

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

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Quetta

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QUETTA: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir addressing the officers of Command & Staff College Quetta.

## Futile efforts to create rift between army, people will never succeed: COAS

**Nexus between internal collusive elements, external forces to create instability exposed before nation: Pakistan Army being one of strongest armies in world can't be coerced by anyone: Stresses operational preparedness for conventional, sub-conventional warfare**

QUETTA (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Monday said the nexus between the internal collusive elements and external forces to create instability has amply been exposed before the people of Pakistan.

The army chief made these remarks while addressing the officers of Command & Staff College Quetta during his visit to

Quetta Garrison, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS said: "Those who are making futile efforts to drive a wedge and weaken the unbreakable bond between the people of Pakistan and its Armed Forces will never be able to succeed Insha Allah."

The Armed Forces of Pakistan remained perpetually indebted to the valiant and proud people of Paki-

stan who, through the recent manifestation of their unique love for their Armed Forces across the length and breadth of the country, have given a befitting reply to the nefarious designs of the enemy and their collaborators.

The Army Chief said, "Pak Army, being one of the strongest armies of the world, with the blessings of Allah and undaunted support of proud people of

Pakistan, can neither be deterred nor coerced by anyone, Alhamdulillah."

While addressing the officers, the COAS emphasized operational preparedness for conventional, sub-conventional and 5th-generation warfare.

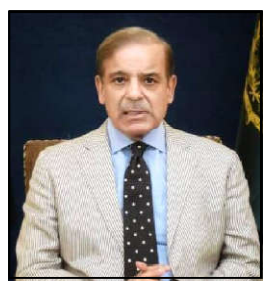
The COAS also visited various welfare schemes for soldiers in Quetta Garrison. He was earlier received by Commander Quetta Corps.

## Imran cause of economic, political instability: PM

**Stresses need to reduce dependence on imports, bring down inflation**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said Imran Niazi had a role in deepening economic challenges of Pakistan as he scrapped the deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and his non-stop agitation, long marches and sit-ins caused economic and political instability.

In a tweet on the social media platform Twitter, he said, "Looks like Imran Niazi's understanding of the economy and the broader environment in which it operates is quite limited. He also conveniently forgets his own role in deepening economic challenges. From scrapping the IMF deal, he



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

has always wished Pakistan to default."

"This is in addition to the adverse impact his politics of non-stop agitation, long marches, and dharna has had on the economy in terms of causing political instability. Even Pakistani investors would shy away from investing their capital

in such an unstable environment deliberately created by Imran Niazi. The terrible events of May 9 alone have cost the economy billions of rupees & are an irrefutable endorsement of his nefarious designs. This is not to mention the plethora of corruption cases he is involved in," he noted.

He further said, "Yes, we do face the economic challenges but the doomsday scenario is past us. Sincere efforts are being made to address the challenges through economic belt-tightening and timely policy interventions. We are also working with friends and partners to bridge the financing gaps where needed."

## PM calls President Erdogan, felicitates on re-election

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday telephoned President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and congratulated him on his re-election and expressed best wishes for him.

Talking to President Erdogan, the PM said, "Your re-election is a recognition of your association with the people of Turkey and impeccable service."

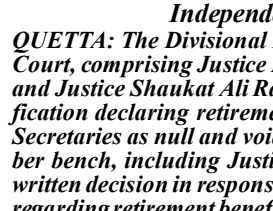
President Erdogan won the re-election by securing

52.16 per cent of votes against the candidate of combined opposition in the presidential election held on May 28.

In his remarks, Shehbaz Sharif said, "In the last two decades, under your leadership, Turkey made remarkable progress. I believe that under your wise and sagacious leadership Turkey will continue its journey on the path of progress and prosperity

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## 'Misogynist Imran Khan's narrative of victimhood' bound to fail: Marriyum



ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday debunked another narrative of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan that the female workers of his party were being harassed in prisons, as totally baseless.

"A certified liar, who says 'men are not robots' and advocates attacks on

women and young girls because of wearing short clothes, is now cooking up a new lie to play the victim in the aftermath of public response to the May 9 tragedy," the minister said in a long thread in Urdu language on her Twitter handle.

She was particularly referring to Imran Khan's statement which he made in an interview with a foreign media outlet that "If a

Continued on page 2

## Post retirement benefits of Chief Secretaries quashed

**Independent Report**

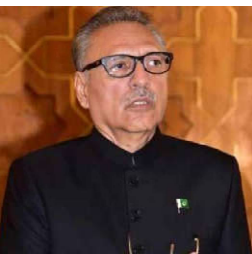
QUETTA: The Divisional Bench of Balochistan High Court, comprising Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar and Justice Shaukat Ali Rakhshani, has issued a notification declaring retirement benefits of former Chief Secretaries as null and void. On Monday, a two-member bench, including Justice Hashim Kakar, issued a written decision in response to a constitutional petition regarding retirement benefits.

Former Chief Secretaries were previously granted the facility of free accommodation in government rest houses in Balochistan, Karachi, and Islamabad. They were also provided the convenience of protocol services and drops. Additionally, former Chief Secretaries received a monthly allowance for house rent, a driver, and a monthly allocation of 250 liters of petrol.

However, the recent decision by the Divisional Bench of the Balochistan High Court has invalidated these retirement benefits. This development marks a significant change in the entitlements and privileges previously enjoyed by former Chief Secretaries after retirement.

## President Alvi due to arrive in Quetta on two-day visit today

**Closing ceremony of 34th National Games' to be held today**



QUETTA: The President, Dr. Arif Alvi is due to reach Quetta today (Tuesday) on two-day official visit.

According to the spokesman of Governor House, the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar would receive the President at the Quetta airport.

The President would

participate in the closing ceremony of 34th National Games scheduled to be held in the provincial metropolis today afternoon. The Prime Minister's arrival is also expected in the closing ceremony of mega national sports event.

Moreover, the President would also be participating and presiding over the seminar entitled "the role of ombudsman in safeguarding public rights and good governance" to be held under the auspices of Federal Ombudsman secretariat on May 31 at the Governor House.

The spokesman of

Continued on page 2

## Jamali greets Erdogan on third consecutive victory

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: Speaker of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly and Turkey's Honorary Consul General in Balochistan, Mir Jan Mohammad Jamali, extended heartfelt congratulations to Recep Tayyip Erdogan on being elected as the President of Turkey for the third consecutive time.

The Speaker stated that Erdogan's victory is the victory of the Turkish people and commended his success for the better future of Turkey's citizens, emphasizing that Erdogan's win reflects the trust the people have in his leadership.

## British army chief arrives on 5-day 'Defence Engagement' visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The British Army's Chief of the General Staff (CGS), General Sir Patrick Sanders arrived on Monday in Pakistan for a five-day Defence Engagement visit as part of the longstanding defence cooperation agreement between the two countries.

During his visit, General Sir Patrick Sanders would meet with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, alongside other Defence Engagement activities and discussions on bilateral military cooperation in response to climate change related crises would be a key focus of the visit, a news release said.

## Mitha notes importance of Paki-Iran friendship for mutual benefits

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: Haji Mitha Khan Kakar, the Provincial Minister for Information, has stated that the Pakistan-Iran friendship is exemplary, and both sides need to play their part effectively to strengthen this friendship.

Balochistan is blessed with abundant reserves of oil and gas, and if Pakistan takes steps to import gas and oil from Iran in this re-

gard, it will have positive impacts.

He expressed these views during a meeting with the Director-General of Iran's Cultural House, Dr. Syed Abul Hassan Miri, and Iran's Deputy Consul General, Agha Pirloun.

During the meeting, the Iranian Consul General discussed Pakistan-Iran relations and stated that Iran has made efforts to im-

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## Rana dismisses allegations of mistreatment meted out to female prisoners

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah on Monday rejected the allegations being propagated on social media about the mistreatment being meted out to female prisoners involved in the May 9th vandalism.

Talking to a private news channel, the minister said that all those accused of the Jinnah House attack

in Lahore would face legal consequences. He said the 'PTI's radicals' burnt houses, public properties, and military installations with proper planning to spread chaos and anarchy in the country.

He also blamed Imran Khan and other PTI leaders for brainwashing youth in a bid to create chaos and unrest in the country.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Asadullah Baloch, Mir Naseebullah Marri and MPA Zabid Reki meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki.



QUETTA: A delegation of Killa Saifullah led by Nawabzada Mohib Jogezi meeting with Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Current situation not a 'big crisis for me', claims Imran Khan

**Monitoring Desk**

LAHORE: Amid the ongoing crackdown and mass exodus of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders after the May 9 mayhem, party chairman Imran Khan has insisted that the current political situation is not a big crisis for him.

"You think it is a big crisis for me, I don't," said the former prime minister — who was ousted last April through a vote of no-confidence — while speaking during an interview with BBC on Monday.

Speaking about the upcoming general elections in the country, Khan said his position will only be weakened if he loses the vote bank.

However, dozens of the party's bigwigs including Shireen Mazari, Ali Zaidi and Fawad Chaudhry among others have parted ways with Khan citing attacks on the military installations as the reason.

"Firstly, we will fill in all the positions of people who have left," he said, adding, "So have younger blood, newer people coming in. They'll probably get arrested, too."

## Federal Ombudsman to arrive on 3-days visit to Quetta today

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: Federal Ombudsman Aijaz Ahmed Qureshi will arrive in Quetta for a three-day official visit today. During the visit, he will participate in various ceremonies and engagements. Among them, he

## Governor urges boosting trade, eradicating poverty

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar of Balochistan has stated that the province cannot overlook the issues of poverty and deprivation and in this regard the traders and industrialists cannot be ignored.

During a meeting with Nawabzada Mohib Jogezi's delegation at the Governor House in Quetta Monday, Governor Kakar expressed these views.

Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar highlighted the importance of expanding border trade and providing essential facilities and opportunities to the business community in order to effectively address the problems of poverty and deprivation in the province.

He stated that the current government is committed to promoting border

trade and increasing trade activities with Iran and Afghanistan. He emphasized that if any development project is not completed on time by the federal and provincial governments across the province, it not only prolongs public issues and difficulties but also significantly increases project costs.

Governor Balochistan Kakar emphasized the focus on enhancing border trade and facilitating business communities' access to neighboring countries' markets. He stated that our full attention is directed towards opening up new trade routes in areas such as Taftan, Chaman, Nushki, Badini, and Qamaruddin. This will not only strengthen the national economy but also lead to substantial growth in economic and trade activities in Balochistan.

## Govt & Parliament have no friction with judiciary: Qadir



ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Accountability Irfan Qadir on Monday dispelled a notion that both the government and the Parliament were at odds with the top judiciary.

"There are some rumours that the government and the Parliament are against the Supreme Court, which are totally baseless

and have no reality. The government has desire to see a strong judiciary," the SAPM said while addressing a news conference.

"I want to inform the nation that the present government desires to strengthen judiciary and the Supreme Court as we have no friction against the courts, instead we are standing with the apex court."

## CS emphasizes need to ensure facilities for Zaireen

**Independent Report**

QUETTA (APP): Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili on Monday emphasized the need to provide utmost ease and facilitation to ensure a peaceful journey for Zaireen.

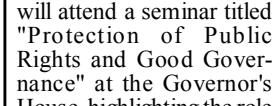
The chief secretary, while presiding over a high-level meeting to review arrangements for Zaireen travelling to Iran via Pak-Iran border Taftan, said that dedicated efforts are underway to offer comprehensive facilities.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Saleh Nasar, Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail ur Rehman, Commissioner Rakhshan

administration officials participated in the meeting.

The meeting decided to improve security measures for the Zaireen traveling between Pakistan and Iran. Speaking on the occasion, the chief secretary of the province directed the concerned officials to ensure the provision of better facilities for the Zaireen.

"Steps should be taken to ensure the peaceful journey of the Zaireen," Uqaili directed the officials. Various proposals were given by concerned commissioners and administration officials with regard to the improvement of the facilities for zaireen.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili on Monday emphasized the need to provide utmost ease and facilitation to ensure a peaceful journey for Zaireen.

will attend a seminar titled "Protection of Public Rights and Good Governance" at the Governor's House, highlighting the role of the federal ombudsman.

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## Handful of PTI senators condemn May 9 vandalism

ISLAMABAD (INP): A group of PTI senators have condemned the May 9 vandalism following the arrest of ex-premier Imran Khan, in which military and private installations were torched down including Jinnah House Lahore.

Dr Zarka Taimur said all PTI leaders were talking to media person being senators to condemn 'what happened' on May 9.

"We love our army and country," she added.

PTI leader said violence against women should be stopped and announced she would be filing an application in this regard and demanded independent investigation on it. Senator Faisal Salim a resolution has been submitted to the Senate to condemn the events occurred on May 9.

"This country is ours and we are ashamed of any harm done there," he added. Senator Humayun said all of us senators condemn the events of May 9 and whatever happened on that day was 'really sad'.

He criticized the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) for shedding crocodile tears and questioned how Memogate scandal would have happened in previous governments.

"What they are saying and doing is their hypocrisy," he alleged.

Senator Seemee Ezdi said she could not even imagine what happened on May 9. "My father fought on the Burma front in World War II and I belong to the family of martyrs."

She said these incidents should be investigated and those who are involved should be punished as per law.

She questioned how could PTI would not stand by those who sacrificed their lives for the country.

"If the army does not protect the borders, we cannot breathe in the open air," the senator said.

Seemee said that she condemned the events of May 9 and the attack on military installations, adding that she hailed from an

army background.

She demanded that the events of May 9 be investigated so that the perpetrators could be held accountable.

Senator Falak Naz paid rich tributes to the fallen heroes of the Pakistan Army. She said PTI's manifesto is not to damage army property.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shahzad Waseem, has confirmed his decision to remain a member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) amidst a wave of resignations within the party.

During a press conference held outside the Parliament on Saturday, Shahzad Waseem strongly condemned the protests that took place on May 9, which included acts of vandalism and arson at Jinnah House.

Expressing his firm stance on the matter, Waseem stated, "All those involved in the May 9 incident must be held accountable."



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor BUTEMS Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki. Coordinator of Chief Minister Bilal Khan Kakar is also present

## Mitha notes importance...

Continued from page 1

In response, the Iranian Consul General invited Haji Mitha Khan Kakar as the Provincial Minister for Information to visit Iran, which he accepted. Haji Mitha Khan Kakar expressed his gratitude to the Iranian Consul General and the delegation, stating that he feels honored by their visit to his home. He mentioned that our efforts are ongoing to establish good relations between Iran and Balochistan, and he will discuss the matter with the relevant authorities.

