

# Independent

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## President calls for timely justice delivery to avoid aggravation of disputes

**Says no nation needs any foreign aid if they truly follow the values and teachings of Islam**

QUETTA (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for early disposal of the small domestic cases to avoid the aggravation of disputes and bloodshed.

He said the federal and provincial ombudsmen had their key role in the promotion of public service and good governance.

Addressing a seminar here, the president said as a member of National Assembly (NA) in 2017, he proactively worked for passing a bill related to alternate dispute resolution to reduce the burden on the mainstream judiciary.

Dr Arif Alvi pointed out, "When physical interaction was not possible owing to security issues, the executives including myself must have arranged online setups such as "Zoom meetings" to ensure

direct communication with the common people to guarantee timely justice delivery."

Last night, he said, "He disposed of 10 cases of the federal ombudsman and normally he disposes of the cases of appeals in just a few hours."

The president also stressed the need to raise awareness about the role of the ombudsman as few people were currently aware of its role. He also directed for removal of obstacles in the way of interaction between government officials and the common people. He said, "Islam teaches people to show patience and forgiveness to promote peace and harmony in society."

"No nation needs any foreign aid if they truly follow the values and teachings of Islam."



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on budget 2023-24 proposals regarding the Agriculture sector. Lahore

PM says:

## Govt to enhance rural economy through value addition of agri-produce

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday stressed upon taking practical and permanent steps over the agriculture reforms and said that the government would improve the rural economy through the value addition of agri-produce.

The prime minister chaired a high-level meeting

on the fiscal budget 2023-24 proposals regarding the agriculture sector, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister observed that agriculture sector was the backbone of the national economy and the country's progress was not possible without innovations in this sector. He said that due to the incumbent government's

Kisan package, a record wheat yield was achieved in the current season.

During the meeting, the prime minister was apprised in details of the agriculture reforms during the previous one year.

Due to PM's special Kisan Package, the provision of loans to farmers on affordable terms was not only ensured but due to

supply of timely fertilizers and quality seeds, the country also achieved the bumper wheat crop, exceeding the previous production in the last ten years. Under the prime minister's directive, the best-supporting prices over different crops led to the prosperity of farmers which would also boost the upcoming crops, it was added.

## British CGS lauds Pakistan Armed Forces' sacrifices in fight against terrorism

RAWALPINDI (Online): Gen Sir Nicholas Patrick Carter, chief of general staff (CGS) of the UK Army, on Wednesday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir and acknowledged the Pakistan Army's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

According to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Gen Sir Sanders met Gen Munir at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

"Upon arrival at the GHQ, CGS UK Army laid a floral wreath at Yagdar-e-Shuhada [memorials of martyrs]. A smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the vis-

iting dignitary," the military's media wing said. During the meeting, regional security issues and matters of mutual interest were discussed.

"The visiting dignitary acknowledged the sacrifices and achievements of the Pakistan Army in the fight against terrorism and efforts for bringing peace and stability in the region," the ISPR said. The statement added that Gen Sir Sanders also called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza at the Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi earlier today.

The British army chief arrived in Pakistan on Monday for a five-day "defence engagement" visit.

## AOC Southern Air Command calls on Governor Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Air Officer Commanding, Southern Air Command Air Vice Marshal Khalid Mehmood called on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Wednesday.



The importance of the Pakistan Air Force in aerial borders of the country, professional capabilities of PAF, preparation in accordance with modern-day requirements and other related issues were discussed in detail on the occasion, said a statement issued by a spokesperson of the Governor House.

## Petrol price slashed by Rs. 8 per litre, diesel by Rs. 5

Monitoring Desk  
ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Wednesday a reduction of Rs5 per litre in the price of high-speed diesel and Rs8 per litre in the price of petrol. Following the second consecutive price cut, diesel will now be available at Rs253 per litre, while petrol will be sold at Rs262 per litre. These prices will remain in effect from June 1 to June 15.

The price of light-speed diesel has also been reduced by Rs5 per litre, making it available at Rs253 per litre. The government has decided to keep the price of kerosene oil unchanged for the next fortnight. Dar mentioned that despite the depreciation of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar, the government has provided relief to the people.



ISLAMABAD: Security personnel with ballistic shields escort former Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan as he leaves from Islamabad High Court.

## Soldier martyred as terrorist attack on polio team in Spinwam thwarted

RAWALPINDI (APP): A soldier of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom on Wednesday while successfully thwarting a terrorist attack on polio vaccination team in general area Spinwam of North Waziristan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the terrorists attempted to disrupt the ongoing polio campaign by firing on the members of a polio team, employed in the general area Spinwam of North Waziristan District. The security forces, deputed to provide protection to the polio team, effectively

engaged the terrorists ensuring safety of all members of the team and extricated them unharmed. However, during the ensuing fire exchange between the security forces and the terrorists, Sepoy Saqib Ur Rehman (age 25 years, resident of Mardan District) was martyred in the line of duty.

The sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area, ISPR said. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it added.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir and General Sir Patrick Nicholas Yardley Monrad Sanders, Chief of General Staff (CGS) UK Army held a delegation level talk held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

## Sindh govt to modernize transport system for facilitating masses: Sharjeel

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister for Information and Transport Sharjeel Memon has said that the provincial government will modernize the transport system of the province to provide latest travelling facilities of the masses.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi on Wednesday, he said that the CNG kits from school vans will also be removed to ensure the safety of students. Sharjeel Memon fur-

ther stated a separate force of the transport department on the pattern of motorway police would be formed in the province to ensure implementation of related rules and regulations in the public and private transport sector.

He said the peoples bus service would now be extended to Shikarpur, Mirpur Khas and other districts of the province after its successful launch in Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana and Sukkur.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing Press Conference at Sindh Archives Complex.

## Turkish CG advises KCCI to hold single country exhibition in Istanbul

KARACHI (APP): Turkish Consul General (CG) Cemal Sangu on Wednesday advised Karachi Chamber to look into the possibility of holding Single Country Exhibition in Istanbul for boosting Pakistan's exports to Turkey.

The Turkish envoy exchanging views during visit to Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said that after successfully organising Pakistan's Single Country Exhibition in Istanbul, a similar Turkiye Exhibition could also be staged in Karachi.

"Turkiye and Pakistan were important markets for each other, hence, we must work really hard and unite our energies for advancing the existing trade and investment relations", he emphasized adding that

Turkiye attached special importance to Pakistan and both countries had been enjoying very strong cultural, religious and trade ties.

Referring to cultural, religious and linguistic similarities of both the countries, he was of the view that despite excellent ties and supporting each other at many international forums bilateral trade remained low.

Keeping in view the huge population of Pakistan and Turkiye, he was confident that the two countries could achieve many things together.

Pakistan's tourism sector offered a lot of opportunities which were also needed to be effectively promoted so that tourists from Turkiye could take interest in the region, Cemal Sangu noted.

