

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Quetta

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## Clarifies party's instance on speculations 'BAP will not be dissolved under any circumstances, as it remains robust and resilient': CM Bizenjo

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Balochistan Awami Party's President, CM Balochistan, Abdul Qadoos Bizenjo, on Sunday engaged in a media dialogue, addressing various issues and clarifying the party's stance.

He emphasized that the Balochistan Awami Party will not be dissolved under any circumstances, as it remains robust and resilient. He assured that the party welcomes anyone who wishes to join, and their doors are open to all.

During the discussion, Abdul Qadoos Bizenjo expressed respect for all political parties and their leaders, including former President Asif Ali Zardari, acknowledging their contributions to provincial and national politics. He highlighted the significant achievements of the Balochistan Awami Party in pursuing its objectives and bringing prosperity to the province.

The Chief Minister mentioned that his government has made historic decisions in a short span of time to address critical issues.

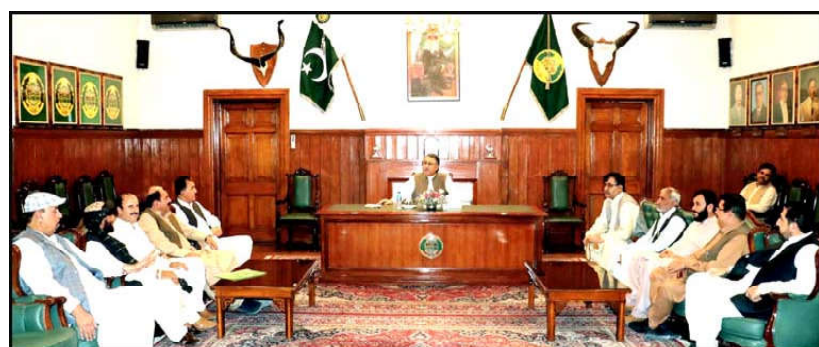
Initiatives such as the establishment of the Reko-Diq Mining Project, resolving long-standing problems of electricity and water in Gwadar, protecting the rights of fishermen, providing job security to contract employees in educational institutions, and organizing local elections in a peaceful environment were highlighted as noteworthy accomplishments.

Furthermore, Abdul Qadoos Bizenjo emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring food security by timely and targeted procurement of wheat, providing relief to flood-affected families during Ramadan by distributing a month's ration to a hundred thousand eligible households, and presenting a balanced and people-friendly budget for the year 2022-23.

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QUETTA: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qaddus Bizenjo. Senators Muhammad Abdul Qadir and Kohda Babar are also present



QUETTA: A delegation led by Najeebullah Khan Achakzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Erdogan claims victory in Turkey's presidential election

*Final official results have yet to be released; PM Shehbaz congratulates Erdogan, looks keenly forward to deepening strategic partnership between both countries.*

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: President Tayyip Erdogan claimed victory in Turkey's presidential election on Sunday, a win that would steer his

increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.

Addressing supporters, Erdogan said voters had given him the responsibility to rule for the next five

years.

"The only winner is Turkey," he said, addressing cheering supporters from atop a bus in Istanbul.

Final official results have yet to be released.

There was no immediate response to Erdogan's victory speech from his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

The election had been seen as one of the most consequential yet for Turkey, with the opposition believing it had a strong chance of

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## Imran reveals Sanauallah's 'plot to cover up horror stories'

*"Women have never been so mistreated and harassed by the state as they have been by this fascist govt," PTI chief says*

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has lambasted Interior Minister Rana Sanauallah for trying to terrorise the nation by revealing a sham plot against women to "cover up horror stories about to break in the media."

In his tweet on Sunday,

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QUETTA: Bishop of Karachi and Balochistan along with the Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawanan Pakistan take part in a rally in favor of Pak Army on behalf of the Methodist Church.

## Rally held to show solidarity with Pak-Army

QUETTA (APP): Tribal and political leader Hamza Khan Nasir on Sunday said that the Pakistan Army was our red line and the people who attacked military and national installations on May 9 and desecrated martyrs' memorials did not deserve any concession.

Action should be taken against such persons according to the law, the Pakistan Army and other security agencies have sacrificed their lives for the establishment of law and order in the country and the end of terrorism, he added. He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the rally held in favour of the Pakistan Army here.

Earlier, the rally was

taken out from Airport Road under the leadership of Hamza Khan Nasir and other tribal elders which reached the Press Club after marching different roads.

The participants of the rally, carried banners and placards which described that legal action would be taken against those involved in the May 9 incidents.

Addressing the participants of the rally, Hamza Khan Nasir said that on May 9, under the guise of protest, the way miscreants attacked military and national facilities, the Commander's House, Radio Pakistan and other facilities and desecrated the martyrs' memorial, it was not acceptable in any way.

## Mariyum says: Youm-e-Takbeer declaration of Pakistan's invincible defence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Aurangzeb said on Sunday that Youm-e-Takbeer was the declaration that Pakistan's defence was invincible.

Thanking Almighty Allah, the minister congratulated all Pakistanis at home and abroad and thanked all friends and benefactors, she said in a tweet.

"This day is the day of no compromise on the patriotism, bravery, insight and national interest by (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif," she maintained.

The minister saluted the entire team including the scientists who sacrificed for the country and made the defence invincible for future generations 25 years ago.

She asked the masses to celebrate the day national victory and national unity with pride this evening at Liberty Chowk Lahore by ensuring their participation along with Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

## 4 children drown in Khairpur fish pond

KHAIRPUR (APP): Four little girls drowned in a fish pond at Tandi Masti's Mian Waris Ujjan village near Khairpur on Sunday, a private TV channel reported.

The dead were identified as five-year-old Dania, 10-year-old Suhana, five-year-old Ravina, and six-year-old Muskan.

Families of the deceased said the girls were playing near the pond when they slipped and fell into it.

Locals fished the bodies out of the pond.

## Intelligence agencies unearth PTI's plan to malign govt, LAEs: Rana Sanauallah

FAISALABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Sanauallah on Saturday said the intelligence agencies had intercepted a telephonic conversation about a staged police attack on one of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s leaders, killing its occupants, and then blaming law enforcement agencies for the act.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference here late night, the minister said the second plan revealed in the intercepted audio involved staging incidents of firing and disgracing women with the intention of portraying it as the work of intelligence and law enforcement agencies and also highlighting it as a human right issue at international level.

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LAHORE: PML-N Senior Vice President and Chief organizer Maryam Nawaz addressing a public gathering on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer at Liberty Roundabout.

## Nawaz's decision of atomic explosion made country's defence stronger: Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz on Sunday said that the unwavering commitment and dedication of Nawaz Sharif towards the nation made the country's defence more stronger by making atomic explosions on May 28, 1998.

Addressing a public gathering organised by the PML-N to celebrate 25th Youm-e-Takbeer, Maryam Nawaz paid glowing tributes to the political leadership, scientists and armed forces for playing role for making the country's defence undeterred.

She said that the then leadership led by Nawaz Sharif took daring step to give a befitting response to India's atomic explosions. She added that then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif refused to take any pressure by international forces including billions of US dol-

lars offer to stop the atomic explosions.

Maryam Nawaz said that whenever Nawaz Sharif was given a chance to serve the nation, he took the country towards progress and prosperity as he launched various mega projects including Motorways, Metro bus, Orange Line Metro Train. Load-shedding was eliminated through generation of more than upto 12,000 megawatt electricity while peace was restored in Karachi.

She said that only PML-N workers and leaders remain steadfast and loyal with the party despite the worst victimization during the PTI rule. PTI leadership invoked its followers towards chaos and put the entire country on fire on May 9 whereas the PML-N leadership made the country prosper with strong defence, she mentioned.

## Youm-e-Takbeer, a day of nation's remarkable journey towards credible minimum deterrence: PM

*Armed forces pay rich tribute to brilliant scientists, engineers on Youm-e-Takbeer: ISPR*

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that Youm-e-Takbeer was not just a day but a story of the nation's challenging and remarkable journey towards establishing credible minimum deterrence.

The prime minister on his Twitter handle said that on that day, Pakistan set a redline for its defence and laid down rules of the game for peace and stability in the region. "On the Silver Jubilee of Youm-e-Takbeer, I pay rich tributes to the political & military leadership, scientists, engineers and all those who remained associated with our nuclear programme," he said in a tweet as the nation celebrates the 25th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer on Sunday.

The prime minister further said that their hard work, commitment and determination made it possible for the people to guard their independence from any physical threat.

"The day represents how the consensus between all elements of national power achieved what once looked like an uphill task," he posted in a tweet.

The prime minister said Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was a visionary leader who initiated the nuclear programme, adding in a show of bold leadership, his leader Mian Nawaz Sharif firmly rejected the policy of stick and carrot and made sure that the country became nuclear.

"All along, our armed forces remained a guardian & protector of the programme in the face of

malign intentions of our enemies," he said.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The armed forces on Sunday paid rich tribute to the brilliant minds who conceived and achieved credible minimum nuclear deterrence accomplishment under daunting challenges.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), "the armed forces salute the scientists and engineers who turned the impossible into a reality. Long Live Pakistan."

It said the complete Pakistani nation celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Youm-e-Takbeer and commemorated the remarkable achievement of establishing Credible Minimum Deterrence. "This achievement has reshaped the power dynamics in our region," it added.

## Bilawal greets nation on silver jubilee of country's nuclear tests

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended greetings to the nation on the silver jubilee of the country's nuclear tests and saluted all the people, including scientists, who played their role in making Pakistan the first nuclear nation in the Islamic world.

According to the statement issued by media cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP said that the nuclear programme of the country is indeed a great gift of the Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to the nation.

He said that the first elected Prime Minister of the country, Shaheed Bhutto, had said that if we have to eat grass, we will do so, but we will make Pakistan a nuclear power at any cost. "Making Pakistan a nuclear power was the mission of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto," he added.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto shielded and advanced the country's nuclear programme as Prime Minister.

## Two earthquakes rattle parts of country, three children injured

ISLAMABAD: Three children were injured in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Battagram district after two earthquakes jolted parts of the country on Sunday, officials said.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the first earthquake of magnitude 6.0 — with its epicentre being the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border region — struck at 10:50am, at a depth of 223km.

