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COP29 Climate Action Summit Pakistan calls for grant-based climate finance; fulfillment of earlier pledges

Pakistan needs international support to deliver climate ambitions," says Premier Shehbaz, calling for grants, not loans; Stresses some of the countries have already faced calamities and "some will if we do not act"

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday sensitizing the global community on the risks posed by climate change and the vulnerabilities of developing countries, called for grant-based climate finance that should not add to the debt burden of the developing nations.

The prime minister, addressing the High-Level Segment of the "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) here, called for fulfilling the pledges of COP27 and COP28 as well as those made in Paris 10 years ago.

"I strongly feel, that

climate finance must be grant-based and not add to the debt burden of vulnerable developing countries. Here is the opportunity that the COP29 should make an understanding loud and clear that we will have to fulfill those financial pledges of COP27 and COP28... Ten years ago in Paris, we had failed to stop the rise in emissions and catastrophic global warming. The Paris pledges made 10 years ago have yet to see the light of the day," the prime minister said.

He viewed that the COP29 would help under the calamities already faced by some of the countries and others might face if counter-measures were not taken to create a con-

ducive environment to avert calamities like the one faced by Pakistan in the form of 2022 floods which left millions of the people homeless, millions of house and acre of land submerged, standing crops destroyed, and almost 1700 people dead. Besides, the country also faced an economic loss worth around \$30 billion, he added.

Highlighting the devastation faced by the people of Pakistan caused by the climate change-induced floods in 2022, Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled his interaction with a boy Ikramullah in the flood-hit Balochistan who had lost everything to the calamity including his home, school, and entire village.

SC issues roster for six-member constitutional bench

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has released a roster for a six-member constitutional bench. The bench will commence hearing on November 14 at 9:30am.

The bench will be led by Justice Aminuddin Khan and includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Musarrat Halali. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan is also part of the bench.

Imran has given final call for protest on Nov 24

ISLAMABAD (Online): Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder has said Imran Khan has given final call for protest on November 24.

PTI founder has said lawyers should come out for the sake of Supreme Court. Civil society, farmers and students should come out for protest, she said this while talking to media men outside Adiala jail Wednesday.

She said people should come out for voicing protest against the stolen mandate, unjust massive arrests and 26th constitutional amendment.

Nation has to decide today either they have to live under martial law or in freedom. PTI founder has given final call for protest on November 24, she held. PTI founder has said people brought revolution in democracy on February 8, PTI election symbol was taken first before February 8.

5.3 magnitude earthquake jolts, federal capital, several KP areas

ISLAMABAD (Online): A moderate earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Islamabad and different areas of KP on Wednesday.

People came out of their homes reciting Kalima Tayyaba.

The epicenter of this earthquake was in the Hindukush mountain range in Afghanistan, about 220 kilometers beneath the Earth's surface.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department's Seismological Centre the tremors were felt in Peshawar, Swabi, Malakand, Batgram, Mardan, Swat, Nowshera, Landi Kotal, Hundo, Mansehra, Hazara, and Abbottabad. The tremors were felt in Attock, Mohmand, Landi Kotal, Teerah, Shangla, Malakand, Bunir, Khyber, Swat, Dir Lower and Charsada.

However no loss to property and life has been reported so far.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the COP29 Climate Action Summit.

Murad, US Diplomat discuss climate resilience, investment, social uplift

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Pakistan, Elizabeth Horst, met here at CM House and discussed areas of mutual interest, including climate change, social uplift, and the economy.

CM Secretary Raheem Shaikh, American Consul General Scott Urbom, Political Officer Jerrod Hansen, and others attended the meeting.

Discussing climate change, the CM said that Sindh suffered significantly in 2022 when heavy rains and floods destroyed over 2.1 million houses.

He added that, with the assistance of donor agencies and a contribution of Rs57 billion from the provincial government, along with a matching grant from the federal government, the construction of

damaged houses has commenced, and so far, 800,000 climate-resilient houses have been built.

Shah said that his government was seeking donor agencies to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities for the houses. "We are also planning to provide them with solar power, for which financial assistance is required."

The visiting diplomat discussed Karachi, a port city with ample opportunities for investment and development. In response, the CM said that, with the assistance of the Work Competitive & Liveable City of Karachi (CLICK), efforts have been launched to improve the livability and competitiveness of Karachi by enhancing institutional performance and supporting activities for private sector investment.

He added that the main objective is to enhance efficiencies in Sindh's business regulatory environment. Discussing education, the Chief Minister said that his government has started diverting a major portion of the annual budget towards the development of the education sector. He mentioned that his government has made tangible improvements in the health sector, while stating that there is still a need to achieve desired results in education.

Ms. Horst also emphasised the importance of modernizing agriculture to enhance rural livelihoods. Shah affirmed Sindh's commitment to this goal, mentioning the province's work on promoting low-deltaic, high-yield crop varieties.

The visiting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary discussed the modernisation of the agriculture sector to transform life in rural areas.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of COP29 Climate Action Summit.

Additional IGP reviews security arrangements for local bodies by-elections

KARACHI (APP): Additional IGP Karachi, Javed Akhtar Odho, on Wednesday chaired an important meeting at the Karachi Police Office to discuss security preparations for the upcoming local bodies by-elections.

According to a news release, Zonal DIGPs, District SSPs, and other police

officials attended the meeting. During the session, the security plan for the by-elections was thoroughly reviewed, with officers briefing the Karachi Police Chief on the details.

The Additional IGP instructed that all security measures be implemented with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

Pakistan, Morocco deep desire to cement bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Morocco have expressed deep desire to consolidate the existing ties focusing on collaborative training programs, joint military exercises and industrial cooperation.

The desire was expressed in a meeting between Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force Major General Mohammed Gadih in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The Air Chief reiterated his resolve to strengthening military partnership through full collaboration in joint training initiatives in the entire spectrum of air power application, which will include basic and tactical level training for Moroccan Air Force personnel.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan presents a souvenir to Japanese Ambassador Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, acknowledging his valuable contributions to strengthening Pakistan-Japan trade relations and cooperation across key sectors.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan vow to strengthen strategic partnership

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday praised the strong ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and expressed optimism about further enhancing cooperation in various fields, including technology sharing and joint ventures in renewable energy.

On the sidelines of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit (COP-29), Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a productive bilateral meeting with President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Aliyev on successful holding of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Both leaders reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations. They expressed their commitment to further strengthen the strategic partnership between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particularly in the areas of economic and defence cooperation; as well as people to people and cultural ties.



KARACHI: Regional Director UNFPA Pio Smith meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

Education Minister Sved Sardar Ali Shah: Sindh approves Pakistan's first transgender education policy draft

Independent Report KARACHI: Pakistan's first-ever "Transgender Education Policy" draft was approved in a meeting chaired by Sindh's Minister of Education and Mines & Minerals Development, Syed Sardar Ali Shah. The policy proposes adding a separate category for transgender children in admission forms for schools and colleges alongside male and female options.

