

# Independent

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## PM Shahbaz for firm decisions to end future mayhems, sit-ins

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his zero tolerance for any future violent on-slaught and sit-ins by a group of miscreants in Islamabad and resolved to take stern decisions to put an end to repeated string of violent chaos and damages to the country's economy.

Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister without mentioning the name of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led recent on-slaught on the federal capital, said that repeated attacks by a clique of miscreants had forced them to rethink.

With the collective deliberations, they had to take strict measures, to quell such scenes in future as they could no longer put all their resources and energies into it, leading to economic destruction, he observed.

"They should have only one option before

them; that is progress and prosperity of Pakistan. As a Prime Minister, chief executive, as members of the cabinet and parliamentarians, they will not let that coterie of anarchy to inflict further harm on country's economy," he maintained.

The prime minister said that once again an assault was mounted on Islamabad, but on previous night, all the law enforcement agencies had collectively and with good strategy dispersed the protest and provided relief to the public.

As a result of such riot, Islamabad in particular and the country in generally, witnessed huge economic losses as businesses were closed, traders were raising hue and cry, owners of the factories were in distress; daily wagers found it hard to get one time meal while the patients were stranded, he added.

In twin cities, the prime minister said the life was paralyzed.

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif sees off President of Belarus, Aleksandra Lukashenko at PAF Nur Khan Airbase.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif sees off President of Belarus, Aleksandra Lukashenko at PAF Nur Khan Airbase.

## Sharjeel Inam says: PTI doesn't deserve government in KP

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon has berated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for staging a protest in Islamabad and derailing the country, saying, "PTI's protest was not less than May 9 riots. During a press conference in Karachi, Memon criticised the PTI for sabotaging law and order whenever a foreign delegation visited Pakistan."

Sindh minister stated that KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur misused KP province's machinery and resources for political interests leading the PTI protest. PTI's actions would be written in black words in history. "We are not supporters of the governor-led

government set-up in KP but PTI leadership actions don't deserve a government in the province," he stressed.

PTI wanted the killings of innocents but federal government didn't let the nefarious goals get successful. He lamented PTI founder for his narrative that his spouse would not join politics, Memon insisted that but Bushra Bibi proved more political and she incited violence and agitated the public during the protest.

Sharjeel Memon alleged that FC, Punjab Police and Rangers were attacked despite all odds the federal government displayed tolerance and patience.

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SUKKUR: Sindh Energy Minister, Nasir Hussain Shah addresses during the launching ceremony of E-Services Sindh App, in Sukkur.

## Nasir Shah inaugurates E-Services Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): District administration Sukkur has launched a significant initiative for the citizens of Sukkur, introducing e-services Sindh under the slogan 'Services at your doorstep.'

The inaugural ceremony of the People's Service Center was held here on Wednesday.

Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning, and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, attended the ceremony as the chief guest, said a handout on Wednesday.

The minister launched e-services in Sindh by cutting the ribbon.

In his address, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said, "A revolutionary system has been introduced in Sukkur

today." "Citizens can now obtain various documents, including domicile, PRC, inheritance certificates, sales certificates, and other revenue documents, from the comfort of their own homes through the e-services Sindh platform," he added.

"All online applications will be processed within 7 days," he said.

"The purpose of e-Services Sindh is to ensure transparency and promote digitization for extending swift facilities to citizens," he added.

"This is the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, which is being implemented by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and his team," he remarked.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint meeting of the Irrigation dept and Peoples Housing Project at CM House.

## Govt committed to augment agrarian economy through climate resilient infrastructure: CM Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that his government is committed to augmenting the agrarian economy through climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure that led to the replacement of Sukkur barrage gates following an incident on 20 June 2024.

He said this while presiding over a joint meeting of the Irrigation department and Peoples Housing Project here at CM House.

Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Minister Home Zia Lanjar, CM Special Assistant Jabbar Khan, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Advocate General Hassan Akbar, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, CEO Peoples

Housing Khalid Shaikh, Secretary Law Ali Ahmad Baloch and others attended the meeting. The CM said that the ongoing Rs 24 billion Sukkur Barrage Gates and Structure Rehabilitation project is a critical initiative for protecting water resources and infrastructure. Launched in response to the collapse of a gate at Sukkur Barrage on June 20, 2024, the project aims to replace all 66 gates of the historic structure, including canal gates, he said.

Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro briefed the CM that the project is on track for completion in three years, with major civil works currently in progress. The comprehensive rehabilitation plan includes constructing a large cofferdam.

For the first time since the barrage's construction, the floors, piers, and built-in components will undergo inspection and repair. The first phase focuses on replacing 16 gates, starting at the Left Bank Divide Wall.

Construction of the stage-1 cofferdam started on September 16, 2024, and Secretary Irrigation Zareef Khoro personally monitored the replacement of 16 main gates on October 20, 2024, Shoro said.

According to Shoro, a total of 510 sheet piles for the upstream cofferdam have been successfully installed, while work on the downstream sheet piles commenced on November 26, 2024, with 16 out of 594 piles already driven. Temporary access for

transporting materials and equipment has been completed, along with the delivery of steel sheet piles and geomembrane sandbags to the site.

The Rs 24 billion Sukkur Barrage project to accommodate enhanced works. The project is scheduled for completion by February 23, 2027, with an additional one-year defect liability period.

CEO Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood (SPHF) Khalid Shaikh, during the meeting, presented updates on housing construction for flood-affected families.

The CM was informed that over one million bank accounts had been opened to facilitate direct fund transfers for housing reconstruction.

## Politics of bloodshed cannot continue in country: Fazlur

LARKANA (APP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman on Wednesday emphasized that politics of bloodshed cannot continue in the country.

In a press conference held at Khalid Mehmood Soomro Madarsa in Larkana, Maulana Fazlur Rahman expressed his views on the Parachinar incident, suggesting that a Jirga can be held in the tribal area.

He stressed that politicians have a duty to guide their workers and voters. However, he condemned the damage to government property and the killing of police personnel and said that such actions are unacceptable.

He also denounced the recent incident in Islamabad by the PTI workers.

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## Aseefa Bhutto attends Global Women's Forum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of National Assembly Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has attended the Global Women's Forum, being held in Dubai.

The forum was organized by Dubai Women's Establishment, said a news release issued by the party secretariat here on Wednesday. The inaugural session of the forum was attended by the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE HH Sheikh Mohammed, First Lady of Turkey Emine Erdogan, and Louise Araneta Marcos, First Lady of the Philippines.

The event attracted approximately 6,000 dignitaries and advocates for women's empowerment and gender balance.

Aseefa Bhutto also participated in the panel discussion, highlighting the positive contributions of women in Pakistan.

On the sideline of the forum, Aseefa Bhutto held a bilateral meeting with Latifa MRM, Chairperson of Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, Member of the Dubai Council and Member of the Executive Council of Dubai.

