



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ابوہریرہؓ نے بیان کیا کہ اہل کتاب تو بہت
عبرانی زبان میں پڑھتے تھے اور اس کی تفسیر
مسلمانوں کے لیے عربی میں کرتے تھے تو
رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اہل
کتاب کی یہ تصدیق کرو اور ان کی تکذیب
کو کیونکہ تم ایمان لائے اللہ پر اور اس پر جو
ہم پر نازل ہوا اور جو ہم سے پہلے تم پر نازل ہوا
آخر آیت تک جو سورہ بقرہ میں ہے۔
(تفسیر: صفحہ نمبر 7362)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

We intend to benefit from Argentina's meat processing technology: CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met H. E Mr. Sebastian Sayus, Ambassador of Argentina to Pakistan to discuss various options to promote cooperation in the fields of livestock, agriculture, information technology and other industrial sectors. She agreed to launch a pilot project of silos in Okara. (Details on Page 5)



Several migrants killed while crossing Channel to UK

Several migrants died and a two-year-old boy was crushed to death in two separate tragedies overnight when their overcrowded boats tried to cross the Channel to Britain, French officials said Saturday. The child was found unresponsive in an overloaded dinghy when migrants, who were onboard a boat carrying nearly 90 people, issued a call for assistance on Saturday morning.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-us-Sani 3, Monday, October 7, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 174 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Call on

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Govt won't allow anyone to destabilise economy: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has stated that Pakistan's economic policies are being recognised globally, but political opponents are unable to accept the country's economic progress and are attempting to hinder its development.

During a meeting with Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday, he said that the

government would not allow anyone to destabilise economy. He praised the Islamabad administration, Islamabad and Punjab police, Pakistan Army, and Rangers for their role in maintaining peace in the capital. He lauded the Islamabad police for their exemplary role in thwarting an assault on the city, highlighting the collective efforts of the security forces in ensuring law and order.

The prime minister paid tribute to Constable Hameed

Shah, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty while protecting the public. "May Allah elevate the martyr's ranks. The nation will always remember this sacrifice," said the PM, expressing solidarity with the constable's family and directing that they be fully cared for.

Shehbaz Sharif assured the public that the situation in Islamabad was rapidly returning to normal, and reaffirmed that economic development and

national prosperity remain the government's top priorities. He said the upcoming international events in Pakistan would proceed as planned, with the best security arrangements in place.

Earlier, Interior Minister Naqvi briefed the prime minister on the reopening of main roads for traffic and the overall improvement in the situation, confirming that the situation was swiftly normalising.

The interior minister also

informed the PM about the return of 56 Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka, who were expected to arrive home soon. Naqvi noted that Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan had volunteered to bear all expenses for repatriation of the prisoners.

The PM commended both the interior minister and the minister for privatization for their efforts in facilitating the prisoners' return from Sri Lanka.

CM Gandapur reappears in KP assembly after recent 'disappearance'



Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Following a day-long 'disappearance', the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, resurfaced in the provincial assembly.

After his surprising return to the provincial assembly, the members of the assembly warmly welcomed the CM Ali Amin Gandapur.

The KP's CM expressed pride in representing his province and lauded the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protestors who stand with the party.

In his address to the assembly, Gandapur expressed his pride in representing his province and extended his support to the PTI, stating, "I salute the people of Pakistan who stand beside the party founder."

Earlier, the Speaker of the KP Assembly issued orders to produce Ali Amin Gandapur and other members of the Provincial Assembly.

The Speaker consulted the Advocate General regarding the production orders in accordance with Article 165A of the Constitution.

The Advocate General clarified that provincial assembly members from Sindh had been detained by the Punjab government, emphasizing that orders from the Lahore High Court mandated that production orders are applicable universally.

He further stated that the law allows the Speaker to issue production orders under Section 165A, thereby legitimizing the process for all affected assembly members.

Mohsin Naqvi breaks silence on CM Ali Amin Gandapur's 'disappearance'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Sunday denied arresting KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur.

Talking to the media after the funeral prayer of the martyred constable in Islamabad Mohsin Naqvi rejected speculations of arresting CM Ali Amin Gandapur and said he is not in custody of the government department.

He said the authorities have footage of Ali Amin Gandapur fleeing the KP House in Islamabad. Replying to a question, Mohsin Naqvi said that those responsible for the martyrdom of Islamabad Police constable Abdul Hameed Shah, will not be spared.

He also announced Shaheed package for the family of the martyr, along with jobs for both of his sons.

Mysterious disappearance of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur since Saturday evening has created concerns about his well-being in the rank and file of his PTI party.

Sources said that KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur has been in Pakhtunkhwa House of Islamabad. There are contradictory reports about his arrest after being out of the public eye since yesterday.

Earlier, KP CM's brother Faisal Amin Gandapur and leader of opposition Omar Ayub had claimed arrest of the chief minister.

Karachi: Explosion reported near Jinnah International Airport

Bureau Report

KARACHI: An explosion was reported at a signal near Karachi's Jinnah International Airport.

The police officials confirmed that the blast occurred, but the nature of the explosion is still being determined.

Initial reports suggest the explosion involved an oil tanker near the signal at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport, which injured several citizens and destroyed several cars.

Rescue teams have already been dispatched to the accident site.

Authorities are currently assessing the situation and further details will emerge as the investigation progresses.

Emergency services are on high alert as efforts continue to determine the cause and extent of the incident.

Objective of PTI protest to derail economy, spread anarchy: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that the objective of the so-called "Tehreek-e-Intishar" was to derail the country's economy and spread chaos and anarchy.

Talking to Media here, the minister said he wondered what were the objectives of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protest movement?

He said he was deeply saddened by the martyrdom of Islamabad Police Constable Abdul Hameed Shah.

"Abdul Hameed Shah had left home to perform security duties and was martyred by the anarchist group," he added.



The anarchist movement cannot feel the grief of the family members on the martyrdom of Abdul Hameed Shah, he said.

The people of the PTI attacked the federal capital armed with weapons.

The minister said the PTI was not digesting the country's economic development, they wanted to derail the system.

Islamabad Police showed patience

and performed the security duties in a friendly manner and did not allow any loss of life or property, he remarked.

He said that the PTI once again wanted dead bodies, but they were not given the opportunity.

Ali Amin Gandapur, he said invaded the federal government with government resources and weapons but he failed miserably in achieving his target.

He said that they wanted to defame the country.

Ataullah Tarar said that the country has a professional army chief and a strong leadership who cared about the country's interests.

Ali Amin Gandapur should spend the tax-payers money on the welfare of the people instead of wasting on protests and sit-ins.

Traffic flows in Rawalpindi, mobile signals restored in Islamabad

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad woke up to a tense and quiet morning on Sunday after an entire night of tense clashes between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters and law enforcement agencies.

Life in the twin cities is largely suspended since PTI began its protest on October 4.

The Metro Bus service, that operates between the two cities, is suspended. However, mobile signals were slowly restored in the capital by noon.

Most businesses in Rawalpindi and Islamabad are closed, severely disrupting daily life. The Murree Road has been closed to all traffic for three days. Containers are placed on streets and roads leading to Murree Road in



Rawalpindi, causing significant hardship for citizens. Obstacles are present at various points along the route from Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi to Faiz-

abad. Punjab Police are deployed at various locations, and security is on high alert.

The road closures have made it difficult for patients to reach hospitals, while the suspension of mobile internet has severely impacted online businesses. The Metro Bus service is also suspended for the third day.

Authorities have stated that mobile phone service will be officially restored shortly.

Within Islamabad's limits, the Expressway and Kashmir Highway are open to traffic. Murree Road and Airport Road are also open, however, all routes to and from the Red Zone remain closed. The M1 motorway to Lahore is open, with previously dug trenches filled. The M2 motorway to Peshawar has also been reopened.

Khalid Qadoumi addresses Al-Aqsa Million March in Karachi



Bureau Report

KARACHI: At the Al-Aqsa Million March in Karachi, Hamas spokesman Khalid Qadoumi praised the efforts of the Mujahideen, claiming they are inflicting heavy losses on the Israeli

army and damaging Israel's pride.

He criticized the support Israel receives from the United States, Great Britain, and France, but emphasized that Hamas remains committed to the resistance.

Qadoumi also highlighted the severe toll the conflict has taken on Palestinians, with over 45,000 martyrs in the past year and 10,000 people missing.

Meanwhile, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sindh Muhammad Hussain Mehanti recalled support for Palestine, vowing to stand ready for the freedom of Al-Aqsa Mosque and warning of Israel's ambition for a Greater Israel.

Tenth Annual Millad-e-Mustafa PBUH held in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The 10th Annual Millad of Mustafa (peace be upon him) organized by PC World News HD was held at Jhang Bazar.

The Chief Guest was Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, Central President of Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan, while Chaudhry Khurram Shehzad and Khawaja Talha Ejaz Mana were the guests of honor.

This Zikr Mahfil Millad Mustafa was organized by Ghulam Dastgir with the support of Abdul Majid Bureau Daily The Spokesman (Islamabad), Irfan Qadri, Mirza Haroon Mughal, Waheedur Rehman, Azman Haider, Shahram Haider and the people of the area. Naat Khan Rizwan Faridi, Habib Qadri, Qamar Abbas and others presented their words in the service of Holy Prophet.

On this occasion, the Central Pres-



ident of Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan, Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, in his message about the life of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) advised the Muslims to move towards progress and progress by adopting his role and importance.

He has further said that Hazrat Muhammad Rasulullah SAW is being mentioned all the time in one or the other region of the world. And no moment of the day or night passes that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) is not being mentioned in most areas of the world in terms of situations and events, in terms of sayings and sayings, or in terms of instructions and commands.

This mention is bound to a month, not a day, nor can it be limited in any other sphere, because the teachings and instructions of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) are for all people, for all regions.

Governor Kundi attends funeral of slain policeman

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday attended the funeral prayer of police officer Hamid Shah, who was tragically killed during recent protests.

The officer lost his life while fulfilling his duty to maintain public order. Governor Kundi expressed his condolence to the slain officer's son, brother, and fellow officers, emphasizing that their sacrifice will always be remembered.

He commended the courage of law enforcement personnel, saying that their services are vital for the country's security and public safety.

Kundi said that the sacrifice of the slain officer symbolizes the commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the country.

The funeral was attended by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, senior police officials, other dignitaries, and a large number of citizens and police personnel.