It also includes reserving job quotas for transgender individuals during teacher recruitment. The draft will be presented to the cabinet for legal approval. The meeting was attended by Sindh's Secretary of School Education, Zahid Ali Abbasi, Chief Executive Adviser, Fozia Khan, Director of Non-Formal Edu-

cation, Abdul Jabbar Mari, Deputy Director Atif Vighio and other officials. The meeting was informed that, according to the 2023 census, there are 20,331 transgender individuals in Pakistan, with 4,222 residing in Sindh. However, figures from the NGO "Charity Trans Action Pakistan" suggest this number is closer to 250,000.

Furthermore, research by USAID indicates that 42% of transgender individuals are only marginally literate, while 40% lack access to education entirely. Research involving representatives from the transgender community for the policy draft revealed that Sindh has approximately 22,065 transgender individuals.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu exchanging views with Major General Mohammed Gadih, Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force during meeting held at Air Headquarters in Islamabad.

4 terrorists, including high value target, killed in Kech operation: ISPR

Says Sana alias Baru was highly wanted by law enforcement authorities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Force killed four terrorists including a high value target, terrorist ring leader Sana @ Baru in intelligence based operation ((IBO) on Tuesday night in general area Balgatar of Kech District on reported presence of terrorists.

"During conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange between our troops and the terrorists, four terrorists including a High Value Target, Terrorist ring leader Sana @ Baru were killed," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

"He was a focal recruitment agent, especially suicide bombers, for so called Majeed Brigade in District Kech and was highly wanted by the Law Enforcement Agencies," it further said.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists. Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to security forces for a successful intelligence-based operation against terrorists in District Kech, Balochistan.

The president and prime minister lauded the bravery and professionalism of the security forces for killing four terrorists including a high value target in the operation.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with United States Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Sharjeel for expediting work on BRT Red Line, Yellow Line corridors

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Senior Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, Wednesday, directed to expedite construction works on Red Line and Yellow Line corridors of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project to ensure modern, economical and swift transport services to the commuters in Karachi.

The senior minister who holds portfolios of Information, Transport and Mass Transit and Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control, was presiding over a meeting of Transport and Mass Transit Department held here to review progress on the BRT Red Line and Yellow Line projects.



KARACHI: Provincial Election Commissioner, Sharifullah along with others addresses to media persons during press conference regarding the Local Government (LG) By-Elections in Sindh, held at Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Office in Karachi.

Arrangements finalized as LG by polls to be held today: PEC

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Sharifullah on Wednesday said all arrangements for holding Local Bodies by-elections in different districts of Sindh including Karachi. As many as 433,951 voters will exercise their right of franchise.

As many as 173 candidates are contesting for different vacant seats of chairmen, vice chairmen, general councilors and district council members, PEC said while addressing a press conference at his office.

Sharifullah said out of 77 vacant seats, 41 candidates had already elected unopposed while nominations had not been filed on

4 vacant seats. He said for 32 vacant seats. PEC said all arrangements were finalized for holding Local Bodies by-elections in different districts of Sindh including Karachi. As many as 433,951 voters will exercise their right of franchise to vote for 32 vacant seats.

Out of 32 vacant seats, 11 chairmen, 6 vice-chairmen, 13 general Councilors and 2 members of the district council will be elected by the voters, PEC said and added that total 271 polling stations have been set up, including 48 polling stations for men, 45 for women and 178 combined polling stations.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

United stance

Beyond rhetoric, unity is rare within the Muslim world. Yet it was reassuring to see Muslim states speak with one voice at the extraordinary OIC-Arab League summit in Riyadh on Monday, specifically concerning the genocidal wars that Israel has unleashed in Palestine and Lebanon.

Although it would have been better if the Muslim bloc had announced practical measures to punish Israel and its supporters for their murder of tens of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, in the current circumstances, even coming together on one platform to denounce the genocidal violence is an achievement. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman vowed to stand by "our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon", while warning Israel to respect Iran's sovereignty.

In view of the acrimony that has often marked ties between the kingdom and the Islamic republic, this show of solidarity is creditable. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sought an arms embargo against Israel; indeed, such an embargo, as well as Muslim states' freezing of economic and diplomatic ties with Israel, should have happened as soon as Tel Aviv began its butchery in Gaza. The summit also reiterated the need for Israel to vacate all occupied Arab land, including the held Palestinian territories and the Golan Heights.

As the Muslim-Arab bloc was pledging solidarity with Palestine in Riyadh, the Israelis were busy pouring cold water over any prospect of a sovereign Palestinian state. The new Israeli foreign minister said that statehood was not a "realistic" position, while Tel Aviv's extremist finance minister has asserted that plans are ready to annex the occupied West Bank. This is a clear message that the Israelis are not ready for peace and Tel Aviv's bloodthirsty, expansionist policies will continue.

Moreover, Donald Trump is assembling a mortifying line-up of pro-Israel, anti-Iran hawks to head positions in the UN and the State Department. It is safe to say that peace-making will not be a priority, unless this 'peace' entails total capitulation of the Arab side.

Exactly 50 years ago, Yasser Arafat told the world while speaking at the UN that he held forth an olive branch as well as a freedom fighter's gun. "Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand," Arafat warned. Sadly, in their arrogance, the Israelis have effectively cut off the hand holding the olive branch, which has left the Palestinians clashing only a gun. What occurred on Oct 7, 2023, was the result of the Israelis repeatedly dismissing the olive branch. Today, Gaza is a massive graveyard, Lebanon is on fire and the entire Middle East is on the brink of a conflagration. The only solution is for Israel to stop its slaughter, and recognise the reality that Palestine cannot be erased.

Trumped again

Mahir Ali

Donkeys are reputed to be stubborn beasts. That possible misinterpretation of their instinct for self-preservation characterises a party that has utilised Equus asinus as a symbol since Andrew Jackson embraced a hostile description of himself as a jack-ass back in 1828.

The Democrats' election symbol might be an insult to a species whose intelligence has been underrated since donkeys were domesticated 6,000 years ago, but its traditional implications accurately reflect the party hierarchy's mindset after last week's devastating defeat.

The post-mortems began pouring in as soon as it became obvious that Kamala Harris had been trounced by Donald Trump. Yesterday, the president-elect was due to be hosted in the Oval Office by a man who had described him as a dire threat to democracy.

Joe Biden's claim wasn't exactly inaccurate, but it ignored his own party's contribution to the promotion of plutocracy. It may not have been initiated by the Democrats, but they ran with the neoliberal trend exemplified by the Reagan administration.

Bill Clinton and Barack Obama lent their imagined left to the Harris campaign, and both ignored the issues whereby their presidencies led, respectively, to George W. Bush and Trump. The Clinton presidency did not deviate all that much from the Reagan era, and Obama effectively pursued both the neoconservatism and neoliberalism of his Republican predecessor.

