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Ensuring conducive environment for foreign investment top priority: PM

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that ensuring favourable environment for foreign investment in the country is top-most priority of the government.

Talking to a business delegation from the United Kingdom (UK) during a meeting here on Sunday, he said immaculate services are being provided to the business and trader community through 'One Window Operations' under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in the country. The UK-based renowned business figure Zubair Isa led the business delegation during the meeting.

Inviting the businesspeople to invest in Pakistan, the PM said country's economy had improved due to dedicated efforts of the government in the recent days, adding that the initiatives had increased confidence of the overseas investors to invest in various ventures in Pakistan.

Ways to discover new vistas to enhance business-to-business ties between Pakistan and the UK were also discussed during the meeting. The delegation hailed the economic policies of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which had strengthened the economy and put the country on the path to sustainable development.

PIA privatisation to be done in best way: Aleem Khan



LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan said on Sunday he had responsibility of selling Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and the best solution would be in this regard.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that a framework had been made for privatisation of the PIA by the caretaker govern-

ment. He said that the PIA had a debt of Rs 830 billion, adding that out of that debt, around Rs. 600 billion had been parked in Holdco Company, while Rs. 200 billion had been parked in the PIA. He said all these things had happened before he took charge of his office, adding that he could not

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Governor stresses urgent need for comprehensive welfare measures for laborers

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Jaffer Khan Mandokhail, emphasized the critical role of laborers in the nation's economy, calling them the backbone of economic development. He highlighted the importance of prioritizing the welfare of these workers without discrimination and stressed the necessity of extending comprehensive benefits and support to them.

Speaking during a meeting with a delegation led by Pakistan United Workers Federation Balochistan's General Secretary Pir Mohammad Kakar, the Governor underscored that the registration of mine workers is a crucial first step. He urged both the Labor and Mines Depart-

ments to ensure accurate and regularly updated records for all mine workers, fishermen, and laborers.

Governor Mandokhail stated that these initiatives would uphold workers' rights, guarantee fair wages, and promote safe working conditions. Acknowledging laborers as the "unsung heroes" of society, he said that mine workers are not just laborers but also the primary earners for their families, often working in hazardous conditions to provide daily sustenance. However, he noted that these workers face severe challenges, including poverty, inflation, and lack of basic amenities. In cases of disability or accidental death, their families are left vulnerable and un-

Commissioner reviews development works, orders to complete within stipulated time

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat has reviewed the progress on development projects initiated in Nawan Killi area and directed to ensure the completion of development works within stipulated time.

The government had allocated a budget of Rs 500 million in the public sector development program for the repair main road of

Nawan Killi and installation of drainage to improve sewerage system to provide better facilities to masses.

He said that a committee has been devised to monitor the progress on the development works in order to ensure that there will be no compromise on the quality of construction work of development projects, adding that waste of funds would not be tolerated at any cost.



LAHORE: A delegation of leading businessmen of the United Kingdom calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

UN acknowledges vital role of Pakistani troops in global peace

NEW YORK (INP): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Munir Akram has said that Pakistani police personnel have earned respect for their professionalism and devotion to duty under the banner of UN police.

Addressing a ceremony on UN Police Day in Islamabad, he said the story of UN peace keeping is incomplete without recognizing the vital contributions of UN police.

Highlighting the significant contribution of Pakistan to the UN missions, he said Pakistan has deployed two hundred and thirty thousand troops over the years in forty six peace keeping missions.

He said Pakistani Police woman Shahzadi Gulam was the first ever recipient of the International Female Police Keeper Award in 2011.

Munir Akram said Pakistan will continue to play its effective role in enhancing the UN peacekeeping capability.

Speaking on the occasion, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix acknowledged the important role of Pakistan in global peace. He stressed on enhancing the capability of police to cope with the current challenges.

NA session rescheduled to 4 pm today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly session, initially set for 5 PM, has been rescheduled to 4 PM on Monday, November 4, 2024.

The National Assembly secretariat issued a notification regarding the revised timing, made under Rule 49, sub-clause 2(b) of the National Assembly Rules of Procedure, 2007, at the Speaker's discretion.

Commends security forces for successful operation in Musakhel CM Bugti vows to eradicate terrorism across Balochistan

Our brave security personnel are valiantly fighting against terrorism, and their sacrifices, along with those of civilian martyrs, will not be in vain

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has expressed satisfaction over the successful operation conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and security forces in Musakhel. He praised the personnel involved for their swift action in foiling a potential terrorist attack.

In a statement, CM Bugti affirmed that terrorists would be defeated at every front in Balochistan. Acknowledging the strategic and professional conduct of the operation, he emphasized that security

forces took great care to target only terrorists, minimizing any risk to civilians.

"Our brave security personnel are valiantly fighting against terrorism, and their sacrifices, along with those of civilian martyrs, will not be in vain. CTD and security forces are on the front lines, ensuring peace across Balochistan," he said. CM Bugti reiterated his commitment to restore peace, asserting that the mission would continue until Balochistan is free from terrorism.

Meanwhile Governor Balochistan has praised the Frontier Constabulary

(FC), the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), and police officers for their successful operation against terrorists.

The Governor lauded the forces for their achievement in eliminating three terrorists and apprehending two others, preventing what could have been a major act of terrorism in Balochistan.

Acknowledging the critical role of the security forces, Governor highlighted the sacrifices made by these units in combating terrorism. "Security forces have made invaluable sacrifices to eradicate the menace of terrorism in Balochistan," he added.



STALKOT: Minister of Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif listening the problems of people at his residence.

Indicators show economy looking up in Pak: Nawaz

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Mian Nawaz Sharif has said that indicators show that the economy of the country is looking up.

The PML-N supreme returned to London from the United States on Saturday night.

Talking to the media, the PML-N leader said indicators showed that the economy of the country was looking up, adding Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif left no stone unturned to steer the country out of quagmire of economic crisis.

The PML-N stalwart

said his party knew the economic woes of the people of Pakistan and it would provide them with relief from inflated power bills and inflation.

He said, "We will fulfill our dream of making Pakistan Asian Tiger. PIA is nearing default. Whatever we said about PIA, we have an intention to give it a practical shape. "Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is doing good work." During his visit to the United States, Nawaz Sharif met the PML-N workers and leaders and urged the American business community to invest in Pakistan.

AJK President calls on Scandinavian nations to advocate Kashmir peace

MIRPUR (APP): President Azad Jammu Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has urged Sweden and Scandinavian nations to leverage their political and diplomatic influence to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute, fostering lasting peace in South Asia.

He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum and Member of Parliament of Sweden

Anders Tiger, which called on him at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday.

The delegation was comprised of the Chairman of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum Sheikh Saeed, President of Kashmir Council Sweden Sardar Taimur Aziz Kashmiri, Sheikh Usman Tahir, Raja Bilal Mustafa, Ishfaq Khan, Hafiz Sajjad Ahmed, Sikander Sheikh, Sardar Mushtaq, Sardar Zulfikar Roshan, and others.

CTD kills three terrorists in Musakhel operation

PM commends successful operation against terrorists in Balochistan

MUSAKHEL (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department on Sunday eliminated three hard core terrorists in an operation in Musakhel.

In the operation, two terrorists were arrested during the heavy exchange of fire.

According to details, during an intelligence-based operation conducted on National Highway, the CTD personnel killed three terrorists.

The CTD personnel also recovered large quantities of weapons and ammunition from the dead bodies of terrorists.

A few weeks earlier, the CTD apprehended 18 terrorists carrying out 134 intelligence based operations (IBO) across various cities of Punjab. According to CTD officials, the IBOs were conducted in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Mianwali, Bahawalnagar, Pakpattan, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Mandi Bahauddin and Khushab.

Officials revealed that three most wanted terrorists of Fitna Al-Khawarij along with weapons and explosive materials were arrested from Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has praised the Frontier Constabulary (FC), the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), and police officers for their successful operation against terrorists belonging to banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA).

An official statement issued here on Sunday said the PM lauded the forces for their achievement in eliminating three terrorists and apprehending two others, preventing what could have been a major act of terrorism in Balochistan.

Acknowledging the critical role of the security forces, Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the sacrifices made by these units in combating terrorism. "Security forces have made invaluable sacrifices to eradicate the menace of terrorism in Balochistan," he added.

Officials revealed that three most wanted terrorists

QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari presenting memorial shield to DIG Special Branch Nazir Ahmed Kurd on his retirement

IG Balochistan praises DIG Kurd's integrity and commitment to public service

QUETTA: In recognition of his distinguished service, a farewell luncheon was held in honor of DIG Special Branch Nazir Ahmed Kurd, organized by senior officials of Balochistan Police, including IG Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari, Additional IG Javed Ali Mehr, DIG Headquarters Qamar ul Hassan, and other senior officers.

During the event, IG Moazzam Jah Ansari commended DIG Kurd for his integrity, dedication, and sincerity, highlighting his

unwavering commitment wherever he was posted. Ansari noted that Kurd's contributions have earned him respect not only within the police department but also among the public.

IG Ansari remarked that the Balochistan Police would long remember Kurd's actions that brought honor to the department and the community. At the end of the program, IG Ansari and other senior officers presented Kurd with a commemorative shield and floral bouquets as tokens of appreciation.

PTI Govt befooling masses on hallow slogans: Amir Muqam

SHANGLA (APP): Federal Minister for SAFRON, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that PTI Government was befooling masses on hallow slogans and indulged them in lies based politics.

He was addressing at peace jirga after turning the 30 years old enmity into friendship between families of Poran Sandori here.

The families of Ayub Khan and Ameer Zareen Khan announced an end of a 30 years long enmity due to reconciliation efforts of Engr Amir Muqam.

Engr Amir Muqam expressed proud of an im-

mense respect given to him by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially Shangla and that he always preferred people welfare over his personal interests.

The Minister said that he served people in all difficult times whether it was flood, terrorism incidents or earthquake and has never left them alone. He said the record development projects worth billions of rupees were approved by the Government during last four months for the area.

The Minister said the people problems related to NADRA, electricity, gas and national highway authority were addressed.

Pakistan's ports set for growth and global partnerships: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Sunday said that Pakistan's ports were on a promising trajectory, poised for significant growth in the near future.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan's plans was to establish business partnerships by supplementing nearby ports, with Karachi Port expected to play a pivotal role in bolstering the country's economic position.

"Leading global companies have shown interest in investing in Pakistan's ports, which speaks to the potential for economic growth," he added. Commenting on PTI's protest call, he said that has relied heavily on protest-driven politics over the past decade. The government, he asserted, remains focused on economic progress and providing relief to the public, rather than engaging in negative political propaganda.



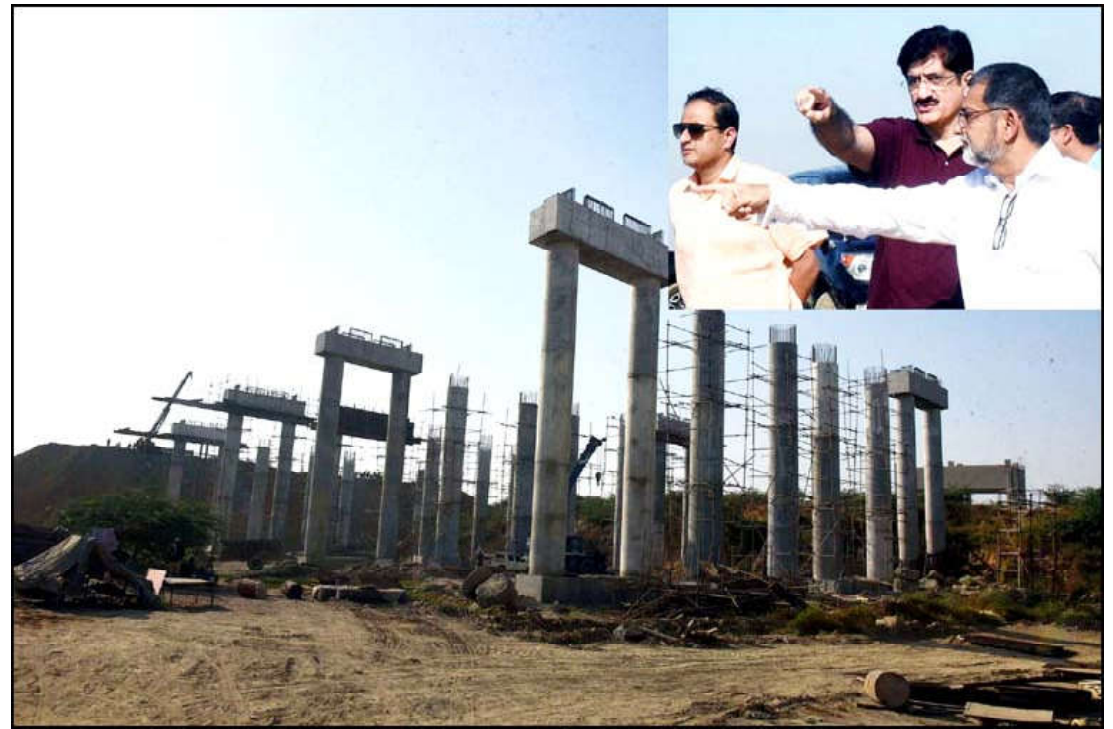
QUETTA: Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazir Tarar in a group photo with member Balochistan Bar Council Khalil Panezai Advocate, Najamuddin Mengal Advocate and Mir Attaullah Lango Advocate

Rizwan-led Pakistan all set for Australia challenge

MELBOURNE (INP): Mohammad Rizwan's first outing as white-ball captain will begin on Monday when Pakistan take on hosts Australia in the three-match ODI series. The first game will be played at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, while the second ODI will begin on 8 November at the Adelaide Oval in Adelaide. The both teams will then travel to Perth where the third ODI will take place on 10 November at the Perth Stadium. The ODI series will be followed by three-match T20I series, which will be played on 14, 16 and 18 November. Both sides last met in the 50-over format during the ICC Cricket World Cup

2023 on October 20 where Australia defeated Pakistan by 62 runs at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. The last time both sides featured in a bilateral ODI series was in March/April 2022, when Australia visited Pakistan and the hosts won the series 2-1. Pakistan have also announced their playing XI for the first ODI, with Muhammad Irfan Khan and Saim Ayub making their debut. 21-year-old Irfan has already featured in three T20Is for Pakistan, while he has played 24 List-A matches, scoring one century and three half-centuries. Left-handed opening batter Saim has been a part of six Tests and 23 T20Is for Pakistan and has featured in 35 List-A matches

accumulating 1,472 runs with the help of four centuries and seven half-centuries. Aamir Jamal, Arafat Minhas, Faisal Akram and Haseebullah are the other uncapped players in the ODI squad. Mohammad Rizwan reflecting on team preparations ahead of the ODI series. "It is an honour to lead the Pakistan team and we are ready to take on Australia in their own backyard. "We all know Australia are a very good side, and world champions, but we look forward to competing hard as we have a number of young and exciting players in our squad and it is their chance to grab the opportunities coming their



KARACHI: A view of Malir Expressway where pillars of a bridge have been installed to lay spans, inset shows Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah being briefed on the progress of the work, in Karachi.



