sustainable Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investment.

Keith Svendsen briefed the Minister on APM Terminals' business portfolio and its plans for building port infrastructure in Pakistan for enhanced revenue growth and improvement in regional trade and connectivity.

Keith Svendsen briefed the Minister on APM Terminals' business portfolio and its plans for building port infrastructure in Pakistan for enhanced revenue growth and improvement in regional trade and connectivity.

Rupee sheds 13 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 13 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.86 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.73.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.87 to close at Rs 297.07 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 02 paise and closed at Rs1.80, whereas a decline of Rs1.28 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.

MULTAN (APP): Indonesia's Acting Ambassador Mr Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma on Monday stated that there were vast investment opportunities in Indonesia for Pakistani business community with guaranteed profits.

During his visit to Multan, the acting ambassador was welcomed at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) by the president and others.

The discussions between the acting ambassador and the MCCI president focused on enhancing trade and friendly relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

Acting Indonesian envoys offers Pakistan to invest in various sectors

was a large economic market, and Pakistani businesses could invest in sectors like agro-processing, textiles, garments, and leather industries which could further boost bilateral trade. He added that the relations between the two brotherly countries were very strong and special relief in visa procedures could be provided to Pakistanis visiting Indonesia.

He also mentioned that Pakistan and Indonesia needed to strengthen their working groups in sectors like tourism and trade, and exchange delegations to promote trade in the region.

Mr Kusuma emphasized that Indonesia

was a large economic market, and Pakistani businesses could invest in sectors like agro-processing, textiles, garments, and leather industries which could further boost bilateral trade. He added that the relations between the two brotherly countries were very strong and special relief in visa procedures could be provided to Pakistanis visiting Indonesia.

He also mentioned that Pakistan and Indonesia needed to strengthen their working groups in sectors like tourism and trade, and exchange delegations to promote trade in the region.

Mr Kusuma emphasized that Indonesia

Educational institutions closed then as to why constructions are not being suspended: LHC

LAHORE (Online): Justice Shahid Karim of Lahore High Court (LHC) has remarked order was issued that no construction work would be done in these two months and why the order is not being implemented.

He further remarked "educational institutions are closed. All is before us then as to why constructions are not being closed. He gave these remarks during hearing of the case related to smog here Monday.

Senior legal advisor Wasa, Mian Irfan Akram advocate, officers and law officers of different departments appeared in the court.

Punjab government

filed report in the court about the steps taken by it.

Counsel for Punjab government told the court operation was conducted on 3 bus stands in Lahore and action was taken against 60 smoke emitting vehicles.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked what is job of deputy commissioner Lahore. Could he not sit on Sunday. What was settled in the meeting of advocate general. Had you asked me I would have held court proceedings on Sunday. The responsible are not in the city in this season of smog.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked no one from transport department is in the court. Advocate general

is not in Punjab today. This is most important matter of all. They should have been in the court today.

The court remarked we have been giving orders about smog since the last two years. Was transport department sleeping. Government departments are failed in taking steps with reference to smog.

This is matter of life of all of us including our children but departments are not working in right way.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked the remains of crops are still being burnt. Did government not know its remains will be burnt after rice crop. But government did nothing.



LAHORE: A delegation comprising the participants of the two-day training workshop organized to prevent human trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and IFA met with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Qaiser Sheikh says: Mega sewerage to be set up in Chinio

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said a mega sewerage system would be set up in Chinio with the financial help of the World Bank to redress the issue on a permanent basis.

Talking to media persons during an open court arranged at his dera in Chinio on Monday, he said that the government was fully aware of the fundamental problems including electricity, gas and sewerage. He said that population growth had enhanced civic problems

and the government was trying its optimum best to resolve the major issues at the grassroots level. He said that five new public parks were being developed in Chinio to provide better environment and recreational facilities to people of the city. "The government is in touch with all government departments and as discrepancies are identified, the departments concerned will be immediately directed to resolve the issues up to the entire satisfaction of the masses," he added.

CM takes notice of violence against women

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken strict notice of an incident in Sargodha, where three women were reportedly subjected to violence over a property dispute.

The CM directed the Regional Police Officer (RPO) of Sargodha to submit a detailed report on the matter.

