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Condemns Israeli actions in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran PM calls for immediate ceasefire, lifting of Israeli blockade of Gaza and arms embargo on Israel

Reaffirms call for free Palestinian state at Arab-Islamic Summit; Says humanity is being tested and failing in Gaza; Calls for accountability of unabated Israeli war crimes; Atrocities against Palestinians rightfully labelled as 'genocide'

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday while regretting the 'deafening silence' of the international community over the systematic genocide of the people of Palestine, called for swift action to safeguard the inalienable rights of the oppressed Palestinians, by ensuring the establishment of an independent state.

Addressing an Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, the prime minister said that as Ummah, they were duty bound by their religion and conscience to stand resolutely with the people of Palestine more than even before, 'we should not let

this genocide and oppression to persist.' The prime minister stressed that this conference must call for immediate and unconditional ceasefire, impose an immediate arms embargo on Israel and lifting of Israel's blockade against Gaza, ensuring prompt delivery of food, water, electricity and medical aid.

The prime minister also called for holding of accountability of Israel for its war crimes, besides, urging the summit to pursue the adoption of UNGA special session's resolution 10/24 that followed up a historic advisory opinion of the International Court of

Justice (ICJ). Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also demanded a comprehensive review of Israel's membership of the United Nations. He said for more than a year, Gaza had fallen into endless darkness and despair with families torn apart, buildings, schools and hospitals blown up. He alarmed at the silence of international community which shut its eyes in the face of such crimes committed against Palestinians, adding the atrocities being committed against Palestinians had been rightfully labeled as genocide not only by media, but also by the International Court of Justice

(ICJ). "With each passing day, every moral code has been flagrantly violated by Israel yet the killing and destruction continued with no end in sight," he observed.

The prime minister questioned as to how long this annihilation be ignored. Israel has been emboldened with the international community's indifference and inaction. "There has been utter disregard for the humanity's repeated calls for a ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian relief and protection of civilians".

While houses with the occupants were being blown up, he said, the

most sophisticated weapons were being supplied to Israel. Indeed, it was assured of unconditional assistance and support.

The prime minister said the International laws which were meant to protect the vulnerable had been torn to shreds. "Humanity is being tested and failing while Gaza bleeds, the world watches in deafening silence," he added.

Prime Minister Sharif further said after decades of sufferings and oppression, the spirit of resistance of the Palestinians remained unbridled and flames of defiance burnt brighter even under the relentless siege.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing an Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar are also present

Government unveils Hajj policy Hajj 2025 to cost upto Rs 1.2m: Salik

Pilgrims allowed to pay fee in installments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, and Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday said the next year Hajj would cost upto Rs 1.2 million under the Government's Hajj Scheme 2025.

Announcing the Hajj Policy 2025, the minister said the Hajj is expected to range between Rs 1,075,000 and Rs1,175,000, with an additional amount of Rs 55,000 for the cost of the sacrificial offering.

Regarding pilgrim accommodations, the minister stated that applicants selecting double-bed and

triple-bed options in Makkah will be required to make additional deposits of Rs 220,000 and Rs 75,000, respectively. He said the pilgrims would get an opportunity to pay for Hajj in installments under the Hajj Scheme 2025.

The first installment of Hajj dues, amounting to Rs 200,000, must be deposited along with the Hajj application, he said, adding the second installment of Rs 400,000 must be submitted within ten days of the balloting. The remaining amount must be deposited by February 10 next year.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain stated that no deductions will be made if an application is withdrawn before the final submission

date. However, if the first installment is refunded after the balloting, a deduction of Rs 50,000 will apply. A deduction of Rs 200,000 will be imposed if the third installment is not paid.

The minister clarified that no refunds will be issued for the remaining amount after February 10 of next year. However, in the event of the applicant's death, the aforementioned deductions will not be applied.

Salik said that a total of 179,210 Pakistanis will perform Hajj in 2025, with 89,605 seats allocated to both the government and private Hajj schemes, maintaining a 50:50 quota distribution.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain announced Hajj Policy 2025 during Press conference in federal capital.

Ban on meeting with Imran, other prisoners in Adiala jail lifted

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ban on meeting with Imran Khan and other prisoners in Adiala jail has been lifted.

Islamabad High Court (IHC) has wrapped up petition against restrictions on meeting with Imran Khan in jail and for provision of facilities to PTI founder in jail.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir has issued written order for wrapping up petition filed by Noreen Niazi.

According to written order Jail authorities assured to provide all facilities as per court's orders and jail rules. A detailed report was filed in the court with the signatures of superintendent Adiala jail.

Justice Shah says No one can question even if regular bench hears constitutional cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): During the hearing of a tax-related case in the Supreme Court on Monday, the judges got into a debate over the necessity of a constitutional bench, it reported in media.

Senior judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah raised the question if the regular bench they were on was unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established.

He also remarked that even if the present bench heard the case, no one could question it. "Even if we decide the case, what will happen? If a review plea comes before us, we'll say it's our jurisdiction," he added.

At the outset of the hearing, Justice Ayesha

Malik remarked that this case would be heard by the constitutional bench. Justice Shah asked that since there was no constitutional bench as of now, what should be done about the "unconstitutional bench" they were a part of.

"Are we unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established?" he asked, adding that this means constitutional cases would not be heard until the constitutional bench comes into force.

He further remarked that even if this regular bench heard the case, nobody could question it. Even if the regular bench decided the case, who could stop it, he asked further.

Pakistan, Australia vow to strengthen defence cooperation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Chief of the Australian Army called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan here Monday at the General Headquarters (GHQ).



During the meeting, both leaders engaged in discussions covering matters of mutual interest, particularly the global and regional security environment, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The COAS emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for its ties with Australia, noting the importance of strong bilateral relations in promoting shared goals of peace and stability. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in defense and security, recognizing the value of continued collaboration for regional and global peace, it further said.

Lieutenant General Stuart commended Pakistan's efforts in countering terrorism and expressed his resolve to deepen bilateral defense and security cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, the Chief of the Australian Army laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada to honor Pakistan's martyrs. It was accorded a warm welcome, with a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army presenting a guard of honor to him.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Dr. Irfan Neziroglu, the newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Pakistan called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at the Finance Division.

Pak, Turkiye discusses bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ambassador of Republic of Turkey to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu here on Monday discussed various aspects of historical and longstanding brotherly ties between the two countries, particularly the growing bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and defense.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the ambassador called on the federal minister during which Aurangzeb welcomed him on his diplomatic assignment in Pakistan. He highlighted the historical and fraternal bonds and the great potential for

enhancing the current volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Turkiye.

The Minister also recalled his meeting with Mehmet Simsek, Turkiye's Treasury and Finance Minister, in Washington DC on the sidelines of the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings 2024 in Washington DC last month.