QUETTA: Oli Committee Barshore Toba Kakari Tribal Leaders, Isfandyar Kakar, Akhtar Kakar and others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

Punjab closes primary schools for a week amid severe smog crisis

LAHORE (INP): In response to the deteriorating air quality and worsening smog conditions in Lahore and across Punjab, the provincial government has announced a one-week closure of all primary schools up to the fifth standard. Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb made the announcement, emphasizing the need to prioritize the health and safety of students amid the ongoing environmental crisis. The decision comes as Lahore continues to grapple with severe air pollution levels, which have surged to alarming heights, significantly affecting the health of residents, especially children. Reports indicate that Lahore has consistently

ranked among the most polluted cities globally, prompting urgent action from authorities. Maryam Aurangzeb urged parents and caregivers to ensure children remain indoors as much as possible during this period and to take necessary precautions, such as wearing masks when outside. The government is working closely with the Department of Environmental Protection to monitor the situation and implement measures to combat the smog. The school closure is a temporary measure aimed at safeguarding the wellbeing of students while the government seeks to address the underlying causes of air pollution in the region.

New Zealand beat India in third test to complete famous 3-0 sweep

NEW DELHI (INP): New Zealand completed an unprecedented 3-0 series sweep in India as the Black Caps dismissed the hosts for 121 on a tricky wicket to secure a 25-run victory on day three of the third and final test in Mumbai on Sunday. The last time India were blanked at home was in 2000, in a two-match series against South Africa. Rohit Sharma's side will be feeling the heat ahead of a challenging five-match series against Australia. Rishabh Pant was the lone Indian batsman to show resistance as he made a sublime 64 after the hosts were reduced to 29-5 on a turning Wankhede Stadium track. Ajaz Patel claimed 6-57, his second five-wicket haul in the match, to skittle the hosts again. Sharma threw the first punch by stepping out of his crease to hit Matt Henry for a four in the opening over, but the skipper's disappointing recent run of form continued when he fell for 11 after a rash shot against the same bowler. Patel made it two wickets in two overs as Shubman Gill, who had scored a splendid 90 in the first innings, left a ball that crashed into the stumps and departed for one. Virat Kohli did not last long after arriving at the crease as he edged Patel back to slip on one to leave India in trouble at 18-3 on a tricky Wankhede Stadium pitch. The crowd fell silent again as Yashasvi Jaiswal was trapped lbw for five by Glenn Phillips and Sarfaraz Khan hit a full toss from Patel straight to Rachin Ravindra in the deep on one. Ravindra Jadeja steadied the ship alongside Pant in a 42-run stand, but a stunning catch by Will Young meant India were on the ropes at 71-6. Patel dismissed Pant following a New Zealand review after lunch, although the batsman appeared to suggest that he had not made contact with the ball before it was caught. The runs dried up after that and India collapsed in a heap.

Balochistan Youth - Erasing imprints of deep rooted scorn

QUETTA (APP): When violent protests erupted in some parts of Balochistan in 2006, many of the youth people used to perceive that government policies in the province could prove to be counter-productive, fuelling the wrath of misguided youngsters. Unfortunately, they were kept aloof of mainstream and often swayed by perennial vested rhetoric of traditional politicians about willfully depriving them of their rights, a perception that deeply entrenched into their minds and gradually turned into hatred. Aslam Baloch, a passionate student of Balochistan University's Mass Communication department before getting the government job, had same views about the government policies and showed no remorse on damages caused by angry youth during violent demonstration in 2006, after the death of late Nawab Akbar Bugti. "Charged youth had a solid reason to burn the government installations," was his notion about the sorry state of affairs during discussion with university fellows, very next day of vandalism. Aslam, hailing from the suburbs of Quetta, and a die-hard worker of a political party remained in the party

influence until his pathetic period of joblessness ended after finally getting a job. "I wasted my time in politics of hate and violence. But, now I find no reason to pursue my past life," said Aslam soon after his return from Islamabad, after spending two years in job. A hundred and eighty-degree turn was just because he was financially empowered that relieved him from the fear of livelihood. The story of Aslam is a clear source of insight that how youth become a soft target for saboteurs when they are unemployed and live in fear. But, on the contrary, they are a potential asset for the country if provided social and economic development opportunities. "Baloch youth need immediate attention of the government," said Information Officer, Saeed Yusuf, commenting on prevailing situation in the province. "We need to engage them in constructive activities and development programs before that they are swayed by lethal social media onslaught." Since Balochistan is experiencing unrest and a victim to the agenda of our enemies, it is high time to hammer out reasons resulting in their deprivation. "Our youth are our future. They are large portion of our population and we need to engage them in con-

structive activities," pleaded the youngest MNA from Balochistan, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani. "Their role is critical, particularly in the progress of Balochistan and Pakistan as a whole." Raisani said ignoring the aspirations of youth creates space for anti-state elements to misguide them. "However, creating platforms for them to express themselves and contribute meaningfully to nation building would be a better way forward." Cognizant of the situation, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti led provincial government is striving hard to engage youth in different social and economic activities and save them from falling prey to miscreants influence. For the first time in province's history, Youth Policy 2024 is being implemented with opportunities for youth in education, sports and employment that reflects the government's intention to foster a constructive environment for youth. The Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program had also been launched in Balochistan to provide youth educational scholarships from primary to higher levels. Besides, the PhD students would be given full scholarships to

study at top 200 universities worldwide. In a landmark development, the Oxford University has also agreed to provide scholarships to Balochistan students. Sports is also no more a neglected area, after immense appreciation of Balochistan based international athletes Shahzaib Rind, Mohammad Wasim and others who were awarded handsome prize money. President Asif Ali Zardari also gave away cash prize of Rs 100 million to Shahzaib Rind to encourage Balochistan youth. Balochistan Minister for Planning and Development, Zahoor Buledi said the government by implementing its agenda, is providing resources to harness youth potential. "Efforts are on to compile data and devise youth friendly policies, bringing them to mainstream." Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind has also mentioned to various programs to empower jobless youth including small loans valuing Rs two billion for graduated individuals on easy installments to establish livestock farms and businesses in agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors. "Launch of the Chief Minister Youth Skills Development Program is an-

other initiative to train 30,000 young individuals in various skills," he said. "The government has so far provided scholarships to 75,000 students under its pro-education policy and increased allocation for Balochistan Education Endowment Fund by Rs two billion in 2024-25 budget besides Rs two billion for out of school children." President Quetta Press Club, Abdul Khaliq Rind also pleaded to provide youth quality education as well as economic opportunities to engage them in constructive activities. "Our politicians must have to change their strategies and invest in youth to save our future generations." Recalling record sale of some 4.7 million books at festivals in Gwadar and Panjgur districts, Abdul Khaliq said, the government should also focus bibliophiles in Balochistan. "Organizing Pakistan Literature Festival was a good one and we should continue with such activities." He praised Balochistan government for paying attention to young people with hopes that these initiatives would bear fruit and Balochistan youth would transform themselves into a constructive society and play their role in building a strong, prosperous and peaceful Pakistan.

PIA privatisation to be done...

Continued from page 1 change the process which had already been initiated. Aleem said he had no power to change the framework of privatisation. He said there was procedure of privatisation under which he could privatise anything. He said he had a responsibility of selling PIA, and not to put it on the right track. He said that he was not responsible for the present condition of PIA and added that he could not deviate from privatisation procedure given to him. A former privatisation minister was also giving him suggestions, he said and added that he should have implemented those suggestions during his tenure as the minister. He said that the PIA was a national asset and could not be sold at throw-away price. Abdul Aleem Khan said that on the PIA bidding day, he was in Riyadh busy in a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Investment minister. He said that on the day of PIA bidding two meetings were held, one of the privatisation commission, which he presided over, and he also attended the CCOP meeting on the same day. He said, "We have no objection if Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh governments together want to buy the PIA." Professional management was vital to run PIA in effective manner, he said and added that revenue could be generated through

the national airline if managed properly. The minister said: "The PIA has best timings for international routes." Regarding National Highway Authority, Aleem Khan said it was going to give a profit of Rs 50 billion in one year. He said that this year the NHA revenue would reach Rs 110 billion from Rs 64 billion. He said that no truck would be allowed on motorway or national highway carrying more than allowed weight. He said the PIA privatisation matter would be carried forward in the best way and if a new framework would be required in this regard, it would be made. He said, "If the PIA was to be privatised on government-to-government basis, the matter would be looked into." Aleem said in present framework, there were limitations; but if new framework would be made, there was a possibility that the PIA would be privatised with zero liability and this might attract more buyers. Regarding Pakistan Post, the minister said that 3,500 jobs had been abolished and that helped save Rs 2.8 billion. To a question, he said that the number of memorandums of understanding with Saudi Arabia had increased to a 34-35 from the figure of 27. He said that implementation of some of the MoUs was under way currently.

Wrestler Athar Zahid calls on Governor Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistani wrestler Athar Zahid achieved a remarkable milestone by defeating Indian wrestler Singham Dubey at the International Wrestling Championship held in Kathmandu, Nepal, called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi here on Sunday at Governor's House. This victory earned him the prestigious title of World Champion. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, congratulated him on his outstanding performance. He pledged to continue striving to elevate Pakistan's name further in the world of sports. During their meeting, Athar Zahid shared memorable moments from the championship and his experiences of victory, receiving further encouragement from Governor Kundi, who wished him success in future competitions.

Group Industries and OGDCL. He assured that similar support would be extended to wrestlers as well. Kundi described Athar Zahid's victory as an exemplary achievement for the youth, saying that it opens new avenues for the promotion of sports in the country. Zahid thanked the Governor for his encouragement and attributed his success to the prayers of his parents and his dedicated efforts. He pledged to continue striving to elevate Pakistan's name further in the world of sports. During their meeting, Athar Zahid shared memorable moments from the championship and his experiences of victory, receiving further encouragement from Governor Kundi, who wished him success in future competitions.



LAHORE: The 2nd Shalamar Chess Championship, organized by the District Administration of Lahore, attracted over 400 chess players from across Pakistan to compete in different categories.

From Lahore to Istanbul: Pakistani motorcyclists explore avenues of Pak-Turkiye friendship

ISLAMABAD (APP): A group of seven Pakistani motorcyclists followed the Iranian route to Turkiye on their journey, which they called the "Lahore-Istanbul Rally" to strengthen Pakistan-Turkiye friendship. The group members traveled approximately 8,000 kilometers, passing through many cities in Anatolia. Arriving at their destination of Istanbul after 18 days, the group led by Mukaram Tareen took a friendship tour in Fatih and shared his journey of "unforgettable moments and their feelings". Turkiye's Anadolu said in its report published on Sunday. Tareen, the 57-year-old group leader, said that they started their journey from Lahore on October 11 and then went to Iran and then Turkiye. Tareen said, "Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye are friendly Islamic countries and our culture, food and friendships are based on hundreds of years of history. Istanbul is a deep-rooted city like Lahore, so we wanted to continue this journey to Istanbul." Referring to what reaching Istanbul after a difficult journey meant to them, Tareen said, "Reaching here symbolizes the

strong friendship between our two countries. This provided an opportunity to establish a closer bond with our Turkish friends." Tareen pointed out that Lahore's narrow streets and historical texture are similar to Istanbul, and said, "While walking through the narrow streets of Istanbul, we felt like we were in Lahore at times. The people, shops and the old city walls of the city resemble Lahore." Emphasizing that eastern Turkiye fascinates them, Tareen said, "People usually only visit big cities like Istanbul or Izmir. However, eastern Turkiye has a unique beauty with its high peaks, snow-capped mountains and villages. The people in eastern Turkiye are very hospitable, kind and sincere. This region is definitely a place we would like to explore again." Stating that they met many people along the way, Tareen said, "We travel 300 to 400 kilometers every day. We have the opportunity to stop and taste local foods and chat with people on the way. We met many motorcyclists from Iran and Turkiye. We invited Turkish motorcyclists to Pakistan and with this trip we

aim to promote tourism exchange between the two countries." Pointing out that there are many difficulties in making long journeys by motorcycle, Tareen explained that one of their group members had engine problems in Ankara and was stuck there for a while. Tareen said that the Turkish motorcyclists they met in Turkey invited them to dinner and thus they had the opportunity to experience Turkish cuisine. Expressing that they hoped that this rally was not just a personal trip but would lead to stronger tourism cooperation between the two countries, Tareen said, "Turkiye has a large tourism economy. We think that Pakistan should also carry out conservation and restoration work on our historical sites. Gaining experience from Turkiye in this regard will increase our tourism potential." Tareen added that they are planning to visit Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in their next trip and that this friendly relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye should be expanded to other countries as well.



BAGH: Horse Riders taking part in Tent Pegging Competition in the city.

Acting Senate Chairman urges promotion of Sufi poetry among youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting Senate Chairman Syedaal Khan on Sunday highlighted Pakistan's rich heritage in culture, literature, and civilization, and said that the subcontinent of Pakistan has long been a birthplace of celebrated Sufi saints, scholars and intellectuals.

Speaking at the Shah Latif Festival, organized with the support of the Sindh Language Authority and Sindh's Department of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities, he highlighted the importance of actively promoting literature, culture, and civilization.

The festival, which aimed to introduce young people to the poetry of the legendary Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, provided a platform for children from diverse linguistic backgrounds to explore

Bhittai's poetry and message. While inaugurating the event, he explained that beyond acquainting the younger generation with the philosophy and Sufi thought of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, the festival aimed to instill a sense of peace, security, and true Islamic teachings among the youth.

He praised the festival's variety of activities, where students engaged in speeches, theatre, art exhibitions, and other creative expressions to delve into Bhittai's message and cultural heritage.

The acting chairman underscored the importance of fostering peace and a balanced mindset in young people, describing them as the "valuable asset" of any nation. He stressed that, with proper education and training, the youth could

contribute significantly to the country's progress and prosperity, benefiting both their families and society.

He said that the current government is making substantial efforts to expand educational access nationwide while emphasizing Pakistan's cultural heritage and traditions.

He highlighted the value of such cultural programs, which not only celebrate the teachings of Sufi saints but also guide young people toward positive and constructive paths.