Strict security measures were in place for the event.

Attendees noted that the Governor's presence was a gesture of solidarity and brotherhood from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Police officers and family expressed that the Governor's attendance helped soothe their grief after the tragic loss, highlighting the unity among the provinces.

After the prayers, Governor Kundi laid a floral wreath on the deceased officer's coffin, paying tribute to his ultimate sacrifice.

Provincial minister will inaugurate the International Cleft Camp in Gujarat

Anwar Chohan

KHARAIN: The International Cleft Camp, organized by the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association, will commence 12th Oct 2024 at Ayesha Bashir Hospital in Gujrat. The camp will be inaugurated by Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Deputy Commissioner of Gujrat Saifdar Hussain Virk, and Chairman of Skyways Group of Companies Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin.



Renowned cleft plastic surgeons from the UK, along with their team, will perform free surgeries for children with cleft lips and palates at the camp. According to Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, the spokesperson for the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association, more than 27,000 children with cleft lips and palates have already received free treatment at Cleft Hospital Gujrat.

He further stated that Cleft Hospital Gujrat plays a crucial role in treating these children and helping them become productive members of society. The hospital offers free treatment for children with cleft lips and palates, with the costs covered by the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association. Surgeons from abroad also come to the hospital to perform plastic surgeries on children with these congenital deformities and provide training to local doctors and medical staff.

Cleft Hospital Gujrat is recognized as the best and only world-class hospital in Pakistan that provides treatment for children with cleft lips and palates.

Tragic collision in Kot Addu claims four lives

Correspondent

KOT ADDU: A collision between a high-speed car and an auto-rickshaw in Kot Addu has resulted in the deaths of four individuals.



According to the police officials, the incident occurred near Tonsa Mor in Punjab, where the fast-moving car collided with the rickshaw, leading to the death of the rickshaw driver and two women.

Authorities reported that the occupants of the car fled the scene.

The deceased women and a child are said to be from Vehari.

The bodies have been transferred to District Headquarter Hospital in Kot Addu for post-mortem examinations.

Roads open for traffic after containers, blockades removed: CTO

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Police on Saturday cleared all exit and entry points of blockades and removed containers placed on different roads in the city in the wake of PTI's protest at Minar-e-Pakistan.



Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Ammara Athar said all city roads opened for traffic after the removal of roadblocks.

The CTO said Eastern Bypass opened, adding traffic was moving smoothly in Shahdra, Thokar Niaz Baig, Babu Sabu and Sagayan.

She said citizens could travel anywhere in and outside of the city after the removal of barricades.

The city roads were barricaded with containers by the police to stop PTI's protest at Minar-e-Pakistan as the Punjab government had imposed Section 144 in the city.

The PIT wanted to take out a protest rally against price hike, and for the release of its founder and 'independence' of judiciary.

Two terrorists who killed CTD officer eliminated in Karachi raid

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Karachi Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Saturday night claimed to have taken out two terrorists who were complicit in the murder of CTD officer Ali Raza.

According to CTD in charge Raja Umer Khattab, CTD personnel on secret information conducted an operation in Sher Shah and eliminated two terrorists of a banned outfit.

The CTD in charge said when the police of Counter Terrorism Department reached their hideouts, the militants opened fire on law enforcers.

Our policemen engaged the terrorists effectively and killed them, Raja Umer Khattab said.

Talking to the media, CTD DIG Asif Ejaz Sheikh said the terrorists were involved in 35 cases of terrorism, adding they had killed CTD officer Ali Raza in Karachi.

A target list, explosives, sophisticated weapons and a suicide jacket were seized from the dead outlaws, the DIG said, adding more arrests had been made in this connection.

The eliminated outlaws were identified as Usman and Hafiz Rasheed. Further investigation was underway.

Roads Opened

RAWALPINDI: People on their way at Chandi Chowk area after open roads in the city, after turmoil of three days the daily life activities started once again in Rawalpindi.



Photo: Online

World Teachers' Day function held in Lower Chitral

Adam Khan Wazir

LOWER CHITRAL: A grand program was organized at Sentinel High School on Sunday to mark World Teachers' Day. The event was a collaborative effort between Lower Chitral, District Youth Office, and District Administration. Shields and certificates of appreciation were awarded to 16 dedicated male and female teachers in recognition of their professional services.

Deputy Commissioner Mohsin Iqbal graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, he expressed his gratitude to all teachers for their tireless efforts in educating and training the young generation. "Your hard work and dedication will never be forgotten," he



said. The program was attended by District Education Officer Mehmoed Ghaznavi, Principals of various schools,

District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir, District Orator, and a large number of teachers.

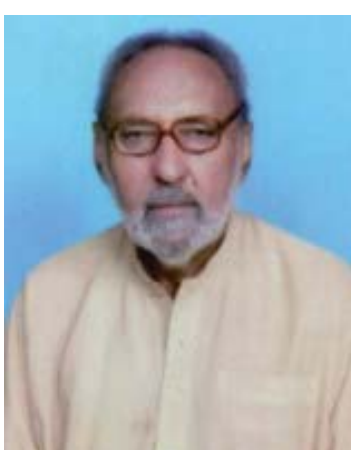
The 16 teachers who received shields and certificates of appreciation were praised for their commitment to education. The award ceremony was a highlight of the program, acknowledging the teachers' selfless contributions to shaping the minds of future generations.

The World Teachers' Day celebration in Lower Chitral was a resounding success, honoring the unsung heroes of education. The event served as a reminder of the vital role teachers play in society, and the appreciation they deserve for their dedication and hard work.

Deployment of all the forces could not stop the people from reaching D Chowk: Bukhari

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Member of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari Advocate, has said that Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is not at fault. She has previously stated that the army is a haven for terrorists and has conspired to break the country. Now, Maryam Nawaz Sharif wants to prove that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have no connection with Pakistan, and that's why Attock District, Pakistan, does not allow their entry. He expressed these views during a special conversation with media representatives at Al-Murtaza House. On this occasion, PTI Tehsil President Chaudhry Abid Raza, along with other PTI officials and workers, was also present. Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari Advocate said that he believes that Maryam Nawaz



Sharif still harbors grudges and hatred against the army.

He added that Maryam Nawaz Sharif should not create hatred between the hearts of Punjab and

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as enmity with the army is part of her agenda. He emphasized that the public has now risen to claim their rights, and he is confident that the Pakistani army would never fire on their own brothers. Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari Advocate remarked that perhaps the current federal and Punjab governments did not anticipate the strength of the public revolution, as even with the deployment of all forces, they could not stop the public from reaching D-Chowk. The internet across the entire country was also shut down, leaving people unable to avail services like Rescue 1122 or other social organizations for taking their patients to hospitals during emergencies. In response to a question, the Member of Punjab Assembly Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari asked, "Where is PTI using weapons and batons to cause bloodshed? Everything is out there on

social media, but the print media is also reporting everything." He asserted that the government, unaware or ignorant of the power of revolution, has lost today. PTI Chairman Imran Khan's supporters have stood their ground at D-Chowk Islamabad, proving that the false threats of the king's loyalists are meaningless. Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari said the government has seen the fruits of patience and has witnessed the boundaries between the oppressor and the oppressed. On this occasion, PTI Tehsil President Attock Chaudhry Abid Raza and other officials and workers also spoke to the media about the current situation, stating that their return to Attock was only to gather some funds, dry fruits, and essential items from home, after which they would head back to D-Chowk Islamabad. They will remain there until further orders from the leader.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:43 am
Zohr 11:56 am
Asr 4:04 pm
Maghrib 5:45 pm
Isha 7:08 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 92252596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4

Climate authority meeting reviews measures for boosting climate resilience

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A powered meeting of the national climate change authority (NCCA) was held to review the implementation of the various measures proposed in the national climate change policy for climate change resilience of various socio-economic sectors, particularly energy, water, agriculture, public infrastructure, according to a press statement issued here on Sunday.

The meeting discussed at length the future course of actions for enhancing collaboration with all relevant federal and provincial government organisations for addressing various climate impacts, particularly floods, heat waves, glacial lake outburst floods, shifting rainfall patterns, changing river flows and ground-

water depletion.

The meeting also pondered over efforts to formulate and coordinate climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building ongoing and future plans, projects, and programmes to meet Pakistan's obligations under international conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In her statement, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, said on the occasion that present government is increasingly focusing on climate change resilience of Pakistan, recognising that the country is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including extreme weather events, floods, droughts, and glacial melt. "The present government is



committed to enhance Pakistan's climate resilience by protecting people, their lives and livelihoods from the adverse impacts of climate change by utilizing all available resources, capacity and technical know-how," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

Earlier, in her welcome remarks, the climate change and environmental coordination ministry secretary Aisha Humera Moriani highlighted Pakistan's growing climate vulnerability and exacerbating impacts of the climate change-caused disasters.

Climate change and environmental coordination ministry said that Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change, despite contributing relatively little to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal, Tapas Adhikari visiting DAACHI arts and crafts exhibitions at Pak China Friendship Center in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Punjab minister calls for urgent action to control dengue in Rawalpindi

LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Punjab Khawaja Salman Rafique has said that emergency measures should be taken to control the increasing graph of dengue in Rawalpindi keeping in mind the experiences of the past years. He said this while presiding over the dengue situation review meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office. Prof Dr. Waseem Akram, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema, CEO Health Rawalpindi and other relevant officials were also present in the meeting.

Provincial Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique said that the highest number of dengue patients in Punjab this year are being reported from Rawalpindi, which is an alarming situation. In 2024, 230 dengue patients have been reported in Lahore, while the number of dengue patients in Rawalpindi has reached 1934. The reasons due to which the dengue virus is spreading so much should also be examined and the shortcomings should be identified.

Khawaja Salman Rafique said that dengue hotspots should be continuously monitored and effective measures should be taken. There has been a substantial increase in FIRs, arrests and fines by the district administration of Rawalpindi against violators of dengue SOPs compared to previous years, but despite this, the increase in the graph of dengue is noticeable. He said that there should be close cooperation with the administration of Islamabad and a common plan of action should be adopted.

ETO commits to expand user-friendly services, ending agents' role

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Director Excise & Taxation Department, Islamabad, Bilal Azam has assured his department's commitment to providing more transparent and user-friendly services for residents, particularly in vehicle registration and token tax payment.

