

# Independent

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## Rangers called Mob vandalises several churches, homes in Jaranwala over blasphemy allegations

**Caretaker PM vows strict action against culprits; Dozens arrested; There was a plan to disturb peace by inciting public sentiments, says Mir**

**Monitoring Desk**  
LAHORE: Multiple churches were attacked on Wednesday in Jaranwala tehsil of Faisalabad over blasphemy allegations. Media reports stated that a mob of over 100 people stormed a local Christian neighbourhood in Jaranwala and set ablaze at least one church, the Salvation Army Church, one of the oldest in the area. The United Presbyterian Church, Allied Foundation Church and Shehroonwala Church situated in Isa Nagri were also reportedly ransacked. Locals accused the police of standing by as spectators as hundreds of

people, armed with sticks and batons, vandalised the churches besides ransacking and even burning homes in the residential area. As panic spread in the area, traders shut down shops and a strike was called. The situation remained tense despite policemen led by the Jaranwala SP being present on site. The mob also blocked the area surrounding Cinema Chowk. The police attempted to give assurances of action against the blasphemy accused but the mob remained adamant that they would hang the accused themselves. The mob was report-

edly incited using loud-speakers of mosques in the area over reports of alleged desecration of religious scriptures by three Christians, suggested videos and messages posted on social media by people of the area. An FIR was lodged against the persons accused of blasphemy under Sections 295B [pertaining to the desecration of the Holy Quran] and 295C [use of derogatory remarks... in respect of the Holy Prophet] of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). The police have yet to take action against the mob that caused panic and terror in the area besides damaging private property.



FAISALABAD: View of site after a mob enraged over blasphemy allegations set on fire several churches and a number of houses belonging to Christians in Jaranwala tehsil of Faisalabad.

## Bilawal condemns attack on Churches in Jaranwala

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhatto Zardari on Wednesday strongly condemned the incidents in Jaranwala and said that he was saddened to hear about the attack on Churches in Jaranwala, Faisalabad. Chairman PPP wrote on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, "Violating the sanctity of places of worship is absolutely unacceptable. The administration must ensure the

safety of the Christian community and their Churches." Meanwhile, in a statement was also issued from the media cell Bilawal House, in which he expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Jaranwala. He urged that all resources should be utilized for overcoming religious tensions in Jaranwala and establishing peace. "The reports of provocations received from Jaranwala are disturbing," he regretted.

## Caretaker PM Kakar unable to form his cabinet

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar could not form his cabinet three days after assuming office and in this regard he continued consultations on Wednesday.

Sources privy to the development said that the Caretaker Cabinet will take oath in two stages. In the first phase, eight to ten ministers will take oath. President Arif Alvi will take oath from the caretaker cabinet in a ceremony held in the President's House.

In the second phase, around a dozen ministers may take oath.

The names are circulating in the media but the Caretaker Prime Minister has not finalized anyone's name yet.

He is constantly consulting with all partners and getting information from NAB, FIA about the people he wants to include in his cabinet.

## FIA opens inquiries in cases of mega corruption

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Wednesday initiated inquiries in four cases of mega corruption. The Agency has started inquiries against several banks for opening LCs at a US dollar rate higher than what it is in the interbank. It has emerged that eight banks minted over 65 billion only in this fashion. Similarly, the FIA has also started an inquiry into alleged embezzlement of Rs32 billion in the purchase of land for M-6 of the motorway by the concerned district administration.

Likewise, the Agency has also started probe into alleged corruption in the distribution of relief goods dispatched to the flood-affected areas for their distribution among victims of the calamity. The department has sought from the concerned departments an audit report of the relief items handed to flood-affected people in different districts of Sindh, including Sanghar and Dadu.

## SIFC to continue working uninterrupted for fast-track foreign investment: PM

**Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar thanks Saudi Govt for consistent support to Pakistan's economic stability; Saudi Envoy felicitates Kakar on assuming office, conveys best wishes**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the recently-instituted Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would continue to work as before to lay the foundations to fast-track foreign investments, particularly from Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malki, who called on him, highlighted energy, infrastructure, agriculture, IT and manpower as potential sectors of co-operation.

The Saudi ambassador congratulated the prime minister on assuming office and conveyed the best wishes and greetings on behalf of the Custodian of

Two Holy Mosques, as well as Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, and the people of Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed historic and deep-rooted ties.

