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Pakistan, Qatar reaffirm commitment to deepen strategic ties, regional stability

Pakistan, Qatar PMs discuss trade, investment cooperation, high-level exchanges

DOHA (APP): Pakistan and Qatar on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening strategic bilateral ties, underscoring the importance of shared economic goals and regional stability.

The bilateral relations were discussed in the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, followed by a one-on-one meeting encompassing a wide array of bilateral interests, according to a PM Office press release.

The leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Qatar relations, ex-

ploring potential avenues for enhanced cooperation in trade, potential areas of investment, energy, and culture.

Both the leaders also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest particularly the ongoing genocidal war by Israel against innocent Palestinian people and escalation of tensions in the region.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who is on a two-day official visit here, commended Qatar's stance on Palestinian issue expressed by the Amir during the 79th UNGA held on September 24, 2024.

He appreciated mediation efforts by Qatar for

immediate ceasefire and unimpeded supply of humanitarian aid.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also invited Amir of Qatar to visit Pakistan.

The prime minister's visit marks another milestone in the ever-strengthening partnership and expanding collaboration between Pakistan and Qatar.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani wherein they discussed avenues to further strengthen bilateral relations, particu-

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MULTAN: Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti is giving cheques to the family members of laborers killed in terrorist attack in Balochistan at Shuja Abad.

We can bring revolution by adopting modern techniques of cultivation on fertile land of Balochistan: Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Balochistan can surely emerge economically very soon through its two sectors including trade and agriculture just because it is located on the juncture of Central Asia, Mideast and Southern Asia.

We can bring revolution by giving access to our traders and industrialists to the trade markets of neighbouring countries and adopting modern techniques of cultivation on the fertile land of the province. The Governor was speaking to the delegation who called on him under leadership of the Vice President of Quetta Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (QCCI), Engineer Mir Wais Khan Kakar here at the Governor's House on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that we are well aware of the hardships being faced by the small and big traders and businesses community. He said that people of the province especially traders community have been affected owing to the world epidemic Coronavirus, natural calamities, closure of the borders during previous few years. As a result of which, the present government is taking solid steps for promotion of border trade and economic activities in the province.

The delegation com-

prising Mir Wais Khan Kakar and Abdul Ahad Agha thanked the Governor on behalf of the traders community especially QCCI. They said that the Governor Balochistan has always extended wholehearted cooperation to them every time.

The Governor has opened the doors of Governor House for the general public from the day first, and he has raised his voice with the concerned high ups of the federal and provincial governments, the members of QCCI maintained.

They also appreciated the role of Governor in opening of the Taftan border for 45 days saying that he has won hearts of the traders.



QUETTA: MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail and President PML-N Balochistan Youth Wing Sajjad Raisani meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Finance ministry rules out chances of a mini-budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): The finance ministry has rejected any possibility of a budget adjustment midway through the fiscal year, asserting that the current economic situation reflects the effectiveness of financial policies and lays the groundwork for financial stability.

In a statement, the ministry noted that the economic indicators, particularly inflation, growth in large-scale manufacturing, and import trends, align with government projections and expectations. "There is no justification for adjustments to the budget at this stage," the spokesperson said.

The ministry highlighted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently revised

its forecasts regarding economic indicators, with its estimates now closely aligning with the ministry's projections.

For instance, the consumer price index-based inflation for the first quarter of the current fiscal year was recorded at 9.2%, significantly lower than the government's estimate of 10.2%.

Additionally, the IMF has revised its inflation forecast for fiscal year 2024, lowering it from 12.7% to 9.5%, reflecting a 3.2% decrease.

Govt's right-sizing Hundreds of Grade 17 to 22 posts abolished

ISLAMABAD (INP): As part of its right-sizing policy, the federal government has eliminated 456 officer positions across various ministries, divisions, and departments from Grade 17 to Grade 22.

According to the documents, this decision follows the federal cabinet's August 27, 2024, directive aimed at reducing administrative costs by downsizing the federal structure.

This initiative resulted in the termination of two positions at Grade 22, 22 positions at Grade 20, 69 at Grade 19, 93 at Grade 18, and 270 at Grade 17.

As per the documents, federal ministries and divisions have informed the Establishment Division of their compliance with the federal cabinet's decision.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Visits Shuja Abad to condole with heirs of martyr labourers: Baloch is hospitable nation and custodian of traditions; terrorism not our tradition, CM Balochistan

Bugti says he wants to give message to people of Pakistan including Punjab that Balochistan government is fighting against terrorists in province; gives away cheques of financial compensation to heirs of martyr labourers and injured

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has categorically stated that Baloch is a hospitable nation and as such terrorism is not our tradition.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the expression of condolence with the bereaved families of those martyred in the terrorist attacks in Panjgur and Musakhail during his visit to Shuja Abad, Multan on Thursday.

The Chief Minister expressed condolence and sympathy with bereaved families of the martyr labourers and prayed for the departed souls.

He said that we equally share the grief with heirs of the labourers and prayed to Allah for success against terrorists taking revenge of the sacred blood of the martyrs.

He said that we strongly condemn the incidents of terrorism. Besides, adding he said that all Baloch tribes have condemned the incidents of terrorism.

Meanwhile, speaking to the media persons, the Chief Minister said that any Baloch didn't martyr any Punjabi or Seraiki, rather the terrorists martyred the innocent Pakistanis as they (terrorists) don't belong to any nation or religion.

He said that the terrorists made nefarious attempt to spread hatred among provinces by martyring Pakistanis, however, it was foiled by the people of country.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that he wants to give message to people of Pakistan including Punjab that Balochistan government is fighting against terrorists in province. He said that we are creating such a peaceful environment that the people from all over the country may earn livelihood without fear in Balochistan.

The Chief Minister

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LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Sikh Yaatri delegation from USA at State Guest House.

There will be no visa fee for Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan: Naqvi

LAHORE (INP): Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday that there would be no visa fee for the Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan to pay respect to their religious sites, adding that pilgrims would get visa within half an hour.

The Interior Minister welcomed a 44-member American Sikh delegation at the State Guest House where he told them about visa on arrival facility extended to the US citizens, stressing that there would be no hassle even if they

wanted to visit as many times as they can.

Mohsin Naqvi highlighted Pakistan's commitment to fostering easier access for Sikh pilgrims, recognizing that they have often faced visa challenges in the past.

Recalling his time as former chief minister of Punjab, he noted efforts to improve the conditions for Sikh visitors, adding, "During my tenure, I worked to address issues faced by the Sikh community."

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Kakar vows to mobilize all resources for making all services in SPHHQ effective

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has vowed to mobilize all available resources to make all departments and services in the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta (SPHHQ) effective.

He also announced to hold meeting with the heads of all departments of SPHHQ on regular basis so as to resolve the issues related to the finance, manpower and logistics besides improving the service delivery.

He also stressed the need to improve the measures in the healthcare sector.

The Minister Health was presiding over the meeting of all heads of the

departments of SPHHQ at PGMI on Thursday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included Secretary Health, Mujeebur Rehman, Medical Superintendent of SPHHQ, Dr. Noorullah Musakhail, Principal of Bolan Medical College, Professor Dr. Raz Muhammad Kakar besides the heads of departments of the Hospital.

It was informed on the occasion that steps are being taken for bringing improvement in the healthcare system in the government hospitals through a roadmap.

A set format has also been prepared to review the performance of medical superintendents of the treasury hospitals.

US State Dept reiterates Imran Khan's matter for 'Pakistani courts to decide'

Says Khan's release not interlinked with Trump's success in polls

WASHINGTON (INP): The US State Department has reiterated its stance on the ongoing legal proceedings against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, stating that it is a matter for the Pakistani courts to decide.

"As we have said many times, legal proceedings against the former prime minister are matters for the Pakistani courts to decide," said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller during a regular press briefing in Washington.

Matthew Miller said that there is no truth in claims that Imran Khan could be released if Donald Trump is elected as the new president.

Replying to a question

regarding PTI leaders Latif Khosa's claim that US diplomat Donald Lu was involved in a conspiracy to remove Imran Khan from prime minister office, Matthew Miller said that it is not true.

"The allegations that the US played any role in his removal from office are false. We've gone over that many number of times from this podium," Matthew Miller said.

He said that Pakistani politics are a matter for the Pakistani people to decide in accordance with their laws and constitution. "Ultimately Pakistani politics is a matter for the Pakistani people to decide in accordance with their laws and

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ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mistuhiro Wada, calls on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pak has no intention of negotiating with TTP: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday ruled out any talks with terrorist outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and reiterated its call for the Afghan Interim Government to act against the militant groups using Afghan soil to target Pakistan.

The Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, said that Pakistan rejected any offer or advice for talks with TTP as the country had done so on several occasions.

Asked to comment on

a statement by an Afghan diplomat in Islamabad, she said Afghan authorities had the responsibility to act against terror groups, primarily TTP as Pakistan had also provided the pieces of evidence to the Afghan authorities. She explained that this was not merely Pakistan's demand but also the international community.

The spokesperson condemned the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and Baalbek region resulting in the tragic

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PIA privatisation draws single bid of Rs10bln for 60% stake

ISLAMABAD (INP): The final bidding process for the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines attracted just one bid of Rs10 billion for a 60% stake in the national flag carrier, the Privatisation Ministry said on Thursday.

The government had pre-qualified six groups in June, but only real-estate development company Blue World City participated in the bidding process, placing a bid that is

below the government-set minimum price of Rs85 billion.

Cash-strapped Pakistan was looking to offload a 51-100% stake in debt-ridden PIA to raise funds and reform state-owned enterprises as envisaged under a \$7 billion International Monetary Fund programme.

The Privatisation Commission said it had

Continued on page 2

CM flays attack on vehicle of former CJP in London; demands stern action against those involved

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has condemned the incident occurred with former Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa and demanded of the federal government to take stern action against those elements involved in the incident by confiscating their documents and passports.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that the inci-

dent of insulting Justice Qazi Faez Isa is condemnable.

He said that former Chief Justice is a respectable person, whose family had rendered sacrifices for the country and nation.

The Chief Minister also said that Qazi Faez Isa and his family has given a lot to this country.

He said that every conscious person is grieved over the incident occurred

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QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bkhat Muhammad Kakar inspecting the burn unit at Quetta Civil Hospital. Secretary Health Mujeebur-Rehman Panezai is also present.

Digital advertising trucks move around Washington flashing Kashmir freedom messages

WASHINGTON (APP): Digital advertising trucks displayed sharp messages around this capital city about Indian atrocities in Kashmir and demanding an end to the disputed state's occupation as Kashmiris and their supporters staged protests marking Kashmir Black Day. The electronic screens mounted on the trucks carried messages such as: "No Election, No Selection: UN Resolutions Only Solution" and "India: Stop Land Grabbing in Kashmir."

Rented by Washington-based, 'World Kashmir Awareness Forum,' a Washington-based advocacy group, the vehicles drove around some of the landmarks in Washington, DC, including Capitol Hill, the White House, State Department, the Washington Monument, embassies, various museums, and National Mall, among others.

Other messages beamed from the trucks were: "Stop: India's Demographic Change in Kashmir," "Indian Army Out of

Kashmir," "Hold India Accountable for War Crimes in Kashmir," "Elections in Kashmir Just a Name: Indian Government Has No Shame."

Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, President of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman of the Kashmir Diaspora Coalition, said that the sufferings inflicted by the Indian settler-colonialism on Kashmiris go hand-in-hand with the terrorism being perpetrated by Israel on the innocent men, women, and children in occupied Palestine.

"The only solution to the mass suffering, dehumanization, and dispossession is our dogged political resistance to the occupation and settler-colonialism, just like it is for the people of Palestine," Dr. Mir said, adding that the Indians and Israelis were collaborators in annexing, occupying and settler-colonial projects.

"Palestinians and Kashmiris must resist to survive for their own sake and their posterity," he

said.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice said the people of Jammu & Kashmir were dismayed by the lack of action by the world powers to help stop the carnage in Kashmir and by their virtual indifference to the situation in their occupied land.

"The disparity between their inaction and their repeated assertion that the protection of human rights and encouragement for democratic solutions are their major foreign policy goals is hard for them to understand", he said. "Nevertheless, the people of Kashmir still have confidence that the world powers will realize that what is at stake in the dispute is not only the survival of the people of Kashmir but peace in the populous region of South Asia and the world." Dr. Fai added, "We fail to understand who prevents the world leaders, including President Joe Biden of the United States.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice said the people of Jammu & Kashmir were dismayed by the lack of action by the world powers to help stop the carnage in Kashmir and by their virtual indifference to the situation in their occupied land.



LAHORE: A large number of people arrives to attend three-day religious congregation during the annual Tablighi Ijtima in Raiwind in the outskirts of the city.

Ambassador of Japan bid farewell to Pakistani dignitaries, friends

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiro has hosted a reception at his Official residence in Islamabad to bid farewell to Pakistani dignitaries and friends.

Ambassador WADA is going to leave Pakistan on 19th November and will take up his new assignment as Ambassador of Japan to Croatia. He assumed his office in October 2021, since when he has served as the Ambassador of Ja-

pan to Pakistan for more than three years. Looking back at his tenure, Ambassador WADA said, "Pakistan is a country that is very friendly to Japan. But I've tried not to take this for granted and have made various efforts in economic cooperation, cultural exchange and personal interaction to further deepen the historical ties between our two countries."

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's official development assis-

tance (ODA) to Pakistan.

Ambassador WADA reiterated the importance of human aspects in Japan's ODA, saying, "we always seek to work together with the local people and eventually encourage them to stand on their own. Rather than just providing money or goods, JICA tries to run alongside the Pakistanis and help them become the driving force of development. The key is the people, and Pakistan is blessed with such talents."



NEW YORK: Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh along with Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly Phil Ramos attending screening of "Sister States: Pakistan and New York" Documentary in New York.

CM flays attack..

