

# Independent

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## Pakistan for redefining climate finance to enable developing countries meet NDC goals: PM

Shehbaz calls for \$6.8 trillion in climate funding for developing nations; Highlights Pakistan's recent experience with devastating floods, which have left country struggling to rebuild

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the world community for redefining the global climate finance to enable climate vulnerable developing countries to meet their NDC goals, half of which may take around US\$6.8 trillion by 2030.

The prime minister, addressing the high level climate finance roundtable on the sidelines of COP29 - international climate negotiations' multilateral forum held under the patronage of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - emphasized the urgent need to build momentum for reforming international financial architecture, "forging a path where no nation is left behind in the global response to climate change."

PM Shehbaz while elaborating the purpose of the roundtable briefed the participants that it was intended to foster new thinking on an old problem that was becoming complicated on all the international climate forums without yielding substantial results.

"We stand at a crucial threshold where global climate finance framework must be redefined to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable nations. Despite years of promises and repeated commitments, the gaps are growing in quantum leaps leading to egregious barriers in achieving objectives of UNFCCC. We all agree that financing resilience as well as ambi-

tion is the most urgent need of the hour," the prime minister said.

He said that the developing countries needed to deliver to their masses on nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) that was why it was imperative to spur both ideas and discourse to make international climate finance more responsive, equitable and sufficient enough to address solutions at various scale enhancing effectiveness of climate finance.

Prime Minister Shehbaz underscored that the donor countries should fulfill their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as developing assistance and capitalize existing climate funds.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the High-Level Climate Finance Roundtable hosted by Pakistan at COP-29 Climate Action Summit in Baku.

## Children represent future foundations of strong Pak: CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that our children represent the future foundations of a strong Pakistan, and their well-being and development must be our collective priority.

This he said while speaking at a UNICEF Pakistan concert organised to celebrate World Children's Day, themed 'Listen to the Future' at Pakistan Arts Council. Minister Education Sardar Ali Shah, UNICEF Representative Abdullah Fadil and UN Resident Coordinator Mohammad Yahya, and others were present on occasion.

Shah expressed gratitude for the commitment to advancing children's rights, acknowledged World Children's Day as a vital moment for Pakistan and underscored the need for continued action to ensure every child's right to a bright future.

"Happy World Children's Day to every child in Sindh, Pakistan and around the globe," Chief Minister Murad Shah said

and emphasised that the celebration reaffirms Sindh's commitment to child rights.

He said that, in collaboration with UNICEF and other UN partners, provincial government was dedicated to ensuring all children receive the support they deserve.

The CM praised the diversity represented at the event, highlighting how children from every region of Pakistan embody the nation's unity and strength. He thanked UNICEF and its partners for their relentless efforts, particularly in alignment with Pakistan's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have been integral to the country's vision since 2016.

He added that Pakistan's adoption of the SDGs is part of a broader mission to drive reforms and investments that prioritize the nation's youth and secure a prosperous future.

With nearly 20 million children in Sindh alone,

Murad Shah recognised the province's significant responsibility, saying "Our children represent the future foundations of a strong nation, and their well-being, education and over all development must be our collective priority."

He also welcomed UNICEF's National Ambassador, Saba Qamar, whose recent visit to Sindh has amplified the importance of advocating for child rights.

The chief minister called for urgent attention to pressing issues, such as high rates of malnutrition and lack of access to safe water.

He urged a renewed commitment to ensure that all children can grow in safe, nurturing environments.

Chief Minister Shah echoed UNICEF's message for World Children's Day 2024: "Listen to the Future."

He emphasised that a better future for all children is achievable if their rights are honoured and protected.

## Sindh Governor sees UAE partnership revolutionizing logistics in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): The Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Tuesday, said that the partnership between Pakistan and AD Ports Group has led to four major agreements poised to revolutionize Pakistan's trade, transportation, and logistics sectors.

These agreements are expected to add billions of rupees annually to the national exchequer and create over thousands of new employment opportunities, he shared the insights during his visit to AD Ports Karachi, said a statement issued here.

The Chief Executive Officer, AD Ports Pakistan Khurram Aziz provided a comprehensive briefing while the event was attended by UAE Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi, the CEO AD Ports Group Mohamed Ali

Tamimi, CEO of International Ports Asia & Africa Abdulaziz Balooshi, and other officials.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori expressed his delight in visiting AD Ports, stating that the infrastructure upgrades supported by Abu Dhabi Ports will enhance Karachi Port's capacity. This transformation will position Karachi as a vital trade hub between South Asia, the Arab world, and Africa.

Emphasizing the significant role of workers in these projects, Kamran Khan Tessori noted that progress on the ports would not be possible without the dedication of laborers, whose efforts are strengthening the national economy. He stressed on keeping the welfare of these hardworking individuals as a top priority.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori talks to media during his visit to AD Ports.

## Govt to launch operation against drug dealers across Sindh

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Sindh Government has decided to launch a major operation against drug dealers across the province on Wednesday. The Excise and Narcotics Control Department will carry out the operation against drug dealers.

In the first phase, the operation will target two major cities, Karachi and Hyderabad. Subsequent phases will extend the operation to other districts of Sindh.

The Senior Minister of Sindh and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit,

Minister Shrajeel Memon chaired an important meeting of the Excise and Narcotics Control Wing which was attended by Secretary Excise Muhammad Saleem Rajput, DG Narcotics Control Wing Aurangzeb Akbar Panwar and other officers.

Senior Minister also directed that a phased operation should begin across the province, with the first phase focusing on eliminating drug peddlers in Karachi and Hyderabad.

He stated that by expanding the scope of the anti-drug operation, it would soon be launched in



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with UNICEF Representative, Abdullah Fadil and UN Resident Coordinator, Muhammad Yahya during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## PM interacts with world leaders at COP29 summit; bilateral ties, climate change discussed

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday interacted with the global leaders as they gathered here to participate in the opening plenary "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29).

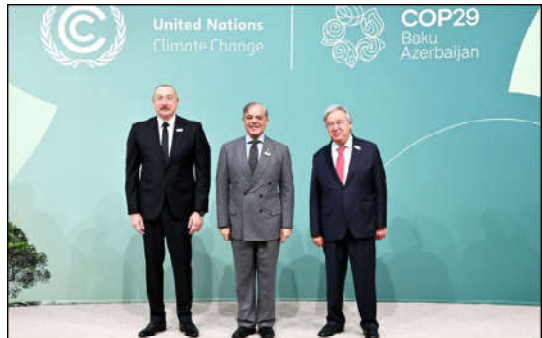
President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warmly received the prime minister as he arrived at the summit venue, according to a PM Office press release.

As the participating leaders gathered for a fam-

ily photo, Prime Minister Shehbaz held an informal interaction with them and exchanged pleasantries besides discussing matters of mutual interest.

He interacted with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed matters of mutual interest including bilateral cooperation in the climate change field.

During interaction with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkish First Lady Emine Erdogan, the two sides discussed ways to cooperate in highlighting the issues of climate change and environmental pollution at the international level.



