

# Independent

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## Govt to establish Anti-Riots Force to combat violence: PM

**“These so-called revolutionaries are making sinister attempts to destroy the country and spread chaos,” says Shahbaz Sharif**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the government will establish an Anti-Riots Force in Islamabad and across the country to combat future attempts to create violence and unrest in the country.

This force will be equipped with professional training and necessary equipment, on the lines of international standards.

Legal actions will be taken against those who damage public and private property, along with armed

individuals, the prime minister said.

Chairing a meeting to review law and order situation in the country, the prime minister instructed that a comprehensive strategy be developed to prevent any future attempts to march towards Islamabad or any other city for personal or political gains.

He emphasized that those who attempted to bankrupt the country to save their government were brought to justice.

The prime minister was briefed on the recent

protests across the country, where demonstrators targeted government property and attacked Rangers and police personnel.

The government, he said demonstrated restraint by preventing armed individuals from spreading chaos under the guise of peaceful protests.

The prime minister said, “Instead of following legal procedures, repeated efforts were made to create chaos by mobilizing forces towards Islamabad, attempting to spread unrest across the country.”



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding law and order situation.

## Pakistan’s economy cannot thrive without consensus: Kamran Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has stated that Pakistan cannot stand on its feet if there is a compromise on the economy.

Speaking to the media at the Pakistan Stock Exchange, Governor Tessori remarked that a new record was set in the stock market today, calling it a day of celebration. He emphasised the role of Karachi’s traders, particularly brokers, who have been actively contributing to

the stock exchange for many years. He added that when the economy improves in Pakistan, politics will also get better.

He called for collective efforts to boost economic growth, stating that PTI and all political parties must work together on the economy.

Tessori invited the leaders of all political parties to come to the Pakistan Stock Exchange and congratulate the team. He also

extended an invitation to the Managing Director of the Stock Exchange and his team to visit the Governor House.

Tessori further clarified that the position of governor is not tied to politics, and for him, all political parties are equal. He suggested that as PTI’s founder, Imran Khan, continues to issue directives from jail, he should send a congratulatory message from there.

## No direct firing, no fatality during LEAs operation against PTI mob: Tarar

**PTI founder not a political prisoner, facing corruption, violence charges: Ahsan Iqbal**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday stated categorically that no direct firing was done by the law enforcement agencies during operation to flush out Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protesters.

Talking to foreign media, along with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, he said that there was clear policy of the government that no direct firing will be done on protesters.

The minister said that there were no fatalities in the operation and both major hospitals of the Capital - Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and Polyclinic had issued statements that no dead bodies were

brought there. Besides, the Ministry of National Health Services also issued a statement denying PTI’s claims that its workers were killed in security forces’ firing. The minister stated that a list circulating on social media regarding the death of protesters was declared fake.

The minister said that the federal capital was besieged for the past several days by the miscreants belonging to a political party and this was not the first time they had done so.

Attaullah Tarar said that the PTI activists wanted to disrupt peace in Islamabad.

He said that the Belarusian President and his delegation was present in the red zone when the PTI protesters besieged the capital.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tesori along with MD Stock Exchange addressing a press conference at PSE, as Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSE) crosses benchmark share index 1,00,000 mark for the first time.

## PM congratulates nation as PSX hits 100,000 milestone for first time

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday felicitated the entire nation as the 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange hits the milestone of 100,000 points for the first time.

The prime minister, in a statement, said the stock market surge reflected the confidence of the business community and investors in the government’s economic

policies.

Lauding the efforts by the government’s economic team for the promotion of investment in the country, he said that he had pledged with the nation to take all-out measures for economic stability and national development.

The prime minister said that the government’s sacrifice of its politics to save the country from the default did not go in vain.

## PM welcomes announcement of ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday welcomed the announcement of ceasefire between Israel and Lebanese group Hezbollah.

In his post on X, the prime minister hoped that the announcement will lead to a permanent cessation of hostilities in Lebanon.

“We wish the people of Lebanon peace and security in the country,” the prime minister said.

## Petrol, diesel prices likely to go up by Rs3 per litre

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has recommended increasing the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 3 and Rs 2.87 per litre, respectively.

According to sources well placed in OGRA, if approved, the price of petrol will rise from Rs 248.38 to Rs 251.38 per litre, while high-speed diesel will increase from Rs 255.14 to Rs 258.01 per litre. The sources said that the proposal also includes a minor reduction of Rs 0.11 per litre for kerosene oil and Rs 0.04 per litre for light-speed diesel.

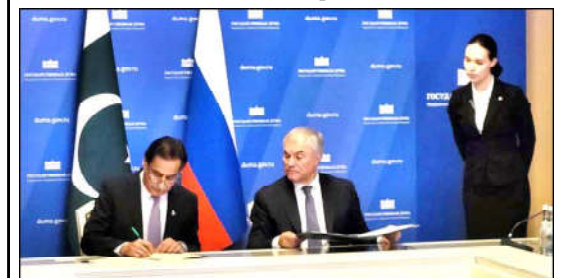
The final decision on these adjustments will be made on November 30, with global crude oil price fluctuations being a key factor influencing the move. Experts highlighted the ongoing volatility in international oil markets as a significant driver behind the proposed price hike.

## ATC Karachi issues arrest warrants of 11 PTI leaders in May 9 cases

KARACHI (INP): Anti-Terrorism Court in Karachi on Thursday issued arrest warrants of 11 PTI leaders in May 9 cases.

During the hearing, lawyers of the accused sought exemption from attendance in the court. However, the court rejected exemption plea of all accused and directed police to arrest them and produce before the court.

Among the accused are Firdous Shamim Naqvi, Khurram Sher Zaman, Raja Azhar, Adeel Ahmed, Alamgir Khan, Faheem Khan, Sheikh Mehboob Jilani, Muhammad Tahir, Hanif Khan, Rawaz Khan and Muhammad Faizan. All the accused did not appear in the court today, Prosecutor Ghulam Abbas told ATC.



MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Chairman Russian State Duma, Vyacheslav Volodin signing agreement on cooperation.

## Sindh Govt unveils comprehensive plan to address power challenges: Nasir Shah

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development Syed Nasir Shah said that Sindh government is taking significant steps to revolutionize the province’s electricity infrastructure, announcing a comprehensive renewable energy programme aimed at providing cost-effective power solutions to millions of residents. Sindh Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Shah revealed the government’s ambitious initiative during an Energy Dialogue organized by The Knowledge Forum and NED University of Energy and Technology at a local hotel today. Nasir Shah said that Sindh’s alternate energy programme includes multiple innovative approaches to address the province’s persistent energy challenges.

He added that a cornerstone of the initiative is the distribution of 200,000 solar packages to low-consumption households, which is expected to benefit over two million people across KE, HESCO, and SEPCO consumer regions. The packages include solar panels, batteries, fans, and bulbs, targeting consumers who use between zero to 100 units of electricity. Nasir Shah said that the government is simultaneously pursuing multiple alternative energy projects, including solar, wind and

hybrid power initiatives developed through public-private partnerships. He said a lot of development has been made in Thar and cheaper power is produced through coal. Mahfooz Qazi, Director of Alternate Energy, Government of Sindh highlighted the development of 400 MW solar parks, with grid integration anticipated within two years.