Continued from page 1

in London the other day. He said that those involved in the incident proved that they are not political people, but they are the mannerless group under the garb of politics, and they have nothing to do with manners and morality.

These mannerless groups have violated the morality and values, the Chief Minister said while condemning the untoward incident of attack at the vehicle of former CJP.

He said that Qazi Faez Isa belongs to Balochistan, therefore, the provincial government demands of the federal government to ensure stern action against the elements involved in the incident by identifying them.

He also demanded of the federal government to cancel the Pakistani documents and citizenship of

those involved in the incident as such elements are defaming the country.

He said that it is habit of these mannerless groups to insult those who follow the law and constitution. It is clear that such attitude is being meted against Qazi Faez Isa as he didn't let use the higher judiciary for the specific group, he lamented further.

The Chief Minister also stressed that action is also necessary against the facilitators present in Pakistan who support such groups. He once again said that Qazi Faez Isa is the son of Balochistan and there is a lot of respect in our hearts for him.

The conscious people of Pakistan can't forget services of the former Chief Justice of Pakistan, and the mannerless groups have to face the consequences of their misconduct, he maintained.

FBR rules out further extension in deadline for filing income tax returns

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has ruled out further extension in the deadline for filing income tax returns.

After two extensions, the FBR has denied any further extension in the deadline, which is set to expire today (October 31).

According to the FBR officials, so far, over 5.01 million returns have been submitted, with more than Rs125 billion collected from the tax returns process.

The tax body has directed the citizens to file their tax returns until midnight tonight. Starting from November 1, late filers or non-filers will be identified.

Pak fighters crush Indian rivals in IFT mixed martial arts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani fighters crushed their Indian rivals in IFT mixed martial arts competition, winning all the fights against the arch foe.

International Fighting Tournament (IFT) is a mixed martial arts (MMA) event.

In the first fight, Pakistan's Mahmood Raza won the coveted featherweight title fight by defeating India's Ravi Sao.

In the bantamweight category, Pakistan's Nazir Khan outclassed India's Mukul Anand in the first

round of the fight.

In the Bantamweight division, Rafiq Afridi of Pakistan defeated Pradeep Hooda of India to secure yet another noteworthy title victory.

In other fights, Ejaz Ahmed defeated Indian fighter Ankit Panchal and Mujahid Baig defeated Rajveer.

Moreover, Pakistan's Musaab Asif beat Afghanistan's Wahid Ahmadi whereas Afghanistan's Sameer Nusrat and Amir Siddiqui were also successful.

Bilawal Bhutto greets Hindu community on Diwali

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has warmly extended his warmest greetings to the Hindu community in Pakistan and around the world on the auspicious occasion of Diwali. This festival of lights reflects the universal principles of unity, peace, and goodwill that enrich Pakistan's diverse cultural heritage. In a message issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he extended his congratulations and best wishes, acknowledging the valuable contributions of the Hindu.



EU, Germany, and ASP project leaders unite to strengthen climate resilience and social protection in Sindh.

US State Dept..

Continued from page 1

constitution". The spokesperson's remarks came in response to a journalist's statement who mentioned about the involvement of US diplomat Donald Lu in the former prime minister's ouster.

Khan, who remains incarcerated at the Adiala jail since August last year, had alleged that the US was behind his ouster in 2022, citing a purported cipher linked with the US envoy.

Miller also responded about how the members of Congress, who wrote a letter to President Joe Biden for the release of the deposed prime minister, were belittled on social media.

"I can tell you, we don't know who is behind circulating that information ultimately, but if people have issues that they wanna engage with regarding US officials, whether they be executive branch officials or officials from the United States Congress, we should engage on the merits of those issues and not by talking about people's

religion or sexual orientation," he said.

Earlier, Khosa ruling out the impression of any deal said the PTI founder will get relief from the judiciary.

Commenting on the upcoming US presidential elections, Khosa claimed that the matter of PTI founder release could be affected by the upcoming US presidential elections. Khosa suggested that if Donald Trump were to win, it might shift the political landscape in favor of the PTI founder.

When questioned about Canada's allegations that Indian federal minister Amit Shah was involved in a conspiracy against Sikhs, Miller commented that the accusations were "concerning" and said that the US would continue to consult with Canada on the matter.

Earlier this week, the State Department also confirmed receiving the letter written by 60 Congresspersons to the Biden administration. "We will respond in due course to the members.

There will be..

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Naqvi announced that Pakistan has now introduced an online visa application system specifically designed to facilitate Sikh travelers.

Holders of American, Canadian, and UK passports can apply online and receive their visas within 30 minutes, a process Naqvi confirmed is also free of charge.

He noted that this facility extends to Sikhs of Indian origin residing in these countries.

Providing a glimpse into Pakistan's vision for fostering Sikh tourism, Naqvi stated, "Just as Saudi Arabia holds significance for Muslims, Pakistan holds the same for the Sikh community."

He shared the government's plans to open additional Sikh heritage sites, including those beyond Hasan Abdal, Kartarpur, Nankana Sahib, and Lahore, removing the need for special permits to visit these sacred places.

Baloch is hospitable nation..

Continued from page 1

also pledged to foil every conspiracy against the country and take revenge of every single drop of blood.

He said some terrorists involved in the incident have been apprehended, while law is its making course for arrest of others.

He said that people coming from Punjab play their role in development of Balochistan.

He mentioned that there are solid evidences of involvement of Indian agency "RAW" in terrorism in Balochistan and added that the "RAW" funded groups are involved in the terrorism. We have already given dossiers at the international level.

However, he said we would eliminate the terrorism making the grief base and establish peace by uprooting it.

The Chief Minister on the occasion announced to bear educational expenses of the children of labourers martyred in Balochistan.

In addition to this, the provincial government would also provide financial compensation to the families of martyrs.

Meanwhile, he distributed the assistance cheques among Rs.1.5 million to the families of martyr labourers besides giving cheques of Rs. 0.5 million to the injured labourers.

The Member National Assembly Syed Abdul

Qadir Gilani thanked the Chief Minister for expression of sympathy and relief to the bereaved families of martyr labourers.

He said the people of Balochistan are hospitable and are busy in elimination of terrorists together with the provincial government.

The MNA from Shuja Abad also said that shuck of terrorists can't spread hatred between the provinces. The Chief Minister was also accompanied by the Provincial Ministers, leader of opposition, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir and Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Ali Shah, Deputy Commissioner Multan, CPO and Assistant Commissioner Shuja Abad.

Maryam promises 3,200 plots for journalists

LAHORE (INP): In a significant move for the journalist community, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed immediate action to commence Journalist Colony Phase-II in Lahore, ensuring the provision of residential plots to journalists.

The announcement was made during a meeting with Provincial Information Minister Azma Zahid Bokhari at the Chief Minister's House, where Maryam Nawaz underscored the essential partnership between the government and the media, describing them as "two wheels of a vehicle."

Maryam Nawaz emphasized that this initiative is not a favor but a right for journalists, who will receive plots upon fulfilling

necessary commercial and legal requirements.

The decision will benefit 3,200 journalists, including members of the Lahore Press Club and other eligible media professionals.

There will be members of the Lahore Press Club and non-members who will be getting plots from the government-announced scheme.

Azma Bukhari stated that the Ministry of Information has been tasked with fast-tracking all legal processes, with a formal advertisement inviting applications expected within the next two to three days.

The initiative reaffirms the government's commitment to supporting journalists and acknowledging their role in society.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, held in Karachi.

Pakistan, Qatar..

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larly focusing on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, energy, and cultural exchange.

In the "very extensive and productive" meeting, two leaders agreed on the importance of continuing high-level exchanges to promote understanding, foster cooperation, and identify new areas for growth, according to a PM Office press release. The prime minister, who is currently on a two-day official visit to Qatar, acknowledged Qatar's contributions to Pakistan's economic growth and expressed his gratitude for Qatar's continued support in various sectors.

He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to deepening economic ties and emphasized the potential for expanded collaboration. He also thanked his Qatari counterpart for hosting a large number of Pakistani diaspora acting as a human bridge between the two brotherly countries.

The leaders discussed global and regional issues, underscoring the need for peaceful solutions and mutual cooperation to address challenges. Prime Minister Shehbaz also commended Qatar's principled stance on the Gaza conflict and its

persistent efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

He praised Qatar's humanitarian initiatives and diplomatic engagements aimed at resolving the conflict and easing the suffering of the people of Gaza, and also the role as a facilitator of dialogue and an advocate for a just resolution to regional conflicts, recognizing its efforts as vital to promoting lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Qatari prime minister highlighted Pakistan's strategic importance in the region and expressed his enthusiasm for strengthening ties with Pakistan in line with Qatar's vision for economic growth and regional stability. He also showed his resolve to work with Pakistan for peace in the region including Afghanistan. Additionally, Prime Minister Shehbaz extended an invitation to Qatari investors to explore Pakistan's diverse economic sectors, including agriculture, information technology, and tourism.

He outlined the Pakistani government's commitment to providing a conducive environment for foreign investors and discussed potential incentives to facilitate their entry into the Pakistani market.



KARACHI: Maritime Security Patrol rescued an Iranian Fishing Dhow AL MUHAMMADI with 23 fishermen onboard, stranded over 1200 Nautical Miles from its home port.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242510583543 Notice: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The DIRECTOR ELECTRICITY NORTH invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee Rs.500/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR SYSTEM AT KILLI KHUDDAD BATOZAI, MURGHAKILLI QADEEM JAN, DISTRICT KILLASAIFULLAH PSDP#2168 22024.0678 (2024-25)	14,945,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 14,500,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(I) (Solar). Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 18 November, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 18 November, 2024 till 10:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM Address: H#108, Shah Nawaz kurd street Quetta Phone no: 0812442007 Fax no: 0812442007 Email: ishfaqpr@gmail.com

DIRECTOR ELECTRICITY NORTH ENERGY DEPARTMENT

PRQ No.1724/31-10-2024

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QUETTA: Newly appointed Secretary Food Muzaffar Zeeshan Lehri being briefed about food department.

Pak has no intention..

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loss of civilian lives, including women and children, and the displacement of over a million people.

"These airstrikes are a violation of Lebanon's national sovereignty and territorial integrity; and constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter. Pakistan also unequivocally condemns continuing Israeli assault against the people of Northern Gaza and the indiscriminate airstrike on Beit Lahiya which has resulted in the tragic loss of over a 100 Palestinian lives, including women and children."

She viewed that targeting densely populated residential areas without warning, day after day, with absolute impunity, reflected Israeli disdain for international law and human suffering. The siege of Gaza and uninterrupted Israeli attacks are piling on heaps of misery, devastation and death upon the already battered people of Gaza, she added.

Calling Israel's action

of dismantling the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) unacceptable she said such acts were a manifestation of Israel's systematic campaign to dehumanize the Palestinian people.

The spokesperson called upon the international community for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Palestine and Lebanon; protection of civilians; and unrestricted humanitarian access, besides ending Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinians in Gaza.

To another query, she said there was no request from the governments of Palestine and Lebanon to provide search and rescue teams' support. However, Pakistan has been providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza and for Lebanon it was started recently, she said, adding, "We are providing humanitarian assistance as per the requirements of the Red Cross that includes tents, medicines, food items and shelter needs."

PIA..

Continued from page 1

asked the bidder to match the minimum bid.

Blue World City Chairman Saad Nazir however stood by its bid. "We wish the government all the best if they don't want to accept our bid," he said during the ceremony.

Nazir later told Reuters that it did not make commercial sense to raise their bid.

"The cabinet is going to discuss this offer of ours. If this doesn't go through and they don't accept our offer, we will start our own airline," he said.

He added that he did not believe the government's 85 billion minimum price was based on a correct financial model for an organization with "significant leakages".

Mohammed Sohail, CEO of Topline Securities, said that the gap between the offer and reference price means the government would either need to consider this bid or revisit their strategy regarding the privatisation of the airline.



Federal Minister for Planning & Development, Ahsan Iqbal chairing a Senior Management Committee meeting at the MoPDSI, focusing on strategic planning and key national projects in Islamabad

MPs from PML-N, allied parties term letter from US congress interference in internal affairs

ISLAMABAD (Online): Parliamentarians from ruling parties have declared letter from US Congress interference in internal affairs of Pakistan saying parliamentarians of no country has any right to interfere in the internal matters of Pakistan.

160 parliamentarians from PML-N and allied parties have written a letter to Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif saying the cases against PTI founder are pending hearing in different courts. Parliamentarians of any country have no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. PTI founder introduced political violence and criminal threats against the state institutions. PTI founder was behind incidents of

massive rioting and vandalizing on May 9, 2023.

The letter further said PTI founder instigated the mob to attack parliament, state television building and radio Pakistan.

PTI founder had paralyzed the country in August 2014 and May 2022 due to his politics of chaos.

PTI founder has been instigating people for violence and chaos from jail in Islamabad and Lahore.

PTI founder used social media for fomenting chaos and lawlessness and threatening the state through digital terrorism.

Dissident elements from US and UK are playing role in PTI founder negative campaign. States of US and UK are compelled to take extra-ordi-

nary steps against their citizens

The views of US Congress about February 2014 general election are wrong. The elections were acknowledged as fair and just at international level.

It has been endeavor of PTI to vilify election exercise but it has not succeeded in it. PTI had done so in the general election in 2008 and 2013. His apologetic comments on Taliban, wrong gender views, insult of parliamentary democracy and disgracing diplomatic principles reflect his character.

It is strange that US Congress members are supporting such a person who was found disowning her daughter in the court at Los Angeles.

PMYP, Bosnia agrees to explore avenues for collaboration in youth program

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan on Thursday stressed the importance of international partnerships in tackling youth challenges and promoting sustainable development.

During a meeting with the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Pakistan Emin Cohodarevic at his office, he welcomed the ambassador's enthusiasm and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to sharing knowledge and experiences in youth development.