BAKU: Secretary General United Nations Antonio Guterres and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at the inaugural session of COP-29 Climate Action Summit in Baku.

## Mayor Karachi expresses support for the Youth Parliament's Karachi Vision 2030 program

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday expressed support for the Youth Parliament's Karachi Vision 2030 program, encouraging the youth, particularly students, to work alongside the government in efforts for improvement.

He shared these thoughts during a meeting with a 40-member delegation of the Youth Parliament, led by Rizwan Jaffer, at the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation head office.

During the meeting, the goals and activities of the Youth Parliament were shared with the mayor, and a request was made for him to participate in the upcoming conference in January next year, which will mark the launch of the Karachi Vision 2030 Charter, and to provide his patronage to the program.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab mentioned that Karachi was once a great city, but the situation has since changed.

He stressed that the city's historic buildings are invaluable assets, and efforts are being made at all levels to preserve and properly use them.

## Pak opposes additional permanent seats in UNSC

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan has once again opposed any proposal for the creation of additional permanent seats in the UN Security Council.

Delivering a statement in the UN General Assembly, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Munir Akram emphasized that addition of new permanent members will only deepen the paralysis within the Security Council.

Munir Akram said the ongoing genocidal war in Gaza has proven that the Security Council's frequent failures to effectively respond to threats to international peace and security are due to the inability of its permanent members to agree on a decisive action.

## Shujaat demands naming roads after Quetta blast martyrs

LAHORE (INP): Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Moshin Naqvi on Tuesday called on Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain at his Gulberg residence in the capital.

PML-Q president condemned the Quetta railway station attack while demanding to name roads in Islamabad after the martyrs to which Naqvi agreed.



KARACHI: Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Faryal Talpur chairing a high-level meeting at the Sindh Assembly building.

## Standing Committee grills Sindh police on law and order

**Independent Report** KARACHI: A high-level meeting of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs took place at the Sindh Assembly Building in Karachi to discuss various agenda items.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Faryal Talpur. Among the participants were Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hasan Lanjar, Additional Chief Secretary for Home, IGP Sindh, all Additional IGs, DIGs, & District SSSPs. IGP Sindh gave a detailed briefing on the law and order situation in the province, anti-street crime efforts, and ongoing police operations in the Kacha areas.

He mentioned that kidnapping incidents in Kacha areas have taken the form of "honey traps," but

the police force is vigilant and alert to protect citizens. He also expressed gratitude to the Sindh government for providing modern weapons to the police.

The IGP shared details of absconding and wanted criminals and the crackdown on tinted windows, blue lights, fake/fancy number plates, along with the efforts to enhance CTD's capabilities.

According to the IG, 40 toll plazas under the S4 project are equipped with CCTV cameras to combat crime. Additionally, he informed the meeting about online verification of citizens' data, issuance of driving licenses, e-tagging, and search and hotel check-in apps. He also confirmed that the Safe City project has entered its first phase.

## PTI leaders released following brief detention

RAWALPINDI (INP): Several top PTI leaders were taken into custody on Tuesday from outside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi for violating Section 144 but were released shortly afterwards after being issued a warning, police said.

Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is a legal provision that empowers district administrations to prohibit an assembly of four or more people in an area for a limited period. It is usually imposed to prevent potential disturbances, maintain law and order, and curb any activities that might escalate into violence.

## European Air Safety Committee to meet on Nov 19 to discuss Pak flights

KARACHI (INP): A big opportunity for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to get the ban imposed on Pakistani airlines' flights, including those of the PIA, to the European countries lifted, a highly important meeting of the European Air Safety Committee will be held in Brussels on November 19 to discuss the issue.

Four years ago, the flights operation of the country's airlines to different destinations in Europe had come to a halt after an irresponsible statement made by a minister in the last PTI government regarding pilots' licenses had prompted the European governments to bar flights from Pakistan from entering their countries' airspace.



KARACHI: Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh, Sharifullah, presides over a meeting to review arrangements for the upcoming Local Bodies election across the province.

## Shah defends transparency in flood-affected school restoration tenders

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Sindh's Minister for Education and Minerals Development, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, has addressed concerns over the tenders issued for restoring flood-affected schools and the negative news surrounding the process.

He clarified that the tendering procedure was conducted transparently, adhering to all rules and standard operating procedures (SOPs). The minister revealed that 20,000 schools in Sindh were affected by the devastating floods, and efforts to restore them are ongoing. Of these, tenders were issued for 481 schools in collaboration with the federal government under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP). However, disputes among contractors and petitions by ha-

bitual litigants have caused unnecessary delays, affecting the Education Department's ability to carry out its plans.

Syed Sardar Ali Shah emphasized that children's education is a priority, and delays caused by legal challenges to the tendering process harm students' futures.

"Taking any project to the tender stage is itself a hallmark of transparency," he said, noting that the process involves three stages: technical opening, financial opening, and tender awarding. The minister further stated that only companies with strong profiles are shortlisted after thorough evaluations. He assured that the Education Department will present all relevant details in court during the next hearing, in compliance with legal requirements.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### System failure

The experiments continue apace, with nary a worry for their consequences. Internet users countrywide experienced yet another disruption in their digital lives this past Sunday when an "issue with the system" rendered not only various VPN services but also popular platforms useless or inaccessible for a period of five hours or so. This time, the problems faced by internet users were not specific: some said they could not use VPNs at all, some said they could use them on mobile data, some said they were only working on broadband, while others still said they faced no issue. At the same time, various websites, social media platforms, internet service providers and even bank payment systems were also seemingly affected by the breakdown.

As usual, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority decided it would say nothing about what was going on, leaving the people speculating about what fresh changes it was making to the internet communications infrastructure. Clearly, the authorities have yet to come to terms with how rapidly Pakistan is adapting to the digital age. From the bustling metropolises to rural backwaters, smartphones have connected Pakistanis of all shades to the modern world like never before and created unprecedented economic opportunities both for the country and for those within it in the process.

However, it often appears as if the relevant institutions still see the right to internet connectivity as an essential means of communication as a privilege. They often treat it with the same disdain as they do civil and political rights. They seem to believe that all digital activity should be managed with an "on/off switch", with which the voices of millions of users can be silenced on a whim. And because few dare to question such ideas or ask for accountability, their actions continue to cause immeasurable economic damage.

Just a few months ago, a popular freelancing platform had temporarily flagged Pakistani gig workers as "unavailable" because of their inability to ensure uninterrupted accessibility to their clients. Many industry leaders and commerce bodies also warned that continuous experimentation with the country's communications infrastructure would discourage foreign investors from setting up shop in Pakistan or outsourcing their business to local service providers.

It seems that those warnings fell on deaf ears. It is also not only those who export their services who are being affected. Local e-commerce, which has mushroomed in recent years, has faced severe disturbances due to our authorities' inability to resist tinkering with the internet, and many businesses stand to lose serious money if the situation does not improve soon. Given the already decrepit state of our economy, this should be unacceptable to policymakers — more so since Pakistan plans to leverage its digital economy to boost overall growth.