He thanked the Saudi government for its consistent support for Pakistan's economic stability and development.

He particularly mentioned the large number of Pakistanis working in Saudi Arabia and requested the Saudi side to continue to extend all possible facilitation to them. Prime Minister Kakar lauded the vision of the Saudi leadership and said that Saudi Arabia could always count on Pakistan as its trusted and reliable partner.



ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

## Violent extremism struggle for power transgressing many red lines: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Federal Minister and Senior PPP leader Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said that violent extremism was a struggle for power, and that many red lines had been crossed by the proliferation of hateful narratives.

Senator Rehman stated this at the launch of the research report 'Beyond the Red Line: Contemporary Trends in Conflict Discourse in Pakistan' by Communications Research Strategies (CRS) here, a news release said.

The report was prepared under the 'Conflict Discourse Mapping', a project by CRS, with support from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). Experts from various sectors attended the event. Senator Sherry Rehman was the chief guest, while the panelists included Dr Adnan Rafiq, Member - Planning Commission of Pakistan, Amber Shamsi, Director - Center for Excellence in

Journalism IBA and Fasi Zaka, a senior development expert.

In his welcome note Aniq Zafar, CEO - CRS, while thanking the chief guest commented, "We harbor the sincere hope that the insights gleaned from this meticulous investigation will serve as the bedrock for evidence-informed policymaking, effective interventions, and strategies designed to counteract violence and extremism. In this endeavor, we stand united, knowing that the path forward requires collective determination and shared vision".

Commenting on the report, Senator Rehman said that hateful narratives had gone beyond extremist and violent groups, and are instead being shaped by political forces as well through currency of anger and hate as can be seen in online trolling.

She lamented the weaponization of fake news for personal interests.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## NA Speaker lauds role of journalists in strengthening democracy

**Says free, responsible Media along with Public friendly politics and legislation key to development of country**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that the role of media community to further the cause of democracy is pivotal for socio-economic development of country. He also said that both journalism and politics are intertwined and it is incumbent upon both stakeholders to cooperate with one another for country's progress. He also said that the real power of Media is Journalists and reporter as these are foot soldiers. He expressed these views while addressing members of Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) in Parliament House Islamabad today.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf also said, "PRA

role is to bring Parliament and people closer." He also said that maintaining sanctity of parliament is a collective responsibility and PRA members have utmost importance in this regard. He said that media representatives and journalist community have central role to highlight positive image of Parliamentarians and Parliament.

While mentioning about record legislation in the best public interest, he said, "as per FAFEN report I have the honour for supervising record sittings of National Assembly and for record legislation during last fifteen months." He stressed on the need to emphasize highlighting positive images by media.



KARACHI: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) (Investigation) South, Shiraz Nazeer along Sindh Ranger Wing Commander Colonel Ali Musa addresses to media persons during press conference arrested terrorists, held at Anti-Terrorist Wing office in Karachi.

## Accused involved in robbery of 25 million arrested by Rangers, Police

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police jointly arrested four suspects who robbed Rs 25 million from Saddar Sarafa Bazaar in Karachi and recovered cash Rs 19.2 million. SSP South Sheeraz Nazir on Wednesday addressing a joint news conference at Rangers Qalandar Wing along with Rangers Wing Commander Lt. Colonel Ali Moosa, said the accused belonged to an inter-provincial robbery gang.

He said the accused used to commit crimes by racketeering and planning. Four operatives, including the ringleader of the inter-provincial gang, belonging to Shangla, which had committed crimes across the country, were arrested from Karachi.

SSP South added that each operative of the gang was given a separate task before committing the crime. Shiraz Nazir said the accused also used to commit house robberies.

## 2 terrorists killed in IBO in Razmak: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (INP): Two terrorists were killed by security forces in an intelligence-based operation in the Ramzak area of North Waziristan district, the military's media wing said on Wednesday. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the operation was conducted on the reported presence of terrorists on the night of August 14/15.

While carrying out the operation, security forces surrounded the terrorists' location and after an intense exchange of fire, "two terrorists were sent to hell", the ISPR said.

Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists, the statement said, adding that they "remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as extortion and target killing of innocent citizens".

Sanitisation of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area, it said.