However, it is unknown which factors in Pakistan have delayed the import of gas and oil legally. We still have a desire to carry out all our initiatives related to trade with our brotherly country, Pakistan, but it depends on Pakistan when they will initiate this process.

## 'Misogynist Imran Khan's...

Continued from page 1

woman is wearing very few clothes, it will have an impact on the men, unless they're robots. I mean it is common sense."

Mariyum alleged that Tayyba Gul, who reached out to Imran Khan for justice in a case against the then National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman, was abducted and held hostage in the Prime Minister's House. The evidence, she provided, was then used to blackmail the NAB chairman so that the then opposition leaders could be put in death cells.

All the limits were crossed during Imran Khan's government to maltreat the women journalists, she said, adding the PTI chairman did not even stop there and alleged that the female media persons deliberately sneaked into male-concentrated gatherings.

"This malicious ploy to mislead overseas Pakistanis and the world is bound to fail like Cypher and other dramas," the minister said while asking Imran Khan to present evidence of his new propaganda of female workers harassment.

"Either present evidence or keep your mouth shut," she advised the PTI chief. "This is a very serious allegation which we cannot tolerate in any case. Your era of blackmailing and apathy is no more."

Branding Imran Khan as a "media predator," she said it was only the PTI leader who could dare to make such horrendous accusations without any evidence. However, he got exposed every other day with his lies, fabricated videos and pictures, she added.

## Federal Ombudsman to arrive on 3-days...

Continued from page 1

formance of regional offices, including Khuzdar and Kech.

Furthermore, meetings with Balochistan's intellectuals, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Small Industries of Balochistan, and media personnel are scheduled. The Provincial Ombudsman of Balochistan, Nazir Baloch, and Senior Advisor Ghalam Sarwar Brohi, along with the Regional Incharge of the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat in Khuzdar and Kech, will accompany him throughout the visit.

This visit aims to strengthen the working relationship between the Federal Ombudsman's Office and the stakeholders in Balochistan, ensuring the effective protection of public rights and the promotion of good governance in the province.

## Alvi felicitates President Erdogan on re-election

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday felicitated Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his re-election to the office.

"His win is reflective of the trust posed in him by the people," the president said in a message to Erdogan.

Alvi said Turkey is a close friend and a country with which we have had brotherly relations for centuries. "Pakistan and Turkey have always stood by each other and I am confident that our relations would continue to prosper under your dynamic leadership," he said.



QUETTA: A delegation by President Pakistan Masih Ittehad Khawar Khokhar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## ATC allows trial of 8 accused of May 9 vandalism by military courts

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi on Monday directed the Superintendent of Central Jail Adiala to hand over eight accused of vandalizing the main gate of General Headquarters (GHQ) and other sensitive installations on May 9 to the military authorities for their trial by the military courts.

The ATC issued the order on the application of the Commanding Officer for the custody of the accused detained at the Adiala Jail.

The accused including Ali Hassan, Lal Shah, Shehryar Zulfikar and Farhad Khan were booked by the Police Station Civil Lines, and Muhammad Idris, Umar Farooq, Raja Ehsan and Abdullah by the R A Bazaar Police Station, Rawalpindi for vandalism and rioting on May 9.

The court in its order observed that the accused's custody (by the military

authorities) was sought on grounds that they were "found guilty of offences under Sections 3, 7 and 9 of the Official Secrets Act, 1952 [sic] read with Section 2(1)(d) of the Pakistan Army Act, 1952, [which are] exclusively triable by military court."

The deputy prosecutor general did not raise any objections to the applications and forwarded the request for appropriate orders, the court observed.

Citing two previous cases, the court accepted the commanding officers' request under 549(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, read with Rule 7(f) of the Criminal Procedure (Military Offenders) Rules, 1970.

"Superintendent Jail, Adiala, Rawalpindi is directed to hand over the custody of the above said accused person[s] to the commanding officer for further proceedings in accordance with law"

## PM calls President Erdogan....

Continued from page 1

with the same pace."

"I am certain that Turkey will play a more effective role for the peace and stability in the Islamic world," he said adding,

"Your personal interest in further solidifying and deepening the special relationship between Pakistan and Turkey is a source of strength and satisfaction."

He said his government was determined to work with President Erdogan to further solidify the bilateral brotherly ties between the two countries in the coming days.

"We are desirous of early holding of the seventh meeting of the Strategic

Cooperative Council of the two countries," the prime minister said, adding, "We are eager to welcome you on your arrival in Pakistan for participation in the meeting."

He told President Erdogan that his participation in the meeting would further promote the strategic cooperation of the two brotherly countries in multidimensional fields.

The newly elected President of Turkey thanked the prime minister and reciprocated the warm sentiments of goodwill.

President Erdogan also expressed his best wishes for the government and people of Pakistan.



BAGHDAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sajid Hussain Turi exchanging views with Ahmad Jassim Al-Asadi, Minister for Labour, Iraq during meeting held in Baghdad.

## President Alvi due to...

Continued from page 1

Governor House told that the Governor would apprise the President about the current scenario and hardships being faced regarding the higher education in the province.

Meanwhile the closing ceremony of 34th National Games is scheduled to be held today (Tuesday) at the Ayub Sports Complex here.

All the necessary arrangements have been finalized for the closing ceremony being staged at the football ground located in the Ayub Sports Complex.

As per the schedule, the President Dr. Arif Ali would be the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the mega national sports event. However, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is also expected to grace the occasion.

The provincial ministers, parliamentarians and other dignitaries as well as the senior office bearers of the national sports federations and provincial sports associations would also be participating in the closing ceremony.

Moreover, the athletes and officials who participated in the National Games and excelled in different events would also be the part of closing ceremony.

The chief guest would give away the trophy of

34th National Games to the highest medal achiever i.e., Pak Army.

It may be mentioned here that Army athletes showed splendid performance in the 34th National Games and secured as many as 378 medals as by 06:15 PM on Monday. These were included 189 gold, 126 silver and 63 bronze medals.

It would be for 28th time when Army would be winning the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

Similarly, WAPDA obtained total 276 medals including 105 gold, 93 silver and 78 bronze medals and thus remained runner-up in the National Games.

Then Navy secured total 108 medals including 28 gold, 32 silver and 48 bronze medals.

Balochistan managed to remain 10th on the medal table of National Games with two gold, 18 silver and 30 bronze medals. Gilgit Baltistan and AJK could not secure any medal in the National Games.

It may be mentioned here that over 6,000 athletes and some 1,000 officials participated from four provinces, AJK, Islamabad and Gilgit Baltistan as well as Army, Navy, WAPDA, Railways and HEC, in different events held in connection with National Games mainly organized in Quetta.

## SC adjourns ECP's review petition regarding elections in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the hearing on the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP's) review petition against the top court's order of holding Punjab's general elections on May 14 till Thursday (June 1).

A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case and adjourned hearing as the court was apprised that a law for the re-

view of suo motu judgements had come into effect.

During the course of proceedings, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan said that the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Bill 2023, had become a law after the president's assent. He said that the scope of review and appeal were the same now as per the new law.

He said that the review appeal could only be heard by a larger bench.

The Attorney Gen-

eral also submitted a notification signed by the President to the court and according to the available copy of the notification, President Dr. Arif Alvi approved the new law on May 26.

The Attorney General also objected to the bench and said that the Supreme Court Review Act had now become a law and the scope of revision under the new act would be the same as an appeal, now only a larger bench could hear the review petition.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER				
The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Chagai invites sealed percentage rates based on Composite Schedule of Rates, 2018 Govt. of Balochistan/ (M/R) from interested Govt. Contractors & Manufacturing Firms for the works mentioned below:-				
Time limit 30-06-2023 for each work. BID SECURITY 2% (in Shape of CDR)				
S#	Name of Work	E/Cost	T/Fee	Bid Security
1	PSDP NO. 4838Z2022.1088 Chagai REH OF BORES AT KILIES RAYIO AREA DRILLING FOAM DRILLING OR AIR PRESURE DRILLING, GULZMAN SUMALNI DR. ALIAHMED SUMALANI BADAL KHAN UMAR UC PADAG DISTRICT CHAGAI			
	• D/D OF BORE 250 FT TSE-222305328733 04 Jobs	5744996/-	1500/-	115000/-
	• SOLAR SYSTEM TSE-222305328743 06 Sets	7198920/-	1500/-	144000/-
2	PSDP NO. 4858Z2022.1186 Chagai REHB: DRILLING CONVERTED INTO FOAM DRILLING AIR PRESURE DRILLING KILIS GHULM SARWAR ASHRAF M.HASANI SANJAR KHAN MALK SHAH H.RASOL CHAIMARAK UCAMURI			
	• D/D OF BORE 200 Ft/Civil Work 03 Jobs	5829912/-	1500/-	117000/-
	• SOLAR SYSTEM TSE-222305328793 03 Sets	3692046/-	1500/-	74000/-
	• S/O UPVC PIPE 2" DIA TSE-222305328803 690 Rft	2208000/-	650/-	4500/-
3	PSDP NO. 4859Z2022.1189 Chagai WSS KILLIES MOLVI AZIZ ULLAH, RAHEEM AHMED, SARDAR MEHMOOD JAN, KHAN M., ZARTAK, ALIAHMED DAMARDAG, UC ZIARAT BALANOSH			
	• D/D OF BORE 200 Ft/Civil Work 03 Jobs	5829912/-	1500/-	117000/-
	• SOLAR SYSTEM TSE-222305329273 03 Sets	3692046/-	1500/-	74000/-
	• S/O UPVC PIPE 2" DIA TSE-222305329303 690 Rft	2208000/-	650/-	4500/-
4	PSDP NO. 5800Z2022.1066 Chagai WSS KILLIES CHEATHER BAZAR MOHIM KHAN JHANDI KHAMA MAZANG SIA CHANG PADAG BRAHUQ ABDUL QADIR MALIK M YOUSAF MIR SARWAR SAMAD CHEATHER UC PADAG			
	• D/D OF BORE 250 Ft/Civil Work 03 Jobs	6680955/-	1500/-	134000/-
	• SOLAR SYSTEM TSE-222305329383 03 Sets	3724434/-	1500/-	75000/-
	• S/O UPVC PIPE 2" DIA TSE-222305329413 1050 Rft	3360000/-	650/-	6800/-
5	PSDP NO. 5802Z2022.1073 Chagai WSS AT KILLIES NAZAR, HAJI ALIAHMED, QADIR BUKHSH CHEATHER, MAZANG, CHEATHER, M HAROON, M.HASANI STREET SOORGLI, IMAM BAKHSH CHAPER UC PADAG			
	• D/D OF BORE 200 Ft/Civil Work 03 Jobs	5829912/-	1500/-	117000/-
	• SOLAR SYSTEM TSE-222305329473 03 Sets	3692046/-	1500/-	74000/-
	• S/O UPVC PIPE 2" DIA TSE-222305329483 690 Rft	2208000/-	650/-	4500/-
6	PSDP NO. 2007Z2022.1948 REPLACEMENT OF GENERATOR SET 60 KVA FOR GHAT E BAROTH IN SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF GENERATOR 60KVA 02 SETS TSE-222305329513			
	• SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF GENERATOR 60KVA 02 SETS	17000000/-	3500/-	340000/-

REPLACEMENT OF GENERATOR SET 60 KVA FOR GATH BAROTH IN DISTRICT CHAGAI The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement rules, 2014

**Eligibility CRITERIA** The bids which fulfill the following conditions will be declared as responsive and accordingly their financial evaluation will be carried out. The bid which don't meet the following conditions will be declared as non responsive and their bids will be rejected. Firms / Contractors having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) as constructor/s in relevant category with relevant specialization. Only Firms/Contractors with PEC Certificates renewed upto date will be considered for bidding. Registration with Income Tax Department (NTN-#)BRA (Where applicable) All Pages must be signed, Stamped, and marked from first to last page. Green Challan paper of value mentioned in NIT must be accompanied. All form(s) /Appendixes must be filed signed and stamped **CONDITIONS FOR SUPPLY OF PIPES** Duly licensed by PEC in relevant category with all relevant Field. Registered with FBR in Income tax and Sales tax as manufacturer. Register with BRA. Only Manufacturers can participate in the bidding. Register with ISO. Having proven expertise in Supply and installation by attaching work order. Registered with PSQCA. Attach test report of production by PSQCA not older than 4th months. **CONDITIONS FOR SUPPLY OF SOLAR SYSTEM** Duly licensed by PEC in relevant category with all relevant Field EE11 (Solar Works) Authorized dealers / Distributors of renowned manufacturers of a) Solar Models b) Solar Invertors c) Solar Pumps and Motors. Having Proven Solar expertise and experience in solar modules/motor pumps import by attaching BL and GD copy, and installation by work Orders Register with FBR income tax, sale tax. Registered with BRA. Registered with ISO 9001-2015. Never have been black listed by any Department. J.V is not allowed **CONDITIONS FOR SUPPLY OF MACHINERIES** Complete and should be provided by an ISO 9001-2000 Certified bidder. Registration with PEC GST Income Tax and EDB of Pakistan as Manufacturer. The bidder must not be black listed by any Public/Private Entry in Pakistan. The Company/Firm must have an Annual Average pumps business. The bidder will ensure test bed facilities under supervision of qualified Engineers availability of spare parts of offered pumping machinery. The bidder must provide original pump Catalogue and relevant Curies. The bidder will also provide GST / Income Tax certification with the General Sales Tax department and proof of payment of all Government Taxes as per law of the Land **Method of Procurement**:-Single stage, Single envelope. **Bid Security**:- The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of undersigned from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents** :-The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of bidding document fee (non refundable) (amount mentioned above) through Green Challan C-02725-02 PHED (Revenue Receipt) deposited only in National Bank of Pakistan Chagai Branch. (The NIT & Bidding Documents can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk **Issuance of Tender Documents**:- Tender forms/documents will be issued to the bidders/contractors on publication of Notice in newspapers on presentation of requisite documents. **Last date for submission** :- The tenders should be submitted on **Dated:-14-06-2023** till 01:00 P.M at the office of the undersigned. **Tender Opening** :- All tenders will be opened on **Dated:-14-6-2023** at the office of the undersigned at 02:00 P.M (In case of public holiday announced by the Government (due to any reason), the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue). Tender committee reserves the right to change the quantities or cancel/reject any or all offers without assigning any reason. The Contractors who worked in PHIE Department since last three years and yet their works are unsatisfactory / uncompleted they cannot allowed to participate in this tender. **Address:- OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION CHAGAI**