Expressing her strong condemnation, she stated, "Violence against women over property disputes is not only unfortunate but also completely unacceptable. Women and children are a red line for us, and such acts of violence will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

Swearing-in ceremony of elected general councilors held

DIR LOWER (APP): A swearing-in ceremony of the general councilors who won the local government by-election was held here at ADC Office Jirga Hall, Blombat, on Monday.

District Returning Officer/Deputy Commissioner of Dir lower Muhammad Arif Khan administered the oath to the elected councilors and congratulated them.

Advisor announces floating tenders for Hangu main road

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Communication and Works (C&W), Sohail Afridi accompanied by MNA Yousaf Khan during his visit to Hangu district on Monday announced floating of tenders for the construction of Hangu main road by December this year.

Talking to the media persons on the occasion, Advisor C&W said, "The government will solve the

public problems within the available limited resources."

He added that we were focusing on completion of the ongoing incomplete development works. He further said, "Hangu to Sarozai road will be constructed on priority basis as this road was the main highway connecting Pakistan and Afghanistan."

Due to unavoidable circumstances, work could not start on this important highway till now, he regretted.

Punjab governor for mass awareness on human trafficking

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation comprising the participants of the two-day training workshop organized to prevent human trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and IFA met with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that going abroad through illegal means is a crime and there is a need to create awareness among the people so that they don't fall a victim to those who are involved in the criminal business of human trafficking.

He said that in this

regard, the institutions and organizations working for creating awareness among people and providing them with accurate information are commendable. Governor Punjab while appreciating the efforts of Chief of Mission IOM, Pakistan, M. Mio Sato, said that International Organization for Migration was making great efforts to increase the capacity of government institutions as well as non-governmental organizations and civil society and to raise awareness among the people. Governor Punjab also congratulated the organizers for the successfully organizing the two-day training workshop on identifying the victims of human trafficking in Lahore.



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

Azma Bokhari berates PTI for displaying US flag in event

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has berated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), accusing the party of hypocrisy and disloyalty.

Referring to recent events at a PTI rally in Swabi, Bokhari stated, "Those who claim to fight against 'American slavery' are now waving the American flag as if seeking freedom through it."

Information minister argued that PTI's leader and his followers consider

taking U-turns a sign of bravery, while the display of the U.S. flag at the Swabi rally was a show of allegiance to what she called their 'American masters'. She insisted that the public gathering was a failure and resulted in clashes among PTI members, particularly between Ali Amin Gandapur and other party leaders.

The Punjab minister stated that the PTI was divided, with each faction pursuing its own agenda.



LAHORE: British Council CEO Scott McDonald meeting with Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat.

Health minister chairs 14th syndicate meeting of FMU

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chaired the 14th syndicate meeting of Faisalabad Medical University, held at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, here on Monday. The meeting permitted the university to start postgraduate diploma programs and increase seats in the departments of diabetology, family medicine, dermatology and esthetics. During the Syndicate meeting, permission has been given to start the BS program in

the Department of Respiratory Therapy.

Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique approved the decisions and implementation report of the 13th Syndicate meeting of Faisalabad Medical University. Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasized the promotion of qualitative research in Punjab's medical universities and assured that transparency is being upheld in their financial affairs. He highlighted the Punjab government's commitment to providing quality education.

One killed, 14 injured in bus-truck collision in Lodhran

LODHARAN (APP): One person was killed and as many as fourteen passengers were injured on Monday when a bus was collided with a trowler in Lodhran.

According to a private news channel, a road accident took place in Lodhran when a passenger bus collided with a trowler that had overturned on the road. According to the rescue officials, teams reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported.

ANF seizes over 17 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 17 kg drugs worth over Rs 8.6 million and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Monday.

Advisor announces floating tenders for Hangu main road

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International News

Saudi Arabia demands immediate ceasefires in Gaza, Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia called for immediate ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon at a joint Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation summit that will renew calls for a Palestinian state on Monday.

Arab and Muslim leaders gathered in Riyadh, more than a year into the Israel-Hamas war and regional escalation, in what is seen as a chance to send a message to US president-elect Donald Trump.

