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PM stresses further deepening Pakistan-Turkiye trade, defence cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing satisfaction at the growing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye, stressed the need to further deepen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and defense sectors.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with newly-appointed Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu, who called him at the PM House.

The prime minister welcomed Ambassador Neziroglu, who presented his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari on October 28, 2024, and said that he looked forward to working closely with the ambassador to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling the historic, longstanding and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, the prime minister expressed gratitude for Turkiye's consistent support to Pakistan on Kashmir and said that Pakistan would also continue to lend its strong support to Turkiye on its core interests.

The regional situation, particularly in Gaza and the Middle East also came under discussion.

The prime minister conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and reiterated his invitation to the Turkish President to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience. Ambassador Neziroglu thanked the prime minister for warmly receiving him and assured him of his full commitment and support to further strengthen the strong and historic bonds of friendship between both countries.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye, Irfan Neziroglu calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

CJP emphasis ATCs to clear backlog for swift justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi on Thursday expressed concern over the backlog at anti-terrorism courts (ATCs) across the country and emphasized the importance of expediting these cases to ensure justice was not delayed.

A meeting of the Administrative Judges of Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATC) was held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi.

The meeting reviewed the performance of ATCs and took stock of key challenges to ensure the swift and efficient dispensation of justice in anti-terrorism cases.

It was attended by monitoring judges from Supreme Court Justice, Jamal Khan Mandokhail (via video link), Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan and monitoring judges of ATC courts and Prosecutors General from all provinces and ICT. The meeting was also attended by Registrar, Supreme Court and Secretary, Law and Justice Commission were also present.

Opening the meeting, the Chief Justice welcomed the participants and outlined the purpose of the session, which was to assess the current status and performance of ATC cases, as well as to identify and address barriers to the efficient delivery of justice.

He reminded the participants of the immense responsibility that they carry in dispensing justice, urging them to uphold the law, impartially and without fear or favor.

During the meeting, it was disclosed that a total of 2,273 ATC cases are currently pending in Pakistan, with a significant portion — 1,372 cases — awaiting resolution in Sindh alone.

The Chief Justice expressed concern over the backlog and emphasized the importance of expediting these cases to ensure justice is not delayed.

Mohsin Naqvi reaffirms commitment to Chinese security after Karachi incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad following an incident in Karachi where two Chinese nationals were injured by gunfire from a security guard.

Showing solidarity and diplomatic engagement during his meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong, Minister Naqvi expressed regret over the incident and conveyed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring justice and enhancing security for Chinese nationals in the country.

He conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the injured Chinese nationals and their families, underscoring that Pakistan places the utmost priority on the well-being and security of Chinese citizens, particularly those working on projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He briefed Ambassador Jiang on the incident's details and assured him of a swift, transparent investigation to bring those responsible to justice.

Naqvi highlighted Pakistan's commitment to aligning its developmental goals with robust security measures, referencing China's own model of integrated development and security.

Naqvi stated, "We fully agree with the Chinese approach of combining development with security, and we will ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and projects as a top priority." Addressing concerns surrounding the security of CPEC projects, Naqvi affirmed that Pakistan is taking "all possible measures" to protect Chinese citizens and assets linked to CPEC.

He revealed that additional security protocols are being implemented to create a safe and stable environment, especially in regions where Chinese nationals reside or work.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the State of Qatar, Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, calls on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Acting President for further strengthening bilateral ties with Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Thursday said that Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Qatar and underscored the importance of further expanding bilateral relations in the areas of mutual benefits.

He expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of Qatar, Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Talking to the Ambassador, the acting president stated that both brotherly countries had great scope for increasing economic and trade relations. He highlighted that Pakistan offered investment opportunities and Qatari companies should benefit from the investment-friendly environment of Pakistan.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani applauded Qatar on the successful holding of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

The acting president also thanked the Government of Qatar for hosting a Pakistani Diaspora, which served as a strong bridge to promote cultural linkages between the two countries.

Appreciating Pakistan as a business-friendly country, the ambassador said that Qatar's Minister for Investment would soon visit Pakistan with his delegation to explore the possibilities of investment in various sectors that would help promote economic relations.

Regarding the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Qatar, the ambassador hoped that the visit would further deepen investment ties between the two countries.

Govt increases allowances for judges of SC, High Courts

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government on Thursday increased the perks and privileges for the judges of Supreme Court and high courts.

According to details, the house rent and judicial allowance were increased for the judges.

The house rent has been increased from Rs68,000 to Rs350,000 for the judges of apex court.

Similarly, the judicial allowance was increased from Rs428,000 to Rs1,168,000 for the judges of top court.

Meanwhile, the house rent for the judges of high courts has been increased from Rs65,000 to Rs350,000.

The judicial allowance for the judges of high courts were increased from Rs342,000 to Rs1,090,000.

Graduation ceremony of 150th GD (P), 96th Engineer, 106th Air Defence held

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Graduation Ceremony of 150th GD(P), 96th Engineering, 106th Air Defence, 26th A&SD, 9th Logistics and 132nd Combat Support Courses was held at Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was also in presence.

A total of 139 aviation cadets, 08 gentleman cadets and 02 naval cadets graduated during the ceremony.

Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for the best performance in the Air Defence Course was received by Aviation Cadet Sergeant Haseeb Abdul Malik. Pakistan Naval Cadet



PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur.

General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the chief guest at the occasion, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release here Thursday.

Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Trophy for the overall best performance in General Service Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Sports Sergeant Imran Raza, whereas, Trophy for the overall best performance in Combat Support Course was won by Aviation Cadet Usman Rasheed.

Sergeant Hafiz Ali Asad, was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for the overall best performance at the College of Aeronautical Engineering. Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training was received by Aviation Cadet, Academy Under Officer Abdullah Saad Ali.

5 Khwarij terrorists killed, 4 sons of soil embrace martyrdom in SW: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as five Khwarij terrorists were killed in exchange of fire between the Security Forces and Khwarij in general area Karama, South Waziristan District while four personnel of the Security Forces also embraced martyrdom.

The Khwarij terrorists were killed due to effective engagement by the Army troops, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The four brave sons of soil who valiantly embraced martyrdom during intense fire exchange were identified as Naib Subedar Taib Shah (age: 38 years, resident of District Tank), Lance Naik Gulab Zaman (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak), Lance Naik Muzammil Mehmood (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak) and Lance Naik Habibullah (age: 28 years, resident of District Orakzai), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

Meanwhile Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for killing five terrorists of Fitna al-Khawarij in Karama area of South Waziristan.

Justice Kayani visits Federal Judicial Complex; inspects court operations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad High Court's Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani on Thursday made an official visit to the Federal Judicial Complex in Islamabad.