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## Shah inaugurates fashion design studios & distributes scholarship cheques

SUKKUR (APP): Member of the National Assembly (MNA), Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah inaugurated the state-of-the-art Fashion Design Studios, marking a significant milestone in the Aror University of Arts, Fashion and Design Sukkur, said a release on Wednesday.

Addressing the event MNA Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah praising university's efforts in promoting education and creativity in the region. He emphasized the importance of such institutions in empowering the youth of Sindh and beyond.

The Vice Chancellor of Aror University, Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand, in his address focused on the importance of such initiatives for the community, fostering talent and promoting entrepreneurship, particularly in the field of Fashion Design & Arts.

The Distribution of Scholarship Cheques and Research Awards took place, recognizing outstanding students and faculty for their academic achievements and contributions. This gesture further reinforces Aror University's mission to support and motivate its students, helping them reach new heights.

Later, souvenirs were presented to the MNA as a gesture of respect for his unwavering support in uplifting Aror University to the status of a state-of-the-art institution.

The event wrapped up with a delightful dinner accompanied by live music, providing guests with an opportunity to celebrate the occasion and network in an informal setting.

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## Belarusian President winds up 3-day Pakistan visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on Wednesday departed after completing a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif saw off the Belarusian president at the airport, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

During the visit, the two leaders comprehensively reviewed the full range of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their mutual commitment to deepening friendly ties between the two countries across political, trade, economic, cultural, social, and other areas.

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## SHC Constitutional Bench set aside stay order on teachers' recruitment

KARACHI (INP): Sindh High Court's constitutional bench set aside restraining order against recruitment of PST and JST teachers in Sindh.

The constitutional bench while hearing a petition against recruitment policy of teachers in Sindh, allowed provincial government to go ahead with recruitment of teachers across the province.

The high court had earlier issued a stay order restraining the government from filling vacancies of teachers.

Sindh government in its plea said that the restraining order has put the province's educational system on standstill pleading to the court to allow recruitment of teachers for betterment of the educational system.

The petitioner earlier argued that the giving justification of the hard area their people have been passed on 33 marks. The petition stressed for enforcement of unified policy on entire Sindh.

The Sindh High Court last year in June barred the provincial government from further recruitment of teachers. The SHC was moved against the recruitment of teachers under the hard area policy.

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Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, represented Pakistan at the OIC Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting in Qatar and signed the historic Makkah Convention in Doha.

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## Commissioner reviews ongoing development projects

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He was briefed by Deputy Commissioner Tahir Cheema, Assistant Commissioner, and relevant officers about the projects carried out in details.

The Commissioner directed the concerned officials to complete all projects by June and ensure that the development work meets the required standards and codal formalities.

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## Chinese's high level delegation led by Gen Zhang Youxia visits GHQ, meets COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China, along with a high-level delegation, visited here Wednesday at General Headquarters (GHQ).

The distinguished guest held a one-on-one meeting with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), followed by delegation-level discussions, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The engagements focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, measures for regional stability, and enhancing bilateral defense cooperation. General Asim Munir underscored the enduring and all-weather nature of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing their foundation of mutual trust and cooperation. He affirmed that this historic

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partnership has withstood the test of time and is poised to grow further. The COAS thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment.

Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia expressed China's deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast commitment to their strategic partnership.

He commended the Pakistan Army's resolve and professionalism in its ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and reiterated China's determination to further strengthen this enduring relationship. Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, General Zhang Youxia laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, paying homage to Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm reception, including a guard of honor presented by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army.

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## Dr Khalid inaugurates Institute of Technology and Management Sciences

HYDERABAD (APP): Chairman MQM Pakistan and Federal Minister for Education Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said that the constitution and law allow protests, but not violence. He made these remarks during his speech at the inaugural ceremony of the Hyderabad Institute of Technology and Management Sciences here on Wednesday, which he said was a long-awaited dream and demand of the people of Hyderabad, now realized.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Siddiqui highlighted the significance of education, calling it a right, not charity. He stated, "The establishment of this university in Hyderabad is a historic moment. This demand is before my age, and today we are fulfilling it."

He went on to stress the importance of the youth, calling them the country's most valuable asset.

"The world is changing rapidly, and no scientist or futurist can predict what it will look like in the coming years. If we do not act in the next five years, artificial intelligence and biotechnology will bring about profound changes," he said and added that why Hyderabad city got this university after 70 years, is also a question, education is a fundamental right, not charity, and we have taken this right. He added that in the coming years, urban areas of Sindh must play a crucial role in the country's development, and efforts to leave them behind have not succeeded. "Hyderabad will become the city of knowledge," he declared.

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## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Islamabad march

With emotions running high, chaos closes in. As these words were being written, rumours and speculation were all there were to go by as the citizenry wondered what exactly was unfolding in Islamabad.

With the electronic media kept from doing its job, it remained difficult for most to separate fact from fiction. We do know that two extraordinary meetings between PTI leaders and the party's incarcerated founder, Imran Khan, arranged on late Monday night, came to nought. And, defying all predictions and the government's war-like preparations to keep them out of the federal capital, crowds of charged PTI supporters finally managed to enter Islamabad in the early hours of Tuesday. Before the protesters broke through the city's container defences, skirmishes between marchers and security personnel, as well as other incidents, resulted in several deaths. At least three Rangers personnel, several police officers, and two protesters lost their lives. Countless others were injured.

Meanwhile, on social media, partisan 'analysts' and opinion makers competed for attention, with one side portraying the events as nothing short of a revolution while the other celebrated reports that the army had been called in, apparently with orders to shoot on sight. As their war of words accelerated to alarming levels, the authorities failed to keep temperatures down.

While statements from the police chiefs of Punjab and Islamabad had remained needlessly confrontational, the interior minister made matters worse when he declared that "five minutes of firing" by security forces would force the protesters to disperse. Shortly after, there were reports that live rounds had indeed been used at one of the blockades, injuring several protesters. A little later, a fast-moving vehicle ran over several security personnel, causing multiple deaths and injuries. These events may not necessarily have been connected, but they did make such statements look unwise in retrospect.

It was clear by Tuesday afternoon that matters were slipping out of the government's hands. While the interior minister blamed a "hidden force" for the PTI's surprising advances, one wondered what came of the more than 20,000 security personnel and the equipment that had been requisitioned to keep the party out of Islamabad. Rumours swirled of backdoor negotiations in Islamabad, and there was danger that things could spiral out of control when the protesters forced themselves into D-Chowk, though they were subsequently pushed back. It was unclear how much control the PTI leadership had over the crowd that had marched on Islamabad and how far they would exercise that control if their goals remained unmet. Still, one hopes that this stand-off will be resolved through politics and dialogue. Compromises will be necessary to avoid further confrontation and violence; it is up to the PTI leadership and the government to find a way out.

