

# Independent

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## “Decision on name of caretaker CM Balochistan would be made with consensus”

Important meeting held between the Chief Minister Bizenjo and the Opposition

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: In a late night important political development, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and Opposition have unanimously agreed upon making final decision on the name of caretaker Chief Minister with consensus. The decision to this effect was made in an important meeting held between the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and

the Opposition. The members of different opposition parties including Balochistan National Party, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami party were present in the meeting. The Chief Minister held consultation on the caretaker set up in the province right in accordance with the constitutional requirement. The participants were literally agreed on that the final decision on the name

of caretaker Chief Minister would be made with consensus. However, it was decided to hold more similar consultations between the Chief Minister and Opposition. Needless to mention here is that the incumbent Balochistan assembly is going to complete its five years' due tenure in second week of August, 2023. After completion of the due tenure, the provincial assembly is likely to be

dissolved. Earlier, the Chief Minister hosted dinner in honour of the members of provincial assembly on Tuesday. The dinner was also attended by the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Deputy Speaker, Sardar Babar Musakhail, provincial ministers and members of the opposition. The Chief Minister also had traditional Balochi gup-shup with the participants.

During the course of dinner, there was discussion on the political as well as other matters.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MQM led by the Convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo holding consultative meeting with Opposition MPAs regarding caretaker setup

## Azam terms 'cypher gate' a premeditated conspiracy

Former principal secretary ecomes approver against chairman PTI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former principal secretary Azam Khan has become approver against PTI chairman.

Azam Khan has recorded his statement under 164 before magistrate. In 164 statement charge sheet has been presented against chairman PTI.

Azam Khan termed ciper a well conceived conspiracy saying ciper had nothing to do with reality. Ciper drama was enacted for political motives.

Azam Khan said Imran Khan worked out a false and baseless narrative by concealing all facts. Color of foreign conspiracy was given to ciper to avert vote of no confidence.

He went on to say Imran Khan said he would change the narrative of people by giving wrong color to ciper. He held "Imran Khan obtained ciper from me on

May 09 and later he said ciper has been misplaced when I asked him to return. Imran Khan sowed the seed of hatred among the people against national security institutions. He waved a secret letter among the people to serve personal interest despite the fact he was forbidden to do so. Ciper was given wrong color of nexus between national security institutions and US deliberately.

He enacted ciper drama to save his government only".

As per important points in the statement of Azam Khan foreign secretary contacted Azam Khan on March 8, 2022 and informed him with reference to ciper. The ciper was sent to his residence on the same evening. Foreign secretary told that foreign minister Qureshi has already discussed ciper matter

with Imran Khan. This was confirmed by Imran Khan on next day at the very hour when Azam Khan presented him ciper. Imran Khan expressed pleasure on seeing ciper.

Terming this language a US blunder he said ciper can be used to make narrative against establishment and opposition.

Imran Khan told Azam Khan ciper can be used for diverting the attention of people to foreign interference in vote of no confidence.

Later Imran Khan asked Azam Khan to hand over ciper to him who did so.

According to admission by Azam Khan, copy of ciper was kept by Imran Khan with him and on next day March 10, 2022 when Azam Khan asked Imran Khan to return it to him then Imran Khan replied this has been lost.

## PM, MQM hold discussion on formation of caretaker governments

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) led by the Convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Wednesday and discussed in detail the matter of formation of caretaker governments besides overall current political situation in the country.

Federal Minister for Information Technology Syed Amin ul Haque, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Dr Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal were also part of the delegation. Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique and Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Azay Sadiq were present

in the meeting. The meeting was held in connection with the prime minister's consultations with the allies with respect to formation of the caretaker governments. During the meeting, matter of the recent population census also came under discussion. The delegation paid tributes to the prime minister on personally monitoring the federal government's ongoing projects in Karachi and ensuring speedy work on these projects on priority basis.

The MQM delegation also praised PM Shehbaz Sharif and his economic team's efforts for completing the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

## Imran Khan to face trial in special court for hatching 'cypher conspiracy': Rana

Interior minister says Azam Khan's confessional statement is a charge sheet against former PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Wednesday said that the cypher was still in the possession of Imran Khan Niazi, who would remain "criminal" until it was recovered from him.

The reported statement of Azam Khan, former principal secretary to the prime minister, confirmed that he had handed over the cypher to the then prime minister, who told him next day it was lost, the minister said while addressing the press conference, flanked by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Attaullah Tarar.

He said Azam Khan, in his statement, had clarified that when the then secretary foreign affairs brought the issue of cypher in his knowledge, and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was also part & parcel of the whole planning to use it (cypher) against the national interests for personal and political gains.

The interior minister said a case would be got registered against Imran Niazi and his accomplice Qureshi under the Official Secrets Act, but the then prime minister used the cypher to gain political mileage.

"That cypher is still in his custody and he will remain a criminal until he returns the classified document or it is recovered by an investigation agency from him," he added.

He said Azam Khan reportedly admitted that he had told Imran Niazi that using a classified document for political gains was a criminal act under the Official Secrets Act, but the then prime minister used the cypher to gain political mileage.

"That cypher is still in his custody and he will remain a criminal until he returns the classified document or it is recovered by an investigation agency from him," he added.

## Australian envoy calls on Info. Minister PML-N govt firmly believes in press freedom: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (Online): Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins called on Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb in Islamabad on Wednesday and the two exchanged views on bilateral relations, economic stability and cooperation in the areas of film, art and culture.

Australian ambassador lauded the efforts of Pakistan government for stability of national economy and IMF agreement.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said Pakistan holds its relations

with Australia in high esteem.

She went on to say the government took immediate and concrete steps for national economy in line with the PM Shahbaz Sharif's vision. Positive results have started coming in national economy due to these steps. She also appraised Australian ambassador about newly established Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

She said this council will ensure consistency and effective implementation of policies for economic recovery. SIFC will work on high forum of decision making.

## GoB & Google ink agreement for scholarships, internships to youth of Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has signed an agreement of Understanding (MoU) with the world-fame search engine firm, Google for awarding scholarships and internships to youth of the province. The agreement signing ceremony was held in Islamabad the other day which was also attended by the Provincial Minister for Finance and Food, Zamarak Khan Achakzai, Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Uqaili and other high ups.

The Secretary Information Technology, Government of Balochistan, Muhammad Tayyab Lehri and Secretary Information, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat signed the MoU on behalf of the provincial government

while the Google Team Leader, Umar Farooq signed the agreement from his company's side.