The second earthquake of magnitude 4.7 was reported at 5:57pm. Its epicentre was near Jalalabad in Afghanistan and struck at a depth of 15km, PDM said.

Tremors were felt in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

While no casualties were reported, three children were injured in the Hado area of Batkol in Battagram.



SIALKOT: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif addressing the 9th Convocation of Shadab Girls College.

## Khawaja Asif says Nawaz Sharif made country's defence invincible by achieving nuclear deterrence

SIALKOT (APP): Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Sunday said 25 years ago on May 28th, Pakistan became a nuclear power and our leader, former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, made the country's defence invincible by detonating nuclear weapons.

"Our defence has become very strong due to achieving nuclear deterrence", he expressed while addressing the ninth convocation of a private college in Sialkot as the chief guest.

Khawaja Asif said that it was a matter of pride that the daughters of our nation were going ahead to start their working life after completing their educational degrees. "I heartily congratulate all these daughters and their parents for their success. I do and pray that

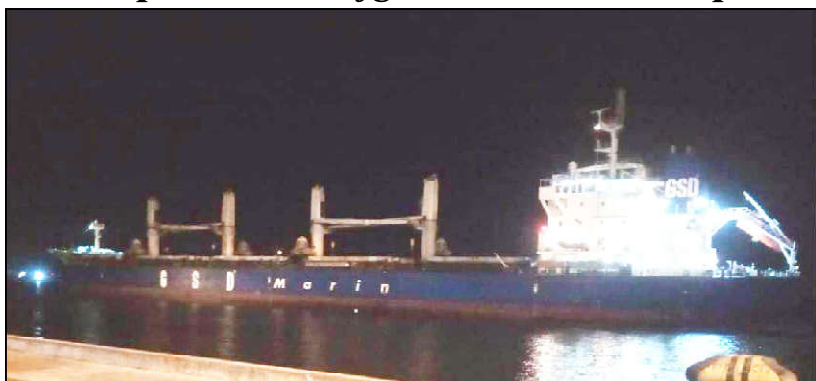
May Allah bless them with many successes in the future," the Minister said.

He said that it should not be the goal to get only BA, MA degree, adding, "but I advise all students to get a purposeful education because only getting a purposeful education can help us to move forward. We can deal with the challenges we are facing."

The minister said that in the present era, getting purposeful education including IT was very important because development was not possible without it.

He added that political parties or political leaders were not our red line, but the soil of this country and our martyrs should be our red line, who have defended this dear country and our safety and did not hesitate to sacrifice their lives for it.

## Gwadar port receives Afghan-transit wheat shipment



GWADAR: The MV Keno, a maritime vessel from Australia, has anchored at the Gwadar Port, carrying forty thousand metric tons of wheat. This wheat shipment is destined for transit through Afghanistan. Gwadar Port will serve as the gateway for transporting wheat to Afghanistan via road.

Independent Report



## Talha urges implementation of Islamic economic models for harmonious development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood emphasized the need to explore alternative economic models that align with Islamic principles.

Addressing a seminar on Interest-Free Economy, organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he further highlighted the importance of adopting Islamic economic principles.

Senator Talha shed light on the Islamic perspective on trade and usury, drawing from the Holy Quran saying that Allah Almighty had declared trade as halal (permissible), while usury (riba) was unequivocally declared as haram (prohibited).

He further reminded the audience of the vision of Quaid-e-Azam, who expressed his determination to replace the usury system of the West with an Islamic economic system during the opening ceremony of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on July 1, 1948.

“Usury is a declaration of war against Allah and His Messenger,” stated Senator Talha.

He urged the attendees to reflect on the consequences of engaging in usury, questioning whether economic prosperity could truly be attained while defying the commandments of Allah Almighty.

The Senator also highlighted the legal stance on usury, referencing rulings from the Federal Shariat Court and the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Both courts had previously declared usury as contrary to the clear commandments of Allah Almighty, he added.

He said the highest court of Pakistan had explicitly ordered the cleansing of the national financial system from usury, deem-

ing it illegal and prohibited even according to the Constitution of Pakistan.

The seminar served as a platform for participants to engage in thoughtful discussions on interest-free economic systems and explore avenues to promote and implement these principles in the national financial framework.

It concluded with a renewed commitment from the ICCI to advocate for an interest-free economy in Pakistan, in alignment with Islamic principles.

The seminar provided valuable insights and highlighted the importance of embracing an economic system that adheres to Islamic teachings, ensuring ethical practices and sustainable growth for the nation.

It commenced with the President of ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari expressing his gratitude to Senator Talha for gracing the occasion with his presence.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the destroyed house after blast because of Gas leakage at Peoples Colony in City.

## Unprecedented network harnesses expertise for lasting policy reforms

ISLAMABAD (Online): In a groundbreaking move towards inclusive governance, the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives has established the Champions of Reforms (CoR) network. This innovative initiative brings together hundreds of professionals from diverse backgrounds to contribute their expertise towards concrete, long-lasting governance reforms in the country.

Through collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the CoR network aims to make the policy-making process citizen-centric, transparent, and demand-driven, fostering a culture of inclusivity and accountability.

## 9 catering companies providing three meals daily to Hujjaj: Sial

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of nine catering companies have been hired to provide three meals a day to the visiting pilgrims of the government Hajj Scheme, Chief Food Hajj Operations Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Faiz Umer Sial told in an interview with APP here Sunday.

He mentioned that the catering companies were diligently offering high-quality meals, including breakfast, lunch and dinner, to pilgrims accommodated in different hotels.

Faiz Umer Sial said that the catering companies were providing quality food thrice a day including breakfast, lunch and dinner to pilgrims in different hotels. As part of the Ministry's commitment to providing the safest and healthiest food to pilgrims, a stringent approval process has been implemented, ensuring

strict monitoring of food quality, he told. He said, the food samples undergo meticulous analysis by experts who carefully evaluate the quality of ingredients, such as frying oils, hygiene materials and the safety of cooking equipment. This rigorous evaluation is an integral part of the initial phase of meal provision, ensuring a thorough preparation process, he added.

Designated officials have been deployed in the kitchen to closely monitor the entire process, from storing the meals to transporting the food in refrigerated units for distribution to pilgrims at their residences is under close scrutiny, he said adding, catering companies face fines ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 Saudi Riyals if they fail to comply with the agreed-upon item requirements.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters jumping and bathing in water channel of Rawal Dam in Federal Capital to get some relief from hot weather in Federal Capital.

## Youm-e-Takbeer observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The nation is fervently celebrating the 25th anniversary of Pakistan's nuclear tests conducted on May 28, 1998, which was a historic day that led to the achievement of invincible defence capabilities and ensured regional stability through power equilibrium.

According to a private news channel, the day brought a revival for the entire nation and became a moment of pride for the Muslim Ummah.

The day, now remembered as Youm-e-Takbeer, is celebrated every year countrywide as a day of national pride and thanksgivings which made Pakistan the seventh nuclear nation in the world and the first Muslim state, have the nuclear arsenal in its defence stockpile to exercise maximum deterrence for peaceful purposes.

## Former MPA Malik quits PTI

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former member provincial assembly (MPA) Malik Khuram Ali Khan on Sunday parted ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and said that he would continue to serve the people of his constituency.

Addressing a press conference here, he formally announced to resign from PTI and demanded stern action against the culprits of May 9 tragedy.

Despite not awarding ticket during 2013, he stood with the party. He regretted that the PTI, they joined was not the same. After consulting all his friends, he decided to leave the PTI, he added.

He said that the May 9 incident was very painful for every Pakistani. Pakistan and all its state institutions were first for us. Our martyrs were our heroes who laid their lives for this country, he added.

He said that it was important to respect and take care of Pakistan's defence institutions.



ISLAMABAD: Citizens are offering Fatiha for the departed soul of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan on his grave at H-8 Graveyard in Federal Capital, on the day of Youm-i-Takbeer (May 28) which is celebrated as a symbol of National pride and gratitude.

## Saudi envoy celebrates 15 yrs of Embassy's successful operation in new building

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, in a momentous occasion, proudly announced it had been 15 years since the Royal Embassy relocated to its new premises, ensuring the seamless execution of its diplomatic functions.

Sharing his sentiments in a video message posted on his Twitter account, he highlighted the numerous significant achievements accomplished during this invaluable period from May 27, 2008, which further so-

lided the longstanding and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia across various domains.

“The opening of this new chapter in diplomacy has opened the hearts of the people of our two nations, forging an even stronger bond,” stated Ambassador Al-Malki, emphasizing the positive impact of the embassy's presence.

The video footage accompanying his message offered glimpses of memorable occasions and a captivating aerial view of the

Saudi embassy, symbolizing the rich history and shared experiences between the two countries. Furthermore, the Saudi Embassy Press Attaché, Dr Naif Al-Otaibi, marked the 15th anniversary of the Royal Embassy's inauguration by sharing a stunning photograph of the entire building.

This image not only showcased the architectural grandeur of the embassy but also represented the enduring partnership between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

## ICT admin seals two shops, arrests 4 during crackdown on profiteers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration sealed two shops, arrested four and imposed fines totalling 15,000 rupees on shopkeepers involved in profiteering.

According to the ICT spokesperson, the operation was carried out on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon with the assistant commissioners (ACs) conducting raids in their respective areas to combat price increases, encroachment, hygiene issues,

and professional beggars.

During the operation, the ACs carried out inspections at 116 places and imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 for price gouging, and sealed two shops. Four shopkeepers were also arrested and subsequently taken to the local police station. Furthermore, 22 professional beggars were apprehended and handed over to the police for further legal action. In addition to addressing price increases, the ICT administration also took action against illegal clinics and sheesha cafes.

## NHMP says: M-Tag to be partially suspended on M-1, E-35 for three days

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Highways and Motorway Police announced on Sunday that M-Tag facility on Peshawar Islamabad Motorway (M-1) and Hazara Motorway (E-35) will be partially suspended from May 29 to 31.