"Pakistan is fortunate to have produced notable poets and Sufi saints from all four provinces. We must continue to advance their teachings," the acting chairman said calling for increased efforts to promote these values across generations", he added.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad Syed Ali Raza presiding over an important meeting at Safe City Islamabad. The meeting was attended by SSP Operations, zonal SPs, SDPOs, SHO's and other senior police officers.

National WASH Accounts for Pakistan vital to save lives: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The establishment of a National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Account in Pakistan is essential for building robust WASH infrastructure, tracking financial flows, and monitoring spending to ensure accountability and resilience in WASH services, asserted experts at a policy dialogue.

The event, organized by WaterAid Pakistan in partnership with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), also marked the launch of the policy brief, "Establishing National WASH Ac-

counts for Pakistan: A Call for Evidence-Based Planning and Financing for WASH," said a press release issued here.

The dialogue brought together policymakers, stakeholders, and WASH experts to discuss a path forward for implementing National WASH Accounts through concerted efforts at both the federal and provincial levels.

WaterAid Pakistan's Country Director, Mian Muhammad Junaid, underscored that over 20 countries have already established WASH Accounts, leading to structured plan-

ning, improved resource allocation, and enhanced accountability. "For Pakistan, the WASH Account would facilitate data-driven planning, meeting both humanitarian and development needs through a rights-based, integrated approach," he stated, adding that improved WASH services have the potential to reduce the global disease burden by as much as 10%.

He emphasized, "Now is the time for all stakeholders to come together and act decisively to ensure that every community in Pakistan has access to safe water and sanitation."

HEC awards 200 scholarships to Sri Lankan students

ISLAMABAD/COLOMBO (APP): Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has awarded 200 fully and partially funded scholarships to the 6th batch of Sri Lankan students under the Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarship Programme. Around 500 Sri Lankan students, apart from these awardees, are already pursuing their undergraduate, MS and PhD studies in leading universities in Pakistan.

In this connection, HEC in collaboration with the Pakistan High Commission, Colombo held a ceremony for the newly selected students in Colombo.

General Shavendra Silva, Chief of Defense Staff was the chief guest. High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. @ Faheem Ul Aziz also graced the occasion, said a press release received here.

Speaking on behalf of the Chairman HEC, the Project Director, Pakistan Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme, Jehanzeb Khan congratulated the Sri Lankan students and briefed the participants about various as-

pects of the scholarship programme.

He highlighted the importance of education in bringing regional economic stability and enhancing collaboration between the two friendly countries.

In his remarks, the High Commissioner said that awarding these scholarships to Sri Lankan students is yet another testimony to the excellent brotherly relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He urged the students to embrace this opportunity with determination and resilience.

"As you pursue your studies, remember that you are ambassadors of your country and culture. Engage with your peers, share your experiences, and be a bridge between our two nations. The knowledge and understanding you gain will be invaluable as we work together to address the challenges we face in the ever-changing world." The ceremony was attended by prominent personalities from various walks of life including businessmen, academicians, parents of the awardee students, and government officials.

ensuring effective monitoring through Safe City surveillance cameras.

He instructed all officers to be present in their respective areas and to monitor all duties closely. During checking, they should inspect suspicious individuals, vehicles, and motorcycles and ensure proper registration of their details.

DIG Islamabad further stated that if a serious incident occurs in any area, strict action will be taken against the relevant officers.

He urged all officers to engage with their subordinate staff and listen to their issues, emphasizing that a high morale among officers and personnel would lead to dedicated performance of their duties.



ISLAMABAD: Preparations are underway for Lok Mela 2024 at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

Relevant officer will be responsible if crime surge: DIG Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, presided over an important meeting at Safe City Islamabad. The meeting was attended by SSP Operations, zonal SPs, SDPOs, SHO's and other senior police officers.

During the meeting, DIG Islamabad reviewed the overall security and crime situation in the federal capital and issued directives to all senior police officers for strict action against criminal elements.

He directed the Dolphin and Ababel squad officials to enhance their checking in different areas of the city. He emphasized increasing checks at the city's entry and exit points and

ensuring effective monitoring through Safe City surveillance cameras.

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ISLAMABAD: Worker busy repairing security cameras in Federal Capital.

Condolence reference held to honor Prof. Dr. Fazal Rahim Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A condolence reference was held to honor the remarkable academic contributions of the esteemed Prof. Dr. Fazal Rahim Khan, who passed away on October 23, 2024. A large number of academics, researchers and community members participated in the online condolence reference organized by the Department of Media Studies, at Bahria University on the other day.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of the Media Studies Department, Dr. Farukh Shehzad said that Dr. Fazal Rahim was one of the finest professors in the field of media and communication, and his passing had created an irreparable void.

"His contributions to academia will be remembered for a long time," Dr. Farukh added. Highlighting the illustrious academic career of esteemed scholar, Prof. Dr. Shabbir Hussain said the contextualization of Western scholarship into the Pakistani and South Asian con-

text is the hallmark of Prof. Dr. Fazal Rahim Khan. "Professor Fazal was a firm believer in integrity, dedication, and commitment and always instilled these qualities in his students. His death is indeed a great loss for Pakistan," said Dr. Mohsin Hassan Khan, one of his students, during the reference.

Concluding the condolence reference, the Dean of Social Sciences, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr. Zafar Iqbal eulogized Dr. Fazal Rahim Khan as a paragon of humanity. He urged the attendees to diligently carry forward Dr. Khan's legacy for the benefit of future generations. The management and staff of Bahria University extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. It may be mentioned that Dr. Fazal Rahim Khan supervised over 20 PhD scholars and published more than 50 research papers during his four-decade-long academic career, associating with prominent national and international universities.



ISLAMABAD: President Al-Khidmat Foundation North Punjab Rizwan Ahmed addressing a press conference.

'PTI's actions will ultimately lead to disappointment'; says Rana Ihsan Afzal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan issued a stern warning to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday, stating that their actions would ultimately lead to disappointment.

In a recent interview with a private news channel, he strongly criticized PTI's political tactics, adding, "PTI's primary focus has been gaining their personal interests rather than serving the people."

He pointed out, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, the

country is making progress and any attempts to disrupt stability will not be tolerated."

Responding to a query regarding constitutional bench, he said, "The government will accept any decision made by the Constitution bench regarding judge selection, without exerting influence."

Ihsan Afzal also emphasized the importance of unity and maturity in the face of opposition, urging all parties to work together for the country's progress and respect state institutions.

SDPI's 27th SDC conference to start today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)'s flagship 27th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC), scheduled for November 4-7, will host international experts from across the region and the world to discuss pressing global issues for common solutions ensuring human betterment.

This year's theme, "From Fragility to Resilience: Enhancing Sustainable Development," underscores SDPI's commitment to addressing pressing global challenges through innovative, resilient strategies, said a press release issued on Sunday.

The 27th SDC will be participated by the Acting President, Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani who will be flanked by Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam, Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman.

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MoHR launches campaign to promote tolerance, respect for HR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has launched an awareness campaign through different mediums to promote tolerance and respect for human rights and inter-faith harmony.

Talking to APP on Sunday an official said that the purpose of the campaign is to combat religious intolerance for a peaceful society. He said that the campaign will disseminate information on human rights in educational institutions including schools, colleges, universities and public and private sector organizations.

The official said that the campaign will further aim to create human rights awareness in targeted districts to improve democracy and leadership, facilitate access to justice and enable people to know their rights as humans.

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DHO appeals to vaccinate children against polio

ISLAMABAD (APP): The District Health Officer (DHO) Rawalpindi has issued an urgent appeal to parents to vaccinate their children against polio, a crucial step towards eradicating this debilitating disease and called on all stakeholders to join forces in the fight against polio. Talking to a private news channel, Chief Executive Officer of District Health Authority Rawalpindi Dr. Asif Arbab Khan Niazi said to achieve our target goal, health officials will deploy vaccination teams at bus stops and other high-traffic areas to administer polio drops to children traveling from Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

By targeting these key locations, the District Health Authority hopes to minimize the risk of transmission and protect Pakistan's progress in reducing polio cases, he added. He announced the expansion of the Polio program's scope to combat the spread of the virus.

He also emphasized that protecting children from this crippling disease requires a collective effort, where every parent plays a vital role.

He further pledged that field teams will not only meet their vaccination targets but also work diligently to reduce refusal rates among parents.

CTO visits Poly Clinic to inquire after injured officer

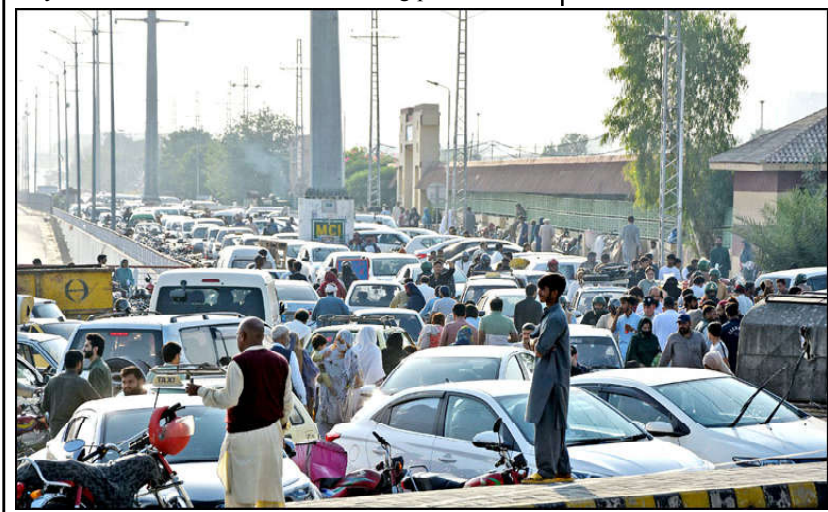
ISLAMABAD (APP): Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, visited Poly Clinic hospital and met with police officers undergoing treatment. CTO Islamabad also met with Constable Shehryar who was injured during an accident while performing his duty at supermarket and Head Constable Shabbir who was undergoing treatment at Polyclinic hospital, a public relation officer told APP.

During the visit, he also interacted with doctors and received a briefing about the officer's health.

10 outlaws arrested; weapons, drugs recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 10 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including selling drugs and possessing illegal weapons recovered a huge cache of drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession. A public relations officer told APP that the Islamabad Police Shams Colony, Noon, Phulgran and Nilore police station teams took legal action against the accused involved in selling drugs and possessing illegal weapons.

He said the police team also arrested four accused namely Muhammad Irfan, Hamza Khan, Wahab Ali and Allah Ditta.



ISLAMABAD: A view of large numbers of vehicles parked outside Sunday Weekly Bazaar at sector H-9 along Srinagar Highway, in the Federal Capital.

New strategies to strengthen health systems to be explored at 14th Int'l Public Health Conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 14th International Public Health Conference will be held in Islamabad on November 5-6 to discuss new strategies and innovative approaches to strengthen public health systems, said Professor Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of the Health Services Academy, on Sunday.

This year's conference will center around the theme "Transforming Research into Action: Redefining Public Health through So-

cial and Behavioral Change (CBC)," according to Professor Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan.

"Conference will address three key sub-themes: enhancing health systems through social behavior change, improving health outcomes by modifying social and gender norms, and leveraging innovative technological applications," he added.

The event is expected to attract participation from global institutions such as

Pathfinder International and Nutrition International along with Federal and Provincial Partners and other development partners national and international NGOs active in Pakistan's health sector, as well as health experts, researchers, policymakers, and government officials.

"Landscape of public health is rapidly evolving, and it is essential to confront these new challenges through modern research and technology."

Stay vigilant, maintain preventive measures to curb dengue spread: Health Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned health expert Dr. Atta Ur Rehman Sunday urged citizens to remain vigilant and continue implementing preventive measures to curb the spread of dengue fever.

Talking to a private news channel Head of the Dengue Control Program in Multan, Dr. Atta Ur Rehman praised public support in curbing dengue cases and urged continued vigilance in maintaining clean environments. "By maintaining preventive measures and staying informed, we can protect ourselves, our families and our communities from the devastating impact of dengue fever," he added.

He expressed confidence that the number of patients in the dengue wards were decreased, adding that the government is taking all-out measures in this regard.

If any citizen experiencing symptoms of dengue fever, it is crucial to seek medical attention right away, Dr. Atta emphasized.

Anyone displaying symptoms should visit government hospitals, where treatment is provided free of cost, he said, adding that these hospitals have taken proactive measures to combat the spread of dengue fever by establishing isolated wards specifically designed for dengue patients.

10 outlaws arrested; weapons, drugs recovered

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He said the police team also arrested four accused namely Muhammad Irfan, Hamza Khan, Wahab Ali and Allah Ditta.



ISLAMABAD: Children are enjoying on swing in a local park in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Monday November 04, 2024

Concerning measures

An old law is being resurrected. Why? It is a question that the government must answer.

On Friday, the law minister quietly introduced a bill in the National Assembly to give military and civil armed forces the power to 'pre-emptively' detain any individual facing terrorism charges for a period of up to three months. The bill, which proposes several amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act, was quickly referred to the relevant committee by the deputy Speaker without any discussion of its salient features. It aims to resurrect several amendments to Clause 11EEEE of the ATA which had lapsed in 2016.

Specifically, the bill seeks power for the authorities to detain any individual for up to three months if they "pose a threat to national security". The detained individual may not have actually committed a wrong: under the law, "reasonable suspicion" will be good enough for the state to deprive them of their liberty.

The rationale provided for preventive detention has long been the same: in times of insecurity, drastic measures are 'necessary' for maintaining order. Lately, there has been a sharp resurgence in terrorist activity, which has resulted in the loss of many lives, particularly among security personnel. As a result, there is growing pressure on security forces to restore peace in the affected areas and clamp down on militants and miscreants.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's legal system lacks versatility and often appears inadequately equipped to deal with the various challenges faced by security forces and the state while conducting counterterrorism operations and prosecuting dangerous terrorists. For example, it has been a long-standing complaint from security forces that they catch dangerous terrorists after much effort, only to see the courts set them free again. It is in this context that legal cover is repeatedly sought for 'emergency measures' that violate fundamental rights.

But it is hardly as simple as that. There are countless examples of preventive detention laws being used for much more than simply combating terrorism. They have proven extremely useful, for example, for punishing political opponents and dissidents. It cannot be ignored that the language of the amendments proposed by the law minister is vague enough for the law to be used against anyone whom the state wants to put behind bars for a short period. "Reasonable suspicion" can mean anything in a country where ordinary citizens are routinely charged with terrorism merely for participating in unruly protests.

Given how frequently the ATA is used when political opponents are to be taught a lesson, any measure that enhances its potential for abuse should be a cause for alarm. It is for this reason that the government must seek political input and consensus on the changes it is seeking to make and be open about its intentions.