Needless to mention here is that the initiative is in line with the vision of Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo for imparting IT skills to youth of the province. In addition to this, this is also aimed to enable youth of the province to get online opportunities of jobs as per the modern-day requirements.

Under the agreement, the Google would also provide assistance in digitalization of the provincial Information department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary termed the MoU between provincial government and Google as an important de-

velopment and said that it would provide ample opportunities of personal growth to the youth besides scholarships and internship. The Secretary Information on the occasion mentioned that 1000 scholarships had been given to youth of the province by Google in May this year while over 900 youngsters had got them enrolled in the programme.

He said that some 2,000 more scholarships have been given by Google to youth of the province. He informed that internees of the programme would have the international certification enabling them to get online jobs. The internees would also be able to earn at least US \$ 1,000 US per month through this programme, adding he disclosed.

## Visits NUST Balochistan campus: Governor calls for concentrating on learning modern skills along with scientific education

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to concentrate on learning modern skills besides scientific education.

The Governor believed that a skilled person can't be financially dependent on anyone, as such there is a dire need to make the technical institutions effective all over the province.

He was addressing the ceremony organized during his visit to the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Balochistan campus here on Wednesday.

Also present on the occasion were the Dean and Director of NUST Balochistan campus, Brigadier Dr. Waseem Khaliq and representatives of different

industries. While speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the new generation would get help and guidance in the ever changing world by holding such programmes which otherwise are required to meet the modern day requirements and human needs.

He was of the view that as long as we take the aspect of creating partnership between the academia and market at national level serious as per our social needs, we can't join the race of real development.

The Governor said that such conscious efforts would help determine the new course of economic development at the time when we are confronting the deteriorated economic conditions, poverty, unemployment and other issues.

## President summons NA session on July 20, Senate on July 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday separately summoned the sessions of the National Assembly and Senate to be held on July 20 and July 24 respectively.

The National Assembly session will be held on Thursday, July 20 at 1700 hours while the Senate would meet on Monday, July 24 at 1500 hours. The president summoned sessions of both Houses of Parliament on the prime minister's advice under Article 54 of the Constitution.

## No authentic report of security alert Independent Report

QUETTA: The spokesman of Balochistan police department has stated that the security is on high alert owing to Muharrumul Haram and the cooperation of citizens would be encouraging during the month.

This was stated by the spokesman of Police department in a statement issued here on Wednesday.

According to the spokesman, a story of threat alert is running with unauthentic and private source on social media and it is being attributed to the Balochistan police. He clarified that no such news has been shared recently by him. The spokesman urged the general public not to pay any heed towards the unauthentic material being aired on the social media. He said that the police would continue to provide necessary information about anything related.

## Terrorists used American weapons in Zhob attack

QUETTA (Online): The facts related to terrorists who were killed in Zhob area of Balochistan have come to light. American weapons and equipments were used by terrorists in TTP's Zhob attack. Questions arose that: How did modern weapons and uniforms reach the terrorists? The terrorists had used weapons left by American army in Afghanistan in Zhob attack area of Baluchistan.

5.56 mm Caliber, M16 assault rifles, modern helmet, gloves, bag packs and uniforms were used against Pakistan. It can be seen in the pictures that the attackers who have been killed are dressed in American uniforms.

Even if heavy armed terrorists wear American uniforms they will die the death of cowardice. This is firm commitment of the military leadership that this war will continue till the complete elimination of the terrorists.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and CEO Google Umer Farooq signing MoU between Government of Balochistan and Google for digitalization of Information Department. Provincial Food Minister Zamarak Khan Achakzai and Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili are also present



QUETTA: Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khahir Azad addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

## Establishing peace during Muharram collective obligation of Ulemas of all schools of thoughts & nation

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chairman Majlis-e-Ulema Pakistan (MUP) and Chairman central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khahir Azad has emphasized that it is collective responsibility of religious leaders of all schools of thoughts and general public to maintain law and order in the country during Muharrumul Haram.

He urged the religious scholars and general public to forge unity among their ranks and promote religious harmony to foil the nefarious designs of the enemies.

Maulana Abdul Khahir Azad was addressing the National Paigham-e-Aman Pakistan conference arranged by the MUP at Quetta Press Club.

The religious scholars from different schools of thoughts, social personalities and others participated in the conference. Prominent among them were Dr. Raghay Hussain Naemi, Maulana Anwarul Haq Haqqani, Allama Syed Nasrullah Hussaini, Dr. Attaur Rehman, Syed Naqeebullah Agha, Allama Mukhtar Hussain Habibi, Qari Mehruallah, Syed Haibullah and others.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Census & polls

As the nation begins to enter election mode, the rulers have made it clear that the next polls will be based on the 2017 census. While this decision has been decried by some government allies, such as the MQM, the inconvenient truth is that this late in the day, the government has little choice — mainly because of its own lethargy — but to hold polls as per the 2017 numbers. Any other option may end up delaying elections, which is unacceptable.

The federal law minister announced on Monday that “if” the seventh census is not approved then constituencies will be drawn up on the basis of the previous head count’s figures. This is largely a foregone conclusion as the legal and constitutional process of notifying the latest census and delimiting new constituencies would clash with the electoral time line.

Some media reports on Tuesday indicated that the National Assembly could be dissolved early, though these were denied by the information minister. Regardless, elections would be due no later than November.

This means there is not enough time to notify the results, make the requisite constitutional amendment, and delimit new constituencies.

Independent observers also concur that polls will have to be held on the basis of the 2017 numbers. This is because even if the government notifies the 2023 results today, it will have to amend the Constitution under Article 51(3) and thereafter delimit new constituencies.

As mentioned, the government does not have the time to carry out these legal processes, while a caretaker set-up does not have the mandate to make constitutional amendments. Therefore, despite the reservations of the MQM, the fact is that there are few good options other than holding polls based on the 2017 numbers.

Of course, the rulers must shoulder the blame for this predicament. Apart from resource allocation, updated census numbers are essential for the democratic process, yet the multibillion-rupee exercise will be of no utility in the upcoming polls.

When provisional census numbers had been finalised two months ago, the government should have gone ahead and notified the results so that the legal process could have begun.