## Power discipline

Ammar Qaseem

Electricity demand in the national grid plummeted by 17 per cent in August this year, compared to the same period last year. It is common to attribute the blame to unforeseen circumstances or incorrect forecasting, as is evident in the recent memoirs of former civil servant Salman Faruqi, who attributed the induction of a large number of IPPs in the national grid to incorrect projections of electricity demand by the government in the 1990s. While his account may carry weight, it is high time the government realised that the plummeting demand for electricity is not independent of its own behaviour.

Flawed planning, coupled with erratic policies, has alienated consumers and investors alike, and the recent rise in rooftop net metering is an example of the public's growing distrust in the government's ability to provide reliable energy. This comes at a time when the government is planning to add 19.8 GW of additional generation capacity in the grid within the next decade. Without careful reassessment, Pakistan risks burdening itself with unnecessary electricity projects that could impose unsustainable costs for generations to come, a mistake that we have continued to make in the past and are in the process of making yet again.

The government's planning of generation capacity expansion continues to face credibility challenges despite being regularly conducted within an established regulatory framework. The Integrated Generation Capacity Expansion Plan is a comprehensive document prepared annually by the National Transmission and Dispatch Company as per

the Grid Code, 2022, and approved by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra). The IGCEP plays a crucial role in the power sector, outlining the specific power plants that will be constructed under least-cost criteria in the next 10 years. The plan notably limits the share of wind and solar technologies to 13 per cent of the total capacity by 2034, in stark violation of the Alternative and Renewable Energy policy, 2019, in which a target of 30pc wind and solar capacity by 2030 was set by the government.

A critical evaluation carried out by Renewables First and the Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development has further shown that nearly \$10 billion can be saved in total system costs if projects that are deemed committed beyond 2027 in the latest IGCEP are re-evaluated on merit. At the same time, this re-evaluation would allow for a higher share of wind and solar technologies in the national grid — as high as 20pc (10 GW) of the total capacity by 2034 in medium-growth scenarios. Committed projects are plants that have not been built or have not entered commercial operation to date, yet their feasibility is not evaluated by the IGCEP, and they bypass the least-cost criteria under the pretext of their advanced status.

It is also important to note that the net metering quantum continues to increase in the national grid and has already crossed 2 GW. If this trend continues, no further capacity additions would be necessary in the national grid. Measures must be taken to improve electricity demand, including incentives for shifting captive load to the grid, augmentation and

rehabilitation of the transmission system, and promotion of electric vehicle-friendly policies which can massively increase electricity off-take from the grid. It is also important to give up on mega-scale projects such as Diamer Bhasha and Chashma-5, which are neither needed in the grid, nor fulfil the least-cost criteria.

While it is important to set clear plans, it is also necessary to implement them. Each year, the IGCEP lays down some quantum of wind and solar to be added to the national grid. However, the government has failed to procure a single project of re-newable technology through competitive bidding in the past five years. The attempt — twice — to procure 600 MW of solar technology under the fast-track framework failed spectacularly as it did not receive a single bid from investors. This was not hard to foresee, and the government had been warned by experts but their advice went unheeded.

On the contrary, recent auctions by K-Electric received winning bids of four cents and 3.1 cents per unit for solar and hybrid projects, the lowest in our history, and a clear sign that investors would rather do business with the private sector than the government. Perhaps this is also an indication of the sector's readiness to be opened for competitive bilateral trade of electricity, as envisioned under the Co-mpetitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market, formally approved by Nepra in 2020 but still awaiting operationalisation. Will the policymakers act in a timely and prudent manner? One certainly hopes so. — Courtesy Dawn

## Economic pipe dream

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Regime gurus claim to have put us on the path of progress — except that all past regimes falsely claimed this too. Progress includes not only economic stability and durable growth but also equity and sustainability. Each earlier trait is necessary but not sufficient to produce the latter ones.

So far, we have only regained economic stability after the 2022 crisis, with falling inflation and interest rates, a stable rupee and higher dollar reserves. But past rulers, too, gave us stability after crises — the PPP after 2008, following the crisis under the PML-Q; the PML-N after 2013, following the crisis under the PPP; the PTI after 2018, following the crisis under the PML-N; and now the PML-N after 2022, following the crisis under the PTI. Each inherited and bequeathed a crisis. But no party produced durable growth. So, the PML-N may fail again.

These crises are a result of the flawed ways in which we have pursued growth. China and India's growth came by upping investment and productivity via reforms. China's investment-GDP ratio is 40 per cent, while India's is 30pc. Our highest level under the PML-Q, PML-N and PTI was 18pc, 17pc and 15pc. Our productivity is low too, as we shun reforms. We achieve growth via high external and fiscal deficits and money supply growth. But the first shrinks reserves while the next two generate inflation to cause crises and end growth. We must not be fooled by the high growth but check the investment and twin deficit ratios to see if growth is durable.

Attaining economic stability after a

crisis is easy. Under IMF-led reforms, it can be achieved largely via administrative fiat in a few months. The State Bank chief can up interest rates and devalue the rupee by ending its dollar sales. The finance guru can cut development outlays, up import tariffs and borrow from the Gulf and China. These can shrink the deficits to contain the crisis, but they also cut growth badly. But it took the PML-N much longer to do so due to Ishaq Dar's policies. The PML-N also put the burden of crisis on the poor, while shielding the rich from taxes. Even our new-found stability is at risk as the expected early arrival of the IMF team shows.

To now achieve durable growth, the PML-N has to usher in huge reforms in sick state units, the energy sector, subsidies, tax and tariff structures, and the bureaucracy to increase investment, productivity, sectoral growth and exports. But all our major parties shun reforms as they harm the elites. The second step is the most critical but even harder — to develop a creative vision for a pro-poor economy and upgrade exports via a deep study of niches in the global economy and allow dynamic entrepreneurs to enter them. But none of our political parties think this way. Most think that after stability, our market will achieve such growth itself. However, our market is as stagnant as our state. Many ills, for example, sleaze, originate in the market whose elites capture the state for their own good. The 2022 political change led to key exits at the Planning Commission to end a solo effort there on crafting such an export strategy.

The new IMF deal, with its usual neoliberal bent, covers such reforms, but patchily and without a new economic vision. Such external reform pressure must come proactively before a crisis, when its seeds are laid via high twin deficits etc, to pre-empt the high cost of the crisis. So, the PML-N itself must develop a strong reform, growth, equity and sustainability agenda. However, strong outcomes stem from strong strategies which come from a strong team. One look at the anaemic, politically appointed, economic and social sector teams at the centre and in the provinces shows that durable growth cannot be achieved, let alone equity or sustainability, without merit.