He said Pakistan could learn from Turkiye's experience of power sector reforms and invited Turkish firms to enter into mutually beneficial joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts, particularly in the field of information technology and agriculture.

PM Shehbaz meets Saudi Investment Minister

RIYADH (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with the Saudi Investment Minister Engr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Mr. Mohammed Al-Tuwajiri, Advisor Royal Court on the sidelines of the Arab Islamic Summit, Monday in Riyadh.

The meeting was held to follow-up on the recent engagements for economic cooperation between the two countries. The Prime Minister appreciated the progress on major projects under discussion and acknowledged the efforts of the technical teams for their close cooperation to further strengthening economic partnership in diverse fields.

China to continue support Pakistan in fighting terrorism: Lin Jian

BEIJING (APP): China will continue to support Pakistan in fighting against terrorism and attempts to undermine mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries will not succeed, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said on Monday.

China reiterated that terrorism is a common enemy of humanity. It's a shared responsibility of the international community to fight terrorism and prevent tragedies from happening again, he said during his regular briefing in response to a question regarding the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

He said, "We are firm in our commitment to protecting the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions overseas." He remarked that China and Pakistan have the resolve and capability to foil any attempt to harm China-Pakistan relations and ensure that terrorists will pay the price.

The spokesman said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. Our iron-clad friendship has taken deep roots among our people.

All the departments will be cleansed from interest from 2028: Fazal

LONDON (Online): JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said all the departments will be cleansed from interest from 2028.

Pakistan cannot make progress without the enforcement of Islamic order and elimination of interest based system, he said while addressing here.

He went on to say Pakistan survival lies in Islamic order. In 26th constitutional amendment, elimination of interest based system has been made part of constitution.

Constitution is of all of us, he said adding we will have to respect it. We will continue movement in Pakistan for survival of democracy and enforcement of Islamic system. We will have to be united for peace in Pakistan, he urged. Detaining any one for 90 days on basis of suspicion is violation of fundamental human rights, he added.

GHQ attack case: Police file more evidence in court

RAWALPINDI (Online): Police have filed more evidence in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi in GHQ attack case. Police presented 87 witnesses and map of the scene in the court. The GHQ attack case was registered against the accused in RA Bazar police station. The accused are charged with attacking important installations, siege and arson, rioting and causing damage to government properties.

Zardari thanks President Xi for goodwill message, plans visit to China soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday extended gratitude to the Chinese President Xi Jinping for the goodwill message, adding that he would visit China in near future on a suitable date.

In his letter dated November 3, President Xi expressed concern over the President of Pakistan's injury and conveyed his best wishes for a speedy recovery, according to a press release issued by the President House Press Wing.

President Xi, in his letter reaffirmed the deep friendship between Pakistan and China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also extended a warm invitation for President Zardari to visit China. President Zardari stated that he was deeply

moved by the messages inquiring his health by the leadership and people of China. "I will visit China in the near future at an appropriate time," the president said.

He said this visit will further strengthen the long-standing and ironclad bonds between the two countries.

Both leaders highlighted the importance of the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between the two countries.

President Xi emphasized the commitment to building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

President Zardari thanked President Xi Jinping for his insight, leadership, and cooperation in advancing Pakistan-China relations.

PM praises MWL's role in advocating Muslim causes

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has commended the remarkable work being done by the Muslim World League in promoting the true image of Islam worldwide.

During a meeting with the Secretary-General of the Muslim World League

He emphasized the importance of organizations like the Muslim World League, particularly in light of the ongoing conflict in Gaza and the various challenges facing the Muslim world.

Recalling the Secretary-General's recent visit to Pakistan, the Prime Minister expressed his commitment to completing various collaborative projects, particularly the establishment of the Seerat Museum, which will be instrumental in highlighting different aspects of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).



Sheikh Dr. Mohammad bin Issa in Riyadh Monday, he praised the Secretary-General's leadership in guiding the organization and fostering unity among the Ummah. The Prime Minister said the Muslim World League plays a critical role in advocating for Muslim causes and spreading messages of fraternity, tolerance, and mutual respect.

Abrogation of Articles 370, 35A won't resolve Kashmir issue: Muqam

PALLANDRI (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Kashmir's inalienability, stating that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A did not resolve the issue and that Pakistan will continue opposing Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

Speaking at the death anniversary of Babaai Poonch Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan in Pallandri, as a special guest, the minister reaffirmed that the people of Pakistan stand with Kashmiris. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif boldly raised the Kashmir issue at the United Nations, while the people

of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir rejected Modi's party in recent elections.

Azad Kashmir remains Pakistan's first line of defense, with the armed forces making sacrifices to protect the country.

At the death anniversary event chaired by Major (Retd) Sikandar Khan, the minister paid tribute to Baba Poonch Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan for his contributions to the people's welfare, emphasizing that successful nations build their future on the legacy of their forefathers.

The minister expressed pride in attending Khan Sahib's anniversary on the land of martyrs and



ghazis, stressing that Kashmir's progress is integral to Pakistan's growth.

He assured that the Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra motorway would be constructed, noting the special efforts made for the development of the Rathoa Hariyam Bridge.

women face atrocities and die for speaking out.

Maqam paid tribute to the brave Major Atif Khalil of Sudhuti for his martyrdom and offered a special prayer for his soul's elevation.

Speaking at the event, Shah Ghulam Qadir, President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Azad Kashmir and Member of the Azad Jammu Kashmir Assembly, described Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan as a man of remarkable character, vowing to follow in his footsteps to liberate Occupied Kashmir.

Shah Ghulam Qadir stated that our ancestors were merely facilitators for the people here, with their improvement and freedom being their ultimate goal.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Time to deliver

Countries, big and small, are gathering today in Baku, Azerbaijan, for COP29.

Pakistan's participation in the climate summit will centre on three daily events at its pavilion, focusing on climate justice, energy transition, and gender-responsive climate policies. We will showcase our commitment to climate adaptation and sustainability with national initiatives such as the Living Indus project and Recharge Pakistan. However, the real challenge lies in securing meaningful financial support for these programmes.

Never has it been more urgent to take climate action. While developed nations are trumpeting a rise in international public adaptation financing from \$22bn in 2021 to \$28bn in 2022, the truth is it is a meagre increase. For Pakistan alone, the World Bank estimates a need of \$348bn by 2030 for climate resilience. Add to this the current pledges to the Loss and Damage Fund, which stands at a mere \$770m, and it is clear that global financial commitments are grossly inadequate.

Senator Sherry Rehman's call for 'Internationally Determined Contributions' from developed nations in aid of climate-vulnerable countries deserves serious consideration at COP29. The fact is that countries like Pakistan, which hardly contribute to global emissions, bear disproportionate climate impacts. The devastating floods of 2022, causing \$30bn in damage, and this year's severe cross-border smog in Punjab show our vulnerability to sudden disasters and chronic pollution.