Perhaps the rulers feared they lacked the numbers in a rump parliament to make the requisite constitutional changes. Because of this mismanagement, voters in provinces where the population has grown will not get increased representation in parliament. However, the fresh census controversy notwithstanding, under no circumstances should the polls be delayed any further. Already the Punjab and KP caretakers are operating beyond their constitutional tenures. This must not be replicated in Sindh, Balochistan and the centre. The only way out of the current quagmire is for free and fair polls to be held on time, bringing in a new dispensation with a fresh mandate to govern.

### The strength within



**Muhammad Mohsin Masood**

The resilience of people is awe-inspiring. In the darkest of crannies and nooks, the strength that is within us can lead us to light. In individuals, that tiny flicker of light can give rise to unprecedented amounts of courage, energy, kindness and joy. In the lives of nations, the resilience of its peoples, if led through the halls of principle, can lead to tolerance, magnanimity, stability and democratic values. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, we have an uncharitable tendency to discount much of the suffering and the long-term trauma that ordinary individual citizens face. It would be accurate to say that the most ordinary of people lead, in the most ordinary of circumstances, the most extraordinary of lives. It is certainly most extraordinary of them to face up to a barrage of challenges such as terrorism, poverty, the worsening political and economic stability, testing their resilience in everyday life. One such challenge which silently gnaws at the heart of one in 10 menstruating women in the world is endometriosis. This disease which affects some 200 million women in the world literally eats into the very insides of a person and drains the physical and mental strength with which they face the world.

Endometriosis is a condition where tissue similar to that found in the lining of the womb grows elsewhere in the body, such as on the ovaries and in the fallopian tubes. Symptoms can include lower abdomen or back pain, severe pain during periods, pain during intercourse, bowel and bladder symptoms, and fertility problems. The symptoms can vary for different women, with some more severely affected than others.

Endometriosis can have a significant impact on some women’s lives. It is a debilitating condition characterised primarily with intense pain with no cure. The level of pain can not only cause fainting in those living with endometriosis but also take a mental toll and can cause complete paralysis in social and domestic functioning. Yet, they are there, living, working, and existing with us in our homes, social spaces and workplaces.

The amount of energy that they expend on just functioning and adding to our productivity as a society is colossal. Endometriosis is not a rare disease in Pakistan, it is estimated that some 25 per cent of all laparoscopies done in the country find traces of endometriosis. A condition that has such a vast impact upon the lives of such a huge number of women needs to be addressed. Yet, this disease remains shrouded because many doctors are misinformed about the disease; then there is a major lack of awareness, funding, research into diagnosis coupled with the cultural silence and taboo around women’s bodies, menstrual cycles and health.

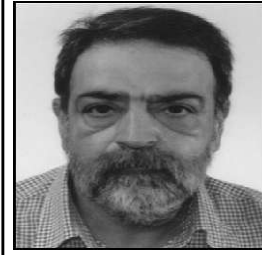
The resilience of patients of endometriosis is not only to be admired but should be taken as a source of inspiration to take action as a society and state which attempts to grant its citizens the rights with which they can enjoy a safe, respectful and healthy life. Yes, Paki-

stan does not have an explicit right to health enshrined in the Constitution. We do, however, have a jurisprudence developed around Articles 9 and 14 of the Constitution to guarantee the right to healthcare to ensure the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The Supreme Court has recently stressed on the availability of access to all kinds of medical services to everyone without discrimination. Endometriosis and its affectees on the other hand remain under the radar and the shroud of societal invisibility not only denies them proper healthcare but also recognition of their pain. However, the state is obligated under the dictates of its moral and political authority to grant them not only that recognition but also cater to and facilitate them with its resources.

It is partly because of this, that the US Congress passed a law to get funding into endometriosis research programmes. There is also the Endometriosis CARE Act of 2022 introduced in the Congress attempting to get more funding and raise awareness and education with respect to endometriosis. Considering that many are unaware of endometriosis, such targeted legislation is a good starting point. In Pakistan, we recently had the 2020 Rights of Persons with Disability Act; however, endometriosis is not considered a disability to enable women to get benefit of the legislation. What is needed is research backed by legislation attempting to understand not only the disease but also to counter the multidimensional barricades that such women face to properly realise their right to health in combating this disease. --

Courtesy Dawn

### Masters of war



**Mahir Ali**

The headlines from the Nato summit that concluded a week ago in the Lithuanian capital mainly reflected the prospect of Swedish membership and, more dramatically, the failure to invite Ukraine into the fold. The petulant reaction from Volodymyr Zelensky suggested he was counting on not an immediate induction but at least some kind of timetable.

Leading figures from the British and US administrations indicated that they expected a bit more gratitude from Kyiv. There is some consternation among Western political-military elites that whenever Zelensky thanks his Western backers for their latest shipment — or promise — of lethal weaponry, he asks for more.

For obvious reasons, there was never any question of Ukraine entering the fold in the middle of a war, but there was the possibility of announcing that it would be able to join right after it ended. That, in turn, could have reduced the likelihood of Vladimir Putin agreeing under any circumstances to any kind of truce.

Mind you, the Russian president has never so much as hinted at the possibility of a ceasefire, and his imperialist impulses appear undamaged in the wake of the Wagner mutiny and the consequent impression of a weaker Kremlin. But then, the same goes for the other side.

Even before Joe Biden held out the promise of cluster bombs — a particularly pernicious weapon banned by several Nato members — the response to Russia’s invasion has involved pumping weapons into Ukraine, mainly from the US

but also from others. Germany advanced rapidly from helmets to tanks, and one of the less-publicised achievements of the Vilnius summit was an agreement on training Ukrainian pilots to fly F-16s.

Those warplanes are among the commitments Recep Tayyip Erdogan was seeking for his own regime, alongside Stockholm’s willingness to turn its back on the Kurds who have sought refuge in Sweden, as the price for agreeing to Swedish membership of Nato. He also wanted the resumption of talks on Turkey joining the EU, even though there is no short-term prospect of accession.

Biden has also indicated that the quality of Ukrainian democracy remains a concern, but that’s hardly bothered Nato in the past. Military coups in Turkey and Greece did not affect their status, and questions could justifiably be raised about the quality of purported democracy in countries such as Hungary and Poland, not to mention the US itself.