**PRQ No.4088/29-05-2023**  
www.dprgob.pk @dpr\_gob dpr.gob @dprbalochistan

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING  
DIVISION CHAGAI AT DALBANDIN**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The CWPP&H invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Work's	E/ Cost
1	Construction of Building for Veterinary Dispensary killi Mir Gul Sahaikh Talhar district Musakhail PSDP 3140 TSE- 222305330663	9,228,000/-
2	Construction of Building for Press Club Building saddar bazar Musakhail (PSDP:2533) TSE- 222305330643	8,577,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents **Bidding Procedure:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE- 222305330663, TSE- 222305330643). **Tender Documents:** The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of prescribed tender fee. Last date and time of bid submission 15 June, 2023 at 01:00 PM, and will be opened on same day at 02:00 PM **Address:** Communication and works department, musakhail Phone no: 0334242481 Email: bashirahmedsdo@gmail.com

**Executive Engineer Buildings  
CWPP&H Department District  
Musa Khail**

**PRQ No.4101/29-5-2023**  
www.dprgob.pk @dpr\_gob dpr.gob @dprbalochistan

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Project Director Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Bid Security 2%

**TSE-222305326293**

S.No	Name of Work's	T/Fee
1	Clearance of R.O.W of Link Road from Sabzal Samungli Cross via Shabho Road to Airport Road	1,500/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turnover of at least 20,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65million) in Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), CE01, CE01-(j) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure). GREEN Challan of Rs 1500 CDR of 2 % of quoted bid price. The bidder must be registered with BPPRA. This registration will be checked the time of bid submission. If a bidder is not registered, his bid will not be considered for submission. **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned as tender processing fee in the form of green challan Rs. 1,500 PKR in the account at C02716 in favor of Project Director C.M.P.O.D. **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 14 June, 2023 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 14 June, 2023 till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:00 AM **Address:** House No. 81-A Chaman Housing Scheme Airport Road Quetta **Phone no:** 003347765524 03337868226 Fax no: 0812864466 Email: d.pquetacty@gmail.com

**PROJECT DIRECTOR  
Chief Minister Package for Quetta  
Development**

**AB No.486/29-5-2023**  
www.dprgob.pk @dpr\_gob dpr.gob @dprbalochistan



## Ashrafi congratulates Erdogan on re-election as president of Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Monday extended heartfelt congratulations to Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his momentous re-election as President of the Republic of Turkiye.

He, in a talk with APP, said this historic achievement underscored the unwavering trust and confidence placed by the Turkish people in President Erdogan's exceptional leadership. It was a testament to his remarkable vision and dedication in steering Turkiye towards progress and prosperity, he added.

Chairman Ashrafi applauded President Erdogan's dynamic leadership, which had played a pivotal role in shaping Turkiye's trajectory and enhancing its standing on the global stage adding that the Turkish people's re-

sounding endorsement of President Erdogan's presidency served as a shining example of his steadfast commitment to serving their best interests.

Under President Erdogan's astute guidance, he said Turkiye had witnessed remarkable growth across various sectors, fostering socioeconomic development and fostering harmony among diverse communities. "His inclusive approach and unwavering commitment to interfaith harmony have contributed significantly to fostering unity and understanding within Turkiye and beyond," he maintained.

Chairman Ashrafi reaffirmed Pakistan Ulema Council's commitment to further strengthen the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, based on shared values and mutual respect. "We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in promoting peace, interfaith harmony, and prosperity in the region," he maintained.



ISLAMABAD: A view of heavy traffic jam at Islamabad Expressway.

## RTI Act empowers citizens to improve governance: Shoaib

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui has said that the Right to Information Act, 2017 empowers every citizen of the country to improve governance significantly through the power of knowledge and raising questions in the right powerful way.

Talking to APP here on Monday, the Information Commissioner said that the RTI Act brings an end to the concept of careless citizenship and makes every Pakistani responsible to ask for information if they find anything doubtful in running the affairs of the government at any level.

"Applicant can file an application on plain paper to the head of the department elaborating which information is required. If the applicant does not receive an answer up to the satisfaction within 10 or even 20 days, RTI can be contacted Commission through an email to

[appeals@rti.gov.pk](mailto:appeals@rti.gov.pk) or through the post without visiting the," he explained.

The aim of RTI is to improve governance through transparency, the Commissioner said adding that currently, they have received more than 3000 appeals and half of them have been disposed of.

He said that the RTI Act encourages citizens to take an active part in improving governance. He highlighted that it is a people-centric and public-friendly law due to which citizens can take an interest in the affairs of the government through framing the good question.

He said that the inclusion of citizens will make government officials mindful, careful and efficient and will double the quality of governance. The commissioner said that abrupt and unplanned criticism helps none. "Come to a proper forum with practical questions and enjoy the positive outcome," he added.



ISLAMABAD: A gypsy woman is bringing water far away from their tent houses Colony at Sector H-9, in Federal Capital.

## Funeral prayer of Police official offered at Police Lines Headquarters

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Funeral prayer of Islamabad capital police Constable Muhammad Shafiq was offered at Police Lines Headquarters. CPO Headquarters Awais Ahmad, SSP Logistic Division Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, SSP Safe City Shahzada Umar Abbas Babar and a large number of police officials offered the funeral prayer.



According to the details, the funeral prayer of Constable Muhammad Shafiq posted at the Logistic division of Islamabad capital police was offered at Police Lines Headquarters. Late police officer was shifted to hospital due to a heart attack but he could not survive and was reunited with his real Creator. A smartly turned-out contingent of the police personnel presented a guard of honour. Police officers shouldered the coffins and later the bodies were sent to his respective native town in district Faisalabad, Punjab.

The Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan condoled with the family of the deceased and assured the grieved families of full support from the department and that their family would be taken care of. Constable Muhammad Shafiq left behind two daughters and one son.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari at the closing ceremony of 34th National Games Tennis Event, 2023 at SDA Tennis Complex, He distributed prizes among the winners.

## Address climate disaster, inequalities Insufficient gendered data hinders effective policy implementation: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Convener Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday said lack of gendered data hinders effective policy implementation to address climate disaster issues and inequalities.

Speaking at the consultative workshop titled "Gender Policy and Economic Development: Ap-

plying the Disaster Resilience Lens" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in collaboration with British High Commission's Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMIT) programme here, the SAPM said gender inequality was an international issue which required targeted policy interventions with a bottom-up approach.

SAPM Romina Khurshid Alam said that women being half of popu-

lation were at the center of development agenda and pivotal for effectively catalyzed change. She said that collaboration and knowledge sharing could help strengthen responses to novel and evolving challenges. She also informed that the Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs and SDPI were collaborating to initiate a regional parliamentary consortium to overcome gender inequalities in the region and join forces on the issue.

Senior Responsible Owner (SRO), REMIT, Naghma-e-Tehniat reiterated British government's commitment to addressing gender and climate issues. She said that since the floods in 2022, the focus has been directed to review of policies for gendered impact analysis and address these issues. Joint Executive Director, SDPI, Dr Vaqar Ahmed said that with higher incidence of climate disasters, current knowledge must be utilized.

## 5 plots earn CDA Rs4.751bn

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Monday auctioned five commercial plots amounting to Rs 4.751 billion in its developed sectors while accepting the bids of successful bidders during a ceremony held here at the Convention Center.

The highest bid worth Rs 1.7 billion was received for a commercial plot of 700 square meters located at F-7 Markaz, followed by another plot 666.66 square meter plot at I-8 Markaz sold for Rs 1.3 billion.

Meanwhile, a plot of 177.77 square meters at G-10 Markaz and another of 711.11 square meters plot in the D-12 sector were sold at Rs 273 million and 890 million, respectively.

A commercial land of 1227.76 square meters at G-9/2 Markaz for a petrol pump sold for 845 million.

According to a press release of the CDA, the auction received an overwhelming response from the potential buyers who fully took part in the bidding process.

## IHC seeks progress report regarding Sami's recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought geofencing and progress reports in the petitions regarding the recovery of anchorperson Sami Ibrahim.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case seeking recovery of the anchorperson who went missing few days back.

The petitioner's lawyer Raja Aamer Abbasi said his client was suffering from various diseases. His client's geofencing had already been conducted and its report was awaited. The last location of Sami Ibrahim was found in the Judicial Colony Rawalpindi.

The Senior Superintendent of Police Islamabad said the police had searched the area and found nothing about Sami Ibrahim. He said they were trying to locate the journalist through geofencing and had also written to the Intelligence Bureau.

The police officer said the driver of the missing anchor told about the two vehicles but their registration numbers were unreadable.

The counsel for the state said a call was made to the cell phone of Sami Ibrahim at 11.01 p.m. in the night of incident.

## Shallwani hails FGEHA for timely providing 400 apartments' possession

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works Ifkhar Ali Shallwani on Monday appreciated the efforts of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) for timely providing the 400 apartments' possession to the allottees.

During a visit to Scheme-33, Gulzar-e-Hijri, Karachi, he directed the concerned to timely complete the project and hand over the residential plots to the allottees as well, said a news release.

Ifkhar Shallwani also inspected initiatives undertaken by the Authority to

provide affordable housing options to the people of Karachi.

He was briefed on the progress made so far, challenges faced and future plans for the ongoing project.

Ifkhar Shallwani emphasized the need for more such projects for the people of Karachi, adding that the importance of providing quality housing options to the masses and directed the project director to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and facilities were in place for the residents.

He also assured his full support and cooperation in their future endeavours.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work during the construction of Fly Over at Sector E-11 as the 30th June is the final date of its Construction, in Federal Capital.

## COMSTECH successfully conducts 400 free eye cataract surgeries in N'Djamena, Chad

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSTECH, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Layton Rehmatullah Benevolent Trust, successfully completed 400 cataract surgeries in the least developed country of OIC in Africa, the Republic of Chad.

This initiative aimed at addressing the urgent eye care needs of the people of N'Djamena. Over the course of eight days,

a team of dedicated ophthalmologists from Pakistan organized and conducted a free Eye Camp in severe weather conditions, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of hundreds of individuals.

According to COMSTECH, this camp aimed not only to provide much-needed eye surgeries but also to enhance local capacity through training and awareness campaigns.

Pakistani ophthalmologists, renowned for their expertise in the field, shared their knowledge and skills with local doctors, training them in the latest

cataract surgery techniques.

In addition, post-operative examinations were conducted to ensure optimal patient recovery.

An important component of the initiative was the launch of an awareness campaign targeting youth, emphasizing the importance of preventive measures to avoid avoidable blindness.

By engaging with the younger generation, COMSTECH aims to create a sustainable impact on eye health, fostering a culture of proactive eye care.

Moving forward, COMSTECH, in collaboration with IsDB, has planned to provide a two-year specialized post-graduate training program to 16 African ophthalmologists in diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma surgery at local institutes.

This program would build a strong foundation of expertise within the African continent, further advancing eye care capabilities and ensuring long-term sustainability in the region.

## Around 37,485 calls received from helpline 1099

ISLAMABAD (APP): Around 37,485 calls have been received from helpline 1099 during the last three months, said an official of the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) here on Monday.

Talking to APP the Director Helpline Muhammad Kashif Kamal has said that from January to April 2023, a total number of 37,485 calls has been registered to the helpline of 1099.

According to details (Inbound, Outbound, Visits, Applications, Fax, emails), 37,222 calls were received and 236 calls have been received via Mobile APP.

Around 426 total services were provided by the Ministry of Human Rights.

He further added that people can also contact the helpline @ [mohr.gov.pk](mailto:mohr.gov.pk) and the ministry will ensure service delivery, he added.

Around 286 calls to voice mails and around 390 legal advice were dealt by the helpline.

The Ministry will ensure service delivery and redressal of the complaints by Pakistani citizens, he added.

## AIOU employees welfare association takes oath

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on Monday said that employees should perform their duties with honesty, hard work, and sincere spirit for the overall development of the organization.

In his speech at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of the Employees Welfare Association

(EWA), he said that employees who work hard would be encouraged and their rights would also be fulfilled as per the rules.

The Vice-Chancellor said on this occasion that we should all focus on our responsibilities.

Dr. Nasir, while appreciating the efforts of all the previous leadership and administration of AIOU, said that they all played their role in the development of AIOU strategically, and with their sincere efforts, AIOU is included in the "mega universities of the world".

He said that we must learn from past experiences and should work together for the prosperity of AIOU.

## 171 members of Pakistani contingents sacrificed their lives to ensure global peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Some 171 members including 27 officers of Pakistani contingents serving in UN Peacekeeping mission have sacrificed their lives to ensure international peace.

On the occasion 75th International Day of Peace Missions which is celebrated on 29th May every year. The sacrifices of Pakistani peacekeepers highlight the country's resolve and commitment towards international peace.

For the past 75 years, UN peacekeeping missions contributed to the rehabilitation and welfare of millions of people living in war-torn areas of the world.

Since their first deployment in Congo in 1960, 225,000 security personnel of Pakistan have performed these duties with utmost dedication and professionalism under the flag of the United Nations in 48 countries of the world.

Being a part of the UN peacekeeping mission, Pakistan strongly supported the initiatives of the United Nations like "A4P" and "A4P" to enable the peacekeeping missions and ensure the safety of the personnel involved in the difficult and war-torn areas.

Pakistan, as a responsible state, has fully complied with the UN Charter by ensuring all possible assistance to the UN Mission in Pakistan and India.

Immense sacrifices, professionalism and commitment to the cause remained the hallmark of Pakistani contingents while discharging these global obligations.

Pakistan as a nation strongly supports the United Nations' endeavours for sustainable global peace and will continue to offer its services under the charter of the United Nations.



ISLAMABAD: Student and faculty members along with their principal Brig(R) Abdul Hafeez SI (M) of the Frontier Scouts Cadet College Warsak Peshawar visiting senate Museum at Parliament House.

## HEC training for IPFP Fellows' Cohort-I of 2023 concludes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has organized certificate distribution ceremony for Cohort-I of 2023 of the National Faculty Development Programme for IPFP Fellows at National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE).

Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP) programme of HEC provides an opportunity to fresh PhDs to obtain academic experience and mentorship for one year in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), federal/provincial government post-graduate colleges or public sector R&D organizations, prior to their formal entry into the academic job market.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, the chief guest of the ceremony, appreciated for the participants for their performance in the three-week intensive programme and emphasised the exemplary role of teachers in the continuous progress of Pakistan.

He encouraged the participants to try new methods, take on challenges, and set high targets

and achieve them.

Emphasising the importance of professional development, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed affirmed that a teacher not only taught curriculum but also played a crucial role in polishing students' attitude and skills.

In her welcome address, Managing Director NAHE, Noor Amna Malik extended congratulations to the participants who had successfully completed the training programme.

She emphasised the importance of implementing advanced knowledge and practices learned by fresh PhD graduates.

She highlighted the modern society's demands for updated information, high-quality teaching, and learning from teachers. She informed the audience that various other new initiatives were under consideration for capacity building of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) faculty and administration at different stages of their careers.

NFDP is structured to accelerate the transfer of essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes in three dimensions of a successful career as a faculty member.



ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclists sits under the damaged bus stop shade during rain at Islamabad Expressway in the Federal Capital.

## ANF arrest 11 drug peddlers, recover huge quantity of drugs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting operations in different areas across the country, arrested 11 accused including two women and recovered 170 kg of drugs from their possession, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He said that in an operation near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza, one kg of heroin was recovered from the possession of a drug smuggler, a resident of Khyber.

In another operation in E-11 Islamabad, 70 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of Lahore.

At Karachi International Airport, five kg of heroin was recovered from the possession of an Abu-Dhabi-bound female passenger, a resident of Karachi, going on flight no EY-201.

Highway, four kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of a female drug smuggler resident of Karachi.

The spokesman informed that a bid to smuggle drugs from Afghanistan to Pakistan was also foiled as ANF and Frontier Corps (FC) managed to recover 111 kg hashish from the possession of five accused residents of Khyber, rounded up at Pak-Afghan Border check post.

The ANF at Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar, 7640 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of a London-bound passenger, resident of Birmingham, going on flight no EK-637.

About 49 kg of hashish was recovered from an abandoned house near the Quetta-Kuchlak bypass. Cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process.



Senator Anwaar ul Haq Kakar, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad



Tuesday May 30, 2023

**Combating Inflation**

Addressing the pressing issue of inflation and its impact on the poor, Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar of Balochistan has shed light on the factors aggravating the difficulties faced by the underprivileged. In particular, he has emphasized the role of hoarding, smuggling, and the need for cooperation from the All Pakistan Flour Mills Association in resolving these challenges. Such candid statements from the Governor not only reflect the severity of the situation but also highlight the importance of collaboration in finding effective solutions.

Inflation, especially when coupled with the hoarding of essential commodities such as wheat and flour, has a devastating effect on the lives of ordinary people, particularly those living below the poverty line. As Governor Kakar rightly points out, this dire situation necessitates the involvement of key stakeholders, including the chairpersons and officials of the All Pakistan Flour Mills Association. These individuals possess the power to alleviate the suffering of the impoverished by ensuring the unrestricted transportation of goods at the interprovincial level. The commitment of the association's representatives to cooperate with federal and provincial authorities is a step in the right direction.

During a recent meeting with the chairpersons and officials of the All Pakistan Flour Mills Association, Governor Kakar demonstrated his determination to address the underlying issues. By engaging with representatives from all four provinces, he recognized the importance of a collective effort to combat the crisis at hand. This inclusive approach showcases a commitment to cross-regional cooperation and signifies a positive shift towards resolving food security challenges.

The Governor's acknowledgement of the link between food security and nutrition highlights the holistic nature of the problem. Providing standardized and nutritious food to the people is not only an essential component of addressing their immediate needs but also a vital aspect of ensuring their long-term well-being. By advocating for policy-making at the national level and emphasizing the necessity of a strong economic system, Governor Kakar underscores the interconnectedness of various sectors and the importance of considering the broader implications of our actions.

To truly address the challenges faced by the poor, it is imperative that all stakeholders work together. The government, private sector, and civil society must collaborate to tackle issues of hoarding, smuggling, and food security. Only through collective action can we hope to create a more equitable society and provide a brighter future for all. As citizens, we must hold our leaders accountable and support initiatives aimed at combating inflation and ensuring access to essential commodities. By doing so, we contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and prosperous society.



Malecha Lodhi

The world has seen sweeping geopolitical changes over the past 70 years. The international landscape has been fundamentally transformed by the dispersion of power more widely among states. This redistribution of global power is a dynamic process and continues apace, accelerated by economic and technological developments of the 21st century. The shift in economic power from the West to the rest is one of the defining features of the contemporary world. Multipolarity is an increasing reality. So too is the fact that in a diverse, complex and interconnected world even the most powerful countries cannot achieve outcomes on their own and need the help of allies.

The institutional architecture of the interna-

**Why UNSC reform is elusive**

tional system, however, remains the product of a specific historical era. International institutions — the Bretton Woods twins, IMF and World Bank, and the United Nations — created in 1944-1945, reflect the realities of that time. The structure and composition of the UN's premier organ, the Security Council, reflect the historical arrangement reached 78 years ago by the victors of World War II. They became the five permanent members of the Council that has 10 non-permanent elected members. Possession of the veto power further buttressed the P5's position and created an inequality that persists to date. Thus the UN body charged with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and whose decisions are supposed to be binding remains anchored in the past.

Calls for reform of the 15-member Council have been heard over the decades from countries across the world. Most recently, UN Secretary General António Guterres again added his voice to these calls. Speaking at a press conference last week in Japan, on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit, he said it was time to reform both the Security Council and Bretton Woods institutions to align them with the "realities of today's world". These institutions, he added, reflect the power relations of 1945 and needed to be updated.

It isn't as if efforts for reform haven't been undertaken. Since 2009 talks have been going on to reform the Security Council in informal sessions of the General Assembly. The GA which created the intergovernmental negotiations process set the goal of comprehensive Council reform involving five equally important and interlinked issues. These are: categories of membership, veto, regional representation, size and working methods of an expanded Council, and the relationship between the Security Council and General Assembly.

There is general agreement among countries on reform and increasing the Council size, with more representation for developing states, especially Africa. But beyond agreement to make the Council more representative by additional

non-permanent members and improving its working methods, consensus on other issues has been elusive. The question of veto continues to be a source of intense contention while convergence on other issues has emerged over the years. Dialogue has never broken down but fundamental differences persist, which continue to hold up reform.

The principal disagreement, mainly responsible for slow progress in decades-long negotiations, is between countries that aspire for permanent seats for themselves and others who oppose this and, instead, propose enlarging the Council by adding more elected, non-permanent members. This has put the so-called G4 — Germany, Japan, India and Brazil — at odds with the United for Consensus (UFC) countries led by Italy and including Pakistan, Argentina, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Canada and other like-minded states. G4 countries support more permanent members as well as additional non-permanent seats, while asserting their claim to permanent membership ostensibly on grounds of their economic strength,

political standing and contributions to the UN. They back each other for Council membership and have also secured support from some P5 countries. For example, the US and UK support Japan, Germany, Brazil and India for permanent membership. The common African position is support for expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories. This is predicated on the view that the continent's under-representation is an act of historical injustice, which should be addressed.

The UFC group, in which Pakistan has always played an active role, calls for comprehensive reform and seeks a Council that is more representative, accountable, democratic and effective by adding elected members who can counter-balance the power of the veto-wielding P5 countries. The UFC argues that the Council's frequent deadlock and paralysis is due to discord and the clashing interests of the P5, which prevents it from playing the role expected of it and enjoined by the Charter. Adding more permanent members with veto powers will only compound this dys-

function, not end it.

Pakistan voices the position of other UFC countries by arguing that reform should not reinforce inequality and preserve privilege for a few, but give all member states, big, medium and small, a chance to serve on the Council by rotating elected seats. This would make the body more representative of the membership. Moreover, in the democratic era, reform should be in sync with the spirit of the age. The principle of election is the bedrock of democracy. That should also apply to Council reform. More elected members will make it more democratic and accountable to the general membership.

The G4 and UFC don't just have divergent perspectives. They have conflicting visions about the nature and future of the UN. One vision seeks to accord privileged status to a handful of countries on the basis of "permanence". The other wants to see the organisation embody the principles of democracy and representativeness and offer opportunities to all states to become Council members. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Pakistan's regional policy**

Javid Husain

It is axiomatic that Pakistan's regional policy should be anchored to ground realities instead of being based on wishful thinking and pious hopes. Historical record, however, reveals that in many cases our regional policy fell short of this ideal and in the process severely compromised our national security and economic interests.

Pakistan's Kashmir and Afghanistan policies of the 1990s are prime examples of the mismanagement of our regional affairs leading to serious harmful consequences which continue to haunt the country. Even our current regional policy suffers from serious shortcomings and is riddled with contradictions. The need of the hour is to analyze closely the emerging regional and global security environment with a view to

recommending a regional policy in the best interest of Pakistan.

The defining features of the evolving regional security environment are the growing sway of Hindutva or Hindu nationalism in India, the rapid rise in India's economic and military power, and its hegemonic designs in South Asia and the Indian Ocean regions. The huge rightward shift in Indian politics since Narendra Modi-led BJP's landslide victory in the general elections in 2014 poses a serious threat to Pakistan's security.

The Hindutva-driven policies of the Indian government appear to be deeply influenced by Kautilya's "Arthashastra" which in the words of Henry Kissinger "sets out, with dispassionate clarity, a vision of how to establish and guard a state while neutralizing, subverting, and (when opportune conditions have been established) conquering its neighbors" (World Order, p195).

The threat to Pakistan posed by a Hindutva-driven India is exacerbated by its hegemonic designs in South Asia and the Indian Ocean regions. India's hegemonic strategic goals have been well encapsulated by noted

Indian security analyst C Raja Mohan: "India's grand strategy divides the world into three concentric circles. In the first, which encompasses the immediate neighborhood, India has sought primacy and a veto over the actions of outside powers."

"In the second, which encompasses the so-called extended neighborhood stretching across Asia and the Indian Ocean littoral, India has sought to balance the influence of other powers and prevent them from undercutting its interests. In the third, which includes the entire global stage, India has tried to take its place as one of the great powers, a key player in international peace and security." ("India and the Balance of Power", Foreign Affairs, July-August, 2006). Raja Mohan then goes on to describe Pakistan as an obstacle in the realization of India's strategic ambitions.

The rapid rise in India's economic and military power over the past three decades has provided it with the resources to pursue its strategic ambitions in the South Asia and Indian Ocean regions. According to the latest estimates, India's GDP and military expenditure are \$3736 billion and

\$81.4 billion respectively against the corresponding figures of \$376 billion and \$11 billion for Pakistan.

These developments at the regional level need to be seen in the context of the growing US-China rivalry which extends to almost all aspects of national activity covering political, security, economic, commercial, technical, and cultural fields. China's GDP in PPP terms is projected to be \$33,014 billion in 2023 as against \$26,854 billion for America. China is also rapidly building up its military power and world-wide political, economic, commercial, technical and transportation links. The US sees in a rapidly rising China a potent challenge to its global hegemony, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US has responded to the challenge posed by China's rise by developing a string of alliances or strategic partnerships around China to contain it. India is the central figure in the American policy of containment of China in the Indo-Pacific region. Indo-US cooperation in strategic, security, economic, technical, and scientific fields has unsurprisingly witnessed tremendous growth over the

past two decades, especially since March 2005 when the US formally declared its intention "to help India become a major world power in the 21st century". India's chairmanship of the G20 summit to be held in India in September this year reflects its increasing international clout.

Other major participants of the US policy of containment of China in the Indo-Pacific region are Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Australia. Washington has also employed world-wide economic, commercial, technical, and cultural instruments of policy to pressurize China and slow down its economic growth besides overt and covert means to undermine China's internal political stability.

America's policy of containment of China is not a short-term phenomenon. It is a long-term development which will be the defining feature of the international security environment for the remainder of the 21st century with far-reaching strategic implications for the rest of the world. It also provides conclusive evidence that when it comes to a crunch, geopolitics always trumps geoeconomics.

The rapidly growing US-India strategic cooperation to contain China will be the most important factor in determining the nature and direction of the US policies towards South Asia. It will obviously upset the strategic balance in South Asia in favour of India if Pakistan does not take necessary countervailing measures. An important plank of the US policy towards South Asia would be to help India establish its hegemony in the region so that the whole region including Pakistan acts as a barrier to the expansion of China's power and influence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean regions.

India's growing power and international stature in conjunction with its hegemonic ambitions in the region and outstanding Pakistan-India disputes, especially on Occupied Kashmir, should be a source of serious concern to Pakistan which historically has faced and continues to face an enduring threat to its security emanating from New Delhi. Unfortunately, Pakistan's regional policy lacks clarity of purpose in facing the long-term Indian threat to its security and is riddled with contradictions. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Prison expressions**

Huma Yusuf

On a hill in Johannesburg, in the remnants of what used to be a prison block for detainees awaiting trial, a flame of democracy now burns perpetually. This is Constitution Hill, the site of the country's supreme constitutional court, which was established in 1993 as part of South Africa's first post-apartheid constitution. Standing before that flame last week while receiving news from home, I enjoyed a glimmer of hope.

This is not, of course, to compare PFI's defuncting leadership and spurned supporters with the leaders of the passive resistance and anti-apartheid movements. But it is to say that democracy, however flawed, is always preferable to authoritarianism. And that strong-arm tactics are, in the long run, often galvanising.

Constitution Hill rests on the site of Johannesburg's oldest prison, where both Nelson Mandela and Gandhi were incarcerated. In the 1950s and 1960s, the facility overflowed with political prisoners, Asians and black Africans thrown in detention for defying pass laws (the requirement for non-white South Africans to carry appropriate documentation to enter white-only areas). The prison is now a museum.

Visitors can tour the old prison, hearing harrowing accounts — including from previous prisoners — of the overcrowded, disease-ridden cells. The museum's narratives do not shy away from detailed descriptions of the daily hu-

milations that prisoners endured, including being stripped and monitored in toilets. Nor do they censor the accounts of torture — the lashings, sexual abuse and indefinite detention in isolation cells, airless containers just over an arm-span long. My response was visceral — nausea, dizziness.