This year's discussions will focus on creating a new climate finance goal that surpasses the previous \$100bn annual commitment set by the Paris Agreement. Developing nations are advocating for climate finance to be provided with major concessions or as grants, instead of the typical loans, to alleviate their growing debt burdens. Azerbaijan's proposed \$1bn Climate Finance Action Fund, funded by fossil fuel producers, aims to support disaster response and community initiatives, offering a fresh approach to financing.

Pakistan's government seems to be concerned about our participation at the summit. The parliamentary committee on climate change has stressed transparency and measurable outcomes. In the long run, success will require more than just government action. The private sector must be engaged and provincial climate initiatives strengthened.

The Global Climate Finance Framework, already signed by 15 nations, offers Pakistan an opportunity to strengthen its position in climate negotiations. Pakistan must leverage its moral authority as a climate-vulnerable nation while displaying a serious commitment to adaptation and mitigation at home.

Climate summit

Huma Yusuf

Over 140,000 people displaced by flooding in Sindh this August are living in unbearable conditions. They sleep in tents, scrape by on one meal a day, and die from waterborne diseases. They fear more hunger as, according to Amnesty International, 500,000 acres of the province's farmland lies flooded. Most are steeped in crushing debt, having taken fertiliser on credit to sow fields that remain waterlogged. This is the long tail of climate catastrophe.

The fate of our climate-affected compatriots lies in the hands of world leaders gathering today in Baku for COP29, the UN climate change conference. Unfortunately, the mood is despondent. Donald Trump's re-election as US president has given this COP the air of a non-starter. Trump's climate denial threatens to rationalise inaction by countless others.

The host's priorities also raise questions about the sincerity of the COP process. Azerbaijan is hooked on fossil fuels, with oil comprising 90 per cent of its exports. Videos leaked this week show the chief executive of the country's COP29 team seeking to strike more fossil fuel deals on the summit's sidelines.

This poor momentum will be further derailed by low turnout by key stakeholders. Leaders from France, Germany, the US, China, India and Brazil aren't bothering to show up, nor is the prime minister of Papua New Guinea, one of the most climate-vulnerable island nations, describing the summit as a "waste of time".

Thankfully, Pakistan is attending. What we'll get in Baku is a reality check.

Pakistan last year launched an ambitious National Adaptation Plan but its main climate plan still takes the form of a demand for climate finance.

This is not an irrational position given that by World Bank estimates we need investments totalling \$348 billion over the next seven years to tackle climate change. COP29 will clarify that we need more than a begging bowl to address this need.

Baku is being termed the 'Finance COP' because the key agenda item is determining a 'new collective quantified goal' — a new global funding plan for climate action. The ask is material — the UN Standing Committee on Finance estimates \$9 trillion are needed for mitigation and adaptation over the next five years.

Agreeing on a climate finance target is one challenge. Then the world must jointly decide who pays, when, how much, and how. Negotiations will be fraught and possibly unproductive, but there are some certainties that Pakistan should plan for. The era of handouts is over. Developed countries will not hand over climate finance without a fight, especially not since over 40pc of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been produced in the past 30 years, and two-thirds of these by developing countries. Developed economies will not contribute more unless developing yet high-emitting countries such as China, Russia, Brazil and India chip in too.

Consequently, climate finance may appear in various guises. It's no longer just about loss and damage grants or multilateral development bank projects. China, for example, resists official climate commitments under COP agreements, but going by a Centre for Global Development (CGD) analysis, is already a net provider of climate support totalling \$34bn between 2013 and 2021, primarily through lending by its state banks.

Diversified climate

financing will require recipient countries to beware of climate debt. Most funding will take the form of 'global investment flows for climate action' rather than dole-outs. Expect more private sector involvement (in the form of loans), mobilisation promises, and diversions of existing development finance and aid. Learning lessons from CPEC, Pakistan should avoid climate packages that increase the debt burden.

The direction of travel is towards self-sufficiency.

Countries need to revamp their Nationally Determined Contributions (proposing GHG cuts and adaptation plans) by February ahead of COP30 in Brazil. Agreements at Baku will also increasingly take the form of co-financing, for example, the 'buy one get one free' model proposed by Jonathan Beynon for the CGD which envisages developed countries matching every dollar committed to climate mitigation or adaptation by developing countries.

One thing is certain, the climate finance agreed in Baku this week will go to countries that will put it to good use. So far, that's not us. As a recent Institute of Strategic Studies brief points out, our political instability, weak governance, lack of bankable projects, and paucity of data to evidence climate needs are all deterrents to climate funding. So are sociopolitical dynamics such as the disinterest in community engagement and tendency to suppress grassroots initiatives, which are seen as the bedrock of climate action. It'll take more than asking to address our climate challenge. — Courtesy Dawn

Colonial mindsets

Abraham Shah

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was recently accused of having a 'colonial mindset' by fellow lawmakers for declining to discuss slavery reparations in the Commonwealth Summit in Samoa. PM Starmer claimed his denial stemmed from a desire to "look forward" rather than holding 'discussions on the past'.

The construct 'colonial mindset' is a powerful one, for as authors like Frantz Fanon, Edward Said and Bernard Cohn explain, colonialism was as much an exercise in psychological control as it was of physical domination. The brown denizen of the brown continent, for instance, was forced to recognise and internalise the white man's superiority — a mental trauma that people of colour continue to carry today.

This perpetuation of colonial forms of control — both covert and overt — necessitates a scrutiny of PM Starmer's dismissal of even discourse around slavery and reparations.

Defence couched in 'looking forward' remains unsatisfactory as well, primarily because as we witness today, the past continues to inform and shape the present.

Dismissal of an open and honest conversation on past depredations is thus not only flawed but also points towards a deeper malaise: the inability to recognise how modes of control continue to operate, which disenfranchise the Global South. This takes on numerous forms: harsher immigration policies and hate towards refugees, heightened surveillance of black and brown bodies and communities, condoning genocide and the contrasting responses to Ukraine and Palestine.

In some aspects, therefore, PM Starmer is correct; there is a dire need to look forward, but any efforts to mould the future must actively engage with structures of injustice inherited from the past. This requires a critical discourse on colonialism, race, gender, Islamophobia, inequality and the global financial structure.

The inability to launch or sustain critical discourse highlights yet another fundamental concern: the dearth and sheer impotency of modern political discourse and activism. Ever since the advent of neoliberalism in the 1970s and the rise of the 'new left', the ideological spectrum in the political landscape has drastically shrunk, converging on what Tariq Ali calls the "extreme centre": a vapid political domain where economic exigencies emphasising GDP growth dominate other concerns.

This phenomenon is not limited to the UK. It is prevalent across the world, including in the US where conversations on race and drastically rising inequality are jettisoned in favour of economic growth.