In an exclusive interview with APP, he highlighted the importance of leveraging digital solutions to enhance accessibility for residents while actively working to eliminate the role of agents who contribute to corrupt practices.

Admitting the agent mafia's existence despite a number of modern solutions, especially mobile facilities, he underscored citizens' role to utilize the department's digital online



services, which are designed to simplify processes and reduce the reliance on intermediaries. By fostering awareness and engagement, Azam believes the community can play a vital role in transforming service delivery and promoting transparency.

Responding to queries and

public concerns raised by this agency's scribe, Azam outlined a two-step process for vehicle registration and transfer.

Applicants can simply call the department's helpline at 111-383-383 to provide their details and schedule a visit from a mobile registration van, which may arrive on the same

day or the next.

This initiative not only caters to individual needs but also represents a move towards personalized public service.

Additionally, mobile vans are stationed at five locations throughout the week, expanding access for those who prefer to handle their affairs in person.

The introduction of the Islamabad Citizen App marks another milestone, allowing residents to pay their token tax via smartphone, thereby reducing congestion at physical offices.

This digital approach addresses the challenges posed by the high volume of vehicle registrations, making it easier for citizens to manage their obligations from the comfort of their homes.

Pakistan's economy shows signs of recovery, says Rana Ihsan Afzal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan Sunday expressed optimism about Pakistan's economic recovery, highlighting the government's initiatives that have boosted investor confidence, exporter confidence, and attracted foreign investment, paving the way for sustainable economic growth.

Pakistan's economic recovery is gaining momentum, driven by strategic reforms and investments, he said in an exclusive talk with PTV news channel.

Pakistan's economy is showing promising signs of recovery, thanks to the government's strategic efforts, he said.

He painted a positive picture of Pakistan's economic outlook and expressed confidence in the government's reform agenda, citing notable progress in tax stabilization, privatization and exporter support.

Pakistan is poised for significant economic growth, with a focus on resolving long-standing issues faced by manufacturers and exporters, he said, adding, the government is actively addressing refund issues and implementing strategies to boost exports.

In fact, Pakistan has planned to raise its exports to \$50 billion in five years, with an ambitious long-term target of \$100 billion, he added.

On International Teacher's Day, the government has taken concrete steps for the welfare of teachers



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Statement of Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain, Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association on the occasion of International Teacher's Day. Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain, Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, while paying tribute to the builders of the nation on the occasion of World Teacher's Day, appealed to the teachers to make serious efforts for the educational development of the country and nation and a better future..

In his statement issued here yesterday, Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain said that the International Teacher's Day is being celebrated worldwide on October 5. On this occasion, we request the teachers to take concrete steps for the educational development of Pakistan and to equip the new generation with fine education. This profession is prophetic and the people associated with it should help in character building and preparation of children according to global standards so that our children can stand tall in the world. Similarly, the government should also take concrete steps for the welfare of teachers and also help teachers for the betterment of their children's future. Better employment, food and housing arrangements for the teachers is the primary responsibility of the government.

PTI wants to disrupt SCO summit in Islamabad: KP governor

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Levelling serious allegations on PTI, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said the party transport terrorists in Punjab and other cities in the guise of protests and sit-ins.

"The PTI wants to disrupt Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit by inviting Indian FM to address their protest rally.

"They are treading course of collision. They have nothing to do with the prosperity of the country. They just know how to commit corruption and dance," the KP governor said.

In a statement, the governor said PTI supplies weapons to other cities in the name of political struggle, adding Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had claimed that 100 Afghans were arrested from PTI protest in Islamabad. To a question, Kundi said dialogue with PTI is not possible as it follows anti-country agenda.

"They tried to sabotage talks with IMF by sending a letter to the funding agency, they created May 9 violence and now they wanted to disrupt the tour of Malaysian PM," he alleged.

There should be no worry about the whereabouts of Ali Amin Gandapur. He often disappears at evening and next morning the situation about his missing gets clear.

"This will happen again. Today, everything about his disappearance will clear," the governor said.

On PM's meeting, the KP governor said he briefed the PM on law and order situation in KP, no talk was held with regard to governor's rule in the province, though the Constitution allows this.

Lahore Biennale Foundation Commences Groundbreaking Third Edition

City Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF) proudly commenced 'Of Mountains and Seas', the highly anticipated third edition of the Lahore Biennale (LB03), curated by the acclaimed John Tain. This year's Biennale builds on the momentum of the previous editions, first introduced in 2018, and presents a bold exploration of ecologies and sustainable futures, showcasing the power of art in addressing pressing global challenges.

With the theme Of Mountains and Seas, the Biennale will feature the work of over 60 artists from more than 30 countries, offering site-specific exhibits and immersive installations that address environmental degradation while also spotlighting indigenous heritage and vernacular knowledge as transformative tools for sustainability. The third edition highlights Pakistan's unique perspective and connects it to broader conversations within the Global South.



"As a public-facing organisation, the Lahore Biennale Foundation is committed to creating sustained and meaningful cultural programming," said Qudsia Rahim, Executive Director of LBF. "Given the relative

scarcity of regional dialogues within South Asia, the Biennale aims to foster a deeper and multifaceted exchange within Asia and the rest of the world and to contribute to a shared and sustainable future. At the

same time, the city of Lahore becomes a wonderful catalyst for engaging local audiences with contemporary art and incorporating regional artists into the global art scene."

Raza Ali Dada, Lead Architect & Scenographer for LB03, shares, "LBF prioritises the city and its urban spaces when planning the spatial design of its exhibitions and projects. The rediscovery and reappropriation of these locations are crucial means of public engagement and have initiated new and regenerative projects across Lahore. Our design approach honors the artists' visions while staying sensitive to sustainability concerns."

John Tain further comments, "By positioning Lahore as a strategic location for global efforts to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis, LB03 signals the need to shift agency for environmental discourse to the very societies that will be most affected."

The Biennale will run from October 6 to November 8, 2024, and will be free and open to the public.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: _____
 Head Office: **AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.**
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
 Karachi office: **A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,**
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
 Email: **spokesmankarachi@gmail.com**
 Lahore Office: **7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Earthquake 2005 and Pak Army

Due to my professional commitments, I was assigned to a sensitive location in Punjab. Our mobility was limited because of the nature of the project, requiring proper authorization to leave the site. Alongside me was another engineer, and our task was to carry out repairs and maintenance on a piece of machinery. We arrived at our destination late at night on October 7, 2005, and received a warm welcome. A lavish and delicious dinner was served before we retired to our assigned sleeping quarters. The following day, October 8, 2005, began like any other, with bright sunshine and an unsettling silence in the air. We woke up early; had breakfast, and then headed to the location of the faulty machine. At 8:30 am, we conducted a preliminary inspection, reviewing the machine's manual and diagnostic procedures. Several trucks were parked nearby. While my colleague and I spoke with the machine's operators, the clock struck 8:52 am, and suddenly the ground began to shake violently. Intense seismic tremors rocked the area, causing the parked trucks to sway. Our immediate instinct was to sit down and recite the Kalma. The violent shaking lasted about 60 seconds before gradually easing.

The chief kindly issued us a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to facilitate our departure. While we had our company's mobile phone, it lacked signal during our journey on the link road to the motorway. As soon as I finally got a signal, I called my family in Islamabad. They assured me they were safe but mentioned they couldn't reach other family members in Muzaffarabad. They also relayed that the Margalla Towers in Islamabad had collapsed and that Muzaffarabad had been severely affected. I returned to Islamabad, and later that evening, I learned more about the situation in Muzaffarabad, Balakot, and other impacted areas, which was far from hopeful. My family experienced injuries and property damage, but thankfully, we didn't lose any lives. Still, as a compassionate person, I mourned for those who did. Reports on casualties and losses later revealed even grimmer statistics. The earthquake, measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, struck various regions of AJK and KPK, with the official death toll reaching 87,350 in November 2005, though estimates suggested it could exceed 100,000. About 38,000 people were injured, and over 3.5 million were rendered homeless, including 19,000 children who tragically died in collapsing school buildings. The disaster profoundly affected more than 500,000 families, resulted in the loss of around 250,000 farm animals, and left over 500,000 large animals in desperate need of shelter from the winter. Additionally, over 780,000 buildings were either destroyed or severely damaged. Many structures remained unusable for extended periods, including around 17,000 school buildings and most major hospitals near the epicenter, which were either destroyed or heavily damaged. Critical infrastructure, particularly key roads and highways, suffered severe impacts, with landslides and bridge failures leading to closures. Some areas were cut off by land routes for up to three months after the earthquake. Power, water supply, and telecommunication services experienced varying disruptions, although most were restored within a few weeks. The earthquake triggered extensive landslides, especially in the midslope areas along the fault line, creating a dense band of landslides that quickly diminished with distance from

the rupture zone. Nearly all were shallow, disaggregated slides, with two exceeding 0.1 square kilometers in size. Subsequent reports indicated that the losses were far greater than initially assessed.

The first agency to respond was the Pakistan Army, which quickly launched urgent rescue and relief operations. Their helicopters made continuous flights in affected areas to evacuate and transport the injured to hospitals. They played a crucial role in various aspects of rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and infrastructure restoration, also facilitating access for United Nations and other relief agencies. In such critical moments, the army's involvement was remarkable.

In the months and years after the earthquake, the Pakistan Army continued its rehabilitation efforts, engaging with local communities to identify needs and align recovery initiatives with their aspirations. This collaboration built trust and was crucial for effective recovery. Their involvement extended to long-term reconstruction, including the construction of new schools, hospitals, and homes, with a focus on earthquake-resistant structures to bolster community resilience against future seismic events. This dedication to rebuilding both physical infrastructure and community spirit significantly contributed to the overall recovery process.

The Pakistan Army has long been a pillar of national resilience, offering vital support during natural disasters that frequently affect the country. Their remarkable efforts during various crises, such as devastating earthquakes and catastrophic floods, have saved countless lives and facilitated recovery. During the 2010 floods, which impacted millions, particularly in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

the army launched extensive rescue operations using helicopters and boats to evacuate stranded families and reached remote communities cut off by rising waters. They coordinated the distribution of food, clean water, and essential supplies, established relief camps, and set up mobile medical units to treat health emergencies.