No one can claim with any certainty that the 2024 result would have been different had Biden butted out after the 2022 midterm elections, in which the Democrats did

not fare quite as badly as the polls and the mainstream media projected, but they might have made amends that bolstered their support two years later. No such luck. Biden did propose some healthy measures on the economic and renewable energy fronts, but they made no immediate difference to most of those who were suffering from the consequences of the Covid pandemic and its inflationary aftermath.

The Democrats offered no alternative to the status quo beyond gradual improvement over the years, bolstered by pundits who proclaimed that the economy was going gangbusters, with rising employment and declining inflation. Too many voters did not feel the joy that Harris sought to project, recalling that their grocery bills were lower before Biden took over. Among the many promises Trump is unlikely to fulfil, he vowed to bring down grocery bills, cut taxes and end all wars.

Back in 2016, he emerged as a potential disruptor of a status quo that wasn't working for most Americans. He could not reclaim the perch in 2020, after four years in power. That he was able to achieve a far more convincing victory than eight years ago is a testament to the decrepitude of the Democrats.

That does not only mean that Biden ought to have ruled himself out a couple of years ago on the basis of his senescence, but also that his successor should have diverged from a self-defeating formula by offering viable alternatives to both an economy whose supposedly thriving aspects are not trickling down to most voters, and to a foreign policy that involves prolonging a nasty war in Europe and promoting a genocide in the Middle East. Harris focused, instead, on slamming

Trump and saying that she wasn't Biden — the latter of which was obvious given her gender and ethnicity, but less so when it came to her ideology. Much of the Democratic elite that has ridiculed Bernie Sanders for accurately claiming that the working class was only returning the favour when it deserted the De-mocrats have also claimed that Har-ris ran a wonderful campaign but was der-ailed by unavoidable obstacles. That's nonsense. It's true she had only 100 days to stake her claim, thanks to her geriatric chieftain's obduracy and his party's inexplicable obeisance, but her rallying cries consisted of little more than hollow platitudes, and her oratorical skills don't match those of Barack Obama.

Sanders consistently reminds the electorate that real wages haven't increased since the 1970s, the minimum wage is far too low, and it's a travesty that so many citizens of the world's richest nation live in poverty despite full-time jobs, and struggle to pay their medical bills and education debts. While the Republicans' ridiculous response is to privatise everything, the Democrats are petrified by the prospect of proposing anything more than a bit of tinkering on the edges of neoliberalism.

It's easy to empathise with the likeliest victims of Trump's non-consecutive second term, an achievement previously pulled off only by Grover Cleveland in the 19th century. And he was a Democrat back when the Republican Party was relatively progressive. Trump's unpredictability means we can only wait and see how far he will go in carrying out his threatened atrocities at home and his promised peacemaking abroad. — Courtesy Dawn

Finding inspiration

Nadeem Hussain | Jawad Ahmed

In a country where the young have hardly anything to look forward to, where ministers and advisers on youth affairs are not really in their "youth", and where the state has continuously disappointed the aspirations of some of nation's brightest minds, it is very difficult to find inspiration from within.

With each passing day, Pakistan's most talented and educated young women and men are increasingly making the difficult decision to leave the country. They don't just depart but take with them the very skills, ideas, passion, commitment, empathy, and optimism that could have transformed our collective future. Since the beginning of 2022, reportedly over a million highly qualified professionals have left the country, perhaps after trying everything they could. But what makes this crisis even harder to bear is the truth that, in their departure, they are not abandoning Pakistan, but are, in fact, calling out for all of us to reflect, to act, and to change.

Despite a wrecked economy, fragile security, and suppressed free speech rights, we still have individuals and organisations investing in Pakistan's future and the generations to come. Most of these agents of change are deeply invested in the youth and in a Pakistan that values talent, integrity, and potential. Education is one such area that can give this nation some hope.

Pakistan's education system has remained in a state of perpetual crisis. The official number for out-of-school children is 26.2m (40 per cent of the total school-going popula-

tion of 66m children). This means that out of every 100 children, 36 are never enrolled in primary school; and from those who do get a chance to begin their academic journeys, only 55pc are able to complete Grade 5 — the state fails 65 of every 100 children within the first 10 years of their lives in this 77-year-old country.

With the second lowest literacy rate in the region, the world's fifth most populous nation spends 1.5pc of its GDP on education — a drop from 2.4pc. These numbers tell us the trajectory of this country's fate in the coming years; evidence and decade-long economic research show that none of the world's nations has really progressed without investing in its people and developing its human capital.

Everyday phrases — "no one cares"; "this country will stay as it is"; "there isn't anything that we can do"; "the powers that be won't allow this country to grow"; "we're corrupt to the core"; "the government doesn't do anything"; "the establishment plays its games"; "our votes get stolen"; and "the state doesn't honour its commitment to citizens" — won't do any good to the people of this country. In fact, whatever little hope is left for the ones who are destined to stay and survive in Pakistan will also vanish.

For a stronger civic response to the challenges we face, it is in the best interest of all Pakistan's citizens — within and outside of the country — to champion the right of fundamental education for the youngest members of Pakistan society and not only become their voice but also act on their behalf when they can.

One such example and an inspiration for young and old in this country is 27-year-old Wall Street-based financial analyst Tabarak Rehman. On Nov 3, Tabarak embarked on a journey to become the first-ever person to run 1,600 kilometres across Pakistan. He is doing this to create awareness and make an impact on the education of 7,000 Pakistani children who might have otherwise remained out of school.

With his run, he is trying to raise \$1m for the education non-profit The Citizens Foundation. We have observed across social media platforms that Tabarak's venture has initiated a discourse on 'what and how' to do something for the most marginalised children of our nation.

Such ventures have the potential to bring society onto one platform for a single cause, with college- and university-going students, young professionals, corporate leaders, civil servants, philanthropists, and industrialists within and outside Pakistan discussing the educational crisis in the country.

Discussion itself is the starting point of overcoming such a grave challenge and leads to further responsive civic activism.

If Pakistan is to find its way forward, it will be because we collectively recognise the power of this new generation — their struggles, their dreams, and their resilience. The question is not whether we can afford to listen and respond to these young voices but whether we can afford not to. Nadeem Hussain is the co-author of Agents of Change and The Economy of Modern Sindh. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Rana for exploiting olive potential to cut edible oil imports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan currently imports 70-80% of edible oil, which is then processed into unhealthy ghee while in contrast, olive oil offers numerous health benefits.

With Pakistan's current reliance on imported edible oil, the minister stressed the need for a sustainable substitute, highlighting the potential for olive oil production to meet local demands and drive exports.

"As we hear the word export the government becomes excited because we want to enhance our export," he added. He praised the efforts of Dr. Tariq and Azmat Awan, two government officials driving the olive sector's development.

Overseas Pakistani investors meet Punjab industries minister

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of overseas Pakistanis investors from the UAE and Europe met Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain here at Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT) office on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed investment opportunities in Punjab

Pakistan's olive sector is poised to significant growth, with Rana Tanveer outlining ambitious plans to transform the country into a major player in the global market.