He mentioned that the project’s length would be extended from 1.4 kilometers to four kilometers if it was merged with the Malir Expressway. It was decided on the occasion that soon, the project director would brief the Sindh Chief Minister on the problems being faced in completing the project and the plan to merge it with Malir Expressway.

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## Sindh Govt to ensure timely completion of Karachi mega projects: Saeed Ghani

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has said the provincial government will ensure the timely completion of the ongoing mega-development projects in Karachi as any hindrance in this regard will be speedily removed. The Local Government Minister stated this on Thursday while inspecting the under-construction Korangi Causeway project. Ghani was accompanied by the Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister, Waqar Mehdi.

The Local Government Minister was given a briefing about the ongoing uplift scheme by Karachi Mega Projects Director Syed Abbas Ali Shah and Deputy Project Director Korangi Causeway Engineer Junaid Ahmed Siddiqui. The officials concerned briefed the Local Govern-

## Sindh Minister Sharjeel celebrates PSX milestone, praises economic growth

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon congratulated the management and investors of the stock exchange on crossing the historic level of 100,000 points of the Pakistan Stock Exchange Index and said that PSX reaching the historic level is a testament to the confidence of investors and the revival of the country’s financial markets.

In a statement, Sindh Senior Minister and provincial minister for information, transport and mass transit Sharjeel Inam Memon said that this achievement is not only a victory for the financial sector alone but also a reflection of the growth and

stability in every realm of our economy.

He said that the Sindh government of the Pakistan Peoples Party is always committed to promoting economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development, the Sindh government had given priority to the projects of economic reforms and initiatives for the improvement of economy and prosperity of the public. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon further said that the PPP has been working relentlessly to provide an investment-friendly atmosphere through innovative policies and infrastructure projects, and all stakeholders should continue to invest actively in Pakistan.

## Asad Qaiser denies reports about his nomination as PTI Chairman

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser has denied the reports about his nomination as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman.

While refuting the reports of being nominated by PTI founder Imran Khan, Asad Qaiser said that the decision regarding the post of secretary general will be taken after holding consultations with the incarcerated party founder.

His statement came soon after reports emerged that Imran Khan had removed Barrister Gohar Ali Khan from the post of party chairman and nominated Asad Qaiser to replace him.

## Participants of 7th Maritime Security Workshop visit NHQs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants of 7th Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW), led by Commandant Pakistan Navy War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, visited Naval Headquarters (NHQs) here Thursday.

The workshop participants received a briefing on contemporary maritime challenges and Pakistan Navy’s response strategies, including its contributions to maritime awareness and socio-economic development of coastal communities, said a press release issued by Directorate General of Public Relations (Navy). Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, also interacted with the participants.

In his address, the Naval Chief elaborated on maritime security challenges and highlighted Pakistan’s Blue Economy potential.

He emphasized efforts to enhance maritime and coastal security through initiatives such as Regional Maritime Security Patrols and Coastal Security and Harbour Defence measures.

The visiting delegation, comprising parliamentarians, politicians, bureaucrats, Armed Forces officers, members of the media, and representatives of civil society, highly appreciated Pakistan Navy’s efforts.



Mr. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting briefing the representatives of International media along with Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for planning & development in Islamabad.

## Sindh Minister emphasizes NGO accountability and transparency in social welfare initiatives

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: The Sindh Social Welfare Department has clear principles for the registration of NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and also monitors

just benefit select individuals.” He added that sometimes NGO workers misuse resources, preventing benefits from reaching the truly deserving. “We must ensure that



their performance to ensure the achievement of social welfare objectives.

Provincial Minister Mir Tariq Ali Khan Talpur stated that NGOs must work for the welfare of underprivileged and deserving communities.

The Provincial Minister further said, “The floods caused widespread destruction in Sindh, severely affecting the poor.

NGOs must ensure that they provide relief to the general public, not

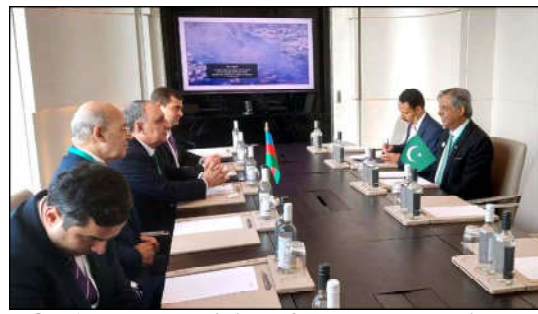
every NGO operates with transparency and integrity to deliver aid to those in need.”

The Sindh Government is Building 2.1 Million Homes Through the People’s Housing Scheme.

Mir Tariq Ali Khan Talpur described the People’s Housing Scheme as a historic project of the Sindh Government, stating that under this initiative, 2.1 million houses are being constructed for deserving individuals.



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFFRON Engr. Amir Muqam addressing a press conference at his residence.



DOHA: Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar had a productive meeting with Ibrahim Bin Ali Al Mohannadi, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of the State of Qatar on the sidelines of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting held in Doha.

## 4 khwarij terrorists killed including ring leader in IBO in Bagh: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed four khwarij terrorists including their ring leader Batoor and another three sustained injuries in intelligence based operation (IBO) in general area Bagh Khyber District.

“During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij location, as a result of which, four khwarij including Kharij ring leader Batoor, were sent to hell, while three Khwarij got injured,” said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

“Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharij found in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are

determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country,” it further said.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the personnel and officers of the security forces for conducting successful operation against the terrorists in Bagh area of Khyber district. In their separate statements, the president and the prime minister appreciated the professional abilities of the security forces for killing four Khawarij and arresting three others.

President Zardari also lauded the role of security forces in eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### A hasty retreat

Political immaturity has cost the PTI dearly once again. It appears things may not have come to this had Bushra Bibi, leading her first protest, listened to those around her instead of insisting on leading the crowds to D-Chowk.

As it turned out, the party leadership was forced to beat yet another furtive retreat, which has greatly demoralised its cadres. Their disgruntlement is the price that the party must pay for failing to manage expectations and provisioning adequately for all contingencies when it decided to march on the capital.

It had previously been pointed out that it was a mistake for the PTI to turn its protest in Islamabad into a 'do or die' moment and that this would create difficulties for its own leadership if things did not pan out as expected. Though the party was able to gain much ground over the course of three days, its strength proved brittle once the state unleashed its power in full.

However, the government would be wise not to gloat. Nor should it contemplate extending its campaign of violence against the PTI and its leaders, thinking that it now has the upper hand. Enough is enough. It would be a mistake to underestimate the general discontentment in the public against the state and its repressive policies. Much harm has already been caused to national unity by the authorities' mishandling of this protest march and the violence that surrounded it.