Following the birth of Nato in the aftermath of World War II, its first secretary general, Britain’s Lord Ismay — who was born in India, and served as military secretary to colonial viceroy Lord Willingdon — said that the military alliance was intended to keep “the Americans in, the Russians out and the Germans down”. However, as Grey Anderson and Thomas Meaney pointed out in a New York Times column, Nato “was never primarily concerned with aggregating military power”, as the divisions it fielded would never have been enough to repel a Soviet ground invasion (which, one might add, was never contemplated in Moscow). “Rather, it set out to bind western Europe to a far vaster project of a US-led world order, in which American protection served as a lever to obtain concessions on other issues, like trade and mon-

etary policy.” “In that mission,” they add, “it has proved remarkably successful.” There is talk now of a ‘global Nato’, and putative ‘Indo-Pacific 4’ partners — Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand — were all present at Vilnius, as they were at Madrid last year. The potential adversary, in this case, is China.

No challenge to American hegemony can be tolerated, and Nato has never been much more than an instrument for that mindset, primarily in Europe — including its bombardment of the Balkans in the 1990s — but also in territories from Afghanistan to Libya. It leaves a trail of mass destruction wherever it goes, and the project of making the world safe for capitalism has not been a particular success outside Europe.

None of the above is intended to suggest that Russia or China is on the right track. The monumental folly of invading Ukraine will haunt Russia long after Putin perishes, by natural causes or otherwise, and Xi Jinping’s “Chinese dream” could turn out to be a nightmare for plenty of less powerful nations, but also for China itself. Yet the prospect of entrenching US neo-imperialism more widely is much like adding fossil fuel to the fire while the world experiences some of its hottest days in thousands of years.

Anthropogenic climate change has brought humanity to the brink of self-annihilation. Egged on by the masters of war — excoeriated by Bob Dylan 60 years ago shortly after Dwight Eisenhower’s warning against the military-industrial complex, which remains dedicated to profiting from the economies of conflict — misanthropic militarism could push us over the cliff. --

Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### ADB maintains growth forecast for Asia and the Pacific at 4.8%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is maintaining its growth outlook for developing economies in Asia and the Pacific at 4.8 percent this year, as robust domestic demand continues to support the region’s recovery.

Inflation is expected to continue falling, approaching pre-pandemic levels as fuel and food prices decline. According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) for July 2023 released by the ADB on Wednesday, growth in Pakistan in FY2023 (ended

30 June 2023) was weighed down by tighter monetary and fiscal policies to safeguard macroeconomic stability, pervasive inflation, and significant damage from flooding. The ADO April 2023 projection for Pakistan in FY2024 assumes that the government will continue reform as recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under a new policy-support program approved on July 12. Inflation in developing Asia is forecast at 3.6 percent this year, compared with April

forecast of 4.2 percent. The inflation outlook for 2024, meanwhile, is raised to 3.4 percent from an earlier estimate of 3.3 percent, it added. The reopening of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is bolstering the region’s economy. The PRC’s economy is projected to expand 5.0 percent this year, unchanged from the April forecast, amid strong domestic demand in the services sector. However, demand for developing Asia’s exports of electronics and other manufactured goods is

slowing, as monetary tightening drags on economic activity in major advanced economies.

The region’s growth forecast for next year is marginally revised down to 4.7 percent from 4.8 percent estimate in April.

“Asia and the Pacific continue to recover from the pandemic at a steady pace,” said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park. “Domestic demand and services activity are driving growth, while many economies are also benefiting from a strong recovery in tourism.”



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review the progress regarding the ongoing SOE reforms.



A Delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Country Director Mr. Young Ye, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at Finance Division, Islamabad

### No additional tax being imposed on agriculture sector income: Bilal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Wednesday categorically said that the government had no plan to impose additional tax on income of agriculture sector.

Addressing a news conference here, he said it was unfortunate that those who pushed the country to the verge of default were now attempting to dent the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

He expressed firm resolve that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would continue to take the country’s journey towards economic stability and progress forward after coming into

power in the next general elections.

He mentioned that the government had successfully entered into a nine-month Stand-By-Agreement (SBA) with IMF, which was the result of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s dedicated efforts that received overwhelming support from the entire nation.

One significant indicator of the country’s economic growth was observed on July 3 when the Pakistan stock exchange experienced a remarkable increase of 2446 points, with the index surpassing the 45,000 mark. This positive development was well-received by the business and trading communities,

signifying their confidence in the government’s economic policies, he added.

Kayani highlighted that Fitch, a renowned credit rating agency, also improved Pakistan’s rating from minus ‘CCC’ to ‘+CCC’ further bolstering the nation’s economic position.

Acknowledging the concerns surrounding loans acquired from the IMF, the Prime Minister himself acknowledged the necessity of such measures for Pakistan’s economic well-being. As a result, the country’s foreign reserves increased, and exchange rate stability has been achieved, effectively eliminating the threats of default.

### SBP designates domestic systemically important banks for 2023

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan on Wednesday announced the Domestic Systemically Important Banks for the year 2023 under D-SIBs framework aimed at further strengthening risk management capacities and resilience against shocks.

According to a statement issued here, the central bank has designated National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), Habib Bank Limited (HBL) and United Bank Limited (UBL) as D-SIBs for the year 2023 after carrying out the annual assessment based on banks’ financials as of

December 31, 2022 in line with D-SIBs framework.

In addition to the implementation of the enhanced supervisory requirements, the designated banks have to follow additional Common Equity Tier-1 (CET-1) capital requirements according to the specified bucket. The NBP has been assigned bucket D with 2.5 percent additional CET-1 requirement, the HBL has been placed in bucket C with 1.5 percent additional CET-1 requirement and UBL in bucket A with 0.5 percent additional CET-1 requirement.

### SM Tanveer chairs 123<sup>rd</sup> PSIC board meeting

LAHORE: A caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired the 123<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors (BoD) meeting of Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) to discuss 14 agenda items here on Wednesday.

The BoD approved the PSIC budget of Rs 5.1 billion for the financial year 2023-24,

besides taking important decisions to expedite industrialisation. It was decided to give a final chance to those who have not yet established industries on vacant plots in industrial estates.

The plot owner would have to fulfill obligations in the first month, submit a plan within three months, and start construction within the following three months.

### PM directs for swift reforms in loss-making state-owned enterprises

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the relevant authorities to introduce reforms on priority basis in the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) inflicting loss to the national exchequer.

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the reforms in the SOEs, instructed to ensure the transparency in the process of outsourcing the services as well as public-

private partnership.

He said the government would ensure that the caretaker government carried forward the policies of the national interest to achieve consistent progress.

The prime minister said the government was taking all-out measures to uplift the working of institutions at par with international standards and provide the best facilities to the masses.

In the briefing, Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif was told that the reforms process of the SOEs was going on swiftly.