So far, the government has failed to carry out even basic reforms in FBR, the energy sector and state units, as the PIA sale fiasco shows. That was the failure of not only the state but also our market and of the 'privatisation only' neoliberal mantra that ignores better restructuring options: management transfer, independent boards, or staff-owned companies. Its investment pursuit via the controversial SIFC reflects a faulty triple focus: foreign flows but not local ones, even for non-dollar earning sectors; politicised flows from big states but not reform-induced private flows; and low-end sectors such as mining and corporate farming that cause social problems. Thus, its efforts will either give precarious economic stability sans growth, like PPP during 2008-13, or high growth that causes another economic crisis. But sustainable and equitable growth will again remain elusive pipe dreams. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Pakistan, Finland seek stronger trade ties, explore new sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Finland are moving toward a new chapter in economic relations following a productive meeting between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, and Finland's Ambassador to Pakistan, Hannu Ripatti.

The ambassador met with Jam Kamal Khan at the Commerce Ministry to discuss strategies for expanding trade ties and exploring untapped areas for collaboration, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Minister Jam

welcomed Ambassador Ripatti and reaffirmed the Pakistani government's commitment to strengthening economic ties with Finland. "I believe in deep coordination with our counterparts to enhance trade relations," Jam stated, emphasizing the importance of identifying dormant sectors and activating them for economic benefit.

The minister highlighted his vision of tapping into untapped resources and expanding into areas such as education, information

technology, textile, health, construction, and social development. There is a possibility of a government-level delegation from Finland visiting Pakistan, which could mark a milestone for both countries, with expectations to solidify agreements and increase investment opportunities, he added.

One of the key initiatives discussed during the meeting was Pakistan's establishment of the National Compliance Council (NCC), which seeks to ensure that local products meet

international standards. Minister Jam Kamal explained that the NCC will work with provincial and federal bodies to "sensitize" them on the importance of compliance, positioning Pakistani exports to be competitive in international markets. "The NCC will play a crucial role in aligning our products with global quality standards," Jam added.

Finland's presence in Pakistan's business landscape has already proven fruitful, with companies such as Nokia, Kone,



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb holding a meeting with Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, at the Finance Division in Islamabad. The meeting was also attended by the Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Langrial.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the PIFD Karachi chapter.

### Pakistanis turning to harvest opportunities in homeland: FCCI President

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistanis migrated abroad decades ago are now returning to harvest the opportunities available in the homeland, said Rehan Naseem Bharara, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Addressing a 9-member Irish trade delegation at the FCCI, he said that it is the third largest chamber of Pakistan representing the business community of the metropolis.

He said that Faisalabad is known as the Manchester of Pakistan because of its state-of-the-art textile sector. He said that the

number of industrial units have increased to 7,000 with diversification in various sectors of the economy.

He said that Faisalabad has one of the largest chemical plants while its pharmaceutical sector was also making phenomenal growth. "With the help of foreign and domestic investment, we could introduce latest technologies to further improve the quality of different units.

We need sustainable and environment-friendly technologies to exploit the full potential of livestock, processing and other segments of the economy."

### FTO appoints LCCI President Mian Abuzar as Advisor

LAHORE (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman has appointed President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry as Advisor to the Federal Tax Ombudsman. This appointment recognizes his outstanding contributions to the business community and his continuous efforts to address their concerns.

Expressing his gratitude for the confidence placed in him, Mian Abuzar Shad said, "I am honored by the trust the Federal Tax Ombudsman has shown in me. I will prioritize resolving the tax-related issues of the business community." The announcement has been warmly welcomed by business circles who regard Mian Abuzar Shad as a key advocate for their interests. They said that his leadership and commitment to the business sector have earned him recognition as a strong voice for the community. Industry leaders believe that Mian Abuzar Shad's vast experience and dedication will be instrumental in addressing the longstanding challenges within the tax system. They are confident that his involvement will help simplify the tax processes.

### Ambassador Linulf says: Danish Embassy, SDPI Carbon Markets Project to bridge knowledge gaps

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Embassy of Denmark in Pakistan, together launched the second phase of the knowledge partnership initiative titled "Unlocking the Potential of Carbon Markets in Pakistan."

The launch of project was announced at reception of high-level delegates, diplomats, and

policy makers of Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Speaking at the inception, Ambassador of Denmark, Jakob Linulf said, "This partnership has not only bridged knowledge gaps but has also fostered collaboration between federal and provincial governments, setting a solid foundation for a sustainable carbon market framework in Pakistan."

### Promotion of trade activities vital to uplift economy: SCCI

SARGODHA (APP): Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) President Khawaja Yasir Qayyum on Tuesday stressed the need for further reforms in trade policies to support the growth of local industries and remove obstacles faced by the business community. Talking to APP, he also emphasised the importance of addressing the lack of banking channels with countries

like Iran to facilitate smooth and more viable trade processes. He also called for the inclusion of local industries in the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS), as the absence of industrial development was leading to increased unemployment and social issues among the youth. Regional trade, transit trade, land trade corridors, border markets, and the promotion of barter trade were essential, he observed.

### Dr. Khalid underscores role of creative education in driving economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Tuesday underscored the role of creative education in driving economic growth and societal transformation. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Karachi Chapter of Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) at the historic Mohatta Palace Museum. The minister highlighted the importance

of trade, fashion, and design for Pakistan's future. This milestone event celebrated PIFD's expansion into Karachi, with a mission to promote education in fashion and design for a brighter future, said a news release received from Karachi.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Hina Tayyaba Khalil emphasized PIFD's role in cultivating design talent and contributing to the nation's cultural and economic landscape.

Dr. Maqbool Siddiqui's commitment to advancing skill development through education was a central theme, and his efforts were pivotal in establishing the PIFD Karachi Chapter. The establishment of PIFD Karachi Chapter was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Federal Secretary, Education and Professional Training, whose vision has been critical to this initiative.

### Gold prices decrease by Rs.7,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.7,000 and was sold at Rs.270,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.277,500, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also came down by Rs.6,000 to Rs.231,911 from Rs.237,911 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold decreased to Rs.212,584 from Rs.218,085.

### Women have vital role in economy: Qurratul Ain

LAHORE (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Acting President Qurratul Ain said on Tuesday that women's role in Pakistan's economy is vital, and their day and night work should prove more helpful in the country's development.

FPCCI has consistently recognized women's role and has provided numerous

opportunities for women entrepreneurs, she said and added that the FPCCI has taken various initiatives to facilitate women's economic independence and entrepreneurship.

She expressed these views here at a special meeting with the newly elected presidents of all Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Punjab.



## Punjab Governor says: Smog is a big problem needs to be addressed on war footing basis

LAHORE (Online): A delegation of PPP members of parliament and Mohmand Agency Loya Jirga met with the Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House Lahore. The deteriorating smog situation in the province was discussed in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that there is a need to solve the basic problems faced by the people and take practical steps to address the current smog situation.

He said that smog is a big problem that needs to be addressed on war footing basis. Governor Punjab said that due to smog, business and life have been paralyzed and the people are suffering from

diseases. In these circumstances, the people cannot be left at the mercy of smog. He said that the Punjab government is nowhere to be seen at this time. Governor Punjab said that the Punjab government should realize the seriousness of the situation and ensure practical steps to resolve it.

Governor Punjab said that democracy was vital to the strengthening of institutions to bring stability in the country. He said that the success of coalition government is essential for the development and prosperity of the country. Punjab Governor further said that he was determined to fulfill his constitutional responsibilities for the betterment of the

province.