This has resulted in an 'indistinguishable political elite', to yet again quote Tariq Ali, one that offers little alternative or solutions to impending crises. Conversations on means of production, inequality, and curtailing capitalism are dismissed as 'too radical', further revealing this dearth of imagination and political alternatives. Instead, half-baked solutions are proffered that do not address underlying causes. The inability to effectively tackle climate change globally or address land-use and developmental models triggering smog in Pakistan serve as examples.

Dissent, however,

finds avenues for expression. This occurs on the margins through the rise of populist movements including Donald Trump's and the far right which are casually dismissed by the mainstream. Very often, this dissent manifests in violence as we saw with the Occupy Wall Street Movement in 2011 and the more recent Islamophobic hysteria in the UK. Present upheavals across the world — protests in Pakistan against a private educational institute, the overthrow of Hasina Wajid in Bangladesh or farmer agitation in France can all be contextualised in the larger economic and political failings of our day.

What does all this mean for the Global South? First, we must actively recognise the past and not dismiss its continuous impact on our lives. Justifications of colonialism including "they gave us railways and the penal code" too must be criticised, recognising how colonialism altered the very social fabric and psyches of non-white societies. This backdrop must then inform attempts at reform that highlight not just reparations but also change in immigration and employment policies in the West, and greater First World responsibility to combat climate change.

Considering the anaemic political environment, this is a protracted struggle but it is a necessary one to rectify centuries of historical injustice. Individuals such as Bell Ribeiro-Addy and Clive Lewis — British lawmakers who called out PM Starmer on his stance on reparations — and dissenting voices like Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar in the US — show us that silver linings do hide behind the clouds.

-- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Shaza Fatima says: 'Pak-US Tech Investment Conference' to help foster collaboration b/w two countries'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Monday that the 'Pak-US Tech Investment Conference' marked a significant milestone for Pakistan's IT industry and would help foster collaboration between companies of two countries deeply involved in the future of innovation.

While addressing the first-ever Pak-US Tech Investment Conference 2024 through a video link, she said, "Pakistan's technology sector has shown promising growth in the past few years, driven by a vibrant ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and an

unwavering commitment to growth."

"Our ICT exports have shown a remarkable 25% growth," she said.

"We are committed to building on this momentum until we reach the \$25 billion goal that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has given us," she added.

The minister said, "The event is a critical step in achieving that goal, as it provides a platform for U.S. and Pakistani businesses to come together," she added.

She said, "By providing secure cyberspace to businesses, the government of Pakistan has made significant progress in that regard."

She said, "As a result of the Global Cybersecurity Index of the ITU, Pakistan has been ranked in Tier-1 (role modeling), alongside global leaders such as the United States and Japan.

Shaza Fatima said, "This reflects our collective efforts in cybersecurity, including initiatives like the National Cyber Security Policy, CERT rules, nCERT, Cyber Security Regulations, Hackathons, cloud-first policy, etc." She said, "Pakistan has also made notable advancements in the UN E-Government Development Index, rising 14 places compared to its position in 2022."

She was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Alfa Mall, a pioneering digital trading platform revolutionizing the fashion industry, in Karachi, said a news release.

The event brought together influential figures from the fashion world, marketing professionals, government officials, and corporate entities.

During the meeting, various aspects of bilateral ties and ways for further enhancing cooperation and collaborations in the field of trade and commerce between Pakistan and Denmark were discussed. The Minister highlighted the role of Pakistani diaspora in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan.

Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar apprised the Minister about the current state of bilateral ties and the scope and opportunities for further business ventures and collaborations.

He also highlighted the role of Pakistani expatriates settled in Denmark for strengthening bilateral ties and promoting commerce and cultural exchanges between both the countries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh along with the officers of Ministry of Maritime Affairs in meeting with the senior officials of Danish Shipping Company Maersk Line in Islamabad.

Rubina emphasizes promotion of country's handicraft industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Monday emphasized the significance of preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage through traditional crafts and arts.

She was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Alfa Mall, a pioneering digital trading platform revolutionizing the fashion industry, in Karachi, said a news release.

The event brought together influential figures from the fashion world, marketing professionals, government officials, and corporate entities.

During her keynote speech, Rubina Khalid stressed the importance of integrating these timeless products into the modern fashion world, providing opportunities for BISP's Hunarmand beneficiaries to connect with the modern economy.

"Hunarmand art and crafts products are a testament to Pakistan's cultural and traditional history. It's essential we revive, preserve, and protect these treasures, introducing them to the modern fashion world, we should also take it as an opportunity to uplift our underprivileged artisans and skilled BISP beneficiaries," she stated.

FM welcomes APM Terminals' investment offer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday welcomed APM Terminals' commitment to invest in Pakistan and assured full support in facilitating the Group and providing them with a level-playing and investment-friendly climate.

The minister was talking to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of APM Terminals, Keith Svendsen who called on him here, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

The call-on meeting was also attended by Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar, Pakistan's Ambassador to Denmark, Rene Pii Pedersen, Managing Director A.P. Moller Maersk Singapore, Ahmed Hassan, SVP of A.P. Moller Maersk Group, and Sander Riemersma, Head of Portfolio Strategy APM Terminals.

The discussion focused on the progress made as a follow-up on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) last month between government of Pakistan and government of Denmark to enhance bilateral cooperation and accelerate sustainable economic growth through promoting and enhancing green and sustainable Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investment.

Keith Svendsen briefed the Minister on APM Terminals' business portfolio and its plans for building port infrastructure in Pakistan for enhanced revenue growth and improvement in regional trade and connectivity.

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ISLAMABAD: Women visiting stalls during ten days Folk Festival Lok Mela at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 356 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Monday, gaining 356.64 more points, a positive change of 0.38 percent, closing at 93,648.33 points as compared to 93,291.68 points on the last trading day.

A total of 815,188,409 shares were traded during the day as compared to 763,255,174 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 37.324 billion

against Rs.30.206 billion on the last trading day. As many as 454 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 227 of them recorded gains and 184 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 43 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Nerycyo PK with 98,601,408 shares at Rs 4.52 per share, Pak Elektron with 78,094,188 shares at Rs 29.01 per share and K-Electric Limited with 70,187,495 shares.

VEON, Jazz delegation visits PTA headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation from VEON Group and Jazz visited the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), engaging in productive discussions with Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman, on strategic initiatives to further digital transformation across Pakistan.

According to a news release, the delegation, led by Augie K Fabela, Founder & Chairman of the

Board, VEON Group, included VEON Group's Chief Executive Officer Kaan Terzioglu, Group Director of Corporate Affairs Marine Babayan, Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim, and Jazz VP of Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs Muddassar Hussain.

During the meeting, the Chairman PTA highlighted PTA's initiatives to create a robust environment for digital growth.