It was told that government would ensure the inclusion of experts in the boards of the SOEs to establish modern systems and provide better facilities.

The prime minister was briefed on the performance indicators of the institutions as well as the corporations and the ongoing reforms process there.

### Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia visits SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia Atif Sharif on Wednesday visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). During the meeting, VP SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh emphasized the need to improve the current trade volume between the two countries. The meeting was aimed to strengthen bilateral trade relations and explore business opportunities. The vice president shared the potential of “Made in Sialkot” products in the Ethiopian market as well as ways to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

### PTCL group posts 26.8% revenue growth in 6 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) revenue has jumped to Rs 90.9 billion posting a growth of 26.8 per cent during the first six months of the current year compared to the corresponding period.

The financial results for six months were announced during the Board of Directors’ meeting held in Islamabad here on Wednesday, said a news release. Throughout the first half of 2023, PTCL Group has sustained its momentum, further solidifying its position as the leading integrated telecom service provider in Pakistan. “This substantial increase in revenue is primarily

attributed to the exceptional performance across multiple segments, including fixed broadband, mobile data, business solutions and banking services.”

PTCL achieved 17.2 per cent revenue growth over the same period last year in the fixed broadband business. The Company further strengthened its flagship FTTH brand, ‘Flash Fiber’ by achieving significant net subscriber additions through exceptional customer experiences and aggressive expansion of the fiber network across the country which played a vital role in achieving a significant increase in FTTH revenue by 106.5 per cent.

## CM directs Admin to immediately complete rainwater drainage operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned with the district administration to utilize all available resources and immediately complete the rainwater drainage operation.

According to a district administration spokesman, the chief minister had issued special instructions to Rescue-1122, PDMA and the district administration directing them to ensure immediate drainage of water in low-lying areas of Rawalpindi following heavy rain on Tuesday night. The CM said that immediate actions should be taken on an emergency basis for drainage of rainwater.

The officers of the administration and related institutions should remain in the field until the drainage work is completed, he ordered.



**HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Jam are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of influential people, at Hyderabad press club.**

## Special medical facilities to be provided to participants of Muharram processions

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Dr Javed Akram on Wednesday directed to provide the best medical facilities to participants of the processions during Muharram-ul-Haram.

In the directions issued here, the minister said that special arrangements would be made to provide medical facilities in government teaching hospitals on 9th and 10th Muharram. He said that special beds would be allocated in government teaching hospitals during Muharram, adding that duty roster of indoor, operation theaters and pharmacies would be issued. In all government teaching hospitals, paramedical staff

including medical, nursing, paramedical and support staff will perform 24-hour duties. He said that during Muharram, security staff would perform 24-hour duties in government teaching hospitals.

Dr. Javed Akram added that during Muharram, the availability of medicines, vaccines, IV fluids, surgical and non-surgical disposables and blood bags would be ensured in government teaching hospitals. He said that operation theaters of all government teaching hospitals would remain fully operational during Muharram, adding, ambulances with trained staff would also be available in the hospitals.



**PESHAWAR: A delegation of public representatives of District Khyber Tehsil Bara meting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.**

## Govt sends Pakistanis abroad for employment after signing MoUs with foreign countries: Sajid Tori

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sajid Husain Tori here Wednesday said the government was sending Pakistanis abroad for employment after signing proper MoUs and agreements with foreign countries to ensure their jobs security and dignified stay there.

The Minister said that

under proper agreements and MoUs, the skilled and semi-skilled workforce of Pakistan were being sent to different countries for employment to earn valuable foreign exchange for the country.

"People are not going by themselves but rather being sent abroad under proper MoUs and agreements signed with 16 different countries to ensure their jobs security and dignified stay in these states," he said.

The federal minister said that up till now, MoUs were signed with about 16 countries for abroad employment to Pakistanis and some more agreements were under consideration.

The Minister said vocational education and professional training were imperative for the sustainable progress and development of the country.

## PPP leaders capable to run country's affairs in better way: Inqilabi

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Secretary Information Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter Gohar Inqilabi expressed optimism to win the next general elections.

In a statement issued here, he said that the party is fully capable to run the affairs of the country in a better manner and steering it out of the prevailing crisis.

He said that the PPP has prepared a master plan to make Pakistan a prosperous, green and developed country by providing all basic amenities of life to the people of cities, towns and villages across the country.

He said that after coming into power in 2008, it did the historic feat of the 18th Constitutional Amendment and guaranteed rights to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other small federating units.



**KARACHI: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, at Liaquatnagar in Karachi.**

## Hearing of petition filed by Pervez against grant of his physical remand adjourned

LAHORE (Online): Without proceeding further, Lahore High Court (LHC) has adjourned till August 12 hearing of the petition against decision regarding physical remand of former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Pervez Elahi.

The petition came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Shehram Sarwar Wednesday. Anti corruption authorities and others have been made respondents in the petition.

The court had summoned the lawyers for arguments on appeal of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

The LHC has already suspended the sessions court decision for presenting Chaudhry Pervez Elahi for physical remand again.

The petitioner has taken the plea judicial magistrate refused to grant physical remand of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi to anti corruption authorities. Judicial magistrate sent Chaudhry Pervez Elahi to jail on judicial remand.

Anti corruption challenged the decision of magistrate in sessions court. It was further said in the petition that the court nullified the decision of judicial magistrate for not granting physical remand of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi. Sessions court gave illegal decision of granting physical remand of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

The petitioner requested the court to nullify the decision of granting physical remand by sessions court.

## IG police pins badges to promoted officials

FAISALABAD (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar visited on Wednesday and pinned badges to promoted officials at the Police Lines.

Regional Police Officer Dr Muhammad Abid Khan, City Police Officer Usman Akram Gondal, SSP Operation and other officers were also present. The IG congratulated the promoted staff and directed them to perform their new responsibilities with dedication and honesty. He said the police department was using all available resources for welfare of families of the policemen.

## Iranian Consul: China Window can help promote Pak-Iran people to people ties

PESHAWAR (APP): Iranian Consul General in Peshawar, Ali Banafshekha, Wednesday said the China's cultural center set up in Peshawar could play an effective role in promoting people-to-people relations between Pakistan and Iran, besides its main objective of further strengthening Pak-China friendship.