On October 26, 2015, a powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck northern Pakistan and parts of Afghanistan, causing significant damage, especially near the border. The Pakistan Army quickly deployed rescue teams, collaborating with civil authorities and NGOs to assist victims and assess damaged infrastructure for public safety. The unprecedented floods of 2022, resulting from heavy monsoon rains, caused widespread devastation, prompting the army to launch extensive operations to rescue stranded individuals and establish relief camps, providing crucial food, water, and medical assistance to displaced families. The army collaborated closely with various humanitarian organizations to enhance the effectiveness of their efforts. In the aftermath, they committed to rebuilding homes and infrastructure with a focus on flood-resistant designs to reduce future risks.

The role of the Pakistan Army during disasters is noteworthy, with the 2005 earthquake serving as a prime example of their dedication. They provided a powerful response to those questioning the army's purpose, demonstrating their commitment even as thousands of personnel lost their lives in the disaster. The army was at the forefront of rescue operations, prioritizing civilian safety while mourning their own losses, showing no distinction between military and civilian during these efforts. The nation recognizes and takes pride in the army's extraordinary contributions during the 2005 earthquake, knowing they stand firm in times of crisis and disaster.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Promote to social development

Amid multiple challenges facing developing countries, such as armed conflict, climate change, poverty and food insecurity, Pakistan has called for stronger international cooperation to advance social development, bridge the digital divide and alleviate poverty.

"Inclusive social development is at the core of the several actions outlined in the Pact of the Future," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters.

He was referring to the Pact, which the world leaders adopted at UN headquarters in New York on Sept 22 at the Summit of the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations.

"Realizing the Pact's objectives of poverty eradication, social protection, education and health for all, empowerment of women and youth, sustainable development, and climate resilience, will require political will, global solidarity and adequate financing," the Pakistani envoy said.

"The world is witnessing a historic demographic transformation," Ambassador Akram said. He added that the number of persons over 60 is projected to rise from 1.2 billion in 2024 to 2.1 billion by 2050.

"This will require adjustment to every aspect of our society, economy and public policy," he said, underscoring the need to prioritize social protection systems, promote decent jobs as well as access to healthcare and pensions.

"While the number of elders expands mostly in developed countries, he said, the youth bulge grows in mostly developing countries, noting that Declarations on Future Generations reinforces the policy required to respond to these developments, the changing nature of work, legal and illegal migration and the impact of technology.

Referring to the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, the Pakistani envoy urged the international community to reaffirm its commitment to supporting families as agents of sustainable development.

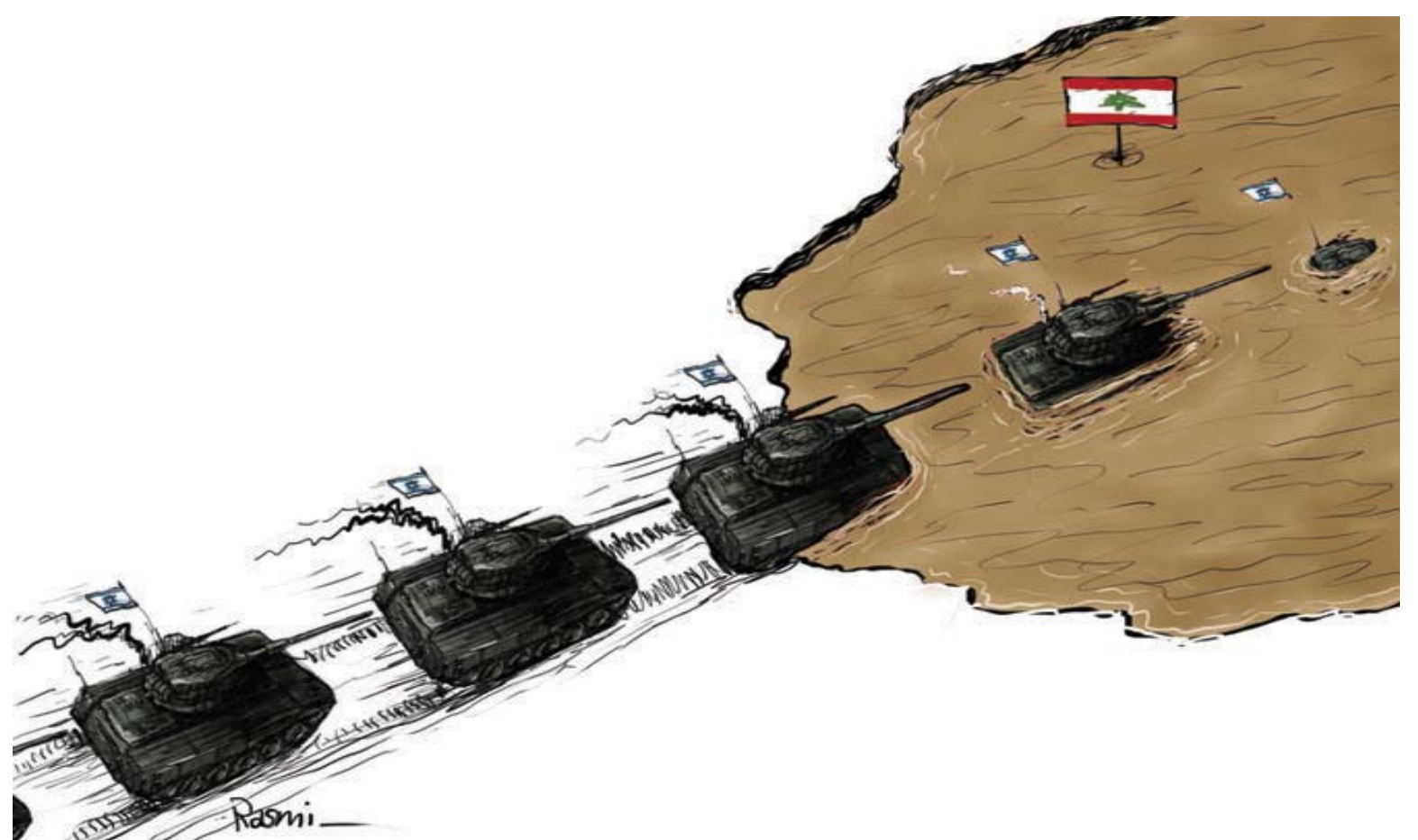
"Our religion, Islam, promotes family well-being, intergenerational solidarity, and social protection for all," he added.

About the need for improving social policies, particularly in areas such as social protection, healthcare, and education, Ambassador Akram also said it was critical to bridge the divide to ensure an equitable, inclusive and universally beneficial digital transformation.

"The commitments made in the Global Digital Compact must be fully implemented," the Pakistani envoy stressed.

The Pact, he said, had agreed on several actions to bridge the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Financing Gap to boost progress on making the world a better place to live in.

These include the commitment to re-channel 50% of the unused 2021 allocation of SDRs (Special Drawing Rights); to explore ways for speedy issuance and rechanneling of SDRs in response to future shocks; to consider capital increases for MDBs (Multilateral Development Banks); to support negotiations on a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation; and to deliver a robust IDA (International Development Association) replenishment and establish a pathway for larger IDA funding by 2030.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awdat)

Why is Pakistan a Hard Country?

Pakistan, a country strategically positioned at the crossroads of South Asia and the Middle East, has been marred by chronic instability and a multitude of governance challenges since its inception in 1947. Despite being established with high hopes for a stable democratic state, the Pakistani state has faced significant hurdles in exercising its authority and implementing laws effectively. The reasons behind these challenges are numerous and intertwined, creating a complex environment that makes Pakistan one of the most difficult countries to govern.

One of the core reasons for Pakistan's struggles is its fragile political system. While political parties exist and contest elections, they often lack a solid democratic structure. The leadership of most major political parties remains in the hands of a few elite families. This dynastic politics limits internal party democracy, resulting in little accountability within the leadership and hindering genuine political competition. These divisions undermine the state's ability to form a coherent national identity and create a political system that serves the needs of all citizens, regardless of their background. Instead, many groups act out of self-interest, aligning themselves with political factions or external forces that support their agenda. This constant shifting of loyalties destabilizes the political system and makes it difficult for the state to implement policies that promote national unity.

Another significant obstacle to effective governance in Pakistan is the overreach of the bureaucracy. Bureaucrats, particularly at the local level, often exceed their authority, acting as if they are the real powerholders in the state. This is partly a legacy of Pakistan's

colonial past, where the British administrative system was designed to concentrate power in the hands of civil servants, making them responsible for maintaining order and implementing policy. After independence, this system remained intact, and many bureaucrats continued to wield significant influence, often working for their personal gain rather than the public good.

The military and judiciary, particularly at the lower levels, are also involved in this institutional power struggle. Ground-level officers in both the military and the judiciary sometimes take matters into their own hands, bypassing proper legal and constitutional procedures. While the upper echelons of these institutions may appear to operate within their formal roles, they too are not immune to political interference. Over the years, Pakistan has experienced several military coups, which have left lasting scars on its democratic system and contributed to a culture where institutions frequently overstep their mandates.

Corruption remains a deeply entrenched issue in Pakistan, permeating every level of society. Political leaders, bureaucrats, military officers, and even members of the judiciary are often implicated in corruption scandals. This creates a system of patronage networks, where individuals in positions of power use their influence to secure benefits for themselves and their allies. As a result, state resources are often diverted away from development and infrastructure projects and are instead funneled into the hands of the elite.

This corruption not only undermines the efficiency of the state but also erodes public trust in government institutions. Ordinary

citizens often feel disillusioned with the political process, believing that their voices will not be heard amidst the corruption and nepotism that characterize the system. This lack of trust contributes to low voter turnout, further weakening democratic legitimacy and making it harder for the state to enforce its laws and policies.

Pakistan's strategic location has made it a focal point for global powers, further complicating its domestic politics. The ongoing conflict in neighboring Afghanistan, tensions with India over Kashmir, and Pakistan's alliance with China and the United States have all had profound impacts on its internal stability. External actors often back different political factions or militant groups within Pakistan, leading to further fragmentation of the state.

Moreover, the country's reliance on foreign aid, particularly from the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and China, has at times compromised its sovereignty, as these powers seek to influence Pakistan's domestic and foreign policies to align with their own interests. This external meddling complicates Pakistan's ability to chart an independent path and exacerbates internal division.

In conclusion, Pakistan's governance challenges are multi-faceted, stemming from a combination of weak political institutions, deep societal divisions, bureaucratic overreach, corruption, and external pressures. The interplay between these factors has made it difficult for the state to exercise effective control and provide for the welfare of its citizens. Unless meaningful reforms are undertaken to address these systemic issues, Pakistan is likely to remain a hard country to govern, with ongoing struggles to maintain political stability and national unity.