## Annual COP-out

Mahir Ali

Even the low expectations that preceded the 29<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP29), which concluded in the early hours of Sunday, turned out to have been too high.

After the gavel came down in Baku on a deal proposing \$300 billion in financial assistance by 2035 to developing nations struggling to decarbonise and cope in other ways with the swiftly mounting consequences of climate change, Indian representative Chandni Raina justifiably decried a "stage-managed" process that had produced "nothing more than an optical illusion".

A week earlier, Pakistan's former climate change minister Sherry Rehman had declared: "We're here for life and death reasons", demanding "internationally determined contributions" from the biggest historical contributors to global heating, and pointing out the pitfalls of leaving too much to the private sector.

Inevitably, given the timing of the conference, the malevolent spectre of Donald Trump hung over the proceedings. Even at the best of times, the US has hardly stood out as a leader in the combat against devastating climate change, with the majority of its legislators — all too many of them addicted to contributions from fossil fuel firms and lobbyists — turning pale at the prospect of a Green New Deal. But Trump and some of his closest associates are seemingly determined to pump up the volume of oil and gas extraction because all the hullabaloo about climate change is, after all, no more than a hoax.

He may well agree with Argentina's Javier Milei, a kindred spirit from the loony right who claims to have been hailed by Trump as his

"favourite president" — and who withdrew his nation's delegation from Baku after the first three days — that the climate crisis is just a "socialist lie".

What is a little more perturbing is that Azerbaijan's leadership appears to be on more or less the same page, with President Ilham Aliyev hailing oil and gas as a "gift from God", with no acknowledgement of the various other natural wonders that are at risk because humans insist on burning fossil fuels for energy. Besides, aren't alternative sources of energy such as sunshine and wind equally gifts from the same source?

There's no dearth of sunlight in Azerbaijan, but 90 per cent of its foreign income comes from fossil fuel exports — which include nearly 40pc of Israel's oil imports, currently facilitating a genocide. The quid pro quo is weapons supplies from Israel, which may well have facilitated the ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. It certainly might be worthwhile conducting such conferences in oil- and gas-producing nations genuinely interested in reducing their reliance on fossil fuels. But this year's host appeared to be even less interested in investigating that path than last year's previous petrostate venue.

COP28 in Dubai was presided over by the head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, and swarmed with oil and gas lobbyists. The conference formally acknowledged for the first time the link between fossil fuels and climate change, something that was evident decades earlier. And it did so in the face of staunch resistance from Saudi Arabia, where the crown prince's now diminished Vision 2030 excludes any inclination towards compen-

sating the victims of its incredibly lucrative oil boom. By all accounts, the Saudis were again desperate to achieve the same outcome at Baku. Their ploy flopped again. But does it matter?

The previous \$100bn-a-year finance deal did not add up until well after its 2020 deadline. Its tripling (or doubling, if inflation is taken into account) is likely to meet the same fate. The 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold might be breached as soon as this year, amid an increase in emissions notwithstanding previous COPs, and a near-consensus that 2024 will turn out to be the hottest year on record. Climate scientists are constantly being flabbergasted by what Harold Macmillan might have designated as "events, dear boy, events". Who knows where the world might be in 2035, by when the \$300bn level is supposed to be reached. That's only a fraction of the notionally required resources, and it may even be too late to make much of a difference with the trillions that no one seriously expects to be doled out.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the UN's efforts to tackle the climate emergency have been ineffective. But anyone who suggests that a failing process should be abandoned must present a viable alternative.

That's not easy, short of straying into fantasy world. It's a small mercy that COP30 will take place in Brazil, whose present government is dedicated to thwarting climate change.

Perhaps putting the remarkably astute Greta Thunberg and fellow young activists from around the world in charge of working out the way forward might be the ideal option. But I must be dreaming. — Courtesy Dawn

## Lessons from US

Touqir Hussain

America and Pakistan are two totally different countries, and their democracies are very different breeds. Yet the recent US elections have some relevance, if not lessons, for Pakistan.

The majority of Trump supporters were no doubt concerned about jobs, inflation, and open borders. But more important than that, they felt neglected and marginalised by democracy, more precisely by the politicians.

The shine had long come off the vaunted democratic system of America. Politics had become all about the pursuit of power. The system was largely led by the elites who competed with each other for power, minimally satisfying the needs of their core supporters, without reference to the aspirations of the public at large.

Trump challenged the status quo with his insurgent politics. The majority of his supporters were 'unheard and unseen' little people, working-class folk, many of whose lives revolved around economic hardships and challenges, family breakdowns, and drifting youth in search of purpose. American democracy had left them behind. Trump made them feel important.

Different people voted for Trump for different reasons but one theme was common. They were all supporting him to overthrow a system they felt had let them down. The NBC reported that at the exit polls when voters were asked what quality mattered most to them in a candidate, the majority said they wanted either someone with 'the ability to lead' or one who could 'bring about needed change'.

There is a certain parallel here with the

situation in Pakistan where a democracy in name gives respectability to the well-entrenched system of elite capture but lacks legitimacy and moral purpose. It is a democracy needed by the elite but unwanted by people.

Pakistan's democracy is just a political tool for the dominant social groups to maintain their wealth and status. The beneficiaries are justifiably seen as the whole panoply of power — the top tier of politicians, bureaucrats, the military and judiciary, business people and the landed, many of whom monopolise the country's economic resources.

Ironically in both countries, neglected people have thought of similar solutions, gravitating towards extremists or populists who they think would fight the system on their behalf. Trump widened his support base by fusing populism with extremist White/Christian nationalism and by fomenting his supporters' belief that the politicians and politics had failed them.

Pakistan's populist had a similar playbook. He saw that there was a large body of disinherited, marginalised people including dispirited and drifting youth looking for desperate solutions; some of them had been lured by the extremist agenda. A range of grievances had been released in Pakistan thanks to the media explosion which the ruling elite had not addressed. He took up their cause.

By stoking long-standing public anger and feelings of injustice at the hands of the country's established political leadership, and a sense of victimhood, incited by the US-led post 9/11 wars, and by supporting the Afghan Taliban, Imran Khan evoked powerful emo-

tions of morality, nationalism and religion appealing to large numbers of Pakistanis at home and abroad.

Most of Khan's supporters were those who felt neglected or oppressed. Like Trump he said what his base wanted to hear but made them believe that these were his own views, thus creating an illusion that he spoke for them. In conditions of despair and frustration, poor people found easy solace and escape in the idea of being protected by a 'savi-our'. The young and educated found inspiration about the future of the country. And the dispo-—ra looked up to him to restore their pride in the country.