As our history bears witness, beating a major political party into submission can yield fleeting victories, but it causes lasting harm. The ruling parties should be wary that a new normal has been set for how protests may be dealt with in the future. Today, they may be beneficiaries of this new policy; tomorrow, they will likely find themselves in its crosshairs. There is an urgent need for all stakeholders to move towards a political settlement of the crises facing Pakistan. The two sides in this conflict need to realise that their positions are not tenable: repression, censorship, violence and continuous agitation will only continue to bleed the country and weaken it further. Unless they agree to abide by a rules-based order, the space for public participation in the political process will continue to shrink until, eventually, all political parties lose their relevance for the people. The unhealthy obsession with 'crushing' political opponents, which has grown unchecked over the past decade, has led the country down a very dark path. It is unfortunate that democratic transitions were repeatedly sabotaged during this period, as it could have allowed this trend to be arrested and reversed. Now, it seems it is up to a handful of individuals to set things right. The nation remains at their mercy.

## Carbon potential

Qurat ul ain Siddiqui

The floods in Pakistan in 2022 highlighted the urgent need for effective climate action. Over 1,700 lives lost and a staggering \$30 billion in damages served as a brutal wake-up call: climate change isn't just coming — it's already here, and Pakistan sits squarely in its crosshairs. This reality hits particularly hard in a country where agricultural prosperity and human survival are intricately linked to climate patterns.

While no policy can reverse Pakistan's immense losses, Islamabad must move forward with solutions to safeguard future generations. The National Carbon Market Policy (NCMP) is a crucial step in our broader strategy to build climate resilience and prevent further disasters. It establishes frameworks for both voluntary and compliance-based carbon trading across the energy, agriculture, waste management, and forestry sectors.

Carbon markets offer a way to balance environmental protection with economic development and transform our forests, agricultural practices, and even waste management into valuable assets. It's like turning environmental responsibilities into economic opportunities while adhering to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. For a developing nation like Pakistan, this represents a crucial pathway to sustainable development that doesn't compromise our economic aspirations.

Also, we're not complete newcomers to this field. Pakistan's earlier experience with the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol showed us what's possible. Projects in landfill gas recovery, afforestation, and initiatives like the Delta

Blue Carbon Project have demonstrated the opportunity to leverage natural ecosystems for climate solutions. Not only has the Delta Blue Carbon Project helped sequester significant carbon, it has also improved coastal resilience.

Of course, the path ahead will have its challenges. We need to improve our ability to measure and verify carbon reductions; for that, our institutions and infrastructure require strengthening. Moreover, a limited understanding of carbon markets among stakeholders continues to hinder adequate participation, while volatile carbon prices add to market uncertainties — challenges the NCMP is now expected to address.

Several countries provide instructive examples for Pakistan's carbon market development. Kenya's Agricultural Carbon Project demonstrates effective integration of sustainable farming practices with carbon credit generation, creating a viable model for rural development. Similarly, Vietnam's implementation of the REDD+ strategy has channelled international funding into large-scale forestry projects, leading to measurable reductions in deforestation and improved carbon stock management.

These cases offer valuable insights into overcoming implementation challenges and illustrate the potential benefits of well-structured carbon market mechanisms. Pakistan's climate goals are ambitious: a 50 per cent emissions reduction by 2030, with 15pc from domestic efforts and 35pc reliant on international support. This includes sourcing 60pc of power from renewables and having 30pc of new vehicles to be electric. Achieving this is challenging, but carbon markets could provide crucial funding and expertise.

Carbon markets offer multiple developmental co-benefits beyond emissions reduction. Forest protection initiatives, while generating carbon credits, also create employment, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen natural defences against climate impacts. Similarly, improved waste management systems reduce methane emissions while advancing urban sanitation and public health objectives. These benefits are vital for Pakistan given the country's multifaceted development challenges.

Pakistan's potential for carbon-sequestration projects is substantial. With strategic planning, initiatives like afforestation and improved land-use practices can yield verifiable carbon credits, enabling monetisation while supporting environmental goals. The country's diverse geography, from coastal mangroves to mountain forests, presents ample opportunities to attract international investment in these projects.

Getting this right won't be easy. It will require well-defined rules and effective monitoring systems. To get there, addressing institutional and technical barriers directly will be essential, with transparency and accountability required to build trust with international partners and ensure the credibility of our carbon credits.

Ultimately, carbon markets are far from a silver bullet without targeted development of renewable energy infrastructure, electrification of transportation, and moving towards sustainable fuels. For Pakistan, this moment calls for a careful balance between environmental and economic priorities, as pressures mount on both fronts. — Courtesy Dawn

## Upward mobility

F.S. Aijazuddin

The main title is misleading: Dear Mr Jinnah. It implies a familiarity between the book's author Salman Faruqi and the Quaid. In fact, Faruqi was only eight years old in 1947, when he and his family migrated from Patiala state to settle in Sukkur and then in Karachi. He had a forceful academic career and as a student leader in Hyderabad, he interacted with H.S. Suhrawardy and Z.A. Bhutto (then a minister in Ayub Khan's cabinet).

Faruqi sat for the CSS exam in 1961 and after an initial hiccup (he was too outspoken during his viva voce interview, preferring democracy to dictatorship), he was offered the 'lesser' Pakistan Customs & Excise Service. He joined it in 1964, then spent his career in sight of those in power — from Ayub Khan's time until Asif Ali Zardari.

One is reminded of the Teflon durability of another public figure — the Russian Ana-stas Mikoyan. He remained a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, surviving at that height for 53 years (from 1923 to 1976). Mikoyan served Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev. A contemporary wit suggested once that if one wanted to know who ruled in the Kremlin, look on either side of Mikoyan.

Like Mikoyan, Faruqi learned early the principle of survival: "to be politically correct and reticent in his opinions". He realised that "for a bureaucrat in Pakistan aspiring to reach the top, the best strategy is often not to take risks and/or decisions but to be circumspect in voicing opinions and seeking safe jobs".

Faruqi's career became one of upward mobility. His 377-page narrative covers the years he spent in Sindh with GM. Jatoti and later in Islamabad under M.K.

Junejo, Ziaul Haq, Benazir Bhutto, Moeen Qureshi, Nawaz Sharif, and Zardari.

Gen Zia gave the young Faruqi a sensitive assignment. He wanted Faruqi to head a specialised unit to handle 'differently abled' children. (Zia had a challenged daughter.) Three colonels with such special children were assigned to help him.

Benazir Bhutto as prime minister quickly recognised Faruqi's ability to deliver. She asked him to visit London to learn how the British prime minister Margaret Thatcher organised her office at 10 Downing Street. Despite the well-oiled infrastructure available in Whitehall, Mrs Thatcher said that "at No.10, I have no junior ministers. There is just Dennis and I".