During his visit, he observed operations at various courts within the complex. Justice Kayani started by visiting both Anti-Terrorism Courts, where he spent time at Judge Abul Hasanat Zulfqarnain's Court of ATC 1 and Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra's Court of ATC 2. His visit continued to the Accountability Courts 1, 2, and 3, where he reviewed the facilities and workflow of each. Similarly, Justice Kayani also paid a visit to the Anti-Narcotics Court and made a comprehensive review of these critical judicial branches.

Tarar, Kundi call for joint efforts to improve law, order situation in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, and Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, met on Thursday to call for joint efforts aimed at improving the law and order situation in the province.

During the meeting at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, both leaders expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and criticized the provincial government's apparent indifference. They discussed potential measures to address and improve the situation.

The conversation also touched on the federal government's efforts to promote economic development and involve the youth in positive, constructive activities.

Governor Faisal Kundi emphasized that steps would be taken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to steer the youth away from anarchic politics and towards more productive pursuits.

In response, Minister Attaullah Tarar assured that the federal government was fully committed to providing all possible support to enhance security in the province.

Both leaders also agreed on the need for collaborative efforts to improve the education system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pakistan's maritime sector earns 90 bln rupees profit in last FY: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh on Thursday said Pakistan's maritime sector recorded a profit of 90 billion rupees in last fiscal year due to strategic initiatives and investments aimed at transforming Pakistan into a regional maritime hub.

Addressing a press conference here at Press Information Department (PID), the minister said the share of maritime earnings in across the globe are almost 8 percent of their GDP, whereas Pakistan's maritime earnings are 0.5 percent of our GDP which is less than 2 billion.

The minister highlighted the growing importance of natural ports, noting that larger vessels are now docking at the country's ports. Previously, ships carried around 4,000 to 5,000 containers; however, vessels with capacities of 20,000 to 22,000 containers are now arriving. This shift has led to a reduction in global freight costs and significantly increased activity at nearby ports.

This year, key among these achievements, the Karachi Port Trust's global ranking improved from 84 to 61, signaling a boost in operational efficiency, he added.

He said the inclination of all companies towards our ports has increased. The world's biggest companies are showing their interests to invest in Pakistan because from here they can transport their goods to Central Asian States easily.

The minister said Abu Dhabi Ports will invest \$330 million over the next three years, and global shipping company Hutchison Ports has agreed to invest \$1 billion.

These partnerships reflect Pakistan's growing appeal as a destination for maritime investments.

Qaisar said a \$2 billion investment agreement was signed with Denmark in the maritime sector. Through this MoU they would invest in infrastructure around ports for the quick consignment movements.

The federal minister said his ministry was focusing on improving port efficiency and container management to streamline the processing of these goods, ensuring that shipments were processed in a timely and cost-effective manner.



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Govt announces public holiday on Allama Iqbal's birthday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal government on Thursday announced the declaration of public holiday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, to be observed on 9th November, 2024 (Saturday).

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division, it was announced that Saturday, the 9th November, 2024 shall be a public holiday throughout the country on the occasion of Allama Iqbal Day.

Ahsan directs timely completion of Jinnah Medical Complex in capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday directed the quarters concerned to ensure completion of the Jinnah Medical Complex, a state-of-the-art healthcare facility designed to revolutionize healthcare standards in Islamabad, within the given time-frame of three years.

He passed these directives while chairing a meeting to review the progress of the Rs120 billion project, which attended by Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSRC) Dr Nadeem Jan, Health Coordinator Dr Mukhtar, Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Chief Health, DC Health, senior officers from the Capital Development Authority (CDA), and officials from the departments concerned, a news release said.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Trump 2.0

Come January and Donald Trump will move back into the White House to begin his second presidential term, having crossed the barrier of 270 electoral college votes needed to clinch the presidency.

A flood of congratulations pouring in from world leaders indicate that global capitals are now preparing to deal with a Trump presidency. Though much of his politics is divisive, Donald Trump has engineered a remarkable return to the top of the American power structure. Felony convictions, assassination attempts, and a lack of coherent policy prescriptions — nothing could stop his march back to the White House.

Domestically, high inflation was likely the biggest trigger that prompted Americans to vote for Mr Trump. The Democrats' hubris — for example, President Joe Biden calling Trump supporters 'garbage' — also played a part in their defeat. In fact, the Democratic party and much of the mainstream media have perhaps failed to properly explore the reasons fuelling 'Trumpism' and the disenchantment of many Americans with mainstream politicians, which helped propel the rise of Mr Trump as a political entity.

On the foreign front, the Biden administration's unyielding support for Israel's genocidal campaigns in occupied Palestine and Lebanon alienated most Arab- and Muslim-Americans — many of whom form significant voting blocs in swing states. Many amongst these constituencies likely voted for Trump not out of any ideological affiliation with the Republicans — who are as pro-Israel, if not more, than the Democrats — but to punish Mr Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

By January, the surprise in many quarters at Mr Trump's return would have fizzled out, and he will have to deliver on his promise of 'making America great again'. Domestically, he will need solid plans to reduce inflation and bring manufacturing jobs back to the US. But to the rest of the world, his real test will lie in ending the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Mr Trump has claimed he could end the Ukraine conflict in "24 hours", and has called the Ukrainian president a "salesman", indicating that US dollars to Kyiv could very soon dry up.

As for Israel, Donald Trump is an unabashed supporter of Tel Aviv, and the far right in Israel is jubilant at his return. It remains to be seen how his promises to Arab-American voters to bring 'peace' to the Middle East reconcile with his blatantly pro-Israel bias. Moreover, while the neocon wing of Trump supporters will call on him to expand America's 'forever wars', the America First faction will counsel him to abandon foreign conflicts and focus on the homeland. Time will tell which camp prevails. As for Pakistan, the last few American administrations have maintained lukewarm ties with this country, and there is little to suggest an improvement in relations under the new Trump set-up.

A single life

F.S. Aijazuddin

How many deaths give a single life meaning? In Pakistan, even the massacre of 150 APS students and teachers in Peshawar in 2014 was not enough. They have become a statistic. To the Chinese, every national is priceless. This was brought to the fore at a conference in Islamabad on Oct 29 to celebrate China's 75 years of 'Progress, Transformation and Global Leadership'.

During the conference, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar dilated for over an hour on Pak-China ties. Deviating from his prepared text, he made some unguarded remarks suggesting that President Xi Jinping, during his meeting with our PM, had told him that China regarded Pakistan as an exception in matters of the security of Chinese nationals.

Dar told his audience: "The Chinese are very clear; no matter how lucrative an investment is anywhere, if the security issue is there, they do not send Chinese personnel. Your country is the only exception."