He expressed these views during his visit to China Window, a center for promotion of Chinese culture and information in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Iranian diplomat took round of different sections of China Window, signed the Friendship Wall and penned down his remarks in Guests Book.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Banafshekha said on one side Pakistan and China had strong friendly relations, and on the other Iran and Pakistan also had very cordial brotherly relations. He said he was of the belief that with exchange of delegations from both the countries, "our people-to-people relations will become more intact and strong".

Both China Window and Khana-e-Farhang Iran could jointly play an effective role in the promotion of historic relations and culture of three countries, he suggested.

The consul general said he was working on arranging visits of Iranian delegations to Pakistan and in the same way the people from different walks of lives from Peshawar should visit their brotherly Iranian country.

He termed the establishment of China Window a welcoming decision which would help share information among the people about the socio-economic benefits of China Pakistan Economic Corridor in Pakistan.

# International News

## Turkiye, Qatar to enhance bilateral relations after Erdogan visit

**Monitoring Desk**  
DOHA: Turkiye and Qatar agreed to further boost bilateral ties in various fields, according to a joint statement issued after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to the Gulf country.

"On the basis of our strategic relations and bilateral cooperation in the political, diplomatic, economic and commercial fields, and in line with the directives of the wise leaders of the two countries, we are determined to continue our joint efforts to coordinate in various fields to ensure the continuity of the strengthening of bilateral relations for the benefit of the two brotherly countries and peoples."

The Turkish and Qatari foreign ministers signed the declaration during Erdogan's visit to Qatar, marking a half-century since the establishment of diplomatic ties.

"We are pleased to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Turkiye and the State of Qatar in 2023," it said.

"Turkiye-Qatar relations have undergone a qualitative transformation since (their) establishment in 1973 until (they) reached the stage of strategic partnership," the declaration also stressed

that Turkiye-Qatar relations reflect "deep-rooted" historical ties built on political and social foundations. "The current strategic partnership between the Republic of Turkiye and the State of Qatar is fruitful at all levels, and the two countries have similar approaches on most regional and international issues," it added.

Economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries has witnessed steady growth over the past few years, it added.

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani welcomed Erdogan with an official ceremony.



**Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani attend a welcoming ceremony in Doha, Qatar.**

## Russia strikes critical port facilities in Odesa after Kremlin halts grain deal

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia unleashed intense drone and missile attacks overnight Wednesday, damaging critical port infrastructure in southern Ukraine, including grain and oil terminals, and wounding at least 12 people, officials said.

The bombardment crippled significant parts of export facilities in Odesa and nearby Chornomorsk and destroyed 60,000 tons of grain, according to Ukraine's Agriculture Ministry.

It came days after President Vladimir Putin pulled Russia out of its participation in the Black Sea

Grain Initiative, a wartime deal that enabled Ukraine's exports to reach many countries facing the threat of hunger.

It also followed a vow by Putin to retaliate against Kyiv for an attack Monday on the crucial Kerch Bridge linking Russia with the Crimean Peninsula, which the Kremlin illegally annexed in 2014.

The Agriculture Ministry, citing experts, estimated it would take a year to restore the damaged facilities.

The destroyed grain was supposed to have been loaded onto a vessel and sent through the grain corridor two months ago, the statement said.

"Such attacks by Russian terrorists are not only affecting our country but also global stability," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said during a briefing with the visiting Irish prime minister in Kyiv. He said Ukraine needs more anti-aircraft defense systems to protect the port.

Zelenskyy said his government is trying to find a way to maintain a corridor to keep grain exports flowing despite Russia's decision to abandon the deal brokered with the U.N. and Turkey.

## South Africa says Putin will skip a summit next month because of his ICC arrest warrant

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAPE TOWN: Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the BRICS economic summit in Johannesburg next month, the office of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a statement Wednesday. The decision means South Africa will not face the dilemma of whether it should carry out an International Criminal Court arrest warrant against the Russian leader.

South Africa is a signatory to the treaty that created the ICC and would have been obliged under that to arrest Putin, although the country had given strong hints that it would have likely not executed the arrest warrant.

But Wednesday's announcement allows South Africa to avoid the problem and comes after Ramaphosa spoke with Putin by telephone in recent days. The decision for Putin not to attend was by "mutual agreement," Ramaphosa's office said. Russia will instead be represented at the Aug 22-24 summit by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The BRICS economic bloc is made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. South Africa had invited the leaders of the other four countries to the summit before Putin's arrest warrant was issued by the ICC in March.



**Australian sailor Timothy Lindsay Shaddock, 54, who went adrift with his dog Bella over two months speaks during a welcoming ceremony in his honor after being rescued by a Mexican tuna trawler, in Manzanillo, Mexico.**

## North Korea fires two missiles after U.S. submarine arrives in S.Korea

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: North Korea launched two ballistic missiles eastward early on Wednesday, Japan's and South Korea's militaries said, just hours after a U.S. ballistic missile submarine arrived in a South Korean port for the first time in four decades.

The incident took place inside a sewage treatment plant established in the Himalayan state's Chamoli district as part of a flagship programme of the federal government that focuses on conserving the river Ganga.

cease such launches. "We strongly condemn North Korea's successive ballistic missile launches as grave provocative acts that undermine the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula as well as the international community, and are a clear violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions," the JCS said in a statement.

The U.S. military said it was aware of the missile launches and was consulting closely with its allies and partners.



**Flooded banks of river Yamuna along the Taj Mahal in Agra.**

## Kremlin says it did not tell S.Africa that Putin arrest would mean war

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia did not tell South Africa that arresting President Vladimir Putin on an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC) would mean "war", the Kremlin said on Wednesday.

Shortly after the Kremlin's comments, South Africa said that Putin would not attend a summit of the BRICS group of nations in South Africa in August "by mutual agreement." The ICC has accused Putin

## At least 16 killed by suspected electrocution in north Indian state

**Monitoring Desk**  
LUCKNOW: At least 16 people were killed and another six injured in a suspected case of electrocution in the north Indian state of Uttarakhhand on Wednesday morning, government officials said. The incident took place inside a sewage treatment plant established in the Himalayan state's Chamoli district as part of a flagship programme of the federal government that focuses on conserving the river Ganga.



**LAHORE:** Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council and Special Representative of Prime Minister of Pakistan for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi series of All Parties National Peace Seminar at Rahmani Islamic Center Model Town hand in hand for peace and unity on the occasion of Muharram.