Opening the summit, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said the international community must "immediately halt the Israeli actions against our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon", condemning Israel's campaign in Gaza as "genocide".

"(Saudi Arabia) affirms its support for the brothers in Palestine and

Lebanon to overcome the disastrous humanitarian consequences of the ongoing Israeli aggression," he said.

A draft resolution for the summit stresses "firm support" for "national rights" for the Palestinian people, "foremost among which is their right to freedom and to an independent, sovereign state".

Just hours earlier, newly appointed Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said it was not "realistic" to establish a Palestinian state, dismissing it as a "Hamas state".

"I don't think this position is realistic today and we must be realistic," Saar said in response to a question during an appearance in Jerusalem.

The Saudi foreign ministry announced plans for the summit in late October during a meeting,

also in Riyadh, of a new "international alliance" to press for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

It comes one year after a similar gathering in Riyadh of the Cairo-based Arab League and the J e d d a h - b a s e d Organisation of Islamic Cooperation during which leaders condemned Israeli forces' actions in Gaza as "barbaric".

This time around, Trump's election last week for a second term in the White House is likely to be on leaders' minds, said Anna Jacobs, senior Gulf analyst for the International Crisis Group think tank.

"This summit is very much an opportunity for regional leaders to signal to the incoming Trump administration what they want in terms of US engagement," she said.



Lawmakers applaud as Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (standing L) is reappointed as leader after the second round of a parliamentary vote to nominate a prime minister following the October 27 general election, during a special session of parliament in Tokyo.

Kremlin denies Trump call, says West not ready for talks

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia on Monday denied a reported call between President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump on the Ukraine conflict and said it saw no signs the West was ready for talks.

The Washington Post said on Sunday that Trump had spoken by phone on Thursday with Putin, telling him not to inflame the conflict.

Trump's election to the White House has the potential to upend the almost three-year conflict and has thrown into ques-

tion Washington's multi-billion dollar support for Kyiv, crucial to its defence.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied the report, telling journalists it was "false".

Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, told AFP in a written statement: "We do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders."

A senior Ukrainian presidency official also said Kyiv was "not informed" of any call between Putin and Trump.

Netanyahu admits he okayed Hezbollah pager attacks

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he okayed a deadly September attack on Hezbollah communications devices which exploded in Lebanon, the first time Israel has admitted involvement.

Hezbollah had previously blamed its arch-enemy for the blasts that dealt a major blow to the fighter group, and vowed revenge.

"Netanyahu confirmed on Sunday that he greenlighted the pager operation in Lebanon."

Don't prejudice Trump over Ukraine, France says

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Ukraine's allies must not prejudice how Donald Trump will handle the war there, France's foreign minister said on Monday, as French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer reaffirmed their support for Kyiv during talks in Paris. Trump has repeatedly criticised the scale of Western aid to Kyiv and has promised to end the conflict swiftly, without explaining how.

Deadly strikes on Gaza, Lebanon as Israel faces aid deadline

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli air strikes killed dozens of people in Lebanon and Gaza, rescuers and authorities said, ahead of a US deadline for improved aid delivery to the Palestinian territory. Rescuers in the Gaza Strip said 13 children were among 30 people killed by Israeli strikes in the territory's north. The first strike early Sunday hit a house in Jabalia, killing at least 25 people including 13 children and injuring more than 30, Gaza's civil defence agency said.

At around 6:00 am, "there was a very huge explosion" at the AIloush family home, said relative Abdullah al-Najar.

"When we arrived here, all the bodies were torn apart," the distraught man added. Vowing to stop

Hamas militants from regrouping in already ravaged north Gaza, Israel on October 6 began a major air and ground assault.

The United Nations has described the area as "under siege", and Washington set a deadline of this coming week for Israel to get more aid in or face possible cuts to military assistance. After the strike in Jabalia, Israel's military said it hit "infrastructure" in which militants were operating and "posed a threat" to troops in the area.

"Prior to the strike, numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians," a military spokesman said. Another strike on the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City killed five people, the civil defence agency said.

Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile kill 6, injure 30 in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile smashed into cities in southern and eastern Ukraine on Monday, officials said, killing at least six civilians and injuring about 30 others. Russia recently intensified strikes that have long tormented civilian areas, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, in an apparent effort to unnerve Ukrainians and wear down their willingness to keep up a war that is approaching its 1,000-day milestone.