The Ambassador Cohodarevic on the occasion expressed his heartfelt gratitude for Pakistan's continued support over the years, emphasizing the importance of fostering strong ties between the two nations.

He commended the initiatives implemented under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, which have significantly contributed to the development and empowerment of young people in Pakistan.

Ambassador Cohodarevic highlighted the positive impact of these initiatives and expressed a keen interest in replicating this successful model in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Minister emphasizes need for 'Market-Oriented' education in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Thursday emphasized the importance of market oriented education in unlocking the country's economic potential and called for a market-driven approach to equip young people with skills that are valued by the global market.

Shaikh talking to PTV news channel emphasized to equip Pakistan's youth with the skills needed to thrive in these areas, contributing to the country's economic growth and global relevance.

"Developing expertise in maritime trade and logistics can unlock global career prospects, providing Pakistan's youth with a

competitive edge in the international job market," Shaikh added.

He further explained that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are strengthening their "brotherly" ties, with a focus on economic cooperation and mutual benefit.

The relationship between the two countries is longstanding and time-tested, with Pakistan expressing its desire to elevate these ties into a long-term strategic and economic partnership, he added.

Saudi Arabia is seeking skilled labor, IT professionals, and technical advisers from Pakistan and we are committed to meeting these demands, he highlighted.

This collaboration will not only benefit the two

nations but also contribute to building a prosperous and peaceful future for the region and the Islamic world, he added.

Bringing a collaborative approach between universities and industries is crucial for fostering innovation, economic growth, and mutual benefit, he said, adding, this synergy enables the exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise, ultimately leading to better research outcomes and industry applications.

Federal Minister also revealed that Saudi Arabia has significantly expanded its investment portfolio in Pakistan, surpassing \$2.8 billion, adding, additionally, Denmark and Russia have expressed keen interest in investing in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Minister Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON in a meeting with PML-N leadership Azad Jammu Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi presenting shield to Federal Insurance Ombudsman Mumtaz Ali Shah during Asian Ombudsman Association webinar.

Kanwal praise CM's green initiatives, urges public support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Parliamentary Secretary for Environment Kanwal Pervaiz Chaudhry on Thursday lauded Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for launching "green" initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and urged people to discourage the use of plastic bags.

In an interview with PTV News, she announced that the Punjab Environment Department has imposed a "green lockdown" in the smog-heavy areas of Lahore to tackle the city's persistent air pollution problem with strict instructions from the Punjab Chief Minister.

She revealed that the Chief Minister has issued a stern warning, emphasizing

zero tolerance for smog emissions from kilns and vehicles. She announced that approximately 8,000 industrial units have been converted to e-mapping, enhancing monitoring and regulation. Kanwal added that addressing the disposal of garbage is also a priority, with solutions currently under consideration.

"Public-private partnerships are being explored to tackle the issue of garbage disposal," Kanwal Pervaiz Chaudhry announced.

"We recognize the urgency of addressing this problem and are committed to collaborating with private sector entities to find innovative solutions", she added.

Karsaz incident Court acquits major accused Natasha

KARACHI (Online): Court has acquitted one Natasha main accused in the incident of crushing the citizens with vehicle in Karsaz Karachi.

Karsaz incident related case came up for hearing in city court Karachi.

The defence counsel told the court the accused Natasha is ill and she cannot appear. Later City court Karachi accepted the affidavits presented by affected persons. The court acquitted the accused Natasha. The family members of affectees of Karsaz incident filed the affidavit in court.

IGP Nasir Rizvi issues directives for enhanced crime fighting measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, presided over an important meeting regarding crime control at Central Police Office on Thursday.

A police spokesperson told APP that, the meeting was attended by DG Safe City Shakir Hussain Dawar, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Headquarters Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, DIG Security Muhammad Jawad Tariq, and other senior police officials.

During the meeting, IGP Rizvi assessed the implementation of orders related to crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals.

Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi reviewed the overall crime situation in the federal capital and directed the officers to ensure timely arrests in cases of robbery, murder, and street crime, as well as to secure solid evidence in ongoing investigations.

IG Rizvi emphasized that protecting citizens' lives, property, and dignity is the top priority of Islamabad Police.

IG directed all police officers to ensure effective patrolling in the city and to combat criminal elements.

IHC terminates ban on political conversation of prisoners

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday terminated the section of jail rule which imposed a ban on political conversation of inmates in jails.

Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan announced the verdict on a petition filed by MNA Sher Afzal Marwat.

The court said that the ban was a violation of constitutional provisions for freedom of expression.

It may be mentioned here that the petitioner has challenged the section 265 of jail rules before the IHC.

Kazakhstan's Envoy Islamabad, Astana as sister-city status to boost cultural, economic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, on Thursday proposed establishing a sister-city relationship between Islamabad and Astana, alongside renaming an Islamabad street after a distinguished Kazakh figure.

Ambassador Kistafin, in a meeting with CDA chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa underscored his country's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistan, spanning cultural, economic, and business fields.

He commended Paki-

stan for the successful hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, marking Kazakhstan's Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan as a testament to Islamabad's hospitality and scenic beauty.

Chairman Randhawa welcomed the initiatives, expressing CDA's readiness to formalize the relationship with Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and emphasized the potential for collaboration in city development projects, including a new, advanced slaughterhouse.



Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Ambassador for Bosnia and Herzegovina Emina Cohodarevic in Islamabad.

Islamabad, Tehran explore new partnership in urban development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and Iranian Envoy Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, Thursday underscored the shared vision to advance urban sustainability, marking a promising chapter in the relationship between the two neighboring countries.

Both sides in a high-level meeting on World Cities Day, discussed avenues for mutual cooperation in urban development.

The Iranian Ambassador praised Islamabad's status as a green, beautiful, and meticulously planned city, noting that Pakistan and Iran share a deep cultural connection.

Highlighting this bond, he referenced streets in Iran named after Muhammad Ali

Jinnah and Allama Iqbal and appreciated Pakistan's gesture of renaming a road in Islamabad as Iran Avenue.

The ambassador emphasized Tehran's municipality's interest in collaborating on projects with Islamabad, particularly in infrastructure development and solid waste management, where Iran has considerable expertise.

Chairman Randhawa responded with enthusiasm, describing the CDA's ongoing efforts to enhance Islamabad's beauty and modernity.

He expressed a keen interest in learning from Tehran's urban management practices and welcomed the opportunity for collaborative projects in solid waste management and infrastructure.

Ayaz extends Diwali greetings to Hindu community

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Thursday extended warm greetings to Pakistan's Hindu community on the occasion of Diwali.

In his message, the Speaker conveyed his best wishes and highlighted Diwali as a festival of light, peace, and joy for everyone. "Diwali is a festival of lights," remarked Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and added, "This celebration brings a message of light, peace, and happiness for all."

Emphasizing the importance of equal rights, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said, "All citizens residing in Pakistan are entitled to equal rights and protection." He further noted that sharing in each other's joys and sorrows is essential for promoting interfaith harmony and fostering a spirit of brotherhood.

HEC, University of Utah partner to promote capacity building in universities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the University of Utah here on Thursday have signed a partnership to promote capacity building initiatives in public sector universities across Pakistan. This initiative, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA), aims to enhance faculty development, strategic planning, policy reforms and institutional governance.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Deputy Mission Director USAID Andrew McKim and other senior officials from HEC, University of Utah, and USAID.

Adviser Global Engagement HEC Awais Ahmed and Professor of Civil Engineering University of Utah Dr. Michael Barber signed the document on behalf of their respective institutions. The initiative adds another 16 Pakistani universities to the fold of partnership, as 16 universities are already being supported through HESSA.

Court orders to release Imaan Mazari

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Thursday approved the post-arrest bail of Imaan Mazari Advocate and her husband after the Islamabad High Court dismissed their physical remand order.

The court ordered the police to release the accused.

Earlier, a division bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Saman Raffat Imitiaz heard the appeal against the physical custody of the two accused.

During the hearing, the court asked the prosecutor to read the application of remand and judicial order. The chief justice questioned the prosecutor whether the remand order was as per the law and guidelines given by the Lahore High Court. The prosecutor answered "yes" and said that the order was as per law.

The court, however, dismissed the remand order and directed to send the accused to jail on judicial remand.

PCRWR declares 30 brands of drinking bottle water unsafe

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared that 30 brands of drinking bottled water were unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological or chemical contamination.

For the 3rd quarter of the year 2024 (July to September), 205 samples of mineral/bottled water brands were collected from 21 cities. Comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality

Control Authority (PSQCA).

Some 12 brands including Natural Pure Life, Bro H2O, Purifa Spring Water, Aqua Health, Meher Natural, Mountain Pure, Oslo, Smart Pure, Fiji, More Plus, Qudrat, and Natural were found to be unsafe due to the presence of higher levels of sodium, two brands (Black Seed Water, Natural) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of Turbidity than the permissible limit, said a press release issued here Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: A police personnel stand alter outside bank after recent robbery incident in Federal capital.

Petition against imposition of fine for not behaving good with courts rejected

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has rejected the petition filed against imposition of fine amounting to Rs 1 lac for not behaving good with the subordinate courts.

Justice Shahid Bilal has remarked what one lac fine has been imposed on you is less as compared to how have you behaved with the courts. Fine amounting to Rs 10 lac should have been imposed on you.

He gave these remarks during hearing of petition filed by the petitioner Ijaz Goraya here Thursday.

A two members bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi took up the case for hearing.

The petitioner appeared in person in the court.

Political experts expose India's false narratives on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Political analysts and experts have criticized the BJP-led Indian regime's attempts to project an illusion of peace and normalcy in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that India's propaganda cannot conceal the reality of the situation on the ground. According to Kashmir Media Service, experts argue that India is misleading the global community by pushing a narrative of stability in Kashmir, when in truth, IIOJK remains the most militarized region in the world.

They highlight that the territory has been plunged into a suffocating atmosphere due to oppressive policies, with heart-wrenching accounts of kill-

ings, arbitrary arrests, and torture surfacing daily.

The introduction of draconian laws is seen as a calculated move to alienate the Kashmiri people in their land. According to analysts, India's approach toward Kashmir is rooted in stubbornness, which impedes genuine efforts to resolve the long-standing dispute. They stress that only by granting Kashmiris the right to self-determination can true peace and normalcy be achieved in the region.

Despite India's attempts to subdue the spirit of the Kashmiri people, experts contend that the strong resistance and unyielding desire for freedom among Kashmiris.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) Enforcement taking part in Anti-Encroachment drive at sector G-7.

Fake SPU officer escapes with rifle, raises alarms over Islamabad's security

ISLAMABAD (APP): A man impersonating as an officer of the Special Protection Unit (SPU) managed to escape with an SMG rifle and a reflector jacket from the Islamabad Police Headquarters.

According to information, a case has been registered against the individual at the Secretariat Police Station, as suspicions arise that the same firearm may have been used in recent bank heists within the city.

According to the First Information Report (FIR) filed by Security Division In-Charge ASI Ali Sher, the suspect arrived at the headquarters dressed in a police uniform, displaying a name tag marked "Dilawar" and belt number "283." Claiming to be deployed with the SPU, he provided a fake mobile number and signed off on receiving the SMG rifle with serial number 2183 and a reflector jacket on October 19, intended for use during a VIP security route.

It is suspected that this weapon may have been used in recent bank robberies in Islamabad. Following the incident, security in the city has been heightened, with police checkpoints set up at various points across Islamabad. Authorities are conducting strict checks, especially on motorcycle riders wearing green helmets, affiliated with a specific bike service company.

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Property valuation

The FBR decision to increase its property valuation rates by up to 80pc in 56 Pakistani cities from next month is another attempt to boost tax revenue from real estate transactions and discourage speculative investment in the heavily undertaxed property sector.

Additionally, FBR has extended the scope of property valuation for tax purposes to 12 new cities. The valuations have been changed based on the type of property, its location and other variables. The valuations are raised periodically to close the gap with actual market prices of real estate in order to calculate such taxes as capital gains tax, federal excise and withholding tax, but the authorities have never been able to catch up with the market.

The market value of real estate is normally much higher than government-fixed rates. The entire system of fixing valuation rates for collecting taxes on real estate transactions is indicative of a massive informal, undocumented economy where most sellers and buyers neither want to pay taxes nor disclose the sources or size of their income.

Little wonder, the unregulated sector has emerged as one of the most attractive avenues for investment in Pakistan for wealthy individuals to evade taxes or park their dirty cash. The gains offered by property investments, sweetened by low taxation, also make real estate highly lucrative for corporates.

FBR has been trying to "bring real estate under effective taxation" by determining fair market property prices in major urban centres. However, it has always remained far behind the market because of the deep-rooted financial stakes of powerful lobbies: politicians, businesses, military, bureaucracy and overseas Pakistanis.

A World Bank study estimates that real estate transactions in a comparable economy could generate between Rs600bn and Rs700bn in tax revenues. Tax officials estimate Pakistan's actual collection from real estate transactions to be around Rs200bn. There are several reasons as to why FBR has not been able to effectively tax this large sector.

The existence of the undocumented economy is a major reason. Tax exemptions allowed to certain segments of the population, including military personnel and bureaucrats, is another crucial factor preventing realisation of the tax potential of this asset class. The informality perpetuated by the government in the real estate market, in fact, has led to the creation of a tax-free parallel currency — 'plot files' — which is as liquid as any other asset if not more.

The government failure to regulate benami property transactions have complicated the situation. It means that a plot file may change hands multiple times, and for a very long period, without anyone involved in this chain of buyers and sellers paying any tax at all. Market valuation rates, no matter how realistic they are, will not help boost tax revenues without plugging such loopholes in the system.

Shahid Kardar

Bureaucratic reforms have become essential, as a critical constraint today on the effective functioning of government is the budgetary and business cost of its overextended mandate.