The Al Baraka Pakistan Olive Summit 2024 brought together key national and international experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to advance Pakistan's olive industry.

Under the theme "Developing a Safe, Sustainable & Ready-to-Export Supply Chain of the Olive Sector," the summit emphasized Pakistan's potential to emerge as a significant player in the global olive market.

Gold prices up by Rs.1,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.1,400 and was sold at Rs.271,900 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.270,500, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.1,200 to Rs.233,111 from Rs.231,911 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.213,685 from Rs.212,584.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan meets with the World Bank team to discuss strategies for boosting Pakistan's export competitiveness and strengthening trade policies, emphasizing a Whole-of-Government approach for export-led growth.

Gilani calls for creating more social cohesiveness to boost investors' confidence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate and former Prime Minister, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday called for creating more social cohesiveness to boost investors' confidence and strengthening democratic credentials.

Addressing the inaugural session of Margalla Dialogue 2024, of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here, he underscored the need to re-

equip youth with education to make them a capable workforce in a changing and competitive world order, said a press release.

He said that new realities are shaping the world at large, and we are living in an era of alliances, including those that are breeding conflict and militarization such as AUKUS and QUAD in the region and beyond. The Chairman Senate said that

Pakistan looks forward to more democratisation, and an inclusive order where in economic resilience and security decorum come to adjust transitional changes.

He referred to the Founder of the Nation, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and said that "Pakistan is the pivot of the world," and even our existence at such an important geographic crossroads had proved vitality for our neighbours.

FBR introduces new payment creation system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday introduced the New Payment Creation System, namely ePayment 2.0, available within the IRIS 2.0 portal, an advanced platform designed to simplify tax payment processes for taxpayers across Pakistan.

In line with the vision of the government to modernize Pakistan's tax infrastructure, FBR is reinforcing its commitment to advancing tax administration and enhancing revenue collection through advanced digital solutions, said a news release. This

innovative system enables secure, efficient, and user-friendly online payments, accessible directly from taxpayers' bank accounts via internet banking, ATMs, and mobile banking, eliminating the need for physical bank visits.

ePayment 2.0 marks a significant advancement in revenue management, covering a wide range of taxes, including Income Tax, Sales Tax, Federal Excise Duty, and Withholding Taxes.

PSX gains 130 points to close at 93,355 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 130.86 points, a positive change of 0.14 percent, closing at 93,355.43 points as compared to 93,224.56 points on the last trading day.

A total of 807,067,924 shares were traded during the day as compared to 792,904,878 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.31.688 billion against Rs.30.788 billion on the last trading day.

Jam, World Bank advance agenda for export competitiveness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and World Bank team on Wednesday met to discuss Pakistan's export reform agenda, focusing on strategies to enhance export competitiveness and streamline enabling policies.

The discussion also addressed how the World Bank can support these initiatives under the broader country program, said a press release issued here.

Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the Whole-of-Government approach to export enhancement, which promotes a unified policy framework to improve

competitiveness and the Ease of Doing Business for exporters.

This strategy emphasizes export-led growth by providing crucial enabling factors such as financing, liquidity support, reduced input costs, and regulatory facilitation to empower Pakistan's export sector.

The World Bank reiterated its support for Pakistan's Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) stationed in Missions abroad and its commitment to collaborating on knowledge-sharing initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's global trade connections.

Qurrat ul Ain says: Flat electricity tariff relief should be extended to SMEs

Independent Report KARACHI: Ms. Qurrat Ul Ain, Acting President, FPCCI, has demanded that — while the apex body

this conditionality; therefore, they will remain disadvantaged as compared to the larger industrial units. Additionally, the



appreciates the announcement of the winter package — the relief in the electricity tariff announced under it should be made available to small & medium enterprises (SMEs) as well through withdrawing the condition of 100,000 units consumption in the corresponding period of last year; and, resultantly, only applying the Rs. 26/kWh tariff to the incremental units consumed after that threshold. Ms. Qurrat Ul Ain, Acting President, FPCCI, explained that SMEs and new industries in particular cannot fulfil

government will also not get full results of its winter package in industrial production and exports as the limitations of the winter package will create impediments in fully materializing the impetus offered for trade and industry. Acting FPCCI Chief highlighted that 100 textile units are already closed in Faisalabad due to burgeoning cost of doing business and lack of ease of doing business parameters in the country. The two biggest contributors keeping the cost of doing business high in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Investment and Communication Abdul Aleem Khan chairing 227th meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.

Number of field hospitals, 'Clinics on Wheels' to be increased: CM Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz promised on Wednesday that "all resources will be spent on welfare of people and we will provide treatment facilities at the doorstep of every citizen".

While noting that free and best treatment at the doorsteps of more than 5.3 million patients across Punjab had been provided in just 148 days, she added that good treatment, medicines and tests were the right of those living in the villages also.

The CM said that number of field hospitals

and 'Clinics on Wheels' would be further increased to ensure ease and service of people.

Maryam Nawaz said, "We are daily monitoring the performance of Clinic on Wheels and Field Hospitals where an average of more than 30,000 patients benefit from services every day. She underscored, "Medical consultation, tests and ultrasound facilities are also available at the Clinic on Wheels."

The CM said, "202 Clinic on Wheels vans and 42 ultrasound plus vans are providing services in semi-

urban and congested areas across Punjab."

She added, "15 Clinics on Wheels and 3 ultrasound vehicles are busy in semi-urban and congested areas of Lahore, whereas more than 736,000 people received treatment from the field hospital in remote areas of Punjab."

She flagged, "More than 100,000 people in the villages were provided free lab test facility through the field hospitals, and more than 46,000 people from remote villages were given the facility of free X-ray and ultrasound tests."



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation led by Patron Chief Pakistan Tax Bar, Rana Munir Ahmed and President Lahore Tax Bar Shehbaz Siddique at Governor House.

CM KP participate in ceremony at BISE

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday visited the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Peshawar Board, accompanied by Provincial Minister for Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai, and other officials.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inaugurated a newly constructed gymnasium at the Peshawar Board, which has been built at a cost of PKR 160 million.

The gymnasium is

equipped with various sports facilities, including boxing, karate, taekwondo, table tennis, bodybuilding, fitness gym, and wrestling.

This state-of-the-art facility will benefit students, teachers, staff, and the local community. It will also host competitions between various colleges and boards.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister attended the prize distribution ceremony for the All Pakistan Inter-Boards Girls Cricket and Tennis Competitions.

ATC extends interim bail of 6 PTI workers in May-9 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday extended the interim bail of six Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers until December 14 in connection with three cases related to the May 9 riots.

The ATC judge conducted proceedings on the pre-arrest bail applications of the accused, who were present in court to mark their attendance.

During the hearing, police requested additional time to complete investigations into the cases.

Dire need to take better measures to prevent tax evasion: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation led by Patron Chief Pakistan Tax Bar, Rana Munir Ahmed and President Lahore Tax Bar Shehbaz Siddique met with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. Tax reforms and measures to bring people into the tax net were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that no state can provide public welfare, economic development, infrastructure and services without an effective taxation system.