## Pakistan urges reinstatement of S. Asia's strategic balance; Kashmir dispute's resolution

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan has called for re-establishing the strategic balance in South Asia and for moving the region towards peace by promoting a settlement of the decades-old, UN-recognized Kashmir dispute through diplomacy.

"It is important that the strategic balance in South Asia is re-established, along with a quest for peace, so that the region does not remain a potential tinderbox," Masood Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, told a Conference on Diplomacy for Devel-

opment in Houston, Texas. "We should resort to bilateral, third party and multilateral diplomacy to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and ensure nuclear stability," the Pakistani envoy said in his remarks on: The Future of Pakistan-US Relations: A Way Forward.

The conference, at which senior State Department official Elizabeth Horst was among the noted speakers, was organized by the International Academy of Letters, a think-tank seeking to build bridges through cultural & public

diplomacy. Pointing out that the US had chosen friends within the setting of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, Ambassador Masood Khan noted that "their (US friends) declared vectors of invest, align and compete, we are told are not designed to alienate or confront other countries in the region and beyond." On its part, he said Pakistan had pursued connectivity through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to leverage its economic geography, declaring, "Our defence and economic ties with China will continue."

## Large number of people benefiting from Green Bus Service in Quetta

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Green bus service launched couple of days back has acclaimed much appreciation from general public. The Green bus service project started by the provincial government under leadership of Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has become attention of the general public, which is evident from the fact that a large number of people have started benefiting from the service. Matter of fact remains that the public circles have described the launch of Green bus service as welcoming. How the general public is benefiting from

the service is also evident from the number of passengers who travelled on the buses on Wednesday.

Worth mentioning is that a total of 3,862 passengers benefited from the ride of Green buses on the route from Baleli to Balochistan University.

It may also be mentioned here that over 3500 passengers had travelled by the Green buses on Tuesday. This speaks about the number of passengers is increasing on the Green buses with every passing day. This was the vision of Chief Minister to launch the Green buses who wanted to prefer the public welfare projects.



**QUETTA:** A delegation led by provincial president Pakistan People Party Balochistan Changez Khan Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

## BAEF to approve 500 more cases in its board meeting in August: Noorullah

QUETTA (APP): The next board meeting of the Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund (BAEF) would be held in the first week of August after a period of seven months due to a lack of funds to approve more cases of poor patients.

As many as 500 more cases would be approved in the 20th board meeting of BAEF to provide financial assistance to poor patients, the Coordinator of BAEF, Noorullah told APP on Wednesday.

The coordinator said the programme was receiving Rs70 million monthly as seed money but the need of the poor people had gone above Rs500 million.

The board meeting of the program could not commence after December last year due to the unavailability of funds to approve more cases of needy patients suffering from different chronic diseases, he added.

Noorullah said with the approval of 500 more cases the tally would be reached to 3500 patients



**QUETTA:** Provincial Minister Mir Asadullah Baloch meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki.

## Pakistan's youth always excelled whenever given opportunities: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the country's youth always proved their mettle at the international level whenever provided the right opportunities.

In a tweet, he mentioned his yesterday's launch of a youth sports initiative programme aimed at converging the energies of youth towards a positive direction.

PM Sharif expressed confidence that youth would excel under the patronage of the Prime Minister's Youth Sports Initiative.

He pointed out the shortage of facilities for sportsmen in the country to compete in the games at the international level. The

programme would promote sports across the country through the training of talented youth, he added.

The prime minister hoped that future governments would ensure the continuity of the programme in best interest of the youth.

Shehbaz Sharif a day earlier launched multiple initiatives for promoting sports culture and welfare of the sports persons including the Rs 5 billion Pakistan Sports Endowment Fund with seed money of Rs 5 billion.

The other initiatives include the soft launch of the first dedicated Sports University, the Elite Sportspersons Development Programme and the e-sports development programme.



**ISLAMABAD:** Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting held at Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

## Senator Gillani emphasizes significance of democracy, human rights & rule of law

LONDON (APP): Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, on Wednesday stressed for advancing democratic principles, human rights, rule of law, tolerance, equality, and called for duly protecting rights of Kashmiri and Palestinian people, and opposing authoritarian populism.

Addressing the inaugural seminar at Society of Lincoln's Inn Old Court Room, Senator Yousaf Gillani reiterated his commitment to promoting human rights, safeguarding independence of the judiciary, and ensuring media freedom.

He discussed how his actions as Prime Minister, had been geared towards upholding these principles within the context of democracy and human rights.

He also stressed to address the challenges, being faced by Kashmiri and Palestinian people and called for international support in upholding their rights. He warned against authoritarian populism and urged the world to protect the rights of migrants.

"As a Senator and former Prime Minister of

Pakistan, I am deeply honored to speak at this prestigious occasion, hosted by the Society of Lincoln's Inn — an institution known for its excellence in legal education. I am grateful for the opportunity to address this esteemed gathering and express my admiration for the institution's commitment to nurturing responsible and thoughtful legal professionals." After undergoing six-year imprisonment by a dictator's regime, he was sworn in as the Prime Minister in 2008, with his convictions, vindicated by both the courts and people's support. This ordeal reinforced his dedication to advocating for a fair and just justice system, underscoring the significance of fundamental rights, he added. Gillani said his affiliation with PPP, founded by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was rooted in the principles of democracy, equality, freedom, and human rights.

He lauded the sacrifices rendered by former Prime Ministers - Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Ms Benazir Bhutto - for promoting democratic culture in the country.



**WASHINGTON:** Shazia Marri, Federal Minister PA&SS and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Presents Book titled 15 Years' Journey from Inception to a Globally Recognized Social Protection Vehicle" to Nicole Klingner, World Bank's Regional Head of Social Protection & Acting Director for Digital Development in Europe and Central Asia.

## Chairman Senate commends PHF at Annual Report 2022 Launch Event

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, graced the "Pakistan Humanitarian Forum's Annual Report 2022 Launch Event" at Marriot Hotel Islamabad as the Chief Guest on Wednesday.

During his address at the ceremony, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani extended his heartfelt appreciation for the remarkable efforts of the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) in organizing such an important event. He emphasized the pivotal role of humanitarian and development works in Pakistan, acknowledging PHF's exceptional contributions to providing relief and rehabilitation to those affected, especially after the devastating floods in Pakistan.