"Every day, every night, Russia commits the same terror," Zelenskyy said in a post on the Telegram messaging app. "Except that an increasing number of civilian objects are becoming targets."

Both Russia and Ukraine are waiting to see how Washington will change its policy on the war after Donald Trump takes office in January. The U.S. is the biggest provider of military help to Ukraine but Trump has chided the

Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars of aid. The major cities struck Monday by Russia are close to the war's around 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line.

Russian drones hammered the southern city of Mykolaiv, killing five people and injuring a 45-year-old woman, local authorities said. Around two dozen people sought psychological help following the attack that damaged houses and stores, officials said.

Russia open to hearing Trump's proposals for ending the war, an official says Mykolaiv, located about 60 kilometers (37 miles) northwest of the front line in the Kherson region, frequently comes under Russian attack. An overnight attack on Zaporizhzhia, also in the south, with three powerful glide bombs killed one person and injured 21, including a 4-year-old boy, Ukraine's National Police said.

Indonesia says it has no overlapping South China Sea claims with China, despite deal

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia said on Monday it does not recognise China's claims over the South China Sea, despite signing a maritime development deal with Beijing, as some analysts warned the pact risked compromising its sovereign rights.

Beijing has long clashed with Southeast Asian neighbours over the South China Sea, which it claims almost in its entirety, based on a "nine-dash line" on its maps that cuts into the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of several countries.

Joint agreements with China in the strategic waterway have been sensitive for years, with some nations wary of deals they fear could be interpreted as legitimising Beijing's vast claims.

In 2016, an arbitral tribunal said the Chinese claim, based on its old maps, has no basis in international law, a decision China refuses to recognise.

A joint statement issued at the weekend during Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to Beijing mentioned the two countries had "reached important common understanding on joint development in areas of overlapping claims".

Indonesia's foreign ministry has repeatedly said the country is a non-claimant state in the South China Sea and has no overlapping jurisdiction with China.

On Monday, the ministry said its position was unchanged and the agreement would have no impact on its sovereign rights.

Iran calls to expel Israel from UN after deadly Syria strike

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry called Sunday for an arms embargo on Israel and the expulsion of its arch-foe from the United Nations, following a deadly strike in Syria.

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Tehran "strongly condemned the aggressive attack carried out today by the Zionist regime against a residential building" in the Damascus area.

The strike on an apartment belonging to the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, killed nine people including a Hezbollah commander, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said.

Baghaei called for measures against Israel, including "an arms embargo" and its "expulsion from the United Nations."

Russian, Indonesian navies hold joint counter-terrorism drills

Monitoring Desk
RUSSIA: Russian and Indonesian ships practiced freeing a vessel captured by terrorists and fought unmanned boats during the first joint naval exercises between the two countries in the Java Sea, Russia's RIA state news agency reported on Monday.

The joint exercise, which started last week, came as newly inaugurated

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto pledged closer ties with Russia on defence, in a bid to forge links with any country as part of Jakarta's long-held non-aligned foreign policy. The crews of the joint detachment of ships practiced manoeuvring and communication, as well as inspection of suspicious vessels, RIA reported, citing the press service of the Russian.

High birth rate, migration affect Sindh's limited resources: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that high birth rate and significant migration from within Pakistan and abroad, were the key factors which placed intense pressure on the province's limited resources, affecting job availability, healthcare, education, housing and food supply.

The CM said the 2023 digital census indicates a national population surge, with an annual growth rate of 2.55 per cent, which brings Pakistan's population to 241 million, and Sindh's population has surpassed 55 million.

He said this while presiding over a meeting of the Taskforce on Population Growth to follow up on key action taken on decisions previously set forth by Pakistan's Council of Common Interests and the Supreme Court.

The meeting was held at CM House and attended by provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Dr Azra Pechuho, Nasir Shah, Sardar Shah, Shahina Sher Ali, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D, provincial secretaries, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Country Representative of UNFPA, representatives from USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Technical Advisor Population dept Talib Lashari, and other participants attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of addressing Sindh's rapidly growing population. "This task force will build upon the achievements already made, guiding both policy and practical approaches," he stated.