The facility will remain suspended due to the up-gradation of electronic tolling system, said the spokesman of Motorway Police.



ISLAMABAD: Machinery being used for extension work of Park Road during development work in Federal Capital.

## Chairman NCT emphasizes govt's role in promoting Tibb's herbal healing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the National Council for Tibb (NCT), Muhammad Ahmad Saleemi, has called upon the government to provide support for Tibb, an herbal form of treatment that has shown proven results in treating various chronic diseases.

Talking to APP here on Sunday, Saleemi highlighted the historical background of Tibb colleges, explaining that the government extended its coverage to alternative medicines through the Unani, Ayurvedic, and Homeopathic Practitioners Act of 1965, leading to

the formation of the NCT. He said that the primary responsibility of the NCT is to regulate Tibb institutions across the country. “Currently, there are 39 institutions offering four- and five-year Tibb programs, with 25 located in Punjab, four in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, four in Sindh, and one in Balochistan” he added.

Saleemi emphasized that a four-year premedical program in Tibb is equivalent to an associate degree, while a five-year post-premedical program is equivalent to a master's degree.

In addition to these institutions, he said approximately 10 universities provide Tibb degrees, offering students the opportunity to pursue doctoral-level studies in the field. He said that these degrees are modeled after the MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) program, which also include a compulsory house job. The chairman mentioned that the NCT consists of 22 members, with 14 members elected through an electoral process and eight members nominated by the government.

## IWMB educating village population to avoid killing leopard

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) Chairperson Rina Saeed Khan on Sunday said the Board was educating the village population of 32 villages existing inside the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) during jumma prayer's sermon to avoid leopard killing and habitat intrusion.

The IWMB after witnessing a thriving population of endangered Common Asian Leopards and other wildlife species expedited its conservation, education and preservation efforts to protect the world's unique and living ecosystem nourishing along a human settlement, the Chairperson told APP in an exclusive interaction to share her insights on the story behind the success of Leopard preservation in MHNP.

Rina Saeed Khan said the Board used to hold training for the village population to avoid killing leopards by educating them on prevention and safety measures to abstain leopard encounters.

“Leopards are not interested in going into villages. There have been cases that goats have been attacked by leopard but that needs to be probed and we will work out some compensation mechanism as well. However the prevailing economic conditions are not viable,” she said.

She underlined that urbanisation in the federal capital and population boom had extended human frontiers to wild areas.

In 1980 Margalla Hills National Park was designated as a protected area and it was a small trip in the sprawling forest area,

not big, as it was between Capital and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.

The Chairperson added that in 2021, the Board got full fledge recruitment and last year it got proper management team including a Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Director and an Accounts Officer.

“We don't stop anyone from going to hiking trails, but we have to do coexistence with nature. You can see pheasants, jackals, barking deer and leopards.”

Leopards, she said was an indicator of a good ecosystem whereas the visitors and trekkers should avoid venturing into the national park in the early morning and evening hours.

The National Park, she said was divided into

## Students commemorate Martyrs, Ghazis Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The students of a private school and college in Islamabad on Saturday held a symposium to observe the Martyrs and Ghazis Day as ‘Meri Pehchan, Pakistan’. The event was aimed to commemorate and honour Pakistan's Martyrs and Ghazis.

The symposium was of great significance of honoring the martyrs' legacy and the values they stood for. The panel and forum remembered the national sacrifices of the Martyrs and Ghazi's by paying them tributes.

Roots Millennium Education Group held a graceful and solemn ceremony to pay tribute to the heroes of the nation, our Martyrs and our Ghazis. The Panel of esteemed guests included former Air Chief Marshal Sohaih Aman as the chief guest besides Maj Gen Dr. Muhammad Samrez Salik, Ambassador Maj Gen Dr. Raza Muhammad, Additional Secretary National Assembly Syed Shamoon Hashmi and Founder & CEO The Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mushtaq as the guest speakers.

The chief guest and esteemed guests of honour spoke of their experiences in defending our precious motherland and the sacri-

fices made by their fellow countrymen and women and the worthy citizens of Pakistan in the war against terror.

The chief guest, Air Vice Marshal Sohaih Aman HI (M), NI (M) spoke of his love for his beloved homeland that encouraged him to rise to heights during his service and how the youth, the true future of Pakistan need to be invested wholeheartedly in whatever endeavors they set their eyes upon to make Pakistan's future brighter so as to honor the sacrifices made by our nation's unlimited martyrs.

Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. Muhammad Samrez Salik talked of his encounters and experiences that deepened this commitment to honour the sacrifices made by the martyrs of Pakistan, by making sure that all efforts are towards a safer and secure Pakistan for the coming generations.



ISLAMABAD: Tourists are taking photograph at historical picnic point ‘Shah Allah Ditta area’ which have a strong relation with ancient history.

## CDA all set to auction commercial plots in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is all set to auction commercial plots in Blue Area and other developed sectors of the federal capital, beginning on May 29, aiming to generate more revenue for the city and attract investors to participate in the auction.

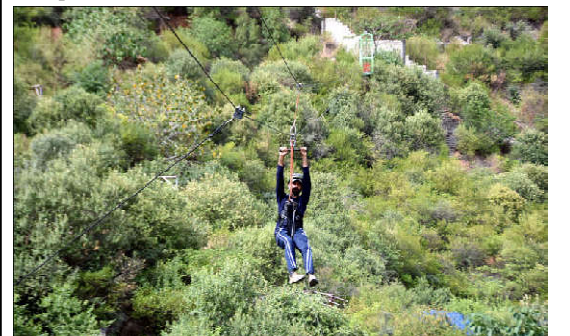
Talking to APP on Sunday, an official in the Authority urged interested investors to participate in the auction, which will take place at the Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad. The development is expected to have a significant impact on the commercial estate market in the capital city. He said that the auction in various sectors of the Islamabad capital territory would continue till May 31, adding that the Authority has already publicized the auction schedule of various plots in different newspapers.

The official said that the real estate experts had announced it as a must-avail investment opportunity for investors nationwide and overseas. The participants investing in the public sale can possess commercial

plots with ‘legal protection.’

The details about the commercial plots located in the developed sectors of the federal capital included various centres, agro farms, petrol pumps, E-11 northern strip, Class-III shopping centre, Park Enclave commercial and Blue Area E-11/F-11, Canopy side, he added. The official said that the participant who would submit full payment within 30 days of the bid acceptance letter would be offered 10 percent rebate on the remaining amount.

He said the list of protocols announced by the Authority in the auction voucher for prospective investors included a facilitation team's presence mandatory for the assistance of investors. The 25 percent amount of the bid amount would be considered the first instalment, which should be submitted within thirty days of bid acceptance, CDA to collect the advance tax on a pro-rata basis, site and marketing offices charges would not be included, the building plan will be approved after the submission of 1st instalment.



ISLAMABAD: A tourist is enjoying the Zip Line at historical picnic point ‘Shah Allah Ditta area’ which have a strong relation with ancient history.

## Authority (CDA) did plantation to green that area but population and housing pressure is threatening it's nature. Margalla Avenue will now give way to the development of more residential sectors.”

The CDA, Revenue Department, IWMB and Survey of Pakistan were working on the demarcation of the boundary of the MHNP that would help control encroachments into the protected area, she added. Commenting on the hotels polluting the MHNP, Rina Saeed said the Islamabad High Court (IHC) order has declared Monal and others as illegal hotels in MHNP. “They (hotels) are dumping their sewage in the national park. We need to understand to that it's not Murree and we do not need to have big hotels.

In 1970, these hills were barren and it was called military grasslands and there were no big trees at that time, she said, adding, “Capital Development



# Naqvi assures LHC Bar delegation to resolve their problems on priority basis

### Mohsin also visits children hospital owing to the death of a female infant due to overheating of an incubator in Children Hospital

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: A delegation headed by the President Lahore High Court Bar Association Rana Intizar Hussain met with the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM Office in which the delegation apprised him about the problems being faced by the lawyers community.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi assured to resolve the problems of lawyers community on

preferential basis. Mohsin Naqvi stated that treatment facilities in the hospital will be improved being established for the lawyers community. Mohsin Naqvi remarked that he will himself visit the hospital soon. Mohsin Naqvi stated that we will review to build a parking plaza outside Awan-e-Adal to resolve traffic and parking problems.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi directed

Deputy Commissioner to allocate a land for the parking plaza and assured that we will do whatever we can for the lawyers community.

The delegation comprised Senior Vice President Asif Amin Goraya, Vice President Nadeem Anjum Khan, Vice President Model Town Courts Hadi Hussain Bhatti, Vice President Cantt Courts Farrukh Ahmad Khan, Secretary General Malik Kafeel Khokhar,

Secretary Omar Waqas Warriach and others.

Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, Additional Chief Secretary, Secretary Law, CCPO Lahore and Deputy Commissioner were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Children Hospital owing to the death of a female infant due to overheating of an incubator in the nursery of Children Hospital.



**MUZAFFERABAD:** Students holding Pakistan and Kashmiri Flags are shouting slogans during rally to mark the "Youm-e-Takbeer" in the Capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



**PESHAWAR:** Former Governor KP Zafar Iqbal Jhagora, Former Chief Minister Pir Sabir Shah and Provincial President PkMAP Muhammad Ali meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

## Govt to provide relief to people in upcoming budget: KP Governor

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that the country is facing a serious financial crisis at the moment, adding the policies of the previous government have brought the financial affairs of the province to the verge of collapse.

Talking to former chief ministers, Chairman Qaumi Watan Party (QWP), Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, Pir Sabir Shah, provincial chairman QWP Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, provincial president Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP), Mohammad Ali, former Governor, Iqbal Zafar Jhagora and others at the Governor's House, he said that the current caretaker government and the federal government despite economic crisis are sincere to provide relief to the

people of the province at newly merged districts in the upcoming annual budget.

Meanwhile, a 60-member delegation of the business community comprising presidents and other officials of Waziristan, Bajaur, Dir, Swat chambers of commerce also met with the Governor and discussed various economic, social issues including, tax levies in the newly merged districts and former provincially administered tribal area (Pata) and other problems faced by the industry. On this occasion, the joint delegation of the chambers presented their suggestions for the improvement of the country's economy, industry and business sector and requested for extension in the tax-concession period for the region.