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong publicly contradicted Mr Dar's recollection of the PM/Xi meeting, insisting that for Beijing, "Security is the biggest concern". Jiang continued: "It is unacceptable for us to be attacked twice in only six months," and urged Pakistan to take action against "all anti-China terrorist groups". Alluding to the vulnerability of CPEC, he said: "Without a safe and sound environment, nothing can be achieved."

Our Foreign Office entered the fray. In response to a question during the FO briefing later, a correspondent asked the FO spokesperson whether "any action [would] be taken against

the Chinese ambassador for violating the diplomatic norms and rebuking our foreign minister" (shades of the demarche sent by the previous government in 2022 over US diplomat Donald Lu's "bad manners and sheer arrogance").

The spokesperson responded with the official line that "Pakistan is committed to providing full security to Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan", adding gratuitously that "the statement of the Chinese ambassador is therefore perplexing in view of the positive diplomatic traditions between Pakistan and China".

The Chinese have a better institutional memory than our officials. They have not forgotten that 200 Chinese workers died while building the Karakoram Highway. They are buried in Gilgit. In 2021, nine Chinese workers were killed in a terrorist attack in KP. In 2022, a suicide bomber killed three Chinese instructors at the Confucius Institute in Karachi.

In March 2024, five Chinese nationals were killed in a suicide bomb blast in Shan-gla district. Last month, two Chinese nationals died in an explosion near Karachi airport.

After each of these attacks, our governments have resolved to "resolutely act against all such forces and defeat them". Equally often, the Chinese government has insisted on Pakistan taking "tangible actions rather than [offering] assurances". Why is security of every Chinese so important to Beijing? Because the one-child policy has meant that if anything happened to any individual bread- or noodle-winner, six people would be affected: two parents and four grandparents. The Chinese have a 5,000-year history of resilience, tempered by adversity. Pakistan has a

77-year-old history of insecurity, compounded by debilitating insolvency. China would lose nothing by discarding Pakistan. It has other customers in line on its One Belt, One Road initiative. Pakistan may have strategic value for China, but that interest is not open-ended. Pakistan puts its indebtedness at risk. It owes its iron brother \$26 billion of debt and has \$65bn committed to CPEC projects.

If a single life matters to the Chinese, a single American life, an individual chosen by over 70m US voters, will have significance for billions beyond the Atlantic and Pacific. Donald Trump has claimed the presidency. He has been mandated to decide the world's security.

Trump is a bruised giant, with a narcissistic, insular 'America First' mentality. Kamala Harris promise to "strengthen, not abdicate" America's global leadership cut no ice with American voters. Trump has won. Democracy has only itself to blame. Harris has lost. President Joe Biden is to blame. He (like Queen Elizabeth II) delayed in handing over the sceptre to another generation.

Nato, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, and immigrants should worry. Trump has plans for them. Trump and Russia's Putin feel comfortable with each other. They enjoy a "very good relationship". President Xi expects no quarter from Trump. He is ready and equipped to fight a trade and tariff war with the US and its partners.

Pakistan, however, may be forced to choose between a tired benefactor (US) and an increasingly impatient creditor (China), to whom even one life matters more than CPEC and diplomatic platitudes. -- Courtesy Dawn

Trump & Pakistan

Touqir Hussain

How will the election of Donald Trump affect US-Pakistan relations? Let's first clear up a myth. It is not true that Pakistan had good relations with the US when Trump was president. He wanted to get out of Afghanistan for which he sought former prime minister Imran Khan's help in talking to the Taliban.

Khan was rewarded with a visit to Washington and exceptional public praise from Trump. But once the deal with the Taliban was done, Trump turned his back on Pakistan, leaving no imprint on the relationship.

Trump notices only issues of high public interest, which have political traction. The present state of US-Pakistan relations is not one of them, neither are its domestic dynamics. Trump will most likely continue with the Joe Biden policy of low-intensity engagement with Islamabad, marked neither by significant aid levels nor by sanctions, the two extremes between which the relationship oscillated for much of its history.

There was a search under Biden for a new balance in relations that best responds to the completely changed regional and geopolitical landscape, and the shifting US foreign policy that faces challenges at home and overseas. Rising powers abroad are curtailing America's global primacy by staking a role in reformatting the global economic and strategic order.

At home, the politics and policy of issues like globalisation, China, big power relationships, alliances, and America's 'forever wars' are being reshaped by Trump's worldview, changing the way the US perceives and is perceived by the world.

Under Trump, the relationship will likely be handled by the State Department and Pentagon whose Pakistan policy has had four elements.

The first has been a derivative of US policies towards China, India and Afghanistan. The US would like to limit China's political and economic influence in Pakistan, and it also wants Islamabad to not undermine the centrality of India to its Indo-Pacific strategy. As for Afghanistan, its stability is key to the broader regional security including that of Pakistan.

The second element has been a direct US interest in Pakistan, focused on its economic weakness, potential for political instability, and the threat of extremism and regional insurgency to internal security, from which emerges America's ultimate concern about Pakistan's possible radicalisation or breakdown threatening the safety of its nuclear assets.

The third factor has been counterterrorism. Here, Pakistan is seen in many different roles: partner, target or victim. Washington needs Islamabad's cooperation to act against the transnational terrorists who endanger the US and global security. It would also like Islamabad to deal with any militant threat against India and Pakistan's own stability. Washington is willing to help where possible.

The fourth element is the developing US-Pakistan cooperation in the economic area, principally in energy, IT and agriculture.

Investment sentiment remains cautiously hopeful. And the US continues to be the top destination of Pakistan's exports.

The sum total of the above points to the need for engagement. What

might impact it, however, is Trump's thinking on certain critical policy areas: less military involvement abroad, decreased military aid, increased pressure on allies to contribute more to their defence, a rise in trade tariffs, and possibly a harder line on China. We do not know how it would play out. Biden's policies had already de-emphasised military aid to Pakistan. The Trump presidency should have no practical effect here. But it is too early to tell whether tariffs would hit Pakistan. Under the last Trump presidency, they affected India, des-pite its crucial role in the Indo-Pacific strategy which Trump will likely continue.

We should not take Trump's offer of help to solve the Kashmir dispute, which he made the last time, seriously. The offer had nothing to do with Kashmir. It was about himself. He wanted to please Pakistan and appear to his base as a popular world leader being looked up to by other countries to solve complex disputes.

Trump's transactional approach will always focus on what a country has to offer America before he does anything for it. Pakistan has to ensure that its ties with the US are handled through quiet diplomacy, especially if they involve issues that incite public interest in the US negatively. That would invite Trump's retribution.