Shah said that the recent 2023 digital census indicates a national popula-

tion surge, with an annual growth rate of 2.55 per cent, resulting in a total population of 241 million in Pakistan. "Sindh alone has grown to over 55 million people, although officials suspect that the census data may have undercounted the actual figures," he said.

The chief minister, despite these challenges, highlighted his government's ongoing efforts to mitigate the socio-economic effects of rapid population growth. He referenced several legislative and policy measures, including the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2013, the recently approved Reproductive Health Rights Bill, the Population Policy of Sindh (2016), and the Costed Implementation Plan on Family Planning (2015), as part of Sindh's proactive approach.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah chairs 4th the Population Task Force meeting, at CM House in Karachi.

Abrogation of Articles 370, 35A won't resolve Kashmir issue: Muqam

PALLANDRI (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Kashmir's inseparability, stating that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A did not resolve the issue and that Pakistan will continue opposing Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. Speaking at the death anniversary of Babaai Poonch Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan in Pallandri, as a special guest, the minister reaffirmed that the people of Pakistan stand with Kashmiris.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif boldly raised the Kashmir issue at the

United Nations, while the people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir rejected Modi's party in recent elections. Azad Kashmir remains Pakistan's first line of defense, with the armed forces making sacrifices to protect the country.

At the death anniversary event chaired by Major (Retd) Sikandar Khan, the minister paid tribute to Baba Poonch Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan for his contributions to the people's welfare, emphasizing that successful nations build their future on the legacy of their forefathers.

The minister expressed pride in attending Khan Sahib's anniversary

on the land of martyrs and ghazis, stressing that Kashmir's progress is integral to Pakistan's growth. He assured that the Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra motorway would be constructed, noting the special efforts made for the development of the Rathoa Hariyam Bridge.

He pointed out that people in the region enjoy cheaper electricity than in Pakistan, and questioned why troublemakers fail to recognize that this region is free in every sense, while millions have sacrificed their lives for freedom in Occupied Kashmir, where women face atrocities and die for speaking out.

Justice Shah says No one can question even if regular bench hears constitutional cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): During the hearing of a tax-related case in the Supreme Court on Monday, the judges got into a debate over the necessity of a constitutional bench, it reported in media.

Senior judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah raised the question if the regular bench they were on was unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established.

He also remarked that even if the present bench heard the case, no one could question it. "Even if we decide the case, what will happen? If a review plea comes before us, we'll say it's our jurisdiction," he added.

At the outset of the hearing, Justice Ayesha

Malik remarked that this case would be heard by the constitutional bench. Justice Shah asked that since there was no constitutional bench as of now, what should be done about the "unconstitutional bench" they were a part of.

"Are we unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established?" he asked, adding that this means constitutional cases would not be heard until the constitutional bench comes into force.

He further remarked that even if this regular bench heard the case, nobody could question it. Even if the regular bench decided the case, who could stop it, he asked further.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Secretary General of the World Muslim League Sheikh Dr. Mohammad bin Issa on the sidelines of Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit.

Labour Minister inaugurates 25-bed SSSI hospital

SUKKUR (APP): Provincial Minister Labor and Human Resources, Sindh, Shahid Abdul Samad Thaheem who is also Chairman Governing

While addressing the inaugural ceremony and talking to media, Thaheem said that Sukkur's social security circle dispensary has been upgraded to a 25-



Body Sindh Social Security Institution (SSSI) on Monday inaugurated the Sukkur Social Security Poly Clinic hospital in site area comprising 25 beds.

The minister visited the hospital's OPD, Gynecology Ward, and various other wards and sections.

bed hospital and soon, similar health facilities will be given to Lathi in Daharki, and Mithi, providing workers with all kinds of health facilities.

He stated that the number of incubators within the hospital is insufficient and will be increased.

MDCAT 2024 expected retake date revealed

KARACHI (INP): The possible date for Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2024 retake in Sindh has been revealed.