## Nine killed, 1,142 injured in 1,094 accidents in Punjab

**LAHORE (APP):** At least nine people were killed while 1,142 injured in 1,094 accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

A spokesman for Rescue 1122 on Sunday said 561 drivers, 42 underage drivers, 133 pedestrians and 457 passengers were among the victims of these traffic crashes.

The statistics showed that 244 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 239 persons placing the provincial capital top of the list followed by 70 in Faisalabad with 72 victims and third Gujranwalah with 68 accidents and 69 victims.

## PPP leader pays rich tributes to atomic scientists

**BAHAWALPUR (APP):** Information Secretary of Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Bahawalpur Division Malik Shah Muhammad Channar has paid rich tributes to atomic scientists for making Pakistan atomic power.

In a press release issued here on Sunday, referring to Yaum-e-Takbeer, he said that our atomic scientists were our pride as saying they made our country an atomic power. He recalled that it was Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who laid the foundation stone of the atomic program of Pakistan.

## CTP wipes out encroachment during operation

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** On the special directives of DIG Traffic Punjab Mirza Faran Baig, City Traffic Police (CTP) jointly with Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi conducted a grand operation against encroachment aiming to maintain traffic flow.

CTP and MCR carried out operation against the encroachment in Bara Market, Imperial Market, Liaquat Road, Raja Bazar and other places.

## Nuclear tests make country's defence invincible: Tasneem

**SARGODHA (APP):** State Minister for Productions and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi on Sunday said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) under the leadership of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto started the nuclear programme of the country without taking international pressure. Talking to APP in connection with Youm-e-

Takbeer, he said Shaheed Bhutto took the brave step to make Pakistan an atomic power. He added that Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed continued the mission of her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and brought missile technology to the country. The state minister said on May 28, 1998, the government of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).



**KARACHI:** Minister information Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing a press conference.

## IGP says: Police protection centers playing key role in society

**LAHORE (APP):** Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Sunday said that police protection centers were role models for other provinces as these were guarantors of protection of the rights of all the deprived sections, including transgenders, who become victims of social injustice.

Addressing a one-day interactive session and workshop here, he said that police protection centers was a project of Punjab police to help women suffering from domestic violence, violation of women's rights, women suffering from insecurity, homeless children, special persons with mental disabilities, who have been suffering from social problems.

During the session, the IGP reviewed the roles, responsibilities, challenges and achievements of victim support officers, in-charges of protection centers. The IGP also announced a cash award of more than six million

rupees for police protection centers with good performance in various districts.

The centers provided social security to weak people and citizens, he said and added that the police protection centers were providing full legal support to the transgender community, women and children who fell victims of violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation. Now protection was being provided at the level of regions and districts to solve the problems of maximum people by creating a more active and effective complaint mechanism for transgenders from platforms of the centers, he maintained.

The IGP said that to improve the performance of the victim support officers working in the protection centers, skills development, professional training and more resources would be provided.

## CM KP felicitates nation on eve of Youm-e-Takbeer

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer (Day of Greatness), conveyed his felicitations to the entire nation, highlighting the significance of the day.

In a message issued here on Sunday, the chief minister said that May 28 was not only a day of pride and honor for Pakistan but for the entire Muslim Ummah. It marks the day when Pakistan emerged as the seventh nuclear power in the world and the first in the Islamic world, he added. This day elevated Pakistan and its people to new heights of pride, said

Azam Khan. The chief minister emphasized the importance of Pakistan's nuclear capability in the country's current global standing.

The esteemed position and stature Pakistan holds today in the world is largely due to its nuclear capability, he said. May 28 will forever be remembered as one of the most important days in Pakistan's history, the chief minister affirmed.

While Pakistan faces numerous social and economic challenges today, we take immense pride in being an atomic power, Azam Khan added.

The chief minister expressed his appreciation

for all individuals and institutions involved in Pakistan's nuclear program, recognizing their significant role in achieving this milestone. Now, it is our responsibility to not only maintain this international prestige and honor but also lead the country towards further success, he added.

Youm-e-Takbeer commemorates the day when Pakistan conducted its first nuclear tests in 1998, demonstrating its nuclear capability to the world. It is celebrated annually to reaffirm the nation's pride in its atomic achievements and to reiterate Pakistan's commitment to maintaining a strong defense posture.

## PHC seals 511 quacks during last 4 weeks

**LAHORE (APP):** The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has carried out a crackdown in 26 districts and closed down 511 outlets of quacks in its continuing crackdown on illegal treatment centres during the previous 4 weeks. Giving details about crackdown, the PHC spokesperson told media here on Sunday that the enforcement teams had conducted raids on 2,174 treatment centres and found 84 qualified physicians treating patients in the previously marked quacks' centres.

## CJ PHC urges swift disposal of family cases

**PESHAWAR (INP):** Chief Justice (CJ) Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Musarat Hilali urged swift disposal of family cases and to provide the best facilities to prisoners.

She said this in a meeting attended by all District and Sessions Judges of the province, said a press release issued here on Sunday. CJ emphasized the significance of family cases and called upon Family Judges to play an active role in fostering social cohesion. She urged them to exert diligent efforts in

resolving family disputes amicably through persuasive conciliatory sessions, thus strengthening the social fabric. Moreover, she stressed the urgent need to conclude family cases within the statutory timeline, ensuring swift justice for the litigants involved.

Having personally visited several prisons in the province since taking office, CJ Hilali expressed deep concern over the deplorable conditions faced by inmates due to overcrowding and inadequate facilities.



**GILGIT:** Chief Minister Gilgit-Batistan Khalid Khurshid Khan meeting with the injured persons of Shounter Astore incident at DHQ Astore.

## GHA strike against ATH board of governor's poor policies continues

**ABBOTTABAD (APP):** The protest of the Grand Health Alliance (GHA) at Ayub Medical Complex (AMC) Sunday continued on the fourth day.

GHA announced to continue the strike until the acceptance of demands and stated that the Board of Governors should be dismissed as the Chairman Dr. Asim Yusuf.

They further said that Major @ Sadiq, a board member, was found guilty of financial embezzlement in the inquiry by the Divisional Monitoring Team, and the Chief Secretary had confirmed the recovery, but the Tehreek-e-Insaf has made him

a board member. The protesters

alleged that during the current tenure of the Board of Governors, more than Rs one billion were embezzled in audits, revealing severe financial irregularities, but no action was taken against them.

GHA demanded to remove the present Board of Governors as during the purchase of MRI, angiography, equipment.



**HYDERABAD:** Members of Pakistan Zindabad Peoples Welfare Organization are holding rally in support of Pakistan Armed Forces, at Hyderabad press club.

## S. Punjab in need of more health facilities, improved infrastructure

**MULTAN (APP):** Health and education are considered to be the two major factors for putting a country on the path of progress and prosperity worldwide because no country can make headways without focusing on them.

The quality of life index of a country for its citizens can be gauged from the quality of education and health being provided and how much the subsequent government is spending on these two sectors.

Punjab being the biggest province in term of population, needs more health facilities to cater its growing population. Its southern part is home to

32 percent (34.7 million) people residing in three divisions including Multan, Bahawalpur and DG Khan, where a large number of people dwell in rural areas.

Besides Tertiary Care Teaching Hospitals in major cities, it has District Headquarter, Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals, Basic Health Units (BHUs), Rural Health Centres (RHCs) and dispensaries to cater its rural population.

Multan being the centre of South Punjab, has Nishtar Hospital, the biggest health facility with 1700 beds, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi Institute of Cardiology (CPEIC), Children Complex, Multan

Institute of Kidney Diseases (MIKD), Shehbaz Sharif Hospital, Pak Italian Modern Burn Unit, Fatima Jinnah Hospital and some town hospitals in the public sector for catering patients from across the region.

Patients not only from South Punjab, but Balochistan and KPK pour into Nishtar Hospital as it is the only general hospital in Multan and geographically located in the middle of the country.

Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department South Punjab, Mahar Hayat Lak said that BHUs were working round the clock wherein Out Patients Department (OPD), Emergency,

Preventive Services (Immunization) Ultrasound, OTP sites and schoolchildren screening services were available.

As far as health infrastructure in rural South Punjab is concerned, the region has 578 BHUs, 112 RHCs and 380 dispensaries.

He informed that as many as 1034 ambulances were catering to the patients in rural areas in addition to ECG, Dental Unit, X-Ray Unit, MLC and TB clinics working in RHCs.

Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur has also been serving masses of the area since long and 200 bedded Sardar Fateh Muhammad Khan Buzdar Institute of

Cardiology in DG Khan will also facilitate cardiac patients in future.

Lak maintained that the Punjab government had injected billions of rupees for improving health infrastructure in the region especially after establishment of South Punjab Secretariat and added that modern machinery and provision of medicines were the top priority.

"A healthy body carries a healthy mind and of course, health is the real wealth," the secretary commented.

"Facilitation of people at their doorsteps, monitoring and evaluation of service delivery mechanism.



**HYDERABAD:** View of complete shutdown strike on the call of the Jeay Sindh Mahaz (JSM) against unfair census, in Hyderabad.

## "E-commerce drives Pakistan's furniture industry growth: CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Furniture Council, Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Sunday said that the e-commerce sector in Pakistan continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, with furniture manufacturers and retailers experiencing a significant boost in sales. Speaking of a delegation of Furniture manufacturers led by Nabeel Arain he said through online marketplaces and home decor websites, manufacturers have been able to expand their reach and tap into new markets,

leading to a surge in demand for Pakistani furniture, said a press release.

Kashif said the furniture industry in Pakistan has been experiencing steady growth over the past few years with a large population, increasing urbanization, and a growing middle class, which are all positive symptoms for the furniture market.

He said additionally the rise in disposable income and changing lifestyles have contributed to the increased demand for modern and stylish furniture.

Real estate and construction activities in Pakistan have also fueled the demand for furniture adding that as more housing projects, commercial buildings, and offices are being developed, the need for furnishing and interior design services has risen.