## Several South Punjab political leaders join PPP in meeting with Zardari

LAHORE (APP): A number of political leaders of South Punjab on Wednesday called on Pakistan People's Party Co-Chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari at the Bilawal House, here on Wednesday.

These leaders announced to join the PPP in the meeting while Asif Zardari welcomed the decision of the political leaders from Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, Bahawalnagar, Mianwali, Okara and Khanewal.

## FM to attend Jordan's royal wedding, meet Iraqi leadership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is travelling this afternoon to Jordan and Iraq, the Foreign Office said on Wednesday.

In the first leg of the visit, the Foreign Minister will travel to Jordan to attend the royal wedding. From Jordan, the Foreign Minister will visit Iraq from June 5-7.

"During the visit, the Foreign Ministry will meet with Iraqi leadership, and hold detailed meeting with his counterpart," the FO said. Important agreements will also be signed during the visit.

FM Bilawal is undertaking this visit on the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Iraq, Dr. Fuad Hussein.



QUETTA: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a seminar on the role of Ombudsman in safeguarding public rights and good governance, at Governor House.

## IHC stops special committee from initiating proceedings against son of former CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped the special committee constituted to probe into audio leaks to initiate proceedings against son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar.

The petition filed against formation of special committee came up for hearing before a single bench of IHC led by Justice Babar Sattar here Wednesday.

During the hearing of the case Justice Babar Sattar questioned is it a special committee.

Lawyer Latif Khosa replied the same rules will be for special committee which are for ordinary committee.

The court while addressing Latif Khosa said you will have to make con-

ceded ministry a party. Latif Khosa replied there is no respective ministry in this matter. Even then we will make. We have challenged only this that speaker and assembly are not authorized to see the private matter.

What matter is pending hearing in Supreme Court (SC) we have not challenged it, he stated. Audio leak is alleged conversation made between two private persons. Parliament is not authorized to see the matters of private people.

Later the court stopped the special committee from initiating proceedings against son of former CJP Saqib Nisar. The court also suspended call up notice issued by special committee of parliament to Najam Saqib.

## Martial law has been imposed: Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI chairman Imran Khan has said half martial law has been imposed.

"Staging protest in front of GHQ is our right. The democracy will end if the citizens are tried in military courts, he said this in an interview with US media.

He held the law and constitution allow us to stage peaceful protest. Voicing protest in front of GHQ is our right. PTI people did not go inside and on the other hand they were stopping others to go inside. About May 9 incident, Imran Khan said the fire broke out at four and five places.

## Nine killed as rains, hailstorm batter Hyderabad, other Sindh areas

HYDERABAD (INP): At least nine people were killed as heavy rains lashed Hyderabad and other Sindh areas in the past 48 hours, with gusts of winds, hailstorm and lightning piling misery on people.

On Tuesday afternoon, the twin cities of Hyderabad and Kotri received heavy showers and hailstorm. Hailstones the size of golf balls damaged several vehicles and windows in Hyderabad's SITE area. Gusty winds uprooted trees and damaged vehicles.



LAHORE: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi addresses the audience during 52nd PN Staff Course Convocation Ceremony held at PN War College in Lahore.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Gwadar International Airport: A Catalyst for Progress

The ongoing construction of the New Gwadar International Airport marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's development and opens up new avenues for progress and connectivity. With over 70% of the construction work completed, this ambitious project spearheaded by the Gwadar Development Authority promises to be a game-changer for the region.

The comprehensive scope of work undertaken encompasses civil, structural, mechanical, and engineering tasks, demonstrating meticulous planning and execution. The dedicated efforts of the teams from the China Communication Construction Company and the Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan have propelled the project towards its final stages. The installation of Navigational Aid and Communication systems is progressing rapidly, with completion expected within 60 days.

A key highlight of the New Gwadar International Airport is its adherence to international standards. State-of-the-art runway pathways have been meticulously designed to accommodate various aircraft, including wide-bodied planes like the Airbus A380 and Boeing B-747. These pathways, complemented by well-planned taxiways, aprons, and other operational areas, ensure seamless takeoff and landing procedures. Furthermore, the runway's durability has been enhanced to handle heavy aircraft, reinforcing the airport's capacity and efficiency.

Safety remains paramount at the New Gwadar International Airport. The presence of an ATC tower, high-intensity lighting, and painted runway centerlines ensures secure operations, even during challenging weather conditions. These advanced airfield facilities provide reassurance to both passengers and airlines alike, making the airport a reliable and dependable transportation hub. The completion of vital infrastructure elements is a testament to the ambitious vision driving the project. The operational building, complex registration office, water supply system, PTCL fiber optic network, desalination plant, grid station, and security system have all been successfully established within the sprawling 4,300-acre site. This achievement solidifies the New Gwadar International Airport's position as the largest ongoing airport construction project in Pakistan.

The economic significance of this airport cannot be overstated. Its strategic location in Gwadar, adjacent to the Arabian Sea, positions it as a vital trade and connectivity hub for both domestic and international routes. With an open skies policy in place, the airport is set to enhance bilateral trade between Pakistan and China, strengthening economic ties and fostering mutual growth. The anticipated progress in Gwadar, coupled with increased accessibility, will unlock the region's untapped potential and contribute to the overall development of Balochistan. The New Gwadar International Airport represents a monumental step forward for Pakistan, as it prepares to welcome the world and become a vibrant gateway of opportunity. It is a testament to the country's determination to enhance connectivity, foster economic growth, and solidify its position on the global stage. The completion of this ambitious project will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of the region, empowering Gwadar and Pakistan as a whole. As we witness the rise of the New Gwadar International Airport, we anticipate a new era of progress, connectivity, and prosperity. It is a collective endeavor that reflects the nation's aspirations and paves the way for a brighter future.

## Caregivers' burden



Rukhsana Shah

A study on Maternal Stress and Health Quality of Life in Mothers with Special Needs Children, authored by Sara Jafree and Khadija Burhan of FCC University, Lahore, was published by Ataturk University recently. The study maintains that mothers of special needs children (SNC) face tremendous stress not only in accessing appropriate healthcare for their child, but also in negotiating economic, social and cultural support for themselves. The problem is exacerbated in conservative, including Muslim, societies where patriarchal attitudes, social stigma and superstition dominate the narrative and SNC and their families are shamed and excluded from the community.

The brunt of seeking medical treatment, education, therapies and vocational training, caring for the SNC physically and emotionally, and managing daily chores and family relations, falls on mothers. No wonder they feel exhausted, anxious and depressed, with low self-esteem and deteriorating health outcomes. The NIH in Maryland found that mothers of adolescents and adults with autism experienced "chronic stress comparable to combat soldiers". Many of them admitted to having said at least once in their lives: "I will kill him/her and then kill myself."

