

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad Ms. Pang Chunxue and Federal Ministers cutting a cake marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the agreement for CPEC

## Certain things improved due to firm stance; expects progress in PPL affairs: Bringing Balochistan at par of other provinces not possible with limited funds, regrets Chief Minister

Says paucity of funds main reason to poverty, backwardness of Balochistan; We don't receive such funds under the NFC Award that we may resolve the issues of people

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has categorically stated that Balochistan is half of Pakistan, and it is not possible to bring it (Balochistan) at par of other provinces of the country with limited funds. "We don't receive such funds under the NFC Award that we may resolve the issues of people," the Chief Minister mentioned adding that "whenever there comes new government in the federation, it is talked about removing backwardness of the province,



but unfortunately, practical steps are not taken for the very purpose." He said that those having authority and rule would have to ponder upon that why Balochistan was

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo maintained that basic reason behind poverty and backwardness of the province is non-availability of the funds and lack of attention. He regretfully pointed out that this is the province which is backward too. He said that we get least share in the NFC Award. While on the other hand, 40 percent of our resources are spent on the security, which is a big challenge for us. He said that it is a very big challenge to provide security to half of the country, adding he mentioned

## India should benefit from CPEC, avoid creating hurdles: PM

Says CPEC's 10-year, transformed Pakistan's development landscape; Enemies of CPEC enemies of development, peace, prosperity in Pakistan, region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on the completion of 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Wednesday asked neighbouring India to take benefit of the mega project instead of creating obstacles in its way. Highlighting the significance of project, he said Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the whole region would also benefit from it.

"CPEC is a beautiful plan to connect not only regions and areas but also people's hearts," he said in a statement issued by the PM Office. The prime minister vowed to double the pace of the development as it was not only for improving roads, rail, sea ports and air routes, but it would also help health, education and skill development areas, besides masses' participation in the process.

Terming it a game changer for the whole region, the prime minister said CPEC would have a positive impacts on the people's living standards in the region. PM Shehbaz congratulated the leadership and the people of Pakistan and China on 10 years completion of CPEC, which was a new chapter of the ever-green and trusted strategic cooperative partnership between the two iron brothers.

## Calls for amicable solution to Wadh issue: Balochistan can't afford further tribal clashes, hatred and prejudices: Governor

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar says development and prosperity can only become fate of the peaceful nationalities and tribes

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that a poor and backward province i.e., Balochistan can't afford further tribal clashes, hatred and prejudices, as such there is a dire need to take the existing sensitivity regarding tribes and sects seriously and find sustainable solution to them. The Governor said that development and prosperity can only become fate of the peaceful nationalities and tribes. He said that Pashtoons and Balochs are among those lucky nations

whom political elders give up the internal conflicts and battles and move ahead by making the collective peace and development the aim of life. The Governor was speaking to the President of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar Mengal during his visit to his residence in Wadh on Wednesday. The Governor especially went to Wadh to meet Sardar Akhtar Mengal and discussed with him the latest situation of the country, tense situation of Tehsil Wadh besides the changes taking place in the region.



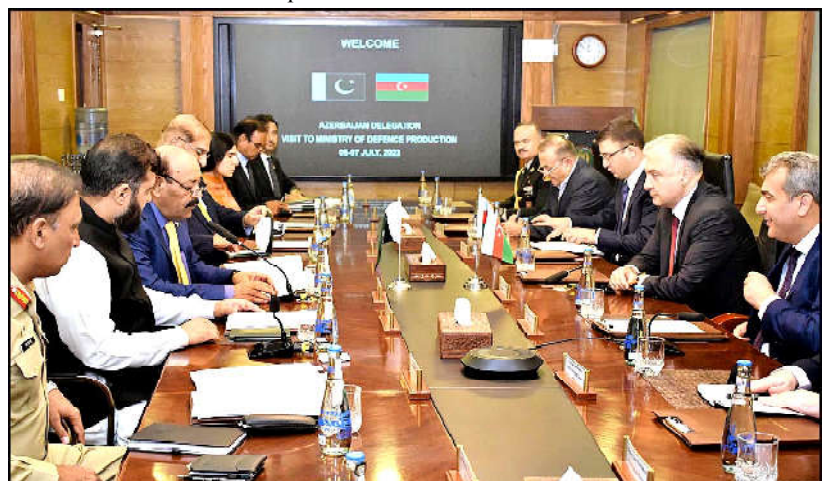
Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar meeting with President of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal at his residence in Wadh

## PIT's own people exposed Panama conspiracy Only Nawaz Shrif can resolve country's problems: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's own people had exposed the Panama conspiracy. Addressing a press conference here, she said that characters behind that conspiracy pushed the country towards multiple crises by imposing an incompetent and inefficient person at the helm of affairs. The minister said that the solution of Pakistan's problems lied only with Nawaz Sharif who served thrice as Prime Minister. "During the Nawaz



ures and characters who were burning the country today, stood on the container to stop the CPEC project in 2013-14. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif was disqualified under a conspiracy when "Panama verdict was changed to Iqama." During the press conference, she played a video clip of senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and legal wizard Hamid Khan who told a private TV channel that it appeared that the decision to disqualify Nawaz Sharif in Iqama case was done somewhere else.



RAWALPINDI: Advisor to President of Azerbaijan, Khalid Ahadov, along with delegation in a meeting with Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen and officials of MoDP

## Pakistan believes policy of peaceful co-existence: Israr

RAWALPINDI (APP): A high-level defence delegation of Azerbaijan, headed by Khalid Ahadov, Advisor to the President of Azerbaijan called on Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen in his office at Rawalpindi. The minister welcomed the delegation and appreciated the brotherly feelings of the Azerbaijan government for Pakistan on all international forums, including the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations. He said that Pakistan was a peace-loving country, strictly believing in the

policy of peaceful co-existence with all. He reiterated that Pakistan's commitment to peace was evident through its major contribution to UN peace efforts in war-torn countries in different parts of the world. The minister also expressed Pakistan's strong desire to broaden and strengthen its partnership with Azerbaijan in all fields. Khalid Ahadov thanked the Pakistan government for the warm hospitality extended to the delegation and for providing the opportunity to discuss various avenues of cooperation.

## Alvi appoints Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin as FST chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday appointed Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin Khan as Chairman of the Federal Service Tribunal (FST). The president appointed Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin as the FST chairman for a non-extendable term of three years. Earlier, he had served as the judge of Peshawar High Court. The president made the appointment under Section 3(IV) of the Service Tribunal Act 1973.