Bureaucrats claim to be neutral and disciplined implementers of the demands of the political leadership, blaming the latter for bad decisions and the 'ills' of the system. In fact, our government is of civil servants, by civil servants, and for civil servants! They have skillfully deflected attention from the reality that they are a self-perpetuating oligarchy. Anyone of them expounding enlightened views is invariably an ex-civil servant!

As indicated elsewhere in a more detailed piece on civil service reforms by this writer, the government's institutional architecture has evolved from structures inherited at independence, the constitutional division of subjects between the centre and the provinces, the agencies and positions created by bureaucracy for career progression, political expediency and ad hoc decisions driven by domestic

sociopolitical pressures and the conditions laid down by international partners.

The trend has been for structures to grow. It has been relatively easy for new departments, agencies — especially regulatory ones — and staff positions to be created or added. And once established, their continued maintenance is underwritten by stakeholders and system beneficiaries.

More than two dozen entities were created over the years to reform the administrative machinery. However, they concentrated more on issues such as hiring, training, career planning, compensation structures based on perks and privileges, appointments and transfers and redressing grievances. But the failure of these attempts to improve efficiencies resulted in the system essentially remaining dysfunctional.

For example, the outdated system does not prioritise timely action and does not penalise procrastination. The general thinking is that there is unlimited time for delivering on a mandate — with its huge implications for the economy. It is facilitated by the liberal distribution of discretionary power

but there is little accountability.

Some key arguments and proposals regarding civil service reforms are summarised here.

The old systems of governance do not equip bureaucrats with the technical skills to manage policies and operations required by a restructured framework of modern administrative mechanisms.

In this age of specialisation, assisted by a wide range of service outsourcing options, a generalist cadre (the PAS/DMG) with non-technical qualifications can be secretary education one week, secretary health the next, and secretary finance the week after, all the while lacking the capability to adapt to changing times and technological advancements. Going forward, structures and skill sets would depend on the types of services to be performed by each level of government.

However, the appropriateness and relevance of functions, rules, and performance evaluation (which is a secretive process), despite the challenges of rapidly changing technological and global environments, a hy-

peractive media and the growing expectations of a more informed citizenry, are not open for inquiry.

After the 18th Amendment, should there be a PAS/DMG Cadre? The federal government's role should be restricted to establishing a strategic direction, policymaking and standard-setting in collaboration with the provincial governments under the auspices of the Council of Common Interests. It would then only have a small core with the requisite skills to ensure knowledge and continuity, market-based salaries (abandoning the existing disincentivising unified pay structure) for broadly similar skills, but without perks such as cars, housing, etc.

Having a trimmed Islamabad bureaucracy will also improve efficiency, simply through a reduction in the number of layers of processing. Further gains can also come from the digitalised elimination of unnecessary tasks and by closely aligning functions and resources, appropriately complemented by delegation and decentralisation.

Henceforth, inductees to the generalist cadre should be required, say within eight

years of service, to specialise in a subject of their own choosing and acquire the relevant domain knowledge for continuation of service. To this end, there should be an entrance exam administered by a central entity on subjects prioritised by the government's agenda and entrusted, under the Constitution, to the federal government or to the relevant provincial government or local bodies. This will also enable a more realistic performance evaluation.

Moreover, an opportunity for lateral entry should be open to all positions (with no reservations of posts for any group/cadre) to induct, on a contractual basis, high-quality professionals who possess rapidly evolving technological knowhow and skills.

Furthermore, we should embrace a contributory pension system for new entrants to the civil service. It should be adopted for existing employees, protecting pension entitlements attained to date.

The additional cash expenditures on the monetisation of benefits and the adoption of the contributory pension

scheme — this might require an enhancement in salary — can be financed from resources released from the trimming of the federal and provincial governments, the liquidation/closing down of several organisations and the disposal of prime commercial land held by government and used for offices and the housing of civil and judicial bureaucracies, along with the money that will be saved on a recurrent basis for not having to maintain these properties and the cars funded from the public purse.

This can make the compensation package more transparent and give the employee a choice in, for example, spending more on his child's education rather than residing in a palatial house. It will also expose employees to the socioeconomic stresses faced by ordinary citizens.

To enable a speedier shift to monetisation the government can a) help them lease their cars and compensate the use of the private car for official business under the present rules; b) cover their health needs through insurance. -- Courtesy Dawn

Chasing investment**Khurram Husain**

There is something about private investment that successive governments in Pakistan have failed to understand.

Promoting private investment is a bit like catching a bird. You cannot chase after it because that makes it nervous and it most likely will fly away. You have to lay out what it seeks then wait for it to come.

For the third time this year, our government has gone running to another country to ask for investment. In May, we had headlines announcing that the UAE had agreed to invest \$10 billion in Pakistan, during a visit by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Then this June, Sharif led a large delegation of Pakistani businessmen (and yes, they were all men so no need for gender-neutral language here) to China in the hopes of inking an equally large number of business deals. All they came back with, sadly, was a handful of MoUs.

The only real action happening on that China visit was the groundwork laid down for renegotiat-

ing the terms of the Chinese power projects entered into during CPEC's heyday. The finance minister made a subsequent visit the next month, to begin the process of that renegotiation, and came back with little more than a clearer idea of all that will be required to get that ball rolling.

Then came another visit of a large and 'high-level' delegation, this time from Saudi Arabia coming to Pakistan in early October. On Oct 10 an announcement came that 27 MoUs worth \$2.2bn had been signed between Pakistani and Saudi parties. And now, as of this writing, the prime minister is again in Saudi Arabia, and the announcement this time is that those 27 MoUs have now increased to 34, "with some of them already operational".

Meanwhile, as the PM's visit was unfolding in the kingdom, the news came in that only one party was willing to bid for privatisation of the national airline, PIA. A bigger vote of no-confidence in the government's assets and its ability to command the confidence of investors would be difficult to

find.

And then, to make matters a little more puzzling, it turned out that the lone bidder is just a real estate company whose credentials included an ambition to build a replica of Istanbul's Blue Mosque as one of its real estate projects in Pakistan.

This gets complicated, so let me put it in plain English. The wrong way to try and promote investment in your country is to have the government running ahead of everyone else, beseeching other governments to please come and invest, and offering carve-outs and other 'incentives' from your legal, taxation and regulatory regimes to entice them with.

There is a simple reason why this is a bad idea. When investors see this sort of behaviour they don't say to themselves "this country is serious about investment". Instead, they ask themselves 'what is wrong with their investment environment that they need the government to play a front-line role, and have special incentives and carve-outs to entice investors with?'

This is not a passing remark. Over the past two years at least, I have taken numerous calls from investors of all categories — from those looking to buy running businesses in Pakistan to those considering the outlook on Pakistani bonds — and they all raise these questions. The credibility of the country is hurt when a government plays a front-line role in pursuing investment. And it is hurt further when the same government offers special treatment to new investors as an incentive.

So what is the right approach? Simple. The right approach begins with setting your legal, taxation and regulatory framework right, to provide clear, transparent, accessible and credible rules that govern your investment environment. Second, the correct approach aims to get prices right.

In an economy where government plays a significant price-setting role, from energy to agriculture, it is difficult for investors to see how things may evolve. Consider as an example all the Chinese investors who readily agreed to enter

Pakistan's power generation market during the CPEC days, and are now saddled with receivables and a request to reschedule those payments. No investor wants to become involved with a situation like this.

Thirdly, investors look carefully at the foreign exchange liquidity position in your country, especially if there is a recent history of import restrictions and curbs on profit repatriation due to liquidity constraints. And they don't take assurances at face value. They will listen to government assurances that the days of import restrictions and repatriation curbs are over.

But once the government delegates leave the room, they will consult independent experts privately to make up their mind as to how well positioned the country in question is to be able to afford the investment they are asking for.

Only after all this will the investors be willing to look at the country in question and see where opportunities might lie. The levels of educational attainment of the population, their health indica-

tors, political stability and sanctity of contracts will all be evaluated before any decision is made. Sadly, Pakistan scores very low on all these metrics.

If this government is indeed serious about promoting investment, it should stop these foreign visits unless their real purpose is not for asking for investment but asking for cash support to shore up reserves. It has been my feeling from the start that this is what these visits are all about, but maybe I'm wrong.

First, they tried building what they called the Special Investment Facilitation Council to promote investment. To this day, the only investment-related success story the SIFC can show on its website is a 'letter of understanding' to build a Chromebook assembly line in Haripur.

Now, they've got these swaggering roadshows, led by the prime minister to chase investment. Meanwhile, nobody at home, other than a real estate developer, was willing to touch the national airline when it was offered up for sale.

The third pillar**FS.Aijazuddin**

One would need more than 10 fingers to count the number of lawyers who have governed Pakistan since its inception.

Our founder was a lawyer; our first prime minister a lawyer. Our former prime minister, sentenced to death by a court of law, was a lawyer. Others with law degrees have appeared in court, either as plaintiffs or as defendants. And a few have applied their juridical talents to bending or subverting the law.

One would imagine that Pakistan is awash with lawyers. It has 160,000 plus registered lawyers (98,000 in Punjab alone). In fact, we are not the most litigious nation, by far. Israel is, with 694 lawyers per 100K of population. The US has 401 lawyers per 100K. The UK has 226 per 100K, with almost as many lawyers — 153,600 — as Pakistan, serving a far smaller population.

Yet, the British judicial system, despite its "efficient legal processes, rigorous legal education, and a focus on mediation and arbitration", has a backlog of over 64,000 cases. Pakistan has 2.23 million cases waiting to be decided in all our courts. Of these, as of end December 2023, some 56,000 cases lay unresolved before the Supreme Court.

Anyone commenting on our judicial practices is fearful of being summoned for contempt of court. The unarguable truth today is that many perceive the courts themselves as rebuffing the system of impartial justice they took an oath to uphold.

It would not be unfair to assess the tenure of three recent chief justices of our Supreme Court.

Former CJP Saqib

Nisar (2016-19) began by having himself photographed in full robes and wig in his family parlour, surrounded by relatives. During his tenure, his judicial overreach knew no bounds — visits to the Punjab Institute of Mental Health and an obsession with Lahore's graveyards. He thought nothing of summoning senior law-abiding citizens to his court to pay him court. His connivance with Musharraf's regime in ousting Nawaz Sharif from the prime ministership in 2017 is a less memorable residue of his legacy.

A later successor CJP Umar Ata Bandial (2022-23) gave hope when, in his early days, he made an avowed commitment to clear the backlog of cases that were obstructing the flow of justice. "In his first month as CJP, the Supreme Court decided a record 1,761 cases." Soon, however, he too succumbed, like some fragile submersible, to external pressures.

Some parties accused him of bias, others of inaction. His suo motu action regarding the delay in polls in KP and Punjab in 2023 made him more enemies than friends — as if he did not have enough of the former within his colleagues on the bench.

CJP Qazi Isa (2023-24), during his swearing in, kept his wife by his side, to compensate for the humiliation she had suffered at the hands of their detractors. Many applauded when he opened the sittings of the Supreme Court to television. He wanted the public to see justice being done. Others feared that such exposure would draw the Supreme Court into the glare of reality. They proved to be right. Like royalty after the intrusion of television into their private lives, the gossamer mystique

evaporated, exposing their human frailties.

Television coverage of the Supreme Court hearings became another soap opera. Almost from the outset, the schisms amongst their lordships became apparent. They used the SC courtroom to ventilate their opinions, not their learning. An eloquence of judges degenerated into a quarrel of judges.

To paraphrase Walter Bagehot's observation about parliament, the Supreme Court proved that it, too, "like every other sort of sovereign, has peculiar feelings, peculiar prejudices, peculiar interests; and it may pursue these in opposition to the desires, and even in opposition to the wellbeing of the nation".

The 26th Amendment to our Constitution, conceived in spite and delivered in haste, has destroyed that sovereignty, the once vaunted independence of our judiciary. Judges are now at the mercy of parliament.

The third pillar providing judicial checks and balances in our system has crumbled. The scales of justice have tilted in favour of legislative anarchy.

And for two superseded SC judges, the reward of a lifetime of dedication, hard work and public service has been reduced to naught by an arbitrary constitutional amendment. The novelist W. Gaddis once warned: "You get justice in the next world; in this world, you have the law."

Parliament has bulldozed an unjust law. Future parliaments would do well to heed Bagehot's advice. Their function is "not to win power by awing mankind, but to use power in governing mankind". -- Courtesy Dawn

BRICS & Stone Age**Shahzad Sharjeel**

Mukesh Ambani, of the unending wedding ceremonies fame, recently enlightened Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang about the Sanskrit meaning of his company's name and its significance in the logframe of progress.

A little digression: we just witnessed two important conclaves where world leaders and nations aspiring to join their ranks got together to discuss ways of cooperation and agree upon the rules of competition. Pakistan hosted the delegates of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad, and Russian President Vladimir Putin recently welcomed the world leaders at the BRICS summit in Kazan. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the Pakistan moot and Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the BRICS meeting. He met Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines.

Easing one of the irritants between them, India and China have agreed to resume patrols along the disputed Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. Soon after Mr Modi returned home, the CEO of Nvidia, a leader in chipmaking and AI, visited India. We, too, can claim that Bill Gates, another tech giant, visits Pakistan more often than he goes to his company headquarters. But alas! He comes here to share his concerns over our horrific failure on the polio front: over 40 new cases so far this year. Who knows what else he discusses while here? We only hear the bits and pieces about giving each family free-range chicken to have fresh eggs. News on this enlightening front has also dried up since Imran Khan's imprisonment.

Returning to

Ambani's pearls of wisdom, he informed Mr Huang that in Hindi, 'Vidya' is the name of Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. In the Vedic scheme of things, one who prays to the goddess of knowledge gets the attention of Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity. In other words, to borrow from the geeky world of IT, knowledge and prosperity are interconnected on the circuit board of progress; without this connection, the motherboard of any development strategy is nothing but a motherlode of chicken droppings.