Trump's policies are not knowledge- or institution-based but personality-focused and politics-driven. They are a one-man show. He is at the centre of his own agenda that goes with the politics of the day. To quote The Guardian, Trump will basically "freelance" his foreign policy. So be prepared for surprises. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain presided over a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board (SAB).

Punjab Governor says:

Pakistan is best country in the world in terms of agricultural products

LAHORE (Online): A delegation of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan led by Chairman Faisal Jahangir Malik and Chief Patron Punjab Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah met with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation presented proposals to the Governor Punjab regarding improving rice exports.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan said that Pakistan is the best country in the world in terms of agricultural products and its products have a special recognition all over the world. He said that it is a matter of great joy that our rice exports are increasing every year, which is not only increasing the country's foreign exchange but also making the country's name famous at the global level. Governor Punjab said that our basmati rice is an example for the world. He

said that by focusing on other crops along with rice, further improvement can be brought to the country's economy. Governor Punjab said that everyone should work together to make the country better and stronger. He said that stability in the country's economy and increasing business opportunities are the promise of a bright Pakistan. Governor Punjab further said that the doors of the Governor House are always open for you people.

Machinery imports up by 21.68% in Q1 of FY 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall machinery group experienced a substantial increase of 21.68 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (July -September) compared to 2023-24.

The growth in machinery imports would help elevate productivity and spur technological advancements in essential sectors, leading to economic expansion and progress in infrastructure development.

The total imports of the machinery group during the three months of the FY 2024-25 stood at \$2,014.339 million against the imports of \$1,655.55

million of the corresponding period last year, according to official data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The import of agriculture sector machinery and equipment surged by 115.88 percent from \$13.757 million to \$29.699 million; textile machinery 39.82 percent from \$35.867 million to \$50.151 million; power-generating machinery 27.13 percent from \$106.624 million to \$135.551 million; construction and mining machinery 51.78 percent from \$19.532 million to \$29.645 million; electrical machinery and apparatus 77.85 percent from \$488.696 million.

Gold prices decrease by Rs.5,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.5,400 and was sold at Rs.276,800 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.282,200 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.4,630 to Rs.237,311 from Rs.241,941 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.217,535 from Rs.221,780, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola decreased by Rs.130 to Rs.3,300 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs.111.46 to Rs.2,829.21.

SAB meets to review overall sugar stock across the country

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board was held on Thursday to review the overall situation of sugar stocks across the country.

The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, and was also attended by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, said a news release. The board reviewed the estimates for the sugarcane crop and the overall stock position of sugar for the upcoming crushing season.

The board expressed satisfaction with the current sugar prices in the

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 499 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 499.05 points, a positive change of 0.54 percent, closing at 92,520.49 points as compared to 92,021.44 points on the last trading day.

A total of 678,788,064 shares were traded during the day as compared to 889,166,479 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.24.827 billion against Rs.30.474 billion on the

local market. Rana Tanveer highlighted the declining trend of sugar prices in the local market.

It was decided that all sugar mills will begin crushing from November 21, and action will be taken against mills that fail to start crushing by the 21st.

The minister said that all payments to farmers will be made before the start of the crushing season. He added that if mills do not pay the dues to farmers, their export licenses will be revoked.

The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has requested permission to export additional sugar.

As many as 449 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 257 of them recorded gains and 145 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 47 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 62,920,538 shares at Rs.6.57 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 46,527,930 shares at Rs.7.83 per share and K-Electric Limited with 34,718,470 shares at Rs.4.80 per share.

FM Aurangzeb calls for strengthening Pak-Japan ties thru trade, culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here on Thursday that Pakistan and Japan have significant potential to strengthen their ties through increased exchanges in trade, culture, education, and people-to-people interaction.

The minister was talking to the outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada who called on him here, according to a press release issued by the finance

ministry. During the meeting, views on issues of mutual interest, particularly longstanding bilateral cooperation and shared values and perspectives on regional and global matters between Pakistan and Japan, were exchanged.

Aurangzeb acknowledged and appreciated the longstanding bilateral cooperation and highlighted the significance of Japan's developmental and economic assistance and its vital role in helping Pakistan overcome

economic challenges and strengthen its economy.

The Minister also shared with the Ambassador an update on the state of the economy and the significant improvement in various macroeconomic indicators.

He said the government was determined to pursue its reform agenda as staying the course without any complacency was key to ensuring permanence to the macroeconomic stability achieved during the last 14 months.

Rupee sheds 05 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs.277.94 against the previous day's closing of Rs.277.89.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs.277.50 and Rs.279 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 18 paise to close at Rs.298.91 against the last day's closing of Rs.299.09, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Ejaz advises students to develop future ready skills

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Digital Platforms of Jazz Aamer Ejaz has urged students to stay adaptable, technologically fluent, and resilient to succeed in an evolving job market.

Speaking at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) on the theme Campus to Corporate - Steps to be Ready, he outlined how AI and emerging technologies are reshaping industries, advising students to leverage these advancements to maintain

a competitive edge. The audience included final-year computer science students, IST faculty, and management.

Describing AI as a collaborative tool he said, "AI isn't artificial intelligence; it's augmented intelligence. It complements your abilities while keeping you in the driver's seat." Citing Jazz's AI-driven products, like the SIMOSA chatbot, he emphasized how such technologies are enhancing user experiences.



LAHORE: A delegation of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan led by Chairman Faisal Jahangir Malik and Chief Patron Punjab Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah in a group photo with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor House.

KP Apex Committee meeting held; important decisions taken

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee, was held on Thursday with the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance, Muzammil Aslam; Corps Commander Peshawar, Lieutenant General Omar Ahmed Bukhari; Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry; Inspector General of Police (IGP) Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur and other senior

civil and military officials. The meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation in detail, with extensive deliberations on improving the security conditions in certain districts of the province and made important decisions to address the challenges.

The participants on this occasion, offered Faeha for the martyrs of security forces and law enforcement agencies, paying rich tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for peace and security.

The meeting emphasized the need for

continued joint efforts by all the stakeholders including the civil government, security forces, and the general public to combat terrorism.

It was decided to give the police a leading role in maintaining law and order in certain districts. The participants agreed on enhancing the capacity of the police and civil administration and decided that police force would be provided with bulletproof vehicles on priority basis and immediate recruitment would be carried out to fill vacant positions.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Farooq Awan during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Punjab Governor says: Attention should be paid on agriculture sector as it would boost economy of country

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, while addressing a press conference regarding the problems of farmers, today at the Governor House Lahore along with General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples' Party Central Punjab, Syed Hassan Murtaza said that Pakistan is an agricultural country.