These women also experience insecurity due to the higher risk of abuse and violence of SNC. In many cases, family and in-laws are not supportive or are hostile, while conser-

vative norms restrict their mobility. Compared to fathers, mothers of SNC have very few opportunities to mingle with the larger community and are deprived of leisure activities. The solitary burden they have to bear due to unsupportive government policies and community neglect is incredible.

With three per cent of children currently diagnosed with autism according to the Centre for Prevention of Diseases, US, and an increasing number of self-diagnosed adults, there is an urgent need to restructure social welfare services in Pakistan. The government with its limited resources needs the help of civil society organisations to spread awareness and acceptance of invisible disabilities like autism and ADHD. It is also imperative to develop responsive communities to play a supportive role.

The ASD Welfare Trust is working to spread awareness about autism and related conditions in small towns and villages in Pakistan. The goal is to empower women — mothers, teachers, lady health workers — with information as well as comfort. Autism awareness seminars are held in local hotels and marriage halls where lectures and discussions are followed by lunch, giving people a chance to intermingle. Social engagement helps reduce class barriers, isolation and stigma, and creates opportunities for catharsis, psychoeducation and problem-solving. For parents, such activities are transformative as they find a new environment of empathy.

The approach focuses on groups and communities with little or no access to information, and that are vulnerable not only to the stigma attached to disability, but also to harmful practices such as recourse to faith healers and neglect of children and young adults,

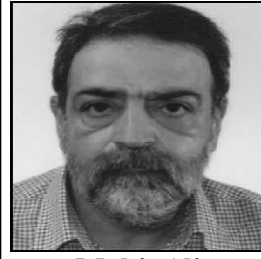
particularly girls with autism who are perceived as mad and socially and economically unproductive.

Social engagement improves communication, empathy and support for SNC and their families. Collective training programmes for mothers are needed to make them aware of the need for consistent engagement with their children, especially those with neurodivergent conditions. This is a neglected area as many mothers tend to leave everything to teachers and avoid personal responsibility.

In recent years, the concept of social role valorisation is being used by many social service delivery groups to train community leaders to support disabled and neurodivergent persons. According to SRV theory, everyone has the capacity to play a positive role in his/her personal life as well as that of society. The community needs to recognise these multiple roles and identities and add value to these through social role valorisation. The strategy is to mobilise and sensitise communities to evolve from devaluation of persons who are different from the rest, to 'valuation' and appreciation of their roles in different community settings.

It is the responsibility of the government to reinforce these initiatives through training of social welfare and health officials about the laws, rules and services related to SNC rights. Financial subsidies, free healthcare, hospitalisation, and maternal counselling must be given to SNC and their families. The government must engage with community notables, religious leaders, NGOs and CBOs and the media to create awareness and mobilise collective community support for their inclusion in educational, economic and sociocultural activities. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Never say die



Mahir Ali

Henry Kissinger, often viewed as a war criminal, marked his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last Saturday amid the usual accolades of the high and mighty, alongside a few barbs from others with a more realistic view of what his realpolitik entailed. Those hosting the soirées, however, tend to overlook the blood on the hand that cuts the cake.

Kissinger served as national security adviser and secretary of state in the Nixon and Ford regimes, and had been a consultant to the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. His advice has been sought by every US government since he last held public office in the mid-1970s. In many ways, he is a key architect of the world in which we live.

It may be fairly remarkable that his intellect remains intact, and his recent interventions on questions such as Russia/Ukraine and China/Taiwan are more nuanced than the bluster of the Biden administration. The ultimate aim in both cases, however, is pre-ty much the same: maintaining US hegemony in a world where alternatives exist.

Kissinger faced a somewhat similar dilemma during his years in power — it isn't uncommon to view him as effectively a co-president in what has been dubbed the Nixinger administration. Much has changed in the half-century since the US strove for better ties with both China and the Soviet Union than the two had with each other. The conciliation with Beijing was achieved in part through the good offices of Pakistan's military ruler

Yahya Khan.

It isn't unreasonable to assume that the Yahya regime might have been deterred from its 1971 military action in East Pakistan had Washington sought to dissuade it instead of egging it on, ignoring the information and advice it received from the US consulate in Dhaka and its embassy in New Delhi. Recently declassified texts of recorded White House conversations reveal the extent to which Richard Nixon held Indira Gandhi — and, more broadly, all Indians — in contempt, with Kissinger echoing the racist platitudes.

Bangladesh, infamously dismissed as a 'basket case', might not make it to the top five of Kissinger's 'greatest hits', though. There are many others. The primary slot must be reserved for Indochina — not just Vietnam, but also Laos and particularly Cambodia. There are several others, not least Chile, East Timor and Angola, where catastrophes unfolded courtesy of the Nixinger regime's ignorance, insouciance, encouragement or intervention. The secret bombing of Cambodia was to ostensibly flush out or eliminate Vietnamese communist guerrillas (the Vietcong or, more accurately, the National Liberation Front). But villagers in bordering villages were killed in the bombing raids, strafing from helicopters, and by boots on the ground who didn't just shoot everything that moved — in keeping with Nixon-Kissinger instructions — but also looted villages.

The intervention wasn't that direct in Angola, Chile or East Timor, but the human consequences were not dissimilar. A Soviet-backed liberation movement's ascendancy in Angola simply had to be resisted, even if it meant collaborating with South Africa's apartheid regime. The result was years of avoidable violence.

In Chile, US efforts to thwart Salvador Allende's mandate in 1970 led to the Pinochet coup 50 years ago. Indonesia's Suharto had presided over a massacre of hundreds of thousands of suspected communists — using lists provided by the CIA — since the mid-1960s. The massacres of freedom fighters in East Timor a decade later were not considered a travesty. In the case of Angola, Kissinger was surprised when the Cubans intervened to prevent a takeover by South Africa.

The Washington hi-rarchy bristled when Nelson Mandela thanked Fidel Castro for preventing the apartheid regime from extending its ascendancy by conquering Luanda on behalf of the US. That wasn't the only Kissinger venture to go awry, however. Perhaps it could even be argued that almost everything he touched globally turned to excrement sooner or later. Which makes his status as an oracle among substantial segments of the US foreign policy establishment all the more insane.

Notwithstanding Kissinger's purported threat to "make a horrible example" of Z.A. Bhutto if he proceeded with Pakistan's nuclear aspirations, there was a bit of a mutual admiration society between the two of them, with ZAB hailing Kissinger as a 20<sup>th</sup>-century Metternich. Kissinger is quoted in Owen Bennett-Jones' 'The Bhutto Dynasty as saying: "I am reluctant to negotiate anything with Prime Minister Bhutto. I always lose my shirt." Contrast those underhanded compliments with the opinion of the late celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, who wrote in 2001: "Once you've been to Cambodia, you'll never stop wanting to beat Henry Kissinger to death with your bare hands ... and you will never understand why he is not sitting in dock at The Hague next to [Serbian leader Slobodan] Milosevic." -- Courtesy Dawn

## National News

### KP Governor inaugurates road to be constructed with Rs 1.53 billions

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali along with Provincial Minister Sawak Nazir Wednesday inaugurated Detour Road Hayatabad, which is being constructed at a total cost of Rs 1.53 billions besides planting trees and installing street lights on the road for convenience of the local population. Provincial Ministers Haji Manzoor

Afridi, Abdul Halim Kasuria, Hamid Shah, Fazl Elahi, Muhammad Shafiullah, Advisor to Prisons Haji Hidayatullah were also present. With the construction of Detour Road, the heavy transport will have easy access to Afghanistan, and the local population will also be facilitated in transportation, the governor said.