On this occasion, the Mohmand Loya Jirga delegation apprised the Punjab Governor of various problems faced by them.

The delegation told the Punjab Governor that they are facing difficulties in obtaining identity cards and passports. Punjab Governor assured the delegation to resolve the problems by talking to the NADRA Chairman and other officials.

The PPP members of parliament included MNA Samina Khalid Ghurki, former MNA Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed, MPA Qazi Ahmed Saad, senior PPP leaders Aurangzeb Burki, Azizur Rehman Chan and others, while the Mohmand Loya Jirga delegation included Haji Sanobar Khan.



LAHORE: A delegation of PPP members of parliament and Mohmand Agency Loya Jirga in a group photo with the Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

## LHC wraps up petition filed against allowing security agencies to record phone calls

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) while declaring unnecessary the miscellaneous petition filed against granting permission to security agencies to record phone calls of citizens has wrapped up the plea.

Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Aalia Neelum took up petition filed by Judicial activism panel and others for hearing Tuesday.

Assistant Attorney General Rafaqat Dogar appeared on behalf of the

government.

Challenging July 8 notification the petitioners took plea in the petitions that recording calls of citizens runs contrary to the constitution. It is requested to court to declare notification on phone calls tapping null and void.

The CJ while declaring the petition unnecessary and wrapping it up remarked Justice Farooq Haider has been nominated for hearing such cases.

## Entry of buses, vans banned on BRT route in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration has banned the entry of buses and vans onto the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) route to address traffic-related issues.

The decision was made during a meeting attended by the Deputy Commissioner and other officials from relevant departments to discuss traffic congestion and problems related to rickshaws and loaders in the city. The committee extensively discussed measures to tackle Peshawar's traffic issues and decided to prohibit buses and vans from entering the BRT route.

## CM Punjab sets Dec 31 deadline for revamping 1,236 health centers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the record revamping of health centers across the province is nearing completion.

In her statement on Tuesday, she revealed that the project to upgrade and rehabilitate 1,236 health centers in Punjab is progressing rapidly.

"Dilapidated health centers will be transformed into makeshift clinics to ensure access to healthcare," she said. CM Maryam Nawaz set a deadline of December 31 for the completion of the project, underscoring her commitment to providing the best medical facilities to the people of Punjab.

The CM highlighted that the revamping project includes 286 health centers in Central Punjab, 363 in the North Zone, and 587 in South Punjab. She further shared that 20 percent of health centers in Central Punjab, 28 percent in the North Zone, and over 25 percent in South Punjab have already been completed.

"The transformation of 1,219 health centers into family clinics is progressing rapidly," she added, noting that plastering of 772 units, flooring of 384 units, and finishing work on 74 units are currently underway. "Teams of C&W Punjab are working diligently to ensure the timely completion of the project."

## Bilal Yaseen visits Wasa, reviews digital systems

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Housing and Urban Development Bilal Yaseen paid a visit to the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) Headquarters on Tuesday and reviewed digital system and solarization.

The minister was welcomed by Vice Chairman Chaudhry Shahbaz and Managing Director Ghufuran Ahmed.

During his visit, the minister was given a detailed briefing on the agency's various departments, performance and ongoing projects.

MD Ghufuran Ahmed briefed the minister on several innovative systems being implemented at the Wasa, including the Digital Complaint Management System, Rainwater Board, and the SCADA system, aimed at improving efficiency and service delivery. Discussions also

focused on the Revenue Dashboard, IT reforms, and revenue collection initiatives. Minister Bilal Yaseen expressed his appreciation for the IT reforms and the underground water tank projects, which, he described, as revolutionary steps towards improving public convenience. He emphasized the need for the timely completion of all development projects under the Wasa to ensure better facilities for the public. He underscored the importance of fully digitizing all revenue systems to enhance transparency and operational efficiency. Bilal Yaseen also signaled an immediate push for the implementation of solarization projects as part of efforts to reduce electricity bills and promote cost-saving measures.

## Motorway Police SI dies on Hazara Expressway

PESHAWAR (APP): Sub-inspector of motorway police died and a constable was critically injured when a pickup van hit them on Hazara Expressway on Tuesday.

A motorway police spokesman said the unfortunate incident occurred near the Chinar Kot area on Hazara Expressway, where the motorway police sub-inspector, Shabbir Ahmad, and constable were hit by a van when they were providing assistance to a stalled vehicle.

Both the police officials were shifted to DHQ Hospital Bagram, from where the sub-inspector was referred to AMC Hospital Abbottabad.

Sub-inspector succumbed to his injuries at AMC Hospital.

## SCO expands IT infrastructure in AJK: Lt. Col. Adeel

MIRPUR (APP): The Special Communications Organization (SCO) is rapidly expanding its information technology infrastructure in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) particularly in the Mirpur division, on Tuesday.

According to Lt. Col. Adeel Malik, the SCO's Mirpur Division Commanding Officer, the initiative aims to improve public services and boost economic growth through digital transition.

The SCO is establishing numerous software technology parks and freelancing hubs across the region, providing training and employment opportunities for young people.

Currently, around 50 such centers are operational in AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Further expansion is planned with new facilities slated for completion this year in Bhimbar, Khairwal and Mirpur city, he said.

## 54 cases registered against Imran, detailed report filed in LHC

LAHORE (Online): Detailed report in respect of cases registered against PTI founder Imran Khan has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC).

State counsel Farrukh Lodhi filed the report of cases registered against Imran Khan in the court.

According to report overall 54 cases are registered against Imran Khan in Punjab.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora presenting shield to Ambassador of Netherlands.

## NAB gives clean chit to Sheikh Afzal, Hamesh in BoP fraud case after 17yrs

LAHORE (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday cleared former Bank of Punjab (BoP) president Hamesh Khan and CEO of Harris Steel Industries Sheikh Muhammad Afzal in the BoP fraud case after 17 years, citing a lack of evidence.

A NAB prosecutor filed an application before Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani for the withdrawal of the reference during the proceedings, stating that a recent review revealed no

substantial evidence of corruption against the accused.

He further submitted that the NAB chairman had instructed the withdrawal of the case against the accused.

However, the BoP counsel opposed the withdrawal, arguing that the accused had opened numerous fake accounts and committed fraud.

Sheikh Afzal's lawyer, Muhammad Umar Qureshi, urged the court to officially discharge his client from the case.

# International News

## COP29 host Azerbaijan hits out at West in defence of oil and gas industry

BAKU: The president of Azerbaijan, host of this year's UN climate summit, lashed out at Western critics of his country's oil and gas industry on Tuesday. Speaking in his keynote address at the COP29 climate summit, where nearly 200 nations are negotiating global action on climate change, President Ilham Aliyev described his country as a victim of a "well-orchestrated campaign of slander and blackmail."

Within moments, UN Secretary General took the stage to say that doubling down on fossil fuels was an absurd strategy. The opposing views underscored the challenge at the heart of the climate negotiations: while

nations are urged to shift to green energy sources, many including wealthy Western nations continue to rely on fossil fuels.