One of the museum's final rooms took my breath away, however. Instead of artefacts recalling prison horrors, one cell resembles a modern art museum; it is replete with figurines, sculptures and abstract imaginings. The annotation explained that on Sundays, prison officials would inspect communal cells in the prison, and that inmates would prepare for these visits by fashioning decorations and curios out of the few objects they could claim: their blankets, shreds of toilet paper, leftover soap bars. The prisoners with the most imaginative creations would win privileges for the week — an extra slice of bread, a taste of dry cake.

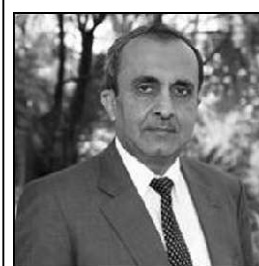
Although motivated by the transactional, the prison art is a celebration of the enduring humanity of inmates. Two former prisoners created the objects on display, recalling the creations of their peers. There are blankets reshaped into bouncing flowers and bouncing rabbits, improvised papier mâché figures in gentle embraces but also in the throes of despair, and chaming cattle carved from soap. Incarcerated, abused, dehumanised, the inmates of Number Four jail managed to reclaim beauty and free expression, and survive.

The objects I saw reminded me of the recourse to art sought by Ahmed Rabbani, a former prisoner at Guantánamo Bay, whose prison artwork recently inspired an exhibition at Karachi's Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Rabbani was mistakenly identified by the US as a terrorist, and remained in detention for 20 years without facing formal charges. A story about him in these pages described how he made paintings to cope with the humiliations and torture that defined his incarceration — images that were seized by the US military on the basis that they threatened national security.

Why dwell on prison art at this political juncture in Pakistan? It is clear that a crackdown is upon us. A political party is being systematically dismantled, its former leadership silenced, its supporters hounded with the threat of military trials, their treatment a chilling warning to all those who may critique the security establishment too openly. The government and much of the media are complicit, for fear of their own eradication. Who could blame those who choose to retreat from political life or any form of public activism?

And this is where art plays a key role in keeping democratic ideals alive. We have been in such dark times before — more overtly oppressive with a military man at the helm. It is no coincidence that the 1980s were a golden era of Pakistani art: thoughtful television, resistance theatre and dance, subversive fine art, political satire, long-form journalism.

The PFI has not been a champion of Pakistani arts, preferring to glorify Turkish soap operas. But in this next difficult era, artists and dreamers will have to play a part in rehabilitating public perceptions of democracy, and expanding the notion of politics beyond anti-authoritarianism to encompass inclusion, freedom of faith and climate justice. As Constitution Hill suggests, celebrating humanity and keeping ideals alive may be our route to an enduring democracy. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Superbug threat**

Jamil Ahmad

The spectre of global public health emergencies, as we saw in the case of Covid-19, is lurking in the shadows of the current climate and environmental crisis. One such emergency is the rise of antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, which could push world economies into a spin again, with similarly disastrous consequences as the recent pandemic. The WHO considers AMR to be among the top 10 threats to global health.

At a time when the world is concerned with slow progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, thanks to financial problems caused by climate and conflict, AMR, if not checked, can hit global GDP with a loss of \$3.4 trillion by 2030, according to World Bank estimates. Worsening the woes of the Global South, it is set to push another 24 million people below the poverty line as healthcare costs spike and productivity reduces.

Driven mostly by the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials, AMR leads to drug-resistant pathogens. As the current generation of antibiotics becomes ineffective, costs of treatment are rising, putting a heavier burden on patients and the weak healthcare systems in poor countries. Up to 5m deaths annually are associated with AMR, mostly in developing countries.

Scientific research on the origin, drivers and spread of AMR shows that the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials are not the only reasons for the emergence of drug-resistant

pathogens. Other drivers include lack of access to clean water, poor healthcare systems, and the weak enforcement of the law to control biological and chemical pollution emanating from pharmaceutical and other industries.

When damaged and degraded, nature becomes, simultaneously, a driver and multiplier of risk. Several international and national health emergencies in recent times have their origins in the human-induced degradation of nature. Pollution and waste are destroying ecosystems, irreversibly in many cases, and are a leading cause of the spread of numerous diseases afflicting humans. Outbreaks of zoonotic diseases — those that jump from wildlife to human populations — like avian flu, foot-and-mouth disease, Ebola, Covid-19, and monkeypox, are linked to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

Over 70 per cent of all antimicrobials in the world are administered to animals raised for food. Such a heavy intake is also leading to drug-resistant infections in both animals and humans.

Scientific insights into the origin and drivers of pandemics and other threats to public health emphasise the inextricable and growing links between the environment and health. Initially, AMR was probed with a focus on human health and agriculture, but a fresh line of research takes a close look at the environmental dimension of AMR. UNEP's recent report — Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening environmental action in the one-health response to antimicrobial resistance — reveals strong evidence that environmental degradation due to pollution and waste exacerbates the development, spread and transmission of AMR; by the same token, a healthy environment can serve as a safeguard against AMR.

The report highlights the linkages between the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment and promotes a one-health approach — addressing human, animal and environmental health simultaneously — and profiles how the interplay between climate change and AMR, both human-induced, can lead to serious problems for people and how both can be mitigated by urgent human action through reducing pollution and waste, reversing nature loss, and addressing global warming. Phasing out antibiotics and chemicals-manufacturing, food and agriculture, and healthcare delivery systems are identified as three key economic-sector value chains that influence AMR's development and spread. In fact, antimicrobial resistance could trigger up to 10m deaths annually by 2050.

In many developing countries, the discharge of untreated waste from chemical industries into waterways and the interaction of wildlife and feral animals with municipal and medical waste in landfills and open dumps also contribute to the spread of AMR.

Four UN agencies, UNEP, FAO, WHO and the World Organisation on Animal Health, have jointly developed a Global Action Plan on AMR and are promoting international collaboration for a one-health response on AMR. A funding facility provides policy advice, technical assistance, and capacity-strengthening pro-g-r-a-mmes and has supported 170 countries to finalise national AMR action plans. Linking AMR plans with environmental and climate strategies and raising public awareness — with the support of governments and health practitioners — will be key to tackling the growing threat of AMR superbugs. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Country's youth second to none in terms of intelligence, skills: Minister Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said country's youth are second to none in the world in terms of their intelligence and skills.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Engineering Innovation Exhibition and Demonstration of VR, CV & Spatial AI projects at Arfa Software Technology Park on Monday, he said, "We have entered the age of paradigm shift." He said it was the age of disruption, innovation, complexity, and uncertainty, and added that it was all just because of digital revolution.

Ahsan Iqbal said that

digital revolution was making all those models irrelevant which were existing in different fields of life. He said if change was responded proactively only then one could become able to benefit from it.

He said that in 2014, the PML-N government evolved vision 2025 to revive and sustain country's growth momentum in line with the ongoing changes across the world. In 2017, an international leading firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers had said that if Pakistan continued with same trajectory, it would get place among top 20 powerful economies of the

world by 2030. He said education, human resources and youth were targeted in the Vision 2025. Ahsan said when Shehbaz Sharif was chief minister Punjab, he paid special attention to empowering the youth digitally. The Information Technology University was established to prepare country's youth for digital age, he added.

He said that in 2017-18, the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence, National Centre for Cyber Security, National Centre for Automation and Robotics and National Centre for Big Data and Cloud Computing were set up to achieve the desired results.



LAHORE: Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training of Pakistan Rana Tanveer Hussain distributing the awarding certificates among students during the opening ceremony of E-Employment Smart Class Room at Lahore College for Women University in Provincial Capital.

## KP Governor inaugurates mobile screening project of Khyber Eye Foundation

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Monday visited Shaheed Ahmad Elahi school Gulbahar and inaugurated the mobile screening project of the Khyber Eye Foundation.

Free checkups, medicines, and eye glasses would be provided to the children of poor eyesight of the government schools

under the aegis of the Khyber Eye Foundation program. The Governor inspected classrooms and met with students besides inspecting the eye equipment of the foundation, and interacted with the staff.

Provincial Ministers, the chairman of the Khyber Eyes Foundation, and the Director of Education were present on the occasion.



SARGODHA: State Minister for Industries & Production Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi addressing in an event on Golden Jubilee of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 organized by Shaheed Bhutto Foundation.

## IGP says: Steps being taken for welfare of policemen

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Monday said that steps were being taken for the health and welfare of the police force.

The process of health screening had been completed and now the vaccination was underway, he added.

Dr. Usman Anwar said that he would increase funds for the best treatment of police employees and their families.

On the direction of IG Punjab, the welfare branch of the Central Police Office had issued funds of rupees 10.4 million for the treatment of 19 police employees suffering from diseases.

DIG Welfare and Finance Punjab Ghazi Salahuddin said that in the medical financial assistance meeting which was held on May 24, the applications sent from different districts were reviewed in detail and approval was given to release 10.4 million rupees for 19 cases.

According to the details, Lahore police driver constable Amir Hussain was given one million rupees for liver transplant, constable Inamullah was given one million rupees for son's bone marrow transplant.

Similarly, constables Kamran Iqbal and Farhan Ali were given about 3.6 million rupees for cochlear implant surgery of their daughters.



KARACHI: Smoke fumes can be seen rising from a fire that erupted at a plastics factory at Site B area in Karachi on Monday, May 29, 2023. No loss of life was reported after a huge fire broke out at a plastic factory in Karachi's SITE area on Monday, rescue and police officials said.

## A huge fire erupts at plastic factory in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): A huge fire broke out in a plastic factory located in the SITE Industrial area of Karachi on Monday morning.

According to details, the fire brigade officials said that the efforts were underway to control the fire, while the workers have been evacuated from the factory. Private news channels reported.

At least eight fire brigade vehicles reached the spot after being informed. The fire was erupted on the upper floors of the building and dispersed quickly.

## 4 dacoits arrested, weapons recovered

FAISALABAD (APP): The police arrested four dacoits and recovered weapons and other items from their possession.

Police said here on Monday that Factory Area police on a tip-off conducted raid and arrested two outlaws including Abdul Aleem and Saeed who were wanted by police in a number of dacoity, robbery and other cases.

Meanwhile, City Samundri police raided in Chak no. 470-GB and arrested two dacoits while three others managed to escape from the scene.

## Girl killed in name of 'honor'

PESHAWAR (APP): A 15-year-old girl was reportedly shot dead by her relatives for marriage against her family's will in the vicinity of Inqilab police station here.

ASI Fazal Diyan told media persons that the slain was residing with her husband in Kohat.

The area police received information that a girl was being secretly buried at a local graveyard.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman addressing condolence reference ceremony organized to pay tribute to the services of Mumtaz Ahmad Tahir, founder and leader of Daily Aftab and central leader of APNS, at Governor House.

## KPK CM says Newly merged FATA districts needs due attention

PESHAWAR (APP): The Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan Monday said people of newly merged districts of FATA (Federal Administered Tribal Area) should bring at par with other districts to early redress their grievances.

He expressed views while addressing the certificates distribution ceremony of skills development training for the youth of North Waziristan Tribal District here. Three-month skills development training program for the youth of North Waziristan was arranged by Mari

Petroleum Company in collaboration with Sarhad Rural Support Program and Sui Northern Gas under which 110 youth of North Waziristan imparted technical training in different fields.

Addressing the ceremony, the Caretaker Chief Minister said that the former FATA has been merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the 25th constitutional amendment in 2018 but still the province is not getting the due shares of newly merged districts in the National Finance Commission Award. He added that the population of newly merged districts is more

than 5 million, and they must get their due shares.

He said that ever since he assumed the charge as caretaker chief minister, he has been trying to resolve the issues of the merged districts and get their legitimate rights from the federal government adding that merged districts issues have been taken up with the Prime Minister while several letters have also been written to the federal government to this end. The Chief Minister while expressing his resolve to get the due rights of the merged districts said that he will continue efforts at all levels to get the legitimate rights of the

## We have to play our role to promote positive attitudes in the society

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman was the chief guest at the condolence reference ceremony organized to pay tribute to the services of Mumtaz Ahmad Tahir, founder and leader of Daily Aftab and central leader of All Pakistan Newspapers Society, at Governor House Lahore.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that for a good society in the society, it is necessary to look at one's shortcomings and the merits of others. He said that as a governor, it is my responsibility to encourage good works within the society.

## Equipping new generation with modern education need of hour: Javed

MULTAN (APP): Higher Education Department Punjab, Javed Akhtar Mahmood, said that it was a dire need to equip the new generation with modern education in order to make the future of the country bright.

He expressed these views during a visit to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) and took briefing here on Monday.

The world was heading forward very fast

in science and technology, he added.

Secretary expressed anger over the non-starting of new BS courses in public colleges and snubbed DPI College and directed to start new BS programs soon.

He directed education officials to teach new modern BS courses to students as per the demand of the market.

Mr Javed also ordered to start construction of the BISE administrative block soon.



PESHAWAR: Transporters are holding demonstration in support of Pakistan Armed Forces, outside Balahisar Fort in Peshawar.

## KPCTA establishes helpline 1422 to facilitate tourists

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) has established helpline-1422 to facilitate tourists to refrain from inconveniences and miseries to make their day full with joy and entertain.

A larger number of tourists are thronging from different parts of the country to enjoy recreational and scenic spots with peaceful, lovely, and pleasant

weather in KP, said a news release received here on Monday. "KP is a world's renowned paradise for tourists and the brilliant green valley is a major source of attraction and inspiration for them."

The KPCTA has already constituted welcome baths, helplines, and information centers at all entry and exit points to facilitate domestic visitors and foreign dignitaries to reach their destination with comfort.

## CM Punjab refutes women mistreatment allegations in prison

Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has strongly refuted the allegations of mistreatment of women in prison.

He emphasised the importance of respecting and honoring women, urging care before levelling such accusations, said a handout issued here.

Referring to the incident of May 9, where 32 women were arrested and 11 of them were currently on judicial remand in women jail, the caretaker CM said he had reassured that surveillance cameras were installed and monitoring teams were in place to ensure security.

Speaking to the media during a late-night inspection of the Samanabad underpass project, the CM reiterated that safeguarding women was a responsibility and

emphasized his commitment to ensuring the safety of mothers and sisters.