Development Authority (PDA) officials in their briefing about the project said that the two-way Detour Road with a length of three kilometers was completed at a cost of Rs 1.53 billion. It was told in the briefing that the construction of the road would not only facilitate heavy goods vehicles going to Afghanistan, but the road would also be helpful for commercial traffic.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali along with Provincial Minister Sawak Nazir inaugurate Detour Road Hayatabad, which is being constructed at a total cost of Rs 1.53 billions.

### Punjab Governor says: Strong economy pivotal to the prosperity of country

LAHORE: A Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) Sargodha delegation led by President Sargodha Division Chaudhry Shah Nawaz Ranjha called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed prevailing political scenario in the country during a meeting at the Governor's House, here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that a strong economy is pivotal to the prosperity of country. He said that if the economy is good, there will be improvement in all sectors, including education and health. Balighur Rehman said the government is utilizing all resources to

stabilize the economy. The Governor Punjab said that on May 9, the youth were misled, they not only attacked military installations, but also desecrated the memorials of national heroes. "The martyrs of Pakistan Army and security agencies are our benefactors and pride," he said, adding that the martyrs who laid down their lives for the security and defense of the country deserve utmost respect. He said there is only one person and thought behind these events, adding that people have now started to compare and distinguish between the constructive and the destructive politics. He further said instead of believing what is heard, research is necessary to know the facts.

### UET Mardan suspends ACE on charges of vandalism on May 9

PESHAWAR (APP): The University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Mardan on Wednesday notified suspension of an assistant controller of examination (ACE) over charges of his alleged involvement in vandalism on May 9 in the district. According to the notification issued by the Registrar UET Mardan, the vice chancellor had approved the suspension of the services of ACE Muhammad Ismail in light of the investigation of the Superintendent of Police. It said that the accused ACE was booked by the police under FIR No 833 dated May 9.

### PTI using women to cover-up its violence, attacks: Talal Chaudhry

FAISALABAD (INP): Former State Minister/Central Leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Muhammad Talal Chaudhry on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) used women to cover up its violence and attacks on sensitive military installations on 9<sup>th</sup> May and in this connection, a misleading propaganda was promoted to hide its misdeed. Addressing a press conference at his residence here, he said that 9<sup>th</sup> May was not an incident but it was a calculated

activity which was conceived, designed and implemented in a planned manner. He said that the PTI continued its legacy of hate and in this incident once again the element of hate was used. The people were trained and deputed on a special mission with specific direction to hit the selected targets. Now a conspiracy was hatched to win sympathy of the masses through a bogus propaganda of torturing females only for harassing the institution which were investigating their crimes, he added.

### Minister seeks everyone role for protection of child rights

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zakat Ushr, Social Welfare, Special Education and Women Empowerment Salma Begum on Wednesday said that everyone must perform their role for child rights' protection and eradicating social issues and challenges faced by children. She urged the parents to pay special attention to the provision of their children's basic rights. She expressed these views in the closing ceremony of a two days training workshop on "Child Protection

Information Management System (CP-IMS)" organized by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child and Welfare Commission in Peshawar.

This event, CP-IMS, signifies a significant milestone in our joint efforts to protect and promote the rights of children.

She added that she commend all the participants from CPWC, Child Protection Units, Zamung Kor, Police Department, and Newly Merged Districts for their dedication and commitment to the cause of child protection in their respective roles.

### KPK Former CM Mahmood comes on NAB's radar

PESHAWAR (Online): Former Chief Minister (CM) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Mahmood Khan came on NAB's radar.

NAB has sought record of the recruitments made in the Fisheries department from the constituency of Chief Minister.

NAB has also decided to include Former Provincial Minister Livestock Mohibullah in inquiry. NAB has also summoned the record of employee's details, educational certificates.

### Minister visits Family park

SARGODHA (APP): Provincial Minister for Housing Health Engineering and Auqaf Barrister Azfar Ali Nasir on Wednesday visited Parks and Horticulture Authority Family Park in the city.

Director General PHA Syed Tauqeer Haider Kazmi was accompanied him. The minister inspected various sections of the park, green belts and Miyawaki forest. Director General Tauqeer Haider briefed the minister about ongoing work in the park and establishment of new green belts in the city.

Later, the minister also planted a sapling in the family park. Meanwhile, the minister visited Dr Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital and inspected facilities available in the hospital.

### Faisal Kundi says: PTI responsible for May 9 vandalism

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi here Wednesday claimed that Pakistan Tahrik e Insaf (PTI) was responsible for the ransacking of government and public properties during May 9-10 vandalism and accused Imran Khan for downing the arrested party workers.

Talking to media persons after visiting the burnt Radio Pakistan's building here to express solidarity with the employees of the national broadcaster and Associated Press of Pakistan, Faisal Kundi deplored that horde of Pakistan Tahrik e Insaf have ransacked and put on fire the government and people's properties including Radio Pakistan's

building and stolen its expensive computers, electronic appliances, furniture, sound system, vehicles engines and other expensive items.

He said the attacks on government and defense installations was a preplanned conspiracy, and that attackers, planners and abettors could not escape from law.

Faisal Kundi said that it was highly deplorable that Imran Khan has disowned its party workers who were put behind the bar in May 9 vandalism cases and had hardly talked about them.

He said Imran Khan talked about beauty and visit of Northern Areas of Pakistan but it was unfortunate that he never talked to meet the jailed workers.



BAHAWALPUR: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin is being briefed about the history of Bahawalpur State and the contributions of Nawab of Bahawalpur Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi to Pakistan during his visit to Noor Mahal.

### Smuggling bids foiled; 24 kg hashish, 2880 kg NCP tea recovered

TANK (APP): The Tank police on Wednesday foiled two smuggling bids in the limits of Shaheed Mureed Akbar (SMA) Police Station and recovered 24 kilogram hashish and six sacks of non-custom paid (NCP) tea worth Rs 768,000 approximately. In a statement, DSP Headquarters Asghar Ali Shah along with SMA Police

Station SHO Abdul Ali Khan said that the police was strictly pursuing zero tolerance policy of District Police Officer Waqar Ahmad against all social crimes. Indiscriminate operations of the police were successfully underway to eradicate the menace of narcotics from the district, he told and added that he himself along with his team.



LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz Sargodha delegation led by President Sargodha Division Chaudhry Shah Nawaz Ranjha in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House

## Time ripe for collective efforts to achieve national development: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday stressed the need for making collective efforts to put the country on a consistent path of progress and development, saying it was high time to take all Pakistanis along in achieving the national goals.

"The time has come to bring all Pakistanis forward and give them an opportunity to play a role in the development of the country," he said while addressing a two-day

conference titled "Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit-2023," here.

He was of the view to extend all possible support to the business companies earning dollars and contributing to build the country's foreign exchange reserves.

The minister said this year, the country faced two major impacts of global climate change, and now the incumbent government was working to overcome the issues of water and food security by switching over to smart agriculture system.

He said the China-

Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was a game-changer project for Pakistan besides the entire region of South Asia.

He said around \$ 29 billion had been invested in the CPEC-related project in a period of three years.

Ahsan Iqbal regretted that the economic policies and projects faced considerable dent during the tenure of PTI government, which caused serious damage to the national economy and development.

He said it was the PTI

regime that scandalized the CPEC-related projects and stopped the economic boom and foreign investment pouring into the country during the last tenure of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government.

He recalled that there was an economic boom during the PML-N's last tenure, adding in 2017, the ambassadors of developed countries including America, Britain, Japan, Germany and France were showing keen interest to invest in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the CPEC.



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Federal Minister for Planning & Development Ahsan Iqbal along with Federal Minister for Energy Khurram Dastagir Khan during the 2-days conference "Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2023".



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif exchanging views with a delegation of Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited led by Wael Sabra, Area Director Asia Pacific Middle East and Africa (APMEA) during meeting held at FBR HQ in Islamabad.

## SCCI delegation meets Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) held a meeting with Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif on Budget 2023-24 proposals.

SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman RRCM Ashfaq Yousif Tola, Chairman FBR, and senior officers from Finance Division and FBR attended the meeting, said a press release issued here.

The delegation thanked the finance minister for inviting the budgetary proposals from the SCCI.

They discussed the current economic condition of the country with the finance minister and informed him about the range of issues being faced by them. To this end, they presented suggestions to

those issues in the form of budgetary proposals to the finance minister to be considered in the upcoming federal budget.

They also guaranteed the finance minister of their continuous assistance to the government to improve the situation of economic and business activities in Pakistan.

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar appreciated the delegation and expressed the resolve of the government in overcoming the issues being faced by the business community to ensure the economic growth of the country. He also assured the business leaders that the government will provide all possible assistance to the business community for economic stability and growth by bringing forward a business and people-friendly budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

## Food Minister contradicts FAO WFP reports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema Wednesday contradicted reports of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) regarding an acute shortage of food in Pakistan and said sufficient food stock was available to meet the country's demand.

Responding to a calling attention notice in the National Assembly regarding the expected acute shortage of food in the country as reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), he said, "I fully disagreed with the reports of WFO and FAO and facts indicated in the reports have no reality and there is no need to worry."

He said this year 28.5 million metric tons of wheat was recorded, along with the carry-over stock of the previous year.

## Minister says electricity base tariff stable despite rupee depreciation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Khurram Dastgir on Wednesday said that the base tariff of electricity has not been changed since September 2022 despite the devaluation of the currency.

Speaking at the sixth edition of Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2023 here, the minister said that the government has decided that in the future electricity generation would not be based on imported fuel. "We will have five sources, out of which four will be domestic and one would be

semi-domestic," he said.

He said the government set up large wind and solar-based power generation projects. Power generation from local Thar coal has also jumped to over 2,500 MW, he said. He said no one could deny the importance of Thar coal. Power generation from local resources helped a lot to keep the power base tariff unchanged, he added.

He said fuel cost adjustment (FCA) remained negative during the last winter and its benefit was also passed on to the consumers.

## China-Pakistan aviation industry coop. embracing new possibility

BEIJING (APP): As a major aviation power, whether in civilian or military fields, China has cooperated closely with Pakistan in the field of aviation for decades.

The Gwadar International Airport under construction, as an outstanding example of China-Pakistan aviation cooperation, is located 26 kilometers northeast of the port. So far, most of the infrastructure has been fully completed and it is expected to be officially opened for navigation in September.

"The same as Gwadar Port, the new airport is also a representative project of the CPEC, which can accommodate the take-off and landing of large aircraft such as Boeing

747. In addition, the intersecting east-west air routes face China, Iran, Afghanistan, India and Central Asian countries, as well as a series of international routes will pass through this area.

Therefore, the airport will gradually become an air economic and trade hub in the future," according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

With this platform, it will be more convenient for international goods, especially Chinese goods, to arrive in Balochistan, and then be distributed to various cities in the country.

Pakistan's characteristic goods can also be transported more efficiently to all parts of the world, promoting local economic and trade

development.

Except for the civilian field, China-Pakistan aviation cooperation in the military field can also be called fruitful. Fighter China-1 (FC-1) is an all-weather, single-engine, multi-purpose light fighter jointly invested and developed by two countries, which Pakistan side calls it Joint Fighter-17 Thunder (JF-17), and equips the Pakistan Air Force as the main fighter.

As early as June 1999, the two parties officially signed a cooperative research and development contract, entering the stage of prototype development.

On March 12, 2007, the fighter officially entered into service with the Pakistan Air Force.



LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President, Kashif Anwar addresses to media persons during press conference regarding Budget 2023-24, in Lahore.

## LCCI discloses proposals for upcoming federal budget

LAHORE (APP): Federal Finance Minister has assured Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) that the Federal Budget 2023-24 would be business friendly.

This was stated by the LCCI President Kashif Anwar while addressing at a press conference on upcoming Federal Budget 2023-24 here at Lahore Chamber on Wednesday. LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt also spoke on the occasion.

The LCCI President informed the media that recently he has a fruitful meeting with the Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and apprised him of the issues being faced by the business community besides presenting a set of budget proposals for the financial year 2023-24.

Sharing budget proposals with reporters, the LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that since the

position of foreign reserves is improving, the government should take measures including trade in local currency where ever possible and barter trade mechanism to mitigate the prevailing foreign exchange crisis.

He said that for broadening of tax base and better documentation, there should be facilitation in the form of declaration scheme which must be introduced to bring undeclared foreign reserves, local assets and wealth in economic circle for injection of liquidity in economy. To reduce the cost of doing business, Kashif Anwar emphasized the need to align Pakistan's interest rates with regional economies.

He also urged the government to lower the refinancing rate, introduce soft policies for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and provide special financing schemes with low markup rates and no collateral requirements.



FAISALABAD: A worker busy in his routine work at his workplace outside local factory at Ghulam Muhammad Abad, in City.

## IWCCI demands incentives in upcoming budget for FY-2023-24

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce (IWCCI) has demanded incentives for businesswomen in the upcoming budget saying the dream of national development can never become a reality by keeping the majority of the country's population away from economic activities.