The people saw that regular politicians neither spoke to nor for them, and asked themselves what democracy had done for the common man, the minorities, women and the smaller provinces especially Balochistan. Populists may be wrong but their supporters are invariably right. The popularity of populists basically shows that something is wrong with the system. You cannot extinguish the hope they kindle by treating them as 'arsonists'. The way to deal with them is to let them come to power if they win in free and fair elections. If they succeed that is good for the country. If they fail then people will discover they are not what they had put their faith in. That too will be good. They should not be suppressed. They can be diminished only politically. If suppressed, the restless, aggrieved and alienated PTI supporters will never be reconciled, which will lead to a large swath of the population continuing to disrupt or destabilise the system. Is this good for the country or for democracy? — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Economy observing sustained recovery in FY2025: Finance Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first four months of the current fiscal year showed better than expected improvement marked by receding inflation, a significant increase in remittances and IT exports, sustained external and fiscal sectors and a downward trend in interest rate, finance ministry said in a report released here Wednesday.

According to Monthly Economic Update and Outlook for November, the fiscal sector stability has been evident on the back of prudent fiscal consolidation as during July-September (FY2025), the net federal revenues grew by 186 percent to Rs.4,019 billion from Rs.1,406 billion during the same period of last year.

"The unprecedented increase in revenues was mainly driven by the surplus profit of the State Bank of Pakistan (Rs2,500 billion)," the report said. According to the report, the tax and non-tax revenues increased by 25.5 percent and 566.9 percent to Rs.2,563 billion and Rs.3,022 billion respectively.

On the other hand, total expenditure grew slightly by 1.8 percent to Rs.2,483 billion against Rs.2,438 billion last year while the mark-up expenditure declined by 5.3 percent owing to the gradual decline in the policy rate.

Resultantly, the fiscal balance posted a surplus of Rs.1,896 billion (1.5% of GDP) compared to the deficit of Rs.981 billion

(0.9% of GDP), while the primary balance (surplus) reached Rs.3,202 billion (2.6% of GDP) as compared to Rs.400 billion (0.4% of GDP) same period last year.

During July-October FY2025, the FBR net tax collection grew by 25.3 percent to Rs.3,442.6 billion as compared to Rs.2,748.4 billion last year. In October 2024, FBR collected 24.5 percent more taxes to reach Rs.879.7 billion against Rs.706.8 billion in October 2023.

According to the report, Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is on a downward trajectory while staying at single digit. During Jul-Oct FY2025, CPI Inflation stood at 8.7 percent against 28.5 percent.

### US, China and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during Jul-Oct 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first four months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-October 2024-25 were recorded at US \$2037.270 million against the exports of US \$1862.086 million during July-October 2023-24, showing an increase of 9.40 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$813.441 million against the exports of US \$952.441 million last year, showing a decrease of 14.59 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US

\$761.393 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$690.576 million, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at US \$737.432 million against US \$624.432 million last year while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$579.141 million against US \$487.832 million last year, data said.

During July-October 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$501.316 million against \$448.260 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$394.407 million against \$409.403 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$478.883 million against the exports of US \$516.576 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$291.773 million against \$182.613 million last year.

### Cattle-owners to get interest free loans

SARGODHA (APP): Deputy Director (DD) Livestock and Dairy Development Sargodha Dr. Muhammad Tanveer Kalyar said on Wednesday that the Punjab government had decided to give interest-free loans up to Rs.270,000 to the livestock farmers, for which Rs.11 billion have been allocated.

While talking to APP here on Wednesday, he said that interest-free loan from Rs.135,000 to Rs.270,000 for four months would be given to those cattle owners who have valid CNIC card, having their mobile-phone SIM registered and activated in their names and they have five to 10 male calves.

He said that facility desks had been set up in all livestock hospitals to receive applications under the livestock card initiative, where trained staff were helping farmers to file applications through the app.



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

### SCCI demands prompt steps to resolve business community issues

PESHAWAR (Online) Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan demanded uninterrupted electricity, gas supply to businesses and industries, abolishment of 2 percent provincial cess on export and elimination of double/unjust taxes forthwith.

He made these demands during a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Capt (retired) Sarmad Saleem Ikram at the DC office while leading a delegation of an 85-

members delegation of businessmen.

The delegation consisted on SCCI senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar Khan, former president of the chamber Haji Muhammad Afzal, executive committee members Junaid Altaf, Hassan Zahideen, Abbas Fuad Azeem, Aftab Iqbal, Nadeem Rauf, former senior vice president Imran Khan Mohmand, Afiaf Ali Khan, Syed Ejaz Ali Shah, along with a large number traders and shopkeepers attached with various businesses.

### Pakistan exports seafood worth \$116m in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned \$116.115 million by exporting 54,539 metric tonnes of fish and fish preparations during the first four months of fiscal year 2024-25, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

As compared to the exports of \$123.965 million during fiscal year 2023-24, the fish exports during the period under review witnessed a decline of 6.33 percent, according to PBS data.

In terms of quantity, the exports of fish and fish preparations decreased by 0.04 percent during the period when compared to exports of 54,562 metric

tonnes during the last fiscal year. On a year-on-year basis, the seafood exports increased by 12.78 percent to \$46,009 million in October 2024 as compared to the exports of \$40,797 million in October 2023.

In terms of quantity, the exports witnessed a 27.93 percent increase by going up from 16,724 metric tonnes last October to 21,395 metric tonnes during October 2024.

On a month-on-month basis, the seafood exports declined by 31.45 percent when compared to the exports of \$35,000 million in September 2024, according to the PBS data.

### Rupee sheds 12 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 12 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs.277.96 against the previous day's closing of Rs.277.84.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs.277.50 and Rs.279.00 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 86 paise to close at Rs.291.98 against the last day's closing of Rs.291.12, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 03 paise and closed at Rs.1.83.

### Gold Prices surge by Rs1,600 per tola

LAHORE (APP): Gold rates in Pakistan saw another big surge here, as price moved up by Rs.1,600 per tola on Wednesday. According to local Sarafa Association sources, the price of gold per tola surged by Rs21,600, reaching Rs275,900, while the price of 10-gram gold rose by Rs1,372, settling at Rs236,540. These hikes were in line international gold market.

### WAPDA chairman reviews construction progress on K-IV Project

LAHORE (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Engr. Lt-Gen (retd) Sajjad Ghani visited the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) to review the construction progress at various components, including intake works, pumping stations, and pressurised pipelines.

During the visit, the chairman underscored the critical importance of the K-IV Project for addressing Karachi's growing water needs. He urged the project team to accelerate construction activities and adhere to the project

timelines, according to WAPDA spokesman here Wednesday. The chairman highlighted the need for seamless collaboration and maintaining close coordination with all stakeholders especially the Government of Sindh to ensure timely execution of power supply component and augmentation works critical to the project's completion.

Earlier, the General Manager/Project Director of K-IV Project briefed the Chairman about the progress on each milestone and timelines for remaining work and strategies to meet the targets.

### 47<sup>th</sup> PBIT Board meeting six-point agenda

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain and Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) Chairperson Muntaha Ashraf co-chaired the 47<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors (BoD) meeting to deliberate on a six-point agenda, here on Wednesday.