## FM Bilawal Bhutto arrives in US on private visit

NEW YORK (INP): After concluding his maiden Japan visit, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday reached USA on a private visit, sources said on Wednesday. Sources privy to the matter said that the foreign minister will stay in the USA for a period of one week where he will hold important conferences being arranged by the US think tank. The foreign office is also making efforts to arrange between FM Bilawal Bhutto and US diplomatic officials, say sources. The foreign minister is visiting USA on a special invitation from US think tank, they say.

## Last phase of LG elections to be held in 35 districts of Balochistan today

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The 5th and last phase of Local Government elections is being held in 35 districts with election of chairman and vice chairman of the district councils in 35 districts of Balochistan today (Thursday). In all 1266 members would be using their right of franchise for election of chairman and vice chairman of the district councils in 35 districts of the province. The members are included the chairman of rural union councils of the districts and those elected on the reserved

seats of women, peasants, workers and non-Muslims in the district councils. While the process of election is due to be started after oath taking of the district council members this morning today, it would conclude with the voting for the election of chairman and vice chairman of the councils. The process of voting would remain continued till 04:00 PM without any break. The candidates contesting election on the slot of chairman and vice chairman would submit their nomination papers after the oath taking.

## Three soldiers embrace martyrdom in suicide blast in North Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Three soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced 'Shahadat', while three innocent civilians got critically injured when a vehicle borne suicide bomber exploded himself in general area Miran Shah, North Waziristan District on Wednesday. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release issued here, Subedar Sahib Khan

(age 41 years, resident of Mianwali), Naik Muhammad Ibrahim (age 40 years, resident of Dera Ismail Khan) and Sepoy Jehangir Khan (age 24 years, resident of Mardan) embraced shahadat. The suicide bomber intended targeting the security forces' post, however, timely interception of the suicide bomber on suspicion by on-duty soldiers prevented a major catastrophe.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Qatar in Pakistan Sheikh Saoud Abdurahman Al Thaniical on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

## CJP Bandial terms Greece boat tragedy a 'human rights issue'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial said on Wednesday that the boat tragedy on Greek shores — which resulted in the deaths of nearly 300 Pakistanis — was a matter of human rights. He said over the past 75 years, the bilateral ties had continued to expand and deepen. He said the US was one of Pakistan's major trading, defence and economic partners. "The governments in Islamabad and Washington have demonstrated pragmatism and wisdom to keep the course of our relations steady, which speaks of the dynamism of our partnership", he added.

people to flee their homes. The tragedy of such immense proportions was believed to have taken place in the presence of maritime authorities. It was also believed that Pakistani nationals were forced to stay below the deck by the crew, which maltreated them during the journey. Referring to the tragedy during the hearing today, Justice Bandial noted that innocent and poor people were tricked into going abroad on the pretext of better jobs. "Citizens are duped by human traffickers and pay millions of rupees," the top judge said, pointing out that even children and women were becoming victims of human smuggling. "Does the government have statistics on the number of children being smuggled," the CJP asked. To the query, the director general of the human rights ministry said, "Unfortunately, accurate data is not available."



QUETTA: Enraged people are gathered on the call of Balochistan Home and Tribal Affairs Minister Mir Zia Lango to protest against the desecration of Holly Quran in Sweden



Thursday July 06, 2023

**Flash in the pan?**

The sceptics may have their doubts about a 'miracle turnaround' in Pakistan's fortunes after the government grabbed a last-minute stand-by loan from the IMF, but the markets have been quick this week to cash in on the euphoria.

The dollar fell sharply once trading resumed after the holidays, collapsing like a punctured balloon; stock market activity heated up like it had not in years, with speculative investors eager to get their hands on whatever they could; gold prices registered a sharp decline; and fresh inflation readings — although unrelated to the IMF deal announcement — indicated that the pressures that had built up within the economy might finally be showing signs of easing. Had Pakistan really stumbled back onto the path to prosperity over the course of a long weekend thanks to just one loan deal? That's what the government, at least, would have us believe.

Experts and analysts, on the other hand, are still warning of the underlying risks imperilling Pakistan's economic prosperity. Global credit ratings agencies Moody's and Fitch on Monday reminded the world that Islamabad still needs to pay back \$25bn to creditors this fiscal year — a sum which is more than seven times what it officially has in its pocket at the moment and much more than the \$3bn the IMF has grudgingly agreed to lend it over the course of the next nine months (which remains subject to approval by its board as well as Islamabad meeting the stringent conditions that will likely be laid out before it as a prerequisite for loan disbursements).

The same day, data released by the Bureau of Statistics showed that exports had dropped 19pc in the month of June compared to the previous year, marking the 10th straight month of a drop in export proceeds. The trend, if it persists, will only worsen difficulties in financing the current account.

Therefore, the question: are we celebrating too early? The smart money seems to think so. While the 'positive trigger' from the IMF deal has been welcomed by the stock and foreign exchange markets, the high spirits will not last.

Both forex and stock analysts have warned that what we are seeing is a temporary bonanza, not a turnaround in their respective markets' fortunes. There is now a broad consensus that till the fundamentals are fixed — ie, till Pakistan embarks on a structured plan to reform the economy and fix its underlying imbalances — nobody can breathe easy.

And how long must we remain in this purgatory? With an election coming up, the most painful measures will likely be put off for another few months for the new government to inherit. It is a shame that, with so much at stake, we are still not sure of what comes next.



Zahid Hussain

The meeting between the chiefs and scions of the two most powerful political dynasties in Dubai last week, where a consensus was reportedly reached on the composition of the forthcoming caretaker set-up as well as the future coalition, provides a glimpse into Pakistan's family-dominated power politics. Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari virtually carved out the post-election power structure.

With the dismantling of the PTI underway, the road is now deemed to have been cleared for the elections, though there is still no understanding on the time frame.

The Dubai rendezvous was certainly not meant for signing a new charter of democracy; the main objective seems to have been to chart

**Dynastic rule and democracy**

a strategy to consolidate the existing power structure dominated by the two dynasties.

It is a sad commentary on our so-called democratic system. There is hardly any other example of political leaders of a democracy meeting in a third country to discuss critical political issues instead of deliberating these at home and in parliament. This happens when political parties are reduced to family enterprises. Elected democratic forums become irrelevant when politics becomes a family affair. It's all in the family.

What is most disturbing is the reported agreement between the two families' bigwigs on the composition of the interim administration. It is contrary to the constitutional provision which says that the caretaker administration should be neutral and be named with consultation between the leader of the house and leader of the opposition.

It may be true that the current leader of the opposition in a truncated National Assembly has hardly any credibility, but still one has to go by the book. But who cares about the Constitution in this game of

thrones?