## Jl announces countrywide protest against spike in petrol prices

LAHORE (INP): Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirgul Haq on Wednesday gave a call for holding countrywide protest against the whooping increase in petroleum prices on Friday.

Haq said the caretaker government had endorsed the unjust policies of the outgoing coalition government by increasing the prices of petrol and diesel. Calling it an injustice to the poor people of the country, he said the rulers were putting pressure on them to please the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He urged the caretaker government to provide relief to the masses.

The JI chief also asked people to join his party's peaceful protest against the petroleum prices. The caretaker government on Tuesday increased the price of petrol by Rs17.50 per litre, taking the price to a record high of Rs290.45 per litre.

## Afzal Zaidi assumes charge as Municipal Commissioner Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Syed Muhammad Afzal Zaidi on Wednesday assumed the charge of his office as the Municipal Commissioner of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC).

The Services and General Administration Department has already issued a formal notification to this effect, on August 15. Afzal Zaidi had also previously served in various positions apart from being appointed Municipal Commissioner of KMC.

## US looks forward to working with PM Kakar, his team

WASHINGTON (APP): The United States, noting the appointment of Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar as Pakistan's interim prime minister, has reaffirmed its support in areas of mutual interest, including the conduct of free and fair elections, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said on Tuesday.

Responding to a question from the correspondent of a private Pakistani television channel at his daily press briefing, the spokesperson said that the U.S. looks forward to work-

ing with the interim prime minister and his team.

"We, of course, will continue to partner with Pakistan on areas of mutual interest, including our interest in Pakistan's economic stability, prosperity, and security, and the conduct of free and fair elections and the respect for democracy and the rule of law," Kakar was sworn in on Monday as the prime minister to head a caretaker government that will oversee parliamentary elections during the country's most challenging period in the economic field.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Foreign Affairs, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Committee formed to supervise investigations into murder of senior journalist in Sukkur

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Wednesday constituted a committee to supervise the investigation regarding the murder of senior journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar in Sukkur.

The said committee would be chaired by Deputy IGP Driving License Branch - Karachi

Tanveer Alam Odho while its members include SSP Sukkur, SSP Khairpur, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Gambat and Acting SP CTD Sukkur, according to an order.

The committee would be responsible for tracing the case utilizing all available resources, exploring all angles, arresting the involved as soon as possible.

## France to provide \$3.27m for rehabilitation in flood-hit areas of Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of France has allocated 3 million euros (nearly 3.27 million USD) to support UNICEF's humanitarian response in flood-affected areas.

This vital funding will strengthen primary healthcare and immunization services in the most affected districts in Sindh province, targeting 1.9 million children and women.

This contribution from France follows the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, hosted by the United Nations and the Government of Pakistan in Geneva, earlier this year.

The conference garnered international support for flood recovery and rehabilitation, as well as long-term partnerships to build Pakistan's climate resilience and adaptation.

"Children are often the first victims of crises and natural disasters, but also those who bear invisible scars for the longest time.

France is pleased to partner with UNICEF to expand access to primary health care and improve immunization services for the most vulnerable communities in Sindh," stated Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France to Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: PRA President, Sadique Sajid presents appreciation shield to Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf for his support to PRA and for welfare of journalist community at Parliament House.

## 2 Assistants AGs appointed as Additional AGs, Sindh

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: The Government of Sindh, Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Criminal Prosecution Department has notified with the approval of the Competent Authority i.e. Chief Minister Sindh, the following two (02) Assistants Advocates General are appointed as Additional Advocates General, Sindh on the terms and conditions as admissible under the

rules, with immediate effect:

1. Mr. Muhammad Kamran Khan 2. Mr. Muhammad Javed 3. Mr. Dawood Jan Mazari 4. Mr. Sharaf Uddin Jamali 5. Mr. Muhammad Sharif Solangi 6. Mr. Asad Jamali 7. Mr. Hisham Mahar 8. Mr. Aftab Ahmed Bhatto 9. Mr. Agha Akhtar Hussain Phathan and 10. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Abro.

and conditions as admissible under the rules with immediate effect:



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### On a tightrope

With the country now in election mode, all eyes will be on the Election Commission of Pakistan, which must ensure that the upcoming polls are held fairly and on time.

The watchdog will be walking a tightrope due to the last-minute notification of fresh census results by the former PDM government, which has necessitated the fresh delimitation of constituencies.