He said that attention should be paid on agriculture sector as it would boost the economy

of the country. He said that the government should fix a good support price for sugarcane for the farmers and ensure payment. Governor Punjab said that he will send the demands of the farmers to the Punjab government in writing.

Governor Punjab said that the PML-N and the PPP are coalition partners, adding that this is an alliance of compulsion for the sake of the country's interest.

He said that the

PPP will stand with the PML-N where the country's institutions are damaged and the system is unstable. He said that the government should complete five years as it will bring economic and political stability in the country. In response to a question, the Governor of Punjab said that as the Governor of Punjab, it is his responsibility to identify the areas where there is a deficiency and room for improvement.

Minister warns of health emergency if people show negligence

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir issued a strong warning on Thursday, stating that the government might declare a health emergency if citizens fail to take the necessary precautions against smog.

Talking to the media during an anti-smog campaign at Liberty Market, he highlighted that Lahore had been particularly affected due to eastern winds, which have worsened the air quality. He assured that actions are underway to address sources of pollution.

To support anti-smog efforts, the minister stated

that the government has coordinated with pharmaceutical manufacturers to maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines for smog-related illnesses. He also announced the formation of a daily monitoring group, consisting of representatives from both the pharmaceutical industry and the health department, to ensure a steady supply of these medicines. "All government hospitals are well-stocked with medicines to treat smog-induced ailments," Nazir affirmed. He further urged the public to buy medicines only as needed, to allow equal access for all.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, addressing a press conference regarding the problems of farmers at the Governor House Lahore along with General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples' Party Central Punjab, Syed Hassan Murtaza.

Continuous efforts being made to promote tourism

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Tourism Secretary Farid Ahmad Tarar has said that continuous efforts are being made to promote cultural and tourism development of South Punjab in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister.

He said this at the launch of the 9th TDCP Thal Desert Rally being held in three districts of Punjab: Muzaffargarh, Kot Addu, and Layyah, said a handout issued here. The government was focused on providing equal opportunities for entertainment to the citizens of Punjab, he added.

Farid Ahmad Tarar

emphasized that the Thal Desert Rally not only aimed at promoting automobile tourism but to showcase Pakistan's positive image to the world.

He said that following the directions of Punjab Chief Minister excellent arrangements had been made for the event.

The Secretary Tourism also highlighted the inclusion of female drivers in the event, terming it a welcome development.

He said that such automobile tourism events provide opportunities to youngsters to showcase their skills.

Kundi greets Trump on election victory

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday extended his congratulations to Donald Trump on his success in the U.S. presidential elections.

In a statement, Governor Kundi offered his best wishes to the American people and the newly elected President, Donald Trump, saying that the election results reflect the priorities and trust of the American public.

Kundi expressed hope that under Trump's leadership, the relationship between the United States and Pakistan would grow stronger.

Closure of primary schools in KP exposes Education Emergency claims

PESHAWAR (APP): Educational activities in primary schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained suspended for the third consecutive day on Thursday as teachers continued their protest for acceptance of their demands.

Reiterating their strong stance to continue strike till acceptance of demands for upgradation, President All Primary Teachers Association, Aziz Ullah Khan told media that suspension orders of primary school teachers

will not stop them from justful protest.

He said news regarding reopening of schools was baseless adding that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has invited them to CM House and hoped that the meeting may lead to some solution of the issue. However, he said till the positive outcome of the meeting, the strike will continue.

The protesting teachers also announced to stage a sit-in in front of the Provincial Assembly building on Khyber Road.

One killed, four injured in Pabbi firing

PESHAWAR (APP): A man was killed while four others sustained bullet injuries when cross-firing took place between two groups of Oil Depot Union in Pabbi Tehsil of Nowshera district on Thursday. According to a police spokesman, a clash between two groups of the Oil Depot Union left a man dead and injured four others. The dead body and injured were shifted to Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar. Following the firing, a large police force reached the area and collected evidence for investigation; however, locals said that the intine entry of police could have averted the losses.

Breast cancer awareness seminar held at KMU

Independent Report PESHAWAR: In a remarkable gathering to promote awareness and solidarity, KMU Institute of Public Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences successfully hosted the Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar. The event focused on the theme: "We are stronger when we stand together whether as survivors, supporters, or advocates for change."

Guest Speakers Dr. Zainab Jan and Dr. Asad Zamir from IRNUM Peshawar, provided an impactful session on the urgency of breast cancer awareness. They presented global statistics on breast

cancer, emphasizing that early detection is life-saving. Covering symptoms, detection challenges, and barriers faced in low- and middle-income countries like Pakistan, they highlighted the urgent need to address these issues to improve health outcomes.

The speakers discussed risk factors such as lifestyle habits, obesity, and family history, and encouraged attendees to adopt protective practices including regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, and breastfeeding. They also discussed the significance of annual screenings—such as mammograms and clinical breast exams.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for health presides over the high level meeting at Home Department.

International News

Israel strikes on Lebanon kill 40 people around Baalbek, health ministry says

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Areas of Beirut's southern suburbs were seen piled with rubble around severely damaged buildings on Thursday, following Israeli strikes overnight.

The Israeli military ordered residents in the southern suburbs to evacuate several locations on Wednesday. Two waves of bombing followed, one late Wednesday and another early Thursday.

Lebanon's Al Jadeed TV reported there were at least four strikes on Thursday. There was no immediate report of casualties or details on what was hit.

Israel has repeatedly battered strongholds of Lebanese armed group Hezbollah in the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut, with both sides having exchanged fire for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war. But fighting has escalated since late September, with Israeli troops intensifying bombing of Lebanon's south and east and making ground incursions into border villages.

Hezbollah secretary general Naim Qassem on Wednesday said he did not believe that political action would bring an end to hostilities. He said there could be a road to indirect negotiations if Israel stopped its attacks.

"When the enemy de-

tensifying bombing of Lebanon's south and east and making ground incursions into border villages.

Israeli strikes on Wednesday around the eastern city of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley killed 40 people and wounded 53, the country's health ministry said. The Israeli military did not comment.

Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah have exchanged fire for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war but fighting has escalated since late September, with Israeli troops intensifying bombing of Lebanon's south and east and making ground incursions into border villages.

Hezbollah secretary general Naim Qassem on Wednesday said he did not believe that political action would bring an end to hostilities. He said there could be a road to indirect negotiations if Israel stopped its attacks.

"When the enemy de-

cidies to stop the aggression, there is a path for negotiations that we have clearly defined - indirect negotiations through the Lebanese state and speaker (of parliament Nabih) Berri," Qassem said.

US diplomatic efforts to halt fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which included a 60-day ceasefire proposal, faltered last week ahead of the US election on Tuesday in which former President Donald Trump recaptured the White House. More than 3,000 people have been killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon over the last year, the vast majority in the past six weeks.