Such knowledge helped him handle the Bhutto-Zardari couple and also navigate the Bhutto-Ghulam Ishaq Khan-Farooq Leghari-Nawaz Sharif whirlpools.

During his fluid career in the ministries of communications, commerce, food & agriculture, water & power, and the Planning Commission, decisions taken during his stewardship have had continuing consequences. As Agatha Christie once wrote: "Old sins have long shadows."

For instance, in communications, creation of PTCL and initiation of Gwadar port; in commerce, the Yellow Cab and Yellow Tractor schemes (Faruqi was not amused when his wife was offered a yellow BMW); in food & agriculture, locust control; in water & power, the unbundling of Wapda into 10 Discos, the opening of power generation to the IPPs, and the creation of a top-heavy Nepra.

The closing years of his career saw him as Musharraf's ambassador-at-large and deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, and later

Zardari's personal secretary general.

In 1999, Faruqi reached the age of superannuation and reverted to unprotected mortality. He was forced to "run to several government offices to resolve his pension and medical reimbursement issues". Appeals for help went unanswered. He learned, as an ordinary citizen, how life could be "a slow and unending descent into the heart of darkness".

His closeness to Zardari rescued him from that painful oblivion. He was appointed federal ombudsman in 2012. A mountain of 75,000 unresolved cases confronted him. The Supreme Court might envy the speed of his disposal of 324,000 cases in three years. He left the ombudsmanship in 2017. He quit Islamabad to settle in a mode-st 300-square yard house in Clifton, Karachi.

Faruqi's book closes with a letter beginning "Dear Mr Jinnah". It is his version of Milton's Paradise Lost. It bemoans the present state of governance conducted from "the edge of the precipice", with "irrational and enduring incompetence". Faruqi tells Jinnah that his paradise can be regained, our country "made perfect by diligence, hard work, and sound and just moral values".

Understandably, the book avoids mentioning friction between NAB and the two Faruqi brothers Salman and Usman (once chairman Pakistan Steel Mills). Nor does it allude to rumours about the much envied adhesion of the Faruqi family to power.

Now in the evening of his life, Faruqi might recognise his recollections in this early verse by the late Khaled Ahmed: "I saw through the filigree of poised self, my crumbling sunsets." — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### PSX makes history as index crosses 100,000 milestone

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) made history on Thursday by closing all time high at 100,082.77 points as compared to 99,269.25 points on the previous day, with gain of 813.52 more points, a positive change of 0.82 percent.

A total of 1,164,794,139 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,057,104,968 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 39.776 billion against Rs 39.556 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 452 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 290 of them recorded gains and 118 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 44 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 179,225,089 shares at Rs 8.85 per share, K-Electric with 64,868,271 shares at Rs 5.40 per share and Bank Makramah with 64,868,271 shares at Rs 2.73 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 126.71 per share price, closing at Rs 19,494.84, whereas the runner-up was Service Industries Limited with Rs 51.21 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,226.69.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 110.75 per share closing at Rs 7m878.00 followed by PIA Holding Company LimitedB with Rs 21.70 decline to close at Rs 880.58.

Meanwhile, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori

on Thursday congratulated the nation, government, military leadership and the business community on the Pakistan Stock Exchange crossing the highest level of benchmark of KSE-100 Index to over 100,000 points for the first time in the history of the Stock market. Governor Sindh also visited the Pakistan Stock Exchange and extended greetings to business leaders over this unprecedented achievement.

Speaking to media at PSX, Governor Kamran Tessori said, "The credit for the high trading volume in the stock market goes to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir because the Army Chief is keen to strengthen the country's economy while securing the country's borders."

### Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves surge to \$ 16 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan increased to US\$ 16,076.2 million as of November 22, 2024 while the SBP reserves kept surging steadily to \$ 11,418.5 million. The State Bank of Pakistan, informed in a statement issued here on Thursday, that total liquid foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 131 million to \$ 11,418.5 million during the week ended on 22-Nov-2024.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 4,657.7 million, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on November 15, 2024, were \$ 15,967.7 million. Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$ 11,288 million while commercial banks held net reserves of \$ 4,679.7 million.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, listens to the concerns of the Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) delegation, led by Abdul Latif Malik, as they seek tariff and duty exemptions to support the struggling carpet industry.

### Finance Minister lauds SECP efforts for promoting EODB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Thursday appreciated the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) efforts for promoting ease of doing business (EODB) in Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, visited SECP, Head Office in Islamabad, said a press release issued here.

### Uzbekistan-Pak direct flight to resume on Nov 29: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtayev on Thursday said that direct flights between Uzbekistan and Pakistan would resume on November 29 (tomorrow) for enhancing regional integration.

This flight, connecting the cities of Tashkent and Lahore, aims to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, take trade and economic relations to a

new level, and facilitate tourists. Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev, told APP here. The ambassador said that this remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the personal initiative and unwavering support of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

He said, "Because of the leadership and strategic vision of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, since September of this year, a press release issued here on Thursday.

He was also briefed on areas related to market development and innovation, such as regulatory sandbox and efforts to promote startups. The minister expressed keen interest in SECP's initiatives towards sustainability reporting and investor education and protection and expressed satisfaction with the SECP initiative to launch the ESG Sustain Portal.

During the visit, he was briefed by the Chairman SECP, Akif Saeed, and the management team on upcoming initiatives, key reforms, and achievements to date.

The minister was briefed by the Chairman SECP on efforts towards ease of doing business in Pakistan and reaping the benefits of advancement in technology through regulatory reforms, digitalization of services, and access to finance, said

### Rupee sheds 08 piasa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 08 piasa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.04 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.96. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.60 and Rs 279.10 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 84 piasa to close at Rs 292.82 against the last day's closing of Rs 291.98.

### Governor Kundi says: Efforts of Overseas Business Forum UK to promote Pak products commendable

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday lauded the efforts of Overseas Business Forum UK to promote Pakistani products and businesses in foreign countries.

A delegation led by Forum Chairman Muhammad Farooq Khan included former Vice President of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry KP Anila Khalid, as well as OBF members Faisal Saboori, Samina Ahmad, Farooq Jan, and others. During the meeting, discussions focused on the forum's efforts to promote Pakistani products and businesses in the UK and other countries.

"Exports from KP are lower compared to Punjab and Sindh, limiting the province's business opportunities on a global scale," the delegation highlighted.

The delegation expressed their desire to play a key role in showcasing KP's products in the UK and other European countries, aiming to strengthen the province's economy. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi appreciated the delegation's thoughts and emphasized the urgent need for serious measures to introduce Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's businesses to the global market.

"Facilitating the development of the tourism sector in the province is crucial for promoting business opportunities," he stressed. "The negative impact of the province's poor law and order situation on industry and business, but assured that the current government is committed to addressing this issue to benefit both the business community and the general public."