The prevalent belief is that the ECP will not be able to complete the delimitation while meeting the election time frame stipulated in the Constitution. At the same time, recent developments have restricted the space for any legal manoeuvring.

It may be recalled that a three-member bench of the apex court had, earlier this month, issued a detailed judgement castigating the ECP's decision to postpone elections for the Punjab and KP assemblies as 'unconstitutional'. The judgement in question had severely rebuked the ECP for "failing to appreciate its constitutional authority" over its failure to hold elections on time.

A week later, the court also struck down a law that would have allowed the ECP to seek a review of that judgement. Yesterday, the court weighed in on the delimitation of constituencies as a two-member bench heard a 2018 petition on the same matter. Observing that the ECP must conduct the exercise in a transparent manner, the chief justice, who was part of the bench, described the issue as "a matter of public interest", which has been brought to the Supreme Court multiple times. With the legal noose tightening around the ECP's neck, it must also contend with the complications of the task before it. According to an analysis published in these pages, the delimitation exercise will likely end up affecting dozens of districts at the provincial level.

As there is no National Assembly to simply increase the number of seats in the provincial assemblies to reflect changes in the population, the ECP may have to redistribute existing seats between different districts within provinces. It may also have to create new constituencies such that parts of one district may share a constituency with parts of another. Either of these could trigger a political uproar and lead to multiple new legal challenges, which would imperil the timely completion of the entire exercise. Amidst all this, the ECP must also undertake the delicate task of drawing up new constituencies.

Gerrymandering, which is the manipulation of constituency boundaries to alter their political makeup and thereby 'control' election results, will remain a particularly important concern, especially considering that other forms of pre-election engineering are also very much in play.

The ECP must, therefore, take all stakeholders along and ensure complete transparency in its work. With the law breathing down its neck, it cannot let external factors delay the election exercise.



Danyal Adam Khan

Every day in Islamabad for the past few months has been a battle between the city and its administrators. One may argue that the two have never gotten along, but the breakneck speed at which the new administration is inflicting its efficiency on the city is dizzying. Just last month, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) announced an open auction for 20 one-kilometre plots to build a food street inside Shakarparian National Park on the "pattern of JBR Dubai".

Now the latest victim of this developmental rampage is none other than the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) — that serene backdrop of Islamabad based on which we lay a vague claim to being the second most beautiful capital in the world — and the weapon of choice is called Alexander Road. For context, this is a 7.5-kilometre road to be constructed through the Margalla Hills to connect Islamabad with Haripur at a cost of Rs600 million. The inauguration was done by none other than former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif at the opening ceremony of the equally contentious Margalla Avenue.

Building a road through this national park is not a new idea. There was the catastrophic tunnel project 10 years ago which envisioned digging a passageway straight through the hills onto the other side, and was brought to a stop with a Supreme Court suo

## Alexander Road

motu. This is also not the first time 'development' has been thrust upon these protected zones. There's the Navy Sailing Club on Rawal Dam, as well as the Margalla Greens Golf Club in E-8 — both declared illegal by the Islamabad High Court. There are also, of course, the glittering encroachments of Monal and accompanying restaurants, along with residential areas spilling into every part of the range.

Making matters considerably worse is the fact that a formal boundary demarcation of the MHNP is still pending — despite the Islamabad High Court ordering the CDA to do so last year. This boundary, which somehow simultaneously exists on all maps and yet seems obfuscated, has opened up several questions about whether land allocated in the Margalla foothills for golf courses and cricket grounds belongs to MHNP or not. Similar confusion abounds in terms of jurisdiction, for example, when the CDA chairman took to Twitter and contemplated the construction of a road from Bari Imam to Pir Sohawa, and the climate change minister had to step in and inform him that building roads through national parks was not within the CDA's domain.

The construction of Alexander Road, in the meantime, has been halted by the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change. In the words of the chairperson of Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, the project is aimed at "benefiting real estate" and not local communities — and herein lies the heart of the matter: the CDA's commitment towards real estate development and land value appreciation. With the construction of Alexander Road still up in the air, lucrative hous-

ing societies have already been advertised at the Haripur end.

That notwithstanding, perhaps the most audacious aspect of this new scheme is that it was launched without so much as an environmental impact assessment. A CDA official has been quoted as saying that since a basic thoroughfare already exists here for local use, merely upgrading it into a proper road does not require an EIA. To reiterate: the CDA does not believe it requires an environmental impact assessment to build a metalled road through a national park.