The whole episode also raises question about the fairness of the coming election, with a handpicked interim set-up of doubtful neutrality. It is almost a repeat of the situation of the Punjab caretaker government, which is virtually being run by the PML-N-led coalition in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the ongoing political engineering has tainted the entire election process. It is tantamount to pre-poll rigging, which we have seen many times in the past. The PTI's disintegration in the face of state oppression and the formation of a new king's party backed by the security establishment has made a mockery of the whole democratic process.

Indeed, this much is not new in Pakistan's troubled political journey. But the severity of the repression is rare. Hundreds of PTI workers are languishing in jails and facing terrorism charges. Some of them will be tried by military courts.

Surely those who were involved in attacks on military installations must be punished, but the indiscriminate crackdown has reinforced the view that it is part

of the plan to keep the PTI out of the election process or at least weaken it so that it does not present any serious challenge to the PML-N in Punjab, which has become the major battleground.

There is certainly a newfound confidence in the ruling alliance with the dismantling of the PTI, but in a fair and free election, the party, with its mass support base remaining intact, could give the PML-N a run for its money.

What is most interesting is former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's having taken full command of the PML-N. He may have been guiding the coalition government and his party from his home in London since the installation of the PDM set-up, but his meeting with the PPP leaders in Dubai has left no room for ambiguity about his ambition to become prime minister for the fourth time. The recent statement from senior PML-N leaders has reinforced speculations.

The passage of two new bills by parliament, reducing his disqualification to five years and allowing him the right to appeal against his conviction by the Supreme Court, has paved the

way for his return to the country to lead his party's election campaign. Last week's meeting with the PPP chiefain seems to be part of the plan for him to return home in the next few months.

Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif is now visiting Saudi Arabia, where he went recently. He plans to meet the top Saudi leaders. These visits have assumed greater significance for his plan to bid for the top office for a fourth term.

In a recent statement, he was quoted as saying that his first priority would be to contain the spiralling inflation at home if he returned to power. Some observers believe that it is not power but his wish to be vindicated which is the main reason for his endeavour.

He is perhaps waiting for the court to drop his conviction before returning. The return of the three-time former prime minister would give an interesting twist to Pakistan's chequered political history. He was removed each time halfway through his term. There is still a long way to go before he can get the coveted post for the fourth term. Until a few weeks ago,

it looked improbable that general elections would be held before the end of this year, with the country facing the prospect of an economic meltdown and defaulting on its external debt repayment. But with the IMF deal coming through, the country has been given some much-needed breathing space. The development has drastically changed the political landscape. It is the right moment for the ruling coalition to agree to elections.

The date for the polls would depend on whether the ruling coalition dissolves the National Assembly a few days before the end of its term on Aug 13 or wait until then. In either case, polls cannot go beyond mid-November. There seems to be no possibility of prolonging the term of the caretaker set-up.

It is certainly a good idea not to postpone the general elections. There are no two views that elections are the only way out of the present political turmoil. Any pre-poll rigging and manipulation that is attempted to change the outcome will be disastrous for national stability. -- Courtesy Dawn

**What should VCs be worried about?**

Dr Ayesha Razzaque

Today's university vice-chancellors (VCs) are facing a number of challenges. The number one challenge by far that universities are grappling with, particularly after the presentation of the 2023-24 federal budget and subsequent tweaks, is financial sustainability and affordability.

Financial sustainability of universities has always been a challenge but the cost of an education at public universities remained within the reach of many Pakistanis. However, lately the contribution of public funds per institution has been drying up. Meanwhile, parliamentarians continue to lobby for the establishment of new universities in the remotest tehsils without consideration to whether they will be able to attract and retain the quality talent needed to staff it.

Public funds are no longer keeping up with the growth in the number of universities. Factor in the rate of inflation over the last few years, and the funding picture for public higher education institutions (HEIs) has turned dire.

Education provided by public HEIs remains heavily subsidized. In 2022-23, public funds subsidized the cost of education at a prestigious public university in Islamabad by approximately 50 per cent. When that funding dries up, universities will have to make up the shortfall immediately, and the quickest and easiest way is by raising tuition fees. Thus, a version of the higher-ed affordability crisis that has been plaguing North America for the last two decades (tuition rates doubled from 2000 to 2019) has come for us in Pakistan.

While accurate figures for annual budget shortfalls of universities are hard to come by, conversations with some VCs put those numbers at around Rs1 billion for large, Rs500 million for medium, and Rs200 million for new/small universities.

Even against this backdrop, most VCs today remain unaware of what their

average per-student cost is, much less the per-student cost broken down by departments and programs, and with it, unaware of which programmes/departments are the greatest contributors to expenses.

Once middle-class families were able to cover the cost of public higher education from their running family budget. However, the recent ballooning cost means those same families will have to plan ahead and start saving for their children's higher education long before they graduate high school.

The college affordability crisis has disproportionately affected students from low-income backgrounds, thus limiting opportunities and perpetuating socio-economic inequality. Those who have the option are forced to take on substantial debt or are deterred from pursuing higher education altogether. All this makes access to higher education a pressing concern, threatening principles of equal opportunity and social mobility central to the mission of public universities.

Many universities up and down the country are already unable to meet their

payroll and pension obligations to staff and retirees. Quaid-e-Azam University is reportedly 1-2 years behind paying visiting faculty. Its Management Sciences department alone relies on visiting faculty to deliver about 100 courses every semester. In this environment of simultaneously rising costs and shrinking public support, VCs' highest priority is (or ought to be) finding sustainable solutions that ensure both affordability and educational quality, an ongoing and complex task.

So far, those efforts have remained confined to appealing for public funds at the federal and provincial levels and raising tuition fees — but this will no longer suffice. Given that there is nothing new under the sun, let us once again look at common approaches taken by universities elsewhere in the world when faced with similar pressures.

In the long term, following in the footsteps of their peers abroad, universities need to develop their own endowment funds managed by professionals — diversified portfolios of investments that generate profits that can be de-

ployed to meet operating expenses and subsidize education for those who have a need in the form of scholarships and financial aid.

For example, according to 2021 figures, at \$53 billion, Harvard University maintains the largest endowment of all US universities, followed by Yale (\$43 billion), Stanford (\$38 billion), and Princeton (\$37 billion). The average of the 10 largest endowment funds is \$28 billion. My own alma mater, a public university, maintains an endowment of \$4 billion, the 12th largest of public universities in North America, and publishes its performance (<https://givingto.msu.edu/endowments/performance.cfm>) for all to see. The earned returns allow universities to ride out rough periods in the economy. Unfortunately, very few universities in Pakistan today have endowments (IBA went as far as sharing the size of its endowment fund: Rs2.2 billion) or are moving in the direction of establishing one.