Muhammad Amir Rana

The dynamics of terrorism threats in Pakistan have shifted significantly since the Taliban took control in Afghanistan, challenging security institutions to develop an effective strategy to address these risks.

The current counterterrorism strategy is seemingly based on a zero-tolerance approach towards all terrorist groups, including religiously motivated terrorists and insurgents. However, this approach has yet to yield productive outcomes, and it has heightened security concerns, especially for foreign nationals in the country. Chinese nationals, in particular, have been targeted twice within six months, and a convoy of foreign diplomats narrowly escaped an attack while visiting Swat in KP. China, facing specific security concerns, has been urging Pakistan to intensify its efforts against terrorist groups that threaten its interests.

China has been using high-level diplomatic channels to convey its security

concerns to the Pakistani leadership, initially pushing the latter to announce a comprehensive campaign against terrorism and extremism under the tag of 'Operation Azm-i-Istehkam' and then recently by pressuring Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif to announce that he would personally oversee the investigation into last month's terrorist attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi.

However, these assurances from Pakistan have done little to ease Beijing's concerns. A recent statement by the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, is a reflection of this frustration. At a public seminar, Ambassador Zaidong rebuffed Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, rejecting his praise of China's patience amid security threats. He stated unequivocally that two deadly attacks within six months were unacceptable and urged the Pakistani government to launch a comprehensive crackdown on all anti-China terrorist groups.

What can Pakistan do to address the Chinese concerns? What has Operation Azm-i-Istehkam achieved

so far, and how sustainable is the campaign? These questions are essential, especially with regard to interpreting the Chinese demand for decisive action against the terrorists. Suppose it is conceived that full-scale military operations in Balochistan and KP eliminate the terrorist networks. This is a critical demand, as full-scale military operations are not viable.

It has been argued on these pages that any large-scale military operation in Balochistan would complicate the province's political and security crisis, and there is a need to adopt a very delicate approach. For threats such as those emanating from the likes of the banned TTP and the ISKP, Pakistan needs full cooperation from the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which the Taliban are resisting by helping the TTP instead.

The alternative is cross-border action to eliminate the threats, which would have its own political and security implications, and will further strengthen the bond between the Taliban and TTP. If China understands Pakistan's position on the non-viability of military operations, what

should the other options be? China seems to want deeper cooperation in the security sector. The ongoing formal cooperation between the two countries is not producing enough trust, so China has proposed a joint security mechanism.

Media reports reveal that during Chinese Premier Li Qiang's recent visit, a proposal for a joint security mechanism was discussed as a critical condition for securing major infrastructure and energy deals with Pakistan. A vital outcome of the visit was signing agreements to provide Pakistan's law enforcement, tasked with protecting Chinese nationals, with six bulletproof vehicles and approximately 20 firefighting trucks.

Pakistan has not been in favour of a formal Chinese security presence within its borders, having itself developed extensive infrastructure to secure CPEC and protect Chinese nationals. We have mentioned in an earlier column, too, that in 2016, the Special Security Division was established, comprising 34 and 44 Light Infantry Divisions, with 15,000 troops each. According to some

reports, the 34 Light Division was created in 2016, followed by the 44 Light Division in 2020. The SSD is also supported by 32,000 security personnel from the Frontier Corps, police, and Levies. There is reportedly a dedicated intelligence network to detect and eliminate terrorism-related threats. Despite this robust security infrastructure, attacks on Chinese nationals have persisted.

Notably, no terrorist attacks have been reported at project sites. Except for the 2018 assault on the Chinese consulate in Karachi, all recorded attacks have occurred while Chinese workers were travelling between locations.

In response to the Dasu attack on a bus carrying Chinese workers, the government has reaffirmed its commitment to the safety of Chinese nationals by tightening standard operating procedures and adding extra security layers. Responsibilities for police forces have been extended down to the district level, with district administrations and provincial governments required to review security plans for Chinese nationals monthly, alter

travel routes, and implement other precautionary measures. An investigation will determine whether provincial and district administrations have been vigilant in ensuring the safety of Chinese nationals. According to the SOPs, Chinese nationals must travel in B-6-level armoured vehicles to minimise risks.

The October attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi highlighted vulnerabilities within security institutions and exposed lapses in SOP enforcement. While details about the joint security mechanism between China and Pakistan remain limited, it is seen as a possibility that Chinese private security companies may become involved in providing inner-circle security for Chinese workers, a step that would respect Pakistan's sovereignty. One can imagine this would be an initial step, and if security threats were not prevented, the cooperation would go deeper. The issue lies not in the sincerity and dedication of Pakistan's law enforcement but in their capacity and access to effective surveillance equipment, which could make a significant difference. -- Courtesy Dawn

Iran's refusal to back down**Abbas Nasir**

The deputy commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Gen Ali Fadavi, has said his country's "response to the Zionist aggression is definite", in remarks reported by the New York Times, quoting Iranian media. This has again upped the ante in the region.

The NYT report also quoted Gen Fadavi as saying "we have never left an aggression unanswered in 40 years. We are capable of destroying all that the Zionists possess with one operation", triggering fears of an all-out regional war.

These remarks were the first on-record reaction by Iran to the missile attacks launched by Israeli warplanes last Tuesday which, Israel claimed, caused significant damage to the Iranian air defence missile batteries and sites mixing fuel for its ballistic missiles.

Gen Fadavi was not alone in delivering the war-ning as the head of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's office, Ghulam Hussain Mohammedi Golpayegani, reinforced

the general's message and said "a fierce, tooth-breaking response" will be de-livered to retaliate for Israel's "desperate action".

Both these statements came after Ayatollah Khamenei was given a detailed assessment by se-nior military and IRGC commanders on the damage inflicted by the Israeli air-launched missiles.

One noteworthy element of the Israeli warplanes' missile attack on Iran was that Saudi air-space wasn't used and, after Iraqi and Iranian air defence batteries were apparently suppressed by electronic counter measures, as they are called, the ballistic missiles were launched from beyond Iranian air-space in all probability from over Iraq.

Israel has long enjoyed complete sway over Syrian airspace save for the period of the war against the militant Islamic State group when Russian S-400 batteries were deployed along with their crews to curtail Israel's air force activity in support of IS over Syria.

Iran had warned that it would retaliate against US allies in the region if they participated in any

way in a military strike against Tehran. That the airbase of Saudi Arabia and Jordan was not used in the planning and execution of the missile attacks took away the risk of that escalation. For the time being at least.

Military experts are saying that the Iranian response might also come via its assets based in Iraq so further escalation is averted. However, with neither side appearing prepared to back off, a wider war remains on the horizon.

Against this backdrop, the Israeli pogrom in Gaza continues unabated, despite UN warnings of catastrophic conditions in north Gaza and the need for emergency food aid. It is clear Israel's objective is to depopulate north Gaza.

And its relentless bombing campaign in the rest of the strip is killing dozens, even hundreds, of Palestinians including women and children daily, amid calls to kick out Israel from the UN.

The impunity with which Israel is attacking civilians in Gaza and Lebanon (the south in particular) leads one to believe that the unconditional political

and material US, UK and German support is not all that is enabling it to carry on as if it's business as usual.

Excerpts from American investigative journalist, Bob Woodward's latest book titled War make interesting reading as they almost portray US President Joe Biden as a helpless angry leader who has zero influence over Israel's war criminal, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and often uses profanities while talking to confidantes about him.

But what appears inexplicable at least from the excerpts is that when Biden calls Netanyahu a "b*****d" and uses even fouler language about him with aides, why the US continues to supply arms and armaments and station its own aircraft carrier battle groups, long-range bombers and air defence suppression planes in the region in support of Netanyahu's genocide policy.

The other alarming, even if not surprising, are the Woodward disclosures about what leaders of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan privately said to US Secretary of State Antony

Blinken in terms of tacitly supporting what's happening in Gaza.

Egypt's support was more than tacit, according to Woodward, because apart from President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi reiterating his commitment to the peace treaty with Israel, its intelligence chief shared invaluable targeting information with Blinken to pass on to the Israelis about the Hamas tunnel network and how to draw out and eliminate the group's leaders.

If true, the remarks attributed to the de facto Saudi ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salm-an, the UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed and Jordan's King Abdullah are bereft of empathy for the suffering of Palestinians and amount to an endorsement of Israel's military campaign.

The remarks appeared so outrageously pro-Israel that some X handles started to dispute them as a deliberate ploy to further divide Arab unity.

But even these handles were hard-pressed to list what the military/economically powerful Arab states have done to stay Netanyahu's hand.

As one pro-Palestinian activist pointed out, South Africa has taken more concrete steps for the cause of Palestine than the entire Muslim world represented by the OIC. The role of individual Arab/Muslim states who had the clout to help has been no different.

Therefore, the Iran-led so-called Axis of Resistance seems to have done more for the Palestinians and taken more risks with their own security and well-being than some of Palestine's neighbours.

One wonders if this role has brought credibility to Iran's clergy-led government in the Arab street and washed away the sectarian label stuck to Iran after it helped crush the Syrian resistance.

In the coming weeks, not only will the US presidential race have been decided, but it would also become clear whether Iran has retained enough military capacity to deliver its promised response to Israel's missile attacks.

This will be significant as Israel has claimed severely denuding Iran's missile launch capability.

Paper tiger?**Muna Khan**

I was a graduate student during the 2016 presidential elections where I learned a lot about American media's coverage of elections. We don't generally make newspaper endorsements in Pakistan but it is a big deal in the US with long histories, dating back to Abraham Lincoln.

Two newspaper endorsements from that time stand out for the reactions they elicited. One, the Chicago Tribune endorsed libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. I happened to be Facebook friends with a leader writer at the paper and witnessed the anger directed at her for the Tribune's decision, which they explained in a lengthy editorial, as endorsements often do.

The Arizona Republic endorsed Hillary Clinton, backing a Democrat for the first time in its 126-year history. That endorsement drew media attention and elicited the same excitement that PTL supporters felt at 'capturing' Qazi Faez Isa on video in London. Both editorials led to anger, feelings of betrayal, and conversations about the worth of endorsements, exactly what we're seeing today with two newspapers.

The first is the Los Angeles Times, owned by Patrick Soon-Shiong, a biotech tycoon, who said the paper would not endorse any candidate because it wanted to remain impartial. This led to staff resignations and hundreds of cancelled subscriptions but also put the spotlight on his daughter, Nika, who tweeted about the family's "joint decision" not to endorse. "As a citizen of a country openly financing genocide, and as a family that experienced South African Apartheid, the endorsement was an opportunity to repudiate justifications for the widespread targeting of journalists and

ongoing war on children."

Her father has denied her involvement, saying she spoke in a personal capacity but she doubled down by tweeting a screenshot of a quote from Ta-Nehisi Coates' interview to The Guardian wherein he says "this is about apartheid" and "I don't have much hope from a [Kamala] Harris presidency". She then followed up with a thread addressing the controversy, saying "I trust the editorial board's judgment. For me, genocide is the line in the sand."

LA Times has endorsed a Republican candidate since its founding in 1881 but stopped after the Watergate scandal in 1976. It resumed endorsements when it backed Barack Obama in 2008, and subsequently all Democrats. It has continually written editorials saying Donald Trump poses a threat to democracy so it's understood the paper is pro-Harris; would an endorsement change anything? And that too days before the election?

Shortly thereafter came the news about the Washington Post's owner Jeff Bezos withdrawing the paper's planned endorsement of Harris. Staff resignations and thousands of cancelled subscriptions followed. There was no family drama here, just Bezos saying endorsements create a sense of bias at a time many Americans distrust the media.

The American Presidency Project wrote that 56 of the largest 60 newspapers that endorse presidential candidates sided with Clinton in 2016, compared to eight of any size for Trump. So, we know that these endorsements don't really sway voters. Perhaps they have outlived their purpose. Maybe editors need to step outside their elite silos and see how they serve their audiences. Most of the conver-

sation has centred on the problem of billionaires owning the media — the New York Times family, John Henry of Boston Globe, Rupert Murdoch of NewsCorp, etc. (The Guardian is reader funded and "is unafraid of potential consequences" for endorsing Harris.)

I don't think the problem is their money but the value they place on making money over the purpose of journalism. I suspect the Soon-Shiong family did not want to support Harris' genocidal policies but sent out conflicting messaging because they, like Bezos, perhaps fear reprisal from Trump should he win.

What I've learned from subscription cancellations is that readers value an endorsement for Harris more than the consequences of her support for Israel's maniacal war on Gaza. Since watching the 2016 elections, each one since has been framed as important to democracy's survival and certain communities (women and minorities) are painted as spoilers who don't know what's at stake. This time it's Arab Muslims who are "agonised" by the decision, as Vox put it, "to punish Democrats or stop Trump?" Why must they be portrayed as carrying this "burden" of a difficult choice? Palestine is not just a Muslim or Arab issue, as Nika Soon-Shiong has articulated.

A YouGov poll conducted on Oct 29 saw 47 per cent of respondents say newspapers should not endorse candidates and 28pc saying they should, while 25pc said they did not know. I'm not surprised at the latter because people still don't know the difference between news and opinion. Maybe that's a problem that media owners and editors need to address. - Courtesy Dawn

Jabalia death march**Muhammad Ali Siddiqi**

It will live in history: the Jabalia death march. As reported by Al Jazeera, the fleeing Palestinians were carrying white flags while going through checkpoints, but the Israeli bombardment continued. Correctly did Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi tell US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that what was going on in Gaza was "ethnic cleansing", while the Jewish Voice for Peace has compared it to the Holocaust and asked the American administration to halt arms supplies to Israel.

This paper's issue of Oct 23, 2024, is archival material and tells us more about the misery of the Palestinian people than all words put together. The picture on the front page shows the wreckage of a house. In the background are masses of people forcefully displaced from their north Gaza homes as Israeli planes had rained bombs. They have had no food and water for weeks.

Unless I missed it in the voluminous literature on the Der Führer era, I do not think the Luftwaffe ever rained bombs on fleeing Jewish people. The time-yellowed 1,400 pages of John Toland's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic Adolf Hitler contain every act of bestiality perpetrated on the Jews by the Nazi regime but it mentions no such horrifying drama, which I am sure must have satisfied the sadistic instincts of racists like Yoav Gallant in the Benjamin Netanyahu cabinet.

The north Gaza trauma coincided with Israel's latest choice of a war theatre — Lebanon. Such is Israel's fixation with showing off its mili-

tary power that it used no less than 100 jets on tiny Lebanon. The targets hit included a hospital named after one of Lebanon's most popular prime ministers, Rafic Hariri. This was not a mistake. As I wrote in one of my pieces, it is Israel's official policy to hit hospitals and places of worship to tell the world it doesn't care about what the world thinks of its crimes, with the categorical support it enjoys from Western powers. (In Nuseirat in northern Gaza, Israeli forces hit a school, killing 17 people, including children. Instead of expressing regret it said it was a Hamas command and control centre which was previously a school!)