Rupee sheds 13 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 13 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.86 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.73.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.87 to close at Rs 297.07 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 02 paise and closed at Rs1.80, whereas a decline of Rs1.28 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.

Acting Indonesian envoys offers Pakistan to invest in various sectors

MULTAN (APP): Indonesia's Acting Ambassador Mr Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma on Monday stated that there were vast investment opportunities in Indonesia for Pakistani business community with guaranteed profits.

During his visit to Multan, the acting ambassador was welcomed at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) by the president and others. The discussions between the acting ambassador and the MCCI president focused on enhancing trade and friendly relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

Mr Kusuma emphasized that Indonesia

was a large economic market, and Pakistani businesses could invest in sectors like agro-processing, textiles, garments, and leather industries which could further boost bilateral trade. He added that the relations between the two brotherly countries were very strong and special relief in visa procedures could be provided to Pakistanis visiting Indonesia.

He also mentioned that Pakistan and Indonesia needed to strengthen their working groups in sectors like tourism and trade, and exchange delegations to promote trade in the region.

Educational institutions closed then as to why constructions are not being suspended: LHC

LAHORE (Online): Justice Shahid Karim of Lahore High Court (LHC) has remarked order was issued that no construction work would be done in these two months and why the order is not being implemented.

He further remarked "educational institutions are closed. All is before us then as to why constructions are not being closed. He gave these remarks during hearing of the case related to smog here Monday.

Senior legal advisor Wasa, Mian Irfan Akram advocate, officers and law officers of different departments appeared in the court.

Punjab government

filed report in the court about the steps taken by it.

Counsel for Punjab government told the court operation was conducted on 3 bus stands in Lahore and action was taken against 60 smoke emitting vehicles.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked what is job of deputy commissioner Lahore. Could he not sit on Sunday. What was settled in the meeting of advocate general. Had you asked me I would have held court proceedings on Sunday. The responsible are not in the city in this season of smog.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked no one from transport department is in the court. Advocate general

is not in Punjab today. This is most important matter of all. They should have been in the court today.

The court remarked we have been giving orders about smog since the last two years. Was transport department sleeping. Government departments are failed in taking steps with reference to smog.

This is matter of life of all of us including our children but departments are not working in right way.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked the remains of crops are still being burnt. Did government not know its remains will be burnt after rice crop. But government did nothing.



LAHORE: A delegation comprising the participants of the two-day training workshop organized to prevent human trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and IFA met with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Qaiser Sheikh says: Mega sewerage to be set up in Chinot

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said a mega sewerage system would be set up in Chinot with the financial help of the World Bank to redress the issue on a permanent basis.

Talking to media persons during an open court arranged at his dera in Chinot on Monday, he said that the government was fully aware of the fundamental problems including electricity, gas and sewerage. He said that population growth had enhanced civic problems

and the government was trying its optimum best to resolve the major issues at the grassroots level. He said that five new public parks were being developed in Chinot to provide better environment and recreational facilities to people of the city. "The government is in touch with all government departments and as discrepancies are identified, the departments concerned will be immediately directed to resolve the issues up to the entire satisfaction of the masses," he added.

CM takes notice of violence against women

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken strict notice of an incident in Sargodha, where three women were reportedly subjected to violence over a property dispute.

The CM directed the Regional Police Officer (RPO) of Sargodha to submit a detailed report on the matter.

Expressing her strong condemnation, she stated, "Violence against women over property disputes is not only unfortunate but also completely unacceptable. Women and children are a red line for us, and such acts of violence will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

Swearing-in ceremony of elected general councilors held

DIR LOWER (APP): A swearing-in ceremony of the general councilors who won the local government by-election was held here at ADC Office Jirga Hall, Blombat, on Monday.

District Returning Officer/Deputy Commissioner of Dir lower Muhammad Arif Khan administered the oath to the elected councilors and congratulated them.

Punjab governor for mass awareness on human trafficking

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation comprising the participants of the two-day training workshop organized to prevent human trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and IFA met with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that going abroad through illegal means is a crime and there is a need to create awareness among the people so that they don't fall a victim to those who are involved in the criminal business of human trafficking.

He said that in this regard, the institutions and organizations working for creating awareness among people and providing them with accurate information are commendable. Governor Punjab while appreciating the efforts of Chief of Mission IOM, Pakistan, M. Mio Sato, said that International Organization for Migration was making great efforts to increase the capacity of government institutions as well as non-governmental organizations and civil society and to raise awareness among the people. Governor Punjab also congratulated the organizers for the successfully organizing the two-day training workshop on identifying the victims of human trafficking in Lahore.



MOHENJO DARO: A tourist delegation from Italy are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

Azma Bokhari berates PTI for displaying US flag in event

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has berated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), accusing the party of hypocrisy and disloyalty.

Referring to recent events at a PTI rally in Swabi, Bokhari stated, "Those who claim to fight against 'American slavery' are now waving the American flag as if seeking freedom through it."

Information minister argued that PTI's leader and his followers consider

taking U-turns a sign of bravery, while the display of the U.S. flag at the Swabi rally was a show of allegiance to what she called their 'American masters'. She insisted that the public gathering was a failure and resulted in clashes among PTI members, particularly between Ali Amin Gandapur and other party leaders.

The Punjab minister stated that the PTI was divided, with each faction pursuing its own agenda.



LAHORE: British Council CEO Scott McDonald meeting with Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat.

Health minister chairs 14th syndicate meeting of FMU

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chaired the 14th syndicate meeting of Faisalabad Medical University, held at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, here on Monday. The meeting permitted the university to start postgraduate diploma programs and increase seats in the departments of diabetology, family medicine, dermatology and esthetics. During the Syndicate meeting, permission has been given to start the BS program in

the Department of Respiratory Therapy. Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique approved the decisions and implementation report of the 13th Syndicate meeting of Faisalabad Medical University. Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasized the promotion of qualitative research in Punjab's medical universities and assured that transparency is being upheld in their financial affairs. He highlighted the Punjab government's commitment to providing quality education.

One killed, 14 injured in bus-truck collision in Lodhran

LODHARAN (APP): One person was killed and as many as fourteen passengers were injured on Monday when a bus was collided with a trowler in Lodhran.

According to a private news channel, a road accident took place in Lodhran when a passenger bus collided with a trowler that had overturned on the road. According to the rescue officials, teams reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported.

ANF seizes over 17 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 17 kg drugs worth over Rs 8.6 million and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Monday.

Advisor announces floating tenders for Hangu main road

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Communication and Works (C&W), Sohail Afridi accompanied by MNA Yousaf Khan during his visit to Hangu district on Monday announced floating of tenders for the construction of Hangu main road by December this year.

Talking to the media persons on the occasion, Advisor C&W said, "The government will solve the

public problems within the available limited resources."