In its budget proposals, the IWCCI has demanded an increase in the taxable income limit for businesswomen, saying

that it will encourage them to join the document economy.

Founder president of the IWCCI Samina Fazil said in the budget proposals sent to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, that reports of heavy taxation on various sectors are disturbing. Enhanced taxes will hurt the weak economy and reduce revenue rather than increase it, she added.

Samina Fazil demanded that the obstacles in the way of women's development.

## Gold prices increase by Rs.1,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,600 and was sold at Rs. 234,400 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs. Rs. 232,800 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 1,372 to Rs. 100,960 from Rs. 99,588, whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold up down to Rs.184,214 from Rs.182,956, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs.50 to Rs.2,800 whereas that of ten-gram silver.

## Zong 4G partners with 'Roshan Packages' to enhance digital business solutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading digital company, has partnered with Roshan Packages Limited, one of the country's largest packaging manufacturers, to provide bespoke connectivity for its business. This partnership will enable Roshan Packages Limited to employ Zong 4G's business solutions to optimize the efficacy and reliability of its daily operations across the board.

As part of this partnership, Zong 4G will provide customized connectivity solutions tailored to meet their

specific business needs.

By leveraging Zong's sophisticated services, Roshan Packages Ltd. aims to achieve increased operational efficiency and reliability in their day-to-day activities. The official spokesperson of Zong 4G said, "We are delighted to join hands with Roshan Packages Limited in enhancing their daily operations. Zong 4G is committed to digitizing Pakistan's corporate landscape by providing next-generation business solutions that are crucial for sustainable business growth."



ISLAMABAD: CEO Agha Khan Agency for Habitat Nurat Nasab and CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Bulani signing the MOUs for Memorandum of Understanding (IFC Edge Building Certification) at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.

## SECP warns time & again to beware of fraudulent financial activities

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), has been warning the public time and again to raise awareness among the general public regarding typologies of potentially fraudulent activities perpetrated by companies or entities/individuals posing as legitimate incorporated persons that come to its attention. The objective is to educate public, enabling them to recognize and avoid falling prey to deceptive practices.

On the basis of

information available on social media and complaints/queries received recently it is observed that following typical business models are being used to lure public: Mobile/web-based apps promising lucrative profits/referral bonuses on deposits/investments; Seeking deposits in the name of making investments on your behalf in different products and promise lucrative return like investments in Surface Mount LED (SMD) screens, trading of different products/ forex/cryptos.

## Pakistan can earn \$300m through PVC exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Significant investments to expand and improve the efficiency of domestic PVC production have created an opportunity for Pakistan to earn USD 300 million through the export of surplus volumes and products.

Currently, Pakistan's per capita PVC consumption stands at 1.2 kg versus a global average of 6.1 kg. Growth in our per capita consumption will be driven by rising per capita income, increasing

urbanization, and robust domestic manufacturing in the coming years. Through various customer engagement and market development initiatives, such as a retail outlet - think PVC, Engro Polymer and Chemicals Limited (EPCL) is actively promoting various standardized, high-quality PVC products.

At a media briefing on Wednesday, Mahmood Siddiqui, Vice President of the Manufacturing wing of the Company, highlighted,

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, Maersk Atlanta, Maria Elena and Theresa Orion carrying Containers and Palm oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Liquid Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile two more ships, EM Astoria and Cielo Rosso with Containers and Mogas are also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during the same period.

A total of 07 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Maersk Atlanta, Hafnia Providence and Theresa are expected to sail on Wednesday.

Cargo volume of 169,440 tonnes.

IFB NO: SO(G) Edu. E&A/Pro-REG-DIS(FUR)/2022-23  
**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH**  
**SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY DEPARTMENT**  
Date: 31-05-2023  
INVITATION OF TENDER NOTICE

- The School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh has an allocation from the Public Fund in Pak rupees towards the cost of various NoN-ADP schemes for Educational Institutes / Offices / Line Departments working under administrative control of School Education & Literacy Department. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this allocated fund will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Procurement of various store items for the supply of:

S.No	Description / Method of Procurement	Tender Fee
1.	Procurement of Furniture & Fixture for Primary / Elementary / Secondary school of Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur & Larkana Region (Single stage - two envelope procedure)	2000

- The School Education & Literacy Department now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders and original manufacturers / their authorized distributors / suppliers in Sindh, registered with Income Tax & Sales Tax Department SRB etc. for the supply of above. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of Director (PDR) School Education & Literacy Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Old KDA building, Sindh Secretariat No.03, Kamal Atta Turk Road, Karachi.
- A complete set of bidding document may be purchased w.e.f from 05-06-2023 upto 22-06-2023 during office hours by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director (PDR) School Education & Literacy Department upon payment of nonrefundable fee in shape of Demand Draft or Pay Order in favour of Section Officer (G-I) School Education & Literacy Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Old KDA building, Sindh Secretariat No.03, Kamal Atta Turk Road, Karachi.
- Sealed Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before 23-06-2023 at 3:00 p.m. and must be accompanied by a bid security of Two (2) percent of bid amount in favour of Section Officer (G-I), School Education & Literacy Department.
- The Technical Proposals of the tenders will be opened on the same day at 3:30 pm (i.e. 23-06-2023) by the Procurement Committee of the department in the presence of bidders' or their representatives in the office of Director (PDR) School Education & Literacy Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Old KDA building, Sindh Secretariat No.03, Kamal Atta Turk Road, Karachi. The Financial Proposals of the qualified bidders will be opened after technical evaluation by the committee. Financial proposals of non-qualified bidders will be returned as unopened.
- In case Government declared / announce public holiday on the date of opening of Tender, the Tenders will be submitted / opened on the next working day and time.
- The rates quoted should be inclusive of GST, Income Tax, SRB etc. GST will be deducted at source at the prescribed rates. Delivery of items will be made institution/school wise at different locations throughout the province of Sindh.
- The bidders are should give their best and final prices as no negotiations are expected.
- Procuring Agency may reject all or any bid as per relevant provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010.
- Invitation for Bids / Tender Notice and Bidding Document can be download from SPPRA website: www.spprasindh.gov.pk.

SECTION OFFICER (G) / DDO  
First Floor, Sindh Secretariat No.2  
Karachi

INF/KRY NO.: 2023/2285

## Naval Chief calls for dev. of new technology

LAHORE (Online): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi says development of new technology and artificial intelligence requires that traditional war tactics be replaced by innovation.

He said this while addressing the 52nd convocation ceremony of Pakistan Navy War College held in Lahore on Wednesday. The Naval Chief was the Chief Guest of the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Naval Chief said that promotion of awareness regarding the maritime sector is a distinction of the Pakistan Navy War College.

APP adds: The Convocation ceremony of 52nd Pakistan Navy Staff Course was held here on Wednesday at Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC), where Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the graduation ceremony as Chief Guest.