One can estimate the number of civilian casualties in Beirut when four apartment buildings bustled with men, women and children were flattened. While Lebanon was in the throes of a bloodbath, the issue for the US was to make a comment that would not annoy Israel. So American envoy Amos Hochstein made a 'safe' statement, saying Washington was trying to end the war in Lebanon "as soon as possible", stressing that the US was seeking a lasting resolution to the crisis.

A true indication of civilian casualties in Lebanon came from Tyre, a Unesco World Heritage site. Normally it has a population of 50,000. However, following the mass exodus in the wake of the Israeli attack on Sept 23, less than 14,000 people were reportedly left in the city.

Yet, despite the thinning of the population, casualties were still high as revealed by Tyre's disaster management spokesman: "Seven buildings were levelled and more than 400 apartments in

their vicinity damaged." Four streets, he said were "completely blocked by debris".

On the very first day of the blitz, codenamed "Northern Arrows", 558 people, including 50 children and 94 women, were killed by 50,000 fled to Syria. No wonder Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati called the Israeli attack "a war of destruction". However, so thorough is the Zionist control of the international media that on Oct 24, when I googled to check casualties in Tyre what I got was this: "There were no re-ports of casualties in Tyre, where the Israeli military had issued evacuation warnings ahead of the strikes."

According to Da-niel Levy, president of the US/Middle East Project, there is little possibility of peace in Palestine. According to him: "The game plan — sadly declared openly and publicly by Israel's leaders from the get-go — was an intensification and continuation of the displacement and the denial of Palestinian rights that has gone on for decades, but in a far more gruesome way."

He told Al Jazeera: "We are at a new place in the north of Gaza where the intention is apparently to entirely depopulate that area using war crimes of starvation, of allowing disease to spread; even the prevention of polio could not be continued." According to him, Israeli authorities are implementing the "General's Plan" aimed at starving, bombing, and forcibly extracting civilians out of the north of the Gaza Strip.

Postscript: Z.A. Bhutto once remarked only Islam can give peace to the holy land because it is the only religion which recognises the rights of the three communities to Jerusalem. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM urges swift completion of PIC-II to alleviate patient load on PIC-I

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized the importance of completing the Punjab Institute of Cardiology-II (PIC-II) to ease the patient burden on the existing Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC-I).

During her visit to the under-construction hospital at Canal Bank on Sunday, she directed the team to expedite efforts to make the facility operational as soon as possible. The Chief Minister noted that efforts to provide comprehensive cardiology services across every district in Punjab are already in motion. She added that the newly introduced card system for children's heart surgeries has significantly streamlined hundreds of operations for young patients.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif reviewed the ongoing

construction, inspecting various departments, building materials, and other project aspects. She praised Punjab Infrastructure Development Authority CEO Shahmeer Iqbal for his efforts and suggested further design improvements for the hospital. Additionally, she instructed officials to ensure the timely delivery of essential machinery for PIC-II.

Construction work on dry partition walls and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is progressing across multiple floors. The PIC-II project, which will have a capacity of 250 beds, is set to include advanced hybrid operation theaters, emergency, surgical, and medical ICUs. Over 90 per cent of the gray structure has been completed, and the project is moving steadily toward its final stages.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif visiting under construction Punjab Institute of Cardiology-II (PIC-II) at Canal Bank.

Governor expresses concern over non release of funds to local government

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi, criticized the provincial government's failure to provide funding to a local government department, labeling it an undemocratic approach.

He said this during a meeting with Ejaz Surani, the elected Nazim from Bannu, who briefed the governor on the challenges faced by local representatives.

Governor Kundi emphasized that local governments are the "nurseries of democracy," highlighting a disconnect between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) claims of empowering grassroots governance and the provincial

administration's actual behaviour towards local bodies and their representatives.

In response to Surani's concerns regarding issues related to federal departments, Kundi instructed relevant authorities to address these matters promptly.

Meanwhile, the Provincial General Secretary of the All Pakistan Central Muslim League, Atiqur Rehman Chauhan called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and discussed the province's political situation. Governor Kundi emphasized that the resolution of issues can only be achieved through dialogue, asserting that confrontation and violence

are not solutions. He stressed the importance of political parties uniting on a single platform despite their ideological differences, saying that this unity is crucial for the welfare of the province's citizens.

During the meeting, Chauhan provided the governor with a briefing on the political and welfare activities of the All Pakistan Central Muslim League and extended an invitation for him to visit the party's central office.

Similarly, Shoaib Alam Khan, the Provincial Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, along with his son, Hassam Khan, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

CM directs for relocation of KE installations to open 1st segment of Malir Expressway

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, during his visit to the under-construction 39.889 km Malir Expressway, evaluated the project's progress from Zero Point - near Jam Sadiq Bridge to Kathore and expressed his dissatisfaction with the administration due to their inability to relocate the K-Electric (KE) installations, which has consequently delayed the opening of the first segment of the expressway.

The chief minister reached the Zero point of Malir Expressway at Jam Sadiq Bridge, where he was received by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, DG PPP Unit Asad Zamin, PD Niaz Soomro, Engineer Khalid Mansoor and others.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister expressed his displeasure upon discovering that the ready spans were lying on the ground and had not been installed on the pillars

to create a traffic ramp to access the Malir Expressway at Zero Point. When he inquired about the delay, he was informed that K-Electric (KE) had not yet relocated its overhead installation, which was preventing the spans from being fixed on the pillars.

The Chief Minister instructed the Deputy Commissioner to ensure that this issue was resolved within a week, warning that he would take action if it was not addressed. He pointed out that since KE had already been paid for the relocation of its installation, their delays were unacceptable.

Mr Shah drove on the Malir Expressway from Zero Point to Shah Faisal Interchange, and on the way, he discovered that land grabbing had been started on the sides of the expressway. The CM stopped there and called the deputy commissioner and SSP Korangi to be opened for traffic in the first week of December.

why the illegal structures had started developing under their nose. "I'll not allow encroachment even on a single inch of government land," he said and ordered them to bulldoze the illegal structures and compound walls and report him.

The CM directed the PD of the Expressway to ensure the completion of the work by the end of November because he wanted the first segment, Korangi Causeway to Shah Faisal, to be opened for traffic in the first week of December.

Murad Ali Shah, along with his team, travelled along the expressway from Shah Faisal to Quaidabad to inspect the ongoing construction. During the briefing, it was noted that while the expressway itself was ready, the small interchange at Quaidabad had been halted due to issues with land acquisition.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah visits Zero Point of Malir Expressway, at Jam Sadiq Bridge in Karachi.

CM grieved over loss of lives

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives in a tragic accident involving a vehicle returning from Tablighi Ijtema near Bhera.

The CM extended her heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the grieving families affected by this unfortunate incident. She ordered to provide best medical treatment for injured.

Kohat police arrest killer within 24 hours

KOHAT (APP): Kohat Usterzai Police on Sunday apprehended the killer of 62-year-old Syed Kazim Hussain, a resident of Metha Khan Sherkot, within 24 hours of the incident.

According to sources of Kohat Police, the accused, Israr Hussain, son of Muhammad Khan from Orkzai, was taken into custody by police under the leadership of SHO Usterzai Rehmatullah and ASI Usman Afridi.

Sources further revealed that the motive behind the killing was previous enmity, with the accused shooting and killing the victim in the Kucha Pakka area.

A case of murder has been registered at Usterzai Police Station against Syed Nasir Abbas, the son of the victim.

DPO Mohammad Umar Khan on this occasion, assured that justice will be served, stating that the case will be investigated on its merits.

Minister inspects work on Pajagai Park

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Local Government Minister, Arshad Ayub Khan has said that to provide maximum recreational opportunities to the people, provision of all missing facilities at public parks would be ensured on an urgent basis.

For this purpose, he said necessary work on ensuring recreational facilities at Pajagai Park has been completed to provide a refreshed environment to the local people.

He said this during a visit to Pajagai Park along with Secretary Local Council Board, Wahid ur Rehman and TMO Azhar Ali Shah here.

On the occasion, the Minister urged the people to take their children to the newly renovated park for recreational activities and refreshment. He said during the busy life routine, a visit to a recreational park will provide the minds with a new energy. Besides, he said jogging and playing different games at the park will also maintain their good health.

On the occasion, he discussed and inspected the final-stage work at Pajagai Park and issued some necessary instructions. He also directed the authorities to work on provision of more recreational opportunities at the Pajagai Park.

Patwari suspended for dereliction of duties & misuse of powers

MIRPUR (APP): Mirpur Deputy Commissioner Yasir Riaz suspended Qamar Abbas, Patwari of Jangian constituency of Mirpur sub division, it was officially stated.

The DC took the action on the instructions of Commissioner Mirpur Division Ch. Mukhtar Hussain.

And appointed Revenue Officer Mirpur as an inquiry officer to conduct a complete investigation into the matter and submit the report to the higher authorities, official sources told APP here on Sunday.

According to details, the authorities took the action in response to the board of revenue Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffarabad standing order on receipt of a move from the state police department to identify a concerned site of area and

refer the report to the concerned police. Whereas the said standing order contained clear instructions for the revenue department to identify the area through demarcation in a criminal case, the sources said.

On receipt of a motion from the police, the concerned Tehsildar was bound to be moved either by himself under his supervision or the concerned Circle Officer (Naib Tehsildar) to further proceed with the matter accordingly.

In the above-mentioned case, Qamar Abbas Patwari, Jangian Tehsil, Mirpur, was immediately suspended from service for reporting contravention of the Standing Order and misuse of the powers conferred under the Efficiency and Discipline Rules as Authority.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Latifabad No.12 are holding a protest demonstration against high handedness of influential people, at Hyderabad press club.

Easterly winds from Indian cities pushing polluted air into Lahore: Senior minister

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb addressed the worsening smog situation during a press conference today, explaining that easterly winds coming from India are pushing air from Amritsar and Chandigarh into Lahore.

This has caused the city's air quality index (AQI) to spike close to 1000 over the past two days. Marriyum Aurangzeb noted that since the air speeds up while crossing the eastern corridor and then stagnates over Lahore, it intensifies the pollution already present in the city, creating critically high AQI levels in the morning, which

gradually decrease to below 200 by midday. Further deterioration of AQI is expected in the coming week.

Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that due to these factors, all private and public educational institutions, from playgroup to grade five, will remain closed from November 4 onward. This includes private schools, which are also mandated to comply. Authorities will use the week to conduct research, mapping, and studies to reassess and determine if extended school closures are needed. Preparations for two additional "green lockdowns" are also underway.

6 outlaws arrested, arms, liquor recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested six outlaws and recovered illegal arms, liquor from their possessions during crackdown here on Sunday.

According to a police spokesman, Gujjar Khan Police held Roman and recovered 1 rifle 12-bore from his possession and 2 pistols 30-bore were confiscated from Saad and Humayun. Similarly, Civil Lines Police recovered 01 Kalashnikov from Naveed.

While, Naseerabad Police recovered 05 liters of liquor from Qaiser. Following operation, New Town Police recovered 02 bottles of liquor from Osama.

Rs 1 billion approved for KP police' modern vehicles

PESHAWAR (APP): For the capacity building of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, faced with shortage of modern arms and vehicles, the provincial government has decided to release an advanced grant of Rs one billion rupees for police department to overcome their shortcomings.

A document on Sunday said the grant will be utilized in acquiring B-6 level security vehicles. On procurement of B-6 level protective vehicles, a sum of Rs 800million

would be spent while Rs200 million for the purchase of mine-resistant vehicles.

The document said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police were facing an acute shortage of required arms and modern anti-crime vehicles. To overcome this situation, the document said the KP government has decided to release Rs one billion as an advanced grant. It further confirmed that the provincial cabinet has accorded approval to the release of this advance grant.

Massive forest fire ravages Lower Galyat, local efforts to control blaze fall short

NATHIAGALI (APP): A devastating fire erupted late at night in the Dakhin Saidan forest in Lower Galyat, quickly spread across several kilometers and leaving a trail of destruction. Local residents, lacking external support, have been battling the blaze independently but report that their efforts have so far been unsuccessful. According to local sources, the fire has inflicted severe damage on the forest ecosystem in Abbottabad, razing countless trees and devastating wildlife. Many species native to the area

have suffered as the flames continue to spread unchecked. The fire has also destroyed valuable winter fuel supplies that locals rely on, as well as grass and fodder for livestock, creating additional hardship for the community. Several homes in nearby areas have suffered partial damage as the flames approached residential zones, endangering families and property. Local sources report that residents are growing increasingly concerned as the fire threatens to encroach further into populated.



PESHAWAR: Jamiat-e-Islami (JI) KPK Chief, Professor Ibrahim Khan addresses during the Jamiat Talaba Arabia Convention held in Peshawar.

Workshop on training of teachers from merged areas held

PESHAWAR (APP): A two days' workshop conducted under the Special Emphasis Programmes (SEPs) of the Accelerated Implementation Plan II (AIP II) of KP government for the Merged Areas (MAs), was held at Abbottabad.

Masood Ahmed, Secretary E&SED, Faiz Alam, Additional Secretary (R&I), Ms Samina Altaf, Director Education, Mutahir Director DPD, Dr Safia Noor, Addl Dir DPD, Ms Nahid Anjum, Addl Dir DoESED participated in the event along with senior officials of the department. Munir Ali Shah, Senior Instructor DPD was the Master Trainer of the workshop while UNDP-MAGP team included Mr. Bilal Ahmad Sector Expert and Mr. Imran Malik Implementation Specialist. Secretary E&SED emphasized that teachers should focus on morality and character building of

students. It is indeed our national obligation and duty to produce a generation which should believe in hard work and speak the truth to themselves. We wish that the student who is entering our system today at the age of 5 should become a role model & honest person at the age of 21 in 2040.

He also appreciated the role of Master trainers of the program for conducting the program efficiently. This SEP is focused on Transforming Teachers training system. It targets 135 randomly selected primary schools in district Khyber, Mohmand and North Waziristan. The objective of the SEP is to enhance the students learning levels and teaching skills of the teachers of Grade 1-5 in English, Maths and Science. Under this SEP a Tele Learning Ecosystem for the coaching and mentoring of teachers was developed to provide them.

Breast cancer awareness seminar

MULTAN (APP): The Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO), in collaboration with Minar Cancer Hospital, organized an awareness seminar focusing on breast cancer prevention and timely treatment here on Sunday.