He added that we were focusing on completion of the ongoing incomplete development works. He further said, "Hangu to Sarozai road will be constructed on priority basis as this road was the main highway connecting Pakistan and Afghanistan."

Due to unavoidable circumstances, work could not start on this important highway till now, he regretted.

International News

Saudi Arabia demands immediate ceasefires in Gaza, Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia called for immediate ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon at a joint Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation summit that will renew calls for a Palestinian state on Monday.

Arab and Muslim leaders gathered in Riyadh, more than a year into the Israel-Hamas war and regional escalation, in what is seen as a chance to send a message to US president-elect Donald Trump.

Opening the summit, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said the international community must "immediately halt the Israeli actions against our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon", condemning Israel's campaign in Gaza as "genocide".

"(Saudi Arabia) affirms its support for the brothers in Palestine and

Lebanon to overcome the disastrous humanitarian consequences of the ongoing Israeli aggression," he said.

A draft resolution for the summit stresses "firm support" for "national rights" for the Palestinian people, "foremost among which is their right to freedom and to an independent, sovereign state".

Just hours earlier, newly appointed Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said it was not "realistic" to establish a Palestinian state, dismissing it as a "Hamas state".

"I don't think this position is realistic today and we must be realistic," Saar said in response to a question during an appearance in Jerusalem.

The Saudi foreign ministry announced plans for the summit in late October during a meeting,

also in Riyadh, of a new "international alliance" to press for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

It comes one year after a similar gathering in Riyadh of the Cairo-based Arab League and the J e d d a h - b a s e d Organisation of Islamic Cooperation during which leaders condemned Israeli forces' actions in Gaza as "barbaric".

This time around, Trump's election last week for a second term in the White House is likely to be on leaders' minds, said Anna Jacobs, senior Gulf analyst for the International Crisis Group think tank.

"This summit is very much an opportunity for regional leaders to signal to the incoming Trump administration what they want in terms of US engagement," she said.



Lawmakers applaud as Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (standing L) is reappointed as leader after the second round of a parliamentary vote to nominate a prime minister following the October 27 general election, during a special session of parliament in Tokyo.

Kremlin denies Trump call, says West not ready for talks

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia on Monday denied a reported call between President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump on the Ukraine conflict and said it saw no signs the West was ready for talks.

The Washington Post said on Sunday that Trump had spoken by phone on Thursday with Putin, telling him not to inflame the conflict.

Trump's election to the White House has the potential to upend the almost three-year conflict and has thrown into question

Washington's multi-billion dollar support for Kyiv, crucial to its defence.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied the report, telling journalists it was "false".

Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, told AFP in a written statement: "We do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders."

A senior Ukrainian presidency official also said Kyiv was "not informed" of any call between Putin and Trump.

Netanyahu admits he okayed Hezbollah pager attacks

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he okayed a deadly September attack on Hezbollah communications devices which exploded in Lebanon, the first time Israel has admitted involvement.

Hezbollah had previously blamed its arch-enemy for the blasts that dealt a major blow to the fighter group, and vowed revenge.

"Netanyahu confirmed on Sunday that he greenlighted the pager operation in Lebanon."

Don't prejudice Trump over Ukraine, France says

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Ukraine's allies must not prejudice how Donald Trump will handle the war there, France's foreign minister said on Monday, as French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer reaffirmed their support for Kyiv during talks in Paris. Trump has repeatedly criticised the scale of Western aid to Kyiv and has promised to end the conflict swiftly, without explaining how.

Deadly strikes on Gaza, Lebanon as Israel faces aid deadline

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli air strikes killed dozens of people in Lebanon and Gaza, rescuers and authorities said, ahead of a US deadline for improved aid delivery to the Palestinian territory. Rescuers in the Gaza Strip said 13 children were among 30 people killed by Israeli strikes in the territory's north. The first strike early Sunday hit a house in Jabalia, killing at least 25 people including 13 children and injuring more than 30, Gaza's civil defence agency said.

At around 6:00 am, "there was a very huge explosion" at the Ailoush family home, said relative Abdullah al-Najar.

"When we arrived here, all the bodies were torn apart," the distraught man added. Vowing to stop

Hamas militants from regrouping in already ravaged north Gaza, Israel on October 6 began a major air and ground assault.

The United Nations has described the area as "under siege", and Washington set a deadline of this coming week for Israel to get more aid in or face possible cuts to military assistance. After the strike in Jabalia, Israel's military said it hit "infrastructure" in which militants were operating and "posed a threat" to troops in the area.

"Prior to the strike, numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians," a military spokesman said. Another strike on the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City killed five people, the civil defence agency said.

Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile kill 6, injure 30 in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile smashed into cities in southern and eastern Ukraine on Monday, officials said, killing at least six civilians and injuring about 30 others. Russia recently intensified strikes that have long tormented civilian areas, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, in an apparent effort to unnerve Ukrainians and wear down their willingness to keep up a war that is approaching its 1,000-day milestone.

"Every day, every night, Russia commits the same terror," Zelenskyy said in a post on the Telegram messaging app. "Except that an increasing number of civilian objects are becoming targets."

Both Russia and Ukraine are waiting to see how Washington will change its policy on the war after Donald Trump takes office in January. The U.S. is the biggest provider of military help to Ukraine but Trump has chided the

Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars of aid. The major cities struck Monday by Russia are close to the war's around 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line.

Russian drones hammered the southern city of Mykolaiv, killing five people and injuring a 45-year-old woman, local authorities said. Around two dozen people sought psychological help following the attack that damaged houses and stores, officials said.

Russia open to hearing Trump's proposals for ending the war, an official says Mykolaiv, located about 60 kilometers (37 miles) northwest of the front line in the Kherson region, frequently comes under Russian attack. An overnight attack on Zaporizhzhia, also in the south, with three powerful glide bombs killed one person and injured 21, including a 4-year-old boy, Ukraine's National Police said.

Indonesia says it has no overlapping South China Sea claims with China, despite deal

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia said on Monday it does not recognise China's claims over the South China Sea, despite signing a maritime development deal with Beijing, as some analysts warned the pact risked compromising its sovereign rights.

Beijing has long clashed with Southeast Asian neighbours over the South China Sea, which it claims almost in its entirety, based on a "nine-dash line" on its maps that cuts into the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of several countries.

Joint agreements with China in the strategic waterway have been sensitive for years, with some nations wary of deals they fear could be interpreted as legitimising Beijing's vast claims.

In 2016, an arbitral tribunal said the Chinese claim, based on its old maps, has no basis in international law, a decision China refuses to recognise.

A joint statement issued at the weekend during Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to Beijing mentioned the two countries had "reached important common understanding on joint development in areas of overlapping claims".