Lebanese rescuers scoured a destroyed apartment building in the town of Barja, south of Beirut, for bodies or survivors after an Israeli strike on Tuesday evening killed 20 people there, Lebanon's health ministry said.



A man carries the dead body of a Palestinian at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip.

UN says Gaza polio vaccination campaign complete

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: The UN said Wednesday its Gaza child polio vaccination drive was complete, with more than half a million children vaccinated despite the Israel-Hamas war raging in the Palestinian territory.

The World Health Organization and the United Nations children's agency UNICEF launched a second round of vaccinations in northern Gaza on Saturday after Israeli bombing halted an earlier attempt to do so.

"The second round of the polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip was

completed yesterday (Tuesday), with an overall 556,774 children under the age of 10 being vaccinated with a second dose," said a joint statement. It "is a remarkable achievement given the extremely difficult circumstances the campaign was executed under".

Israel's military has pounded northern Gaza for weeks in a major offensive it says is aimed at stopping Hamas militants from regrouping. An estimated 7,000 to 10,000 children are stuck in "inaccessible areas" in the north and "remain unvaccinated and vulnerable to the poliovirus".

China pledges support for Myanmar's political transition

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China's Premier Li Qiang expressed Beijing's support for Myanmar's political reconciliation and transition efforts in a meeting with Myanmar's junta leader on Wednesday, state media reported.

Li met with Min Aung Hlaing in Kunming, capital of southwestern China's Yunnan province, which shares a border with Myanmar, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Palestinian, Somali Muslim women re-elected to US Congress

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Muslim members of the US House of Representatives belonging to Palestine and Somalia were re-elected on Wednesday.

Rashida Taib, a Democrat and the first Palestinian-American woman in the lower house, returned from Michigan's 13th District for a fourth time.

Taib, who has strong support from the Arab-American community in Dearborn, got 70 percent of the vote. Her Republican challenger, James Hooper, received 26 percent votes.

Thai PM meets Myanmar junta chief on sidelines of summit in China

Monitoring Desk CHINA: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra met Myanmar's junta chief on the sidelines of a regional summit in China on Thursday, in a rare overseas trip by a general grappling with a civil war at home. Myanmar's ruling military has been battling against a rebellion that erupted after it seized power in a 2021

coup and has largely ignored calls by its Southeast Asian neighbours to cease hostilities and enter into dialogue with its opponents.

"We had a private conversation and there was nothing unexpected," Paetongtarn said of her meeting with Min Aung Hlaing during an interview with Thai reporters.

"I offered our goodwill to cultivate peace."

Hezbollah says tens of thousands of fighters ready to battle Israel

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Hezbollah said that tens of thousands of its fighters were ready to fight Israel, adding that the US election result would have no bearing on the war in Lebanon.

The Iran-backed group's leader also warned that nowhere in Israel would be "off-limits" to attacks, as the Israeli military said about 120 projectiles had been fired across the border on Wednesday.

The Israeli military struck Hezbollah's main bastion of south Beirut after issuing an evacuation warning. Israel and Hezbollah have been at war since late September, when the Israeli military widened the focus of its war in Gaza to securing its northern border with Lebanon. Hezbollah began launching

low-intensity cross-border attacks on Israel last year, in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas following its October 7, 2023 attack.

Efforts to end the war in Gaza that was sparked by the Hamas attack have yet to bear fruit, and the war in Lebanon has killed nearly 2,000 people, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures.

"We have tens of thousands of trained resistance combatants" ready to fight, Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem said in a televised speech marking 40 days since his predecessor Hassan Nasrallah was killed in a strike.

The address was aired after Donald Trump's victory in the US election was announced, but had been recorded earlier.

Mozambique police fire tear gas at biggest protest yet against ruling party

Monitoring Desk MAPUTO: Mozambican police fired tear gas at thousands of protesters in the capital Maputo on Thursday during the biggest demonstration yet against the long-ruling Frelimo party, which was declared the winner of a disputed election last month.

Anger has mounted since election authorities said Frelimo had won the Oct 9 vote, extending its 49-year rule. Human rights groups say at least 18 people have been killed in the police crackdown on protests since then.

The election was hotly contested, with many young people supporting independent candidate Venancio Mondlane, who says the vote was rigged and encouraged demonstrations.

Protesters chanted "Power to the people" and "Frelimo must fall" and some blocked streets with burning tyres and held

homemade signs supporting Mondlane.

"This is it. If we don't stand up now, nothing will change," said Julia Macamo, 55, a street vendor and mother of six who was still shaken by the tear gas she inhaled while protesting in the Maxaquene neighbourhood. "It's time to see the back of Frelimo."

Adriano Nuvunga, director of Mozambique's Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, said the country had never seen such large demonstrations.

Civil society groups and Western observers also said the election was unfair and that results were altered. A Frelimo spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment.

The party has been accused of vote-rigging in previous polls and has denied it. This sparked smaller protests last year.

President Filipe Nyusi has not spoken since the protests escalated.

Philippines confident in US alliance under Trump amid China tensions, envoy says

Monitoring Desk MANILA: The Philippines expects US policy in the Indo-Pacific and support for its treaty ally amid South China Sea tensions to remain steady under Donald Trump, driven by bipartisan resolve in Washington, its ambassador to the US said on Thursday.

Both Democrats and Republicans prioritise countering China's influence, including in the South China Sea, Jose Manuel Romualdez said, suggesting that military cooperation, economic ties and security commitments with the Philippines will continue.

"It is in their interest that the Indo-Pacific region remains free, peaceful and stable, especially given the economic part of it, with trillions of dollars passing through the South China Sea," Romualdez told

Reuters in an interview.

US-Philippine security engagements have deepened under President Joe Biden and Philippine counterpart Ferdinand Marcos Jr, with both leaders keen to counter what they see as China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea and near Taiwan. Marcos said in a congratulatory message after Trump's victory: "I am hopeful that this unshakeable alliance, tested in war and peace, will be a force of good that will blaze a path of prosperity and amity, in the region, and in both sides of the Pacific."

Under Marcos, the Philippines has increased the number of its bases accessible to US forces to nine from five, some facing the South China Sea, where China has built artificial islands equipped with runways and missile systems.

Joe Biden gets blamed by Harris allies for the vice president's resounding loss

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Joe Biden's name wasn't on the ballot, but history will likely remember Kamala Harris' resounding defeat as his loss too.

As Democrats pick up the pieces following President-elect Donald Trump's decisive victory, some of the vice president's backers are expressing frustration that Biden's decision to seek re-election until this summer — despite longstanding voter concerns about his age and unease about post-pandemic inflation as well as the U.S.-Mexico border — all but sealed his party's loss at the White House. "The biggest onus of this loss is on President Biden," said Andrew Yang, who ran against Biden in 2020.