### Global agri-tech company devotes to optimize China, Pak agriculture coop model

BEIJING (APP): Plump rice grains, full-bodied peppers, fragrant sesames... an endless stream of visitors were full of praise for the dazzling array of agricultural products at the ongoing 2024 China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE). "From high-quality seeds, premium agricultural inputs to the Agriculture Value Chain (AVC) model has brought practical benefits to farmers in Pakistan."

Sesame cultivation in Pakistan has tripled in the past five years. As most Pakistan sesame is for export, with more than 1/3 goes to China, AVC aims to link the quality sesame from Pakistani growers served by Syngenta with international value chain partners especially in China.

China, told China Economic Net.

"By supplying inputs and production services to growers, bartering with entities in core producing areas in exchange for key agricultural products, while linking China's agricultural product market demand and opening up the global upstream and downstream chains, the AVC model has brought practical benefits to farmers in Pakistan."

Sesame cultivation in Pakistan has tripled in the past five years. As most Pakistan sesame is for export, with more than 1/3 goes to China, AVC aims to link the quality sesame from Pakistani growers served by Syngenta with international value chain partners especially in China.

## CM orders outsourcing of solid waste management services across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved in principle outsourcing plan of Solid Waste Management Services in every tehsil of Punjab.

Suthra Punjab App will also be launched for the facilitation of people. The CM will formally launch door-to-door waste collection campaign from 3<sup>rd</sup> December across Punjab.

She presided over a special meeting to review progress being made on "Zero Waste Mission" Suthra Punjab Programme.

It was apprised during the meeting that outsourcing of Solid Waste Management Services has been completed in 103 tehsils of Punjab while

outsourcing process is ongoing expeditiously in additional 33 tehsils.

It was apprised during the meeting that trackers will be installed on the vehicles deputed to monitor cleanliness. Monitoring system will be established at the provincial, district and tehsil level. A six-member monitoring committee will be constituted under the headship of Assistant Commissioners in every tehsil.

It was informed during the meeting that more than one lakh people will be provided employment owing to outsourcing of Solid Waste Management Services. Additional 87,000 employments will be generated due to

outsourcing of Solid Waste Management Services. More than 21 thousand cleaning machinery and 83,000 cleaning equipment will be provided. Door-to-door waste collection will be carried out from 15 lakh houses of Lahore due to outsourcing of Solid Waste Management.

It was further apprised in the meeting that cleanliness will be ensured in 500 markets and 400 villages of Lahore. 540 workers will be hired to ensure cleanliness measures in Lahore. 10 loader rickshaws will be distributed in every union council of Lahore.

The Chief Minister directed to maintain equal cleanliness quality measures in every street and town. She asserted.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing the distribution ceremony of rickshaws at Governor House organized by Lahore Presbytery Church and Vice President of People's Party Minority Wing Central Punjab, Advin Sahotra.

## Punjab Governor says: PPP always protected the rights of minorities

*Distributes rickshaws to the deserving people of the Christian community*

Independent Report LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the distribution ceremony of rickshaws at Governor House Lahore organized by Lahore Presbytery Church and Vice President of People's Party Minority Wing Central Punjab, Advin Sahotra as the chief guest. The ceremony was attended by Pastor Rehan Stephen, senior PPP leader Chaudhry Manzoor, Chaudhry Munawar Anjum, Central Deputy Secretary Information Pakistan Peoples' Party

Punjab, Syed Shahid Shirazi and members of the Christian community. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the Pakistan Peoples' Party has always protected the rights of minorities. He said that 100 rickshaws have been given to the deserving people of the Christian community. He said that these rickshaws will enable them to earn a living. Governor Punjab said that the doors of the Governor House are always open for the Christian Community.



FAISALABAD: Group photo of supporters with newly elected Secretary Sheikh Asghar.

## New sanitation model to develop beautiful face of Punjab: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that with the launch of the new sanitation system, a beautiful face of Punjab will be developed to help improve quality of life. In the first phase, the best sanitation services will be provided to 80.6 million population of the province, he added.

He was addressing a video link meeting of CEOs of waste management companies at the Civil Secretariat here on Thursday.

Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed Mian, Special Secretary Asia Gul and

CEO LWMC Babar Sahib Din were also present. During the meeting, the outsourcing of solid waste management and the future strategy under "Suthra Punjab" programme of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz were reviewed. Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that the selection of contractors in 103 tehsils had been completed in the first phase.

"All preparations under the management of Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Multan, Bahawalpur, DG Khan and Faisalabad Waste Management Companies have been completed.



HYDERABAD: Players of winning team are in a group photo during the Iqbal Day Sports Festival held at Public School in Hyderabad.

## Minister discusses issues faced by religious minorities

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora chaired a consultative meeting with religious minority members of the Punjab Assembly at his camp office.

The meeting focused on addressing the issues faced by religious minority communities in the province and discussed

possible solutions. The meeting was attended by Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Ejaz Alam Augustine, Emmanuel Athar, Baba Febous Christopher, Shakeela Arthur, Parliamentary Secretary Sonia Asher, Secretary of Human Rights & Minority Affairs Ali Bahadur Qazi, and other relevant officials.

## Tube-wells to be solarized in Tank's city: DC

TANK (APP): Deputy Commissioner Tanvir Khan said that all tube-wells in the city would be solarized to provide clean drinking water to residents smoothly.

He expressed these views while addressing Kuli Katcher (open-court) held at his office to resolve problems of people at their doorstep.

He said that new tube wells would also be installed to improve access to clean drinking water for the city's residents.

He said the forum was being held so that the citizens had the opportunity to voice their concerns directly to the administration.

The participants raised several issues relating to NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority), Sui Gas supply, passport services, and water availability.

The DC assured the public of prompt action to resolve these pressing issues.

## Muqam calls on Kundi to discuss law and order situation in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for SAFRON, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam, met with the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, at the Governor House on Thursday and discussed various issues of the province including political, economic and law and order. The meeting focused on the worsening law and order situation in the province and the growing concerns regarding provincial rights with the federal government.

During the meeting, the two leaders engaged in in-depth discussions about the escalating security challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where incidents of terrorism and militancy have been on the rise.

Engineer Muqam and Governor Kundi also deliberated on the province's demands for greater autonomy in managing its resources and ensuring equitable development. There were calls for the federal government to take more decisive action to address

the unique challenges faced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in terms of security, infrastructure, and economic development.

Federal Minister acknowledged the concerns raised by the Governor and assured him of the federal government's commitment to addressing the issues, particularly in regard to enhancing the province's security apparatus and ensuring that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa receives its due share of resources and rights within the federation.

## Police teams intensify crackdown on criminal elements

LAHORE (APP): In line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Safe Punjab vision", police teams continue their strict crackdown on criminal elements. Under the supervision of Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, police teams across all districts of the province, including Lahore, are carrying out operations against dangerous criminals without any discrimination. As part of this ongoing

crackdown, Punjab Police have arrested over 217,000 criminals wanted in various criminal activities. Spokesperson for Punjab Police said that, this year, a total of 123,647 proclaimed offenders have been arrested across the province, including 22,396 of category 'A' and 101,251 of category 'B'. Additionally, 61,238 court absconders were apprehended, with 5,954 from category 'A' and 55,284 from category 'B'.