During the Convocation Ceremony Degrees were conferred upon 95 graduates, comprising 54 officers from Pakistan Navy, Army & Pakistan Air Force and 41 officers from friendly countries including

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Yemen, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

While addressing the ceremony, the chief guest highlighted the complexities and wide variety of threats and challenges confronting the world impacting almost all regions.

He underlined that wide ranging challenges in 21st century coupled with advancements in disruptive technology, proliferation of weapons and artificial intelligence place a cumulative premium on minds of practitioners of war at sea.

The traditional manner or one-dimensional study of war is accordingly out-dated and is no longer applicable. The admiral appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Navy War College in providing meritorious professional education to students and lauded the endeavour of the College in integrating with local academia for proliferation of maritime knowledge and increasing awareness on maritime security matters.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori talking to media men

## Governor Sindh inaugurates painting, calligraphy exhibition at Sadequain Award ceremony

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Wednesday acknowledged the renowned artist and calligrapher Sadequain credentials remarking him an excellent painter, calligrapher and poet at the same time. He said this while speaking as the chief guest at the Sadequain Award ceremony held at Frere Hall, here.

On this occasion, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rehman, dip-

lomats of different countries, heads of various departments of KMC, President Arts Council Ahmed Shah, Chief of Staff of Habib Bank Chairman Maya Ismail, Dr Umaira Hussain Khan, and a large number of citizens were present.

Earlier, Governor of Sindh inaugurated a painting and calligraphy exhibition at Frere Hall on the occasion of Sadequain Awards 2023 and distributed prizes to the winning

artists and calligraphers in the awards competition.

Governor Sindh said that both the government and private organizations needed to think to increase the splendour of the city. He said that we get a lesson from the life of Sadequain that if a person was determined to do something in his life then no obstacle could prevent it from achieving its destination.

"The KMC deserved to be congratulated for maintaining the tradition of

awards attributed to great artists like Sadequain. Karachi is not only the largest city of Pakistan but also an important center of art and culture, fine art is a genre in which many artists become a national identity," he added. Sadequain is also among the great artists whose art has been appreciated worldwide, he said, that with the establishment of Sadequain Art Gallery, KMC took commendable step and launched the Sadequain Awards here.

### AJK PM calls on FM Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu & Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq Wednesday called on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here at Zardari House and discussed matters of mutual interests, including prevailing political situation in the country.

FM Bilawal, reiterating the country's continual and consistent support to the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle, said efforts to highlight the Kashmir issue at the international level would be further accelerated in order to sensitize the global community about the early and amicable settlement of the longstanding dispute.

The foreign minister also reiterated Pakistan's political, moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmir cause. AJK Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore was also present in the meeting, an AJK Government press release said.

### Imran contradicts report about his differences with President Alvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI chairman Imran Khan while contradicting the reports about his differences with president Arif Alvi has said there is no way out except election.

"We have extended invitation for talks for the sake of country. Decide it either the country has to run under constitution or it will be run by dint of club by you, he said this while talking to media men here Wednesday.

Responding to a question by a journalist does President Arif Alvi not give reply to your questions, has Arif Alvi taken you into confidence on signing the law, Imran Khan said no, it is all wrong, there is no difference. Had Arif Alvi not signed even then it would have become law.

He remarked government and establishment is one thing. Establishment is running the government. There is no way out except election at present. There are desires that election should be held when PTI is crushed. He went on to say "offer for talks was extended to mitigate economic crisis.

### Bogie of passenger train derailed near Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): A passenger train heading towards Mirpurkhas from Karachi derailed while entering Hyderabad railway station on Wednesday.

A bogie of Shah Latif Express derailed near Makki Shah railway crossing as a result of which railway traffic suspended for several hours.

The Railway officials informed that no casualty was reported due to the derailment of a passenger train while railway track had been restored within the hours of the incident.

## ECNEC approves project for establishment of 48MW Shounter Hydropower Project

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) Wednesday considered and approved a project of the government of AJK to be executed by the Power Development Organization, AJK for the Establishment of a 48MW Shounter Hydropower Project in Neelum Valley District, AJK at an updated cost of Rs. 14,985 million including FEC of Rs. 12, 736.90 million.

The project is to be financed 85% from the

Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and 15 % of the cost will be met through AJK ADP. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the ECNEC, said a press release issued here.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuro, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers from Federal Ministries and Provincial de-

partments participated in the meeting in the meeting.

The ECNEC also considered and approved in principle a project of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and GB for the Establishment of Regional Grids in Gilgit-Baltistan Phase-I in Astore, Gilgit, Hunza, and Skardu Districts in GB at the revised cost of Rs. 17, 425.57 million with FEC of Rs. 1824.02 million subject to the reconsideration of bidding, construction and engineering estimates by the Planning Ministry.



QUETTA: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Quereshi chairing a meeting attended by the Heads of Federal Departments.

## Islam a religion of peace, harmony: Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (Online): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) has raised awareness about the tenets and practices of Islam anchored in humanitarianism.

Addressing the "Scholars and Community Leaders Recognition Lunch" hosted by ICNA in Washington, he said Pakistan would always remember ICNA for generating 15 million dollars to help victims of floods and its leaders for visiting flood areas during the height of the catastrophe.

Paying rich tribute to Dr. Mohsin Ansari, President ICNA, Masood Khan said that this organization had advocated protection of rights of Muslims and non-Muslims alike to create a harmonious society. The Ambassador said that all Muslims living in United States should be thankful to rich ambience and integrative environment provided by its people which assimilates people of all faiths and diverse ethnic backgrounds.



HYDERABAD: ASP Cant Aleena Rajpar during a press conference at Police Headquarter.

## Rs 1.60 per unit increase in power tariff likely for April

ISLAMABAD (APP): Power tariff is likely to be increased by Rs 1.60 per unit for April under monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism as National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday concluded public hearing into the petition filed by Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) on behalf of XWDISCOs.

The CPPA-G sought Rs 2.01 per unit increase on account of FCA for month of April.

## Good News: Ghee price drops for the second time

ISLAMABAD (Online): There is good news for the people suffering from inflation.

Government has decreased the price of Ghee for the second time.

As per details, Government has reduced the price of Ghee by 68 rupees on utility stores and notification also has been issued.

According to issued notification, the reduction in prices of cooking oil and Ghee come into force from today.

The price of Ghee has been reduced by 68 rupees per kilogram.

It is to remember that, the price of branded Ghee was also reduced by 69 rupees per kg in last week.

The prices of cooking oil has also been reduced by 18 rupees to 76 rupees per liter.

## To save his politics Imran taking U-turn from 'absolutely not' to 'absolutely yes': Dastgir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Power Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan had a terrible history of taking U-turns and quipped him as the champion in this regard.

Addressing a news conference here, the minister said the former prime minister was ousted from power through a vote of confidence, adding he (Imran) first accused the U.S. was behind the toppling of his government, but now the PTI chief was purportedly seeking help from the same country.