Writer is student at University of Sargodha. He can be reached at azamtariqalihaider@gmail.com



Analysis

M Azam Tariq

An unchecked social crime costing in billions

Fakhar e Alam

Amidst enormous economic challenges and untiring efforts of the government to steer country out of dilemmas, menaces like power pilferage continue to persist undermining economic, industrial and agricultural development.

Over the decades the country have been a prey to such menaces costing billions of rupees losses to national kitty as situation remains unchanged due to poor implementation of policies and rampant corruption in power supply companies.

The country is grappling with the monster challenge of electricity theft with expert believing that multiple factors like soaring electricity cost, an inadequate electricity infrastructure, rampant influence of corrupt practices and notorious 'kunda mafia' behind this phenomenon.

Professor Dr Zilakat Malik, former Chairman of the Economics Department at University of Peshawar believes direct connections as major source of power theft that cause massive losses to national exchequer.

According to him, our kitty suffer loss of billions of rupees due to direct hooks occurring commonly in connivance with the officers and employees of power distribution companies.

Tribal Electricity Supply Company (TESCO) spokesman has informed that the system shows about 180 MW electricity was drawn by consumers from express transmission line in merged tribal areas. Power used in these areas over and above this figure means stealing the power from the system.

"Non-metering and direct hooks in merged areas has overloaded power distribution system also causing fluctuation and tripping," he said. "We need a Whistle-blower Act and launching of broad based action and public awareness campaign to prevent power theft."

Meanwhile, Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO) spokesman Usman Saleem claimed of a grand operation against electricity stealers started from

September last year and recovery of Rs 594.6 million from defaulters and stealers against the total charged amount of Rs 2.76 billion till date.

He informed that more than 87,223 illegal connections were removed registering cases against 36,583 people and arresting 10,490 culprits caught red handed. "Action was also taken against 57 PESCO employees including 24 arrested for facilitating thieves."

He mentioned to starting ABC cables pilot project in Peshawar, Mardan and Swat districts to curb power pilferage besides proceeding actively on installation of AMR digital meters.

Usman said, out of 1,315 feeders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 650 feeders were declared load shedding free due high recovery of bills while scheduled load shedding was being carried out in 150 high loss feeders.

"Crackdown against factories, hotels, commercial plazas, wedding halls, shopping malls, shops and illegal housing societies involved in power theft was carried out with the help of police and district administration," he narrated.

He said that under the law, there is three to seven years rigorous imprisonment and Rs10 million fine or both for electricity thieves and the provincial government has already notified to form a task force and enforcement committees at district and tehsil to effectively combat electricity theft.

"Overpowering grid stations by protesters could not be a solution. Rather politicians, religious leaders, media and consumers should cooperate to curb power pilferage in their respective areas," he stressed.

Although, the Deputy Commissioners and District Police Officers provide security to PESCO staff during crackdown, still in some areas people manage to steal power hand in glove with companies employees and with the patronage of influential politicians and government high-ups.

Therefore, everybody right from the top government functionaries down to companies' employees must buttress efforts to root out this menace and rescue honest consumers from cruel clutches of exploitation and injustice.

We intend to benefit from Argentina's meat processing technology: CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met H. E. Mr. Sebastian Sayus, Ambassador of Argentina to Pakistan to discuss various options to promote cooperation in the fields of livestock, agriculture, information technology and other industrial sectors. She agreed to launch a pilot project of silos in Okara.

Madam Chief Minister said, "Bilateral relations between Pakistan and Argentina are improving." She added, "Measures will be taken to increase business-to-business interaction between the two countries."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "We want to benefit from Argentina's meat processing technology." She added, "There is a need to



further promote trade with Argentina in the fields of livestock, sports and surgical equipment." She highlighted, "Government is ensuring the provi-

sion of all facilities including security to foreign investors in Pakistan."

Madam Chief Minister underscored, "In Punjab, the immense invest-

ment opportunities in various sectors can be taken advantage of."

Argentinian Ambassador H. E. Mr. Sebastian Sayus said, "Cooperation in agriculture, pharmaceutical, information technology and industrial sectors will be further promoted." He added, "We want to work with Punjab in the field of Livestock and Biotechnology." He vowed, "I will play a role in improving government-to-government and business-to-business coordination to promote trade." H. E. Mr. Sebastian Sayus said, "We will also provide technical assistance to Punjab in the field of food security."

Argentina's Deputy Head of Mission H. E. Mrs. Erica Lucero, Senator Pervez Rashid and Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman also attended the meeting.

Palestine welcomes the statements made by French President Emmanuel Macron

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine welcomes the statements made by French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday, Saturday, in which he stressed the need to stop arms exports to Israel during its war on the Gaza Strip, and indicated that the priority today should focus on finding a political solution to end the conflict.

The Ministry considers that President Macron's statements are fully consistent with international law and international legitimacy resolutions and support the two-state solution and human rights principles. At the same time, the Ministry calls on countries that still support Israel in its war to respect and implement international law and pressure Israel, the illegal occupying authority, to end the war of genocide against our people in the Gaza



Strip and the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem and Lebanon, and to force it to comply with international law and implement international legiti-

macy resolutions in a way that leads to ending the occupation and settlement of the land of the State of Palestine based on the decision of the United

Nations General Assembly to adopt the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

The Ministry holds the countries that provide combat and warfare means to Israel responsible for encouraging it to continue its crimes and violations against the Palestinian people, and calls on the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty to act decisively to put an end to Israel's use of weapons and military equipment to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights and against Palestinian civilians, by immediately imposing a comprehensive solution and an arms embargo on Israel, especially since the States Parties have pledged not to authorize any transfer of conventional weapons if they have knowledge of the use of weapons or their types in committing genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of the Geneva Conventions.

56 Pakistanis imprisoned in Sri Lanka return home

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fifty-six Pakistanis imprisoned in Sri Lanka will return home on Sunday.

A chartered flight has left for Sri Lanka to bring the Pakistani prisoners back.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has been in communication with Sri Lankan authorities for the past three months to facilitate the return of Pakistanis.

Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan has announced that he will bear all the expenses of the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his gratitude to the Sri Lankan government and the High



Commissioner for their support in this matter.

He also acknowledged Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan for

funding the prisoners' return.

Earlier, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights that

23,456 Pakistanis are imprisoned across the world.

As per the details, a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights was presided over by Senator Waleed Iqbal, in which the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs revealed the total number of Pakistani citizens behind bars at different prisons around the world.

The officials briefed the senators that a total of 23,456 Pakistanis are imprisoned across the world out of which 15,587 have been convicted. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs added that there are more than 7,000 under trial Pakistanis in different countries as their cases are being heard in courts of the respective countries.

Moon-Venus conjunction visible in northern Saudi Arabia



News Desk

RAFHA: A spectacular celestial event occurred over Saudi Arabia's northern skies on Saturday night, with the moon and Venus in conjunction, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Sunday.

Known as a conjunction, the phenomenon in the sky after sunset in the Northern Border region was visible to the naked eye, with the moon and the planet separated by just three degrees.

A conjunction occurs when two celestial objects appear close to each other in the sky and share the same celestial longitude, according to astronomer Berjis Al-Fulaih.

Al-Fulaih, an official with the AFAQ Society for Astronomy in Taif, noted that Venus is often referred to as the "Evening Star" or the "Morning Star," depending on its position in the west or east.

The alignment marks the beginning of the moon's monthly journey past the bright planets.

The phenomenon occurred in the sky after sunset over the Northern Border region and was visible to the naked eye. (SPA)

In an interview with SPA before the celestial event, Jeddah Astronomy Society chief Majed Abu Zahra said the appearance of the crescent moon and Venus together shortly after sunset, before the sky darkened fully, created the spectacular view.

"As the second and third brightest objects in the night sky, after the sun, they will present a striking view," he said.

A faint glow, caused by sunlight reflecting off Earth (known as Earthshine), will softly illuminate the unlit part of the moon's disk, he explained.

Abu Zahra said there will be another astronomical event in mid-October: the arrival of Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS, which will appear 20 to 25 degrees northwest of Venus on Oct. 13 and 14. The comet may even be visible to the naked eye, although comets are notoriously unpredictable.

By Oct. 25, Venus will appear three degrees north of the star Antares. Toward the end of the month, Venus will draw closer to Earth, with its disk measuring 14 arcseconds and being 77 percent illuminated, Abu Zahra told SPA.

Death toll from Hurricane Helene in US climbs to 227

The death toll from Hurricane Helene climbed to 227 as of Saturday amid continued efforts to recover bodies more than a week after the deadly storm ripped through the United States and killed people in six states.

Hurricane Helene made landfall on September 26 as a Category 4 hurricane, causing widespread devastation as it moved northward from Florida, making it the deadliest hurricane to hit the US since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The death toll from the deadly hurricane is expected to rise as many people remain unaccounted for.

North Carolina witnessed the most impact with half of the hurricane's victims belonging to the state, while Georgia and South Carolina also suffered significant casualties, NBC News reported.

The city of Asheville, in the western mountains of North Carolina, was particularly battered, with workers cleaning up mud and debris from affected businesses and households, a week after the hurricane hit.

So far North Carolinians have received over \$27 million in individual assistance approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), said MaryAnn Tierney, a regional administrator for the agency.

Diversified demand boosts China's holiday tourism market

Xinhua

BEIJING: China has seen a robust tourism market during the week-long National Day holiday. While patriotic sentiments were present, cultural tourism and new travel trends, such as small-town trips, stood out as defining aspects of the 2024 holiday.

Official data showed that during the first three days of the holiday that started on Oct. 1, nearly 900 million people traveled across regions in China. The Ministry of Transport predicted that the total number of cross-regional travelers during the holiday would reach 1.94 billion, with an average of 277 million travelers per day — a 0.7 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Ranging from traditional clothing performances to immersive heritage experiences, cultural tourism flourished across the country. In the Ancient Culture Street in Tianjin, north China, a Hanfu performance captivated onlookers, many of whom wore traditional attire. This heritage-rich area saw over 300,000 visitors and generated more than 25 million yuan (about 3.56 million U.S. dollars) in revenue in just two days.