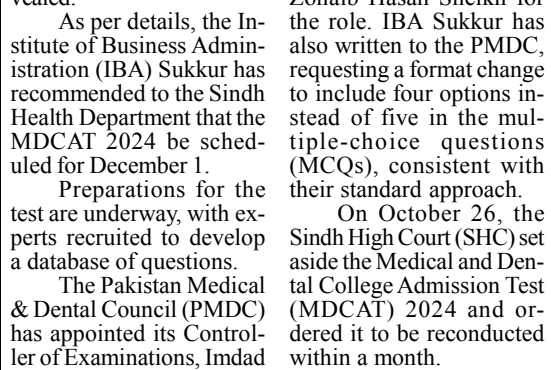
As per details, the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Sukkur has recommended to the Sindh Health Department that the MDCAT 2024 be scheduled for December 1.

Preparations for the test are underway, with experts recruited to develop a database of questions.

The Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC) has appointed its Controller of Examinations, Imdad

Khushak, as the focal person for the MDCAT 2024, while the health department has designated Deputy Health Secretary Zohaib Hasan Sheikh for the role. IBA Sukkur has also written to the PMDC, requesting a format change to include four options instead of five in the multiple-choice questions (MCQs), consistent with their standard approach.

On October 26, the Sindh High Court (SHC) set aside the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2024 and ordered it to be reconducted within a month.



LARKANA: Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro take keen interest at stalls during the Annual Science Exhibition 2024-25 held at Government Sachal Sarmast Primary School in Larkana.

Sindh Food Authority's major crackdown in Korangi

Independent Report KARACHI: The Sindh Food Authority launched a significant operation in Korangi, targeting nine catering centers found to be supplying substandard and hazardous food. Led by Deputy Director Korangi, Fahad Baloch, and Food Safety Officer Khadija Sarfaraz, the authority imposed a total fine of PKR 570,000 on these centers due to serious violations of food safety standards.

During the inspection, the team identified several is-

suues, including the use of banned Chinese salt (MSG) at some locations. Poor maintenance of freezers and cross-contamination risks were also noted, leading to immediate action and the suspension of production at three centers with substandard hygiene practices. Director General Sindh Food Authority, Muzamil Hussain Halepoto, emphasized the importance of adhering to food safety protocols to safeguard public health and reaffirmed that such operations will continue against violators.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, Chaudhary Salik Hussain announced Hajj Policy 2025 during press conference in federal capital.

Senate body for expediting K-IV, other PSDP projects to ease Karachi's water issues

KARACHI (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Monday, directed to expedite work on all PSDP projects related to the provision of drinking water to Karachi and maintain close coordination among all the relevant departments so that the basic issue of citizens of the metropolis could be resolved at the earliest.

The Senate committee also recommended speeding up the disbursement of funds for reconstruction of

flood-affected houses in Sindh province and handing over administrative control of the Sindh Infrastructure Development Company Limited (SIDCL) to the provincial government for ensuring execution of relevant projects.

The committee made the recommendation during its meeting with chairperson Senator Quratulain Marri in chair held here to review the status of disbursement of funds for Public Sector Development Projects FY 2024-25 for

Sindh Province and progress made on the projects so far.

The meeting was attended by the committee members Senators Zeeshan Khanzada and Jam Saifullah Dharejo, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secretary Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra, Member Infrastructure and RC Waqas Anwar, Chairman Planning and Development Board Sindh Najam Ahmed Shah, Sindh Finance Secretary Fayaz Ahmed Jatoi, and other relevant officers.

Ban on meeting with Imran, other prisoners in Adiala jail lifted, IHC wraps up petition

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ban on meeting with Imran Khan and other prisoners in Adiala jail has been lifted. Islamabad High Court (IHC) has wrapped up petition against restrictions on meeting with Imran Khan in jail and for provision of facilities to PTI founder in jail.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir has issued written order for wrapping up petition filed by Noreen Niazi.

According to written order Jail authorities assured to provide all facilities as per court's orders and jail rules. A detailed report was filed in the court with the signatures of superintendent Adiala jail.

Ban on meeting with PTI founder and other prisoners in jail has been lifted. Home department Punjab had imposed ban on

meetings in jail for fear of terrorists attacks.

According to jail authorities meeting of petitioner Noreen Niazi has been arranged with Imran Khan in jail.

Jail authorities said PTI founder has appointed his coordinator in the light of court's order. Therefore who aspire to meet Imran Khan can contact coordinator appointed by Imran Khan.