Industries and Commerce Department's Provincial Secretary Dr. Ehsan Bhutta, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad and other directors of the PBIT

Board attended the meeting. PBIT CEO Jalal Hassan gave a detailed briefing on the board's performance, operations, and the strategic plan for the next six months.

During the meeting, the formation of seven committees including the Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee, and Human Resource Committee, was approved. The committee for the hiring of the PBIT CEO and related matters would finalise its recommendations within two weeks.

## PTI's protest on Nov-24 failed like its May-9 protest: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Wednesday that whether it was May 9 or November 24, PTI's protest failed. Addressing a press conference, she said the PTI called for protest for five times, and it failed every time. She said people did not come out in Punjab for any protest. The minister said that Bushra Bibi escaped from the protest on Tuesday night, while KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur faced criticism from the party workers. She said Gandapur's car was set on fire by workers. Azma Bokhari said that 22 Punjab police vehicles were damaged during the protest, the record of Afghan citizens caught in the protest would be shared soon. The PML-N leader said that Imran Khan's own children were outside the country, while there was no food available for children of people during the protest.



PESHAWAR: Former Senior Minister Sikander Hayyat Khan Sherpao addressing a press conference at PPC.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Intl conference on material sciences commences at UoE

LAHORE (APP): The fifth two-day International Conference on Advances in Material Sciences kicked off Wednesday at the University of Education (UoE) Lahore. The inaugural ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest Rector Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering and Technology Prof Dr Fazal Ahmed Khalid while UoE Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Aqif Anwar Chaudhry presided over the event as the patron-in-chief. The conference has brought together over 500 participants, including 150 keynote speakers, experts, and analysts from 15 countries, including Australia, the UK, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, China, Algeria, Malaysia, Peru, Egypt, South Korea, Morocco, and Pakistan. The event aims to delve into emerging opportunities and challenges in material sciences, exploring advanced learning in artificial intelligence, economic industry applications, commercial innovations, and nanotechnology for the upcoming era. Addressing the audience, Prof Dr Fazal Ahmed Khalid congratulated the University of Education for organizing a global platform that fosters advanced thinking in material sciences. He remarked: "This conference will significantly contribute to achieving the country's developmental goals by promoting cutting-edge research and international collaboration."



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the special meeting to review progress on IT City.

## Kundi to lead efforts for peace in Kurram, invites CM to join hands

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday expressed concerns over the deteriorating security situation in the province especially in Kurram District, where around 150 people have lost their lives and more than 200 have been injured due to ongoing violence since October, Governor Kundi highlighted. He expressed concerns over the lack of attention from the Chief Minister of KP, saying, "While the Chief Executive is preoccupied with issues in Islamabad, the situation in Kurram remains dire. He said, "I will personally visit Kurram to assess the situation and work towards restoring peace there." Kundi also called for unity among the province's political leadership, stressing that when they come together, solutions to issues could be found. He invited the Chief Minister to play a role in controlling the situation. "When the political leadership unites, the way forward becomes clear," he added. In an effort to address the ongoing crisis, the Governor announced plans to hold an All-Party Conference at the Governor House in the first week of December.

## Lahore police arrest 24,000 POs this year so far

LAHORE (APP): Lahore police have arrested over 24,000 proclaimed offenders and 9,900 target offenders this year. This was disclosed by a spokesman for Lahore police in a statement issued on Wednesday. According to the spokesman, operations against criminals had been carried out across multiple divisions. In the Cantonment Division, 5,131 proclaimed offenders were arrested, while 2,139 were apprehended in the Civil Lines area; in the City Division, 5,858 proclaimed offenders were caught followed by 3,260 in Iqbal Town; 4,032 in Saddar and 3,994 in Model Town.

## Crucial changes finalised for Nawaz Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research

LAHORE (APP): Crucial changes to master plan of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research have been finalised. A meeting of the Health Advisory Committee, chaired by Provincial Ministers for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir, was held in this regard on Wednesday at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department to discuss the project. The meeting also finalised the procurement of state-of-the-art medical equipment and machinery. CEO of the Infrastructure Development Authority of Punjab (IDAP) provided a comprehensive briefing on the project, highlighting key developments. Punjab Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, Khawaja Salman Rafique, emphasized the importance of timely completion and directed IDAP to meet the twelve-month target for the first phase of the hospital. He assured that the Punjab government prioritizes initiatives that improve citizens' lives and pledged to expand the hospital in phases, equipping it with modern facilities for cancer treatment and care.

## Hearing of bail pleas of Yasmin in cases of torching police vans adjourned

LAHORE (Online): Hearing of bail after arrest pleas in two cases of torching police vans in chowk near Jinnah House against PTI leader Dr Yasmin Rashid has been adjourned till December 10. Judge Manzar Ali Gill of Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) took up for hearing bail after arrest plea of Dr Yasmin Rashid in two cases Wednesday. Burhan Moazzam Malik advocate counsel for Dr Yasmin Rashid did not appear in the court. The junior counsel requested the court that senior lawyer Burhan Moazzam Malik did not appear in the court due to closure of roads. Time be given for arguments.

## CM thanks people for rejecting mischief-makers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed her gratitude to the people of Punjab for not supporting the mischief-makers and disruptor, thanking them for their continued resilience and unity. In a message issued here on Wednesday, she acknowledged the sacrifices made by the people of Punjab, who remained steadfast despite the challenges posed by elements seeking to create unrest. The CM issued instructions to open the roads across the province, ensuring smooth transportation and public mobility. She emphasized the importance of facilitating the daily routines of the citizens, who had been facing significant disruptions. CM Maryam Nawaz took decisive steps to stabilize the supply of essential goods. She directed the administration to ensure the uninterrupted availability of food and other necessities. She directed the strict monitoring and control of prices for essential items, stressing that no one should exploit the situation for personal gain. Reflecting on the hardship caused to the public by the ongoing disruptions, Maryam Nawaz expressed deep concern over the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens. She conveyed her sincere apologies for the inconvenience, stating, "I am truly saddened by the suffering the people have had to endure due to these disturbances."



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi addressing a press conference at Governor House.

## May 9 "No" plan has been frustrated: Maryam Aurangzeb

LAHORE (Online): Punjab senior minister Maryam Aurangzeb has said May 9 "No" plan has been frustrated. She said this in a statement issued here Wednesday. She went on to say on May 9, attack was made on military installations by provoking the workers. On November 26, Rangers and police men were got martyred through mercenary terrorists. They had come to D Chowk to collect bodies of Rangers and Police. In 2014 they had to come to dig graves in D chowk. In 2024 they fled after martyring Rangers and police men. She said Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi and Gandapur are responsible for martyrdom of Police and Rangers.