"Imran Khan raised slogans of 'absolutely not' during his regime and now

he chants absolutely yes. There is a contradiction in his action, speech and character," he slammed. "Ironically, Imran, who once asserted that the slavery of the USA would not be tolerated, is seeking the US assistance to save his political career," he alleged.

"The PTI is attacking Pakistan's integrity with lies since last year, which started with the issue of a cipher, blaming the US for dislodging Imran's government," he added.

Condemning the May 9 riots, he said that no leniency would be shown against the miscreants and all the lawbreakers would be taken to task as per the law and the Constitution.



LAHORE: Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Aleinik calls on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Minister performs Ashram's boundary wall groundbreaking

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Minister for Minority Affairs Giyan Chand Essarion Wednesday performed the groundbreaking of the boundary wall of Guru Mangal Ashram at Tana Bola Khan.

Addressing the participants of the ceremony, the minister said the minorities are protected in Pakistan where they are performing their religious activities and without any fear.

"Each religion of the world preaches the message of love, peace, affection and brotherhood," he said, adding that Pakistan Peoples

Party is the only political party of the country which ensures the rights of minorities.

He informed the Sindh government had completed many projects of repair, maintenance and renovation of the worship places of minorities and is still engaged in the completion of hundreds of projects in all districts of Sindh province.

The minister informed that he is personally monitoring the ongoing work on these projects and maintained that no compromise will be made on the quality of work.

## Sindh govt to compensate bike owner who lost their bikes on May 9

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has decided to provide new bikes to motorbike owners who lost their motorcycles during May 9 vandalism.

It should be mentioned here that six motorbikes were set on fire during violent protest of May 9, in reaction of arrest of

Chairman PTI Imran Khan. The provincial government has asked the victims to contact home ministry for the purpose.

Advisor to CM for law and justice, Murtaza Wahab has said that the victims should submit police report and documents of the blazed bikes.



KARACHI: Editor/Bureau Chief of Daily Independent and Daily Askar Karachi Nazir Siyal meeting with Provincial Minister for Sindh Education & Literacy, Culture & Tourism Sindh Syed Sardar Ali Shah and discussed about introducing teachers licence and oversee merit by Sindh Teachers Education Development Authority (STEDA).

## PNRA grants operating license to Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-3

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) on Wednesday granted an operating license to Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-3 (K-3) upon completion of the regulatory review & assessment and inspection processes of the licensing submissions and satisfactory resolution of all regulatory issues. According to a press release received here, K-3 is a Chinese-designed (Hualong One) Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) and it is the second such unit deployed at the Karachi site adding 1100 MWe to the national grid.

In June 2022, PNRA granted an operating license to its sister unit, Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (K-2), having the same generation capacity.

The licensing process of K-3 comprising the licensing stages of site evaluation, construction, com-

missioning and operation including the aspects of radiation protection, emergency preparedness, waste management and management system were evaluated in accordance with PNRA applicable regulations and international safety standards.

Moreover, PNRA registered the K-3 site in May 2014 and a construction license was awarded to K-3 in November 2015. PNRA issued Fuel Load Permit (FLP) to K-3 in December 2021 after performing a review & assessment of the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) and other relevant documents.

Following a comprehensive review and assessment of OL submissions and successful completion of criticality & pre-operational tests, PNRA awarded an operating license to K-3.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq exchanging views with Sergei Aleinik, Foreign Minister of Belarus during meeting held in Islamabad.

## Dr. Fouzia meets Aafia Siddiqui after 20 long years

NEW YORK (INP): Dr. Aafia's elder sister met her after 20 years in Fort Worth town of United States where she is currently detained. Meanwhile, British attorney Clive Stafford Smith accompanied Dr. Fouzia Siddiqui to meet her sister.

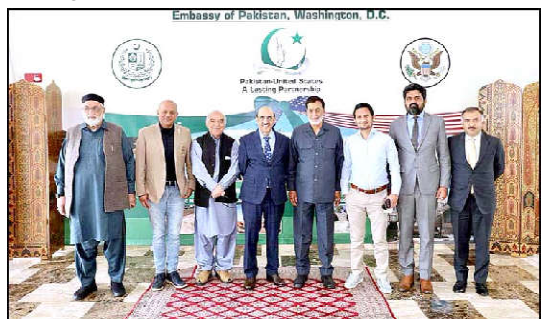
According to Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Aafia Siddiqui is currently being detained at the infamous FMC Carswell prison. Headed that a long journey of 20 years have at last started bearing fruit as Dr. Aafia Siddiqui has been granted the right to meet her family. The senator said that Aafia's elder sister Dr. Fouzia has met Aafia and he is next to meet the "Daughter of Nation" on Thursday.

Senator Mushtaq narrated that both sisters met each other after 20 years and the meeting spanned over two and a half hour. While meeting her sister, Dr. Fouzia

was neither allowed to touch her sister nor was she allowed to show her the pictures of Dr. Aafia's children. Both the sisters met in a room separated with a thick glass wall. Dr. Fouzia said that Aafia was wearing beige jail dress and a white scarf.

Dr. Fouzia further added that Aafia is not in a good condition, it took almost an hour for Aafia to state what she has been through every day. She was waiting to her meet mother and children and she does not even know that our mother died almost a year ago.

Dr. Fouzia said that Aafia has lost her front teeth in an assassination attempt inside the jail and have a scar on her head because of which she face difficulties in hearing. Reportedly, Dr. Aafia has been pressurised through different torturous techniques to speak up about the things she does not even know.



WASHINGTON DC: Group photo of Ambassador Masood Khan during a meeting with a delegation of AI-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan about Coalition of Humanitarian Organizations to streamline and synergize their activities.

## KU VC pays courtesy call to Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): The Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the University of Karachi Professor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, Pakistani Director of the Confucius Institute (CI) Professor Dr. Muhammad Nasiruddin Khan along with CI faculty visited the Chinese Consulate here and paid a courtesy call to Consul General (CG) Yang Yundong on Thursday.

During the meeting, the Chinese CG Yang Yundong expressed his gratitude to the University of Karachi for its strong support for the development of the CI at the University of Karachi and fully affirmed the positive contributions made by the Confucius Institute on the campus in promoting international Chinese education and strengthening cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan.

He said, "The CG will continue to firmly support the development of the Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi."

stitute would cultivate strong friendly exchanges and cooperation between Pakistan and China and people-to-people contact between both countries.

The KU VC Professor Dr. Khalid Iraqi briefly introduced to the CG the teaching situation of the Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi and the ongoing 2+2 joint BS program for undergraduates majoring in Chinese and the teaching situation of the Confucius Institute.

He mentioned, "The university is providing opportunities for students to learn Chinese and promote cultural exchanges and trade development between China and Pakistan."

The KU VC Professor Dr. Khalid Iraqi also mentioned that the University of Karachi has renamed the Art Auditorium the Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium to commemorate the three Chinese teachers and Pakistani van drivers who had sacrificed their lives for an education.