He said that there is a

need to take better measures to prevent tax evasion, for which the scope of the tax net needs to be expanded. Governor Punjab said that payment of tax is the moral and legal responsibility of all of us. He said that the people are ready to pay taxes, but the government has to simplify the system and impose taxes in consultation with the business community.

He said that the implementation of the plan presented by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari regarding taxation on the agricultural sector will strengthen the country's economy.

Efforts underway to highlight KP's issues in SIFC: Governor Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Wednesday said that efforts are underway to highlight the issues of the province especially of southern districts in Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) regarding trade and business.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation from the Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by the chamber's president and Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Rashid Ahmad Pracha.

During the discussion,

the Governor emphasized the importance of the business community in fostering trade and industrial growth in the region.

He highlighted that the Federal Government had allocated funds for the establishment of an Expo Center by the Trade Development Authority in Peshawar, which is expected to be completed soon.

Additionally, the Federal Minister for Information has approved the establishment of a hall for cultural activities, which will further promote the province's heritage and activities.

Man killed in Bajaur bomb blast incident

BAJAUR (APP): A man was killed in a bomb blast incident that took place near Tehsil Mamond area of Bajaur district, tv channels quoting police reported on Wednesday.

According to details, a man lost his life when a bomb planted outside of his house blasted with big bang near Tehsil Mamond area.

The police team after receiving reports rushed to the site and shifted the dead to nearby hospital.

Police have started search operation to trace the culprits.

LDA City to launch Business Bay, Education City zones: Bilal Yaseen

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Housing and Urban Development Bilal Yaseen on Wednesday announced introducing new initiatives, saying that the "LDA City will soon launch the Business Bay and Education City zones", aimed at providing modern business and educational infrastructure.

"Four major planned roads, along with a motorway, will also be passing through LDA City and it would become a premier residential hub for Lahore's residents, said by Bilal Yaseen during his

visit to LDA City project site on Wednesday to review the progress of ongoing development work.

The minister was briefed by the Director-General of LDA, Tahir Farooq and Chief Engineer Israr Saeed, regarding the development efforts at the site.

During the visit, DG LDA Tahir Farooq highlighted the rapid pace of construction, particularly the ongoing work on the city's infrastructure, including roads and other key developments.

Veda Bus Service from Nishtar-I to phase-II inaugurated

MULTAN (APP): The Veda Bus Service, a new transit initiative aimed at easing transportation between Nishtar Hospital-I and Nishtar Hospital phase-II, has officially launched in Multan here on Wednesday.

The service was inaugurated by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab, Fawad Hashim Rabbani, who also took a journey on the bus to experience the service firsthand.



KARACHI: Smoke billows as a fire blazes at Plastic Factory site area Ghani Chowrangi in Karachi.

PTI always indulging in protests, sit-ins, chaos: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has always been indulging in protests, sit-ins, rallies and chaos.

She said that prosperity returning to Pakistan was unacceptable to the 'chaos' party. She said those who incessantly chanted 'thief, thief' had now been caught red-handed in their own family's corruption.

The Punjab information minister said the 'disruptive' group had used the nation's youth for their power lust, while their own children were enjoying a luxurious

life in London.

The minister said that PTI's politics had now been reduced to street-level politics. "Nawaz Sharif had once said, 'We will build roads, and you will just measure them,' she recalled former premier's statement.

The development in Punjab is not being accepted and tolerated by the PTI, she added.

Azma said that CM Maryam Nawaz had taken historic and revolutionary steps in Punjab. In just a few months, she introduced relief packages and development projects in every sector of the province, she added.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the high level meeting at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department.

International News

Israeli forces kill 22 people in Gaza, force new displacement in the north

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 22 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, as Israeli forces deepened their incursion into Beit Hanoun town in the north, forcing most remaining residents to leave. Residents said Israeli forces besieged shelters housing displaced families and the remaining population, which some estimated at a few thousand, ordering them to head south through a checkpoint separating two towns and a refugee camp in the north from Gaza City.

Men were held for questioning, while women and children were allowed to continue towards Gaza City, residents and Palestinian medics said.

Israel's campaign in the north of Gaza, and the evacuation of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the area, has fueled claims from Palestinians that it is clearing the

area for use as a buffer zone and potentially for a return of Jewish settlers.

"The scenes of the 1948 catastrophe are being repeated. Israel is repeating its massacres, displacement and destruction," said Saed, 48, a resident of Beit Lahiya, who arrived in Gaza City on Wednesday.

"North Gaza is being turned into a large buffer zone. Israel is carrying out ethnic cleansing under the sight and hearing of the impatient world," he told Reuters via a chat app.

Saed was referring to the 1948 Middle East Arab-Israeli war which gave birth to the state of Israel and saw the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their home towns and villages in what is now Israel.

As funeral prayers were held on Wednesday in central Gaza, for Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes the day before, the

United States' top diplomat said it's time to end the war.

The Israeli military has denied any such intention, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he does not want to reverse the 2005 withdrawal of settlers from Gaza. Hardliners in his government have talked openly about going back.

It said forces have killed hundreds of Hamas militants in Jabalia, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun during its new military offensive, which began more than a month ago. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad armed wing claimed killing several Israeli soldiers during ambushes and anti-tank rocket fire.

Efforts by Arab mediators, Qatar and Egypt, backed by the United States, have so far failed to end the war in Gaza, with Hamas and Israel trading the blame for the lack of progress.



U.S. President Joe Biden meets with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, U.S.

Triumphant Trump returns to White House to meet Biden

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump will make a triumphant return to the White House to meet President Joe Biden on Wednesday, in the Republican's first visit since departing amid a cloud of scandal nearly four years ago.

Trump's meeting with Biden comes as he moves swiftly to name his top team, including the world's richest man Elon Musk as head of a new group aimed at slashing government waste. Democrat Biden invited his sworn rival to meet in the Oval Office—despite the fact that Trump, who has consistently refused to admit his 2020 election loss, never afforded Biden the same courtesy.

Biden, 81, is expected to urge a smooth transition of power in the encounter

at 11am (1600 GMT) and push for continued support for Ukraine.

"He believes in the norms. He believes in our institutions," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Tuesday when asked why Biden was inviting Trump.

"The American people deserve this. They deserve a peaceful transfer of power." US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Biden would go over top foreign policy issues when he meets Trump — including US support for Kyiv against Russia, which Trump has criticised. "The president will have the chance to explain to President Trump how he sees things, where they stand, and talk to President Trump about how President Trump is thinking."

Indonesian president meets Biden and speaks with Trump, pledges cooperation

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto met with US President Joe Biden at the White House and offered his congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump by phone during an official visit to Washington.

"I will work very hard to strengthen Indonesian-United States relationship, and I would like to work towards this end that we have a strong cooperation," said Prabowo.