Azerbaijan says oil and gas are falling as a share of its economy as it diversifies into other sectors.

"As a president of COP29 of course, we will be strong advocate for green transition, and we are doing it. But at the same time, we must be realistic," said Aliyev, who has labelled his country's oil and gas resources a "gift from god."

"Countries should not be blamed for having them, and should not be blamed for bringing these resources to the market, because the market needs them. The people need them."

He singled out the United States, the world's largest historic carbon emitter, and the European Union for particular criticism.

"Unfortunately, double standards, a habit to lecture other countries, and political hypocrisy became kind of modus operandi for some politicians, state-controlled NGOs and fake news media in some Western countries," he said.

The United States is the world's largest oil and gas producer. European countries, meanwhile, have some of the world's strictest targets to cut emissions by 2030 - but have also raced to secure new gas supplies following Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other leaders pose for a family photo at the United Nations climate change conference, known as COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

## Hit-and-run attack in southern China's Zhuhai kills 35, injures 43

BEIJING: A hit-and-run attack at a sports centre in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai killed 35 people and severely injured 43, local police said on Tuesday.

The incident happened at 7:48pm (1148 GMT) on Monday, when a small off-road vehicle was driven into a large group of people exercising outside the sports centre.

Zhuhai police said in a statement that the suspect, a 62-year-old man surnamed Fan, was being treated at a hospital after

hurting himself with a knife in his car.

A Reuters reporter at the scene on Tuesday evening said people had begun leaving wreaths, counting 18 laid in front of a sign for the Zhuhai People's Fitness Square. Others lit candles and incense. The police presence was low.

A video, verified by Reuters, of the scene on Monday following the attack had shown at least 20 people lying on the ground. Cries of "terrorist" could be heard as ambulances arrived to take the injured to hospital.

## New Israel FM says Palestinian state not 'realistic'

JERUSALEM: Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar on Monday (Nov 11) rejected the establishment of a Palestinian state as a "realistic" goal, after Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas reiterated his commitment to a "sovereign" country.

"I don't think this position is realistic today and we must be realistic," the newly appointed minister said in response to a question about the creation of a Palestinian state in exchange for a normalisation of ties between Israel and Arab countries.

## Israeli strikes kill 37 as attacks intensify in central and southern Gaza, medics say

CAIRO: An Israeli airstrike killed seven people late Monday at a cafe near the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, Palestinian medics said, bringing the death toll from Israeli strikes at least 37.

In central Gaza, Israeli forces earlier on Monday sent tanks into the Nuseirat camp from the west, sparking panic among residents and displaced families as advancing tanks opened fire.

Twenty people were killed by air and ground strikes in Nuseirat, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee sites, overnight and into Monday, including some in a tent encampment, health officials at Al-Awda Hospital in Nuseirat said.

Resident Zaik Mohammad said the tank incursion caught residents

by surprise.

"Some people couldn't leave and remained trapped inside their homes, appealing to be allowed out, while others rushed out with whatever they could carry as they fled," Mohammad, 25, who lives one kilometre (half mile) away from the targeted area, told Reuters via a chat app.

There was no Israeli comment on Monday's violence. With the war in Gaza now in its 14th month, Israel is focusing its operations in the north and centre of the enclave in what it says is a campaign to stop Hamas from waging attacks and regrouping.

Tens of thousands of Palestinian residents have been told to evacuate the areas, fueling fears that they may never be allowed to return.



Lebanese Red Cross members look for remains of bodies at the site of an Israeli airstrike on the northern Lebanese town of Ain Yaaqoub, Lebanon.

## Israeli airstrikes hit Beirut suburbs

BEIRUT: The Israeli military carried out at least five airstrikes on the Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs of Beirut on Tuesday, after Israel's defence minister ruled out any ceasefire in Lebanon until Israel's goals had been met. Smoke rose over Beirut as blasts shook the capital around mid-morning. The explosions followed an Israeli military warning posted on social media identifying 12 sites in the southern suburbs and saying it would take action against them soon. It warned residents they were located

near Hezbollah facilities.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the latest strikes. Residents have largely fled the southern suburbs since Israel began bombing the area in September.

In Israel, air raid sirens sounded in parts of the north, sending residents running for shelter, and the military said a number of "suspicious aerial targets" were launched from Lebanon. There were no reports of injuries. Ignited by the Gaza war, the conflict at the Lebanese-Israeli border had been rumbling.

## Trump picks Kristi Noem as Homeland Security secretary

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump has picked South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem to serve as the next secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, CNN reported on Tuesday, citing two sources. Noem, once seen as a possible running mate for Republican Trump, is currently serving her second four-year term as South Dakota's governor after a landslide re-election victory in 2022. She rose to national prominence after refusing to impose a statewide mask mandate during the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, Noem had a turbulent few months politically this year. She faced widespread backlash in April this year when she wrote in a memoir that she shot to death an "untrainable" dog that she "hated" on her family farm.

## Russia and China must counter any US attempt at containment, Shoigu says

MOSCOW: The key task for Russia and China is to counter any attempt by the United States to contain their countries, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin told China's foreign minister on Tuesday.

US President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose steep tariffs on China and other countries, raising fears of

a trade war and the United States casts China as its biggest competitor and Russia as its biggest nation-state threat.

China's Xi Jinping and Putin in May pledged a "new era" of partnership between the two most powerful rivals of the United States, which they cast as an aggressive Cold War hegemon sowing chaos across the world.

## Afghan Taliban eye aid at their first UN climate talks

BAKU: The first Afghan official to attend UN climate talks since the Taliban came to power has said that his country hopes to benefit from a global finance deal under negotiation at COP29 in Baku. Heading a three-person team, former Taliban negotiator Matiul Haq Khalis stood out in the bustling halls of the conference in Azerbaijan's capital where delegates from nearly 200 countries began two weeks of talks, on Monday.

## Climate crisis worsening already 'hellish' refugee situation: UN

GENEVA: Climate change is contributing to record numbers of people being uprooted from their homes globally, while worsening the often already "hellish" conditions of displacement, the United Nations said on Tuesday. With international climate talks underway in Baku, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) highlighted how soaring global temperatures and extreme weather events are impacting displacement numbers and conditions, as it called for more and better investment in mitigating the risks.

In a fresh report, UNHCR pointed to how climate shocks in places like Sudan, Somalia and Myanmar were interacting with conflict to push those already in danger into even more dire situations.

"Across our warming world, drought, floods, life-threatening heat and other extreme weather events are creating emergencies with alarm-

ing frequency," UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi said in the foreword to the report.

"People forced to flee their homes are on the front lines of this crisis," he said, pointing out that 75 per cent of displaced people live in countries with high-to-extreme exposure to climate-related hazards. "As the speed and scale of climate change increase, this figure will only continue to rise."

A record 120 million people already live forcibly displaced by war, violence and persecution — most of them inside their own countries, UNHCR figures from June showed. "Globally, the number of people that have been displaced by conflict has doubled over the last 10 years," Andrew Harper, UNHCR's special advisor on climate action, pointed out to AFP. At the same time, UNHCR pointed to recent data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre indicating that weather-related disasters have displaced some 220 million people inside their countries.