The seminar saw a large number of female employees working across various MEPCO departments and women residing in MEPCO Colony join the seminar. In the event Dr. Sidra Mahmood Ali, Consultant Radiologist at Minar Cancer Hospital, highlighted the alarming statistics regarding breast cancer in Pakistan, where 90,000 women are diagnosed annually, with 40,000 losing their lives to the disease. She stressed that Pakistan's breast cancer mortality rate is among the highest in Asia, largely due to delays in seeking medical help and ignoring early symptoms. Dr. Sidra encouraged women to be vigilant about any unusual changes in their breasts and consult a doctor promptly.



LAHORE: Participants are coming back after participated in Annual Tablighi Ijtema 2024 in Raiwind, at Thokar Niaz Baig in Lahore.

LWMC taking measures for smog-free environment

LAHORE (APP): To combat smog, the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) has established specialised teams to implement effective cleaning measures throughout the provincial capital. According to the official sources here on Sunday, the LWMC initiated mechanical sweeping, roadside scrapping and water sprinkling across various areas to control dust. The

LWMC teams were mobilised for scraping operations on key roads including Multan Road, Bhekewal Mor, Punjab University, Queen Mary Road, Gol Bagh, Shadbagh, McLeod Road, Allama Iqbal Road, GT Road, Ferozpur Road, Katcha Jail Road, Madir-e-Millat Road and Raiwind Road. Additionally, mechanical sweeping was being conducted on Pine Avenue, Adda Plot.



KARACHI: Workers of the Priya Kumari Recovery Committee hold a sit-in outside the Karachi Press Club.

Pakistan eyes enhanced trade, economic ties with Uzbekistan amid investment push

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan is in Uzbekistan on a three-day visit aimed at enhancing bilateral trade, commerce and economic ties with the Central Asian state, his ministry confirmed on Sunday, amid Islamabad's efforts to attract foreign investment to improve its economic prospects.

Pakistan has increasingly sought to enhance regional connectivity to landlocked Central Asian states by providing them access to its warm water ports. It recently offered Central Asian states to become part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, under which Beijing has pledged around \$65 billion in energy, infrastructure

and other projects in Pakistan.

Khan arrived in Tashkent on Saturday evening marking the start of his three-day visit to Uzbekistan, the commerce ministry said.

"Key agenda items include strategic meetings with top Uzbek officials such as Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamsheer Khujayev and Transport Minister Mr. Ilkhom Makhkamov to discuss pivotal projects in trade, investment, and logistics," the ministry said.

Khan's visit will feature the ninth session of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, and the fourth Uzbekistan-

Pakistan Business Forum, the commerce ministry said. The session will be co-chaired by Khan and Uzbek Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade Mr. Laziz Kudratov.

The ministry said that the Business Forum will host 33 Pakistani business delegates across various sectors for B2B meetings aimed at fostering new partnerships and enhancing trade.

"The minister's visit reflects both nations' dedication to deepening economic and technical collaborations and supporting mutual goals, including Uzbekistan's ongoing WTO accession," the ministry concluded.

Pakistan has increasingly sought to promote closer ties with regional allies to bolster its

Pakistan carpet industry seeks govt support to boost exports

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Chairman Mian Atiqur Rehman said on Sunday that increasing exports is impossible without removing unnecessary obstacles and securing government support.

Addressing a review meeting of the Association here, he said organizations like SMEDA should provide financial and technical assistance for establishing carpet production centers in rural areas to increase production. "The 41st International Exhibition, scheduled for 2025, will be designed according to new trends, for which proposals will be solicited in advance," he added.

PCMEA Patron-in-

Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed, Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejaz-ur-Rehman, senior leaders Usman Ashraf, Major Akhtar Nazir, Saeed Khan, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Akbar Malik, Saad-ur-Rehman, Faisal Saeed Khan, and others attended the meeting.

Mian Atiqur Rehman said, "Currently, our priority is to increase the exports of handmade carpets. However, we are not producing at the desired level, and there are several reasons for this. To retain skilled artisans associated with this industry, we need to make it attractive, for which the government and relevant organizations must support us."



RAWALPINDI: People are busy buying fruits and vegetables in Sahulat Bazaar outside Allama Iqbal Park in the city.

Technology integration key to sustainable development, economic growth : Meher Kashif

LAHORE (APP): Honorary Consul Kyrgyzstan Meher Kashif Younis has said that integration of technology across various sectors serves as a catalyst for sustainable development, economic growth, and social transformation.

Speaking at a seminar on "Integration of Technology" here on Sunday, he said technology for development was a crucial necessity for Pakistan which strives to accelerate its progress and enhance the quality of life.

He said in today's rapidly evolving economic landscape, technology serves as a crucial driver of growth, fostering business

transformation and creating development opportunities. Its positive impacts include productivity enhancement, market expansion and GDP growth. He said one of Pakistan's greatest assets was young and dynamic population, constituting almost 64 percent of total population. He said one of the primary areas where technology could make a significant impact was education. With a substantial portion of the population residing in rural areas with limited access to quality education, e-learning platforms and digital classrooms can bridge the gap. These technological parks can

provide students with access to a wealth of resources and skilled educators, irrespective of their geographic location.

On the occasion, another keynote speaker CEO IT Professional Mian Faiz Bukhsh Arain said in agriculture, technology could revolutionize farming practices through precision agriculture, drone surveillance, and smart irrigation systems. These advancements could increase crop yields, optimize resource use, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Given that a significant portion of Pakistan's population relies on agriculture for their livelihood.



LAHORE: Artisans making ready-made clothes on a machine in the provincial capital.

FPCCI appoints Sohail Talat chairman special committee on cotton revival

MULTAN (APP): In a significant development aimed at revitalizing Pakistan's agriculture and cotton industry, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) appointed senior leader Malik Sohail Talat as the chairman of a Special Committee on Cotton revival.

A formal notification was issued, and a ceremony was held in Multan to mark this important appointment.

The event was attended by FPCCI Patron-in-Chief and former caretaker provincial minister of Punjab, S.M. Tanveer, Task Force Chairman Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Regional Chairman Zaki Ejaz, and senior business leader Malik Tanveer Arshad, who together presented the official notification to Malik Sohail Talat.

Speaking at the occasion, S.M. Tanveer

emphasized the FPCCI's success in reducing interest rate and outlined the organization's commitment to restoring the country's cotton production. He noted that Malik Sohail Talat's appointment as chairman was strategic, given his extensive experience with the FPCCI as a former convener of the Regional Cotton and Textile Committee and as a two-year coordinator for FPCCI's initiatives.

In his acceptance speech, Malik Sohail Talat thanked the FPCCI leadership for their trust and support. He commended S.M. Tanveer and Task Force Chairman Gohar Ejaz for their tireless efforts for economic stability.

Talat Sohail committed to prioritizing cotton research institutions, tackling climate challenges, and phasing out substandard seeds in favor of high-yield, modern varieties.

KP Food Authority conducts operations

Dera Ismail Khan (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) on Saturday conducted operations in various locations at DIKhan.

According to the information, on the direction of Deputy Director Halal Food Authority Dera Muhammad Asif, different teams of KP FS&HFA checked the quality of food items at various shops.

The teams of KP FS&HFA conducted raids on dairy shops, grocery stores, bakeries, milk shops, food and drink points in different localities of the city. The Authority's team inspected various food items and checked these items at mobile laboratory on the spot besides sending some samples to the laboratory for further examination. The inspection team seized counterfeit and substandard food items including biscuits, cakes, drinks and milk from grocery stores, bakeries and milk shops during the operation.

Chamber of Small Trader extols agreements with Saudi Arabia, Qatar

MULTAN (APP): President Multan Chamber of Small Traders and Industry, Hafiz Umair Saeed, has commended the government's efforts to stabilize the economy, particularly through recent agreements with Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

In a statement, Umair Saeed maintained that these international deals provide crucial support, it is equally important for the

government to foster a favorable business environment for local investors and business communities. He urged authorities to simplify procedures to improve ease of doing business, which would enable local businesses to contribute effectively to economic progress alongside the government. He highlighted the pressing need for the government to address



HYDERABAD: A worker arranging clay-made stuff for drying purpose at his workplace in Kumbharpara at Jamshoro Road.

Pak solar boom gains momentum amid rising electricity costs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is undergoing a rapid energy shift resulting in solar energy adoption among different consumer classes.

The Great Solar Rush in Pakistan by Renewables First explores this shift, highlighting Pakistan's growing prominence in the renewable energy landscape of developing nations.

Pakistan imported around 15 GW (worth \$2.1 billion) of solar panels from China over the past fiscal year, the study highlights. Contributing to this transition is the increased electricity tariffs—driving high consumption households and industries to shift toward solar energy solutions.

In the past year this has resulted in a 10.4% drop in grid electricity demand, with projections indicating further decline emphasizing the need for grid modernization and

revised demand forecasts to support decentralized energy generation.

In parallel, falling battery prices are also likely to boost solar adoption, making urgent grid adaptation essential for maintaining the financial viability of Pakistan's utility model.

Global and local analysts, during the study launch, attributed Pakistan's rapid shift to solar as a unique, consumer-driven "solar rush" fueled by rising electricity costs, declining technology prices, and strong import trends.

"Pakistan's solarization drive is indeed impressive but we have also seen these trends being replicated in other emerging markets," said Jenny Chase, Solar Analyst at Bloomberg NEF. What makes Pakistan unique is the rapid nature of these additions, she further emphasized.

Provision of facilities to small industries top priority: Commissioner

SARGODHA (APP): Commissioner Sargodha Division Jahanzeb Awan said the restoration of industrial process and provision of all possible facilities to small and medium-sized businesses was top priority of the incumbent government.

He stated this while addressing a meeting to the members of Sargodha Chamber of Small Trades and Small Industry, says a handout issued here on Sunday. He said the promotion of industries would not only accelerate economic activity but also provide employment opportunities and income for the youth. He said that urban development was not possible without the support of businessmen and other stakeholders. He

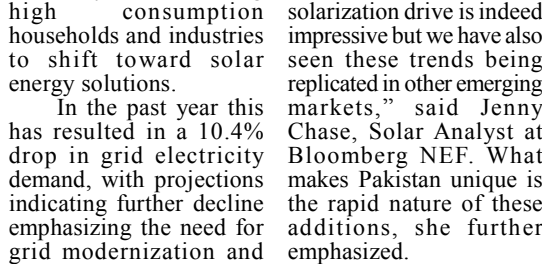
suggested that a forum should be formed in collaboration with the administrative officers, traders and other stakeholders, which should be headed by the Deputy Commissioner so that relief could be provided by making a comprehensive plan of the problems faced by citizens. He said that funds had been approved from the government by planning the recent problems of sewerage in the city and short-term planning for the construction and repair of roads. The commissioner further informed that Asian Development Bank had also set up a big drainage and water supply project in Sargodha and there was a strong possibility that a formal agreement.

Smuggled cigarettes worth Rs. 8 lakh recovered

MULTAN (APP): Police thwarted smuggling attempt of non-Custom paid cigarettes worth around Rs. 800,000 after arresting the bootlegger here at suburban area of Muzaffargarh district.

Official source claimed that SHO of Sadar police station foiled the smuggling attempt quite tactfully.

The cigarettes being labelled as platinum, termed a big brand of tobacco were attempted to smuggle out through rickshaw in southern parts of the province at the wee hours. It was dumped underneath the bulk quantity of chaff on floor of the front seat used for the driver.



CHINIOT: A farmer is busy spraying pesticide on the crop in his field at Faisalabad Road.

Pakistani Hilal food holds strong global market potential : Shahid Imran

LAHORE (APP): Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's regional standing committee on Food Shahid Imran said that Pakistani Hilal food had substantial potential in the global market, given the increasing demand for Hilal-certified products worldwide.

Speaking at a seminar on "Scope of Pak Hilal Food in Global Markets" here on Sunday, he said with the rise in the Muslim population, especially in regions of Middle East, Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America, halal

food had transformed from a niche segment to a mainstream preference.

Hilal foods ensure adherence to dietary laws, and they also emphasize hygiene, safety, and ethical sourcing, making them appealing beyond just Muslim consumers, he said and added that Pakistani companies Hilal Foods, known for their quality standards and variety, could capitalize on this demand by expanding internationally. Their product lines—ranging from confectioneries and snacks to beverages and dairy products.



LAHORE: Citizens busy in purchasing on Sunday in the provincial capital.

Livestock Card registration to start from 5th

FAISALABAD (APP): The Livestock Department will commence registration of cattle farmers from November 5 for issuance of Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Livestock Cards.

Director Livestock Dr Syed Nadeem Badar said that livestock department would create awareness among cattle farmers through "Kissan Lao Bethak", "School Focus Program", "Mobile Veterinary Dispensary" and "Mobile Training School Bus" about benefits of livestock cards.

He said that facilitation desks had also been established in all veterinary hospitals and dispensaries for providing guidance and help to the livestock farmers.

Ambassador Hashmi Pak China write new chapter in agricultural industry development

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan, China are writing a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China.

"We hope both parties seize the opportunity to further expand cooperation in agriculture, food, and related fields, and work together to write a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China.

According to Gwadar Pro, he stated this on the occasion of a promotional and matchmaking

conference for Pakistan's agricultural enterprises took place in the Yangling Demonstration Zone.

The event served as a pilot for the 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Key officials from both Pakistan and the Yangling Agriculture Demonstration Zone, along with representatives from various enterprises, gathered to discuss development and explore collaborative opportunities.

"China and Pakistan have a long-standing partnership in the agricultural sector.



HYDERABAD: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union President, Abdul Latif Nizamani addresses during the workers session, at Labour Hall in Hyderabad.

Over 4.2mln cotton bales arrival recorded at ginneries till Oct 31

LAHORE (INP): Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over 4.2 million (42,91,105) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till October 31, 2024, registering a decrease of 36.84 percent as compared to corresponding period of last year.

According to a fortnightly report by Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued Sunday, over 3.7 million (37,90,139) bales had undergone the ginning process i.e converted into bales.

Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded 18,42,257 bales registering a decrease of 38.53 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 29,96,921 bales.

Sindh generated 24,48,848 bales registering a decrease of 35.51 percent as compared to corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 37,97,085 bales.

Farmers urged to ensure wheat cultivation by 20 Nov

SARGODHA (APP): Commissioner Sargodha Division Jahanzeb Awan has advised the farmers to ensure the cultivation of wheat by November 20 to get better yield. Deputy Commissioners and Agriculture Officers should guide the farmers in order to achieve the target, and farmers conventions should be held at local level.

Assistant Commissioners and Agriculture Officers should go to the field and review the wheat cultivation. He issued these orders in the second review meeting of the Divisional Wheat Cultivation Committee.