Prabowo, who has said he will pursue a non-aligned foreign policy, met with Biden in the Oval Office after posting a video of his call to Trump.

He arrived in Washington straight from China, where he had met with President Xi Jinping on his first overseas trip since tak-

ing office last month.

Washington sees Indonesia, the most populous country in Southeast Asia, as an important partner in a region where its rival Beijing has deep trade and investment ties. Indonesia is also the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

While China is a key economic partner for Indonesia, Jakarta has also become a big buyer of US arms, and it wants to sell the West more metals from its mines.

At the White House, Biden said the two leaders were discussing climate, conflict in the Middle East and the South China Sea.

Indonesia said on Monday it does not recognize China's claims over the vast majority of the South China Sea, despite signing a maritime development deal with Beijing.

Kyrgyzstan makes arrests over suspected coup attempt ahead of local elections

Monitoring Desk
BISHKEK: Police in the Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan have arrested and charged seven people on suspicion of organising mass riots to overthrow the government ahead of local elections on Sunday.

The interior ministry said in a statement on Tuesday the individuals were suspected of using sports games and other competitions in the capital Bishkek to foment a riot. "Under the guise of national sports games, they intended to call for acts of violence, were going to put forward unconstitutional calls, (and) destabilise the situation for the further violent seizure of power on November 17," the ministry said.

Lebanon says 11 killed in Israel strikes across the country

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon said Israeli strikes killed 11 people across the country Tuesday, including five in a rare attack on a house east of Beirut, where a security official said displaced people lived.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah group also said it fired missiles at an air base near Tel Aviv, following a wave of Israeli air strikes on the group's south Beirut bastion.

Since September 23, Israel has stepped up its bombing campaign in Lebanon, mainly targeting Hezbollah strongholds in

south Beirut and in the east and south of the country. On September 30, it sent in ground troops.

"The Israeli enemy strike on Baalshmay killed five people," the health ministry said in an initial report, referring to a mountain village east of Beirut, outside Hezbollah's traditional strongholds.

The security official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the "Israeli strike targeted a house where displaced people lived, including women and children".

US says it intends to shore up support for Ukraine until Trump takes office

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: President Joe Biden intends to bolster U.S. military support to Ukraine in the final months of his administration, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday, after Russia launched a sophisticated missile and drone attack on Kyiv.

The U.S. will "continue to shore up everything we're doing for Ukraine to make sure that it can effectively defend itself against this Russian aggression."

US opens missile base in Poland as Trump presidency looms over NATO

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: The United States will officially open a new air defence base in northern Poland on Wednesday, as Warsaw seeks to reassure citizens that NATO guarantees their security amid jitters after Donald Trump's presidential election victory.

Situated in the town of Redzikowo near the Baltic coast, the base has been in the works since the 2000s

and Warsaw says it shows Poland's military alliance with Washington remains solid, whoever is in the White House. "It took a while, but this construction proves the geostategic resolve of the United States," Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said in a video posted to X on Tuesday. Polish President Andrzej Duda, a conservative who has stressed his warm ties with Trump.

US imposes sanctions on Sudanese paramilitary commander

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US on Tuesday imposed sanctions on a commander of Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, accusing him of being involved in human rights abuses in West Darfur, as Washington increases pressure over the war in the African nation.

The US Treasury Department in a statement said Abdel Rahman Juma Barkalla led the RSF's campaign in West Darfur.

Israel's West Bank settlers hope Trump's return will pave the way for major settlement expansion

Monitoring Desk
BEIT EL: As Donald Trump's victory became apparent in last week's U.S. elections, Jewish West Bank settlement advocates popped bottles of champagne and danced to the Bee Gees at a winery in the heart of the occupied territory, according to a post on Instagram.

The winery said it was rolling out a special edition red named for the president-elect.

Settlement supporters believe they have plenty of reasons to celebrate. Not only did the expansion of housing for Jews in the West Bank soar past previous records during Trump's first term, but his administration took unprecedented steps to support Israel's territorial claims, including recognizing Jerusalem as its capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there, and recognizing Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

This time around, as Israel is embroiled in a multifront war, settlement advocates believe Trump's

history of fervent support could translate into their supreme goal: Israeli annexation of the West Bank — a move that critics say would smother any remaining hopes for Palestinian statehood. Some are even gunning for resettling Gaza under a Trump administration.

"God willing, the year 2025 will be the year of sovereignty in Judea and Samaria," Israeli Finance Minister and settlement firebrand Bezalel Smotrich said Monday, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name, in comments that sparked international uproar. He said he would make sure the government lobbies the Trump administration on the idea. Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want those territories for their hoped-for future state. Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move most of the international community.

CM, Fed Minister vow to address fishermen issues, revive Ketu Bandar port project

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Sheikh, during their meeting, discussed addressing fishermen's issues, tackling sea pollution and plans to develop Ketu Bandar as a new port.

According to CM House statement, meeting held here at the Chief Minister's House on Wednesday and was attended by Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and Chairman Port Qasim Rear Admiral Nasir Shah.

The Chief Minister noted that provincial government has banned sensitive fishing nets, known as Bullo and Gujjo. However, the matter of determining which government-issued licenses to trawlers remains

unresolved.

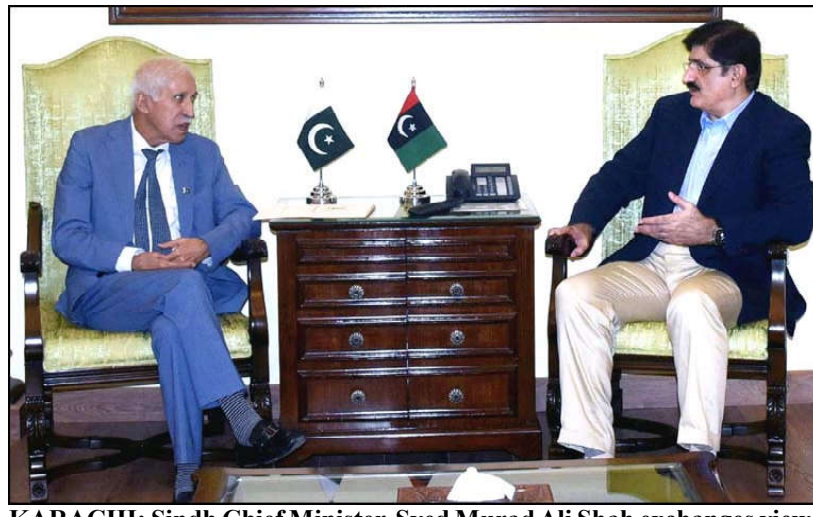
To tackle the trawlers' issue, the Chief Minister and the federal minister agreed to form a joint committee comprising members from the Maritime Ministry, as well as the governments of Sindh and Balochistan.

They also discussed the problem of untreated wastewater being discharged into the sea, which contributes to sea pollution. In response, the CM said that Sindh government has initiated the West Karachi Water Recycling Project.