University endowments are fueled in large part by alumni donations in addition to reinvested re-

turns, grants, and philanthropic donations. The first is requisite on having an alumni network, tracking, and maintaining connections, and that alumni had a positive student experience that motivates them to stay connected with their alma mater. All of that requires a dedicated student and alumni affairs office.

Attracting and soliciting philanthropic donations is an important and almost routine task of university presidents and heads of constituent schools and colleges. Some VCs consider it beneath their dignity to fundraise in this manner, but the fact is that the ability to fundraise is an important consideration when universities fill leadership positions.

In the medium term, universities are simultaneously trying to create new lines of revenue while meeting the demand for education outside of traditional multi-year residential degree programs. Micro-credentials and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are one avenue universities have been exploring since the arrival of MOOC providers like Coursera, edX, and others like them. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Banyan tree's future**

Marvi Mazhar

Environmental displacement can hardly be quantified; however, the severity of the crisis can be grasped by glancing at some staggering statistical figures.

For instance, according to the Ecological Threat Register, a 2020 report published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, a Sydney-based international think tank, ecological disasters displace an average of 24 million people per year, and if the current rate continues, there would be at least 1.2 billion people displaced globally by the end of 2050.

Karachi's natural heritage ranges from shorelines, backwaters, rivers and nullahs, to old gardens, parks, private lawns, migratory birds' routes, and, most importantly, the historical trees indigenous to the city, which include the neem, peepal, keekar and especially the banyan tree for its sacred memories.

These trees are located mostly in old neighbourhoods, which preserve the memories of this city. In 2019, along with other activists, the Natural Heritage Association of Karachi lobbied for the designation of the centuries-old banyan trees as 'protected heritage' in partnership with the local government. Then administrator Murtaza Wahab declared the Old Clifton banyan trees and others in Karachi 'heritage protected' under a legal framework.

Around 30 trees out of 64 were pruned, registered, and preserved. And the rest of the mapped banyan trees of Old Clifton

were left for the next phase — to be part of the next project — as a complete annexure; they were declared the 'Banyan Trees of Old Clifton' on a signboard next to Do Talwar. The non-preserved, neglected trees are still waiting for their preservation plan.

Over the years, banyan trees have witnessed moments of transformation and resilience. In recent times, the regrowth and maintenance of these trees have lessened because of Karachi's worsening air quality and the lack of governance in maintaining the natural heritage. But the main reason is the real estate boom, which has been invasively uprooting the foliage of the city and replacing it with concrete pavers and trees that are merely beautifying elements.

The latter include date palms, which are meant to be a part of the Dubai-esque development that the authorities aspire to, the conocarpus, and aggressively grown green barriers meant to conceal informal settlements or a non-picturesque view in the vicinity of a new development.

Natural heritage foliage is mostly found in old neighbourhoods of the city, where generations of mohalla dari have taken ownership through care management, and where self-elected neighbourhood associations have nurtured these large natural markers. But it's unfortunate to see how much neighbourhoods like PECHS, PIB Colony, Tariq Road, Garden East and West, KDA Scheme No 1 and Soldier Bazaar have suffered at the hands of low-grade developers and the corrupt government organisational management.

Karachi's fractured infrastructure and constant expansion and development have resulted in unequally distributed planning powers. A very large city — 40.69 billion square feet (3.8bn square metres)

— Karachi expanded continuously during 2000-2020, recording an average annual growth rate of 4.7 per cent — an unmanageable scale.

It is critical that we protect natural heritage even while expanding the city, as we see some of these trees being cut down in order to construct buildings, or being neglected. This is leading to the destruction of the natural environment and habitat.

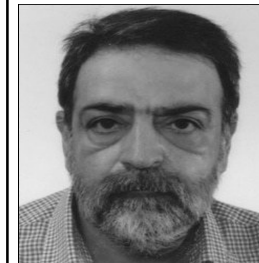
These developers, following unethical architectural practices, have contributed to a humanitarian crisis, where malpractice, easy turnkey projects, and industrial material for mass construction have altered climatic conditions, resulting in high temperatures and heated corridors of circulation. This has made walking or waiting for public transport unbearable.

The city provides an opportunity for co-learning, and making a difference through the collective power of advocacy and association. Learning matters: the process of learning — from cities and within them — is a fundamental right.

We know the city from historical referencing, but as cities change because of daily interventions and use, learnings transform and evolve. Learnings also have the potential to challenge and transform ways of knowing and looking at urbanism, a shift from inherited knowledge which is taken for granted.

It is absolutely critical to explore the material understanding of construction as well as include the existing natural landscape within the urban infrastructure to celebrate the inherited ecology and combat heat islands through a constant care management plan.

Today, we desperately need new methods for imagining the relationship between human and nature. -- Courtesy Dawn

**France in flames**

Mahir Ali

Almost 80 years ago, after the tide had turned against Germany in World War II, the dictator in Berlin wanted the Nazi-occupied capital of France to be destroyed before it fell to the Allies. Hitler reportedly asked his generals, "Is Paris burning?"

It wasn't in 1944, but Paris has frequently been seared by flames, metaphorically or otherwise, in the ensuing decades. It is an intriguing coincidence that the epicentre of the latest bout of mass rioting was also the cradle of the student revolt that, in 1968, rocked the foundations of the Fifth Republic just a decade after it had been founded by Charles de Gaulle.

Back then, de Gaulle actually fled to West Germany, driven by the fear that the uprising, in which the working class eventually joined the students, might actually succeed. Emmanuel Macron, 55 years later, cancelled a visit to Germany after last week's protests spread across France, even reaching the remaining French colonies in the Caribbean and beyond.

Macron was quick to describe last week's murder of 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk by Parisian traffic police as "inexplicable and inexcusable". Macron was only half right, though. The killing was undoubtedly inexcusable, and the police officer who pulled the trigger faces the charge of "voluntary homicide". But it certainly wasn't inexplicable. Since 2017, police officers have been authorised to use lethal violence at traffic stops. The death toll last

year was 13. The victims were mainly of North African origin.

Macron and his acolytes are keen to emphasise that Nahel's misfortune lay in being confronted by a 'bad apple', and that systemic racism in the police force is not an issue. That's similar to the authorities' response in countries like the UK and US, where instances of racial targeting often tend to be treated as individual excesses. What has occurred in cities across France over the past week has been described as the equivalent of the 'George Floyd moment' that reinvigorated the Black Lives Matter movement in America and found its echoes across the West.

The parallel is not absurd. The rage in both the US and France was not sudden, but cumulative. The difference, perhaps, lies in the fact that France does not officially recognise differences of race, ethnicity or religion. That sounds wonderful — and such a system would be ideal if it worked. It has long been obvious, though, that it doesn't.