It is not as if no one of consequence visited us following the SCO summit. The English cricket team was here. Entire transport systems like the celebrated Metro between Rawalpindi and Islamabad were suspended, and major highways and arteries connecting the twin cities and beyond were routinely closed to facilitate the 20-strong visiting squad's commute between their hotel in Islamabad and the match venue in Rawalpindi.

It is beyond comprehension why these cricketers could not stay at a hotel in Rawalpindi to spare millions of people daily misery on the roads. If the five-star hotel in the garrison city does not meet the visiting princelings' standards, other accommodations are there to give any manor or mansion a run for their money. They can also be put through the rigours of Kakul Academy, albeit much closer to the sea level, while there.

On conclaves and sporting events and their follow-up, one has never heard a squeak from any quarter regarding the gains and investments resulting from these spectacles. It would be great if the Pakistan Cricket Board or some chamber of com-

merce could tell us about revenue generation or a boost to the local economy from these unending hosting sprees. The state of planning that goes into these adventures could be discerned from the fact that stadium renovations are undertaken without any regard for timelines for the upcoming series. This recently resulted in most matches being played in Multan and Rawalpindi. Lahore has to be skipped, as we cannot risk thousands of PTI supporters turning it into a political ga-la. It is not for no-thing that cricket and the interior ministry are entrusted with the same person.

A few years back, we celebrated the return of international cricket to Pakistan. Remember, no one wanted to come here after the attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009? One would like to ask who adopted and emboldened the forces who attacked the visiting team. The same benefactors now want us to celebrate the return of international cricket, but to what end, one must ask? To close down entire cities so that some boys could play ball?

Petty differences apart, all religions, ideologies, and philosophies hold the knowledge and its acquisition in the highest esteem. May we be granted some common sense, if not wisdom, to stop being mesmerised by jets doing aerobatics while letting off coloured smoke during parades and boys playing cricket to satisfy the 'boys' vanity.

We need to earn some Lakshmi. We cannot live on borrowed money or ideologies. We must decide whether to pursue a future of BRICS and SCO or be at the mercy of the bricks and stones brigade hell-bent on taking us back to the Stone Age. -- Courtesy Dawn

Smog Control Program: CM Maryam launches super seeder project

LAHORE (APP): Historic era of mechanized cultivation in Punjab begins as Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched the first and biggest Super Seeder project in the country's history.

She inaugurated the distribution of super seeders among farmers at Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kaku. She highlighted that the use of Super Seeder will not pollute the environment.

The Chief Minister announced to start modern agricultural equipment rental services in every tehsil. She set a target to start rental service of modern agricultural equipment to farmers at zero profit in 60-days. She said that the path of development passes through field.

Maryam Nawaz

Sharif said Pakistan Muslim League-N government is gaining momentum, adding that no one but the PML-N knows how to perform. She highlighted that there were 300 super-seeders in the whole of Punjab. "We are adding 1000 more from today while 5000 in total will be added in our five years' tenure," she said and noted that to get a super seeder worth Rs 13 lakhs, a farmer will have to pay just Rs 5 lakhs, the remaining Rs 8 lakhs will be paid by the government.

The CM said that public cooperation is essential to eliminate smog. She added that seeing smoke from a chimney prompts immediate action as the smog spreads many diseases.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that farmers will

be given latest agricultural equipment at 60% subsidy while they have bought Rs 10 billion worth of agricultural inputs through Kisan Card.

CM Maryam said that people from Kashmir are coming to Punjab due to cheap bread and low inflation. She observed that one must have to be sympathetic towards people to reduce inflation.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that abusing others does not fill bellies, people's problems can be solved only by working day and night.

Elderly farmers came to thank Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. They put their hands on her head to show affection, and wore her 'chadar' brought from Marina. They said that Maryam Nawaz Sharif has raised the head of Punjab and the farmers of Punjab.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif chairs provincial cabinet meeting held in Lahore.

Governor Kundi calls for unified political stand on provincial rights

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that the province was the most affected due to terrorism and all the political parties should unite to get its rights from the federation.

He emphasized that all political parties must put aside their differences and unite to advocate for KP's rights at the federal level.

He made these remarks at a seminar organized by the Center for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) at the University of Peshawar. The seminar, titled "NFC Award and the Case for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" was attended by members of parliament, political leaders, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, faculty, and students.

During his address, Governor Kundi highlighted the contributions of the Pakistan Peoples Party,

which introduced Pakistan's first constitution and, in 2010, promoted equitable resource distribution through the NFC Award.

The 7th NFC Award, he said, introduced a multi-faceted approach for equitable distribution, with the 18th Amendment granting greater provincial autonomy and control over resources, increasing provincial shares to at least 57.5 percent in the divisible pool.

Governor Kundi pointed out that many areas in KP remain underdeveloped, facing terrorism and law and order issues.

He emphasized that the recently merged tribal areas required additional resources to meet their needs. He pledged to advocate for the province's rights and needs at the federal level as KP's representative.

Governor Kundi also appreciated the seminar organizers, Peshawar University, DIL, and

KP CM inaugurates solarization project for public sector colleges

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, inaugurated the solarization project for government colleges in the province.

Initially under this project, installation of a 10KVA solar system has been initiated in 80 government colleges, with already completed in 10 of them.

The Chief Minister formally launched this important project in a ceremony held here at Government College Peshawar on Thursday. Provincial cabinet

members, members of the provincial and national assemblies, relevant government officials, college faculty members, and a large number of students attended the ceremony.

The project includes the installation of a 10 KVA solar system in each college, with a total cost of Rs 2.41 million per college. The solar system is expected to reduce electricity consumption by 1,100 to 1,200 units per month per college, saving around Rs 55,000 in monthly electricity bill for each college.

The installation costs

of the solar systems is also expected to be recouped within approximately three years. Similarly, each solar installation is expected to reduce the national grid load by 120 KW of electricity per month per college. If the system is installed in 290 colleges in the province, the national grid would save a total of up to 34.8 MW of electricity per month.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed awards among students who achieved top positions in the MDCAT and board exams.

Addressing the ceremony,



KARACHI: German Consul General Rüdiger Lotz, and others lighting snurburn on the occasion of the Hindu festival of Diwali at the German Consulate.

Political stability in vital to economic development of the country: Governor

LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Punjab House Islamabad. During the meeting, the overall situation of the country was discussed. Both the leaders expressed their determination to work together for the constitutional stability of the country, and the development of Punjab province.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said political stability in the country was vital to the

economic development of the country. Governor Punjab said that as coalition partner Pakistan Peoples' Party believed in strengthening the government for political and economic stability in the country.

He said that the challenges faced by the country could be overcome with the supremacy of democracy and rule of law. Governor Punjab further said that the welfare of the people and provision of basic facilities to them is a priority. He said that all parties should forget their differences and work for the betterment of country.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Punjab for Information and Culture, Azma Bukhari along with others cutting inaugural ribbon during the inauguration of Lahore Press Club (LPC) Solarization Project, at LPC.

Station Commander says: Irfan Mehsud, a source of pride for nation

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Station Commander Dera Brig. Amir Hayat has said that Irfan Mehsud, a holder of over 100 Guinness World Records, was a source of pride for the area and the country as well.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Irfan Mehsud, who holds over 100 Guinness World Records, here at his office on Thursday.

The station commander added that the Pakistan Army will continue to encourage athletes who perform

exceptionally in the field of sports. He congratulated Irfan Mehsud on his historic achievements and offered his support.

He said that Pak Army would continue to extend all possible support for the promotion of sports along with maintaining peace and order in the country. He said that there was no shortage of talent in Pakistan.

It is worth mentioning here that Irfan Mehsud is specialist martial arts and holds more than 100 Guinness World Records.

8 dead, 1,409 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Eight persons were killed and 1,409 others injured in 1,332 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 597 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 812 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 803 drivers, 50 underage drivers, 177 pedestrians, and 437 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 301 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 322 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 98 accidents and 94 victims, and at third Multan with 82 accidents and 90 victims. According to the data 1190 motorbikes, 97 auto-rickshaws, 136 motorcars, 24 vans, 14 passenger buses, 35 truck and 119 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road traffic accidents.

Two persons gunned down

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons were gunned down over watering issue, in the limits of Kurr police station on Thursday.

According to police, Khadim Hussain and his brother Ashiq Hussain sons of Jahangir were watering their lands in Chak No 593-GB, when Siddi Ahmad along with his accomplices opened indiscriminate fire on them. Both the brothers received critical bullet injuries and died on the spot. The police have moved the bodies to a mortuary for autopsy after collecting forensic evidence from the site.

The CPO has taken notice of the incident and constituted a committee headed by SDPO to probe the incident.

Shaza Fatima, Tessori distribute ration bags among deserving people

KARACHI (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecom Shaza Fatima along with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori distributed ration bags among the deserving families at Governor House.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of State said that the distribution of ration bags among the beneficiaries

under the Governor's initiative was a commendable step.

She said that with this initiative, the needy people are supporting their children. Shaza Fatima said she was happy to distribute ration bags among needy families.

Governor Sindh said that for the last two years, ration is being distributed to thousands of deserving people every day.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique addressing the 57th convocation ceremony of CPSP at local hotel.

LDA seals another 187 properties over rules violations

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Thursday sealed another 187 properties during its ongoing crackdown on commercialisation fee defaulters and rules violations here in the city.

Under the directives of DG LDA Tahir Farooq, the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) is conducting daily operations against illegal commercial buildings and fee defaulters.

Recently, LDA teams have executed actions in various areas, sealing a total of 187 properties. Significant operations took place in Poonch Road, Samanabad, Gulberg, and

the Revenue Scheme in Johar Town.

In Gulberg, 22 properties were sealed due to unauthorized commercial use and non-payment of fees. Similarly, in Poonch Road Samanabad, 35 properties faced the same fate. The Revenue Scheme in Johar Town saw the sealing of 115 properties, while 15 properties in Allama Iqbal Town were also sealed for failure to pay commercial fees.

The sealed properties include a variety of establishments such as private banks, offices, hospitals, clinics, hostels, pharmacies, malls, pizza shops, private schools.

Two brothers die, third injured in Nowshera accident

PESHAWAR (APP): Two real brothers were killed, and another was injured when the motorcycle they were riding was hit by a tractor in the Khesghi Payan area of the Nowshera district, police reported on Thursday.

The unfortunate incident took place in Shah Swar Chowk of Khesghi Payan where three brothers travelling on a motorcycle were hit by a tractor trolley.

As a result, two brothers identified as 16-year-old Muhammad Zohaib, and 13-year-old Muhammad Talha died at the scene while their third brother, Muhammad Owais was injured.

The brothers belonged to the Khesghi Bala area of Nowshera district.



LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan meeting with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

Over 55,000 children benefit from education reforms in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The education pilot Sindh Technical Assistance for Development through Enhanced Education Programme (STA DEEP), supported by the European Union and UNICEF, concluded on Thursday with over 55,000 children benefitting from this five-year programme. STA DEEP introduced decentralized approaches to school management, digital monitoring systems and professional development trainings for teachers to empower the School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) to become more equitable and responsive to student needs.

"We are pleased to announce the success of our school clustering model, which has

significantly improved monitoring and strengthened the capacity of teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders.

Secretary School Education Zahid Ali Abbasi expressed gratitude to the European Union and UNICEF for implementing this globally recognized system and said they eagerly anticipate continued collaboration with UNICEF and the EU to embark on this exciting journey toward achieving quality education."

Traditionally, Sindh's education department has functioned under a centralized model. STA DEEP provided technical support to SELD to implement the school clustering policy that decentralizes decision-making, budget allocation.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, talking to media persons during attending on the occasion of the German Artists performance in "Jazz Music," during World Culture Festival Karachi 2024 at Arts Council of Pakistan.

Punjab ombudsperson stresses women protection from violence

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Ombudsperson Nabila Hakim Ali said on Thursday that protection of women from violence of all kinds was imperative for national development.

Talking to the media after hearing inheritance cases of women at Regional Office Faisalabad, she said that women could not be deprived of their share in the inheritance property.

She said that women were

an integral part of the society and their rights were protected strictly in the law. The regional ombudsperson office was striving hard to protect women's rights at maximum extent in addition to providing necessary facilities during their visit to the regional office for filing cases and attending their hearing, she added.

She said that Punjab government was also committed for betterment

and empowerment of women so that they could easily contribute in the national development without any fear of violence. In the past, the women were brutally treated and denied for their rights, but now their rights would be protected at all levels, she said, adding that strict action would also be taken against the violators without any discrimination.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing NFC Award seminar at University of Peshawar.

Uzbekistan-Pak trade potential needs to increase from current \$311.1 million: Laziz Kudratov

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Laziz Kudratov has said that the current trade volume of \$311.1 million between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is far below its potential which needs to be increased.

The volume of mutual trade from January to September of this year reached US\$311.1 million, reflecting a 9.8% increase compared to the same period last year, Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Laziz Kudratov told APP in Tashkent.

The minister said that considering the economic potential of both nations, discussions are underway to expand the list of products eligible for the preferential trade regime outlined in this agreement.

He said that by broadening the range of goods covered under the preferential trade agreement, "We anticipate a further boost in trade volumes through reduced customs duty rates in our bilateral trade relations and the creation of favourable conditions for local product exports."

He said that to further strengthen trade and economic cooperation between the two countries a n d promote bilateral industrial collaboration, a preferential trade agreement was signed between Uzbekistan and Pakistan on March 3, 2022.

This agreement came into effect on March 13, 2023, and currently establishes a preferential trade regime for beans and peanuts cultivated in Uzbekistan, along with industrial chocolate and confectionery items, canned mixtures, copper wire, refrigerators, televisions, transformers, and electrical conductors, he said.

The minister said that with political will and ongoing economic reforms, transit trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan holds significant potential for growth in the future.

Replying to a question, he said that in 2021, a transit trade agreement was signed between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, which streamlined customs procedures for Uzbek long-haul drivers and facilitated the development of the southern transport corridor.



Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan, H.E. WADA Mitsuhiro called on Secretary SIFC Division, Jamil Qureshi at the Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad.

German Bank KFW keen to establish two training centres in energy sector

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: German Investment & Development Bank (KFW) has shown interest in the establishment of two training centres in solar energy and micro hydel technology at Government College of Technology (GCT) Peshawar and Government College of Swat.

These projects had already been approved by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD). The project is consisted of a grant to Rs.74.70 million under which 450 youth would be imparted hands-in training annually.

In this connection, a joint meeting of the representatives of German Investment & Development Bank KFW and KP Industries Department was held with Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries & Commerce Abdul Karim Tordher and Special Assistant to KP CM on Technical Education Tufail Anjum here on Thursday.

Besides, Head of Division of KFW Ms. Esther Gravenkötter and other representatives, the Secretary Industries KP Amir Aafaq, Special Secretary Anwar Khan, Managing Director (MD) Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Mansoor Qaiser and directors, other officers also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, matters relating to various projects in Pakistan particularly the establishment of training centres for renewable energy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and taking them forward and completion of their various phases also come under discussion between the representatives of the German Bank and Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

FBR launches advance stock register system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday launched an advanced Stock Register system via the Information Center 2.0 platform to provide officers real-time, in-depth access to registered persons' data, bolstering transparency and securing compliance with Income Tax (IT) and Sales Tax (ST) regulations.

The board has launched the system under the direction of the Chairman FBR and as part of FBR's comprehensive digitalization efforts to optimize tax administration and boost revenue collection, said a news release.

The system functions as a sophisticated management information and reporting system, empowering tax officers to securely retrieve detailed stock data to facilitate precise tax assessments and mitigate the risk of tax evasion.

The system centralizes taxpayer profiles, offering thorough views of IT & ST filing histories, summaries, and authorized representative profiles. This integrated access is further strengthened by tax and declaration comparisons, providing comprehensive oversight capabilities.

By meticulously recording stock movements and capturing essential details such as quantities, valuations, and transaction dates, the system enables tax officers to enforce regulatory compliance and validate accurate stock and compliance reports.

The Information Center 2.0 portal enhances FBR's capacity.



HYDERABAD: Laborers are busy in drying threads, which they use to prepare clothes to earn their livelihood for support their families, at a workplace in Hyderabad.

PSX continues with bearish trend, loses 1,319 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Thursday, losing 1,319.80 points, a negative change of 1.46 percent, closing at 88,966.77 points as compared to 90,286.57 points on last trading day.

A total of 546,274,609 shares were traded during the day as compared to 614,564,066 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.117 billion against Rs 27.341 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 437 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 137 of them recorded gains and 240 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 73,617,949 shares at Rs 4.44 per share, Bank of Punjab with 42,667,349 shares at Rs 5.82 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 25,898,091 shares at Rs1.22 per share.

Rupee sheds 06 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 06 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.85 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.79. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 96 paise to close at Rs 301.68 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.72, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.82.



LAHORE: A Women browses and selects handcrafted decorative items especially truck art at a handicrafts shop near Delhi Gate.



QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Chamber of Commerce meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

DWP Technologies shines at Cisco, Ingram Partner award night 2024

Independent Report
LAHORE: DWP Technologies, a division of Pakistan's leading business conglomerate, DWP Group, has secured two prestigious accolades at the Cisco and Ingram Partner Award Night held on October 23, 2024, in Karachi.

The company was honored with the Cisco Technology Partner of the Year and Security Partner of the Year awards, reinforcing its position as a leader in technology solutions and cybersecurity.

DWP Technologies was honored as the Cisco Technology Partner of the Year, recognizing its exceptional annual performance and outstanding customer satisfaction across Cisco technologies, including Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI), SD-WAN, Collaboration, and Security. This award highlights DWP's dedication to delivering advanced, customized solutions and ensuring flawless project execution.

In addition to the Technology Partner award, DWP Technologies also received the Security Partner of the Year award, a tribute to the company's expertise in the Cisco Security domain. This recognition reflects DWP's commitment to safeguarding businesses through cutting-edge cybersecurity solutions, reinforcing its reputation as an innovative technology leader in Pakistan.

Muhammad Faisal, a key member of DWP's sales team, won the Outstanding Performer Award, for his exemplary performance in the Central region.



PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying beautiful decoration pieces on his handcart to attract customers near Mohallah Jhangi.

Crackdown against sub-standards, illegal manufacturing

Independent Report
KARACHI: As per directions of honorable Minister of Science and Technology, the Director Conformity Assessment CA Islamabad Zone assigned the task to Conformity Assessment Officers of Islamabad Zone for crackdown against Illegal / Sub-Standards and Non-Licence Products. In this regard Assistant Director and Field Officer conducted Market Surveillance of food and non-food mandatory products.

Non-licence brands without having PS Mark on label found in Super Stores and were de-shelved. During the crackdown against illegal keeping in stock and sale, some mandatory items such as Skin Cream, Toilet Soap, Hair Dye, Iodized Salt, Red Chilli Powder, Fruit Drinks, Pickles and Jams were found illegal / Non-Licence. The Manager of Departmental Stores were given notices to avoid keeping in stocks of mandatory food and non-food items/brands, which are not licensed and duly marked PS logo.

They were also warned that in case of non-compliance of the directives of the Authority, the illegal/un-licensed items will be confiscated and strict legal action will be taken. Furthermore, notices are being issued to manufacturers of such identified illegal/unlicensed brands under section 14 of PSQCA Act 1996 to refrain from manufacturing.



LAHORE: A Women browses and selects handcrafted decorative items especially truck art at a handicrafts shop near Delhi Gate.

NPO, APO collaborate to enhance workplace in surgical industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Productivity Organization (NPO) and Asian Productivity Organization (APO) on Thursday successfully completed project aimed at improving workplace environment management in Pakistan's surgical instruments industry through lean manufacturing practices. The workshop was held at Sialkot, which brought together industry stakeholders, experts, and practitioners to share insights and strategies for implementing lean manufacturing techniques that prioritize workplace environment management, said a news release. During the event, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest methodologies, best practices, and tools to improve efficiency and sustainability within their operations. While speaking on the occasion Chairman Surgical Instrument Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SIMAP) Zeeshan Tariq said "enhancing workplace environment management through lean manufacturing is crucial for the growth and sustainability of the surgical instruments industry in Pakistan". "This workshop has equipped participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to drive positive change.

Experts, officials convene to unlock Bamboo's benefits for economy, environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Government officials, international organizations and experts on Thursday, in a workshop, explored bamboo's vast potential to address climate change, create economic opportunities, and reduce plastic use, as they gathered to develop a comprehensive national bamboo strategy.

The workshop began with a welcome address by Hammad Shamimi, Additional Secretary of MoCC&EC, (Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental

Coordination), who highlighted the importance of collective efforts in tackling Pakistan's climate challenges.

He noted that the Ministry is committed to sustainable solutions that address the pressing environmental challenges while simultaneously creating economic opportunities.

Bamboo has been used extensively for construction and woven products. Especially, bamboo was successfully used for building transitional and permanent shelters in response to natural calamities such as earthquakes and floods.

Among 1,600 species found globally, more than 900 are in Asia of which three are native to Pakistan: Arundinaria falcata, Bambusa bamboo, and Dendrocalamus strictus.

Bamboo is predominantly grown in tropical climates throughout the world. In Asia (80%), bamboo holds significant ecological, social, and commercial importance.

UET receives first e-bike from Atlas Honda

LAHORE (APP): The Automotive Engineering Centre at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore has received a state-of-the-art Benly e-motorcycle from Atlas Honda company due to efforts of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir (TI). The event was attended by an Atlas Honda team comprising Zia-ul-Hassan Khan, GM Sales & Marketing, Saadullah Ejaz, GM Human Resource & Corporate Affairs, and Muhammad Yawar Farooq, National Manager New Model Centre. The team was welcomed by Prof. Dr. Tauseef Aized, Dean Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Ali Hussain Kazim, Director Automotive Engineering. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir highlighted that the gift of EV motorcycle would lead to burgeoning of academic exploration and research of the EV mobility.

Iraqi Ambassador urges for strengthening Pak-Iraq bilateral trade

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistani pilgrims travel to Iraq annually, especially to Najaf and Karbala (Arbaein), demonstrating the significant movement of people between the two countries.

While pointing to the low trade volume between Pakistan and Iraq, he highlighted the opportunity for increased commerce.

He also commended the quality of Pakistani products and encouraged the business community to enhance product marketing efforts.

Appreciating the role of RCCI in strengthening bilateral trade ties, the ambassador assured the RCCI of Iraq's support in facilitating the participation of Pakistani businesses in Iraqi exhibitions and trade delegations to expand trade and economic collaboration.

The ambassador remarked this in his meeting with the top brass of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) which was held during his visit here at the chamber on Thursday.

Ambassador Hamid Abbas while underscoring the shared historical, religious, and diplomatic ties between the two nations, noted that approximately two hundred and fifty thousand



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif inspecting the Super Seeder during her visit to Rice Research Institute located on Kala Shah Kaku in Lahore.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships, Maersk Cabo Verde, X-Press Anglesey, One Reinforcement, Morning, Sea Quest, Lowlands Amstel and Arkas scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Gas oil and Coals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Oil Terminal, Pakistan International Bulk Terminal and Port Qasim Electric Power Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile two more ships, White Fin and Sevilla Knutsen scheduled to load/offload Rice and LNG are also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them seven ships, One Reinforcement, X-Press Anglesey, Maersk Cabo Verde, Captain Dimitris, Sea Steller, Sea Quest and Zarrar Hanif are expected to sail on Thursday. Cargo volume of 141,235 tonnes, comprising 100,950 tonnes import cargo and 40,285 tonnes export cargo carried in 4,916 Containers (3,222 TEUs Imports & 1,694 TEUs Export).

SECP issues position paper to enable a startup friendly ecosystem

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a comprehensive position paper aimed at fostering a supportive start-up ecosystem in the country for recognizing the importance of a strong Startup friendly ecosystem in Pakistan.

The paper seeks to gather feedback from stakeholders and highlights the critical role of start-ups in driving economic growth and innovation, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

The paper provides a glimpse into successful start-ups in Pakistan, outlines the importance of a robust start-up ecosystem, and identifies key factors that hinder its development.

The Position Paper delves into various aspects of the start-up landscape, including a comparison of definitions of start-ups adopted in Pakistan and internationally, an overview of the start-up financing life cycle, and the funding status of start-ups over the past four years.

It also reviews the regulatory facilitation provided by the SECP and presents case studies from international jurisdictions where start-ups have significantly contributed to economic growth.

By addressing the challenges faced by Pakistan's start-up ecosystem, the paper opens avenues for constructive dialogue aimed at bridging existing gaps.

To streamline the start-up ecosystem, the paper proposes several consultation avenues, including the establishment of a unified definition of start-ups across key institutions, the creation of a government-backed fund to enhance liquidity, and the introduction of tax reforms to attract private equity and venture capital investments. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need for entrepreneurial support organizations, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, to bolster infrastructure and resources for emerging businesses.

The SECP encourages all stakeholders.

At least 30 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, hospital hit, says Gaza ministry

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: At least 30 Palestinians were killed in Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, mostly in the north where one attack hit a hospital, torching medical supplies and disrupting operations, the enclave's health officials said.

Israel's military has accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas of using Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahya for military purposes and said "dozens of terrorists" have been hiding there. Health officials and Hamas deny the charge.

Northern Gaza, where Israel said in January it had dismantled Hamas' command structure, is currently the main focus of the military's assault in the enclave. Earlier this month it sent tanks into Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahya to flush out militants it said had regrouped in the area. Eid Sabbah, director

of nursing at Kamal Adwan - which is in Beit Lahya - told Reuters some staff had suffered minor burns after the Israeli strike hit the third floor of the hospital.

There were no reports of any casualties at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed and briefly occupied last week. Israel said it had captured around 100 suspected Hamas militants in that raid. Israeli tanks are still stationed nearby.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip called for all international bodies "to protect hospitals and medical staff from the brutality of the (Israeli) occupation".

as U.S. mediators work on a proposal to halt hostilities between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah. The Israeli military has said its forces are operating in the hospital area based on intelligence about the presence of terrorists and terror infrastructure in the vicinity.

"During the operation, it was found that dozens of terrorists were hiding in the hospital, with some even posing as hospital staff," said the military in a statement following Thursday's strike.

Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said on Thursday that one of its doctors at the hospital, Mohammed Obeid, had been detained last Saturday by Israeli forces. It called for the protection of him and all medical staff who "are facing horrific violence as they try to provide care".

The Gaza war began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages back to Gaza, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza has killed more than 43,000 Palestinians and reduced most of the enclave to rubble, Palestinian authorities say.



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi and CEO of Al-Ansari Exchange, Rashed Al Ansari inaugurate the consular halls at Pakistan Embassy.

Israel bombards historic Lebanon city as US scrambles for truce

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Strikes rocked the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek, famed for its Roman temples, and its outskirts on Wednesday, hours after Israel issued an evacuation call for the area, AFP reported. The attacks came as US mediators were said to be working on a proposal to halt hostilities between Israel and Lebanon, starting with a 60-day ceasefire.

Meanwhile, in his first speech as Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Naim Qassem has said his group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal

has yet to be presented. Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati also said he was striving for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war within days. "We are doing our best... to have a ceasefire within the coming hours or days," Mikati said during a televised interview with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed, adding that he was "cautiously optimistic". Baalbek mayor Mustafa al-Shall confirmed strikes hit the city and its surroundings, while state media said "enemy warplanes launched a series of strikes on the Asira area of the city of Baalbek" and in a nearby town.