# ECC approves Rs. 16.995 bn for Technical Supplementary Grant

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Tuesday approved a summary submitted by the Ministry of Communications amounting to Rs.16.995 billion for Technical Supplementary Grant.

The ECC considered and approved a summary submitted by the Ministry of Communications (Postal Services Wing) for a Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) amounting to Rs.16.995 billion for clearing of verified pending liabilities of companies/agency partners of Pakistan Post Office Department, said a press release issued here.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held at Finance Division.

The meeting was attended by Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Industries and Production;

Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Power; Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Commerce; Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue; Governor, State Bank of Pakistan; Chairman FBR, Federal Secretaries, and senior officers from ministries concerned and departments.

The ECC also considered and approved a summary submitted by the Election Commission of Pakistan for a TSG of Rs. 1.317 billion in connection with Local Government (bye-elections) in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and Local Government elections in Islamabad (ICT) & Punjab province during FY 2024-25.

The ECC also took up five separate summaries submitted by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) as part of the FBR Transformation Plan earlier approved by the Prime Minister.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with UNFPA Regional Director, Pio Smith during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## OIC, Arab League, & African Union strengthen cooperation to support Palestinian cause at Riyadh Summit

RIYADH (APP): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the League of Arab States, and the African Union Commission signed a landmark document on the sidelines of the Extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit in Riyadh, pledging to intensify joint efforts in support of the Palestinian cause.

The event underscored the unified stance of the Arab, Islamic, and African communities in advocating for a peaceful resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a cause that remains central to regional stability and collective security.

The new cooperation framework is intended to align the efforts of the OIC, Arab League, and African Union to increase diplomatic and humanitarian support for Palestine. By combining resources and coordinating strategies, the three organizations seek to address the escalating humanitarian crisis and ongoing rights violations faced by Palestinians. Key objectives of this agreement include diplomatic engagement with the international community, pushing for a two-state solution, and mobilizing support for Palestine at the United Nations and other global forums.

Prince Faisal praised the partnership, highlighting Saudi Arabia's longstanding commitment to the Palestinian cause and the Kingdom's efforts to bring regional and international actors together in a unified response. He emphasized that the Riyadh summit served as an essential platform for Arab and Islamic leaders to voice their solidarity with Palestine and reaffirm their collective commitment to peace and justice in the region.

The signing of this document is seen as a significant step forward in building a cohesive front among Arab, Islamic, and African nations, as they continue to call for an end to the occupation and advocate for Palestinian rights.

## PM, Danish counterpart agree on enhanced bilateral cooperation on climate change

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen on Tuesday agreed on the need to enhance bilateral cooperation as well as build global consensus on the key climate change priorities so that the planet could be saved from the harmful impact of climate change.

During a meeting on the sidelines of the COP 29, both sides discussed bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Denmark in political, trade and investment, agriculture, information technology and climate change with special emphasis on the areas of green transition and infrastructural development, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Referring to 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Denmark this year, the prime minister stressed on the need to expand economic ties through collaborative partnerships.

The Danish premier conveyed their willingness to work with Pakistan for further bolstering bilateral economic ties and addressing regional and global issues of common interest.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Sir Keir Starmer on the sidelines of COP-29 Climate Action Summit.

## Measures underway to discourage professional beggary: Sindh Minister

Independent Report KARACHI: The Sindh Social Welfare Minister, Mir Tariq Ali Khan Talpur, Tuesday, said that enforcement measures were underway in collaboration with the police and other departments against the mafia involved in professional beggary and forcing children to seek alms on the streets.

The issue of organized begging on the streets is a nationwide concern and it is our collective responsibility to discourage the trend, the minister said and emphasized collaboration among various departments to eradicate the mafia, operating a business worth billions of rupees and systematically bringing beggars from other provinces to Karachi. The minister, according to a statement issued here, also urged the Police to take action against the street beggary and detained persons must be presented before the court within 24 hours. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will commemorate World Children's Day on November 23, during which awareness about children's rights will be highlighted, the minister informed and elaborated the purpose of observing the day is to emphasize children's rights.

"Legislative reforms are being pursued to protect children and ensure a secure future for them and the SWD is continuously striving for the welfare of children, aiming not only to provide financial assistance but also to bring positive changes in people's lives," said Minister Talpur and added, Senior Citizen Cards will soon be issued to provide additional facilities and supportive programs for the elderly citizens.

Drug rehabilitation centers are already operating in Manghopir and Malir, and plans are underway to establish similar centers in every district of Sindh to support individuals struggling with addiction, he stated.



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar along with Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP), Ghulam Nabi Memon are presiding over a high-level meeting, at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

## CAC Karachi calls for comprehensive approach to combat air pollution effectively

KARACHI (APP): Founder and Director of Climate Action Centre (CAC) Karachi Yasir Hussain on Tuesday said that a comprehensive approach is essential to combat air pollution effectively.

He said this while addressing a press conference at the Karachi Press Club.

He said that transitioning to electric vehicles, shifting to renewable energy, and enforcing strict emission standards is needed.

Yasir Hussain also called for establishing car-free urban zones dedicated to electric transport and bicycles can significantly reduce emissions while creating healthier and safer cities.

He said that besides the transition to renewable energy, strict enforcement of emissions standards set by the 2014 Act, and the reform of regulatory bodies like Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) are necessary.

He said that the air we breathe is a toxic mix of pollutants, with vehicle emissions being a primary culprit. Petrol exhaust contributes 60 to 80 percent of air pollution in smog releasing harmful gases and particles that coat our buildings and roads with dark, deadly soot, he said.

These fine particles penetrate our lungs and bloodstream, raising risks of cancer, respiratory disease, and cardiovascular issues, along with damaging our quality of life, he added.

He was of the opinion that only bold measures can tackle the root causes and ensure a healthier future for all citizens.

## Pakistan moving towards economic stability: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Tuesday said that Pakistan was moving towards economic stability, several countries, including Turkey and Saudi Arabia, are supportive of Pakistan's financial progress.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Karachi chapter of the Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design, the governor announced plans to establish over 12 university campuses in Karachi soon.

The event was attended by prominent figures, including Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Members of National Assembly Amin ul Haq, Farooq Sattar, Kishwar Zehra, Nasreen Jilil and Khushbakht Shujat.

Chairman of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission, Mukhtar Ahmed, also addressed the gathering, commending Governor Tessori for establishing an IT Marquee at Governor House. He noted that individuals of all ages were acquiring IT education there, marking it as an excellent initiative and congratulated Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on this progressive step.

## Oath-taking ceremony of SMUTA's newly elected body held

KARACHI (APP): An oath-taking ceremony of newly elected office bearers of Sindh Madressatul Islam University Teachers' Association (SMUTA) for the year 2024-25 was held at SMU on Tuesday.