The CM declared that those involved in the attack on Jinnah House were being arrested without fail, emphasizing that no one, regardless of their influence or status, will be spared. He made it clear that the perpetrators will face trial and will not escape punishment.

He mentioned that action has also been taken against some police officers, while in other incidents involving wanted women, a lenient approach has been adopted, focusing on calling them for investigation accompanied by female police officials. The CM highlighted that a female SSP was overseeing these matters, and the female SSP and deputy commissioner were visiting the jail, again, to meet the women today.



KARACHI: Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works visited Scheme-33, Gulzar-e-Hijri, Karachi a project of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority.

## 'Youm e Takreem Shahuda': CM Sindh pays tributes to martyrs

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence-based operation in the Orangi Town area arrested two of a robbers gang and recovered illegal arms and ammunition from their possession. According to a news release on Monday, the arrested were identified as Shahab and Asif.

The arrested were also involved in providing arms on rent to robbers for street crimes.

They also revealed their involvement in drugs delivery on a daily basis from Balochistan to Karachi.

Arrested confessed to committing more than 30 robberies in Orangi Town, Nazimabad, SITE Area, Clifton and other areas during which they snatched 50 mobile phones and cash Rs. 0.1 million. Raids were being conducted to arrest their other accomplices. Arrested along with recovered arms.

of pride and satisfaction on their faces. This he said was the manifestation of their spirit of love for their country, its people and institutions. Talking about the May 9 incident, Syed Murad Ali Shah said that they [PTI] also caused heavy loss to the public and private property but we - the DG Rangers and IG Police - met twice and "averted their nefarious designs of causing more damages". The CM said that in the attack on KPO in February, 2023, the brave policemen and Rangers personnel - Taimore of Rangers, Ghulam Abbas and Abdul Latif (ex. army man) of police, and Ajmal Masih sacrificed their lives.

He said that in the operation against dacoits in katcha areas, the policemen, including DSP Abdul Malik Bhutto.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurates the mobile screening project of the Khyber Eye Foundation during his visit to Shaheed Ahmad Elahi school Gulbahar.

## CEO WMC orders to kick off cleaning operation in Multan

MULTAN (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Waste Management Company (WMC) on Monday ordered to start cleaning operations before the upcoming Eid-al-Azha.

While addressing to a meeting, Shahid Yaqoob, directed the staff to clear all filth depots and waste bins before the feast of sacrifice. A number of bins along with collection points to be get doubled before the fast-approaching holy Muslim festival, added CEO.

He held satisfaction that tenders for securing more dampers and loaders among other operational machinery were issued already. Meanwhile, the senior manager operations, Faheem Lodhi paid a visit to the company workshop and parking yard on the direction of CEO WMC, according to the statement.

He took detailed briefings on machinery and loaders liable to be repaired before Eid.

## PDMA, UNHCR vow to strengthen partnership in disaster risk reduction

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Monday expressed their commitment to further strengthen their partnership in disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

A UNHCR delegation led by Evaluation Expert Robina Shaheen, met with PDMA Director General Janat Gul Afridi to discuss future plans and reviewed previous interventions in response to the devastating flood of 2022.

During the meeting, the UNHCR delegation engaged in productive discussions with DG PDMA, exchanging valuable insights and experiences regarding the challenges posed by the flood and the subsequent relief and recovery efforts.

The discussions emphasized the importance of collaboration to address

the immediate and long-term needs of affected communities.

Janat Gul Afridi expressed his gratitude to the UNHCR delegation for their visit and reiterated PDMA's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of the population in the face of natural disasters.

He acknowledged the critical role played by international partners in supporting the efforts of PDMA and providing relief items to PDMA KP for further distribution to flood-affected people across the province in 2022.

They emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to build resilience, improve early warning systems, and enhance capacity-building measures to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

Afridi reiterated that PDMA will continue to support international organizations as per its policy.



## Around 21% banks become Shariah-compliant: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday said almost 21 percent of the banks operating in the country had so far been aligned with Islamic laws due to concerted efforts of the policymakers.

Addressing Pakistan's first international conference on "Islamic Capital Markets," jointly organized by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the

Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), he said the banks converted into the Islamic system were fully satisfied and wanted to continue with it.

The minister said a strategic plan was in place to develop a vibrant Islamic financing system for which the government had already devised a "National Financial Inclusion Strategy," encompassing the essential areas in it.

Ishaq Dar said

Pakistan was among one of the few countries which have a well-developed regulatory framework for the micro finance institution, adding the SECP and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had done a good job in this regard.

"Pakistan has a comprehensive system of Zakat collection and distribution at both private and public levels," he added.

He said the Islamic financial service industry worked within the

regulatory preview of the SECP, consisting of Islamic institutions like Mudarabah, Islamic non-banking financial institutions, Shariah-compliant businesses and Shariah advisors.

The minister mentioned that the size of Islamic financial institutions in Pakistan was estimated to have surpassed \$42 billion in 2022; with assets and deposit standing at Rs7.2 trillion and Rs5.2 trillion, respectively.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar at FBR on Budget proposals.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal visiting the the engineering innovation exhibition & demonstration at ITU..

## MoU on maritime cooperation between Pak, Bulgaria signed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Bulgaria signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Maritime Cooperation in Sofia at a ceremony in the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Bulgaria.

Transport and Communication of Bulgaria, signed the document from the Bulgarian side, says a press release issued here on Monday. The signing of this accord will help the two countries formalize their collaboration in the field of maritime affairs.

From the Pakistani side, Mariam Madiha Aftab, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Bulgaria signed the MoU, while, Hristo Alexiev, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policies and Minister of

Under the MoU, the two countries would expand and deepen cooperation on matters relating to maritime transport, facilitate liaison



between their respective bodies dealing with maritime affairs, increase private sector awareness and cooperation, create mutually beneficial economic opportunities, and promote investments in this important field.

the ambassador of Pakistan said that the signing of this MoU was yet another milestone in the continuously strengthening bilateral relations of the two countries and will help the respective authorities of the two countries to establish mutually beneficial collaboration.

Speaking to the media after the signing ceremony,

## USAID-ERDA provides seed support to 2,800 farmers in Orakzai

PESHAWAR (APP): USAID-ERDA provided certified maize, sunflower, and red bean seeds to 2,800 farmers in District Orakzai on Monday, with the aim of improving food security in the region.

The total cultivated area of District Orakzai is 17,908 hectares, where only 10 percent is arable and farmers in District Orakzai are suitable for cultivation. Agriculture is mostly rain-dependent, and some parts of the plains are being irrigated by irrigation channels taken out from the Mastura River and its tributaries.

The beneficiaries include 20 percent women and the under-served population.

The programme has distributed improved and certified varieties of maize and red bean and hybrid sunflower for Kharif season of 2023.

The program aims to support farmers of Orakzai by providing certified and improved seeds of more productive varieties of maize, sunflower, and red beans.

Mohammad Irfan, Agriculture Officer of Orakzai district, said, "This program is an excellent opportunity for farmers to improve their crop yield and ensure food security in the area. The selected seed varieties are suitable for the local climate and soil, and we hope that farmers will adopt modern farming techniques to increase their productivity."



HYDERABAD: Members of All Sindh Irrigation Trade Unions Federation are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hyderabad press club.

## SBP Governor for standardizing 'Islamic financial contracts'

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad on Monday has said collaboration among regulators, financial institutions, industry players, and Shariah scholars is essential for bringing standardization of Islamic financial contracts and simplifying the processes.

spoke at length on key issues and challenges in the development of the Islamic capital market.

He was, however, convinced that the solutions are well within reach and hoped that the insights and knowledge exchanges during this conference would help in developing a roadmap for a sustainable, diversified, and inclusive Islamic capital market in Pakistan.

He was addressing the first international conference on Islamic Capital Markets (ICM) jointly organized by Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), said a news release.

The governor noted that Islamic finance as a global industry had crossed the US\$ 3 trillion mark and the Islamic capital markets account for around 31 percent share of this growing pie. He noted that Islamic capital markets are in nascent stages of development in most jurisdictions. He attributed this to gaps in institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks, inefficient price discovery and lack of diversity in instruments and investors.

The theme of the conference this year was "ICM Development with Ecosystem Completion: Innovation, Growth, and Transformation".

"I have visited China at different times for the last two decades and every time, the opinion in my brain becomes stronger that there is still much room for improvement in economic

## Returning to economic stability after betterment in political situation: Shahid

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday that the economy of country is returning to stability after improvement in political situation.

policy makers should not try to manipulate the US dollar for at least two years, which will not only reduce its value and strengthen the rupee but also attract investment and capital that has fled the country due to political turmoil. Engineering the exchange rate has eroded the confidence of local and foreign investors, stoked inflation to unprecedented levels, and pushed the country to the brink of default. Therefore, the disastrous policy should not be repeated for short-term gains, he demanded.

In a statement issued here, he said that political stability was vital for economic stability, which will not only improve the image and economy of the country but also advance the quality of life of people. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that

that agri scientists should accelerate their efforts for introducing high-yield oil-seed crops to make Pakistan self-reliant in edible oil and other food items.

## Increase in oil-seed production need of hour: Dr Ishtiaq

FAISALABAD (APP): Additional Director General Agriculture (Farm and Training) Dr. Ishtiaq Hasan said that increase in oil seed production was need of the hour as Pakistan was spending billions of rupees on import of edible oil to cater to its domestic needs.

He said that Pakistan had spent Rs.300 billion on import of edible oil last year. Therefore, the scientists focus on mustard, raya and canola crops to increase their production.

Addressing a meeting at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) here on Monday, he said

that agri scientists should accelerate their efforts for introducing high-yield oil-seed crops to make Pakistan self-reliant in edible oil and other food items.



QUETTA: A vendor displaying cherries to attract customers at Zarghoon road.

## IT ministry allocates \$1.6m to construct building in NED Karachi for gaming

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication has allocated an amount of \$1.6 million to construct a building in NED University of Engineering & Technology Karachi for gaming and animation.

Similarly, after the ministry's efforts, the regulatory duty on mobile phones has been abolished since March 30. He said that an agreement has been signed with Google for 45,000 scholarships, which will increase to 450,000 next year. The upcoming scholarships will include a 40 per cent allocation for women. Previously, Google had provided only 15,000 scholarships last year, but the ministry interfered to increase the number through consultations.

An official of the Ministry of IT said, that the Ministry is working towards the vision of the IT industry in 2050. In Pakistan, the investment in 2020 was just \$75 million, which increased to \$373 million in 2021-22.

A total of 07 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Maersk Shesapeake, CMA CGM Figaro and MSC Rafaela left the Port on Monday morning on 29<sup>th</sup> May, & three more ships, Olita, Zeze Start and Maran Gas Asclepiu are expected to sail on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 (today).

## China-Pak infrastructure construction leading to fruitful achievements

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China have always maintained the closest and strongest friendship, which is not only dependent on security affairs, but also reflects the increasingly close economic cooperation.

relations between China and Pakistan," Muhammad Mehdi, Chairman, institute of International Relations and Media Research said in an article published in the Chinese media here on Monday.

It was already clear at the time of the construction of the Silk Road that the steps of these two countries will continue to move forward together in economic matters.

He is currently in China along with Pakistan media think tank delegation that visited the office of China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), a famous company in China.

"I have visited China at different times for the last two decades and every time, the opinion in my brain becomes stronger that there is still much room for improvement in economic

CSCEC is China's largest construction and investment group and by visiting their office, this corporation had entered the Pakistani market in 1984 long before CPEC.

And many major projects in Pakistan have been constructed by this company, which showed the quality and professionalism of this corporation.

CSCEC has built five thermal power plants in Pakistan and these projects include Jamshoro, Faisalabad, Lakhla, Kotri and Mustafa Go.

Thanks to these thermal power plants, two million watts of electricity capacity has been increased in Pakistan. Along with the construction of these thermal power plants, in the mid-1990s, this corporation completed a huge project in the Sindh province Karachi.

## Gold prices decline by Rs 1,700

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs1,700 and was sold at Rs234,500 on Monday against its sale at Rs 236,200 the previous day.

## Minister reviews Axle Load Management Regime enforcement

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer presided over a meeting to review the steps regarding enforcement of Axle Load Management Regime (ALMR) here at Civil Secretariat on Monday.

concerned institutions and stakeholders shall be rewarded in this regard. He, while highlighting the steps regarding ALMR, said that a warning shall be instituted to the violators in the first step and then their challan would be ensured.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,457 to Rs 201,046 from Rs 202,503, whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs184,29 from Rs185,628. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The meeting decided to launch an awareness campaign for the Axle Load Management system to be started from July 2023. Under this system, challan shall be made for overloading the vehicles.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs50 to Rs2,850 whereas ten-gram silver went down by Rs42.87 to Rs2,443.41.

The minister said that Axle Load Management Regime was necessary to save the roads from deterioration and all



MULTAN: All Pakistan Power Looms Association Chairman, Khaliq Qandeel Sindh addresses to media persons during press conference, in Multan.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): PQA shipping activities were recorded on Sunday, where three ships namely, MSC Rafaela, CMA CGM Figaro and Al-Jassasiya carrying Containers and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Pakistan Gas Port Terminal respectively.

## ADB approves \$350m loan to help support Sri Lanka's economic stabilization

COLOMBO (Xinhua/APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday approved a 350 million U.S. dollar special policy-based loan to provide budget support to Sri Lanka for economic stabilization, the ADB said in a press release.

Fund's Extended Fund Facility for the country, which aims to stabilize the economy and lay the foundation for economic recovery and sustained growth.

Meanwhile another ship, Serenity Gas with 4,590 tonnes of LPG is also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during the same period.

The bank said that the program is part of a broader package of financial assistance anchored by the International Monetary

The ADB said Sri Lanka is facing a severe and unprecedented economic crisis, and high inflation has eroded purchasing power, livelihoods have been affected, and past development gains have been reversed.

A cargo volume of 179,902 tones, comprising 140,715 tones imports Cargo and 39,187 tones export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 4,381 Containers (2,084 TEUs Imports and 2,297 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

## SMBR chairs meeting about pending mutation cases

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed chaired the second meeting regarding pending mutation cases across all districts of Punjab at his office here on Monday.