According to deputy superintendent jail all the facilities are available to PTI founder in jail as per jail rules.

The jail authorities assured that all the facilities will be provided to Imran Khan as per court's orders and jail rules. The counsels for petitioner are satisfied over statement of deputy superintendent jail and DIG Jails.

PM Shehbaz meets Saudi Investment Minister

RIYADH (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with the Saudi Investment Minister Engr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Mr. Mohammed Al-Tuwaijri, Advisor Royal Court on the sidelines of the Arab Islamic Summit, Monday in Riyadh.

The meeting was held to follow-up on the recent engagements for economic cooperation between the two countries. The Prime Minister appreciated the progress on major projects under discussion and acknowledged the efforts of the technical teams for their close cooperation to further strengthening economic partnership in diverse fields.

Non-bailable arrest warrants of Sarim Burney issued

KARACHI (INP): A court in Karachi on Monday issued non-bailable arrest warrants of Aliya Sarim Burney, and also declared her as co-accused in human trafficking and tempering of documents case.

During hearing of the case, investigation officer of FIA also submitted final challan of the case.

According to challan Sarim Burney submitted fake/forged documents in the court about custody of the children.

The challan further stated that the children were found on the gate of the Trust, but later it was detected that the parents of the children themselves handed over children to the Trust.

Allama Iqbal gave political awakening to Muslims: Musvi

SUKKUR (APP): In connection with Iqbal Day, the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU) Sukkur Regional Campus organised a rthday ceremony to pay tribute to Dr Allama Iqbal on Monday.

Regional Director AIQU Sukkur, Sayed Atta Hussain Musvi said that it was the day to pay homage to the great philosopher-poet, Allama Iqbal, whose writings instilled a love for an independent homeland among the Muslims of the subcontinent. Through his poetry, he said that Allama Iqbal gave a political awakening to the Muslims of the region and awakened them from the slumber of ignorance.

He said that the entire nation observed Allama Iqbal's birth anniversary with great devotion and respect. "His thoughts inspired the youth to pursue knowledge, innovation, and social and individual development. He ignited the passion and enthusiasm in the youth to progress", he added.

Musvi said that Allama Iqbal's philosophy continues to guide people of all races and backgrounds, and by following his teachings, we can overcome the challenges facing our country.

Haroon terms education important for country's development

KARACHI (APP): Former Representative of Pakistan to United Nations Organization (UNO) and Pakistan Movement leader Abdullah Hussain Haroon on Monday termed education very important for the development of the country.

Sindh Madressatul Islam inherits a historic background from where his grandfather Sir Abdullah Haroon and other great personalities had received their early education, Hussain Haroon stated this while delivering lecture titled "My Experiences and Encounters" under popular lecture series of Sindh Madressatul Islam University.

Haroon narrated his early education in Karachi, services of his family in education, social work, politics, diplomacy and philanthropy, his professional career at national and international level, issues of education and environmental and Karachi's past and present days.

Abdullah Hussain Haroon paid great tribute to

SMI's founding father Khan Bahadur Hassanally Effendi and teachers. He termed education a very important for development of the country. Hussain Haroon, who also served as Speaker Sindh Assembly, said his grandfather Sir Abdullah Haroon along with Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah had highly contributed in making of Pakistan, and he was a close associate of Quaid-e-Azam.

He said Aga Khan and his grandfather Sir Abdullah Haroon had financially supported Aligarh university in the days when it was facing a financial crisis.

Talking on his family's parliamentary role Abdullah Hussain Haroon said his family had played a significant role in the parliamentary politics and among them were Sir Abdullah Haroon, Yousuf Haroon and he himself. He said in the time of Yousuf Haroon as the Chief Minister Sindh in 1950 the Sindh Assembly had passed the Tenancy Act.

Administration of wrong drugs kills millions each year: Speakers

KARACHI (INP): Each year millions of people admitted to hospitals across the world for treatment die due to administration of wrong medicines, even though the situation can be improved if pharmacists are inducted into the healthcare system in a better manner.

This was stated by Umamah Muzzamil, a general manager at the PharmEvo Private Ltd, during a conference organised in connection with the World Pharmacists

Day 2024 by the Faculty of Pharmacy of Hamdard University.