Lays foundation stone of Ramday University PM terms development of Gilgit-Baltistan as top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday laid the foundation stone of Ramday University to be constructed in Thagos, district Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan. The ground-breaking ceremony was held in Islamabad.

Ramday University is being built under a Trust, with construction set to be completed through the donations of the overseas Pakistanis.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister extended his heartfelt felicitations to Justice (ret) Khalil ur Rehman Ramday and his all friends on the establishment of Ramday University.

"The efforts of all individuals and the institutions who contributed to the establishment of Ramday University are appreciable," he added.

The prime minister said today the foundation had been laid down collectively for a bright future for the children here.

He said, "The establishment of an institution of higher learning in a remote area like Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan is highly encouraging."

He expressed his confidence that this university, located at an altitude of 11,000 feet in Thagos, will reach the peak of modern knowledge and research standards.

"The role of the private sector in the promotion of education in Pakistan is extremely important", he said adding that graduates from private educational institutions had made Pakistan proud in every field.

PM Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that the development of Gilgit-Baltistan and the welfare of its people were among the government's top priorities adding that yesterday, during his visit to Gilgit-Baltistan, 62 affected families from the floods were handed over homes.

Furthermore, he said that a 100-megawatt solar energy project had been



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a ceremony of laying a foundation stone of Ramday University, Thagos, Ghanche.

Muqam lambasts KP govt for job terminations, suspensions of teachers on protest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, on Thursday condemned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government for pressuring protesting teachers and threatening them with dismissal or suspension for participating in any form of protest.

Addressing a news conference, alongside MNA Mubarak Zeb Khan from Bajaur, the minister expressed disappointment with the KP government's double standards. He criticized the PTI-led administration for claiming to champion people's rights while

pressuring teachers and denying their rightful entitlements.

He criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's treatment with teachers and pledged the federal government's support to educators. He promised to continue advocating for teachers' rights.

Muqam also criticized the PTI government for planning to file an FIR against the Inspector General of Islamabad and others involved in the raid on the KP House last month, following the reported presence of terrorists there.

He criticized the KP Chief Minister for his irresponsible behavior, claiming that his rhetoric about occupying Islamabad and Lahore undermines his credibility. He accused the CM of misusing provincial resources to reward employees with promotions and privileges, and forcing them to attend protests at D Chokh, Islamabad.

He urged PTI supporters to investigate why CM Gandapur mysteriously left D-Chowk during the protest last month, abandoning party supporters. He also warned the CM against turning the KP House in Islamabad into a hub for terrorists.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal.

Planning Minister, Chinese envoy discuss bilateral ties, CPEC progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Thursday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and discussed matters related to bilateral interests and progress of CPEC projects.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Tariq Fatemi; the Secretaries of Communications, Railways, and Interior; as well as senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning, a news release said. Ahsan Iqbal, in his opening remarks, condemned the recent attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi, emphasizing that Pakistan would take all necessary measures to bring the perpetrators to justice.

He stated "This heinous act, clearly aimed at damaging Pakistan-China

relations, will not be tolerated." The government and people of Pakistan, the minister, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Chinese friends during this challenging time and extended sincere condolences to the families of the victims. He assured the ambassador that the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan remained a top priority, and Pakistan would continue working closely with China to ensure the security of Chinese citizens, projects and institutions.

Highlighting the robust bilateral ties, Ahsan Iqbal appreciated the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, emphasizing the need for concrete mechanisms to ensure smooth and effective implementation of bilateral projects. "Concerned ministries are developing their roadmap/action plan for effective implementation of consensus reached by the leadership of both countries during the recent

visit to make CPEC Phase-II successful and to implement recommendations by the Chinese experts," the minister remarked. Both sides deliberated on advancing key projects, including the Karachi-Hyderabad section of Main Line-1 (ML-1) and Karakoram Highway (Thakot-Raikot Section) project, and agreed to accelerate the projects' timely execution.

Regarding the Gwadar Port and Free Zone, both sides expressed a mutual commitment to ensuring the continued development of Gwadar in a holistic manner. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong expressed gratitude for Pakistan's comprehensive engagement and stated "during the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to China in June, 2024, leadership of both countries agreed to promote cooperation in the areas of politics, international affairs, pragmatic projects and security."

NA secretariat urges Parliamentary reporters to refrain from recording videos within Parliament House

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Secretariat has requested all parliamentary reporters to refrain from recording videos within Parliament House.

During the tenth session of the National Assembly, it was observed that some journalists were recording interviews and remarks from member of the parliament in the corridors without prior consent, later sharing these videos on social media.

The members have expressed serious reservations and brought the matter to the attention of the

QAU achieves 84th position in QS Asia Ranking 2205

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's top-ranked, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, has once again shined by securing the 84th position in the QS Asia Rankings 2025, and Ranked 9th in South Asia. This marks further improvement of university from last year, reflecting QAU's dedication to excellence in academia and research.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Niaz Ahmed Akhtar congratulated all stakeholders on this remarkable achievement. He emphasized the university's commitment to maintaining its reputation and achieving further success in the years ahead.

Japan, KP Police, UNDP jointly inaugurate newly model police stations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan jointly inaugurated newly constructed model police stations in the merged districts of Bajaur, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, and Orakzai.

This marked the successful completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNDP in partnership with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, for improved policing services in the merged districts, said a press release issued on Thursday.

Established by UNDP Pakistan's flagship Rule of Law Programme, these Model Police Stations provide a range of new facilities to better serve the people of merged districts, including well-equipped and furnished working spaces and reception areas to accommodate women and men police officers and visitors, a gender-responsive desk to address cases of gender-based violence, a hall to convene joint com-

munity and police meetings, residential facilities for 50 police officers with separate living quarters for 10 women police officers, security posts, and separate holding rooms for men and women.

Additional Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Awal Khan thanked UNDP Pakistan and the Government of Japan for their support in improving police infrastructure facilities to serve the people of the merged districts. "The Government of Japan and UNDP provided invaluable support in advancing the Rule of Law Roadmap, which strengthens justice and democracy in our region. The initiatives, including Gender Desks and Model Police Stations, play a crucial role in enhancing public safety and empowering marginalized communities", he said. The project also developed a pool of 22 master trainers on basic and specialised police functions, including gender-responsive and community-based policing, and supported KP Police to train 305 police officers.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro addressing the ceremony on Strengthening Rule of Law for Peacebuilding in the Merged District Khyberpakhtunkhwa organized by UNDP.