This presents opportunities for furniture manufacturers, retailers, and interior design companies, he said.

Kashif Ashfaq said, however, there are also some challenges faced by the furniture industry in Pakistan which include a lack of skilled labor.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman SECP Mr. Akif Saeed called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division.

## Direct flights between Karachi, Kuala Lumpur soon, says Malaysian HC

PESHAWAR (APP): High Commissioner (HC) to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan has said that the direct flight between Kuala Lumpur and Karachi would be started soon to strengthen the economic and people to people contacts between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Mohammad Azhar Mazlan said this during the meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Minister for Industries,

Commerce and Technical Education, Mr Adnan Jalil here in the HC of Malaysia at Islamabad, the other day, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

He said, "After the restoration of direct air flight connectivity will make economic, trade and social integration between both countries stronger and more sustainable. Similarly, bilateral cooperation and development in the field of tourism between both friendly countries will also increase."

The ambassador said, "Direct flights are currently operating between Lahore and Malaysia and in the near future, direct flights will be extended to other countries." "Various sectors including direct flights between Malaysia and Pakistan were affected due to Covid-19, which will be restored once again." The Malaysian envoy said, "The current development of Malaysia is due to the long and medium economic plan.

## Textile sector's revival to boost export oriented activities in country

FAISALABAD (APP): Amidst ongoing economic recession and population hovering around 230 million, the country direly needs to promote revenue-earning sectors like agriculture and textile industry.

As Pakistan was in urgent need of foreign exchange to stabilize its economy, textile promotion and subsequently enhancing exports of agriculture and textile item can help a lot in employment generation as well as socio-economic uplift of the people.

Once known as the backbone of the national economy, the textile sector of Pakistan in recent decades declined due to multiple reasons including

global and domestic inflation, rise in cost coupled with the inability of industrialists to upgrade their units and produce innovative products.

There was a time when Pakistan was the second most dependent country on textile with respect to exports after Bangladesh due to high global demand and availability of raw material in abundance but these exports witnessed a prominent decline in recent years. The share of textile exports also declined to 45 percent of the total exports of the country from 65 percent.

Industrialists are most of the time making their industrial products "Cheap, not Unique".



LAHORE: Peoples busy in purchasing vegetables from Wahdat road model Bazar.



QUETTA: Asim Raza Ahmed is presiding over the meeting of the Central Executive Committee of Pakistan Flour Mills Association in Quetta.

## Anjum Nisar stresses for exploring untapped trade potential in SAARC region

LAHORE (INP): Chairman FPCCI's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Mian Anjum Nisar has said the intra-trade among SAARC countries continues to remain in the low range of just 5% of the total trade of the region while this trade in NAFTA region is over 40%, 68% in EU and 27% in ASEAN, laying emphasis on exploring the vast untapped trade potential in SAARC region.

After taking charge as new Vice President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), he said that South Asia with its diversified resources and skilled workforce has tremendous potential to be the fastest-growing exporting region to the globe.

Anjum Nisar said that other regional associations like EU, ASIAN, NAFTA are doing very well and they are getting regional

benefits but it's still unfortunate for us, that we couldn't utilise SAARC till now.

We have huge potential in the area of tourism, agriculture, fisheries, industries, human development and many more. It's time we push the government of each country to seize the untapped opportunity in this region, he added.

The SCCI new vice president said that it is imperative for all to draw lessons from the successes achieved by other regional agreements, and channel their experiences of regional identity and solidarity into our efforts to propel SAARC towards new heights. It is our responsibility to find innovative and sustainable solutions to these challenges, and to work together to create a brighter future for the people of our region, he opined.

## Chairman SECP calls on Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Akif Saeed Sunday called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Chairman SECP and Mohammad Ishaq Dar discussed the arrangements of the first international conference on the Islamic Capital Market to be held in Islamabad from tomorrow, said a press release.

The Chairman SECP also informed that the delegations had already arrived to participate in the conference. This conference would help Pakistan in implementing the Federal Shariat Court's judgment to make our financial system Riba free.

Apart from the arrangements of the conference, other matters related to the SOEs were also discussed in the meeting.

## WCCI Sargodha holds event

SARGODHA (APP): The Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries Sargodha on Sunday organized an event regarding women empowerment.

The purpose of the event was to highlight problems and issues faced by the women and the role of the woman chamber to resolve their issues. In this regard, the women chamber was imparting skills to women for running their businesses and enable them to earn themselves and their families.

This was said by Shazia Bangash, Manza Goindi, Dr Nusrat, Sadia Khan, Madam Shahnaz, Madam Tanzela and other members of the women chamber in the event. They said the women chamber was actively working for welfare of women.

Media representatives, including the chairman Electronic Media Club, Vice President Club Imran Goraiya, Muhammad Umar.



KARACHI: Youngsters gather surround the goats at Peoples Churangi as such scene will be seen common for the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha in Provincial Capital.

## Sarwar praises Malik's dedication to regional coop. & economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Governor of Punjab Muhammad Sarwar Chaudhary on Sunday has recognized Iftikhar Ali Malik's unwavering commitment to fostering regional cooperation and economic growth during his tenure as President of the SAARC Chamber.

He said that Malik's tireless efforts in promoting trade, investment, and collaboration within the SAARC region have been instrumental in laying a strong foundation for sustainable development and prosperity, said a press release.

With a steadfast commitment to fostering regional cooperation, Malik has demonstrated the importance of collaboration between countries in the SAARC

region, he added

During a reception hosted by Iftikhar Ali Malik, Chaudhary Sarwar praised Malik's meritorious services and congratulated him on his successful completion of a two-year term as President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce. Chaudhary highlighted Malik's dedication, expertise, and exceptional leadership, which have made a lasting impact on the organization and the business community as a whole. Under Malik's leadership, the SAARC Chamber of Commerce has made significant strides in promoting trade and investment within the SAARC region, creating opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs across the region.

## Excise dept obtains 77pc taxes recovery in Multan division

MULTAN (APP): The Excise, Taxation and Narcotics department has recovered over Rs 2.20 billion in line with taxes with an overall 77 percent recovery ratio across Multan division.

Deputy Director Admin/ ETO property wing, Khalid Hussain Qasoori, told APP here on Sunday that the teams were conducting raids regularly to achieve over Rs 2.87 billion set target for the current fiscal year. The taxes included property, motors, professional, luxury houses and highways.

He said that Director Excise Iftikhar Ahmad Bhalil has directed all officials concerned for taking all legal actions to obtain 100 percent taxes recovery target by June 2023 under the directions of Director General Excise Punjab Muhammad Ali.

Mr Qasoori said that over Rs 1.57 billion was recovered against the set target of over Rs 2.03 billion in Multan district with a 77 percent recovery ratio. Over Rs 315 million was recovered against set targets of over Rs 399 million in Vehari district with 79 percent recovery ratio.

Likewise, over Rs 210 million taxes were recovered against set targets of over Rs 304 million in Khanewal district with 70 percent recovery ratio.

## Govt working on priority basis to promote exports: Zubair Motiwala

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chamber and FM radio.

In a meeting with the President of the Chamber Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari on the occasion of his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry the other day, Zubair Motiwala said that the performance of Islamabad Chamber during the last one year was an example for other chambers, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

He said that the main objective of TDAP was to solve the problems of the business community and ensure access of Pakistani goods to every market in the world. The economic problems will be solved only if Pakistan's trade increases. Islamabad Chamber has taken many revolutionary steps in the last one year.

## Food dept achieves 80pc of revised wheat target in Multan division

MULTAN (APP): The food department has achieved 80 percent of the revised wheat procurement target by purchasing over 54,347 metric tons of wheat as the 686310 metric tons revised target set for the Multan division during procurement season 2023-24. Deputy Director (DD) of the food department Shahid Khokhar expressed these views while talking to APP here on Sunday.

He said that the wheat procurement drive was continued at 48 centers across the division for procurement of wheat and added that they had achieved the initial wheat target couple of days ago and all efforts were being made to procure maximum wheat. He hoped that the wheat drive would likely be continued by one week more in order to meet the food security challenge as per directions of the incumbent government.



PESHAWAR: A delegations of Trade Unions and Chambers from various areas meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

## Oil imports from Russia; a ray of hope for cheaper fuel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fluctuating global oil prices, devaluation of the currency, taxation on oil imports and very low local oil exploration put a heavy strain on the fragile economy of a country like Pakistan which heavily relies on oil import for power generation industrial production and transportation.

The soaring prices of petroleum products have a trickle-down effect on each and every segment of society from a daily wage to a farmer, and from a government servant to a businessman.

When petroleum prices are increased, the cost of transportation rises, taking the rates of daily-use items to a new height, thus affecting the

buying power of consumers which has already gone down a lot in recent years.

Similarly, the majority being run on oil, the power plants generate high-cost electricity which ultimately put a burden not only on consumers but also affects industrial production costs bringing a new wave of inflation.

Recognizing the magnitude of this challenge, the incumbent government took some measures to alleviate the impact such as providing subsidies to public transportation and food producers. However, it was clear that these measures alone were insufficient to fully mitigate the effects of the price hike.

Then, in a game-

changing move, the government struck a deal with one of the biggest oil exporters, Russia, not only to alleviate people's suffering but also to stimulate national economic growth and expansion.

The deal aims at ensuring a continuous supply of crude oil from Russia at discounted rates. "The first shipment of discounted oil from Russia is on its way and is expected to dock at the Karachi Port sometime in May," this encouraging news was shared by State Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, during a press conference here on May 18.

In April, he informed the media that Pakistan had placed its initial order for discounted Russian oil

as part of a signed deal with Moscow.

The announcement of the agreement provided a ray of hope for the masses, who had been grappling with inflation and increased oil prices since the ouster of Nawaz Sharif from the government in July 2017.

The development also started off debates with some arguing that importing crude oil from Russia would not benefit Pakistan due to the lack of refineries here, but they were unaware that the petroleum ministry and the Prime Minister (PM) office had already addressed this issue.