With implementing state institutions going wrong in this manner, legislation like the Islam-abad Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management Act, and the National Adaptation Plan will be rendered useless.

This is not the kind of frivolity we can afford with our climate realities. We can lull ourselves into complacency by repeating statistics about Pakistan's low carbon emissions. While these might be accurate for the country as a whole, it is also true that our cities are among the most polluted in the world. Even if we launch frantic tree-planting campaigns in all our cities, it will not be enough to counter the damage done by our crippling automobile dependence. This is not to say that it should not be done, just that plantation drives must go hand in hand with reduced concretisation and cars to have any real impact.

But where are we heading when our administrators decide to do neither? As invasive as its namesake, Alexander Road represents the worst of both worlds: the desecration of a national park in exchange for more asphalt and concrete, more plots and profits. — Courtesy Dawn

## Scorched earth



Mahir Ali

More than 60 years ago, a British sci-fi movie called *The Day the Earth Caught Fire* illuminated the catastrophic consequences of anthropogenic climate change.

Fossil fuels were not part of the script; some oil company executives already knew about the possible fallout, but it wasn't public knowledge. The filmmakers focused instead on a crucial contemporary concern. The US and the USSR simultaneously conduct atmospheric nuclear tests that shift Earth's axis by 11 degrees. As a result, the planet hurtles towards the sun and terrestrial temperatures head beyond 60 degrees Celsius amid cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons and torrential rainfall.

I haven't watched the film and am relying here on a feature published by the BBC this week, which says the scriptwriters were aware that the science behind their conceit was dubious — unlike the scientific theories that help to explain the flames consuming Greece to Maui in Hawaii.

The threat of nuclear warfare has lately resurfaced in the context of the tussle over Ukraine ignited by Vladimir Putin and fuelled by Nato. Its consequences have been devastating for large numbers of Ukrainians — and to a lesser extent for Russians. Aside from the geopolitics of the conflict, the most obvious global repercussions revolve around the energy sector.

Europe's newfound distaste for Russian gas has led to China and India

becoming the biggest beneficiaries of cut-price fossil fuels from the north. For the most part, though, the West hasn't doubled down on renewables as an energy source, but, instead, afforded its biggest polluters the opportunity to step up their operations.

In Australia, for instance, it's not uncommon to come across the idiotic argument that digging for more gas is tantamount to aiding the struggle for democratic self-determination in Ukraine. Never mind that the International Energy Agency warned against further fossil fuel exploration years ago. The warning just last month from UN Secretary General António Guterres that "the era of global boiling has arrived" goes unheeded — much like most things the UN says.

Greenwashing aside, the multinational oil and gas firms will not change their business model until it ceases to be profitable. Right now, profits are spiking, and their biggest concern is the possibility of extra taxes rather than the state of the world. That's how capitalism works. That's why a million dollars a week is considered low-grade pay for CEOs who fight tooth and nail against a minimum wage of \$15 for their employees.

It could be argued with some justification that concerns about energy and the imperative to maintain unsustainable 'First World' lifestyles are the driving force behind recent decisions by the British, Australian and US governments to speed up or facilitate further fossil fuel misadventures. And right-wing think tanks in America are already drawing up agendas to thwart climate action in the event of a second Trump presidency, which is possible notwithstanding the four indictments against the ex-president.

China and India are

often cited as leading culprits in intensifying coal-powered energy. Their excuse is that the nations that were able to industrialise based on relatively easy access to coal, oil and gas are ethically in no position to lecture the stragglers.

That's a valid debating point, but its value is diminished by global exigencies — including the recent floods in Beijing and the current rains in Himachal Pradesh. To their credit, both China and India have also been making advances in green energy. But their continued reliance on coal suggests it's not enough. The leading responsibility for fossil fuel proliferation lies with the primary predators — both nation states and Western energy firms — but everyone needs to chip in.

July was the hottest month on Earth not only in recorded history but in scientific extrapolations reaching back thousands of years. And it is almost guaranteed that there will be worse to follow. Tragically, the reality of apocalypse now is rejected not just by the fossil fuel profiteers but also by plenty of people fooled into dismissing the science behind climate change as part of some kind of a 'woke' agenda or Marxist plot, notwithstanding the evidence unfolding before our eyes.