One needn't go back to 1961, when a Paris police chief, eventually acknowledged as a former Nazi collaborator, supervised a massacre of peaceful Algerian demonstrators. It wasn't until 1998 that the French state admitted 40 deaths. Nobody appears to have counted the corpses dumped in the River Seine — up to 300, by some estimates.

A great deal has changed since then, but much remains the same. The reprehensible Islamist terrorist attacks of 2015 are often cited as a reason for the subsequent reinforcement of racism — which is precisely what the perpetrators would have wished — but the Seine-Saint-Denis electrocution of two teenagers being chased by police, and the consequent eruption of popular rage, preceded the atrocities in Bataclan and elsewhere by

a decade. The murder of Nahel was the reinforcement of a long-standing trend rather than an unusual occurrence.

The days of rage over the past week were, even in the context of this year, not so much an aberration as a return to business as usual for a segment of the public — albeit to some extent a different section of the citizenry than the gilets-jaunes of yesteryears and those militating more recently in response to the Macron regime's det-ermination to shift the retirement age up by two years, from 62 to 64.

A reasonable case could possibly be made for that change, but within the neoliberal context it obviously comes across as yet another way of shafting the working class and enriching the bourgeoisie — a conflict that stretches back to the 1789 French Revolution. At the same time, the aspiration to liberty, equality, fraternity excludes all too many French citizens in the 21st century, and the concept of turning a blind eye to ethnicity, religion and skin colour has repeatedly been exposed as a farce.

And then there's the broader European context of a far-right resurgence a century after Hitler, accompanied by the fear that France could go the same way under someone like Marine Le Pen or Eric Zemmour after the next election.

Some years ago, staying at a hotel in La Defense towards the north of Paris, we found ourselves in proximity to Nanterre. It deserved a stroll. And although it did not offer up the architectural or culinary delights common in many other arrondissements, the place and street names were charming, from Mandela, Picasso and Neruda to Gorky, redolent of the suburb's recent history — as well as the wider world's shattered dreams. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Pak, US discuss ways to enhance economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome here on Wednesday exchanged views about areas of common interest and enhancing existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

According to a statement issued by the finance ministry the discussion was made during the call on the meeting of the US Ambassador with

the finance minister. The finance minister appreciated the deep-rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts.

He updated the Ambassador about successfully reaching the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and communicated about the economic policies and priorities of the government in order to set the economy on the path from stability to growth.

Dar appreciated the support and cooperation of the US and reiterated the desire of the government to further deepen bilateral economic and trade ties with the US.

On the occasion, Donald Blome expressed confidence in the policies and programmes of the government for bringing economic sustainability to the country. He also extended his support to further promote bilateral economic, investment and trade relations between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

## FAO Launches DVI Pilot: Bridging the Technological Divide in Rural Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Government of Punjab, launched a Digital Village Initiative (DVI) pilot site, in a ceremony organized at the Food Security & Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE) in Rahim Yar Khan.

This pilot launch is the FAO's global initiative under the 1000 Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific to bridge the technological divide and empower rural communities with access to digital resources, education, and opportunities.

necessary equipment installed at training halls of both sites for virtual training of farmers. The stations will provide customized weather advisory, forecast pest & disease models and other information to farmers of 10 kilometres range from its vicinity. Both weather station facilities are also equipped to arrange online trainings for farmers on the latest innovations in agriculture. Male and female farmers of selected pilot sites received training on different features of the weather station. Through these stations, farmers will be able to get customized and specific information to their farmland, accurate data and information which will help them in reducing costs related to inputs and taking measures for crop protection.

Two sites: one in Rahim Yar Khan and another in Sargodha, were launched after a detailed assessment conducted in 7 districts of Punjab and Sindh with the support of the provincial governments of both provinces.

During the ceremony, female lead farmers from the pilot site villages also received 10 tablets to use the agriculture-related applications on which they were already trained by FAO. A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Hyper Localized Weather Station pilot site was also organized along with a briefing on the digital monitoring and forecasting function of the weather station. The stations were installed on both pilot sites along with the provision of

Government officials, community leaders, researchers, male and female farmers, the private sector, and other key stakeholders were present at the launching event.

## Fly Jinnah's SkyTime will now feature content from HUM TV

Independent Report KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's new low-cost carrier (LCC), has collaborated with HUM TV to provide content for

Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta. The carrier currently operates a fleet of three modern Airbus A320 aircraft. In addition



its in-flight entertainment system "SkyTime". All Fly Jinnah aircraft are equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices and right after takeoff. By collaborating with HUM TV, Fly Jinnah customers can now enjoy a wider selection of content that includes HUM TV leading dramas, Telefilms, Award Shows and celebrity shows.

to extra comfort provided by the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin, the carrier offers customized and affordable travel experiences to its passengers through "SkyCafe" onboard menu where passengers can enjoy a wide variety of delicacies between snacks, sandwiches, and meals at affordable prices.

## Sohail Barlas elected as SIAL chairman

SIALKOT (APP): A leading Sialkot based exporter Sohail Barlas was elected unopposed as chairman of Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), while Mian Daud Sair was elected unopposed as vice chairman for the year 2023-24.

The newly-elected chairman SIAL pledged to make all out sincere efforts to make the SIAL as a model airport of Pakistan, says a news release issued here on Wednesday. He said that SIAL had been a hallmark of the sincerity, dedication, enthusiasm and unity of Sialkot exporters, which had established the international airport by setting a unique example of self help. The new leadership aims to bring fresh perspectives and drive further growth and development at the airport.

Under their guidance, the airport is expected to enhance its operations, infrastructure, and passenger services, he said

At present, Fly Jinnah connects five major cities of Pakistan including

## Business leader stresses need to adopt culture of savings

Says lack of savings prevents investment, opens door for loans

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain stressed the need to adopt culture of savings has said that lack of savings prevent investments and opened doors of loans.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that it is necessary to foster a culture of exports and savings in the country to ensure development without current account deficit. He said that GDP growth on a sustainable basis is impossible until the current savings rate is doubled. The savings rate in Congo is 61.4 percent, in Singapore it is 53.8 percent, in the United Arab Emirates the savings rate is 47.8 percent, in China it is almost 44.9 percent and in India and Bangladesh it is between 30 and 31 percent, he informed.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said that the former government's efforts to develop the economy resulted in a payment crisis and this will happen again in the future. Our growth depends entirely on imports rather than exports, always leading to an unsustainable current account deficit, he said.