Indonesia's foreign ministry has repeatedly said the country is a non-claimant state in the South China Sea and has no overlapping jurisdiction with China.

On Monday, the ministry said its position was unchanged and the agreement would have no impact on its sovereign rights.

Iran calls to expel Israel from UN after deadly Syria strike

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry called Sunday for an arms embargo on Israel and the expulsion of its arch-foe from the United Nations, following a deadly strike in Syria.

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Tehran "strongly condemned the aggressive attack carried out today by the Zionist regime against a residential building" in the Damascus area.

The strike on an apartment belonging to the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, killed nine people including a Hezbollah commander, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said.

Baghaei called for measures against Israel, including "an arms embargo" and its "expulsion from the United Nations."

Russian, Indonesian navies hold joint counter-terrorism drills

Monitoring Desk
RUSSIA: Russian and Indonesian ships practiced freeing a vessel captured by terrorists and fought unmanned boats during the first joint naval exercises between the two countries in the Java Sea, Russia's RIA state news agency reported on Monday.

The joint exercise, which started last week, came as newly inaugurated

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto pledged closer ties with Russia on defence, in a bid to forge links with any country as part of Jakarta's long-held non-aligned foreign policy. The crews of the joint detachment of ships practiced manoeuvring and communication, as well as inspection of suspicious vessels, RIA reported, citing the press service of the Russian.



Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani addressing as chief guest to the participants of PIPS 10th National Parliament Development Course-2024 at Pakistan Institute for Parliament Services (PIPS), Islamabad.

COP29:

Time to act now for global climate action rising to this moment: Romina

BAKU (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday emphasised the urgency for unified global response to protect rapidly degenerating ecosystems, lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable communities and infrastructure.

"Time to respond the century's worst challenge to the sustainability of planet earth, human lives and ecosystems is running out fast and climate inaction is no option," the PM's coordinator Romina

Khurshid highlighted while talking to media after plenary session of the two-week's annual UN-led global climate conference (COP29), which began today in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Romina Khurshid Alam is leading Pakistan's delegation at the climate conference, with emphasis to highlight Pakistan's commitment to global climate action and the country's actions for resilience building despite limited financial resources.

The 29th annual United Nations climate

summit kicked off with delegates from nearly 200 countries readying for tough talks on finance and trade, following a year of weather disasters that have stretched developing countries in their key demands for more funds to cope with exacerbating impacts of climate change.

Here at the annual UN climate meeting, global leaders have converged hoping to contain rising global temperatures, which are making deadly events like the recent floods in Pakistan, India, Nepal and Spain far worse.

Salik calls health, safety of workers responsibility

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday said that the health and safety of workers is the prime responsibility of the government.

Addressing the national tripartite labour conference on Monday, he said that workers play an important role in the development of the country and contribute a major share to the economy. "We are working to bring such an environment that would eliminate the hurdles in the life of workers", he added.

He said that Pakistan ranked better on the list of countries that provide health and safety to workers due to the efforts of the government. He said that the first Occupational Safety and Health Profile (OSH) was opened in Pakistan to monitor the health and other concerns of workers.

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Pakistan, Denmark reaffirm commitment to maintain momentum in bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Denmark on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining momentum in bilateral relations and coordinating closely on all issues of mutual concern, including at multilateral forums.

The bilateral ties were discussed at the Fourth Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Denmark here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafiq Ali Khan, while the Denmark side was led by State Secretary for Foreign Policy, Ambassador Lisbet Zilmer-

Johns according to a Foreign Office press release.

The two sides conducted a comprehensive review of the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, encompassing political relations, trade and investment, climate change, renewable energy, infrastructure development and people-to-people contacts. Important regional and global developments were also discussed.

Expressing satisfaction at the upward trajectory of bilateral cooperation, the two sides agreed to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Denmark in a befitting manner this year.

Shehbaz led PML-N gov't doesn't have mandate or performance: Abbasi

MURREE (INP): Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the head of the Awam Pakistan Party (APP), has harshly criticized the current central government, claiming it lacks both the mandate and the governance necessary to provide stability in the country.

Speaking with a private TV channel, Abbasi stated that the government believes it has achieved stability due to the incompetence of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), but emphasized that true political power stems from both a legitimate mandate and strong governance, neither of which, according to Abbasi, the current government possesses.

"The government is strong when the country is

strong. It is clear that this government does not have either the mandate or the performance," Abbasi said, highlighting that effective governance requires both a solid mandate and the ability to deliver results, which he believes the present administration lacks. In response to ongoing discussions regarding the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Abbasi expressed skepticism over the government's expectations of raising \$5 billion rupees from the sale of the national carrier. He suggested that the market was not inclined to accept such a high valuation and that a more realistic figure for PIA's privatization would be around 10 billion rupees.

Role of Parliament vital to tackle challenges: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday highlighted the pressing challenges humanity faces, including climate change, sustainable development, and socio-economic disparities.

The Chairman Senate was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural session of the 10th Annual National Parliamentary Development Course at the Pakistan Institute for Parliament Services (PIPS).

He said that the role of parliament and parliamentarians has become increasingly crucial in steering the country toward achieving its strategic national and international objectives. He said that members of Parliament are the people's representatives, entrusted by the Constitution with the great responsibility of empathizing

with the masses. He observed that Parliamentary work has become a specialized service that necessitates proficient and professional support from officers well-versed in cross-disciplinary concepts and practices.

"You must take pride in the responsibility bestowed upon you to serve and provide technical assistance to the elected representatives. Your role is crucial in guiding the nation's progress towards the well-being of its citizens, aiming for a secure, prosperous, and happy future for our coming generations," Gilani remarked while highlighting the importance of the training course.

He called upon the participants to make full use of this robust and comprehensive training program designed to advance understanding of the Constitu-

tion, the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure, and the Government Rules of Business 1973.

He commended the PIPS administration and team for their pivotal role in empowering parliamentary officers with relevant and practical knowledge.

The chairman expressed best wishes to the course participants and hoped they would exploit this learning and networking opportunity towards a new destiny as professionals par excellence, offering quality-oriented services to the Parliamentary institutions. A highly diversified cohort of mid-career officers from the federal parliament and provincial assemblies, as well as Legislative Assemblies of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan and the Parliament, is participating in the course.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid in a group photo with a high-level delegation from West African Countries visits Benazir Income Support Programme.

Mashhood distributes cheques among lucky winners of 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar' programme

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that the government is working day and night to provide basic facilities to the people and the elements who defamed the country were now defaming themselves.

He expressed these views at a cheque distribution ceremony among lucky winners who were declared eligible for loans under the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" scheme at Babu Sabu on Monday. Rana Mashhood said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif would inaugurate the "Green Youth Movement" programme next month to deal with climate change.

"The government believes in action not promises. The Apni Chhat Apna Ghar program is the fulfillment of the promise made to the people," he added.