The feature film mentioned at the outset also reflects the efforts of political leaders to brush off the impending doom. In the end, they opt for a series of joint nuclear explosions in western Siberia in an attempt to swing the planet back into its original axis. Audiences never learn the outcome. They just get to see two newspaper front pages prepared by the film's protagonists. One headline says 'World Saved', the other proclaims 'World Doomed'.

— Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Senator assures support to ICCI in land acquisition for industrial estate project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan on Wednesday assured that he would support Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in land acquisition for its industrial estate project. He said that ICCI should target industrial estate on the CPEC route or identify any other suitable place and he would cooperate in land acquisition for this project, said a press release issued here.

Senator said that the business community is the

backbone of an economy and its facilitation would help in strengthening the economy.

He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to the ICCI, his son Barrister Danial Chaudhry also accompanied by him.

Ch. Tanveer Khan said that he would try to arrange a meeting of the ICCI delegation with Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani for ICCI representation in business-related standing committees

of the Senate. He said that the outgoing PM Mian Shehbaz Sharif has inaugurated the Rawalpindi Ring Road, which is very vital to ease the traffic issues of the twin cities. He said that ICCI should play a role in skills development of youth to prepare skilled manpower for industries.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that chamber has been making efforts for a long for the establishment of a state-of-the-art indus-

trial zone in the region to boost industrialization, create jobs, attract investment, increase exports and said that Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan should cooperate in acquiring land for this important project. He said that Pakistan needs long-term economic policies to revive the economy and said that Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan should patronize the efforts of ICCI for convincing all major political parties to sign a charter of the economy to set the country in the direction of sustainable growth.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurating the MED-Health Expo and Summit 2023.



PESHAWAR: Secretary Agriculture Mr. Muhammad Javed Marwat addressing during Baseline Validation Workshop for Livelihood and Food Security Activity organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

### Pakistani companies invited to benefit from Saudi Vision 2030

LAHORE (APP): Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 offers immense opportunities for Pakistani construction, infrastructure development, engineering, food, information technology and various other sectors that must be availed with vigorous efforts.

These views were expressed by Trade Development Officer of Pakistani Consulate in Jeddah Fahad Chaudhry while talking to the Acting President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI)

Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry here at LCCI on Wednesday. Fahad Chaudhry said that Saudi Arabia had started a vast range of developmental project worth US \$ 3 trillion under the Vision 2030 that would be completed by the year 2030. "It is a unique opportunity for Pakistani entrepreneurs to become a part of Saudi Arabia's booming economy," he remarked.

He invited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry to arrange a delegation for Saudi Arabia.

### Azerbaijan Airlines to launch direct flights to Pak from Sept 20

ISLAMABAD (APP): The national air carrier of Azerbaijan (AZAL) will launch the regular flights to Pakistan from September 20, 2023. Flights will be operated to the capital of Pakistan - Islamabad, as well as to its largest cities - Lahore and Karachi. These three cities are important historical and cultural centers of Pakistan which makes them very interesting to visit, said spokesman of Azerbaijan while talking to APP on Wednesday.

### Overseas Pakistanis ready to invest in Pakistan: Mubasher

LAHORE (APP): Dr. Mubasher Chaudhry, a well-known American businessman of Pakistani origin and leader of the Democratic Party of America, said on Wednesday that the overseas Pakistanis were ready to invest billions of dollars if properly facilitated in Pakistan.

In a meeting with Pakistan Economic Reporters Association here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Mubasher Chaudhry said that Pakistan-US relations were improving and there was a need to increase trade between the two countries, in

which the obstacles had to be removed.

He said that billions of dollars of investment could be brought through overseas Pakistanis, but for this it's necessary to provide them with facilities, security and justice. He said that political stability was inevitable for economic stability and all institutions should be on the same page to improve the economic condition of the country. Dr. Mubasher Chaudhry said that Pakistan was never left alone by the US, citing that America also played an important role in helping the flood victims.

### PSF announces funding to transform research into commercializable products

ISLAMABAD (APP): In order to increase agricultural production and ensure socio-economic uplift of the farmers, the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) has announced funding opportunities to transform research into commercializable product or services under the National Science Linkage Programme (NSLP).