Germany to close Iranian consulates after execution of dual national

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: Germany will shut all three Iranian consulates in Germany but allow the embassy to remain open in reaction to the execution of a German-Iranian national, the foreign ministry said on Thursday. "Our diplomatic relations are already more than at a low point," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said in New York. Germany has already recalled its ambassador to Iran over Sharmahd's execution and summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to voice Berlin's protest.

Nine injured in Russian drone attack on Kyiv, Ukraine's officials say

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: At least nine people were injured, including an 11-year-old girl, and several apartments were on fire after a Russian drone attack on Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said on Wednesday.

Falling debris from a destroyed drone sparked a fire in a multi-storey apartment building in the Solomianskyi district in Kyiv's west, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on his Telegram messaging app.

"So far, nine people have been injured," Klitschko said. "All of them were treated by medics on the spot."

Biden calls Trump's supporters 'garbage', puts Kamala in a fix

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: White House rivals Donald Trump and Kamala Harris launched a frantic last week of election campaigning on Wednesday, with the Democrats having to distance herself from comments by President Joe Biden that appeared to label Trump supporters "garbage." Harris traveled to North Carolina and onward to Pennsylvania, focusing again on two of seven battleground states that could determine who wins the closest election in modern US history.

Republican Trump was also in North Carolina on Wednesday — in the town of Rocky Mount, about an hour's drive from Harris's Raleigh rally — and will then head to Wisconsin, where he will appear alongside US sports

star Brett Favre.

Trump is expected to reject the election result if he loses, with the Republican already seizing on isolated irregularities caught by election officials to amplify his claims of widespread "cheating."

On Wednesday, Harris had hoped to be basking in the afterglow of a speech attended by tens of thousands outside the White House, where she warned her rival was unstable and itching for unbridled power.

Instead, she was fending off questions about Biden's apparent gaffe when the president reacted to a warm-up speaker at a Trump rally referring to the island of Puerto Rico as "a floating island of garbage" in an off-color joke that risked alienating Latino voters.

Security Council warns against attempts to dismantle UNRWA

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council on Wednesday "strongly warned against any attempts to dismantle or diminish" the operations and mandate of the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA after Israel passed a law banning its operations.

In a statement adopted by consensus, the 15-member body expressed grave concern over the legislation adopted by the Israeli parliament on Monday, which is due to come into effect in 90 days and has sparked international condemnation. The council urged Israel "to abide by its international obligations, respect the privileges and immunities of UNRWA and live up to its responsibility to allow and facilitate full, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian assistance in all its forms into and throughout the entire Gaza Strip."

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said Israel's ban on UNRWA, if

implemented, would violate international law, the founding UN Charter and a 1946 UN convention on the diplomatic privileges and immunities granted to UN operations. UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini warned that the organisation's aid operations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip were now at risk of collapse because of the new law.

The Security Council "underscored that UNRWA remains the backbone of all humanitarian response in Gaza" and said that no other organisation can replace UNRWA's ability to serve Palestinians in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance. The move by Israel comes as the amount of aid entering Gaza has plummeted to its lowest level all year, according to UN data. A global hunger monitor has warned of a looming famine, and the UN has repeatedly accused Israel of hindering and blocking attempts to deliver aid, particularly to Gaza's north.

Locked in Mideast wars and battered by sanctions, Iran is wary over US presidential election

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: America's presidential election next week comes just after Iran marks the 45th anniversary of the 1979 U.S. Embassy hostage crisis — and for many, tensions between Tehran and Washington feel just as high as they did then.

Iran remains locked in the Mideast wars roiling the region, with its allies — militant groups and fighters of its self-described "Axis of Resistance" — battered as Israel presses its war in the Gaza Strip targeting Hamas and its invasion of Lebanon amid devastating attacks against Hezbollah. At the same time, Iran still appears to be assessing damage from Israel's strikes on the Islamic Republic last Saturday in response to two Iranian ballistic missile attacks. Iran's currency, the rial, hovers near record lows

against the dollar, battered by international sanctions over Tehran's nuclear program of enriching uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels.

In public spaces, women still openly defy Iran's mandatory law on the headscarf, or hijab, a result of the mass demonstrations over the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini that still haunts the country. That has left a feel of fatalism among some on the streets of the capital, Tehran, as Americans cast ballots for either Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump. Many are split on which candidate would be better for their country — if at all. "All U.S. presidents elected after the (1979) revolution had the same views about Iran and I think that's unlikely to change," said Sadegh Rabbani, 65.

America's European allies face challenging times, whoever wins the presidential election

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: The United States' European allies are bracing for an America that's less interested in them no matter who wins the presidential election — and for old traumas and new problems if Donald Trump returns to the White House.

The election comes more than 2 1/2 years into Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, in which Washington has made the single biggest contribution to Kyiv's defense. There are question marks over whether that would continue under Trump, and how committed he would be to NATO allies in general.

A win by Vice President Kamala Harris could be expected to bring a continuation of current policy, though with Republican opposition and growing war fatigue among the U.S. public there are concerns in Europe that support would wane.

Trump's appetite for imposing tariffs on U.S. partners also is causing worry in a Europe already struggling with sluggish economic growth. But it's not just the possibility of a second Trump presidency that

has the continent anxious about tougher times ahead. European officials believe U.S. priorities lie elsewhere, no matter who wins. The Middle East is top of President Joe Biden's list right now, but the long-term priority is China.

The U.S. will continue to pivot toward Asia, she said. "That means Europe has to step up. Europe has to become a more capable partner and also become more capable of managing its own security area."

Germany's defense minister, Boris Pistorius, remarked when he signed a new defense pact with NATO ally Britain that the U.S. will focus more on the Indo-Pacific region, "so it is only a question of, will they do much less in Europe because of that or only a little bit less."

Ian Lesser, a distinguished fellow at the German Marshall Fund in Brussels, said that "above all, Europe is looking for predictability from Washington," and that's in short supply in a turbulent world in which any administration will face other demands on its attention.



Excavators operate at the site of an Israeli strike, amid ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in the southern Lebanese town of Sarafand, Lebanon.

Taiwan shuts down as strong Typhoon Kong-rey hits, one dead

Monitoring Desk

KEELUNG: A strong Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall on Taiwan's east coast on Thursday, the largest storm by size to hit the island in nearly 30 years, closing financial markets, causing hundreds of flights to be cancelled and reducing rail services.

The typhoon knocked out power to nearly half a million households, the government said.

The storm hit the mountainous and sparsely populated east coast county of Taitung, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Administration,

with strong winds and torrential rain affecting almost all the island.

The fire department reported one person had died when their truck hit a fallen tree in central Taiwan.

At one point a super typhoon, Kong-rey slightly weakened overnight but remained powerful as the equivalent of a Category 4 hurricane gusts of more than 250 kilometres per hour (kph), according to Tropical Storm Risk.

Taiwan's weather administration put the typhoon's size at the biggest to hit the island since 1996.

North Korea's long-range missile test signals its improved, potential capability to attack US

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time in almost a year Thursday, demonstrating a potential advancement in its ability to launch long-range nuclear attacks on the mainland U.S.

The launch was likely meant to grab American attention days ahead of the U.S. election and respond to condemnation over the North's reported troop dispatch to Russia to support its war against Ukraine. Some experts speculated Russia might have provided technological assistance to North Korea over the launch.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed the launch, calling it "an appropriate military action" to show North Korea's resolve to respond to its enemies' moves that have threatened the North's safety, according to the North's state me-

dia. Kim said the enemies' "various adventurist military maneuvers" highlighted the importance of North Korea's nuclear capability. He reaffirmed that North Korea will never abandon its policy of bolstering its nuclear forces.

North Korea has steadfastly argued that advancing its nuclear capabilities is its only option to cope with the expansion of U.S.-South Korean military training, though Washington and Seoul have repeatedly said they have no intention of attacking North Korea. Experts say North Korea uses its rivals' drills as a pretext to enlarge its nuclear arsenal to wrest concessions when diplomacy resumes. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea could have tested a new, solid-fueled long-range ballistic missile on a steep angle, an attempt to avoid neighboring countries.

China detains South Korean on suspicion of espionage

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China confirmed the detention of a South Korean citizen suspected of espionage, saying it had advised embassy officials, but without identifying the individual or detailing the charges. It is the first time a South Korean national is being held under an expanded counter-espionage law that took effect in July last year.

The case could deter investment and operations by South Korean firms in the country's largest trade partner, following the departure of Japanese expatriates after a compatriot working for Astellas Pharma Inc faced similar charges.

It centres on a former employee of Samsung Electronics who then worked at a Chinese chip firm, according to the Yonhap news agency.

Kenya's high court lifts order barring swearing-in of new deputy president

Monitoring Desk

NAIROBI: Kenya's high court on Thursday lifted orders barring the swearing-in of newly appointed deputy president Kithure Kindiki, whose predecessor has launched legal challenges over his removal from office by impeachment.

"The office of the deputy president should not remain vacant," Judge Anthony Mrima said, after the filing of over 30 court cases by Rigathi Gachagua against his ouster. The decision could be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Saudi foreign minister denounces Israel's north Gaza assault as genocide

Monitoring Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia denounced Israeli attacks in northern Gaza as genocide on Thursday, telling foreign investors that some bilateral agreements it has been negotiating with Washington are "not that tied" to normalisation of its relations with Israel.

Speaking on stage at an investment conference in Riyadh, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said Israeli actions in northern Gaza could only be described as a form a genocide that was feeding a cycle of violence.

He reiterated the kingdom's position that it would not recognise Israel without a Palestinian state, adding on that proposed step, Saudi Arabia is "quite happy to wait until the situation is amenable," before moving ahead with normalisation. "We look at just what's happening now in north (Gaza) where we have a complete blockade of any access for humanitarian goods coupled with a continued military assault without any real pathway for civilians to find shelter, to find safe zones, that can only be described as a form of genocide," he said.



A man helps a motorist with a scooter amid heavy rain due to Super Typhoon Kong-rey in Keelung.

Poland prepares for talks on buying over 100 HIMARS rocket launchers

Monitoring Desk

WARSAW: Poland is preparing to start talks on ordering over 100 HIMARS rocket launchers under a framework agreement with US arms maker Lockheed Martin Corporation, a senior military official in the eastern-flank NATO country said.

"In the near future, we will start negotiations for the first executive contract for HOMAR-A," the head of the Armaments Agency, General Artur Kupiel, told Reuters, referring to the

Polish specification for the M142 HIMARS system. "We have a (framework) agreement for 486, and the first executive contract will be for over 100."

Officials from the previous government have repeatedly accused the current ruling coalition, which took power in December 2023, of slowing Poland's arms purchases and hiding intentions to scale down or cancel orders under earlier framework deals in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Pope Francis tells Vatican media operations to expect budget cuts

Monitoring Desk

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Thursday told employees of the Vatican's extensive multi-language media operations to expect budget cuts as part of wider belt-tightening efforts that have recently targeted cardinals.

In a meeting with the department that oversees the Vatican's newspaper, TV operations, and radio and internet broadcasts, the pope did not offer specifics. He told staff members to "exercise a bit more discipline with money."

"You need to find ways to save more and seek other funds, as the Holy See

cannot continue to support you as it does now," Francis said, adding to a prepared speech.

The Vatican press office did not immediately respond to questions about the remarks.

Earlier this month, the pope ordered the third reduction in three years for the pay packages of the cardinals who lead Vatican departments. He has also asked them to pursue a "zero deficit" agenda.

The Vatican's Dicastery for Communication has hundreds of personnel and takes up a big chunk of the city-state's budget.

UN urges probe of killings in Bangladesh protests, minority protection

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: A top UN official urged a probe into the killings in Bangladesh during protests that led to the downfall of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while also calling for minority protection and a national process of truth and healing. The South Asian nation has seen rising tensions and protests in recent months. Large demonstrations forced Hasina to flee to India on Aug 5 and an interim government led by Nobel Peace Prize winning economist Muhammad Yunus took charge.

Scientists in Argentina unearth oldest tadpole, from dinosaur times

Monitoring Desk

BUENOS AIRES: Scientists in Argentina have discovered excellently preserved fossil remains of the oldest-known tadpole, the larval stage of a large frog species that lived alongside dinosaurs about 161 million years ago during the Jurassic Period.

The researchers said the fossil, measuring 16 centimetres long, sheds light on the evolution of frogs and toads, showing that tadpoles today are largely unchanged from their forerunners in the Jurassic.

Speakers want Pak takes steps to extend CPEC to Afghanistan

LAHORE (Online): Speakers at a seminar suggested that Pakistan must make progress towards (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) CPEC's extension to Afghanistan as a priority.

The Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Lahore hosted the Seminar entitled "Regional Connectivity - BRI and CPEC Extension to Afghanistan and Beyond," according to a BNU press release.

The purpose of the Seminar was to have threadbare discussions on the prospects as well as challenges to China's mega-connectivity initiative BRI and its flagship project CPEC's extension to Afghanistan and beyond for promoting regional connectivity and economic integration.

Faculties, researchers and students from four universities in Lahore were in the audience in this Seminar.

The Seminar was attended by eminent experts on the subject including Ambassador Asif Durrani who until recently was Pakistan's Special Envoy on Afghanistan. Haroon Sharif, former Minister of Investment, Dr. Ishrat Hussain former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Mirwais Yasini former Deputy speaker of Afghan Wolesi Jirga, Ambassador Javed Hussain former Pakistani diplomat having regional expertise and Lt. General Nasir Khan Janjua, former National Security Adviser, Prof Tang Jun of the Pakistan Studies Center at Inner Mongolia University China also delivered remarks online at the Seminar. Mansoor Ahmad Khan, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan had convened this important Seminar in his capacity as Director of the Beaconhouse National University's Center for Policy Research (BCPR).

The participants made thought provoking remarks regarding the opportunities that existed for building economic linkages through CPEC's extension to Afghanistan and beyond to the central Asian countries and Eurasia as well as the impediments and challenges that continued to hinder the progress in achieving this goal.