# International News

## Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire takes effect, civilians head back to south Lebanon

**Monitoring Desk**  
TYRE: A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah came into effect on Wednesday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the US and France, a rare victory for diplomacy in a region traumatised by two devastating conflicts for over a year. At least 55 people were killed on Monday in Israeli attacks on Lebanon, bringing the death toll since October 2023 to 3,823, the Lebanese Health Ministry said on Tuesday. A total of 160 others were wounded over the past 24 hours, raising the number of injuries to 15,859. In the hours leading up to the ceasefire, Israeli airstrikes on the Lebanese capital Beirut and its southern suburbs, as well as the southern and eastern provinces of the country, had intensified, resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries. While the ceasefire largely held on Wednesday morning, Israel said it identified Hezbollah operatives returning to areas near the border and had opened fire to prevent them from coming closer. Lebanon's army, tasked with helping ensure the ceasefire holds, said in a statement on Wednesday it was preparing to deploy to the south of the country. The military also asked that residents of border villages delay returning home until the Israeli military, which has fought against Hezbollah on several occasions and pushed around six kilometres into Lebanese territory, withdraws. The agreement, which promises to end a conflict across the Israeli-Lebanese border that has killed thousands of people since it was signed by Israel's invasion of Gaza last year, is touted as a major achievement for the US in the waning days of President Joe Biden's administration. "Force must give way to dialogue and negotiation. This has now been achieved in Lebanon, and it must happen as soon as possible in the Gaza Strip," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told Franceinfo radio. Bursts of gunfire could be heard across Lebanon's capital Beirut after the ceasefire took effect at 0200 GMT. It was not immediately clear if the shooting was celebratory, as gunfire had also been used to alert residents who may have missed evacuation warnings issued by Israel's military. Later, cars and vans piled high with mattresses, suitcases and even furniture streamed through the southern port city of Tyre, which was heavily bombed in the final days before the ceasefire, heading further south.



Vehicles drive near damaged buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, after a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah took effect, in Lebanon.

## Putin to discuss energy ties on visit to Kazakhstan, Kremlin says

**Monitoring Desk**  
ASTANA: Russian President Vladimir Putin will discuss energy ties on a visit to Kazakhstan this week, the Kremlin said on Tuesday, a trip that comes amid trade tensions with the Central Asian nation, which exports most of its oil through Russia. Kazakhstan, which has tried to distance itself from Moscow's war in Ukraine, remains highly dependent on Russia for exporting oil to Western markets and for imports of food, electricity and other products. "Our countries are... constructively cooperating in the oil and gas sector," Putin wrote in an article. "Russia - Kazakhstan: a union deepened by life and looking to the future" for the Kazakhstanskaya Pravda newspaper and published on the Kremlin's website late on Tuesday. Putin's article came after Kazakhstan's energy minister said on Monday his country could sharply increase its crude oil exports out of Turkey's port of Ceyhan, a move that would reduce the share of flows it currently sends via Russia. Since the first small unmanned aerial system was first spotted on Nov 20, the number of drones has fluctuated and there have been a range of different sizes and configurations, said the US Air Forces in Europe spokesperson. The drones have also been seen over RAF Fairford, in western England, the spokesperson said, adding to the sightings reported on Tuesday over three bases in eastern England, RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall, and RAF Feltwell. The drones have to date not impacted the bases, which are leased by the USAF from Britain. "Our units continue to monitor the airspace and are working with host-nation authorities and mission partners to ensure the safety of base personnel, facilities and assets," the spokesperson said.

## US Air Force says drones still being spotted over bases in England

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Unidentified drones are still being spotted over United States Air Force (USAF) bases in England on Wednesday, a USAF spokesperson said, confirming that a fourth base had also been targeted by the week-long airspace incursions. Since the first small unmanned aerial system was first spotted on Nov 20, the number of drones has fluctuated and there have been a range of different sizes and configurations, said the US Air Forces in Europe spokesperson. The drones have also been seen over RAF Fairford, in western England, the spokesperson said, adding to the sightings reported on Tuesday over three bases in eastern England, RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall, and RAF Feltwell. The drones have to date not impacted the bases, which are leased by the USAF from Britain. "Our units continue to monitor the airspace and are working with host-nation authorities and mission partners to ensure the safety of base personnel, facilities and assets," the spokesperson said.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip leave 15 dead, medics say

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 15 people on Wednesday, some of them in a school housing displaced people, medics in Gaza said, adding that the fatalities included two sons of a former Hamas spokesman. Health officials in the Hamas-run enclave said eight Palestinians were killed and dozens of others wounded in an Israeli strike that hit the Al-Taba'een School, which was sheltering displaced families in Gaza City. Among those killed were two sons of former Hamas spokesman, Fawzi Barhoum, according to medics and Barhoum himself. In the Shejaia suburb of Gaza City, another strike killed four people, while three people were killed in an Israeli air strike in Beit Lahya on the northern edge of the enclave where army forces have been operating since last month. Separately, a ceasefire between Israel and Iran-backed group Hezbollah came into effect on Wednesday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the US and France, a rare victory for diplomacy in a region shaken by two wars for over a year. I r a n - b a c k e d Hezbollah began firing missiles at Israel in solidarity with Hamas after the Palestinian militant group attacked Israel in October of 2023, killing around 1,200 people and capturing over 250 hostages.

## Ukraine says Russian attack sets a new record for the number of drones used

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia launched 188 drones against most regions of Ukraine in a nighttime blitz, the Ukrainian air force said Tuesday, describing it as a record number of drones deployed in a single attack. Most of the drones were intercepted, according to the air force, but apartment buildings and critical infrastructure such as the national power grid were damaged. No casualties were immediately reported in the 17 targeted regions. Russia has been hammering civilian areas of Ukraine with increasingly heavy drone, missile and glide bomb attacks since the middle of the year. At the same time, Russia's army has largely held the battlefield initiative for the past year and has been pushing hard in the eastern Donetsk region where it is making significant tactical advances, according to Western military analysts. Ukraine faces a difficult winter, with worries about the reliability of the electricity supply amid Russia's attacks and how much U.S. support it can count on next year after President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January. The air raid alert in the Kyiv region overnight lasted more than seven hours. Russia is trying to unnerve civilians and wear down their will to resist in the almost 3-year-old war. Meanwhile, Ukraine's General Staff said Tuesday that over the past 24 hours roughly half of the clashes along the about 1,000-kilometer (600 mile) front line occurred near Pokrovsk and Kurakhove in the Donetsk region. Ukraine has a critical manpower problem on the front line, and though the Russian army's gains have been incremental its momentum is adding up as the Ukrainians yield ground. The Russian advance is threatening important supply routes in Donetsk, the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said late Monday.