The election commissioner administered the oath to the elected six office bearers including President Asif Hussain Samo, Vice President Quratulain Nazeer Ahmed, General Secretary Wafa Mansoor Burro, joint Secretary Syed Azeem Inam, Finance Secretary Inayatullah Magsi and press secretary Syeda Wajaha Naim.



ISLAMABAD: Major General Mohammad Gadhi Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Forces meeting with Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

## Sindh Ombudsman trying to solve problems of people: Fazal Shaikh

Independent Report MIRPUR MATHELO: Regional Director Ombudsman Ghotki Fazal Muhammad Shaikh has said that the Sindh Ombudsman is trying to solve the problems of the people, people should submit their complaints against the Government institutions so that justice can be provided to them. He expressed his views while addressing the awareness seminar held at IBA Islamia Public School Ghotki.

On this occasion, he said that according to the instructions of the Sindh Ombudsman, he is providing awareness to the public that the Sindh Ombudsman is an organization that provides justice quickly, free of charge and without a lawyer, which is trying to resolve the complaints of the common people.

He said that if the government institutions are not doing legitimate work or are delaying unnecessarily, then a complaint can be submitted against them on a simple paper in the regional office Ghotki, apart from this online complaints can also be made on the website of the ombudsman.

He further said that today's students are the architects of the future, so let them move forward with the spirit of service in the field of education and make the name of the country and nation bright.

## SALU students demonstrates talents & creativity

SUKKUR (APP): Students of Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur on Tuesday demonstrated their talent and creativity by presenting their research posters at the ACS Qatar Chapter and RSC MEA Regional Conference in Doha, Qatar.

Three students from the Institute of Chemistry, Ms Rumaisa Bukhari, Ms Anmol Gul, and Ms Mehar Bano participated in the prestigious event held from 3 to 5 November. The visit was led by Dr Bhajan Lal Bhatia, Associate Professor of the Institute of Chemistry and Faculty Advisor to the ACS-SALU Chapter.

Dr Bhatia said that the student's participation was fully funded by the American Chemical Society (ACS), which covered all expenses (registration, accommodation, and travel).

## RO plant sealed as action of SFA District Kemari

Independent Report KARACHI: The team of Sindh Food Authority Kemari has conducted a surprise inspection of the RO plant located in the site area on the instructions of Provincial Minister for Food Jam Khan Shoro and Director General Sindh of Deputy Director Bashir Khan. The Sindh Food Authority District Kemari team sealed the RO plant for not following the rules and imposed a fine of three lakh rupees on the owner of the RO plant. Speaking on this occasion, Deputy Director of SFA Kemari



Food Authority Muzamal Hussain Halpito. The action was taken against the RO plant (bottles of mineral water). The action was taken under the supervision of Deputy Director Bashir Khan. The Sindh Food Authority District Kemari team sealed the RO plant for not following the rules and imposed a fine of three lakh rupees on the owner of the RO plant. Speaking on this occasion, Deputy Director of SFA Kemari

## DEC Sanghar emphasizes importance of voting rights for citizens

HYDERABAD (APP): The District Election Commissioner Sanghar Muhammad Sarwar has stressed that the constitution grants every Pakistani citizen the right to vote, and those who do not exercise this right forfeit a vital constitutional privilege.

Presiding over a voters' committee meeting at his office on Tuesday, Sarwar highlighted the government's commitment to providing full voting facilities.

He noted that, previously, only government employees were allowed to vote by post. However, this right has now been extended to include individuals with disabilities and prisoners as well.

He underscored the need for voters to understand the importance of voting, as it empowers them to choose capable candidates for a better future.

He also mentioned that the Election Commission prepares new voter lists before each election and encouraged political parties to obtain these lists to improve voter accessibility.

He added that, in collaboration with NADRA, the Election Commission was working to streamline the issuance of identity cards for voters' convenience.

The meeting was attended by Hindu Council leader Rajesh Kumar Hadasani, representative of DC Office Sabir Hussain Mehar, Deputy Director Information Zafar Ali Mangi, Election Commissioner Muhammad Umair, Saima Sattar, Assistant Director NADRA Raza Ali Mari and others.



KARACHI: Climate Action Center (CAC) Representatives addressing to media persons during press conference regarding Air Quality Smog, held at Karachi press club.

## Faculty and staff of LUMHS protest against villager's demand for access road

HYDERABAD (APP): A large group of faculty members, officers, staff and students from Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, staged a protest rally on campus condemning recent demonstrations by residents of nearby villages located on Sindh University land. The villagers had demanded an access route within the university, which LUMHS representatives have deemed illegitimate.

According to a LUMHS spokesperson, the protest was organized by faculty, officers and staff associations in response to the villagers' demands for an access route through the campus. The spokesperson stated that allowing such access could compromise the safety of thousands of local and international students residing in campus hostels.

Addressing the rally, President of the teacher's association Professor Dr. Rasool Bux Behan emphasized that student and employee safety cannot be compromised. He noted that the university had already provided the villages with four acres of land for an alternative route. Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor has assured a permanent transportation service for village children to access their schools easily, along with ambulance services for emergencies.

President of the officer's association Dr. Sajjan Khan Halepoto criticized the villager's protest as baseless and stated that derogatory language against university management would not be tolerated. He affirmed that LUMHS employees reserve the right to protest against any unjustified demands in the future.

Saeed Ahmed Lashari, the General Secretary of the staff association, declared that staff members were united and prepared to resist any threats to campus security. The protest rally was attended by LUMHS deans, the registrar, directors, faculty members, officers and students.

## Two suspected outlaws held with gunshot injuries in separate encounters

HYDERABAD (APP): A suspected motorbike lifter and a suspected street criminal have been arrested in injured condition in separate encounters in the limits of B-Section and City police stations.

The police spokesman, Awais Rajput, informed us that the encounters occurred in the wee hours of Tuesday, adding that three more suspects were also rounded up along with the injured suspects.

According to him, the first encounter took place in Latifabad unit 10 near the protective embankment of the Indus River.

## Police impound vehicles, arrest persons for using police lights in private cars

HYDERABAD (APP): The police on Tuesday impounded 3 vehicles and rounded up as many persons as part of a renewed crackdown against the vehicles using police lights, hooters, tinted glasses and fancy number plates.

The police spokesman informed that the Fort police apprehended Dileep Kumar for using the police lights in his Suzuki Alto car.

He added that Kumar was later booked in an FIR under sections 170, 171 and 420 of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). Likewise, the Cantt police arrested Syed Haider Zaidi from Rani Bagh Chowk for using the blue police light in his car.

## SPSC declares written results of post of Secondary School Teachers

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) has announced the results of the written examination for Secondary School Teachers (BPS-16) in Hyderabad Division's Science and General categories.

A total of 350 male and 179 female candidates in the General category, and 338 male and 190 female candidates in the Science category, have been declared successful.

The examination was conducted in May 2024 for vacancies advertised under Advertisement No. 09/2022, which received approximately 400,000 applications.

The SPSC has released detailed results, including candidate names and scores, and instructed successful candidates to submit their documents.



HYDERABAD: Students, Staff Members of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) are holding protest rally against high handedness of land grabbers, at Jamshoro.