All the distinguished speakers were unanimous in pointing out that promoting economic integration with neighbours and region was of crucial importance for Pakistan's economic recovery, growth and development.

In this regard, they endorsed that CPEC as a hallmark of China's BRI needed to be used as a key instrument for strengthening regional infrastructure, energy and trade/transit connectivity.

Their remarks also echoed a consensus that CPEC's extension to Afghanistan had to be a starting point towards achieving this objective.



Federal Minister for Planning & Development, Ahsan Iqbal Chairing a meeting to review the progress of ongoing projects under the CPEC in Islamabad.

Planning minister reviews progress on CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chaired a high-level meeting here on Thursday to review the progress of ongoing projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The meeting was attended by Secretary of Planning, Awais Manzoor Sumra, Joint Chief Economist Operations Zafar-ul-Hassan, and other senior officials from the Ministry, according to press release issued by planning ministry.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need to ensure the success of the five-year CPEC development plan by involving all provinces of Pakistan and promoting equal development opportunities.

He directed that all five corridors be interconnected, including essential components such as CPEC Phase I, CPEC Phase II, and to achieve the project's set objectives.

The minister emphasised on the timely completion of mega projects, such as the ML-1 and the Karakoram Highway (KKH), directed that regular monitoring of these projects be conducted to ensure they are completed within the specified

President pays tribute to Army personnel martyred in Bannu operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday paid tribute to the personnel of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in an anti-terrorist operation in Bannu.

The president saluted martyred Major Atif Khalil, Naik Azad Ullah, and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas on behalf of the entire nation and said that the soldiers of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while fighting bravely against terrorists, according to a President House press release.

"The entire nation stands united in support of its forces against terrorists. Pakistan's security forces are on the all-time alert to safeguard the country," the president said and prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' rank in paradise and for strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

Gilani extends greetings on Diwali festival

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Hindus celebrate their annual Diwali festival today, Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani extended greetings to the Hindu community in Pakistan.

The acting president, in his message on the day, said that the celebration Diwali festival by the Hindu community in Pakistan was the manifestation of the interfaith harmony and cultural diversity.

He said Diwali, being the festival of lights gave a message of peace, prosperity and pleasure besides symbolising the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

The acting president said that the Constitution of Pakistan guaranteed religious freedom to all minorities, and called for collective efforts for the country's progress and prosperity.

ECP sets midnight deadline to end PB-08 Sibi by-election campaigns

QUETTA (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced on Thursday that campaigning for the PB-08 Sibi by-election on November 14 must end by midnight falling on November 12 and 13, and warned strict consequences for any violations.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) spokesperson in a statement urged political parties and candidates to adhere to the law and exercise self-restraint to ensure that the poll on November 14, 2024, is conducted in an orderly and peaceful manner.

Bugti greets Hindu community on Diwali; says Govt believes in religious harmony

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has extended greetings to the Hindu community of Pakistan including Balochistan on their festive occasion, Diwali.

In a felicitation message issued here on eve of the Diwali, the Chief Minister said that the minorities enjoy complete religious freedom in Balochistan and the provincial government fully believes in the religious harmony.

He said that Diwali is such a festival that is celebrated by Hindu community with complete enthusiasm and fervour in the province.

The Muslims also participate in the joys of Hindu people.

The Chief Minister on the occasion also vowed to ensure implementation on the quota allocated for minorities in the government jobs. He said that the minorities are being provided all the rights according to the constitution of Pakistan. He said that Hindu community has always demonstrated the religious harmony in the province and they have proved the patriotism.

The Chief Minister also expressed best wishes for the Hindu community settled in Balochistan.



QUETTA: A delegation of World Health Organization meeting with Advisor to CM for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Buledi.

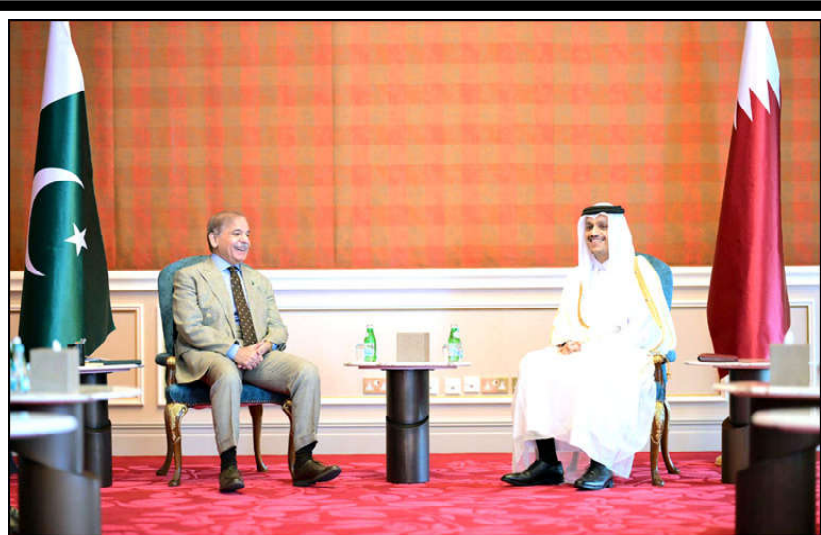
Policies & legislative changes are essential at all levels to promote gender equality & rights: Rubaba

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has emphasized that policy and legislative changes are essential at all levels to promote gender equality and rights in Balochistan.

She shared these thoughts during a meeting with a delegation led by Dr. Asfandyar Sherani, the provincial head of the World Health Organization. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi stated Balochistan Governments' commitment to mainstreaming the rights of women and children, aiming to provide equal opportunities to every individual in society.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi highlighted that joint efforts by parliamentarians, government and non-governmental organizations, and civil society are the key to creating a prosperous and equitable society. She further noted that workshops and training sessions are vital for promoting gender equality and ensuring the welfare of women.

The advisor also stressed the need to accelerate efforts to include gender rights in legislation, enabling easier access for women to education, health, and other basic facilities within the province.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with the Prime Minister of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

At UN, Indian and Pakistani delegates spar over Kashmir after Ambassador Akram's speech

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistani and Indian delegates Wednesday engaged in a fresh verbal duel at the United Nations that resulted from an earlier speech by Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram in which he called for applying the International Court of Justice's actions on Palestine to Jammu and Kashmir as well.

Speaking in a UN General Assembly debate on the work of ICJ last Friday, Ambassador Akram said that the World Court's set of measures on Palestine's case represented a significant contribution towards the resolution of the conflict, and emphasized that those steps must also be applied to the situation in Indian occupied Kashmir.

"Many peoples, particularly the people of Palestine and occupied Jammu and Kashmir, continue to be subjected to foreign and colonial occupation and denied their right to self-determination," the Pakistani envoy had said, noting that genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed, with impunity, by some rogue States.

On Wednesday, Indian delegate R. Maythili reacted to Ambassador Akram's sharp comments and accused him of misusing the UN forum. She then claimed that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India, saying that Pakistan was in occupation of a part of that state.

Pakistani delegate Rabia Ijaz hit back at India immediately.

"Jammu and Kashmir is not an integral part of India, it is a disputed territory as is evidenced by all UN Maps and official documents," she told the 193-member Assembly.

Problems being faced by traders to be resolved gradually, assures Chief Minister

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has assured that it is our endeavour to resolve the problems being faced by the traders gradually.

While at the same time, the concerned federal departments would be approached for resolving the issues related to the federation.

This assurance was made by the Chief Minister while speaking to the delegation of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) who called on him here on Thursday.

The members of the delegation apprised the Chief Minister about the issues being faced regarding border trade.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti on the occasion assured that we would resolve the issues of traders community and the federal government institutions would be approached for resolving the issues concerning to the federation.

The Chief Minister believed that the opportunities of livelihood would be available to the people in private sector by expediting the business and trade activities in the province.

Therefore, it is our endeavour to resolve the problems being faced by the traders.

PM pays tribute to Pak army personnel martyred in operation

DOHA (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the personnel of the Pakistan Army who embraced martyrdom in an anti-terrorist operation in Bannu.

The prime minister, who is currently on a two-day official visit to Qatar, conveyed condolences to the bereaved families of martyred Major Atif Khalil, Naik Azad Ullah, and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas, and prayed for the elevation of martyrs' rank in paradise.

"The entire nation salutes its martyrs. We are resolved to wipe out terrorism in all of its forms and manifestation from the country," the prime minister remarked.

PM, Amir of Qatar visit gallery of Pakistani artworks at National Museum of Qatar

DOHA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani visited the gallery of Pakistani artworks titled "Manzar: Art and Architecture of Pakistan from 1940s to Today" in the National Museum of Qatar on Thursday.

After attending bilateral delegation level meetings, the Amir of Qatar and the Prime Minister traveled together to the museum.

The Amir of Qatar and his sister Sheikhha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani who is also Chairperson of Qatar Museums showed the prime minister the artworks in the exhibition and introduced organizers and the

emphasized that establishment of "Manzar" art gallery based on Pakistani artworks reflected the strong brotherhood and social bonds between Pakistan and Qatar.

During the visit, the prime minister met with renowned Pakistani architect Nayyar Ali Dada, Pakistani photographers, painters, calligraphers and other artists. Pakistani paintings, photography, calligraphy and other artworks were displayed in the exhibition.

The artworks of Shakir Ali, Sadeqain, Gul Ji, Zubaida Agha, Kamil Ali Mumtaz, Nayyar Ali Dada and several other Pakistani artists were exhibited in the exhibition.

Meanwhile, in his post



Pakistani artists in an informal and friendly atmosphere. PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude for holding the art gallery titled "Manzar" and promoting the Pakistani artists.

He said holding of this exhibition was a matter of pride for every Pakistani.

The prime minister on X, the prime minister said that he was deeply touched by the warm reception accorded by Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar. "Pakistan greatly values its special bond of friendship with Qatar! In this visit, we are adding momentum to Pak-Qatar ties."

Governor calls Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch; greets on election as President National Party

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail contacted Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch over telephone and congratulated him on his election as the President of National Party.

He also greeted Kabir Muhammad Shahi on his election as General Secretary of National Party.

The Governor acknowledged the public friendly struggle of Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch for the rights of people praising his leadership.

Jaffar Mandokhail expressed best wishes for all the central and provincial leadership of the National Party and stressed that there is a dire need to establish pleasant relations among all political organizations at the provincial level.

Delegation of teachers led by Voice of Balochistan visits Provincial Assembly

Independent Report QUETTA: A delegation of the teachers led by the Voice of Balochistan visited the Provincial Assembly here on Thursday.

The members of delegation went round of the Assembly Hall and its other sections.

The Speaker Assembly, Earlier, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai warmly welcomed the delegation.

Speaking to the delegation, Speaker said that teachers are like the backbone for the development in society.

He said that teachers play important role in upbringing and education of the students.

The members of delegation discussed with the Speaker the ways and means for bringing improvement in the education sector. The Speaker of Provincial Assembly assured his cooperation to the teachers for educational development in the province.



QUETTA: Joint Secretary Home Shabbir Khattak meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Sardar Yar Rind says: Grand jirga will be held on Nov 4 to commemorate the martyrs of Rind

Independent Report SIBI: Senior Parliamentarian and Chief of Rind, Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind, emphasized that the key objective of their political efforts is to serve the people, address regional issues, and promote the development and prosperity of the Rind tribe across Balochistan and the country.

Speaking during discussions with various political and social figures of the Rind tribes, Sardar Rind highlighted that only those communities that unite and organize themselves according to their traditions and culture can progress towards prosperity. He mentioned that the Rind panel's political agenda focuses on the welfare of the Rind community and the resolution of pressing issues faced by local populations.

A grand jirga is set to be held on November 4 to commemorate the martyrs of Rind and address the challenges faced by the community. Participants from across Pakistan, including Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab, are expected to attend.

In his remarks, Sardar Rind stated, "On November 4, we will pay tribute to the significant sacrifices made by our martyrs. The welfare of the Rind communities across the country and the resolution of their issues are paramount. We aim to convene grand jirgas to collectively establish a future roadmap and make crucial decisions."

He expressed that the current situation necessitates the Rind tribes to come together for meaningful decision-making, which will yield long-lasting outcomes for their communities. This collaboration will aid in addressing their difficulties and contribute to their overall development.

Speakers expresses concerns over maternal mortality

QUETTA (APP): Speakers expressed concerns over the rising maternal mortality due to unsafe delivery in a vital issue, and stressed that accessible, safe reproductive healthcare must be a priority.

Speakers highlighted that health facilities nationwide must integrate contraceptive care services. "Lack of counselling is a major contributor to unsafe delivery, so it's essential to educate people about contraceptive options and make them widely accessible," they said while addressing a consultative session.

The speakers included Balochistan and Sindh Parliamentarian, Bureaucrats, Health Practitioners and officials of the Population Council, said a news release.

Addressing the session, Dr. Pechuho highlighted the need to significantly increase the number of community health workers, underscoring how this shortage affects the quality and reach of healthcare. She also raised concerns about the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, suggesting that it should better incentivize health and population welfare improvements by rewarding provinces with strong health indicators with legislative representation.

PNS saves stranded fishing dhow with 23 fishermen in Gulf of Aden

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship ZULFIQUAR while deployed on Regional Maritime Security Patrol rescued an Iranian Fishing Dhow AL MUHAMMADI with 23 fishermen onboard, stranded over 1200 Nautical Miles from its home port.

PNS ZULFIQUAR promptly responded to distressed call of Fishing Dhow AL MUHAMMADI. Upon communication with Pakistan Navy Ship, Fishing Dhow reported a seriously injured crew member as well defective engine and requested for necessary assistance.

PNS ZULFIQUAR swiftly responded and dispatched its medical and technical teams which provided First Aid to the injured fisherman.



QUETTA: Leaders and activists of Peoples Party (PPP) are holding celebration demonstration on approval of the 26th constitutional amendment, held at Quetta press club.