On April 29, after confirming Pakistan's first order of discounted Russian crude oil on April 20, Dr Musadik revealed

that PM Shehbaz Sharif had approved the construction of an oil refinery worth \$10 to \$14 billion.

Faheem Khawaja, an Economics professor, believed that the current government's efforts to obtain Russian oil would play a significant role in putting the country back on track. He emphasized the pivotal role energy, especially petroleum products, play in fostering socio-economic development in any country and regarded Pakistan's decision to turn to Russia for meeting its oil demands as a much-needed step and a victory for the present regime.

Shahzad Paracha, a business reporter and analyst,



MULTAN: A worker busy in preparing a room cooler at his workplace as demand increases in the summer season.

# Russia unleashes largest drone attack on Kyiv ahead of city's founding anniversary

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia unleashed waves of air strikes on Kyiv overnight in what officials said appeared to be the largest drone attack on the city since the start of the war, as the Ukrainian capital prepared to celebrate the anniversary of its founding on Sunday.

Ukraine's Air Force said it downed 52 out of the 54 Russia-launched drones, calling it a record attack with the Iranian-made "kamikaze" drones. It was not immediately clear how many of the drones were shot over Kyiv.

In what also appears to be the first deadly attack on Kyiv in May and the 14th assault this month, falling debris killed a 41-year-old man, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

The pre-dawn attacks came on the last Sunday of May when the capital celebrates Kyiv Day, the an-

iversary of its official founding 1,541 years ago. The day is typically marked by street fairs, live concerts and special museum exhibitions — plans for which have been made this year too, but on a smaller scale.

"The history of Ukraine is a long-standing irritant for the insecure Russians," Andriy Yermak, the head of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office, said on his Telegram channel. Air Force said on Telegram that Russia had targeted military and critical infrastructure facilities in the central regions of Ukraine, and the Kyiv region in particular. Reuters was unable to independently verify the information.

With a Ukrainian counter-offensive looming 15 months into the war, Moscow has intensified air strikes after a lull of nearly two months, targeting chiefly military sites and supplies. Waves

of attacks now come several times a week.

The Sunday attacks came after Kyiv said that combat clashes eased around the besieged city of Bakhmut in southeastern Ukraine, the site of the war's longest battle.

Serhiy Popko, the head of Kyiv's military administration, said the attack was carried out in several waves, and air alerts lasted more than five hours.

"Today, the enemy decided to 'congratulate' the people of Kyiv on Kyiv Day with the help of their deadly UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles)," Popko said on the Telegram messaging channel.

Several districts of Kyiv, by far the largest Ukrainian city with a population of around three million, suffered in the overnight attacks, officials said, including the historical Pecherskyi neighbourhood.



Indian prime minister Narendra Modi carries a royal golden sceptre to be installed it near the chair of the speaker during the start of the inaugural ceremony of the new parliament building, in New Delhi, India.

# US, Saudi Arabia call for warring sides in Sudan to extend 'imperfect' cease-fire

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: The United States and Saudi Arabia called on warring sides in Sudan to extend a fragile cease-fire due to expire Monday, as weeks of fighting reached a stalemate in the capital and elsewhere in the African country.

The Sudanese army and a rival paramilitary force, battling for control of Sudan since mid-April, had agreed last week to the weeklong truce, brokered by the U.S. and the Saudis. However, the cease-fire, like others before it, did not stop the

fighting in the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

In a joint statement early Sunday, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia called for an extension of the current truce which expires at 9:45 p.m. local time Monday.

"While imperfect, an extension nonetheless will facilitate the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people," the statement said.

The statement also urged Sudan's military government and the rival Rapid Support Forces to continue

negotiations to reach an agreement on extending the cease-fire.

The fighting broke out in mid-April between the military and the powerful RSF. Both military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and RSF leader Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo led the 2021 coup that removed the Western-backed government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

The conflict has killed hundreds of people, wounded thousands and pushed the country to near collapse.



A woman holding a poster depicting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan waits in the queue at the Maiden's Tower, in Istanbul.

# Guterres shocked by Sudan army chief's letter

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said he is "shocked" by a letter from Sudanese army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, reportedly requesting the replacement of special envoy Volker Perthes amid a brutal war with paramilitaries.

Guterres "is proud of the work done by Volker Perthes and reaffirms his full confidence in his Special Representative", a statement from UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said.

"The secretary-general is shocked by the letter he received from General Al-Burhan," currently at war with his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands RSF.

Neither the army nor the UN released official copies of Burhan's letter, which reportedly requested the dismissal of Perthes as Guterres' envoy to Sudan. Perthes is currently in

New York, where he briefed the Security Council on the situation in Sudan earlier this week. There is no information on when he is due back in Sudan, where authorities have not given out visas to foreign nationals since the war started.

Khartoum was calmer on Saturday morning as a seven-day ceasefire appeared to reduce fighting between two rival military factions although it has not yet provided the promised humanitarian relief to millions trapped in the capital.

A truce signed by the two fighting parties — Sudan's army and a paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces — aimed to secure safe passage for humanitarian aid and lead to wider talks sponsored by the US and Saudi Arabia.

Witnesses said Khartoum was calmer although sporadic clashes were reported overnight.

# EgyptAir flight from Cairo blows tire during landing in Saudi Arabia

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: An EgyptAir jetliner blew out a tire but made a safe landing at its destination early Sunday in Saudi Arabia, Egypt's national carrier said. No casualties were reported.

Flight MS643 took off from Cairo international airport early Sunday and one of its tires burst during landing at King Abdulaziz International Airport in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah, EgyptAir said in a statement.

The Boeing 738 made a safe landing on the runway and all passengers have disembarked the airplane with no injuries reported, the statement said.

The airline didn't elaborate on what caused the problem, and said an examination and maintenance of the plane were underway.

# US state corrects 'miscarriage of justice' done 400 years ago

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: The US state of Connecticut has exonerated 12 people convicted of witchcraft in colonial America almost 400 years ago following a campaign to clear their names.

Eleven of the accused witches were hanged after trials in the northeastern state of Connecticut in the mid-1600s, with one receiving a reprieve.

Lawmakers in the New England state passed a resolution on Thursday proclaiming their innocence and condemning the deaths

of the nine women and two men as a "miscarriage of justice."

It followed a campaign by the CT Witch Trial Exoneration Project, a group that includes descendants of some of those killed.

The group said in a statement that it was "ecstatic, pleased, and appreciative" of the senators who voted 33-1 in favor of the move.

They noted that the decision came on the eve of 376th anniversary of the first witch-hanging in New England — that of Alice Young.

# 10 Lebanese detained in UAE to return home

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy asked the Ukrainian parliament to impose additional sanctions against Iran for 50 years, according to the draft resolution following the National Security and Defense Council decision.

The draft includes a complete ban on trade with Iran, investments, and transferring technologies, as well as stopping Iranian transit across the Ukrainian territory, and preventing the withdrawal of Iranian assets from Ukraine.

Ukraine's parliament must approve the bill for it to become law.

# Iraq unveils \$17bn transport project linking Europe and Mideast

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAGHDAD: Iraq on Saturday presented an ambitious plan to turn itself into a regional transportation hub by developing its road and rail infrastructure, linking Europe with the Middle East.

Once completed, the \$17 billion project known as the "Route of Development" would span the length of the country, stretching 1,200 kilometres (745 miles) from the northern border with Turkey to the Gulf in the south.

Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani announced the project during a conference with transport ministry representatives from Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

"We see this project

as a pillar of a sustainable non-oil economy, a link that serves Iraq's neighbours and the region, and a contribution to economic integration efforts," Sudan said.

While further discussions are required, any country that wishes "will be able to carry out part of the project", the Iraqi parliament's transport committee said, adding the project could be completed in "three to five years".

"The Route of Development will boost interdependence between the countries of the region," Turkey's ambassador to Baghdad Ali Riza Guney said, without elaborating on what role his country would play in the project.

War-ravaged and beset by rampant corruption, oil-rich Iraq suffers from dilapidated infrastructure.

# Shooting at New Mexico's Red River motorcycle rally kills 3, wounds 5

**Monitoring Desk**  
RED RIVER: Three people were killed and five were wounded in a shooting at an annual motorcycle rally in a New Mexico town late Saturday afternoon.

Red River Mayor Linda Calhoun said in a video posted on Facebook that the shooting around 5 p.m. resulted in three fatalities and five victims were transported to hospitals in Denver, Albuquerque and nearby Taos. The 41st annual Red River Memorial Motorcycle Rally drew about 20,000 bikers to the town, Calhoun said.

The violence occurred between two retail stores and involved members of motorcycle gangs, Calhoun said.

"The shooters have all been apprehended," she said. "There is no threat to the community at all."

# Somalia says it will revert to direct vote for officials starting next year

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOGADISHU: Somalia will start electing its president and other officials by direct vote next year, the government announced on Sunday, ending a system of indirect voting in the Horn of Africa country that has endured three decades of conflict and clan battles.

Amid widespread insecurity caused by an Islamist insurgency and weak state structures, in recent years lawmakers voted for the president, while clan heads and elders elected lawmakers in both the federal government and regional states. The country

had initially been scheduled to revert to universal suffrage in 2020 but protracted squabbles among politicians and persisting insecurity across the country forced the government to retain the indirect ballot.

"Starting next year, there will be a one person, one vote election held every five years," said a statement tweeted by Somalia's state media SONNA. The position of prime minister will also be abolished. "The Premier post will be abolished and replaced with a presidential system where the president and vice president are elected directly by the people on a single ticket."

# Plastic-spewing artwork unveiled for Paris talks against waste

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: Lobbyists Greenpeace unveiled an artwork in Paris on Saturday in the shape of a machine churning out bottles in front of an oil derrick to coincide with talks on eliminating plastic waste. Canadian artist Benjamin Von Wong said his 5-metre-high work by the River Seine showed the link between fossil fuels and plastic pollution, which could triple in the next four decades. With only about 9 percent of waste recycled from 460 million tonnes of plastic produced each year, the UN-organised Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-2) aims for a legally-binding pact to eliminate more.