## Two killed, 14 injured as bus overturned in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): A tragic bus accident occurred in Sargodha on Wednesday, resulting in the deaths of at least two people on the spot while other 14 critical injured. According to details, the incident took place on Faisalabad Road in the Mitha Masoom area of Sargodha when a bus traveling from Faisalabad to Bannu overturned due to excessive speeding, killing two people on the spot and injuring 14 others, a private news channel reported.

## International News

## Israel steps up bombing of central Gaza, strikes kill 21 people

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 21 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, medics said, as forces stepped up their bombardment of central areas and tanks pushed deeper into the north and south of the enclave.

The escalation came a day after Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah began a ceasefire in Lebanon, halting more than a year of hostilities and raising hopes among many Palestinians in Gaza for a similar deal with Hamas, which rules the enclave.

Israel's military campaign - with the avowed intent of eradicating Hamas militants after the group's deadly raid on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 - has laid waste to the enclave of 2.3 million people.

"I hope a ceasefire will

happen like it did in Lebanon... I just want to take my children to see my land, my house, to see what they did to us, I want to live in safety," said Amal Abu Hmeid, a displaced woman in Gaza.

"God willing we will have a truce," she said, sitting in the courtyard of a school sheltering displaced families in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

The courtyard was filled with dirt and water streamed in from where people did their laundry. Clothes were airing outside classrooms as children played nearby.

"(Life) was beautiful (before the war)... Now there is nothing beautiful, it's all gone. Our houses are gone, our brothers are gone, and no one is left. Now we hardly get... one meal a day. We can't even get bread," Abu Hmeid told

Reuters. Announcing the Lebanon accord on Tuesday, U.S. President Joe Biden said he would now renew his push for a ceasefire agreement in Gaza, urging Israel and Hamas to seize the moment. Months of efforts to negotiate a ceasefire have yielded scant progress, and negotiations are now on hold.

The ceasefire in the parallel conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, took effect before dawn on Wednesday, bringing a halt to hostilities that had escalated sharply in recent months and overshadowed the conflict in Gaza.

In Nuseirat, one of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, Israeli planes carried out several airstrikes, destroying a multi-storey building and hitting roads outside mosques.

## Ahead of Taiwan president's Hawaii trip, China says it will defeat secessionism

Monitoring Desk BEIJING/TAIPEI: China's military on Thursday vowed to defeat all attempts at secessionism and urged the United States not to send the wrong signals on Taiwan independence, ahead of a trip by Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te to Hawaii as part of a Pacific tour. China claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory and says Lai is a "separatist". Lai says only Taiwan's people can decide their future and has repeatedly offered talks with Beijing that have been rebuffed.

China is likely to launch military drills in the coming days near Taiwan, using Lai's upcoming trip to the Pacific and scheduled stopovers in the United States as a pretext, according to assessments by Taiwan and regional security officials.

Asked at a monthly news briefing in Beijing

about Lai's visit to Hawaii and whether there could be a military response from China, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said the United States should refrain from sending any wrong signals to the forces of "Taiwan independence".

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army shoulders the sacred mission of safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will resolutely defeat all secessionist attempts for 'Taiwan independence' and thwart all interference by external forces," he added.

Earlier on Thursday, Taiwan's air force command said that for a two-hour period starting from 5 a.m. (2100 GMT Wednesday) aircraft, ships and missile systems had carried out in an "overall air defence battle plan exercise".

## 4 children drown in Sri Lanka as storm heads to India

Monitoring Desk COLOMBO: Sri Lankan rescue teams said on Thursday they had recovered four drowned children killed in a flash flood, with four other people missing, after torrential rains from a powerful but slow-moving storm now heading towards India.

More than 250,000 people in Sri Lanka have been forced to flee after their homes were flooded.

Indian weather officials said there was a "possibility" that the deep depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal could develop into cyclonic storm.

Cyclones - the equivalent of hurricanes in the North Atlantic or typhoons in the northwestern Pacific.



A man waves a Lebanese flag as he stands amidst the rubble of a building destroyed in Israeli strikes in Tyre, Lebanon.

## Nuclear attack unlikely despite Putin's warnings, US intelligence says

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The US decision to allow Ukraine to fire American weapons deeper into Russia has not increased the risk of a nuclear attack, which is unlikely, despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's increasingly belligerent statements, five sources familiar with US intelligence told Reuters.

But Russia is likely to expand a campaign of sabotage against European targets to increase pressure on the West over its support for Kyiv, said two senior

officials, a lawmaker and two congressional aides briefed on the matter.

A series of intelligence assessments over the past seven months have concluded nuclear escalation was unlikely to result from a decision to loosen restrictions on Ukraine's use of US weapons. That view has not changed following President Joe Biden's changed US stance this month on weapons, said the sources, who were granted anonymity to speak freely about sensitive intelligence.

## Malaysia PM says tens of thousands of people in six states hit by flooding

Monitoring Desk KUALA LUMPUR: More than 37,000 people have been affected by flooding caused by torrential rain in six Malaysian states this week, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Thursday.

Anwar told parliament 322 temporary shelters had been opened in the states of Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah, Perlis, Johor and Perak to house those displaced by floods.

The north-eastern state of Kelantan, bordering Thailand, has been the

worst hit, with 30,582 people from 9,223 families affected, Anwar said.

Floods are common on the eastern coast of Malaysia during the annual monsoon season from October until March, with thousands of people displaced each year.

The Meteorological Department on Wednesday issued a red alert warning for continuous heavy rain - indicating dangerous levels of downpour - in Kelantan, Pahang and Terengganu states.

## Ukraine flag appears on big screen during Putin visit to Kazakhstan

Monitoring Desk ASTANA: Kazakh police are investigating the brief appearance of the Ukrainian flag on a large LED screen in the capital city, Astana, during a visit there by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakhstan's interior ministry said on Thursday.

Ukraine's flag - with its horizontal bands of blue and yellow - briefly appeared late on Wednesday instead of the Russian

## Germany offers re-deployment of Patriot air defence units to Poland

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: Germany has offered to re-deploy Patriot air defence systems to NATO ally Poland at the start of the new year, the German defence ministry said on Thursday.

The units could be deployed for up to six months, the ministry said in a statement.

"With this, we will protect a logistical hub in Poland which is of central importance for the delivery of materials to Ukraine," German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said.

## Putin says Ukrainian infrastructure attack was revenge for Kyiv's strikes

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that a massive Russian overnight attack on Ukrainian infrastructure was a response to Kyiv's attacks on Russian regions using longer-range Western missiles.

Ukrainian officials said that Russia had unleashed its second big attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure this month on Thursday, cutting power to more than 1 million people in the west, south, and centre of the country.