Murad Shah and Qaiser Shaikh discussed the installation of a Combined Effluent Treatment Plant, agreeing that both provincial and federal governments should collaborate on this project. During the conver-

sation, it was noted that Karachi Port Trust and Port Qasim currently handle sea traffic. However, there is an increasing need for another deep port, such as Ketu Bandar, to help alleviate some of this load. Ketu Bandar Road has connectivity to the National Highway and motorway, facilitating efficient transportation of goods to inland areas.

The Chief Minister stated that the Ketu Bandar project was initially approved as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects but has not been pursued for unspecified reasons. The federal minister expressed his intention to discuss the issue within his ministry and seek a private partner to establish the port.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

CPEC upgraded version to expand cooperation in various fields: Chinese ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong on Wednesday said that China will continue to work with Pakistan to focus on building an upgraded version of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to further consolidate and expand practical cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

During question and answer session with students at National University of Modern Language (NUML), the ambassador said that the upgraded version of CPEC will continuously further improve the all-weather strategic cooperation level between China and Pakistan, and better help Pakistan develop its economy and improve people's livelihood.

He said that the Chinese President Xi Jinping and the leaders of Pakistan have led the development of bilateral relations, set the positioning of China-Paki-

stan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and carried forward the construction of the CPEC from basic layout to a new stage of building an "upgraded version".

Jiang Zaidong said, "We are willing to work with Pakistan to better implement the consensus, and speed up the building of a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era."

He said that in international and regional affairs, China and Pakistan have always maintained close coordination and cooperation to effectively safeguard international fairness and justice and the common interests of developing countries.

He added that both countries are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the "Global South". "We are ready to strengthen unity and cooperation with Pakistan, usher in a new era of joint self-reliance in the

'Global South', to respond to the unprecedented changes in a century for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization."

The ambassador said that Pakistan has successfully hosted meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States. He added, Chinese Premier Li Qiang personally led a delegation to attend the meeting and officially visited Pakistan. "It reflects China's firm support for Pakistan and also highlights the huge potential for both parties to strengthen cooperation."

Jiang Zaidong said that in July this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed at the SCO Astana Summit to build a common home of unity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good neighborhood and friendship, fairness and justice.

PM reiterates resolve to ensure safety of Chinese nationals

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met with Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang on the sidelines of the Climate Action Summit of COP-29 and discussed the bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Referring to the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, the prime minister said that China was a long-standing friend of Pakistan and a new era of strengthening relations between the two countries had begun.

Highlighting the steps taken by the government for the security of the Chinese

nationals in Pakistan, he said that the government of Pakistan was taking all possible steps to ensure the security of Chinese nationals.

He also highlighted the steps taken by the government to completely eradicate the menace of terrorism and reiterated that the government was committed to root out terrorism from the country.

The Chinese vice premier expressed his desire to work with Pakistan to overcome security challenges and further expand Pakistan-China cooperation for the development and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries.

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BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, on the sidelines of COP29 Climate Action Summit in Baku.

NAB hands over possession of confiscated properties worth Rs.128 million to FBR

KARACHI (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi has made a significant move in the fight against corruption by handing over confiscated properties worth Rs. 128 million to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). These properties were confiscated from a former Senior Auditor at Sales Tax Karachi, who found guilty of accumulating assets beyond his known sources of income.

Consequently, NAB (Karachi) took over the physical possession of 3x properties of convicted person and the same were handed over by DG NAB (Karachi) to the Chief Commissioner, Inland Revenue, Large Taxpayers Office, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Karachi, in a handing over ceremony at Regional Headquarters of NAB at Karachi.

DG NAB (Karachi), reaffirmed the Bureau's commitment for recovering looted money and returning it to the affected departments and individuals. He further said that under the leadership of Chairman, NAB Karachi remains committed to combating corruption and corrupt practices with dedication and professionalism. This move demonstrates NAB Karachi's efforts to hold corrupt officials accountable and recover ill-gotten gains for the benefit of the public and the state.

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NAB Karachi had conducted inquiry and investigation and subsequently, filed a Reference against the accused in the Accountability Court No.1, at Karachi, who convicted and sentenced the accused persons to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment and also imposed fine of Rs. 14,241,022/- along with confiscation of properties. The convicted accused persons filed an appeal before the Sindh High Court, Karachi, which was dismissed.

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Commissioner for timely completion of development projects

SUKKUR (APP): Divisional Commissioner in Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi, on Wednesday directed the monitoring organizations to examine and evaluate the development works and ensure that the same were completed within the stipulated period with qualitative material.

He directed them to report him with immediate effect if they find the substandard work or any other defect in the work.

He directed this while addressing a meeting to review development works

held at Commissioner House here.

He said that the government now was discouraging the trend of schemes to be completed within five or more than five years but increasing the investment to get such schemes completed within one or two years.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of the Sukkur division to bring complete data about their performance in the next meeting, which will be held next week.

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HYDERABAD: Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) City, Abdul Rehman Brohi along with Station House Officer (SHO) Raees Khanzada addressing a press conference regarding arrest of criminals who involved in criminal activities, in Hyderabad.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Hosts Colourful 2-day Expo

HYDERABAD (APP): Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Shaheed benazirabad organized a vibrant two-day expo showcasing students' talents.

On the special directives of Vice Chancellor Engineer Professor Dr. Madad Ali Shah, the Faculty of Management and Business Administration and the Faculty of Social Sciences jointly hosted the event.

Professor Dr. Salman Bashir, Dean of the Faculty of Management and Business Administration and Social Sciences, inaugurated the expo.

Notable attendees in-

cluded Director Finance Manzoor Ali Siyal, Project Coordinator Engineer Syed Naqem Shah, Program Organizers Rafiq Ahmed Khoso & Dr Salar Hussain (Organizers of expo)

Wherein students displayed stalls showcasing food, short movies, cultural artifacts, art and design, books, and sports.

The stalls of traditional Sindh handicrafts and clay pottery attracted students, teachers, and visiting guests.

Students showcased their colourful attire, demonstrating their talent and confidence.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, giving a gift hamper to the winner of the Chinese Speech Contest 2024 at National University of Modern Languages (NUML) in federal capital.

Jl demands Rangers deployment at all polling stations

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar has demanded of the authorities to declare all polling stations as very sensitive and deploy rangers at all of them to minimize the chances of rigging on November 14 in connection with by-polls.

The JI leader made the demand at a crowded press conference held at Idara Noor-e-Haq — the JI Karachi headquarters, here on Wednesday. He was flanked by JI leaders Taufiquddin Siddiqui, Raja Arif Sultan, Qazi Sadaruddin, Zahid Askari, Najeb Ayubi and Sohaib Ahmed.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Pakistan People Party government in Sindh was mulling to rig the by-elections. He

added that out of the total 166 polling stations, 136 have been declared as sensitive, 26 as very sensitive, and five others. He was of the view that the nature of all the polling stations was very sensitive so all of them should be dealt accordingly.