## COP29 president blames rich nations for 'imperfect' deal

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: The tough-fought finance deal at UN climate negotiations was "imperfect", the Azerbaijan COP29 leadership has admitted, seeking to blame richer countries for an outcome slammed by poorer nations as insulting. The contentious deal agreed on Sunday saw wealthy polluters agree to a \$300 billion a year pledge to help developing countries reduce emissions and prepare for the increasingly dangerous impacts of a warming world. COP29 president Mukhtar Babayev conceded that the deal was insufficient to meet escalating needs and suggested that China would have agreed to stump up more cash had others agreed to budge. Writing in Britain's Guardian newspaper on Monday, he said wealthy historical emitters had been "immovable" until very late in the negotiating process. "This deal may be imperfect. It does not keep everyone happy. But it is a major step forward from the \$100 billion pledged in Paris back in 2015," he said. "It is also the deal that almost didn't happen." Azerbaijan, an authoritarian oil and gas exporter, came under heavy criticism for its handling of COP29, notably France and Germany. Babayev banged the deal through in the early hours of Sunday after nearly two weeks of fractious negotiations that at one point appeared on the verge of collapse.

## Eight migrants drown off Greek island

**Monitoring Desk**  
ATHENS: Greece's coastguard has found the bodies of eight migrants — six minors and two women — who drowned off the island of Samos, authorities said on Monday, in the second migrant shipwreck in the Aegean Sea this month. Greek police found a further 36 people alive in the northern part of Samos, while three people, trapped in a rocky area of the island, were rescued by coast guard officers, the coast guard said. Aircraft and vessels assisted a search and rescue operation, it added. According to a coastguard official, authorities were alerted to the incident by a non-governmental organisation and estimate that about 50 people had been on board the vessel that brought them off Samos.

## Malaysia drops 1MDB-linked charges against ex-PM Najib, former treasury official

**Monitoring Desk**  
KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian court on Wednesday allowed corruption charges linked to the multibillion-dollar 1MDB scandal filed against jailed former Prime Minister Najib Razak and the former treasury chief to be dropped, their lawyers said. Najib faces several trials linked to the scandal at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB), from which Malaysian and US authorities say about \$4.5 billion was stolen in a complex, globe-spanning scheme between 2009 and 2014. Najib, who helped found IMDB when he was premier in 2009, was found guilty of corruption and money laundering in a case linked to the scandal and sentenced to 12 years in prison in 2022.

## Gilani praises Grand Mufti's contributions to Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday expressed gratitude for the Saudi Arabi Grand Mufti's contributions to the Muslim world and his efforts in promoting Islamic values during challenging times.

During a meeting with the Grand Mufti, he highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, founded on shared religious values and mutual respect.

He underscored the importance of unity within the Muslim Ummah and reiterated the commitment of both nations to jointly address modern challenges.

"Pakistan seeks collaboration with Saudi Arabia in educational and religious sectors," Gilani said, adding that such co-

operation would help highlight Islam's message of peace.

He emphasized that fostering peace and stability in the region is a shared responsibility of the Muslim leadership.

The Chairman also praised the Grand Mufti's efforts in promoting tolerance and harmony, advocating for increased exchange of scholars and religious experts to strengthen mutual understanding.

He further commended the Grand Mufti's exemplary role in resolving conflicts and addressing contemporary issues, acknowledging his vital contribution to the unity and guidance of the Muslim Ummah.

Gilani proposed accelerating religious education initiatives and facilitating

expert delegation exchanges between the two countries.

He also extended an invitation to the Grand Mufti to visit Pakistan, praising the deep connection between the people of Pakistan and the religious leadership of Saudi Arabia.

"The fatwas issued by the Grand Mufti serve as guidance not only for Saudi Arabia but for the entire Islamic world," Gilani said adding that the Grand Mufti has consistently provided direction on issues of unity and modern challenges facing the Muslim Ummah.

He acknowledged the Grand Mufti's exemplary role in resolving conflicts and addressing pressing issues, stressing that the government and people of Pakistan greatly value his positive contributions.



RAWALPINDI: GoP/NDMA dispatched 21st consignment in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force, comprised of 17 tons of supplies via chartered aircraft from Chaklala, Rawalpindi to Damascus, Syria.

## PTI should wait for 2029 election: Nasir

SUKKUR (APP): Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that the role of these miscreants is to spread chaos in the country.

These people reached Islamabad in three days, but ran away in three minutes, he said and added that it was a flop show.

He said that they came to get their leader released, but instead, they got their workers arrested.

He said that the PTI and its founder can only get relief from the courts, not by making false claims, attacking the capital.

He expressed these views while talking to the

media at Sukkur Press Club on Wednesday. The Minister said that PTI members were giving the impression that Imran Khan would be taken out of jail and would take oath at the Prime Minister's House, but nothing of the sort happened.

He praised the role of Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, who controlled the situation with tolerance. He said that people have been misled through social media, now the situation is in front of everyone. How many people from Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan went to Islamabad, Sukkur is such a big city, how many people from here went to Islamabad, he added.

## SHC judge Justice Umer Sial declines to be part of constitutional bench

KARACHI (INP): Justice Umar Sial, a Sindh High Court judge nominated for the constitutional bench, has declined to participate in the constitutional bench.

In this regard, Justice Umar Sial has informed the head of the committee that formed the constitutional benches, KK Agha, about the decision through a letter.

"I am grateful to the Judicial Commission for nominating me for the constitutional bench, Justice Umar Sial said in a letter.

## Overseas investors repatriate \$410 million from Pak in October 2024: SBP

KARACHI (INP): Foreign investors successfully repatriated over \$410 million during October 2024, reflecting Pakistan's improving economic stability.

According to the latest statistics released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), profits repatriated in October 2024 were 52% higher compared to the same period in 2023.

The report also revealed that foreign investors had sent over \$110 million abroad as profit in September 2024.

## Vaccination drive to protect animals from winter diseases common launched

THARPARKAR (INP): The livestock department, Tharparkar, has launched a district-wide vaccination campaign to protect animals from contagious diseases common during winter. The Deputy Director Ajay Kumar Rupani, in a statement on Wednesday, urged livestock owners to take preventive measures as the risk of outbreaks rises in colder months.

He revealed that so far, mobile teams had vaccinated 1,467,897 animals against various diseases and treated 20,861 animals suffering from ailments. The campaign aims to safeguard livestock and support farmers in maintaining their livelihoods. Mobile teams led by veterinary officers including Dr. Lajpat Rai (Mithi, 0337-6302226), Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Bhutto (Kalo, 0332-3205942), Dr. Moti Ram (Diplo, 0332-2076086), Dr. Santosh Kumar (Islamkot, 0344-3659694), Dr. Usman (Chachro, 0333-2505988), Dr. Inamullah (Dahli, 0345-3939314) and Dr. Lachman (Nagarparkar, 0333-2627753) are working across all seven talukas.