Director of Agriculture Shahid Hussain told the meeting that a target of 1.74 million acres of wheat cultivation had been set in Sargodha Division this year and 4 per cent target had so far been achieved. He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced to give free lease level to 1,000 farmers who cultivated wheat from 12 and a half acres to 25

acres, while 1,000 green tractors would be given free of cost to the farmers who cultivate more than 25 acres of wheat.

The Director Agriculture further said that 65 percent harvesting of paddy had been completed across the division.

He said that wheat was being sown and high quality seeds and fertilizers were also available in abundance. He said that 1,272 lucky farmers of Sargodha division would issue the authority letter of green tractor from November 4.

Chief Minister Punjab has increased the number of Kisan cards from 5 lakh to 7 lakh farmers.

He said that 1800 acres of tomato cultivation had been achieved in Khushab district compared to the set target of 1800 acres. A subsidy of Rs 100,000 was also being given on the cultivation of tomatoes. In this way, small farmers would also be able to get agricultural implements on rent.

Israel kills 52 in northeast Lebanon after a night of strikes in Beirut

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Rescuers searched for survivors Friday after Israeli airstrikes killed at least 52 people and wounded 72 others across northeastern Lebanon, the country's Health Ministry reported. The wave of bombings pounded villages that had previously been spared the worst of Israel's air campaign against the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Israeli warplanes also destroyed dozens of buildings in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, but it appeared most residents had evacuated and there were no reports of casualties.

Despite growing pressure from the United States and others in the international community for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, intensified Israeli strikes against the Hezbollah militant group are expanding beyond Lebanon's border areas. Israel is also fighting a seemingly endless war against Hamas in northern Gaza. Since the conflict be-

tween Israel and Hezbollah erupted last year, at least 2,900 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Lebanon, the Health Ministry reports, not including Friday's toll. Health authorities say that a quarter of those killed were women and children.

More than a year of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza has killed more than 43,000, Palestinian health officials say, without distinguishing between civilians and combatants. The war began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting 250 others.

Meanwhile, Israel again carried out deadly air strikes on north Gaza, where the UN calls conditions "apocalyptic", as Lebanon's Hezbollah intensified rocket fire near Israel's capital of Tel Aviv.

Since late September Israel has been engaged in full-scale war against Hezbollah in Lebanon while fighting continues against the Palestinian

group Hamas in Gaza.

Israel's military on Saturday said dozens of fighters were killed around Jabalia "in aerial and ground activity". Troops were also operating in central Gaza and Rafah in the territory's far south, it added, while witnesses said Israeli drones and boats opened fire on Al-Mawasi in south Gaza.

Medics and Gaza's civil defence rescuers on Saturday reported three people killed in a strike on Nuseirat, in central Gaza, a day after AFP images showed the blood-stained shrouds of several people killed there in an Israeli strike.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said that at least 43,314 people have been killed in the year-long war between Israel and Palestinian fighters.

The toll includes 55 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the ministry, which said 102,019 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began on October 7, 2023.



Palestinians view the damage after Israeli forces withdrew from the area around Kamal Adwan hospital, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip.

Protests over Spain flood response interrupt visit by king to stricken Valencia suburb

Monitoring Desk

VALENCIA: Hundreds of residents of a Valencia suburb particularly badly hit by last week's deadly floods protested on Sunday during a visit by Spanish King Felipe and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, with some throwing mud at them.

Chanting "Murderers, murderers!" they vented pent-up anger over what has been widely perceived by local residents as tardy alerts from the authorities about the dangers of Tuesday's storm and flooding in the Valencia region, and then a late response by the emergency services when disaster struck.

"It was known and nobody did anything to avoid it," a young man told the king, who insisted on staying on to talk to the people despite the turmoil, while the prime minister had withdrawn.

At one point in the visit to the stricken suburb of Paiporta, Felipe held a man who was crying on his shoulder.

The central government has said issuing alerts to the population is the responsibility of regional authorities. The Valencia authorities have said they acted as best as they could with the information available to them.

Israeli naval force detains person after landing in Lebanese coastal town, sources say

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: An Israeli naval force mounted a "special operation" in the northern Lebanese coastal town of Batroun early on Friday and captured one person, a security source said. Another source confirmed the incident, but did not say who was responsible.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said security forces were investigating the incident.

An Israeli military official said "a senior operative of Hezbollah."

Austria's Europe Minister to step down from office

Monitoring Desk

ZURICH: Austria's Minister for Europe and Constitutional Affairs, Karoline Edtstadler, is stepping down from government and will not seek a ministerial post in the country's next administration.

A spokesman confirmed the decision to news agency APA after the news was first reported in newspaper Kronen Zeitung late on Saturday.

Edtstadler, a member of the conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), is a member of the negotiating team trying to set up a coalition government after Austria's recent election.

Taiwan reports rise in Chinese military activity as US election nears

Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry said on Sunday it had spotted 35 Chinese military aircraft, including fighters and bombers, flying to the island's south on the way to exercises in the Pacific, a second day in a row it has reported such activities.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory despite the strong objections of the government in Taipei, regularly sends its military in the skies and waters near the island seeking to enforce its sovereignty.

Taiwan's defence ministry said that from 9 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Sunday it had detected 37 Chinese military aircraft, including

eighty claims.

China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment on the missions, reported just days before Tuesday's US presidential election.

The United States is bound by law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself, and its arms sales to Taipei, including a \$2 billion missile system announced last month, infuriate Beijing.

Taiwan's defence ministry said that from 9 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Sunday it had detected 37 Chinese military aircraft, including



People throw mud at Spain's King Felipe, following heavy rains that caused floods, as he visits Paiporta near Valencia.

Fatah, Hamas meet in Egypt, discuss post-conflict measures

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Senior officials of the rival Palestinian groups Fatah and Hamas are meeting in Cairo to discuss forming a committee to manage Gaza's post-conflict governance, an Egyptian security source was quoted as saying by Egypt's Al Qahera News TV on Saturday.

The talks are part of Egypt's broader mediation efforts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and to expand humanitarian access to the enclave.

Leaders from Hamas and the Fatah faction of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met in

Cairo last month to discuss forming the committee based on a proposal put forward by Egypt, but talks were adjourned for later discussion, sources close to the talks said. The sources said the committee would be made up of independent Palestinian figures not aligned to a particular movement, addressing the question of who would run Gaza after the year-long conflict is over.

Israel rejects any role by Hamas in Gaza after the conflict is ended and has said it doesn't trust the rival Palestinian Authority of Abbas to run the enclave either.

Iran stages rallies to mark 1979 hostage crisis

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iranian demonstrators gathered on Sunday outside the former US embassy in Tehran to mark the anniversary of the 1979 hostage crisis that has for decades shaped relations between Washington and Tehran.

The hostage crisis began in November 1979 following the Islamic revolution led by Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini which ousted the Western-backed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

Students loyal to Khomeini stormed the embassy building and held 52 staff hostage for 444 days while demanding that Washington hand over Iran's recently toppled shah, who was being treated in the United States for cancer.

Rivals race to tape as US election heads to photo finish

Monitoring Desk

CAROLINA: Kamala Harris targets the Rust Belt while Donald Trump heads to the biggest US swing states on Sunday in a frantic last push, less than 48 hours before Election Day in the historically close campaign.

Seventy-five million people have cast early ballots ahead of Tuesday's climax and the race is down to the wire — with more states functionally tied in polls at this point than in any comparable election.

As of Saturday evening, neither candidate had a margin greater than three points in any of the seven battleground states set to determine the presidency.



Members of police stand guard as demonstrators protest to commemorate an accident at a railway station in the Serbian city of Novi Sad, for which they blame negligence and corruption by the authorities, in front of the government in Belgrade, Serbia.

Scholz summons top ministers over rival plans to fix Germany's economy

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will hold meetings with his top ministers to try to find common ground after they put forward contradictory plans to fix the nation's ailing economy, a government source told Reuters on Sunday. A document leaked by Christian Lindner's finance ministry raised eyebrows in Berlin last week, with its push for tax cuts and fiscal discipline widely interpreted as a challenge to the multibillion-euro investment plan put forward by Economy Minister Robert Habeck just days earlier.

The stand-off is the latest escalation in a row over economic and industrial policy between the FDP, the Greens and Scholz's Social Democrats that has fuelled speculation of the coalition's potential collapse, less than a year before elections are due.

But a government source told Reuters that Scholz and the ministers would hold several meetings in the coming days.

A 22-year-old political prisoner has died in Belarus, rights campaigners say

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: A 22-year-old political prisoner has died behind bars in Belarus, the country's oldest human rights group said Saturday. Russian-born Dmitry Schletgauer, who had been serving a 12-year sentence for espionage and "facilitating extremist activities" is the seventh dissenter to die in jail since Minsk launched a harsh and extensive crackdown on the opposition in 2020, the Viasna rights center said.

Huge protest swept Belarus following a disputed election that gave authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko a

sixth term in office, and that his critics and the West decried as rigged. Authorities arrested tens of thousands in response. Human rights groups say that the country now holds some 1,300 political prisoners, and that many are denied adequate medical care and contact with their families.

According to Viasna, whose Nobel Peace Prize-winning founder Ales Bialiatski is himself imprisoned, Belarusian authorities have refused to disclose the cause of Schletgauer's death, which came on Oct. 11 but has only become known recently.

Bangladesh rally says govt failing to protect Hindus

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Hundreds marched in Bangladesh's capital on Saturday to demand protections for Hindus and other minorities who say they have suffered violence and threats since the ouster of autocratic premier Sheikh Hasina. Hasina's toppling in an August student-led uprising saw a spate of reprisals on Hindus, who were seen as disproportionate supporters of her regime. The caretaker government that replaced her, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, has acknowledged and condemned attacks on Hindus.

Indonesia's Prabowo visits Papua to check key food estate project

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: President Prabowo Subianto visited the Papua region of Indonesia on Sunday to oversee the development of a key food programme aimed at creating three million hectares (7.4 million acres) of food estates across the country. Prabowo has promised that the country could reach food self-sufficiency in the next four years. An advisor to Prabowo has said the food estates programme may add 20 million tons of paddy rice or 10 million tons of harvested rice.

US flies long-range bomber in drill with South Korea, Japan in reaction to the North's missile test

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: The United States flew a long-range bomber in a trilateral drill with South Korea and Japan on Sunday in response to North Korea's recent test-firing of a new intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the U.S. mainland, South Korea's military said.

North Korea on Thursday tested the newly developed Hwasong-19 ICBM, which flew higher and stayed in the air longer than any other missile it has fired. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called it "an appropriate military action" to cope with external security threats posed by its rivals.

On Sunday, the U.S. flew the B-1B bomber to train with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets near the Korean Peninsula, demonstrating the three

countries' firm resolve and readiness to respond to North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile programs, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The trilateral aerial training was the second by South Korea, the U.S. and Japan this year, the statement said.

The U.S. often responds to major North Korean missile tests with temporary deployments of some of its powerful military assets such as long-range bombers, aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines to and near the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea typically responds angrily to such U.S. actions, calling them part of a U.S.-led plot to invade the North and performing additional weapons tests.

Harris campaigns in Michigan, Trump hits eastern battleground states

Monitoring Desk

DETROIT: Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris campaigns in Michigan on Sunday while her Republican rival Donald Trump will stop in three eastern battleground states in the final days of an election that could be decided by a small slice of American voters.

Opinion polls show a historically close race, and both campaigns say they are not sure who will prevail in the seven states that are likely to determine the outcome on Tuesday.

A poll showing Harris leading in Iowa—a state Trump won easily in the past two elections—raised the possibility of an unexpected outcome, though another poll showed her trailing in that state.

Harris is due to campaign in East Lansing, Michigan, a college town in an industrial state that is viewed as a must-win for the Democrat.

She faces skepticism

from some of the state's 200,000 Arab Americans who are frustrated that the sitting vice president has not done more to help end the war in Gaza and scale back aid to Israel. Trump visited Dearborn, the heart of the Arab American community, on Friday and vowed to end the wars in the Middle East.

Trump is due to hold rallies in three smaller cities that could help him galvanize the rural voters who make up an important part of his base. He starts the day in Litzitz, Pennsylvania, before heading to Kinston, North Carolina in the afternoon and ending with an evening rally in Macon, Georgia.

It will be the first day since last Tuesday that the two candidates are not campaigning in the same state.

On Saturday, their planes shared a swath of tarmac in Charlotte, North Carolina, where both candidates held rallies.

Moldovans vote in presidential runoff amid fears of meddling

Monitoring Desk

CHISINAU: Moldovans were voting on Sunday in a presidential election that has been overshadowed by meddling allegations and could see Moscow claw back influence in the country at a time when it is trying to draw closer to the European Union.

Pro-Western incumbent Maia Sandu, who has accelerated the nation's push to leave Moscow's orbit and join the EU, faces Alexandr Stoiianoglo, an ex-prosecutor general backed by the traditionally pro-Russian Socialist Party.

The fortunes of Sandu, who set Moldova on the long path of EU accession talks in June, will be closely followed in Brussels a week after Georgia, another ex-Soviet state hoping to join, re-elected a ruling party seen as increasingly pro-Russian.

Poling stations opened at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) and close at 9 p.m. (1900 GMT). Moldova's future has been thrown into the political and diplomatic spotlight as the war in neighbouring Ukraine rages to the east.

Stoiianoglo says he supports EU integration but also wants to develop ties with Russia in the national interest. He wants to try to revive cheap Russian gas supplies and said he would meet with President Vladimir Putin if Moldovans wanted it.

"I voted for a free, stable and blossoming Moldova that isn't standing with its hand out, but develops in harmony based on relations with the West and East," he said after casting his ballot.

Nevada lithium mine will crush rare plant habitat US said is critical to its survival, lawsuit says

Monitoring Desk

RENO: Conservationists and a Native American tribe are suing the U.S. to try to block a Nevada lithium mine they say will drive an endangered desert wildflower to extinction, disrupt groundwater flows and threaten cultural resources.

The Center for Biological Diversity promised the court battle a week ago when the U.S. Interior Department approved Inoneer Ltd.'s Rhyolite Ridge lithium-boron mine at the only place Tihm's buckwheat is known to exist in the world, near the California line halfway between Reno and Las Vegas.

It is the latest in a series of legal fights over projects President Joe Biden's administration is pushing under his clean energy agenda intended to cut reliance on fossil fuels, in part by increasing the production of lithium to make electric vehicle batteries and solar panels. The new lawsuit says the Interior Department's approval of the mine marks a dramatic about-face by U.S. wildlife experts who warned nearly two years ago that Tihm's

buckwheat was "in danger of extinction now" when they listed it as an endangered species in December 2022.