In her keynote address, she pointed out that a study carried out for the Johns Hopkins University had shown that medical errors (as a separate category) were among the top three reasons for deaths of patients. Similarly, a study carried out by the National Health Service of Britain had revealed that hundreds of millions of people die every year due to medication errors.

Father of the children named Abdul Rab who was 50-year-old also injured in the accident.

Bus crushes three children, one dies in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): One child died on the spot while two other children and their father seriously wounded when a speedy passenger bus hit their motorcycle near Baldia Police Training Center in Karachi on Monday morning.

Rescue sources said that all the three children were riding on a motorcycle along with their father. One child was wearing a school uniform.

The children were identified as Abdul Latif son of Abdul Rab was 13-year-old, Abdullah was five and his daughter Saeeda was 11.



KARACHI: Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev meets with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Foolproof security for churches orders

SUKKUR (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sukkur, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh, on Monday directed the police to ensure foolproof security arrangements for churches in the district.

He said that the police should remain fully vigilant to thwart any nefarious design of miscreants.

He also directed that foolproof security should be ensured around churches, worship places, shopping areas, markets, hotels, parks, and other recreational sites in the city by exploiting all available resources.

Shafqat pays tribute to security forces on killing terrorists

SUKKUR (APP): Senior politician advocate Sayed Shafqat Ali Shah on Monday has paid tribute to the security forces for killing 6 terrorists in North Waziristan.

In his state-ments issued here, the prominent political figure Sayed Shafqat Ali Shah said that killing 6 terrorists and injuring 6 other Khawarij.



KARACHI: Senator Quratulain Marri, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Planning, presides over a meeting to review PSDP projects for Sindh at Sindh Secretariat.

Allama Iqbal Day celebrated in SZABIST

LARKANA (APP): Allama Iqbal Day was celebrated by Defenders of Pakistan Organization in collaboration with Szabaist College Larkana on Monday.

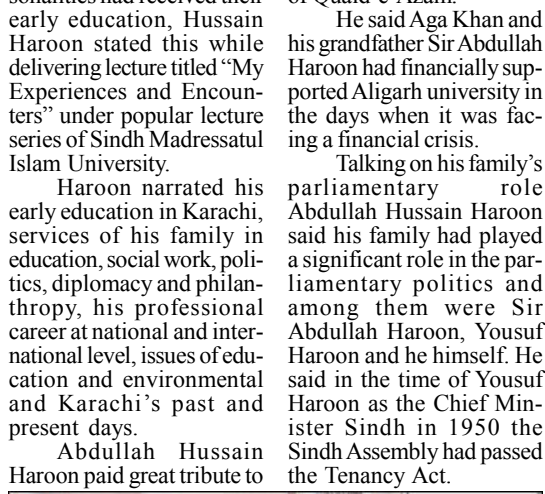
Addressing on the occasion, Principal Szabaist College Faheem Solangi said that Allama Iqbal awoke the Muslims of the Sub-continent through his universal poetry and political acumen by presenting idea of the creation of Pakistan through his historic address at Allahabad in 1930. He said Allama Iqbal's address at Allahabad gave a clear direction and separate identity to Muslims of the Sub-Continent.

DSP Zahid Hussain Tunio while paying tribute to the Pak forces for their valuable services on the UN mission abroad and appreciating

their efforts said we should be proud of our Armed forces for defending the country.

Muhammad Yousif Shaikh, chairman of Defender of Pakistan Organization, called for unity and appreciated the sacrifices made by Pakistan's armed forces. He emphasized the importance of recognizing the capabilities of the Pakistani forces and the role they play in protecting the nation.

Mian Maid Azhar Abbasi, Zubair Sheikh, Rashid Main Chief Organizer Education Wing, Rajendra Kumar of Minority Wing Sindh, Ramesh Kumar, Waseem Mungrio of Youth Wing and other officials including Makhdoom Sanaullah Qureshi Sajjada Nashin Dargah Abad Bhutto attended the event.



HYDERABAD: Private Sector employees are registered themselves into Sindh Employees Security Institution (SESSI) Scheme, at a Registration Camp in Hyderabad.