Beijing's Central Axis, newly recog-

nized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, also proved a popular destination. Tourist interest in visiting the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven and other locations along the axis grew significantly — with bookings increasing by 69 percent compared to last year. Cultural souvenirs, such as creative postcards and themed merchandise, further enriched the tourist experience.

Museum visits have become an important part of holiday activities for many travelers. In northeast China's Liaoning Province, the Liaoning Provincial Museum displayed an original painting by an emperor of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), attracting tourists from across the country. Some museum-goers have queued for hours to view this artwork.

A tourist surnamed Li from Shanghai considered visiting the exhibition a key part of her family trip. "Visiting museums can plant the seeds of culture in children's minds from a young age. It's a great way to travel," she said.

Data show that the number of traditional culture-themed scenic spots in China had increased from 2,230 in 2013 to nearly 4,000 in 2022, with approximately 80 percent of A-level

tourist attractions incorporating various intangible cultural heritage projects.

Small-town trips have also become popular in China, drawing young travelers seeking unique and indigenous experiences. According to data from leading online travel agency Ctrip, nearly half of the travelers bound for counties during the holiday were young people in their 20s and 30s who came from major cities like Beijing and Shanghai. Many of them opted for the tranquility of natural landscapes and local traditions to avoid urban crowds.

On the morning of Oct. 1, a total of 123,000 people from across the country gathered at the Tian'anmen Square to witness the historic moment of the national flag being raised on the 75th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Many had been waiting there since the previous night.

"I hope to give my child an unforgettable patriotic education. Watching the flag-raising ceremony is the most important part of our trip to Beijing," said Zhang Ningli, a tourist from Zhejiang Province in east China.

Ctrip data reveal that during this year's National Day holiday, average daily orders for revolutionary-themed



tourism in China had increased by 40 percent year on year.

Zhao Wenzhi, president of the Guangdong Travel Service Association, believes that changing tourist demands are continuously fostering new cultural

and tourism consumption scenarios, business formats and models, with the tourism market offering both more diverse experiences and richer options for travelers.

Dai Bin, president of the China

Tourism Academy, predicted that based on factors such as people's travel intentions, booking indices and local tourism preparations, the number of travelers during the 2024 National Day holiday would likely reach a new record high.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
83,531.95	82,721.76
Day's High	Day's Low
83,605.72	82,594.79
Index Value	Change
173,692,831	+810.19
Percentage	Time
+0.98%	4 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,280.63	-1.89
Percentage	Time
-0.023%	4 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,204.40	+192.81
Percentage	Time
+0.46%	4 Oct, 1:16 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,635.62	+83.56
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	4 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190.6	192.85
Bahrain Dinar	733.18	741.18
Canadian Dollar	205.5	207.9
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	305.07	307.82
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	899.85	909.35
Malaysian Ringgit	63.6	64.2
New Zealand \$	174.21	176.21
Norwegians Krone	26.26	26.56
Omani Riyal	717.63	726.13
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.75	74.3
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	27.15	27.46
Swiss Franc	327	328.9
Thai Bhat	8.56	8.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.10
UK Pound Sterling	365.3	368.8
US Dollar	278.3	278.8

Provincial Minister Kirmani meets President Zarai Taraqiati Bank

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani held a meeting with President of Zarai Taraqiati Bank, Tahir Yaqoob Bhatti to discuss the issues regarding Bank's facilitate of micro-financing, financial and technical services for the farmers.

Provincial Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani mentioned that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is working day and night for the development and prosperity of the farmers, for which practical steps are being

taken. Government has initiated the Kissan Card Flagship Program under which 5 lakh farmers will be provided an interest-free loan amount of 150 billion rupees. The amount will be given by Punjab Bank while the interest will be paid by the Punjab Government. Similarly, under the Green Tractor Scheme, the subsidy of Rs 10 lakh will be given per tractor by the Punjab government. He highlighted that the Punjab government has issued livestock card worth 4.5 billion rupees for the development of the livestock sector. This will benefit 80,000 Livestock farmers. The purpose of program is to increase the production and exports of Meat through Fattening.



President of Zarai Taraqiati Bank, Tahir Yaqoob Bhatti said that the Bank is providing loans to small farmers in agriculture and livestock sectors on easy terms and low interest rates. The Bank is working in collaboration with Academia and Agricultural Research Institutes to ensure achievement of agricultural self-sufficiency goals. He endorsed that we are facing problems regarding the recovery of our loans in few districts of Punjab for which the assistance of the Extension Wing of the Agriculture Department is required. The provincial agriculture minister assured that all possible measures would be taken regarding the recovery.

Traditional Items

ISLAMABAD: People visit DAACHI arts and crafts exhibitions at Pak-China Friendship Center in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Miftah Ismail links foreign investment to political stability



Spokesman Report

Miftah Ismail said.

KARACHI: A peaceful protest is the right of every individual. But politics is not given preference over national interests. Foreign investment does not pour in where there is political instability in the country, Awaam Pakistan Party leader Miftah Ismail said while speaking at an event here on Saturday. "PTI must think that Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit is going to be held in Islamabad on October 15. "This is not the proper time for protest in the capital. Using KP state machinery for the protest and brining shells to the protest venue is wrong,"

The government should give PTI permission for a peaceful demonstration. PTI should also hold peaceful protests and shun politics of violence and hatred. Both PTI and government should settle issues taking one step back, the Awaam Pakistan Party leader said. "Shehbaz Sharif should not take the government which does not have people's mandate. With constitutional amendment package, a new court is being introduced. "Even MPs don't know what is constitutional amendment package? The government must think that it could face consequences of such amendments, he said.

Foreign remittances flow to support account balance amidst low FDI: PIAF

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: As the remittances to Pakistan has hit a record high in first two months of the current fiscal year the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said that foreign remittances flows are crucial which can support the country's account balance amidst low volumes of foreign direct investment (FDI) and nominal growth of exports.

PIAF chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol observed that overseas Pakistanis sent 44 per cent more remittances in the first two months of July and August of the current fiscal year (FY25), compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year.

In July, remittances went up by 48 per cent year-on-year, setting a trend of higher inflows. The receipts for July were \$2.994 billion, but it dipped to \$2.942bn



in August.

According to data issued by the State Bank on Monday, the inflows during July-Aug FY25 rose to \$5.936bn, while inflows in the same period of previous fiscal

year FY24 was \$4.123bn — an increase of \$1.813bn, or 44 per cent.

The PIAF Chief said that the inflows must be a relief for the government at a time when it is struggling to strike a deal with the donor agencies. This inflow would not only improve Pakistan's image in the eyes of international rating agencies but will also open doors for other sources.

The country managed to bring down the current account deficit in FY24 to a negligible \$665 million while it was just \$162m in July FY25. Although the economy suffered due to restricted imports and growth fell to just 2.4 per cent in FY24, the government succeeded in tackling the current account deficit.

Faheem Saigol said that if remittances keep improving at the same pace, the country would be able to increase its imports to spur growth.

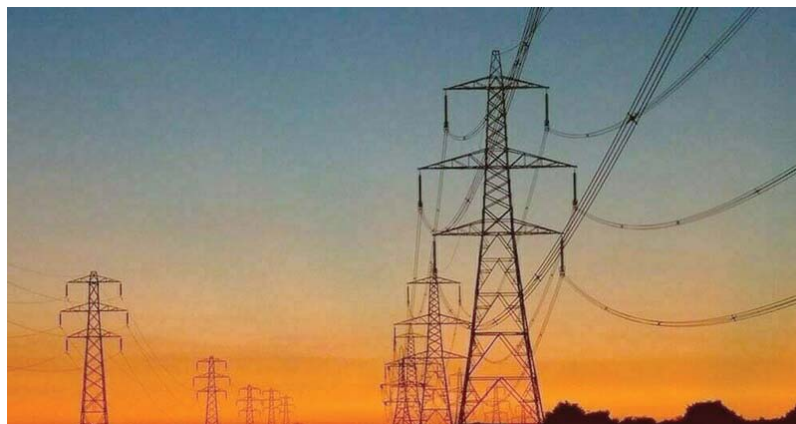
BMP stresses need for large scale structural changes in power sector

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has stressed the need for large scale structural changes in power sector, controlling line losses of DISCOs by using modern technology, and customer-oriented business approach, as the public exchequer has been facing loss of billions of rupees by the power distribution companies.

FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar stated that due to high electricity rates, power theft will become rampant as the tariff was unaffordable to consumers. Quoting the media report, he observed that the performance of distribution companies (DISCOs) throughout 2023-24 remained very poor, and the expected power sector reforms were not achieved. Given the ongoing poor performance, it is apparent that, under the existing circumstances, the current DISCO setup is unlikely to be able to deliver the desired results.

No significant improvement has been witnessed on part of some DISCOs in this regard. During FY2023-24, the overall actual losses of DISCOs were 17.21% against the actual loss of 15.68% in FY 2022-23. The actual T&D losses are much higher than the allowed T&D losses, which is 11.31%. Unfortunately, the majority of DISCOs have not adhered to the NEPRA given targets, except FESCO, GEPCO,



and K-Electric which have managed to keep their losses below the levels or equal to targets set by NEPRA. However, other DISCOs have exceeded these limits, which contributed to a substantial loss of over Rs165 billion to the national exchequer.

Anjum Nisar said that it is an undeniable fact that DISCOs are deliberately drawing less power than their demand, despite being provided with an adequate quota on account of loadshedding based on Aggregate Technical & Commercial losses policy. The AT&C based loadshedding is still being carried out and DISCOs particularly PESCO, QESCO, SEPCO and HESCO have considered it an easy path for them to manage the recovery rather than to put the efforts and ensure maximum collection.

On recoveries, the report said it is

observed that only one DISCO i.e., IESCO has significantly achieved the target of 100% recovery in fiscal year 2023-24. Moreover, GEPCO, FESCO, and MEPCO are nearest to the target and achieved the recoveries of 97 to 98%. Similarly, PESCO, LESCO and K-Electric have crossed the figure of 91%. Moreover, HESCO and SEPCO remained the same as in previous year, somewhere in middle with reported values of 76 and 67.2%. However, QESCO has been witnessed as worst performing DISCO among all with the reported position of 35.8%.