"One cannot save the planet from climate change while simultaneously destroying biodiversity," said Fernina Stevens, director of the Western Shoshone Defense Project, which joined the center in the lawsuit filed Thursday in federal court in Reno.

"The use of minerals, whether for EVs or solar panels, does not justify this disregard for Indigenous cultural areas and keystone environmental laws," said John Hadder, director of the Great Basin Resource Watch, another co-plaintiff.

Rita Henderson, spokeswoman for Interior's Bureau of Land Management in Reno, said Friday the agency had no immediate comment.

Inoneer Vice President Chad Yeffich said the Australia-based mining company intends to intervene on behalf of the U.S. and "vigorously defend" approval of the project, "which was based on its careful and thorough permitting process."

Thousands at US Women's March stress need for abortion rights

Monitoring Desk

GEORGIA: Thousands of women descended on Washington on Saturday, three days before Election Day, in a passionate show of support for Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and her calls for access to reproductive health care.

The vice president has made abortion rights a central plank of her White House bid against Republican Donald Trump, and the issue came up constantly among demonstrators at the annual Women's March.

"Voting for the candidate that's going to support our rights as women is the most important thing to me," said Leah Brooker, 19, who traveled from North Carolina to join the event.

The student told AFP she had already cast her ballot in early voting, calling it "very empowering that my first vote was for a

woman." She held a sign reading: "If boys will be boys, then women will be presidents."

Other signs had slogans like "Voting prevents unwanted presidencies" and "A woman's place is in the Oval Office." Organisers estimated turnout was about 15,000 people. Other US cities hosted sister marches.

With the dome of the US Capitol as the backdrop, speakers at Freedom Plaza whipped up support for 60-year-old Harris.

"We're not going back!" the crowd chanted, repeating one of Harris's campaign slogans. Retiree Marlene Wagner, 70, came from Nebraska, saying she was joining "for my grandkids and my children because I fear for their future." In her Midwestern state, abortion is banned after the 12th week of pregnancy.



Protesters take part in a march in Dhaka demanding protection for Hindus and other minority groups.

No durable peace until world's occupied people granted right of self-determination: Pakistan

NEW YORK (APP): Lasting international peace and stability will remain elusive until the people under foreign occupation, like those in Kashmir and Palestine, are allowed to exercise their right to self-determination, acting Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Usman Jadoon, told a visiting 23-member delegation from the US War College.

"The right to self-determination is one of the fundamental pillars of the UN Charter," Ambassador Jadoon said at his meeting with the delegation at the Pakistan Mission in New York.

In the course of briefing the delegation members

about Pakistan's role and work at the UN, he apprised them of its stance on the various regional and international issues, highlighting the decades-old Kashmir dispute and efforts to seek its resolution peacefully. The UN Security Council resolutions, which calls for a UN-supervised plebiscite to decide the wishes of the Kashmiri people, provide the framework for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

On combating terrorism, the Pakistani envoy referred to the enormous sacrifice made by Pakistan, saying, "Afghanistan has become a hub where the

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was using the Afghan soil to consistently target Pakistan."

There were valid concerns about the TTP forming an alliance with other terrorist outfits, principally Al-Qaeda, with its implications for regional peace and security. Pakistan, he said, shared the expectations of the international community about political inclusivity, and provision of educational and employment opportunities to women in Afghanistan, while underscoring that equal attention needed to be paid to the counter-terrorism aspect as well.

Ambassador Jadoon said that developing countries were making efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, and fight the adverse aspects of climate change if given access to global concessional finance. He said that mounting debt liabilities, and increase in fuel and commodity prices had created formidable challenges for the economies of developing countries.

"Pakistan has been advocating the reform of international financial architecture in a manner that is equitable and fair and helps the Global South overcome development deficits," he said.



LAHORE: Citizens heading towards their destinations in the provincial capital in the early hours of the morning, during dense fog.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf along with prize winners of 17th CNS Amateur Golf Cup 2024 at MGGC, Islamabad.

Nov 14 cantonment by-polls ECP directs LEAs to ensure impartiality, fairly law enforcement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued guidelines for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) providing security for the Nov 14 cantonment by-polls, directing them to remain impartial and neutral while preventing intimidation and fairly enforcing the law.

In a comprehensive code of conduct for law enforcers, the electoral watchdog emphasised the need to maintain impartiality and neutrality while fostering a peaceful voting atmosphere, assisting the Presiding Officer, providing guidance to voters, preventing intimidation and

fairly enforcing the law. As per the ECP's code of conduct for the Cantonment Board bye-elections on November 14, 2024, law enforcement personnel, including police, must ensure free, fair, and transparent atmosphere outside polling stations including in Ward No. 06 of Rawalpindi Cantt, Ward Nos. 04 and 08 of Wah Cantt, and Ward No. 02, 04 of Pano Aqil Cantt, so that voters are not intimidated or obstructed in any way while casting their votes.

Security forces deployed at polling stations must avoid any actions that favor or oppose political parties or candidates.

Maryam to leave for London on 5th

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is likely to visit London from Nov 5 for the treatment of throat infection. CM official sources told APP that the Punjab CM would leave for London on Nov 5, where she would get treatment from her personal physician.

She has been facing throat infection for a long time and she might get an operation for the infection, sources said. Maryam Nawaz's London visit would be the first foreign visit after assuming office of chief minister. The Punjab CM would stay in London for a one week.

Two die, six injured van overturns on motorway

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two persons died and six others were injured when a public transport vehicle met an accident on the Motorway near Bheera on Sunday.

According to a Motorway Police spokesman, the passenger van was going to Dir-bala from Raiwand Tableggi Markaz when it overturned due to one of its tyres burst.

Two passengers died on the spot while six others were shifted to Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals (THQ) Bheera and Bhalwal while 15 people were travelling in the van.

Lahore's AQI reaches unprecedented levels

LAHORE (APP): Smog reigns in the city of gardens, Lahore is still number one among the most polluted cities in the world.

Air pollution in Lahore soared on Sunday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) briefly reaching an "unprecedented" level of over 1,000 despite the Punjab government intensified efforts and a "green lockdown" in the city.

Data from a global air quality monitoring platform, AQI, showed air quality at 1,067 between 8am and 9am on Sunday. It was the highest in the world. The average level of

smog in the provincial capital has also crossed the alarming level, making Lahore's mean air quality index 650. Apart from this, the smog has increased to an alarming level in Multan also, due to which citizens have common complaints of breathing problems and eye irritation.

In terms of air pollution, the Indian city of Delhi is number two. The American space agency NASA has released an aerial image in which it can be seen that smog has intensified due to the burning of crop residues in Indian bordering regions.

Balochistan Police showcases commitment to public safety at UN Police Day

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Police Media Coordinator Rabia Tariq represented the Balochistan Police at the United Nations Police Day event held at the National Police Academy in Islamabad. Accompanied by officers from the Balochistan Police, Rabia Tariq participated in the international ceremony, displaying the force's dedication to ensuring public safety.

The event featured a special installation by Balochistan Police, demonstrating its advanced capabilities. Rabia Tariq pro-

vided a detailed briefing to attendees about the equipment and Safe City cameras displayed at the installation, highlighting the force's commitment to operational excellence and public security. The exhibition showcased the specialized tools used by the police to uphold law and order and combat criminal activities.

Balochistan Police's participation in the event underscores their dedication to upholding international law enforcement standards and strengthening cooperation in global efforts for peace and security.

Pakistan-China economic ties strengthen through SIFC initiatives, SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's economy shows signs of stabilization through the Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) efforts and various agreements with China, marking a significant milestone in bilateral cooperation.

During the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit hosted by Pakistan, Chinese Premier's visit resulted in several key agreements, including a \$6.8 billion investment for the ML-1 railway project, to be completed in three phases.

The bilateral cooperation extends to infrastruc-

ture development, with agreements for a \$400 billion motorway project from Sukkur to Hyderabad and a \$1 billion road project on the Karakoram Highway. Additionally, both nations inaugurated the Gwadar International Airport, constructed at a cost of \$200 million under CPEC.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the State Bank of Pakistan and the People's Bank of China for currency swap arrangements. The agreements also encompass cooperation in food security, healthcare, and education sectors through SIFC facilitation.

Sikh delegates commends Pakistan's minority rights efforts

LAHORE (APP): Ranjeet Singh Kahloon, leader of a 50-member Sikh delegation from Jamrood Club in Silicon Valley, California, praised Pakistan's efforts to protect the rights of minority communities, particularly the Sikh population.

During a meeting with Mian Kashif Ashfaq, CEO of the Pakistan Furniture Council, here on Sunday, Kahloon expressed appreciation for the secure and

respectful environment afforded to Sikhs in Pakistan.

He emphasized that Sikh community was living peacefully and comfortably across the country, experiencing freedom and protection in their cultural and religious practices. He highlighted that Pakistan's commitment to minority rights strengthens the bonds between different communities, fostering unity and mutual respect.

PMYP and SIA unite to empower Balochistan's Youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) has partnered with the Social Innovation Academy (SIA) to empower the youth of Balochistan through innovative approaches to social entrepreneurship.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed in a ceremony attended by Rana Mashood, Chairman of PMYP, marking a significant step in the region's commitment to fostering a new generation of changemakers.

This partnership will focus on developing social

enterprises, engaging youth in meaningful projects, and facilitating knowledge sharing across various sectors.

Through targeted skills training, mentorship and access to essential resources, PMYP and SIA aimed to equip young people to effectively address pressing social challenges in Balochistan.

"Empowering our youth is crucial for the sustainable development of Balochistan," Rana Mashood said adding, "Through this collaboration, we aim to inspire young minds to become

proactive problem-solvers and innovative leaders in their communities."

The Social Innovation Academy's commitment to social innovation aligns perfectly with PMYP's vision of a thriving, empowered youth population.

"By combining our strengths, we can create impactful opportunities for young entrepreneurs," said a spokesperson from SIA, adding, "We believe that through social entrepreneurship, the youth of Balochistan can drive positive change and contribute to the region's growth."

Govt. focuses on judicial integrity: Barrister Aqeel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, on Sunday said that the government is committed to maintaining the integrity of the judicial system.

Speaking to a private news channel, he added that the government was focused on reforms that enhance its effectiveness and independence of judiciary.

He rejected the misconceptions surrounding the government's intentions regarding the judiciary, stating that "there is a false impression that the government wants to appoint its own judges."

Answering a question, he said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has made it a habit to find negative aspects even in positive developments.

He said that constructive criticism was welcome, but misinterpretations of the government's actions only serve to undermine the progress being made in legal reforms. He said that the government wanted to keep the 26th Amendment focused on legal and judicial reforms. Adding that, the judicial package was in that regard only, not anything else."



NEW YORK: Pakistan Ambassador to US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh addressing during community event held at the Consulate General of Pakistan.

Missing PTI lawyer Intizar Punjutha returns home

LAHORE (INP): Missing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Intizar Punjutha, on Sunday returned home.

The Attock police earlier recovered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawyer Intizar Punjutha, who had been missing since October 8, from GT Road, Attock.

According to police, the law enforcers signaled a suspicious vehicle to stop on the GT Road but it refused, leading to a brief standoff. The police chased and intercepted the car on which the kidnappers fled, abandoning their vehicle and hostage.

Intezar Panjhota, a senior lawyer who has also represented PTI in different cases, has been rescued by the police.

The police said that efforts are being made to arrest the culprits.

Meanwhile, visibly unwell Intizar Punjutha has been shifted to hospital for medical treatment.

Report reveals major damages in KP house Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint report by the Communications and Works Department revealed major losses incurred at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad.

As per detail, the report revealed that furniture worth Rs 10 lakh, digital video recorders, cameras, and laptops valued at Rs 15 lakh, and Rs 6 lakh in cash are missing.

Additionally, licensed arms, mobile phones, and other items worth Rs 64 lakh have vanished. MPAs and police personnel's cash totaling over Rs 16 lakh is also unaccounted for. Several important belongings of the Chief Minister are

missing as well.

The report estimates that renovating Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House will cost Rs 96.93 lakh.

It is important to note here that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) sealed different blocks of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) House Islamabad following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in the capital city.

The sealing operation was led by Special Magistrate Sardar Muhammad Asif. During the operation the CDA, sealed KP House blocks A and B. The authorities said C block was not sealed as the families were staying there.

Some people held nation Hostage: says JI supremo

LAHORE (PR): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naemur Rehman has said that a handful of politicians have held the entire nation of 250 million individuals as hostages.

He expressed these views while addressing thousands of aspiring participants of BanoQabil program.

Thousands of students assembled in two grounds at Federal B Area and Gulshan e Memar area of Karachi, here on Sunday, for aptitude test under 4.0 variant of BanoQabil program, offering 50,000 opportunities in 29 disciplines.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naemur Rehman delivered the keynote address at the graceful ceremony.

Besides JI leadership, famous comedian Ayaz Khan, world famous body-builder Ramiz Ibrahim, YouTuber Danish and several other celebrities visited the venue to encourage the participants. They also shared their views about the initiative and Alkhidmat.

Pakistan is full of resources and bounties by Allah Almighty but unfortunately these resources are in the clutches of corrupt elements in the corridors of power, he said.

Talking about the education sector in Pakistan, he said that quality education has been kept out of the reach of ordinary Pakistanis, whereas tens of millions of children in school going age are out of educational institutions due to poverty and flawed policies.



QUETTA: Former Deputy Information Secretary PPP Balochistan Malik Zeeshan and Nadeem Khan Afridi greet PPP Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs Sanjay Kumar on eve of Divali

Ambassador AliSher hints Pak-Uzbekistan direct flights from November

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan AliSher Tukhtaev announced that direct flight operations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan will start at the end of the current month of November 2024, describing it as important for the business community of both countries. At present, the businesses of both countries, including the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) want to take advantage of the direct flight operation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and play their role in promoting bilateral economic and trade relations between the two nations, the ambassador said.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan

AliSher Tukhtaev said this during his meeting with President Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) Rana Muhammad Siddique Khan at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad.

On the occasion, both sides discussed the promotion of bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries and the possibility of an upcoming visit of the business delegation of GCCCI to Uzbekistan.

The Ambassador said that the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce should play its due role in bilateral trade and business between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and exchange delegations with Uzbekistan.

He welcomed the decision of the President of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce to take a trade delegation to Uzbekistan and assured the business delegation of GCCCI to get full cooperation in Uzbekistan, describing it as important for bilateral trade.

He said that the business community of Pakistan can work in Uzbekistan in textile, Chemicals, IT, wood production and many potential sectors.

Uzbekistan is geographically located in the centre of Central Asia and can play a vital role in connecting the 80 million population of Central Asia with Pakistan, he added.



LAHORE: Members of Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen are holding celebration demonstration on approval of the 26th constitutional amendment, at Lahore press club.