# SK arrested for opening plane emergency exit door, faces up to 10 years in prison

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: A man who opened an emergency exit door during a flight in South Korea was formally arrested Sunday and faces up to 10 years in prison on a charge of violating the aviation security law, officials said.

During a preliminary questioning, the 33-year-old told investigators that he felt suffocated and tried to get off the plane quickly, according to police.

Twelve people were slightly injured on Friday after he opened the door of the Asiana Airlines Airbus A321-200, causing air to blast inside the cabin and terrifying passengers.

# China's first homegrown passenger jet makes maiden commercial flight

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's first domestically produced passenger jet made its maiden commercial flight on Sunday, a milestone event in the nation's decades-long effort to compete with Western rivals in the air. Beijing hopes the C919 commercial jetliner will challenge foreign models like the Boeing 737 MAX and the Airbus A320, though many of its parts are sourced from abroad. Its first homegrown jetliner with mass commercial potential would also cut the country's reliance on foreign technology.

# Iraq announces plans for \$17 billion transportation project linking Asia to Europe

**Monitoring Desk**  
IRBIL: Iraq's prime minister on Saturday announced plans for a \$17 billion regional transportation project intended to facilitate the flow of goods from Asia to Europe.

The announcement was made at a one-day conference in Baghdad that convened transport ministers and representatives from Iraq, the Gulf countries, Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Jordan.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said the planned Development Road project would facilitate the movement of goods from the Gulf to Europe by way of the Grand Faw Port in Basra, in southern Iraq, which would be connected to Turkey, then

to Europe, through a network of railways and highways. A centerpiece of the project will be the development of the Grand Faw Port and a "smart industrial city" adjacent to it, al-Sudani said.

The planned project, which would involve the construction of about 1,200 km (about 745 miles) of railways and highways, will be "an economic lifeline and a promising opportunity for the convergence of interests, history, and cultures," said al-Sudani, adding it will "make our countries a source for modern industries and goods."

He did not say how the project would be financed but noted that Iraq would "rely heavily on cooperation... with brotherly and friendly nations."

# Mercenary Prigozhin says Kremlin blanking him on state media will provoke backlash

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia's most powerful mercenary said on Sunday he was convinced that senior Kremlin officials had banned reporting about him on state media, cautioning that such a misleading approach would lead to a backlash from the Russian people within months.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of the Wagner mercenary group, is the most striking member of President Vladimir Putin's circle to gain widespread notoriety in the 15-month war in Ukraine.

Prigozhin, a restaurateur who quipped last week that his nickname should be "Putin's butcher" rather than "Putin's chef", took the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut earlier this month but his role in the victory was played down on state television. The 61-year-old has made a name for himself by imposing brutal discipline on his mercenaries and by using obscene language and prison slang to insult Putin's top military

brass including Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu.

In a sign of just how far Prigozhin is perceived to have breached the taboos of Putin's Russia, state television ignored the fall of Bakhmut for 20 hours, and did not air Prigozhin's victory speech.

Asked about what appeared to be a ban on coverage of him on state media, Prigozhin used a series of Russian proverbs to poke fun at those responsible: "What is forbidden is always sweeter." "Wagner is not a piece of slippery soap which the bureaucrats have got used to shouting all over the place; Wagner is an awl, a stiletto that you cannot hide," Prigozhin said. "I am absolutely convinced they have forbidden (coverage)."

"That high-level bureaucrats, those very towers of the Kremlin, are trying to shut the mouths of everyone so that they don't speak about Wagner will only give another shove to the people."

# Mass protests against Israeli government's plans to change legal system enter 21st week

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEL AVIV: Tens of thousands of Israelis gathered on Saturday for the relentless weekly protests against their government's plans to overhaul the legal system.

The mass protests entered their 21st week. This week's rallies came days after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition of ultra-Orthodox and ultranationalist parties passed a new two-year budget.

The main protest took place in Tel Aviv, drawing thousands of flag-waving protesters.

The passing of the new budget could grant some stability to Israel's most hard-line government ever. However, it also appeared to fuel the protesters' views that Netanyahu appeals to his religious allies rather than address the wider economic woes of the broader society.

"If Israel takes too much power for its own,

(our country) will basically become like Poland or Hungary, and we don't want that," said Aylon Argaman, a protester.

Organizers of grassroots protests bill them as a movement to save democracy. They say the government's plans to weaken the Supreme Court would destroy the country's system of checks and balances and compromise Israeli democracy.

Proponents of the judicial overhaul say it is needed to rein in an overzealous Supreme Court.

Netanyahu delayed the proposed changes in March, but protest organizers say they want to keep the demonstrations up until the plans are scrapped.

"The government may think we're starting to get tired after 21 weeks, but even if we are tired, democracy is still more important to us," said Omer Kidron, another protester.

# Egypt unveils ancient mummification workshops and tombs

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAQQARA: Archaeologists in Egypt have unearthed two human and animal embalming workshops, as well as two tombs, discovered in the Saqqara necropolis south of Cairo, the government said on Saturday.

The vast burial site, at the ancient Egyptian capital Memphis, is a Unesco World Heritage site and home to more than a dozen pyramids, animal graves and old Coptic Christian monasteries.

Mostafa Waziri, head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, told reporters the embalming workshops, where humans and animals were mummified, "date back to the 30th dynasty" which reigned around 2,400 years ago.

Researchers "found several rooms equipped with stony beds where the deceased lay down for mummification", Egypt's tourism and antiquities ministry said.

Each bed ended in gutters to facilitate the mummification process, with a collection of clay pots

nearby to hold entrails and organs, as well as a collection of instruments and ritual vessels.

Early studies of the other workshop suggest it was used for the "mummification of sacred animals". The discovery also includes the tombs of two priests dating back to the 24th and 14th centuries BC, respectively.

The first belonged to Ne Hesut Ba, who served the fifth dynasty as the head of scribes and priest of the gods Horus and Maat.

The tomb walls are decorated with depictions of "daily life, agriculture and hunting scenes", said Mohamed Youssef, director of the Saqqara archaeological site.

The second tomb, that of a priest named Men Kheber, was carved in rock and features depictions of the deceased himself on the tomb walls, as well as in a one-metre-long (three foot) alabaster statue, Youssef told reporters. Egypt has unveiled a string of major archaeological discoveries in recent years.



Protest plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government to overhaul the judicial system, in Tel Aviv.



Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy being briefed onboard PNS Shahjahan by Commanding Officer PNS Shahjahan during PNS Shahjahan visit to Port Langkawi, Malaysia.

## PUC terms May 9 black day, categorizes attackers as terrorists, national criminals

**GUJRANWALA (APP):** The Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) on Sunday convened the 'Stability of Pakistan, Ulama-Mashaykh Convention' witnessing the participation of leaders from various political organizations and religious scholars representing different schools of thought.

In a joint declaration, the attendees unanimously denounced the events of May 9 as a black day for the Pakistani nation, categorizing the attackers of military, national, and civilian installations, as well as memorials of martyrs, as terrorists and national criminals.

The political and religious leadership further called upon Chief Justice of Pakistan, Umar Atta Bandial, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir to ensure the expeditious trials of the criminals and their prompt punishment.

Emphasizing the nation's desire for justice, the joint declaration expressed the need to identify and punish the guilty while ensuring the release of the innocent individuals involved.

The leaders also applauded the directives issued by Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and COAS General Syed Asim Munir, instructing authorities not to wrongfully accuse any innocent person.

PUC Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, presided over the convention, which saw the participation of prominent political and religious figures, including Maulana Muhammad Ayub Safdar, Qari Muhammad Sharif Cheema, Maulana Nouman Hashir, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi and Maulana Asadullah

Farooq, among others. In the joint declaration, the convention expressed its condemnation of the events that occurred on May 9, highlighting the premeditated nature of the tragedy.

It pointed out that a systematic campaign against the Pakistan Army and the country's security agencies had been underway for the past year, resulting in the indoctrination of the youth.

The PUC had previously demanded measures to counter this propaganda campaign, which, if implemented, could have potentially averted the May 9 events.

## Jaffar Mandokhail, Jamal Shah, others say PML-N made Pakistan's defense impregnable

**QUETTA (APP):** Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders on Sunday said that the PML-N has made Pakistan's defense impregnable despite all the pressure in the leader of PML-N of Mian Nawaz Sharif. The vision of Pakistan Muslim League-N is to make Pakistan independent, prosperous and independent. The next government in Balochistan will be of PML-N.

These views were expressed by PML-N's Provincial President Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandokhail, General Secretary Jamal Shah Kakar, Naseem Khan Achakzai, Naseem Rehman Mulakhil, Malik Zahir Kakar, Shakib Alizai, Juma Khan Achakzai, Youth Wing Cen-

tral Senior Vice President Jahangir Kharoti, Haider Khan Achakzai of MSF, Kiran Haider of Women Wing, Provincial Leader Malik Anwar Naseem Kasi Advocate, Tariq Butt Advocate, Tariq Gul of Minority Wing, Khuda Bakhsh Lehi, Sabir Rajput, Aminullah Bazi Advocate, Naem Sikandar Advocate and others in addressing at ceremony organized at Quetta Press Club to celebrate Youm-e-Takbeer. The speakers said that the May 28 was the day when Muslim League (N) strengthened the defense of Pakistan and laid the foundation of a prosperous Pakistan. They said that Mian Nawaz Sharif had tested nuclear power despite hav-

ing heavily pressured by the US and the West saying that the world did not want Pakistan to do nuclear explosions, pressure was put on it, the country's debt was offered to be waived, but at that time our leadership decided that we would strengthen our defense and this decision has been proved right today, otherwise Pakistan would have to enemies would not tolerate any situation. The leaders said that restrictions were imposed on the country and they were intensified. Today, the credit of the invincible defense of the country went to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Zia-ul-Haq, who decided to start the nuclear program and then continue it.

## PNS Shahjahan participates in LIMA expo at Malaysia

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Shahjahan on Sunday visited Port Langkawi, Malaysia and participated in Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) 2023.