On System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), the report said that none of the distribution companies have been able to meet the SAIFI standard of 13. Regarding System

Gold rates decrease by Rs. 700 per tola to Rs 275,500

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.700 and was sold at Rs.275,500 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs. 276,200 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 600 to Rs. 236,197 from Rs. 236,796 whereas the price of 10 gram 22

karat gold went down to Rs. 216,514 from Rs. 217,064, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,050 and Rs. 2,614.88, respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$7 to \$2,653 from \$2,660, the Association reported.

WhatsApp set to introduce feature similar to Instagram Stories

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Meta's messaging platform WhatsApp is gearing up to introduce a feature similar to Instagram Stories, allowing users to tag or mention others in their Status.

The feature will also allow users to privately mention and tag other users in their WhatsApp Status, according to tech website Gagadget.

The upcoming feature differs from Instagram where anyone can see the people mentioned in Stories.

WhatsApp's feature will also allow the privately mentioned users to reshare a status if they want to. The Meta-owned WhatsApp capped the mentioned users at five in a single Status, while working to bring likes to Status with a single tap, an option similar to Instagram's heart button. However, the number of likes will be kept private in WhatsApp stories.

Meanwhile, the messaging platform said that it is working on "bringing more features to Status and the Updates tab over the next few months."

Earlier, reports emerged that WhatsApp was testing a

redesigned typing indicator for both personal and group chats.

Days earlier, WhatsApp announced a new feature, enabling users to change the background or add a filter during a video call for a more personal touch in the coming weeks. Meta, messaging platform, WhatsApp, Instagram Stories

"Conversations on WhatsApp should always feel fun and expressive and today, we're rolling out filters and backgrounds to make your video calls even more engaging. With these new effects, you can now change your background or add a filter during a video call for a more personal touch," the messaging app announced on its blog.

WhatsApp said that the filters are designed to help users create a more playful atmosphere, whether that's adding a splash of color or creating a more artistic feel for your video. With backgrounds, users can keep surroundings private and transport themselves to a cozy coffee shop or comfortable living room for a more clean and polished look.

SCCI stresses urgent steps to reopen Pak-Afghan highway

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan has urged the government and relevant authorities to take urgent steps to open the Pak-Afghan highway for trade and transportation to save traders on both sides of the border from further monetary losses.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Fazal Moqem said bilateral trade, transit trade and export have nearly come to an end owing to the closure of Pak-Afghan highway trade routes for the last several months.

He added that Pak-Afghan mutual trade volume and transit trade had dropped to an alarming situation owing to the closure of the trade route.

Moqem feared if the government couldn't take timely action, the bilateral trade would completely end, which would not only be detrimental to the national economy but also trigger unemployment.

Zahidullah Shinwari, former president while expressing views about the closure of Pak-Afghan highway stated that Pak-Afghan bilateral trade volume is already very low.

He said mutual trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and transit trade has been badly affected in the wake of the closure of the trade route for the last several months.

He said halting bilateral trade and transit trade has also inflicted huge financial losses to traders on both sides. On the other hand, Shinwari said local people and passengers were also being faced with hardship.

Zahidullah Shinwari emphasized the need for a sorting solution to the issue with mutual consensus and negotiation to resume the bilateral trade and transit trade and save the traders from further monetary loss.

It is reported that the president of the Afghanistan/Kabul Chamber of Commerce and Industry also expressed concern over the closure of the Pak-Afghan highway, according to him, Pak-Afghan bilateral trade had dropped by 80 percent.

PM felicitates mountaineer Sirbaz on summing all 14 highest peaks

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday congratulated Pakistani mountaineer Sirbaz Khan on his historic accomplishment of summing all 14 of the world's highest peaks.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the prime minister expressed the nation's pride in Sirbaz, lauding his resilience and determination.

"The nation is immensely proud of Sirbaz Khan for his remarkable feat of becoming the first Pakistani to summit all 14 of the world's highest peaks. This singular achievement goes to show his resilience, courage and commitment in the face of the heaviest of the odds," the prime minister wrote.

He emphasized that this milestone would undoubtedly serve as a source of inspiration for future generations of climbers. "I congratulate him on his heroic achievement, which, I am certain, will inspire a generation of climbers to establish their mettle in mountaineering," PM Shehbaz added.



Closing Ceremony of 10th CNS Amateur Net Shield Golf Tournament 2024 Held in Lahore



Sports Desk

LAHORE, 06 OCT 24: Mr. Innam ul Haq Malik of Rawalpindi Golf club won the coveted title of 10th CNS Amateur Net Shield 2024. Closing and Prize Distribution Ceremony of 10th CNS Amateur Net Shield

2024 was held at the scenic Defence Raya Golf & Country Club, Lahore. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Earlier, the Chief Guest was received by Commander Central Punjab Rear Admiral Azhar



Mahmood. The Chief Guest while congratulating the prize winners for their well-earned success also appreciated the high standard of golf displayed by them. He also lauded the management and appreciated

the consistent support from sponsors, management of club and media fraternity.

Later, the Chief Guest distributed prizes among winners of all categories. The three days event was held from 4-6 Oct 24. More

than 200 enthusiastic golfers from all over the country participated in Men, Ladies & Senior Amateur categories.

The Closing Ceremony was attended by sponsors and golfers of the country.

England Cricket Team Will Best Perform Against Pakistan Cricket Team In Three Test Matches Series: Ollie Pope

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: England cricket team captain Ollie Pope appeared worried about the inexperience of his fast bowlers in a press conference at the Multan Cricket Stadium a day before the start of the Test match against Pakistan. Between Pakistan and England cricket teams in Multan. The first test will be played at the Multan Cricket Stadium on October 7. English Cricket Team Captain Ollie

Pope says that after watching the videos of Pakistani bowlers, what to do after the toss, the decision will be made after seeing the pitch tomorrow. Pakistan's bowling attack is balanced. It can do anything. This is Multan, their home ground.

Ollie Pope has admitted that although the overall experience is less, Chris Woakes has a lot of years of cricket at his back. That will help. They have defended their spinners well but it is all about the pitch. If Pakistan if a pitch or pitch similar to a piece is made, the home



team will be at an advantage. The captain of the England cricket team, Ollie Pope, has further said that the

spectators will get to see the best cricket in the Test cricket match against Pakistan in Multan.

Played the last series against Sri Lanka. Learned a lot from it and believe that the defeat in the last Test will help to correct the mistakes.

Pitches in Pakistan are flat but reverse swing will be the best weapon to take advantage of these conditions.

Pope has admitted that Jimmy Anderson was present in the last series but not this time. His absence will make a big difference.

Ollie Pope has said that we also have good spinners and we will catch Pakistan's batsmen. In the last tour when we were here, the situation was different but this time it is different.

Final XI for England's Multan Test, decision on Stoke

Ben Stokes has not played the first test due to injury. England's 11 players have been announced.

Earlier, on Sunday 6th October, Pakistan and England teams practiced extensively at the Multan Cricket Stadium and were seen practicing on the 4 nets on the field.

We hopeful Pakistan cricket team good perform against England: Shan Masood



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan cricket team captain Shan Masood announced the names of 11 players of Pakistan Cricket Team during the press conference.

He named himself and said that these players will play in the first test. Saem Ayub, Abdullah Shafiq, Saud Shakeel, Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Abra Ahmed, Muhammad Rizwan, Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal and Naseem. The king

After that, in the press conference, in response to the questions, he said that Ben Stokes has the quality of being a top all-rounder. England has played without him. We will focus on our strengths. We lose in winning positions.

Will try to keep his XI.

First Test in Multan, English captain Ollie Pope worried about what in the press conference

Test match strategy is not one day. We will see a lot when we announce the 11 players. Spin will help with Salman and Abrar. Shaheen, Naseem and Aamir Jamal's pace attack will be good.

In response to a question, Shaan Masood says that we had come close to winning against England in Multan before and lost, we will remove this weakness. Thus, it is clear that Shaan Masood made a bowling eleven against the England cricket team. What is the announcement?

Ahmed Memon Joins Historic Lineup as First Pakistani to Compete in Mr. International

Sports Desk



KARACHI: In an exciting development for Pakistan, Ahmed Memon, a 25-year-old model, influencer, and actor, will represent the country as Mr. Pakistan at the prestigious Mr. International competition in Bangkok, Thailand, this December. This historic moment marks the first time Pakistan will participate in the globally renowned platform for men in 75 years, placing Ahmed among a growing roster of Pakistani talent making their mark on the international stage.

Ahmed's debut at Mr. International follows the inspiring journey of Erica Robin, who made history last year as the first Pakistani to compete at Miss Universe pageant. Erica's participation paved the way for Pakistani representation in global beauty pageants. Continuing this legacy, Noor Xarmina will become the second Pakistani to compete in Miss Universe later this year. Now, with Ahmed Memon stepping onto the Mr. International platform, Pakistan's presence in the world of international pageantry is stronger than ever.

Together, Ahmed Memon, Erica Robin and Noor Xarmina symbolize Pakistan's growing influence in international beauty and talent competitions. Their participation highlights Pakistan's rich culture, diversity, and emerging talent, bringing global attention to the nation.

Mr. International is a highly esteemed pageant, drawing contestants from over 50 countries, where leadership, personality, and style are celebrated. As the first-ever Mr. Pakistan to participate, Ahmed Memon is set to make a lasting impact. Known for his exceptional physical attractiveness, eloquence, and dedication to notable causes, Ahmed is the perfect ambassador to represent Pakistan on this global stage.

Speaking about his upcoming participation, Ahmed said, "I aim to highlight the incredible talent of men in Pakistan, providing a platform for those who aspire to break away from traditional expectations and pursue unique, innovative paths. By showcasing their creativity and ambition, I hope to inspire others to follow their passions, unburdened by societal pressures to conform to mainstream norms. This initiative will open doors for men across the country to explore their potential, embrace their individuality, and achieve greatness in their own way. Being the first to represent Pakistan in Mr. International, I'm determined to bring this one home."

Ahmed's established presence in Pakistan's fashion and entertainment industries, along with his influence on social media and charitable work, positions him as a leading figure of modern Pakistan. His participation in Mr. International is a major milestone for the country's representation on the global stage.

India beat Pakistan in Women's T20 World Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: India won by six wickets against Pakistan in their Women's T20 World Cup match in Dubai on Sunday and registered their first win in the mega tournament.

"We look forward to heading into the next game and this win has given us the momentum," Smriti Mandhana, who was standing in for Harmanpreet Kaur, said after the match.