Speaking in Astana, Kazakhstan, Putin told members of a security alli-

ance made up of ex-Soviet states:

"Tonight we conducted a comprehensive strike using 90 missiles of similar classes and 100 drones. Seventeen targets were hit."

"These are military facilities, defence industry facilities and their support systems. Let me repeat once again: these strikes on our part also took place in response to the ongoing strikes (by Ukraine) on Russian territory with American ATACMS missiles. As I have already said many times, there will always be a response from our side."

## Biden administration advancing US\$680 million arms sale to Israel, source says

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is pushing ahead with a US\$680 million arms sales package to Israel, a US official familiar with the plan said on Wednesday (Nov 27), even as a US-brokered ceasefire in Lebanon and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah has come into effect.

The package, which was first reported by the Financial Times, includes thousands of joint direct attack munition kits (JDAMs) and hundreds of small-diameter bombs, according to the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The news comes less than a day after the ceasefire agreement ended the deadliest confrontation in years between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group. However, Israel is still fighting its other arch-foe, the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The package follows a US\$20 billion sale in August of fighter jets and other military equipment to Israel.

Reuters reported in June that Washington,

Israel's biggest ally and weapons supplier, has sent Israel more than 10,000 highly destructive 2,000-pound bombs and thousands of Hellfire missiles since the start of the Gaza war in October 2023.

In remarks late on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listed the need to replenish weapons stocks as one of the reasons for the ceasefire. "And I say it openly, it is no secret that there have been big delays in weapons and munitions deliveries. These delays will be resolved soon," he said.

The package has been in the works for several months. It was first brought to the congressional committees in September then submitted for review in October, the US official said.

## PM vows to transform country's economic landscape

**Says national security directly linked with economic security**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterating the government resolve to transform Pakistan's economic landscape, said that the national security of the country had direct linkages with the economic security.

"If we are economically strong, our exports are growing fast, industrial sector is expanding.....then our economic security will automatically strengthen our critical security," the prime minister said while addressing the 26<sup>th</sup> National Security Workshop of Defence University.

Emphasizing the government's commitment to execute a comprehensive "Charter of Economy", the prime minister said that in 2018, he as an opposition leader, also suggested the idea of charter of economy and now "We are fully prepared to execute this idea".

The prime minister, stressing the need to privatize all the State Own Enterprises (SOEs), said, "The government's mandate is only to facilitate the private businesses."

### Amir Muqam says

## PTI's final protest call at Islamabad miserably failed after people kept distance

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam on Thursday said that the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf's leadership final protest call for release of PTI founder at Islamabad was miserably failed and was proved a miscalculation.

Addressing a press conference here, Engr Amir Muqam said that people of KP have kept distance from the protest call due to an irrational demands especially about release of the PTI founder.

He said that PTI founder was an accused and

would have to face courts that would decide his fate.

He said that PTI second demand about revoking of the 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment was totally an irrational.

Engr Amir Muqam said the said amendment was passed by the Parliament that reflected people will.

The third demand of PTI to bring its leaders to the Parliament and ousted others was totally childish, he added.

Muqam claimed that Pakistan had suffered huge loss due to agitation of PTI that kept life at Islamabad paralyzed for three days.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori expressing solidarity with Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi and Consul General Dr. Bakheet Ateq Al Remethi on eve of 53<sup>rd</sup> National Day of United Arab Emirates.

## Calls for urgent ceasefire, end to genocide President condemns Israel's unabated aggression in Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world observes International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Friday, President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the unabated Israel's aggression and reiterated the call for the international community's role for an immediate ceasefire and end to the genocide of Palestinian people.

"The global conscience cannot ignore the plight of millions who face unprecedented hardships due to Israeli occupation. We believe that the continued occupation and disregard for international law is the biggest obstacle to achieving peace in the region" the president said in his message on the Day.

Urging the international community to act urgently and decisively to end the genocide of the Palestinian people, he reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, as well as for the establishment of an independent, viable, and contiguous State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, based on the pre-1967 borders.

"We stand in solidarity with the resilient people of Palestine in their rightful struggle for freedom, dignity, and justice."

The president said the Day was commemorated at a time when the world was witnessing ethnic cleansing, the destruction of infrastructure and residential areas, and the sufferings and displacement of Palestinians in Gaza and other Occupied Palestinian Territories as a result of Israel's ongoing genocidal military campaign.

## Nasir Shah lays foundation stone of Gate of Sukkur

**Independent Report**  
SUKKUR: Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning, and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Thursday visited Sukkur and Rohri where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various beautification projects in Sindh's third-largest commercial, cultural and historical cities.

Following the Sindh government's directives, the district administration Sukkur has expedited the work on the beautification projects of twin cities. According to details, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah laid the foundation stone of the "Gate of Sukkur," which will be constructed near the city between the Khirthar and Dadu canals. This project also includes the construction of a beautiful dual road.

During the visit to the walking track in Sukkur, the Provincial Minister was given a detailed briefing on the beautification plans and the construction of a stage similar to "Times Square."



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with World Bank Country Director for Pakistan South Asia Najy Benhassine.

## Commissioner reviews progress work on development schemes

SUKKUR (APP): To review the progress of work on different ongoing development schemes a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Fayaz Hussain Abbasi at his office here on Thursday which was attended by officers of the different departments.

During the meeting, he was briefed in detail about the progress of development projects.

Strictly instructed the officers to perform their duties efficiently for the

timely completion of development projects and provide maximum relief to the people.

The officers of all the departments were directed to complete the ongoing development projects as soon as possible so that the public can benefit from the ongoing projects.

The Divisional Commissioner said that the timely completion of development schemes is one of the top priorities of the government and any kind of lapse in this regard will not be tolerated.

## 245,769 Children to Receive Polio Drops in Upcoming Campaign in Jamshoro

HYDERABAD (APP): A total of 245,769 children under the age of five will be administered polio drops during the upcoming anti-polio campaign next month, aimed at curbing the spread of the poliovirus.

Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Ghazanfar Ali Qadri said this while presiding over a meeting to review the arrangements for the campaign at Darbar Hall, Jamshoro.

According to a hand-out issued on Thursday, the meeting was attended by SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chaanga, Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Noor ud din Hingorjo, District Health Officer Dr Imam ud din Khoso, NSTOP Officer

Dr Kaleem Shaikh, Taluka Assistant Commissioners and officials from the departments of education, health, information, local government and others.

DC Ghazanfar Ali Qadri emphasized the importance of collective efforts during the campaign, stating, "Polio is a crippling disease, and the only solution is two drops of the polio vaccine. Negligence in this national duty will not be tolerated."

Dr. Kaleem Shaikh informed the meeting that the campaign was scheduled to take place from December 16 to December 22, with all necessary arrangements finalized to ensure its success.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Husri are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police, at Hyderabad press club.

## Child wellness day marked in Ghotki

SUKKUR (APP): The Child Wellness Day was celebrated at the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Qadirpur, Ghotki district. The event was organized by the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) EPI team Ghotki on Thursday.