The visit of PN Ship is aimed to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance interoperability between participating navies, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Upon the arrival at Port Langkawi, the ship was warmly welcomed by the official of Malaysia Navy and Defence attaché of Pakistan at Malaysia.

During meetings with

Malaysian officials, the Commanding Officer of the ship conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of Malaysia in general and Malaysian Navy in particular. The matters of mutual interest, bilateral collaboration and PN contribution towards regional peace and maritime security were discussed.

PNS Shahjahan participated in International Fleet Review at Langkawi which was witnessed by Malaysian Prime Minister. Concurrently, Ship's officers and crew participated in various conferences.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch unveiling the notification of Four Tier Structure of Agriculture Department

## JAC Balochistan University protests non-payment of salaries

**Independent Report**

**QUETTA:** The President of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) University of Balochistan (UoB), Professor Dr. Kaleemullah Bariach, along with the Presidents of the Employees' Association, Shah Ali Bugti, and Officers' Association, Chairman Nazir Ahmed Lahri, expressed deep regret and disappointment that despite the announcement of a disbursement of PKR 72 crore by the Chief Minister of Balochistan for the University and the Government of Balochistan's assurance, the announced funds have not been released.

"As a result, the faculty and staff members of Balochistan University have been deprived of their salaries for the months of April and May, exacerbating their already distressing situation."

## PPP not in favour of banning political parties: Kaira

**LAHORE (INP):** Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is not in favour of banning a political party, said SAPM Qamar Zaman Kaira on Sunday.

In his interview with private Tv news channel, Qamar Zaman Kaira said the dismantling of political parties is not in favour of democracy's stability in the country. PPP stands on its principle stand against banning PTL. "Banning political parties is not the solution to the problem," Kaira said and added if PML-N is thinking of banning PTL, it is their wish.

Commenting on the May 9 violence, the SAPM said the mayhem was the result of 'hate' which was being promoted by the former prime minister and PTL chief Imran Khan. Qamar Zaman Kaira said despite reservations of the coalition partners.

## CM extends heartfelt greetings to nation on Youm-e-Takbeer

**'Pakistan's defense is robust and its nuclear capability is crucial for maintaining a balance of power in South Asian region'**

**Independent Report**

**QUETTA:** Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo, extended heartfelt greetings to the nation on the occasion of "Youm-e-Takbeer," which is observed nationwide on May 28th to commemorate the atomic explosions that took place in Pakistan 25 years ago on May 28th, 1998.

In his message, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the armed forces and all those individuals who have dedicated their unwavering services in making the country's defense impregnable, overcoming all challenges.

He stated that Pakistan's defense is robust and its nuclear capability is crucial for maintaining a balance of power in the South Asian region. The Chief Minister emphasized that the atomic explosions of May 28th demonstrated Pakistan's ability to deter any hostile forces and ensure the security and integrity of its borders.

He praised the armed forces and the country's atomic scientists for their commendable and historic

achievements, which are a source of pride not only for the nation but also for future generations.

He highlighted that Youm-e-Takbeer teaches us the lesson of selfless and altruistic service for Pakistan's progress, security, and well-being, and it instills in every Pakistani the fervor to make any sacrifices necessary for the defense and protection of the country.

The Chief Minister expressed the pride of Balochistan's people in the courageous armed forces and their consistent rejection of any propaganda against the Pakistan Army.

He mentioned that the people of Balochistan, on the occasion of the 25th May, also demonstrated their love and affection for the nation and security institutions, providing practical evidence of their commitment. He concluded by stating that it is an honor for them to reside in a country that is the sole nuclear power of the Muslim Ummah, and this is also a unique distinction for their homeland.



QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) Provincial President, Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addresses during a seminar on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer (the day Pakistan conducted nuclear tests on May 28, 1998).

## Historic Youm-e-Takbeer represents national unity, pride: Dummar

**Independent Report**  
**QUETTA:** Senior Provincial Minister of Planning and Development, Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar, extended felicitations to the nation on the occasion of "Youm-e-Takbeer," stating that it is a day that represents national unity and the historic day of national pride. He emphasized that May 28th, 1998, when Pakistan achieved nuclear power, remains a symbol of national security, defense, and dignity.

The day is a source of pride not only for the Pakistani nation but also for the entire Muslim Ummah. The message of Youm-e-Takbeer is to unite as one for the progress, security, and happiness of the country, and not to allow anyone to hinder our path to prosperity. These sentiments were expressed by Senior Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar in his statement on Sunday, where he highlighted that this day is a significant milestone in our national life because on this day Pakistan became invincible from a military perspective, and India's pride was shattered.

## Talha personally monitoring Hajj operation to ensure flawless execution

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood said that he was personally overseeing the entire Hajj operation, ensuring its smooth execution through various channels.

Speaking at the final training session of Moavineen-e-Hujjaj (Pilgrims' Assistants) held at the Haji Camp Islamabad the other day, the minister informed attendees that he had taken proactive steps to address any concerns or complaints from the pilgrims.

## Mushaal rges gov't of Pakistan to raise voice for Yasin Malik's safe release

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of jailed Kashmiri leader, Muhammad Yasin Malik, has urged upon the government of Pakistan to raise the issue of senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's detention at all fora globally because the notorious Narendra Modi fascist regime is hell-bent to silence the most powerful voice of Kashmir freedom movement forever.

Mushaal, after visiting Jinnah House, Lahore, in a media talk expressed alarm that the fascist government would eliminate Yasin Malik, chief of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

## Gwadar port commences direct exports to China, marking a historic milestone

**Independent Report**

**GWADAR:** In a significant development, Gwadar Port has initiated its first-ever direct shipment to the Chinese port city of Tianjin, carrying five containers of raw pharmaceutical materials. The trading company's CEO, Mr. N.L., stated that the consignment is expected to reach China within 30 days. This milestone marks a momentous achievement and a new era of enhanced trade volumes between Gwadar and

China. Gwadar Port, playing a pivotal role in Pakistan's economic corridor with China, is a key component of the approved Belt and Road Initiative. The port serves as a vital platform for deepening bilateral co-operation and facilitating two-way trade. The CEO emphasized that direct imports from Gwadar Port will contribute to expanding Pakistan's exports and improving the country's economy.



NEWYORK: Pakistani American Diaspora gathering Times Squares to Express Solidarity with Pakistan and PakArmy.

## Security and Safety Conference held in Sibi

**Independent Report**

**SIBI:** Commissioner Sibi Division, Shahid Saleem Qureshi, chaired a conference on peace and security on Sunday. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Shabeer Ahmed Badini, Deputy Inspector General of Police Sibi Range Ali Sher Jakhhrani, Deputy Commissioner Harnai Arif Zarkoon, District Police Officer Ziarat Akhtar Achakzai, FC Major Naveed, Colonel Kashif, Superintendent of Police Harnai Aasim Shafi, and Assistant Commissioner Ziarat Abdullah bin Aarif. During the conference,

decisions were made to enhance the safety and enjoyment of tourists. A comprehensive security assessment of the requested dam was conducted, and important decisions were taken. The conference also reviewed the traffic management plan for tourists and made significant decisions in this regard. Shahid Saleem Qureshi, directed Deputy Commissioner Harnai to contact the relevant company for the relocation of the recently damaged mobile phone tower and issued instructions to install CCTV cameras on internal and external routes within Harnai city.



LAHORE: Hurriyat Leader Mishal Malik interacting with journalists during Meet the Press event at Press club in Provincial Capital.

## Balochistan Customs collected Rs 21b Custom Duty in 2022-23

**QUETTA (APP):** Chief Collector, Customs Balochistan, Muhammad Saleem on Sunday said that Balochistan Customs has so far collected Rs 21 billion in the fiscal year 2022-2023 as Customs Duty out of the target of Rs 21.5 billion given by the Federal Board of Revenue. With the establishment of the border market in Mand, employment opportunities will be provided to the local people and the supply of fresh fruits and vegetables will benefit the people living in the border areas of the two countries, he said.

He said that all the arrangements regarding these markets have been given to the respective Deputy Commissioners who will ensure their supervision and monitoring. He said that people could purchase goods of worth from 50 to 100 dollars in these markets. He said that these markets are very useful, it will reduce the problems faced by the people of the area and increase the border trade, commercial and business activities in the area. Besides expanding trade between the two countries, facilities and opportunities will be ensured to meet the target of 5 billion dollars by increasing the current 2 billion dollars.

Muhammad Saleem said that under the joint border market initiative, both countries have established markets on their respective sides of the border and the people living in the border areas would get special tax concessions on 152 items.

He said that after the inauguration of Pishin-Mand border market, the Balochistan government would develop six more joint markets at mashkel.

## Message of peace, love going to whole world from 34th National Games: Farhan

**QUETTA (APP):** Dr. Farhan Essa Abdullah, the chief D-Mission of the Sindh contingent participating in 34th National Games on Sunday said that message of peace and love from the ongoing National Games in Quetta was not only going to the country but also to the whole world.

He said that today, through sports, the world was becoming aware of the culture of all the provinces of Pakistan, the national heritage and the scenery of the beautiful places of Balochistan.

He said that organizing the National Games would be very helpful in the promotion and development of sports in the country from this mega event, where the discovery of new talent, young athletes were given ample opportunities to express their abilities.

There is an environment of healthy competition between athletes at the national level and mutual respect is being cultivated. The atmosphere of harmony and brotherhood has increased, he added.

While congratulating the government of Balochistan, the Pakistan Olympic Association and all the security agencies for the successful organizing the National Games, Dr. Farhan Essa said that in the current situation, peaceful methods and best arrangements were laudable by the Balochistan Government.

Regarding the performance of the Sindh team in the Games, he said that Pakistan's rising star Hareem Malik has made us proud by winning three gold medals for Sindh in Swimming. He said that in other sports too, the performance of our athletes has been outstanding. Sindh tops the ranking of the provinces in swimming events. The exemplary discipline shown by all the players and officials in the squad during the mega event is commendable, he noted. He said that regarding the formation of teams for the Games, he had given clear instructions to the officials of all the sports associations.



ZIARAT: Commissioner Sibi Division Shahid Saleem Qureshi presiding over a meeting regarding law and order situation