Kaur walked off injured during the match. Nida Dar bowled one full and wide outside the off-stump

and Kaur missed the swipe to the off-side, moving out of the crease in the process. In an attempt to get back into the crease, the Indian skipper seemed to have hurt her neck.

It was a major first point for the team in the T20 World Cup after the heavy defeat against New Zealand.

"It's too soon to give an update on Harmanpreet's injury, but I hope she is fine," Mandhana said.

While talking about the match, she said that they followed the plans but could have done better with the bat. The left handed batter stated that it was "tough to time the ball."

Pakistan's Women Team Captain Fatima Sana said that they were not up to mark with the bat. She was of the view that the team was 10 to 15 runs short.

Sana hoped they can bounce back in the next game. "I enjoyed playing against India."

Arundhati Reddy picked up three wickets as Pakistan struggled against India's bowlers, reaching 105-8 in their match.

Nida Dar top-scored with 28 from 34 balls but there was little else for Pakistan to cheer after skipper Fatima Sana had won the toss and

elected to bat first on a wicket that produced some awkward bounce.

Renuka Singh produced a fine inswinger to bowl Gull Feroza in the first over and Pakistan never recovered.

Fellow opener Muneeba Ali clubbed a couple of boundaries but charged down the pitch to Shreyanka Patil when she became tied down and was stumped by Richa Ghosh for 17.

The wicketkeeper later produced a superb catch to dismiss the dangerous Fatima as she tried to increase the tempo.

Reddy chipped in with the wickets



of Omaira Sohail (3) and Aliya Riaz final over to finish with 3-19 from (4) before clean-bowling Dar in the her four overs.

Fatiha

FAISALABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Fateha over the martyrdom of Lt Col Muhammad Ali Shaheed, at his family residence on Sunday.



Photo: PID

PM reaffirms Pakistan's moral, diplomatic, political support to Palestinians

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated that Pakistan will continue to extend its moral, diplomatic and political support to the unarmed Palestinian brothers and sisters who have been subjected to unrelenting Israeli aggression and oppression.

"The Government of Pakistan will continue its support to the Palestinian brothers and sisters till creation of a separate Palestinian state, with Bait ul Muqaddas as its capital," the prime minister said in a message on the observance of Palestine Solidarity Day on October 7.

Today the entire nation, including him, the prime minister said, was observing a day of solidarity with their unarmed Palestinian brothers and sisters.

"Today, as we observe Palestine Solidarity Day at the national level in Pakistan, my message to the whole world is to ensure practical steps to stop the massacre of Palestinians," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister said that Pakistan would not leave its Palestinian brothers and sisters in these difficult times.

On October 7, he said, a year had passed since a new wave of



Israeli atrocities on Palestinians was unleashed.

Israel while mocking at the world powers, international institutions, Security Council resolutions and the International Court of Justice, has so far massacred 41,000 unarmed Palestinians, including children, the elderly and women, millions were left injured whereas millions other had been displaced.

Millions of Palestinians, starving and thirsty, were still bracing the indiscriminate bombardment, the prime minister said, adding Gaza was currently lying in ruins after the worst bombing and the silence of global powers was as condemnable and bothersome as Israel's atrocities.

The prime minister said that Israeli terrorism had not started on October 7, 2023, but had been continuing in the last seven decades.

He said Pakistan, following its founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, did not recognize State of Israel that was standing on the basis of oppression and illegal occupation, but

also strongly condemned its oppression and reiterated its commitment to raise its voice against it at all international fora.

Recently, the prime minister said, at every international forum, he raised his voice in front of all countries against Israel's continuing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and Palestine.

Pakistan had not only provided humanitarian aid to its unarmed Palestinian brothers and sisters, but was also ensuring education in the Pakistani institutions of those Palestinian medical students whose education had been interrupted due to the prevailing tense situation, he further added.

PTI founder's sisters sent on physical remand

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's Duty Magistrate has approved a one-day physical remand for Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan.

As per details, the two sisters were presented before Duty Magistrate Azhar Nadeem's court today in connection with a case registered at Kohsar Police Station.

Police had requested a

20-day physical remand for the accused, but the court approved only a one-day remand.

Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan, and Asad Qaiser's brother, Adnan, who was also granted a one-day physical remand, will be produced before the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) tomorrow.

Additionally, nine other women were sent to jail on judicial remand.

Yesterday, the Islamabad police arrested several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists



including party founder Imran Khan's sisters attempting to reach D-Chowk for a planned

protest. Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, the sisters of Imran Khan, were detained by the police when they arrived at D-Chowk to join the party workers in the planned demonstration. Imran Khan's two sisters were moved to the secretariat police station.

The capital police also took dozens of PTI supporters into custody and shifted them to the police station. The PTI workers and police personnel came face to face as the law enforcers used tear gas to disperse the protesters who in return pelted stones.

JI holds solidarity march for Gaza in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Karachi witnessed a massive march led by Jamaat-e-Islami on Shahrah-e-Faisal, as citizens gathered to show support for Palestinians in Gaza.

The rally "Gaza Million March" saw participants from across the city joining in solidarity.

Party leaders, including Mohammad Farooq and Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, delivered fiery speeches condemning Israeli aggression.

Farooq highlighted the ongoing bombings in Gaza, accusing Israel of targeting civilians, including women and children.

Hafiz Naeemur Rehman saluted the resilience of Hamas fighters, calling them brave Mujahideen who stand firm against Israeli attacks. He criticized global powers, particularly the United States, for their support of Israel.

Rehman urged Pakistanis to express their support for Gaza, calling for nationwide demonstrations on October 7, declared as Gaza Solidarity Day.

He vowed that Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem) would be free, and Israel's defeat is imminent.

Asad Qaiser warns govt of nationwide protests over Gandapur's 'disappearance'

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Former Speaker National Assembly (NA) and senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser has warned of nationwide protests if Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur is not released within 24 hours.

Speaking alongside members of the KP Assembly, Qaiser expressed outrage over the alleged detention of Gandapur, stating that such an act is unprecedented in the history across the world.

Qaiser condemned the vandalism of KP House in Islamabad, demanding the immediate release of Gandapur and the freedom of over 1,000 PTI workers currently under arrest in the federal police.

He criticized the government's alleged attempts to silence the opposition, warning that PTI would boycott meetings in the National Assembly, Senate, and standing committees if 'controversial' constitutional amendments were introduced.

Referring to the 'detention', Qaiser questioned why



there is no similar treatment for Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, drawing a comparison with Gandapur's situation.

It is worth mentioning here that the KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur reportedly went missing while en route to participate in a protest in Islamabad.

The senior leaders of PTI claimed that Gandapur has been detained, while the government denies the allegation stated that Ali Amin Gandapur is not in any official custody.

President expresses condolence with Shaheed Lt. Col. Ali's family

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday arrived at the residence of martyred Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ali in Faisalabad to express condolence with the bereaved family. The president offered Fateha for the departed soul, expressed sympathy with the martyr's family and also prayed for their patience, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali embraced

Shahadat while fighting with terrorists in North Waziristan, the other day. On behalf of the nation, the president paid tribute to the services and valour of Shaheed Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali. The president appreciated the affection and passion of sacrifice of late Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali Shaheed and his family for the country. The entire nation valued the sacrifices of the martyrs and their families, he said, adding that the nation would not forget its martyrs and their sacrifices.

Interior Minister Rules out talks with protestors



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi on Sunday ruled out any possibility of talks with the protestors of a political party and announced the Shaheed package for the assistance of the bereaved family of Shaheed Islamabad Capital Territory Police Constable Abdul Hameed Shah to be delivered within upcoming days.

In a media talk after the funeral of the constable who was martyred during the PTI protest here, the Interior Minister said that those involved in the killing of the martyr would face law and vowed to bring the culprits to justice. He expressed his condolences to the police and the victim's family.

Naqvi informed that he had received the information of Constable Abdul Hameed's martyrdom late at night. He added that the martyr has one son employed at CDA, who would be regularized, while the other son would also be provided employment in the public department, along with a martyr's package and a plot given to the martyrs' families would be given.

The minister expressed that they aimed to complete this process within next two to three days.

Interior Minister Naqvi added Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)

Ali Amin Gandapur was not present at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House and the Islamabad police is searching for him. He said the Rangers and police had raided the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House yesterday to arrest Gandapur, but he escaped through the main entrance and there are photos of his fleeing.

"The chief minister is neither in their custody nor in the custody of any Pakistani institution. We had suspicions about his presence at two to three locations, which led to the raids, but they are still maintaining roadblocks. Wherever he is found, the police will take necessary action," Naqvi said.

Mohsin Naqvi added that if there was no way to resolve the situation peacefully or through negotiations, he would not negotiate with someone who attacked his home. He stated that whoever was involved in this incident would face police action, and they would be named in the case.

In response to another question, the interior minister mentioned that Islamabad would be cleared in the next few hours. He noted that the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was wanted in connection with the events in Islamabad and further details would be provided later.

Action must be taken against those making scene in Islamabad: Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday said that action must be taken against those, who were becoming cause of the situation on the roads of Islamabad.

While talking to media persons after a special reception in honour of a delegation from the United Kingdom hosted by NAVTTC at a local hotel here, he said that the world was approaching towards Pakistan but some elements wanted to make her solitude at diplomatic level. He said that the attitude being posed

on the roads of Islamabad should be stopped by action.

Replying to a question, the federal minister said that the National Education Policy would be announced by the end of current year or in the start of new year. He said that 25 million children were out-of-school and they had to make efforts for them. Siddiqui said that the world needed Information Technology (IT) experts and Pakistan had youth for availing this opportunity.

NAVTTC Executive Director Mohammed Amair Jan and NAVTTC Director General Sindh Aziz Chandio were also present on the occasion.

Government bans Pashtun Tahafuz Movement under anti-terrorism law

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has imposed a ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) nationwide. The Ministry of Interior has issued a notification formalising the ban.

The notification, issued on Sunday by the Ministry of Interior, states that the decision to ban the PTM was made based on "concrete evidence."

It adds that the PTM "is involved in activities that prejudice peace and security of the country."

It alleges that the "PTM is involved in spreading anti-national narratives and anarchy, posing a threat to the country's peace and security."

The ban was placed by proscribing the organisation under the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997.

The PTM is a rights-based alliance that advocates not only for the de-mining of former tribal areas and increased freedom of movement in those regions but also demands an end to extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and unlawful detentions.