However, in Pakistan this rate is only twelve percent which is rapidly decreasing due to current inflation and unemployment, he said. The business leader said that in 2007-2008,

## Sharmila calls for introducing reforms in taxation system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party's Sindh MPA, Sharmila Farooqui Wednesday called for bringing big fishes into the tax net and for introducing reforms in the taxation system to achieve durable economic progress.

adding, Pakistan had to take some tough economic decisions to comply with the conditions of IMF, but the programme was necessary for Pakistan's economy and growth.

"Pakistan's survival is linked to tax collection as no nation that relies on loans can maintain its pride," she said while talking to PTV news channel.

Under the IMF programme, the record stock exchange, decrease rate of the dollar and down gold rates were witnessed in the market which bring further financial discipline to the economy.

She appreciated that the PDM-led government was making hectic efforts to revive the economy, adding, the signing of a staff-level agreement with IMF was a great success of government policy and measures.

Sharmila Farooqui said that the IMF programme would now open financing of multilateral financial institutions as well as from bilateral creditors.

She said political stability and the end of polarization in the country were the need of hour,

Replying to a question, she urged that we need to work positively for the welfare of the state instead of politics and we need to control expenditure as well.



QUETTA: Roadside vendor puts dates on display to attract the customer.

## Directs flights needed to commence at once for economic revival: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan is lagging far behind the world in the race of development, which is mainly due to the lack of connectivity at the regional and international level.

and regions and this is the main source of economic development. Regions like the European Union and ASEAN are great examples in this regard. These regions have accelerated economic growth by improving connectivity through rail, direct air links and road.

In a statement on Wednesday, he said, "Pakistan needs to be connected to the region through rail, road and direct air links. PIA has failed to connect Pakistan to the world, the government should announce a fast-track privatization program without wasting more money and capital. Despite its effective presence in various regional and international blocs, Pakistan has not yet been able to benefit at the commercial level. Work is required on an emergency basis to start direct flights."

He said that Pakistan is an important member of several regional and international groups including SAARC, D-8, ECO, SCO, and OIC. Due to the lack of railway, road and direct air links of Pakistan with all these countries, despite political activity, Pakistan has not been able to benefit from these groups at the commercial level. He said that in order to advance the current debt-ridden economy of Pakistan, the series of direct flights with different countries of the world should be carried forward rapidly. Recently, Ethiopia has started a series of direct flights. Similarly, Kazakhstan, an important country in Central Asia, is also starting direct flights from July 8. This is important news for Pakistan's regional connectivity.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan has lagged far behind in the race of development at which the world is moving forward. In today's world, no country can develop alone, but now interests can be protected through blocs



KARACHI: A large number of the people holds protest against the load shedding of Gas, Electricity and Water at Liyari, in Provincial Capital.

## Gold prices up by Rs.1,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs.206,000 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.205,000 the previous day.

## Services' trade deficit narrows by 88 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The services' trade deficit shrank by 88.26 percent during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has reported.

\$11,613.57 million to \$7,263.49 million in FY2023, showing negative growth of 37.46 percent.

The services trade deficit was recorded at \$607.67 million during July-May (2022-23) against the deficit of \$5,175.24 million during July-May (2021-22).

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the export of services increased by 19.77 percent by growing from 515.14 million in May 2022 to \$ 616.96 million in May 2023.

The exports of services during the period increased by 3.38 percent by going up from \$6,438.33 million in 2021-22 to \$6,655.82 million in the first eleven months of FY2022-23, according to PBS data.

However, services imports into the country decreased by 11.84 percent, from \$977.85 million to \$862.11 million.

On the other hand, the imports declined from

On month-on-month basis, the export of services increased by 19.78 percent in May 2023 when compared to the imports of 515.08 million in April 2023.

The imports of services also grew by 31.60 percent in May 2023 compared to imports of \$655.10 million in April 2023, PBS reported.



KARACHI: GCBSO, PTCL and Ufone 4G, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief IT and CTO of NBP, Amin Manji, GTO PTCL and Ufone 4G, Jaffar Khalid, EVP of NBP Noman Muzaffar and others senior officials in a group photo during the signing ceremony of provision of primary Data Center Colocation Service, held at PTCL's Tier-III Data Center to support NBP's digital transformation, in Karachi.

## Training workshops for cotton growers organized

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Food Security and Research in collaboration with Central Cotton Research Institute Multan organized pesticide management workshops for cotton growers in order to avoid their harmful impact on human health and the environment.

this major cash crop of the country. Besides, the government was also working to ensure the availability of certified seeds for different crops including cotton, wheat, rice, maize and other major and minor crops to enhance crop output to achieve sustainable agriculture growth and social development in the country.

Meanwhile, about 25 master trainers were also trained for further disseminating training to growers on innovative crop sowing techniques, fertilizers and pesticide management to enhance the per-acre output of cotton during the current season, said an official.

In this regard, the track and traceability of certified seed was launched and the traceability data revealed that total cotton seed requirements were estimated at 41,048 metric tons, whereas seed availability was registered at 25,986 metric tons.

Talking to APP he said that over 100 farmers from different crop-producing areas were also trained on the latest production technology, which was aiming to attain higher per-acre cotton output to enhance local production of

the wheat seed availability was recorded at 511,378 metric tons before the processing stage, out of which companies processed 462,048 metric tons and certified seed tags



FAISALABAD: An Iron smith are busy in their work at shop at Dajkot Road in City.

## LCCI invites political parties to discuss charter of economy

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has taken a proactive step in addressing Pakistan's economic challenges by sending invitations to the heads of all political parties. The invitation, sent in the form of a letter, requesting their presence at the LCCI to participate in a comprehensive discussion on the crucial topic of the Charter of Economy (CoE), according to LCCI spokesman here on Wednesday.

transitioning towards sustainable economic growth, said Kashif Anwar, adding that in order to address these concerns, LCCI has formulated a draft of the Charter of Economy, which serves as a guiding framework for economic governance. The aim of this charter is to establish a minimum agenda that all political parties can include in their respective manifestos. By doing so, it ensures a level of consistency and continuity in economic policies, regardless of which party forms the government, he added.

In the letter, the LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted the daunting economic challenges facing the nation and underscored the need for consistency in economic policies.

President LCCI said the Charter of Economy is designed to create a working consensus among political parties on key economic issues. It provides a set of guidelines for policy formation.

LCCI firmly believes that a unified approach is imperative for dealing with these challenges and



ISLAMABAD: Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House.





LAHORE: Commuters are facing difficulties in transportation due to stagnant rainwater due to poor sewerage system caused by heavy downpour of monsoon season, at Queensroad in Lahore.

## Seven dead as record breaking rain wreaks havoc in Lahore

LAHORE (Online): At least seven people were reported dead in Lahore as the provincial capital saw its heaviest rainfall in 30 years on Wednesday causing significant urban flooding and power outages.