The meeting was also attended by Tariq Qurashi, Member (Taxes), Saira Umar, Director General of the Punjab Land Record Authority, Romain Burana, Deputy Secretary (Staff) and Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-General) Lahore. Member (Taxes) and DG Punjab Land Record Authority informed the meeting that all the commissioners and deputy commissioners had been requested to dispose of pending mutation cases in their respective districts and divisions. The process of approving pending mutation cases in all districts had already commenced, he added. The SMBR suggested that a four-member committee under the leadership of deputy commissioners be set up to oversee pending.



## Iran supreme leader says He'd 'welcome' full diplomatic ties with Egypt; presidency websites hacked

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader said Monday he'd "welcome" the restoration of full diplomatic ties between Egypt and the Islamic Republic, raising the prospect of Cairo and Tehran normalizing relations after decades of strain.

The comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei came as a series of websites linked to Iran's presidency bore the images of two leaders of an exiled opposition group Monday, with others showing the pictures of Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi crossed out.

Iranian state television quoted Khamenei's comments as coming from a meeting he held with the visiting sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq. Sultan

Haitham's trip to Tehran, his first since assuming power in 2020, comes as Muscat long has served as an interlocutor between Tehran and the West.

There have been growing signs of Egypt and Iran potentially restoring ties, particularly as Saudi Arabia and Iran reached a détente in March with Chinese mediation after years of tensions. Cairo relies on Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf Arab states for economic support.

"We welcome this issue and have no problem in this regard," Khamenei reportedly said.

There was no immediate reaction from Egypt to Khamenei's comments. Officials in Cairo did not respond to a request for comment.

Egypt under Anwar Sadat cut ties to Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Sadat had been a close friend to the deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, welcomed him to Egypt just before his death and hosted his state funeral in 1980.

The shah's remains are entombed at Cairo's Al-Rifai Mosque. Egypt's peace deal with Israel also angered Iran's theocratic government, which views Israel as its top regional enemy.

After the 2011 Arab Spring and the election of President Mohammed Morsi, an Islamist who belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood, relations warmed with Iran.



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei meets with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, center, as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi sits in Tehran, Iran.

## Russia hits Ukrainian military facility and Odesa port in air strikes

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia put five aircraft out of action in an attack on a military target in western Ukraine and caused a fire at the Black Sea port of Odesa in heavy air strikes early on Monday, Ukrainian officials said.

Kyiv came under intense attack for the second successive night but said that most of the drones and missiles fired at the capital overnight had been shot down. Explosions rocked Kyiv again as the capital came under fire again on Monday morning. "Emergency services have responded to a call near the centre of the

capital. The attack on Kyiv continues. Don't leave the shelters!" Mayor Vitaly Klitschko wrote on the Telegram messaging app as residents ran to shelters in metro stations.

The attacks were part of a new wave of increasingly frequent and intense air strikes launched by Moscow this month as Kyiv prepares to launch a counteroffensive to try to take back territory occupied by Russian forces.

In a rare acknowledgement of damage suffered at a military "target", Ukraine did not name the site or sites hit in

the western region of Khmelnytskyi but said work was under way to restore a runway and five aircraft were taken out of service. A large military airfield was located in the region before the war. "At the moment, work is continuing to contain fires in storage facilities for fuel and lubricants and munitions," the Khmelnytskyi region governor's office said.

Ukraine's military said the attack on Odesa port had caused a fire and damaged infrastructure but did not specify whether the damage threatened grain exports.

## Japan puts missile defence on alert as N.Korea warns of satellite launch

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japan put its ballistic missile defences on alert on Monday and warned that it would shoot down any projectile that threatened its territory after North Korea notified Japan of a satellite launch between May 31 and June 11.

North Korea says it has completed its first military spy satellite and leader Kim Jong Un has approved final preparations for the launch. Analysts say the satellite is part of a surveillance technology programme, that includes drones, aimed at improving nuclear-armed North Korea's ability to strike targets in the event of war.

"We will take destructive measures against ballistic and other missiles that

are confirmed to land in our territory," Japan's defence ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said it would use its Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) or Patriot Missile PAC-3 to destroy a North Korea missile.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that any North Korean missile launch would be a serious violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning its nuclear and missile activity.

"We strongly urge North Korea to refrain from launching," his office said in a post on Twitter, adding it would cooperate with its U.S. ally, South Korea and other countries, and would do all it could to collect and analyse information from any launch.

## Polish president to sign Russian influence bill despite opposition protests

**Monitoring Desk**  
WARSAW: Poland's president said on Monday he would sign off on a bill authorising a panel to investigate Russian influence despite opposition criticism it is a witch hunt against government opponents in an election year.

The ruling nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party says that the liberal opposition Civic Platform (PO) party allowed Poland to become dangerously dependent on Russian fossil fuels when the PO was in government from 2007 to 2015, raising questions about whether PO members were under Moscow's sway. PO rejects the suspicion saying it is aimed at eliminating PO leader and former prime minister Donald Tusk from the political scene ahead of elections scheduled for October or November.

Opposition figures call a bill to set up an investigative commission the "Lex Tusk", using the Latin term for "law".

President Andrzej

Duda said he would sign off on it but would ask the Constitutional Tribunal to look at the law after it comes into force due to criticism it is unconstitutional. "I am signing the act because I believe that it should enter into force, should start functioning," Duda said.

The commission will investigate the period 2007-2022 and have the power to ban people found to have acted under Russian influence from holding security clearance or working in roles in which they are responsible for public funds for 10 years, effectively disqualifying them from public office.

The panel's members would be chosen by parliament, where the PiS commands a narrow majority. The bill has faced strong opposition from critics who say any attempt to disqualify opposition figures from the government would damage democracy and it gives public administrative body responsibility for functions that should be reserved for the courts.



Maggie Lorenz and Kevin Moch participate in a meeting of the word panel to finalize the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee words at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md.

## Japan PM Kishida says his son to quit as aide after 'inappropriate' behaviour

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's son will resign as his aide, the premier said on Monday, after photos of the son and other relatives apparently pretending to hold a news conference at the official residence sparked an uproar.

Kishida told reporters that Shoto Kishida would step down as his secretary on Thursday, saying the change was due to "inappropriate" behaviour at the official residence.

A weekly magazine last week published photos of the younger Kishida and relatives apparently pretending to hold a news conference at the podium where the prime minister usually stands.

"His behaviour at a public space was inappropriate as someone who is in an official position as political aide. I've decided to replace him for accountability," Kishida said.

The revelations come at an inopportune time for Kishida, who had gained a boost in popularity with the recent Group of Seven (G7) summit in Hiroshima, and were widely criticised by the opposition.

Seiji Osaka, a senior lawmaker with Japan's largest opposition party, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, said the dismissal should have come earlier, according to Kyodo news agency.

"This is too late. I suspect (Kishida) appointed someone who is not capable (of being the) prime minister's aide to the post," Osaka was quoted as saying.

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## Israeli forces kill Palestinian officer in clashes, Wafa says

**Monitoring Desk**  
JENIN: Israeli forces killed a Palestinian security officer during clashes in the occupied West Bank flashpoint city of Jenin on Monday, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the report. Earlier it said in a statement that its forces came under heavy Palestinian fire while seeking the arrest of security suspects in Jenin and returned fire at the gunman.

"With God's help ... there will be many more new settlements in northern Samaria," he said, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name. US-led peace talks aimed at establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza broke down in 2014 and show little sign of revival, and Israeli-Palestinian violence has escalated over the past year.

## Fresh clashes claim 40 lives in Manipur

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Around 40 suspected militants and two police have died in fresh violence in Manipur in northeast India, an official said on Sunday, confirming comments from the state's chief minister to local media. Manipur has been on edge after an explosion of inter-ethnic violence this month killed at least 70 people and left tens of thousands displaced.

The state government official, who did not wish to be named, said that Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh told reporters earlier on Sunday that security forces killed

around 40 "militants" over the last two days.

"The terrorists have been using M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles and sniper guns against civilians. They came to many villages to burn down homes," local media quoted Singh as saying.

"We have started taking very strong action against them with the help of the army and other security forces. We have got reports some 40 terrorists have been shot dead," Singh was quoted as saying. A military source confirmed an uptick of unrest, and said four people had been killed in the past 24 hours.

## Nepal celebrates 70 years since first Everest summit

**Monitoring Desk**  
KHUMJUNG: The sons of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa led celebrations in Nepal on Monday to mark the 70th anniversary of the historic first ascent of Everest. The scaling of the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) peak on May 29, 1953, changed mountaineering forever and made the New Zealander and his Nepalese guide household names. "In a whole lot of ways, it was not just Ed Hillary and Tenzing Norgay that reached the summit of Mount Everest.

## UN talks on a treaty to end global plastic pollution open in Paris

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: A United Nations committee is meeting Monday in Paris to work on what is intended to be a landmark treaty to bring an end to global plastic pollution, but there is little agreement yet on what the outcome should be.

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Plastics is charged with developing the first international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. This is the second of five meetings due to take place to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024. At the first meeting, held six months ago in Uruguay, some countries pressed for global mandates, some for national solutions and others for both. Humanity produces more than 430 million tons of plastic annually, two-thirds of which are short-lived products

that soon become waste, filling the ocean and, often, working their way into the human food chain, the United Nations Environment Program said in April. Plastic waste produced globally is set to almost triple by 2060, with about half ending up in landfill and under a fifth recycled, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Because it's a short timeline for treaty negotiations, experts say it's critical decisions are made about the objectives at this meeting.

The treaty could focus on human health and the environment, as desired by the self-named "high ambition coalition" of countries, led by Norway and Rwanda, with limits on plastic production and restrictions on some of the chemicals used in plastics, for example.

## Trial begins for Iran journalist who reported Mahsa Amini's death

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran on Monday held the first trial session for one of the two detained female journalists who reported on Mahsa Amini's death in custody last year, her lawyer said.

Months of nationwide protests erupted after Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd, died on September 16 following her arrest for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code for women.

The journalists, Niloufar Hamed, 30, and Elahé Mohammadi, 36, could face the death penalty after they were detained for covering Amini's death and its aftermath.

The pair are being tried separately by the revolutionary courts behind closed doors in Tehran.

## UN agencies warn of starvation risk in Sudan, Haiti, Burkina Faso and Mali, call for urgent aid

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Two U.N. agencies warned Monday of rising food emergencies including starvation in Sudan due to the outbreak of war and in Haiti, Burkina Faso and Mali due to restricted movements of people and goods.

The four countries join Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen at the highest alert levels, with communities that are already facing or projected to face starvation or otherwise risk a slide "towards catastrophic conditions."

The report by the World Food Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization calls for urgent attention to save both lives and jobs.

Beyond the nine countries rating the highest level of concern, the agencies said 22 countries are identified as "hotspots" risking acute food insecurity.

"Business-as-usual pathways are no longer an option in today's risk landscape if we want to achieve global food security for all, ensuring that no one is left behind," said Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General.

## Airline stops selling emergency exit seats after door incident

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korea's Asiana Airlines has stopped selling some emergency exit seats following an incident in which a passenger opened an aircraft door mid-air, the carrier said on Sunday.

## Spain government calls snap election after local ballot losses

**Monitoring Desk**  
MADRID: Spanish Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called a snap national election on Monday after left-wing parties were routed in a regional ballot, portraying the defeat as a debilitating vote of no confidence in his coalition government.

Sanchez had said on numerous occasions that he wanted to see out a full term in office and that elections would take place in December, near the end of his rotating presidency of the European Union, which begins on July 1. But the scale of Sunday's defeat, in which the conservative mainstream People's Party (PP) took as many as eight regional governments from the Socialists, meant Sanchez felt compelled to "take personal responsibility for the results," the prime minister said.

"All those reasons lead me to seek a clarification about the wishes of Spain's

people, a clarification about the political direction that the government should take, and about the political forces that should lead the country through that phase," he said in a televised speech that took even some of his political allies by surprise. "...I believe it is necessary to respond and submit our democratic mandate to the will of the people."

Sunday's results indicate the PP and the far-right Vox could unseat Sanchez and his Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) if they replicated that performance at national parliamentary level. But it is highly unusual for a Spanish government to call a snap ballot after a poor performance in a regional vote. Pablo Simon, a professor in political science at the Carlos III University in Madrid, said Sanchez's strategy may be to try to limit any further losses in support with the PP focused on negotiating to form regional coalitions with Vox.

## Stephen Hawking's last collaborator on physicist's final theory

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: When Thomas Hertog was first summoned to Stephen Hawking's office in the late 1990s, there was an instant connection between the young Belgian researcher and the legendary British theoretical physicist. "Something clicked between us," Hertog said.

That connection would continue even as Hawking's debilitating disease ALS robbed him of his last ways to communicate, allowing the pair to complete a new theory that aims to turn how science looks at the universe on its head. The theory, which would be Hawking's last before his death in 2018, has been laid out in full for the first time in Hertog's book "On the Origin of Time", published in the UK last month.

In an interview, the cosmologist spoke about their 20-year collaboration, how they communicated via facial expression, and why Hawking ultimately decided his landmark book "A Brief History of Time" was written from the wrong perspective.

During their first meet-

ing at Cambridge University in 1998, Hawking wasted no time in bringing up the problem bothering him. "The universe we observe appears designed," Hawking told Hertog, communicating via a clicker connected to a speech machine.

Hertog explained that "the laws of physics — the rules on which the universe runs — turn out to be just perfect for the universe to be habitable, for life to be possible." This remarkable string of good luck stretches from the delicate balance that makes it possible for atoms to form molecules necessary for chemistry to the expansion of the universe itself, which allows for vast cosmic structures such as galaxies.

One "trendy" answer to this problem has been the multiverse, an idea that has recently become popular in the movie industry, Hertog said.

This theory explains away the seemingly designed nature of the universe by making it just one of countless others — most of which are "crap, lifeless, sterile", the 47-year-old added.



Oriana Serra lines up with other migrants to take a boat to Lajas Blancas after walking across the Darien Gap from Colombia to Panama in hopes of reaching the U.S. in Bajo Chiquito, Panama.

## Shanghai records hottest May day in 100 years

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Shanghai recorded its hottest May day in 100 years on Monday, the city's meteorological service announced, shattering the previous high by a full degree.

Scientists say global warming is exacerbating adverse weather, with many countries experiencing deadly heatwaves and temperatures hitting records across Southeast and South Asia in recent weeks.

"At 13:09, the temperature at Xujiahui station hit 36.1 degrees Celsius (97 degrees Fahrenheit), breaking a 100-year-old record for the highest temperature in May," a post on the service's official Weibo account read, referring to a metro station

in the centre of China's largest city.