Ambassador Farhadov says: Azerbaijan stands united with full resilience to celebrate Victory Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov has said that Azerbaijan is united with full resilience to celebrate November 8, the Victory Day of Azerbaijan.

"We stood by our commitment to peace, but we made it clear: Azerbaijan would never accept the occupation of its lands. The Ambassador said.

Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov said this while addressing the ceremony on the Victory Day of Azerbaijan here.

He said that this day holds profound significance not only for the honor of our nation but also for the future we are building and it is a symbol of resilience, strength, and the unyielding spirit of Azerbaijan.

"We are deeply grateful to the countries that stood with us, and today I must highlight the steadfast support of our brothers and sisters in Pakistan."

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that throughout the second Karabakh War, Pakistan's leaders voiced unequivocal support for Azerbaijan's just cause, strengthening our determination.

He said that Pakistan has consistently honored our friendship, even refusing to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia due to the occupation of our lands. In recent years, several agreements were signed during the high level visits of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Azerbaijan and the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev to Pakistan.

IGP Islamabad reviews functioning of safe city cameras in federal capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired a meeting with Safe City technical officers at the Central Police Office Islamabad.

During the meeting, the IGP reviewed the functionality of the Safe City cameras, the use of modern technical resources, and public facilities aimed at crime prevention in the fed-

eral capital. He also assessed the overall performance related to the provision of new software and advanced technology in Safe City Islamabad.

IGP issued directives to the technical officers regarding the implementation of new targets and an action plan to further improve Safe City's performance. He instructed them to enhance the services of Safe City Islamabad and expand its scope.

IHC summons supdt Adiala jail on contempt of court plea

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned superintendent Adiala jail today (Friday) on contempt of court plea for not allowing meeting of political leaders with PTI founder despite court orders. The court inquired from state counsel what is reason it happens repeatedly. If petition comes despite our order then we had written fine will be slapped on state. Advocate Faisal Chaudhry counsel for former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan appeared in the court.

Faisal Chaudhry

took the plea orders have been issued by the court already. The court had issued orders as per jail rules.

The court questioned what is situation now.

Counsel Faisal Chaudhry replied meetings with party leaders have been again cancelled. We bother court repeatedly but we have to come here under compulsion. Shibli Faraz, Umar Ayoub and Asad Qaisar were not allowed to meet Imran Khan. This court had constituted commission comprising 3 lawyers but implementation is not being made.

CDA begins swift progress on Serena chowk Interchange

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) has swiftly commenced work on the Serena Chowk Interchange, just a day after the groundbreaking ceremony led by the Prime Minister.

The ambitious infrastructure project is set to transform one of Islamabad's busiest intersections, improving traffic flow and marking a new era in the city's road network development.

According to a CDA spokesperson, the project was prioritized due to the increasing traffic congestion in the area and the need for efficient urban connectivity.

"The Serena Chowk Interchange is a pivotal part of our city's growth strategy. We are committed to completing this project with efficiency and minimal disruption to daily commuters," the spokesperson stated.

On the first day of construction, contractors mobilized quickly, clearing initial pathways and setting up equipment to ensure work began without delay.

The project is designed to ease bottlenecks on the busy Serena Chowk, which connects various major roads in the capital.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing a press conference on the launch of new inventory of glaciers in Pakistan along with Italian Ambassador, Marilina Armellini.

Romina Alam highlights Pakistan's commitment to environmental protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has said Pakistan is focusing on environmental conservation, climate and glaciological research, protected areas management, ecotourism and the socio-economic development of mountain communities.

Addressing a press conference jointly organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and EvK2CNR on the occasion of launching "The new inventory of 13,032 glaciers in Pakistan: the 'glaciers and students' project", the PM's aide lauded the role of the Italian government and the support to Pakistan and particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan and added that the contribution of EvK2CNR and UNDP in carrying out comprehensive studies develop the new glaciers inventory that has revealed the new remarkable number of 13032 glaciers in Pakistan.

She highlighted the challenges of climate change faced by Pakistan

and underscored the need for international collaboration.

Romina said Pakistan has long been grappling with climate-triggered disasters that have caused significant loss of life and property. In recent years, she said that the frequency and intensity of these events have increased, reminding us of the severe impact of global warming and climate change on our country.

She said that among the most affected regions is Gilgit-Baltistan, which faces particular vulnerabilities and requires urgent, sustained interventions, especially from our trusted international partners such as Italy.

She said the government of Pakistan, through the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, places immense value on initiatives aimed at addressing climate change, advancing environmental research and monitoring, and promoting sustainable practices in ecotourism and protected area management.

190m pounds case IHC directs AC to decide acquittal pleas of Imran, Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed Accountability Court (AC) to give decision again on the acquittal pleas of PTI founder and Bushra Bibi in 190 million pounds case.

Court remarked the reasons for AC decision are not before us. Finding of AC has not come.

The acquittal pleas of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi came up for hearing before a division bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) Umar Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb Thursday.

Usman Gul and Zahir Abbas counsels for Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi appeared in the court.

Special prosecutor NAB Amjid Pervez and Rafay Maqsood appeared in the court.

Counsel for PTI founder said NAB filed reference against 8 persons in December 2023.

Counsel Zahir Abbas read out charge of case regarding Imran Khan before the court.

Senate Committee on Interior passes key bills, addresses public safety issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Interior, chaired by Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, convened on Thursday at Parliament House to pass important bills and discuss public safety concerns.

The committee approved several significant pieces of legislation, including the National Forensic Agency Bill 2024, aimed at establishing a national forensic agency to improve criminal investigations.

Other bills passed include amendments to the Provincial Motor Vehicles Bill, Factories Bill, Payment of Wages Bill, and Islamabad Rent Restriction Bill, each targeting critical updates in road safety, workplace standards, wage transparency, and rental agreements. The Criminal Laws Amendment Bill was also passed to strengthen the criminal justice system.

Several other bills were deferred or referred for further consideration, including the Pakistan Penal Code Amendment Bill, the Price Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding Amendment Bill, the Shamlat Land Protection

Bill, and the Anti-Terrorism Amendment Bill, among others. Committee members requested input from various ministries and departments for further review of these measures.

The committee addressed public safety issues raised by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, who advocated for allowing the general public equal access to tinted car windows as a security measure. Rising street crime and armed robbery incidents in Islamabad were also discussed, with the chairman calling for a report on crime rates and response measures.

Senators Danesh Kumar and Kamran Murtaza highlighted the kidnapping of Priya Kumari and recent terrorism incidents in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, though further discussion was postponed due to the absence of these senators.

The committee, attended by multiple senators and senior government officials, remains focused on enhancing public safety and governance through legislative action.



Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.