He recalled that it was an open secret how the PPP rigged the elections in 2023 as it was quite normal to the party leadership. He said that both in the local government and general elections, the PPP secured its position by heavily rigging the results documents.

Highlighting the pre-poll rigging measures, he mentioned the Elections Act 2017 as stating that at least one address — either permanent or temporary — should fall in the relevant electoral constituency.

PTA blocks blasphemous, porn websites

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked websites spreading blasphemous and porn material.

According to PTA spokesperson PTA is taking different steps to block blasphemous and immoral material. PTA has blocked 100183 blasphemous URL and 844008 obscene websites so far.

PTA is launching stern action against the websites spreading blasphemous and immoral material. PTA is too blocking such websites about which information is received from citizens and government organizations.

It is noted with sorrow attempts are made to seek access to 20 million obscene websites daily from across the country which are blocked on international gateway.

People use VPNs to seek access to these blocked websites on international gateway.

Ministry of religious affairs has written a letter to PTA whereby request was made to remove porn and blasphemous material from social media.

Passing out parade held for Sindh Prison Constables

HYDERABAD (APP): The passing out parade of the 19th Basic Training Course for Prison Constables took place at the Sindh Prisons Staff Training Institute in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Principal of the Institute and SSP, Ghulam Murtaza Shaikh, along with SSP Central Prison & Correctional Facility (CF) Hyderabad, presided over the ceremony, taking the salute and inspecting the parade.

Ghulam Murtaza Shaikh, accompanied by Asif Ali Lakho, Vice Principal (Training), and Syed Mohammad Zahir Shah, Vice Principal (Admin) of the institute, warmly welcomed the guests. The officials highlighted the institute's accomplishments, shared details of the trainees' activities, and presented traditional Ajrak to the attendees as a token of Sindh culture.

Certificates and shields were awarded to the trainees in recognition of their hard work, with Principal/SSP Ghulam Murtaza Shaikh and SSP Naib Ali Bhabban commending the disciplined training program led by Mr. Lakho and Mr. Zahir Shah.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing launching ceremony of Karachi Vision 2030 at Governor House.

Japan approves grant for flood management project in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Government of Japan has approved a grant amounting to 18.5 million dollars for flood management project in Pakistan.

A signing ceremony for exchange of notes and record

Municipal election for 4 vacant seats on Nov 14

HYDERABAD (APP): Municipal elections will be held on 4 vacant seats of Tehsil Nawabshah and Skrand of District Shaheed Benazirabad on November 14.

DC Shehryar Gul Memon said that the elections for the vacant seats of Nawab Shah and Skrand (Chairman, Vice Chairman, District Council Member and General Member) will be held on November 14 (Thursday).

He said all arrangements including security have been completed and added that a total of 26 polling stations and 96 polling booths have been set up for the elections, including 7 male, 7 female and 12 joint polling stations, totaling 26 polling stations.

Out of 22 polling stations have been declared highly sensitive, 38 thousand 930 citizens will exercise their right to vote during the elections, including 20 thousand 928 men and women. 18 thousand 2 women voters are included.



The project is aimed at improving accuracy of flood forecasts and flood control functions, accumulate basic data that contributes to disaster risk reduction measures, and reducing the risk of loss to human and economy including infrastructure.

The project titled "Flood Management Enhancement in the Indus Basin" will be materialized through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The scope of the project is to develop a hydrological and hydraulic observation network besides rehabilitating the river structures damaged by the 2022 flood in Indus River and its tributaries.

DC chairs meeting regarding targets achieved during last polio campaign

HYDERABAD (APP): A meeting was held on Wednesday at Darbar Hall of DC office to review the targets achieved during the last national anti-polio campaign and the problems faced under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Samir Laghari, District Health Officer Dr. Asadullah Dahri, Focal Person for Polio Dr. Allah Bakhsh Rajpar, Divisional Coordinator WHO Dr. Jhangir Korai, Dr. Mubeen

Scientific exhibition held

SUKKUR (APP): A scientific exhibition was held in Government Girls Elementary School here Wednesday. Students of the school illustrated scientific experiments and projects. They showcased their scientific and innovative skills by creating machines out of scrap material and reassembling wood to create benches, frames, and other useful items. On the occasion, attendees appreciated the roles of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), which collaborated on the event.

The students who produced the models received great applause from visitors.

"We feel encouraged by the appreciation; it boosted our confidence," said Fatima Zahara, surrounded by excited fellow students and other visitors.

The organizers and teachers appeared impressed by the big turnout and keen interest shown by young female students in the medical and engineering models.



KARACHI: A view encroachment operation at Karachi Saddar Bazaar.

Unilever's 'Sustainability Accelerated' strategy to lead environmental, social-impact

KARACHI (INP): Unilever Pakistan launched its ambitious and refocused strategy, "Sustainability Accelerated", aimed at driving accelerated action on sustainability, focused on climate action, plastics circularity, nature regeneration and better livelihoods.

For over two decades, Unilever has been at the forefront of sustainability efforts, which have made the company stronger and more resilient. With the introduction of Sustainability Accelerated, Unilever is entering the third era, where business growth is closely tied to responsible environmental and social practices.

The event, hosted at the Unilever Pakistan Head Office, brought together key stakeholders, govern-

ment officials, and industry leaders to discuss Unilever's new sustainability strategy.

Amir Paracha, CEO, Unilever Pakistan, set the tone for the company's renewed commitment to sustainability. "As a company, we have always believed that businesses must be a force for good. Sustainability Accelerated is not just about meeting global goals; it is about ensuring that our business in Pakistan drives positive change for our communities and the environment. We are committed to transforming our business to reduce environmental impacts while empowering people through better livelihoods and supporting a more circular economy."



LARKANA: Members of All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union are holding protest rally for acceptance of their demands, in Larkana.

UHS introduces BDS Integrated Curriculum 2K25 from 2024-2025

KARACHI (INP): After successful introduction of new MBBS syllabus in Punjab, University of Health Sciences (UHS) has developed new curriculum for BDS classes called BDS Integrated Curriculum 2K25.

Integrated Curriculum 2K25 will be effective in all dental colleges of Punjab from session 2024-25. UHS has informed the Pakistan Medical and Dental Coun-

cil about the implementation of the new curriculum.

Under the new curriculum, the duration of BDS has been increased from 4 years to 5 years. After four years of education, an additional year will be reserved for development of clinical skills among the students.

The BDS syllabus has been modified keeping in view the international requirements.

IGHDS held Thalassaemia camp in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The Inter Global Human De-velopment Society (IGHDS) on Wednesday organised a Thalassaemia camp near Saleh Putt, to donate blood for children suffering from Thalassaemia.

According to a press release, a medical team comprising doctors and para-medics from Sukkur Blood and Drug Society Hospital arrived at the camp and collected blood for the children suffering from Thalassaemia.

A large number of people do-nated their blood. A number of children suffering from Thalassaemia and anemia dis-eases have been registered with the Thalassaemia Centre established at Sukkur Hospital who were provided with blood from the blood bank free of cost.