The temperature at the bustling station climbed even higher to 36.7C (98F) later in the afternoon, Shanghai's meteorological service said.

That put it a full degree above the old record, 35.7C, which has been recorded four times previously, in 1876, 1903, 1915 and 2018, according to the weather service.

Shanghai residents sweltered under the early-afternoon sun, with some apps showing a "feels like" temperature estimate of more than 40C (104F).

"I headed out at noon to pick up a delivery, and got a headache after coming back," read one post from Shanghai on Weibo.

## Two Italian intelligence staffers among four dead in Italy lake storm

**Monitoring Desk**  
MILAN: Four people, including two Italians who worked for the intelligence service, died on Sunday after a tourist boat capsized when a storm hit Lake Maggiore in northern Italy, local officials said. An unnamed Israeli and the Russian wife of the boat captain also died in the accident, local media said. The 16-metre (52.5-foot) long boat was carrying 25 people when it was hit by a sudden, violent storm on Sunday evening, sinking the vessel near the town of Lisanza,



# President directs repayment of three wrongly auctioned imported vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Monday directed the FBR to apologize and make payment to a citizen whose three imported vehicles were mishandled by Customs Department and wrongly auctioned by Customs officials at a low price of almost Rs 3 million without any notice to him.

The Customs Duty paid by him was refunded to some unauthorized clearing agents, who later disappeared with the money, a President House press release said.

The president directed FBR to verify all receipts/documents, refund the amount as per the assessed value of the vehicles, and refund the duties/charges paid in favour of importers/owners.

He also directed the citizen to provide all documents and reconcile with

Customs Department enabling FBR to make payment within 30 days.

He observed that interest should be added to the payment since the auction money was lying with the exchequer.

President Alvi gave these directions while accepting a representation filed by Ifikhar Ahmed Awan (the complainant) against the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

The complainant had stated that overseas Pakistanis, living in Japan, legally imported three vehicles for the personal use of their families and the freight against the vehicles was paid.

However, FBR did not release the vehicles and sold the three cars in an auction at a low price of Rs 3,019,385.

Feeling aggrieved, the complainant approached

the Wafaqi Mohtasib, who directed FBR to make payment of sale proceeds of vehicles to owners, after verification as to why they were being paid such a low amount. The complainant then filed a representation with the president praying that Customs Department should be ordered to make payment of sale proceeds of the vehicles at prevailing market rates as well as refund all the duties/charges which were paid. During the proceedings, it was pointed out that after the completion of all formalities, the ship carrying the vehicles landed at another terminal and the Customs Department auctioned the vehicles without any notice to the importer, and that the Customs Duty was refunded to unauthorized clearing agents, which resulted in huge financial loss to the importers/owners.



MUZAFERABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat cuff their hands and shouting slogans during protest at Azadi Chowk against the alleged punishment of life in prison to Hurriyat Leader Yasin Malik by India.

# Pak-Iran ties strengthen with electricity supply to Gwadar

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Pakistan and Iran emphasize the importance of friendship and trade relations, highlighting that promoting trade will benefit the economies of both countries.

In a significant step towards this goal, Iran has pledged to supply electricity to Gwadar and its surrounding areas, which is welcomed by the President of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Muhammad Asif.

During a visit to the Iranian embassy, Mr. Asif discussed the crucial need for enhanced trade, social, and diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Iran in the current era. He emphasized that fostering better relations and support between the neighboring nations would contribute to bilateral economic stability, religious harmony, and positive messages on national and international levels.

Amid Pakistan's ongoing challenging circumstances, Iran's commitment to providing electricity and support to Balochistan demonstrates the strong bond between the two countries. Deputy Consul General of Iran, Mr. Fereidoun Perloun, affirmed Iran's commitment to never forget Pakistan and extended an invitation to Mr. Asif, the patron-in-chief of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to participate in an upcoming trade conference in Chahbahar.

Accepting the invitation, Mr. Asif, along with the delegation, including Syed Zafar Agha, Ali Raza, Subtain Khan, Niazmeen Khan Durrani, and Barat Khan Khilji, will attend the trade conference in Chahbahar, which promises to be a significant platform for fruitful discussions and collaboration.

This move signifies the determination of Pakistan and Iran to strengthen their economic ties and promote regional cooperation for the mutual benefit of both nations.

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QUETTA: Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) Administrator Quetta, Jabbar Baloch inspecting the cleanliness in connection of National Games, at Ayub Stadium in Quetta.

# DG KF says: Iran to invest in Balochistan's domestic industry, livestock sector

QUETTA (APP): Director General Khana-e-Farhang Iran Quetta Abu-al-Hasan Mari said that Iran is ready to invest in domestic industry, livestock and other sectors in Balochistan to foster economic activities and meet the energy needs of the province.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Balochistan International Think Tank headed by Chairman Owais Jadoon who called on him here at his office.

The other members of the delegation included senior journalist Shehzada Zulfiqar, former parliamentarians Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Dr. Ishaq Baloch, Abdul Qaharudun and Abdul Qayyum Baidar.

Director General Khana-e-Farhang Iran said that Iran is ready to invest in domestic industry, livestock and other sectors to solve economic problems, and meet energy needs of Balochistan as both countries enjoy centuries-old cultural and brotherly relations.

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# Online QESCO complaint cell on May 31

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: QESCO, the power supply company in Quetta, has announced the organization of an online complaint cell to address consumer grievances related to electricity.

According to the statement issued by the Chief Executive Officer of the company, Mr. Abdul Kareem Jamali, the online complaint cell will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, from 10 am to 12 pm. During this period, consumers will have the opportunity to directly voice their complaints regarding electricity over the telephone. Therefore, all consumers are advised to contact the Chief Executive Officer of QESCO directly at the telephone number 0819202565 to seek resolution for their issues.

The Chief Executive Officer, along with the Chief Engineer (Operations Director) and other relevant officers, will be present in the online complaint cell to address and assess consumer complaints. Hence, all QESCO consumers are informed to contact the provided telephone number on Monday to register their complaints and seek their resolutions.

# PTA conducts QoS survey in Punjab, Sindh, KP & AJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has conducted independent Quality of Service (QoS) surveys across eight cities in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) to measure the performance and quality of services provided by Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) to their customers.

During the survey, QoS Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of Voice, SMS and Mobile Broad-

band including Mobile Network Coverage were checked in accordance with Next Generation Mobile Service (NGMS) licenses and Cellular Mobile Network Quality of Service (QoS) Regulations, 2021, using state-of-the-art automated QoS Monitoring & Benchmarking Tool, said a news release on Monday.

The drive test teams selected survey routes in such a manner to cover main roads, service roads and the majority of sectors, and colonies in surveyed areas.

Based upon the compliance level of each KPI against the threshold defined in the respective licenses and QoS Regulations, CMOs have been ranked between 1st to 4th position in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while 1st to 5th in Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Mobile Network Coverage and Voice services. Similarly, in Mobile Broadband Speed segment, the ranking is with respect to the highest data download and upload speed, network latency and webpage loading time.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal addressing at Inauguration of Engineering Innovation Exhibition & Demonstration of VR, CV & Spatial AI Projects at ITU.

# Elections to be held on time: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that elections in the country will be held on time.

Talking to the media here on Monday, he said in a sarcastic vein that 'revolutionists' could not bear with jails for one or two days.

He said, "The way Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is shattering reminds us of an English language phrase 'the house of cards'." He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership faced jails even in tough situations, but never raised hue and cry.

Ahsan Iqbal said there were many people in the PTI who did not support the politics of its leadership and the one being promoted on the PTI's social media. He said that no patriotic person could support negative propaganda being promoted by the PTI overseas

social media against country's defence institutions.

Ahsan Iqbal said that if burning of residence of Quaid-i-Azam in Ziarat could be termed terrorism, then burning of Jinnah House in Lahore could not be ignored by terming it political protest. Attacks on country's institutions could not be termed political protest, he said adding that if red line had been crossed and terrorism had been committed, then it would be called terrorism.

He said that if any political worker would play role within the parameters of politics and democracy, then he would be considered as part of democracy. To a question, he said Pakistan had met all conditions of International Monetary Fund and he hoped that soon matters with the IMF would be finalised which would definitely end uncertainty in the market.



QUETTA: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Senators Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, Abdul Qadir and Kohda Babar condoling with Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran on sad demise of his son

# Hearing against IK rescheduled in BHC

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: A division bench of Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court, Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, and Justice Muhammad Aamir Nawaz Rana has postponed further hearings on a grave contempt case under Article 6 of the Constitution, involving former Prime Minister Imran Khan's violation of the constitution in Quetta. The Constitutional request filed by Abdul Razaq Shirik, a Supreme Court lawyer, on behalf of the Federation's representatives Additional Attorney General Hafeez Rafa and Deputy Attorney General Muhammad Naseem Qasim, requested for more time for submission of a response, and the hearing is now scheduled to resume on June 7, 2023.

Former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Amanullah Kanrani, appeared on behalf of the petitioner, while there was no representation or submission from the National Assembly Secretary or Imran Khan's side. The case revolves around allegations of a constitutional breach by Imran Khan, and the contemptuous actions committed against the constitution.

The division bench, headed by Chief Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, expressed its commitment to ensuring justice is served and maintaining the integrity of the constitution. The next hearing will further examine the details of the case and the arguments presented by both parties.

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QUETTA: MPA Hamal Kalmati meeting with Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shehak Baloch

# 'No compromise on country's dignity, honour': Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday said that the civil and military leadership were on the same page against miscreants involved in the 9 May incidents who will be brought to justice.

Talking to a private news channel he said that such incidents should be condemned, adding that the government was committed to strengthening the national economy and all stakeholders should play

their role in this regard.

While criticizing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said the Khan's government had "brought the country to the brink of default", but the current rulers "preferred" to save the nation instead of its votes. The finance minister said that we all have to work together to get the country out of the crisis due to the wrong policies of the previous government. PTI must realize that its dirty politics was not in the interests of Pakistan.



QUETTA: Director Operations NADRA briefed Deputy Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail and MPAs about NADRA

# Tarar says: PTI leadership responsible for May 9 vandalism

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Attaullah Tarar on Monday said May 9 would be remembered as a black day in the country's history when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership instigated the party workers to resort to vandalism, desecrate the martyrs' monuments and attack on the Jinnah House (Lahore).

Talking to the media here after the Youth Talent Hunt Programme, he said the corruption of PTI leadership had been exposed and they were afraid of the prison due to which they instigated the party workers for sabotage activities.

He said the overwhelming participation of patriotic youth and Pakistanis on the Martyrs' Day rallies on May 28 proved that the nation had rejected

the PTI leadership as they were responsible for the turmoil on May 9.

He said on May 28 the people of Pakistan gave a strong message that they would not support anyone who was responsible for an attack on the Jinnah house and desecration of the martyrs' monuments.

He said the PTI leadership always misled the youth and tried to instigate them against the state institutions and armed forces of Pakistan, while the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz governments distributed laptops among them (youth) and encouraged them to participate in the nation building process.

Atta Tarar said the incumbent government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would continue its efforts.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Quetta Prof. Dr. Sajida Noureen meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

# ECB expresses concerns over non-payment of dues to newspapers and journals

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The leaders of the Editors Council of Balochistan have expressed their concerns over the non-payment of dues to newspapers and journals. The Chief Minister of Balochistan and the Chief Secretary have been appealed to promptly to ensure the immediate release of funds for the settlement.

The Balochistan Editors Council has described in their statement that Chief Minister Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo, taking into account the financial difficulties of newspapers and journals, issued directives to the Treasury Department for the release of funds for the outstanding dues. This decision was received with great joy among the stakeholders and workers of the newspaper industry. However, unfortunately, due to the bureaucratic inefficiency and adherence to outdated practices, the newspaper industry is once again being pushed into financial difficulties.

In order to document their protest in a proper manner, the Balochistan Editors Council has requested newspaper owners to approach the Finance Office of the Secretariat for a protest in case the non-payment persists.

Despite the Chief Minister's directives being in effect for a month, the Finance Secretary is still sluggish in executing the release of funds. Responsible individuals within the department have revealed that the said Secretary is currently on an official trip abroad, and his absence has hindered the verification of facts. As a result, no confirmation can be obtained from the Secretariat regarding whether the concerned Secretary is actually out of the country. The Editors Council of Balochistan strongly condemns this unprofessional behavior of the Finance Secretary, who, by disregarding the explicit directives of the Chief Minister, is exacerbating the financial problems faced by the newspaper industry.



QUETTA: Senior Provincial Minister for Planning & Development Haji Noor Muhammad Dummer and MPA Haji Asghar Khan meeting with Chief Executive Officer Engr. Abdul Karim Jamali

# Colonel Timur visits BRC Loralai, emphasizes the importance of education

**Independent Report**  
LORALAI: FC Colonel Timur Javed, the Commander of Frontier Corps, visited Balochistan Residential College Loralai and was warmly received by the Principal, Professor Dr. Abdul Samad Achakzai, Vice Principal Mansoor Ahmed, Professor Farooq Ahmed Baza, and other officers and academic staff. The college celebrated the graduation of students who have successfully completed their bachelor's degrees. As part of the event, a night musical program was organized at Balochistan Residential College Loralai, where singers from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated.

The special guest of the program was Commander Loralai Scouts Colonel Timur Javed. During the ceremony, degrees were distributed among the graduating students.

Addressing the gathering, FC Colonel Timur Javed said, "Education is the name of awareness, and through education, we can achieve success. FC Balochistan will play its role in education along with peace and security. The people of the region and respected individuals should also contribute to this cause." He expressed his delight over the significant number of successful students from BRC Loralai, emphasizing that FC Balochistan is providing special attention to education through scholarships.

Baloch, Account Officer FC, and a large number of influential tribal elders from the region, as well as parents and families of the students. Principal BRC Dr. Abdul Samad Achakzai briefed Colonel Timur Javed about Balochistan Residential College Loralai. In the assembly of BRC College, gifts and degrees were distributed among the graduating students.

Addressing the gathering, FC Colonel Timur Javed said, "Education is the name of awareness, and through education, we can achieve success. FC Balochistan will play its role in education along with peace and security. The people of the region and respected individuals should also contribute to this cause." He expressed his delight over the significant number of successful students from BRC Loralai, emphasizing that FC Balochistan is providing special attention to education through scholarships.