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## Terms "final call" as missed call Muqam slams PTI leaders for fleeing protests, abandoning workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam, has strongly criticized leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for fleeing the scene of violent protest while leaving their supporters behind.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Muqam stated that "We've said it before this 'final call' will prove to be a missed call". He said there is a clear divide between the PTI and its leaders who wanted to create anarchy in the country.

He condemned the actions of PTI leadership, accusing them of inciting chaos under the guise of political protests.

Muqam said that the agenda of these people was to shed blood which was not fulfilled. "This is not a party but a group working on an agenda to destabilize the country," he said that such actions are part of a broader plan to spread chaos and anarchy in the country.

"We will hold them accountable for the blood of innocent people and the damage to public property," Muqam stated.

Once again, PTI workers were used for personal gains and the so-called leaders ran away. "These leaders used workers for their personal gains, then left them behind," Muqam said.

He said, "A new chapter of courage was written last night, as they ran away second time and insulted the Pashtuns."

The minister said that PTI leaders, including Bushra Bibi and Ali Amin Gandapur, would be held accountable for the violence, loss of lives, and destruction of public property that occurred during the protest.

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MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly along with delegation at near Wall of Kremlin Moscow after laying wreath at the tomb of Unknown Soldier.

## PNS Zulfiqar conducts exercise with Korean Navy Ship in Arabian Sea

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Navy Ship PNS ZULFIQAR conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSX) with the Republic of Korea Navy Ship WANG GEON in the North Arabian Sea. Both ships operated under the task forces of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), CTF-150 and CTF-151, respectively.

The exercise included tactical maneuvers and communication drills, aimed at enhancing operational interoperability and fostering professional ties between the two navies. CTF-150 and CTF-151 focus on deterring illicit maritime activities such as drug

trafficking and piracy, which threaten security in international waters.

The successful conduct of this joint exercise underscores the commitment of both navies and their respective Task Forces to uphold maritime security, supporting lawful activities at sea, and promoting stability and cooperation in this strategically vital region.

Pakistan and the Republic of Korea consistently contribute ships and aircraft to maritime security efforts under the CMF banner. This collaboration is particularly valuable for building mutual understanding and operational synergy.

## Chairman PCP condemns attack on media houses, journalists by PTI protesters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Press Council of Pakistan (PCP), M Arshad Khan Jadoon, has strongly condemned the violent actions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters against media houses and journalists, including the National Press Club (NPC), in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Expressing grave concern over the incidents, the chairman termed the attacks on media institutions and personnel as a blatant violation of press freedom and journalistic integrity. "No one will be allowed to intimidate or harm media professionals or institu-

tions under any circumstances," he stated.

The attack saw a group of 50 to 60 protesters attempting to forcibly enter the National Press Club. Reports indicate that they tried to breach one of the gates, harassed staff, and even scaled the walls of the premises. Female journalists were among those targeted, and several journalists performing their duties elsewhere in Islamabad sustained injuries. The PCP chairman reaffirmed the Council's commitment to standing with the journalist community and upholding their safety and dignity.



KARACHI: AIIKMC, TMCs Retired Employees and Pensioners Alliance are protesting in front of the KMC office on MA Jinnah Road for payment of dues.

## Parliament session should be summoned forthwith: Saif

ISLAMABAD (Online): Barrister Saif, KP Information advisor while demanding to summon parliament session on press conference by information minister has said this press conference is new example of Yazidiat after coercion and atrocities.

"PTI should call NA and Senate sessions forthwith on the press conference by information minister Atta Ullah Tarar. Government has been defeated even after committing atrocities while PTI has emerged triumphant by facing coercion and atrocities, he said this in a statement

here Wednesday.

Such horrendous atrocities were committed that the pen will tremble while history is penned down. He held PTI should immediately call Senate and NA session. KP assembly is also being summoned in this regard.

PTI leader Atif Khan said PTI workers were hit by intense shelling and firing by switching off lights. As a result several PTI workers were martyred and injured.

All workers were dispersed after firing and took shelter to save their lives.

## Registration for recruitment in Pakistan Navy to be continue till Dec 8

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon has announced that Pakistan Navy Recruitment Center in Shaheed Benazirabad is now accepting registrations for the Short Service Commission Course 2025 A and M Cadet Scheme 10 Batch, which will be open until December 8, 2024.

Interested youth can register by visiting the Pakistan Navy Recruitment Center in Nawabshah or their nearest office. Alternatively, they can register online through the Pakistan Navy's website or contact them at 02449370123 for more information.

## Vaccination drive launched in Tharparkar to protect livestock from winter diseases

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## China, Pakistan to deepen strategic cooperation: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong Wednesday stated that under the guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation will continue to deepen.

He said the recent visit to Pakistan by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, following Prime Minister Shehbaz's visit to Beijing, exemplifies this high-level cooperation. During media briefing at Chinese Consulate, here, Yang Yundong said currently, China-Pakistan ironclad friendship is everlasting and ever-refreshing. The Pakistan-China

relationship is of strategic significance and both sides firmly support each other's core interests and development paths, the China-Pakistan relationship has always been a priority in China's foreign relations. Any attempt to disrupt or undermine Pakistan-China cooperation would be failed, he added.

Chinese CG said the two sides will continuously strengthen practical cooperation across various fields, jointly upgrade the CPEC and accelerate the construction of major projects in railways, highways, and ports. Following the important common understanding between leaders of the two countries.



DADU: Ume Rubab Chandio is talking to media persons after court case hearing in famous triple Mehar murder case by Model Trial Court, in Dadu.

## Dr Asim Hussain's efforts lead to the establishment of combined effluent treatment plant

KARACHI (INP): Efforts by former Federal Minister and senior Pakistan People's Party leader Dr. Asim Hussain have borne fruit, paving the way for the construction of Combined Effluent Treatment Plants in Karachi's industrial zones.

KWSB has agreed to allocate 7 acres of its land in the North Karachi Industrial Area to the North Karachi Association of Trade and Industry (NKATI) for building a CETP to recycle industrial wastewater under a public-private partnership.

A delegation led by NKATI President Faisal Moiz Khan met KWSB Managing Director Salahuddin yesterday. Also present at the meeting were KWSB Consultant Bashir Lakhani,

NKATI Senior Vice President Shabbir Ismail, and Sajjad Wazir.

Faisal Moiz Khan highlighted that domestic sewage and hazardous industrial waste have not only caused environmental pollution in the NKATI industrial area but also destroyed the marine environment due to solid waste, cattle colony dung, and slaughterhouse effluents. Industrial waste continues to be discharged into the sea without treatment.

He stated that while Sindh lacks modern CETPs—apart from malfunctioning plants in Karachi's tanneries and Kotri—there has been a persistent effort to establish a CETP in North Karachi to mitigate pollution.



HYDERABAD: Managing Director SITE LTD Sindh Ghazanfar Ali Qadri addressing to Members of SITE Association of Trade and Industry Hyderabad.