Taking note of the unfolding situation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the Punjab government to take urgent measures and mobilise the rescue teams amidst heavy rains in the province.

The prime minister called for coordinated efforts by the district administration, Rescue 1122, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, and municipal and other departments, saying that all possible measures should be taken to protect the citizens' lives, according to a PM Office statement.

He instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other federal departments to extend maximum support to the Punjab government if required.

PM Shehbaz said that the necessary steps should be taken to alert the citizens of any emergency situation, chalk out alternate traffic plans and make arrangements for proper drainage.

He also instructed authorities to take preventive measures in the wake of the monsoon rains in other

parts of the country, besides asking the NDMA and PDMA to coordinate necessary arrangements.

The premier further stressed that all possible steps should be taken to relocate the people from villages to safe locations besides saving their cattle and livestock. Similarly, he said all necessary measures should be taken to prevent urban flooding. The prime minister also directed to mobilise the respective administrations of Gilgit-Balistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other hilly areas, besides instructing to keep the PMO updated on all measures taken.

The rain began around 4am this morning, leaving large portions of the city submerged and wreaking havoc in all low-lying and posh areas of the city.

According to the data, the highest amount of rainfall was recorded at the heart of Lahore in the area of Lakshmi Chowk where 291 mm rain fell in 10 hours.

Meanwhile, Jail Road recorded 147 mm, while in the Airport area it stood at 130 mm, at Head Office Gulberg the rain was recorded at 210mm, Upper Mall at 199mm, in Mughalpur at 220mm, in Tajpura at 249mm, in Nishtar Town at 280mm and in Chowk Nakhuda 205 atmm.

## President upholds penalties, enhances fines upon sexual harassers

ISLAMABAD (APP): After the charges of blackmailing and sexually harassing a female employee at MEPCO were proven, President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of "dismissal from service" imposed upon Khizer Hayat, Assistant Director and enhanced the amount of the fine from Rs 500,000 to Rs 1 million.

He also upheld the penalty of "reduction to lower post" imposed upon Mian Sohail Afzal, Director (Admin), for three years and increased the fine from Rs 1 million to Rs 1.1 million to be paid as compensation to the victim, a President House press release said.

He also upheld the exoneration of Sohail Abbas, Deputy Director, and Jamshed Ahmed Niazi, Director, as no cogent evidence or substance was available against them to prove them guilty of the charge beyond any shadow of a doubt. The president gave these orders while rejecting two representations filed separately by Khizer Hayat and Mian Sohail Afzal against the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAP) imposing fines and major penalties upon the two officials.

A female Commercial Assistant at Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) had filed a complaint before FOSPAP against four employees stating that they hacked her mobile data, made sexual demands, got published fake news items against her, and demanded Rs 500,000 from her to stop the series of news from its further publication. In his decision, President Alvi stated that a good message had to be sent to society that we would ensure the protection of women against harassment so that our women feel safe in the working environment of the country and our families.

## PM praises President Xi, Nawaz for augmenting 'Iron Brotherhood'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the last ten years were an inspirational story of how President Xi Jinping's vision of "Iron Brotherhood" converted into the completion of projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister also praised the leadership role of his Quaid (former prime minister) Mian Nawaz Sharif in this regard.

"I am witness to how he oversaw the project implementation in energy & infrastructure sectors, spending hours on fine-tuning the details, reviewing progress & ensuring timelines," he added.

Without his (NS) supervision, he said they would not have completed the CPEC projects with the speed and efficiency that they did. The prime minister further said, today, Pakistan celebrated the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a transformational project that had been pivotal to Pakistan's socio-economic development.

"However, in my view, we are still far from fully tapping the potential of CPEC, a worthy goal that has my personal & government's staunch commitment," he added.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Sunni Tehreek (PST) are burn tires as they are holding protest demonstration against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

## MPA submits adjournment motion against cut in academies' grant

QUETTA (APP): Member of Balochistan Assembly and leader Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Nasrullah Zairay has submitted an adjournment motion against a cut in the grant of Pashto and Brahvi languages academies.

"Grant has not been increased for the Pashto, Brahvi and other languages' academies in the fiscal budget of the year 2023-24," MPA contended in a calling

notice submitted in the provincial assembly.

In previous regimes, Rs 10 million were allocated for all academies of the regional languages every year, however, Pashto and Brahvi academies have been totally ignored by the incumbent provincial government. He deplored that the government has increased the grant of only one academy from Rs 10 million to Rs 500 million.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Ayesha Zehri presiding over a meeting of officers regarding security and other arrangements for election of District Chairman

## All parties should sit together to find a solution of Wadh problem: Sanaullah Zehri

QUETTA: The central leader of the People's Party, former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri, has said that the youth of Balochistan should be mobilized and united to represent their respective areas.

Balochistan is strengthening its fort and in the next general elections, it will field its strong candidate from every constituency and will win in the next general elections.

He further added that all parties should together find a solution to solve the issue of Wadh. He said that the people of the constituency will get all possible support from him, Sanaullah Khan Zehri expressed these views in a meeting with the senior tribal leader, Khalq Jhalwan Khuzdar in Karachi that Ghowa Khapar is his constituency.

He will consider it his duty to provide facilities.

## NA Speaker strongly condemns Israeli attack on Palestinians in Jenin

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervez Ashraf has vehemently condemned the deadly airstrikes and raids carried out by Israeli occupation forces on a Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin.

He also deplored that the dispossession and displacement of Palestinians from their homes by the aggressive Israeli forces are unacceptable.

Speaker said that the

recurring instances of unlawful raids and assault on the innocent Palestinian men, women and children raises serious concerns on the international laws prohibiting such hate-fueled incidents.

The freedom of expression has also been tarnished by the Israeli forces and such blatant violations exposed the dark character of the Zionist reign of Israel, Speaker remarked.

## LG polls: Control room sets up in ECP Secretariat Islamabad

QUETTA: A control room has been established at the Election Commission of Pakistan Secretariat Islamabad on Wednesday.

According to an announcement made here, the control room has been set up to monitor the election of chairman and vice chairman of district councils in 35 districts of the province being held today (Thursday).

The control room would operate from 08:00 AM till 12:00 midnight. The senior officers of ECP would monitor the election process. The general public has been asked to contact the control room of ECP on telephone No. 051-9204402/051-9204403, in case of any complaint, the announcement said.

## Price of leading cooking oil brands reduce at USC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of cooking oil of leading brands has been drastically reduced at all utility stores across the country.

The price of cooking oil of leading brands has been reduced by Rs 85 per litre, said a press release issued by Utility Stores Corporation here on Wednesday.