Chairman Senate also praised PHF for its efforts in creating a platform that enables various organizations to come together and serve the people of Pakistan. He assured PHF of

the Senate of Pakistan's cooperation, ensuring a strong partnership between PHF and the Climate Change Parliamentary Caucus. In line with this commitment, he pledged that two representatives from PHF will be provided representation in the Caucus to enhance coordination between the two bodies. Furthermore, Chairman Senate stressed the need to raise awareness among the public to protect the future of our children. He pledged to provide PHF and similar organizations with appropriate platforms to support their initiatives effectively.

Recognizing the significance of sustainable development in Balochistan, Chairman Senate proposed organizing a donor conference to channel resources towards the development of the province. Highlighting the critical role of the private sector, Chairman Senate called for their support in generating employment opportunities.

## President says: Imam Hussain (RA)'s sacrifice an immortal reminder about fighting oppression, upholding truth

### PM urges countrymen to promote tolerance, social justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has said that the invaluable sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) is an immortal reminder about challenging the oppression and injustice, and standing firm to uphold truth.

He said the new Islamic year is a reminder that the strength of the nation lies in unity and harmony.

"With a united approach, we can overcome any challenge and make the future of our coming generations bright," he said, in his message to the nation on the advent of new Islamic year 1445 Hijrah.

President Alvi emphasized the need for mainstreaming all segments of society and providing them a level-playing field.

The president said new Islamic year has a great significance for the Muslims all over the world and reminds of the immense sacrifices rendered by their forefathers.

"On this day, we make a pledge to follow the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) and implement these in our lives," he said.

He said compassion, justice, unity and kindness are the ethos of Islamic culture and are important to promote harmony and prosperity in the society.

The president said Muharram as the first month of the Islamic calendar guides a Muslim to refresh his spiritual journey of life. He said it relates to the month when Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions sacrificed their lives in the battle of Karbala. Against oppression, the historic event of Karbala is an example of undeterred courage, sacrifice and steadfastness, he added. The president said Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his small army of fol-

lowers fought against the injustice and sacrificed their lives to uphold the sanctity of truth.

Dr Alvi prayed that may Allah Almighty make the new Islamic year a source of His blessings for Pakistan, the nation, Islamic community and the entire world.

"May the new Islamic year bring for us the peace, prosperity and happiness and lead us towards a better future ahead," he said.

Meanwhile on the advent of the new Islamic year on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged countrymen to strive for emulating the noble teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions besides building a society featuring principles of social justice and equality.

"Let us pledge today that we will strive to emulate the noble qualities established by our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).



**QUETTA:** A delegation of women MPAs meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

## CPDI conducts orientation session on right to information for Govt officials & Journalists

QUETTA (APP): CPDI conducted a session on understanding right to information laws and the responsibilities of public officials was held for the government officials of the National Institute of Management Quetta.

The National Institute of Management Quetta's delegation, led by Director General Muhammad Aslam Ghani, expressed gratitude for the session.

Towards the session's conclusion, participants united in calling for the effective enforcement of right-to-information laws in Pakistan, said in a press release issued here on Wednesday.

A demand for the establishment of the Balochistan Information

Commission under the Balochistan Right to Information Act 2021 was raised, highlighting the urgency of transparent governance and information accessibility in Pakistan.

Another session took place on the same day, where journalists and media professionals gathered for an orientation session focused on leveraging the right to information for investigative reporting. Senior investigative journalists, including Mr. Waseem Abbasi, Mr. Umar Cheema, and Mr. Tahir Khalil shared their invaluable experiences in practicing investigative journalism in Pakistan.

Despite the challenges and risks associated with journalism in the country, they emphasized the paramount importance of truth-telling and combating corruption through the effective use of RTI. He remarked that collective mission should be to bring about transparency and foster social accountability in Pakistan through the power of responsible journalism.

They encouraged young and budding journalists to never shy away from speaking the truth. During the session, participants learned about the evolution of the RTI with a particular focus on its relevance in the present context.

Overall, the main theme revolved around utilizing this powerful tool as a catalyst for groundbreaking investigative reporting.

## Quetta Customs seized smuggled goods worth of Rs 130m

QUETTA (APP): The Quetta Customs has expedited its ongoing operation and seized smuggled Chalia and Gutka worth of Rs 130 million.

The mobile squads of Quetta Customs intercepted a 22-wheeler container at Sariab Road coming from the Afghan border and recovered the smuggled good in a huge quantity, spokesperson of Quetta Customs Dr Atta Baraich said on Wednesday.

The vehicle carrying smuggled goods comprising of 30,760 kg of chalia and 660,000 sachets of Indian gutka was also taken into custody.

The efforts taken by the Customs official has been significantly reduced the smuggling in the province.



**QUETTA:** Parliamentary Secretary Excise Laila Tareen meeting with Parliamentary Secretary S&GAD Bushra Rind.

## Balochistan Medical teachers call off strike; BMC, three other colleges to reopen today

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Balochistan Medical Teachers Association (BMTA) has announced to call off two-months long strike on Wednesday.

The strike was called off by the President BMTA, Dr. Zahoor Shah while addressing a hurriedly called press conference along with the members of parliamentary committee at the protest camp

of BMTA set up in the premises of Bolan Medical College on Wednesday afternoon.

The members of parliamentary committee of the provincial assembly present on the occasion were the provincial minister for youth affairs and sports, Abdul Khaliq Hazara, Asghar Khan Achakzai, Nasrullah Zairay and Muhammad Arif Muhammad Hassani.

## Political parties asked to submit statement of accounts by Aug 29

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked the political parties to submit their consolidated statement of accounts for the financial year 2022-23 by August 29.

According to the ECP spokesman, political parties were required in terms of Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 that they were required to file with ECP their statement of accounts for the financial year, which ended on June 30.

It may be recalled that Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that a political party shall, in such a manner as may be prescribed, submit

to the Commission, within sixty days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated statement of its accounts audited by a chartered accountant on Form-D containing annual income and expenses, sources of its funds and assets and liabilities. The statement to be submitted to the ECP shall accompany the report of a chartered accountant with regard to the audit of accounts of a political party and a certificate signed by an office-bearer authorized by the party head stating that no funds from any source prohibited under the Elections Act, 2017 were received by the political party and the statement

contains an accurate financial position of the political party. The statement of accounts is to be submitted on Form-D as provided in the Elections Act, 2017. Printed Forms were available, free of cost, in the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad and in the offices of the provincial election commissioners, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Form-D/Proforma for the source of funds were also available on ECP's Website. The ECP said that the overwriting should be avoided and the membership or certificate issued by ICAP in respect of the Auditor engaged shall be annexed to the Form-D.