Mashhood said that all resources were being utilised for the improvement of backward areas, especially those which are deprived of basic facilities even though they are in Lahore. "Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has given a special package for these areas and in this

regard development work will start next year," he added.

He said Maryam Nawaz had won the hearts of the people of Punjab by giving a wonderful project Apni Chhat Apna Ghar worth Rs700 billion. "We are serving the people day and night and the country has reached a position to take-off, and inflation has reduced," he added.

He said that the federal government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was playing its full role in bringing the Muslim world together.

SCBA expresses Full confidence in judges nominated for constitutional benches

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Monday said that the decision to make Justice Aminuddin Khan the head of the constitution benches is commendable.

President SCBA Mian Rauf Ata said that the legal fraternity has full confidence in the seven judges nominated for the Constitution Benches.

He said that it is hoped that the constitutional bench will be formed soon so that the back log of the constitutional cases is cleared.

The President SCBA also welcomed the initiatives of Chief Justice Yahya Afridi regarding case management. It is a good idea to issue the monthly cause list and fix urgent petitions for

hearing, he said. The Judicial Commission meeting was chaired by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, where Justice Aminuddin Khan was appointed as the head of constitutional bench by a majority of 7-5 members.

A seven-member constitutional bench was formed for 60 days.

For the constitutional bench, Justice Aminuddin and Justice Ayesha Malik were taken from Punjab, while Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi were selected from Sindh.

Justice Jamal Mandokhail and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan were included from Balochistan, while Justice Musarrat Hilali was included from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers cleaning a map constructed at Zero Point in the Federal Capital.

IHC verdict lifting ban on political discussions in jail visits challenged

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad administration has challenged the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict that declared the clause prohibiting political discussions between prisoners and their visitors as unconstitutional. The capital city administration approached the IHC through the chief commissioner office and filed an intra-court appeal, requesting the court to set aside the verdict of a single bench.

A division bench

headed by Chief Justice IHC Aamir Farooq and comprising Justice Saman Riffat will hear the challenging plea on Tuesday.

Earlier on October 31, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan ruled that such restrictions violate the fundamental right to freedom of expression, as enshrined in Pakistan's constitution. The verdict was announced after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders were barred from discussing political matters with their incarcerated founder.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Pakistan H.E. Irfan Neziroglu called on Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada.

SC decides to do color coding of pending constitutional cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has been decided to do color coding of the pending constitutional cases.

As per the minutes issued by the SC, in pursuance of the nomination of judges for the constitutional benches of this court, a meeting was held in the chamber of Justice Aminuddin Khan on November 6, to work out modalities of rapid functioning of the said benches. He was briefed about the pendency of the cases under Article 184(1), 184(3) and 186 including Human Rights Cases. The current working/practices of procession of the constitution petitions and proposed strategy for future adoption were also placed before the head of the constitutional benches.

It was decided that color coding of the cases shall be done, which are clearly falling under the purview of Article 191A of the constitution and Mr.

Mazhar Ali Khan Senior Research Officer (SCRC) has been given task to scrutinize the cases arising out of the Article 199 of the constitution. However, fixation, sitting of benches, issuance of court roster and number of cases to be heard in a week will be decided in consultation with the remaining two senior most members of the constitutional benches, as in accordance with Article 191A Clause (4), a committee comprising the most senior judge of the constitutional benches and next two most senior judges from amongst the judges nominated under clause (1), has to constitute a bench consisting of not less than five judges for the purposes noted in clause (3) of the instant Article. As one member of the committee is not available being out of country, therefore, soon after the availability of members of committee, next meeting will be scheduled.



ISLAMABAD: Artists performing on stage during ten days of Folk Festival Lok Mela at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

ITP holds 785 road safety workshops, educates over 420,000 citizens

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) is striving to ensure traffic discipline and minimize the violation of rules through educating road users.

In this regard, the Islamabad Police organized 785 road safety workshops through which 4,21,238 citizens were educated during the ongoing Year.

These road safety workshops were arranged for driving license applicants, volunteers, students of educational institutions and staff of government and non-government organizations, a police public relations officer told APP on Monday.

He said that, the Islamabad Police is arrang-

ing such workshops and creating awareness amongst citizens about consequences of traffic rules violations, including over speeding, one-wheeling, non-pattern and fancy number plates, juvenile driving, lane-line discipline and zebra crossing etc.

This effort is meant to infuse traffic discipline, which will help to protect the lives and property of citizens and to sensitize road users about various traffic rules, while the awareness campaign for the safety of road users is in full swing.

In this regard, special teams have been constituted to spread awareness among road users in order to ensure their safety before travelling on roads, particularly motorbike riders were being advised how to take the left lane while travelling.

AIOU expedites mailing of books

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has expedited the process of mailing of books to its students of Autumn 2024 semester across the country.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood has directed the Mailing Section to complete the process as per schedule and enable the students to get the books well before time, so that they could do their academic assignments within stipulated schedule.

According to the Mailing Section, over 62,000 students have been enrolled in the Matric program, while more than 74,000 students are enrolled in the FA program.

ICT Police apprehend 39 from sheesha cafe

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Shalimar teams on Monday apprehended 39 individuals in a targeted operation against illegal sheesha cafes and seized sheesha equipment, hookahs, various flavors, and weapons with ammunition from the suspects.

A police spokesperson told APP that, Shalimar Police teams intensified crackdown against the Sheesha centers in order to eliminate this menace from the city and special efforts were also taken against the accused involved in immoral activities.

In this regard, the Shalimar police station team apprehended 39 accused during the crackdown against sheesha cafes.

Police team also recovered sheesha, hookah, flavors and weapons with ammunition from their possessions.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain addressing two-day Pakistan's National Tripartite Labour Conference, jointly organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD).

High level delegation from West African Countries studies BISP initiatives and impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high level delegation from West African Countries Monday visited Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) head-

quarters to learn from the social protection initiatives implemented under this largest programme and its impacts on the marginalized segments.

The delegation was welcomed by the Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, and Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad.

The delegation belonged from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, and Niger.

The delegation is on a four-day study tour from November 11 to 14, 2024, in collaboration with the World Food Program and

the World Bank, aiming to learn from BISP's initiatives in social protection for disadvantaged sections of society.

In her welcoming remarks, Chairperson Rubina Khalid described BISP as Pakistan's flagship social protection program, inspired by the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and launched in 2008 by then-President Asif Ali Zardari. She explained that BISP uniquely identifies 9.3 million low-income women across Pakistan using the CNIC system. The female head of each eligible household is entitled to financial assistance, with Form 'B' made mandatory for program registration.



ISLAMABAD: A major road network project is underway at the PTCL Chowk underpass in the heart of the capital, aimed at improving traffic flow and enhancing infrastructure.