The main objective of child wellness day celebration was to promote awareness on EPI demand generation and overcome the gaps between community and health facilities staff as they visit Basic Health Units and hospital without any fear as well staff will cooperate with patients in a good way.

A separate and safe play area was occupied for children where they played the

games such as Rasa Kashi, Ludo, Jumping rope etc. Children also draw different paintings interestingly. Children took part actively in all type of activities.

In child wellness hundred plus children from the different with their mothers/ Parents KCIs, Immunization Champion Network Qadirpur. On the occasion, Regional Manager SRSO, TSV Taluka Ghotki, Vaccinators from government health Department district Ghotki, PPHI Doctors with staff, Monitoring Officer VBD, DSO Malaria and Representative from Hashu foundation participated and shared their valuable remarks.

## Multi-sectoral coordination committee technical working group-IV meeting on OPSC in Sindh held

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: A key meeting was held by the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee Technical Working Group-IV on "Operationalization of One Stop Protection Centers (OSPCs) in Sindh." A major highlight of the meeting was the focus on the OSPC in Hyderabad, which is set to be established in 2024-2025. The Hyderabad center will serve as a model for future OSPCs across Sindh, creating a uniform system to better address GBV in the province.



During the meeting, the participants engaged in detailed discussions on the three (03) core components vital for the success of the OSPC initiative: Human Resource Development, Infrastructure, and the Service Delivery System. These discussions are central to ensuring that the One Stop Protection Centers provide a comprehensive, efficient, and survivor-centric approach to addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV). A major highlight of the meeting was the focus on the OSPC in Hyderabad, which is set to be established in 2024-2025. The Hyderabad center will serve as a model for future OSPCs across Sindh, creating a uniform system to better address GBV in the province.

The OSPC is a crucial first step toward ensuring that victims of GBV receive the support and care they need through a centralized, streamlined service delivery mechanism. The Sindh Government's commitment to combating GBV was underscored throughout the meeting, with a special emphasis on 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

## DEC Nawabshah chairs meeting regarding voters day celebration

HYDERABAD (APP): District Election Commissioner (DEC) Shaheed Benazirabad Muhammad Yousuf Majidano while addressing a meeting of District Election Commissioner regarding the celebration of National Voters Day in a grand manner. The Members was attended by Deputy Director Social Welfare Manzoor Ahmed Mallah, Deputy Director Population Javed Ahmed Mallah, Information Officer Ijaz Ali Teono, Assistant Director Social Welfare Asif Khattak, Taluka Education Officer Shabana Naz, Master Trainer Farhana Naz, Assistant Director Darul Maan Farhana Iram, Nusrat Shah, Incharge Women Complaint Cell Zebun Nisa, Supervisor NADRA Abdul Fattah Dahri and Masroor Memon.

In the meeting, the District Election Commissioner was given proposals and suggestions and was assured of cooperation by the members of the District Voter Education Committee regarding the celebration of National Voters Day in a grand manner. The Members was attended by Deputy Director Social Welfare Manzoor Ahmed Mallah, Deputy Director Population Javed Ahmed Mallah, Information Officer Ijaz Ali Teono, Assistant Director Social Welfare Asif Khattak, Taluka Education Officer Shabana Naz, Master Trainer Farhana Naz, Assistant Director Darul Maan Farhana Iram, Nusrat Shah, Incharge Women Complaint Cell Zebun Nisa, Supervisor NADRA Abdul Fattah Dahri and Masroor Memon.



KARACHI: Construction projects of new development projects is underway rapidly under the supervision of local government department, located on University road in Karachi.

## Commissioner chairs meeting regarding revenue

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider chaired a meeting regarding revenue in the committee room of the Commissioner Office.

Additional Commissioner II Syed Ammar Hussain, Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon, Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja, Deputy Commissioner Nausahro Feroz Arsalan Saleem and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider said that all Deputy Commissioners should ensure implementation of the decisions taken regarding revenue in the meeting organized by Senior Member Board of Revenue

Hyderabad Baquallah Unar. He instructed the Deputy Commissioners of the three districts to resolve the complaints sent by NAB and Anti-Corruption regarding revenue in the three districts and submit a report within a week. He said that according to the instructions of the Board of Revenue, the target for verification and submission be finalized by the set date.

He said that job should be completed and the report be submitted to the Commissioner's Office immediately. He said that special attention shall also be paid to the work of recovery of agricultural income tax.

He instructed all assistant commissioners to expedite the work of recovery of agricultural income tax and submission of agricultural income tax return files from account holders.



HYDERABAD: Women participate in a rally in connection with upcoming Sindhi Culture Day outside Press Club.

## Culture Day celebrated at SU with great zeal, enthusiasm

HYDERABAD (APP): Students and teachers of University of Sindh, Jamshoro on Thursday celebrated Culture Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. Separate programs were organized within the respective departments, showcasing the rich traditions and cultural heritage of Sindh through various activities.

According to the University spokesperson, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Emeritus) Dr Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro actively participated in the celebrations. Accompanied by Registrar Professor Dr Mushtaque Ali Jariko, Deputy Registrar Nadeem Butt and other officials visited the Institute of Phys-

ics, Faculty of Engineering & Technology and the Institute of Business Administration (IBA). He enjoyed the students' poetry and singing competitions, appreciating their efforts in bringing Sindhi culture to life.

Addressing the participants, he emphasized the importance of preserving Sindh's language, culture and identity. "Our culture defines who we are and it is our duty to protect and promote it. Such events strengthen our connection to our roots," he stated.

He said that Sindhi Culture Day was not just an annual celebration; it was a reminder of the deep-rooted heritage and identity, adding that Sindhi language.

## CJP reviews pending tax cases situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Justice of Pakistan chaired a meeting to address pending tax cases before the Supreme Court.

The session was attended by representatives from the tax bar and the legal team of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Islamabad. Discussions focused on critical issues, procedural modalities, and strategies for the expeditious disposal of tax-related cases. The Chief Justice apprised the participants about the formation of dedicated benches to hear tax cases and stressed the importance of categorizing cases.

## 15 Banks to open on weekend for receiving Hajj applications

KARACHI (APP): In order to facilitate the intending pilgrims to deposit Hajj applications, the State Bank of Pakistan, Thursday, directed 15 designated banks to keep their concerned branches open on this Saturday and Sunday throughout the country.

The last date for submission of Hajj applications along with dues from intending pilgrims for Hajj 2025 is December 3, 2024. The central bank issued the directives following a request of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to facilitate the intending pilgrims in depositing Hajj applications along with dues for Hajj 2025, said a statement issued here.

## VC reviews exams arrangements

SUKKUR (APP): Vice Chancellor (VC), Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU), Khairpur, Professor Dr Yousuf Khushik on Thursday visited different departments of various faculties to review the arrangements for second semester examinations.

The second semester examinations in different departments of SALU started from November 26.

While inspecting the second semester examinations in different departments, the Vice Chancellor expressed his satisfaction over the measures taken regarding the examinations.