This will be available at Rs 495 per liter instead of Rs 580 per litre.

## Case registered against 8 Pak, 5 arrested for doing job in Israel

ISLAMABAD (Online): FIA Mir Pur Khas circle has registered case against 8 Pakistanis and arrested 5 among them for doing job in Israel.

According to FIA these accused reached Israel via different countries and they did jobs there. 5 cases have been registered against 8 accused. These accused worked as helpers and car washer in Tel Aviv.

The arrested accused include Noman Siddiqui, Kamal Anwar, Kamran Siddiqui, Muhammad Zeeshan and Muhammad Anwar. These accused stayed in Tel-Aviv for the period ranging between 4 to 7 years.



BAKU: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development, Sajid Hussain Turi meets with Chairman of Azerbaijan's State Tourism Agency, Fuad Naghiyev.

## SC allows PIA to make 205 new professional appointments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to make 205 new professional appointments while postponing the recruitment of 45 others.

A two-member SC bench comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case filed by PIA seeking permission for 250 recruitments of pilots, cabin crew, IT specialists, finance and management officials.

In its verdict today, the apex court allowed the recruitment of pilots, cabin

crew and IT specialists.

During the course of proceedings, the court also directed the PIA's administration to make the recruitment process clear and transparent.

Justice Ayesha Malik asked why PIA was not able to pay its dues and why did it had to recruit more people?

Justice Ijaz said that the quality of services of the PIA was not up to the mark. The new recruitments would burden the organisation by more than Rs 90 million annually, he added.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs, Khalil George addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

## CM urged to find solution on land issue of Walizai tribe

QUETTA (APP): The tribal elders of the Walizai tribe warned the closure of Loralai-Dera Ghazi Khan road against what they called illegal encroachment of their ancestral land by the officials of the mine and mineral department.

In a press conference held on Wednesday, they alleged that the officials of the mines and minerals department in the limits of Tahsil Mekhtar, Tora police station, have illegally encroached, 9000 thousand acres of mountain with the

connivance of the district administration.

We have repeatedly informed the divisional and district administration of Loralai in this regard, but they did not pay heed to our issue.

"In 2003, Sharia decisions were also made in our favour," they said and urged chief minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo, home minister Mir Ziaullah Longo, chief secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili and the district administration Loralai to find a solution to the issue.

## PM files acquittal plea in money laundering reference

LAHORE (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has filed acquittal plea in money laundering reference.

Amjid Pervez advocate submitted acquittal plea on behalf of PM Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in Accountability Court (AC) Lahore in money laundering reference.

The petitioners have taken plea in the acquittal plea NAB made false and fabricated money laundering reference. The assets are as per law which have been declared in FBR and Election Commission (EC). NAB has no evidence of any kind in this regard.

It has been further said in the acquittal plea filed by PM and Hamza Shehbaz that any possibility of proving the case against them stands ruled out.

The court was requested to acquit Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz from the reference.

## Pak, Turkiye engage in 6th round of bilateral Consultations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 6th round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Turkiye is being held in Ankara on Wednesday (July 5).

Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan will lead the Pakistan delegation while the Turkish side will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Burak Akceper, according to a spokesperson of the Foreign Office.

The two sides will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations encompassing the political, economic, security, social and cultural dimensions.

Review of various institutional mechanisms, including the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) and the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) will also be undertaken.

Developments in the region and cooperation at the multilateral fora will also come for discussion.

## APC on political harmony: Consensus developed among major parties

ISLAMABAD (INP): All major political parties of the country in a significant step towards fostering a peaceful and violence-free electoral process have reached a consensus on organizing an All Parties Conference (APC) to address the growing problem of politically motivated extremist language that may incite hatred and violence.

The consensus was reached at a dialogue titled 'Common Resolve for Political Harmony,' organized by Communications Research Strategies (CRS), a pioneer in strategic communications and research-based interventions in Pakistan.

Senior parliamentarians and politicians representing seven prominent political parties, including PML (N), PPP, PTI, ANP, NDM, and MQM, emphasized the need for an all-parties conference (APC) or any other mechanism that would enable constructive dialogue among political forces.

The dialogue was moderated by Advisor to the Prime Minister, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Senator Afrasiab Khattak, Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Information Secretary PTI Raouf Hassan, Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar, SAPM Romina Khurshid Alam, MNA Sabir Qaimkhani, Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmad, member CEC PPP, and Information Secretary ANP (Punjab), Nadeem Sarwar represented their parties. Zafarullah Khan former Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Affairs and constitutional literacy advocate.



QUETTA: Activists of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at QPC.

## Interim govt to hold election within maximum period of 90 days: Malik

ISLAMABAD (Online): State Minister Musadq Malik has said the interim government will hold election within maximum period of 90 days and minimum period of 60 days.

"Levy on petrol can go up further by Rs 5 to Rs 7. However we will try to afford relief in prices of oil, he said this while talking to a private TV channel here Wednesday.

He went on to say government will complete its tenure and later the election will take place in time. The decision to forge political alliance will be taken when time of election comes.

"Who will be part of caretaker government, no decision has been taken on the names so far in this regard, he added.

More steps will have to be taken after IMF agreement for revival of national economy, he remarked. We have been provided relief for 9 months due to IMF agreement. The coming government will face no problem due to IMF agreement.

The production potential of agriculture, industry and other sectors will have to be enhanced.

He indicated that 80 percent electricity is stolen on some feeders in Punjab, Sindh and KP. Smart meters are being installed to prevent power theft. There is need to bring reforms in the electricity transmission system.

## Balochistan govt initiates multiple projects to boost livestock sector

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has initiated multiple projects in livestock sector including the establishment of meat processing units and modern slaughter houses aimed to boost sector in the province.

According to official sources, a veterinary institute has been proposed in Turbat at a cost of Rs 750 million to promote veterinary education among the youth and create trained work force in the sector.

The government has initiated the establishment of research centres to put the

livestock sector on modern lines for improving the living standards of local people.

The government has chalked out a comprehensive plan to upgrade the Dairy and Livestock sectors to exploit their full potential and generate economic activities across the province.

The government has also allocated budget for veterinary medicines and provision of vaccines.

He said the government had also planned to establish new veterinary hospitals and dispensaries

to ensure livestock's better health and productivity. Modern livestock equipment to cater the needs of cattle owners and to boost the sector would also be provided, he said.

The government had also started Sheep and Goat fattening programme in the province that would boost the sector and also attract people to invest in the sector, he said.

The official said that the department was working to strengthen the Semen Production Unit and Animal Disease Investigation Laboratory.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Zahid Saleem being briefed about departmental affairs. Chairman Balochistan Revenue Authority Noorul Haq Baloch is also present