PSF is a premier funding agency striving for scientific development in the country through funding Research and Development

(R&D) projects in different scientific fields. NSLP is an Endowment Fund of PSF which is aimed at increasing agricultural production and socio-economic uplift of the farmers. According to an official source, the PSF has invited concept papers under NSLP in line with the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy - 2022 to support the use of emerging technologies in Agriculture, Drought Resistant Seed Production, Food Technology, Livestock.

### China-South Asia expo serves as bridge for uniting China-Pakistan: Haque

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said on Wednesday that China-South Asia Expo serves as a bridge for uniting China-Pakistan to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

Addressing the 4th Forum on China-South Asia Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation at Kunming Expo, he noted that Pakistan, recognizing

the importance of science and technology, has embarked on the transformative journey of Digital Pakistan by harnessing our vibrant youth, constituting 60% of our populace, and tapping into their innovative prowess, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

We aim to reshape our trajectory. The burgeoning number of Pakistani startups attracting international venture capital at-

tests to our untapped potential. Through the establishment of a Special Technological Zone Authority, we are nurturing an ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and research, he added. Moin ul Haque said that Pakistan and China are close friends and All-Weather Strategic Partners. In recent years two countries have placed and added focus on science and technology cooperation.

### LSMI output goes slightly up in June

ISLAMABAD (APP): Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) in the country went up slightly by 0.98 per cent during June 2023 as compared to the previous month of (May), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The provisional quantum indices of LSMI for June 2023, with the base year 2015-16, have been developed based on the latest data supplied by the source agencies including the Oil Companies Advisory Committee (OCAC), Ministry of Industries and Production, Ministry of Commerce and Provincial Bureaus of Statistics.

### PCJCCI urges world to reconsider energy policies

LAHORE (APP): Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Wednesday that ever since the Russia-Ukraine war, global warming and the gradual depletion of non-renewable sources of energy such as oil, gas and coal are compelling nation-state including most of the European states to reconsider their energy policies.

Sharing his views in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, he added that many of them were opting for energy production through nuclear power plants, which was not only safer, cheaper and effective but

also supports self-reliance.

Ghurki said that Pakistan too turned its focus on producing energy through its nuclear power plants (NPPs) - such as Karachi Nuclear Power Plants (having the capacity of 1100MW each), the Chasma-1 (325MW), the Chasma-2 (325MW), and the Chasma-3 (350MW), and the Chasma-4 (350MW) - under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

"Recently our government has signed MoU for the 1200 MW unit 5 of the Chashma nuclear power plant, which is being built by China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).



## Samina Alvi for creating awareness to ensure special person's rights

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Wednesday urged the relevant officials, authorities, media, civil society, health institutions and welfare organizations to ensure basic rights of the persons with disabilities.

She also called upon the government institutions to increase facilities to address the social and health issues being faced by the special persons, besides improving the primary healthcare system.

"I also appeal to people from all walks of life

to work collectively for safeguarding the rights of differently-abled persons and their welfare, and ensuring a healthier, comprehensive and equality-based society," the first lady said in a message.

She said the persons with disabilities, who accounted for around 10 to 12% of the country's population, were facing difficulties to live a normal life and move around easily.

However, now people were more aware about their problems and that was because of the campaign conducted through seminars, conferences, walks

and ceremonies, and messages sent to millions of mobile phone consumers, she added.

Similarly, she said, the welfare organizations and hospitals had also extended facilities to them.

She appreciated the role of electronic media, newspapers, social media, NGOs and civil society that supported their efforts in creating public awareness about the health issues.

She regretted that the persons with disabilities were facing multiple barriers in their access to health, education and employment opportunities.



First Lady Begum Samina Alvi addressing an interactive dialogue on breast cancer, disabilities, and mental health issues, in Muzaffarabad.

## Naqvi conducts marathon visit to metro bus, orange line metro train & DC office registry branch

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted a 3.5 hours marathon visit to the Metro Bus and Orange Line Metro Train today. Mohsin Naqvi travelled in the Metro Bus and Orange Line Metro Train and inquired from the passengers about travelling facilities. Mohsin Naqvi boarded the Metro Bus from the Kutchery Station. CM bought his and of his staff members token and travelled up to

Janazgah Station. Air conditioners of the Metro Bus were out of order and the passengers were in pathetic condition due to severe hot and humid weather. The passengers complained that the air conditioners of Metro Buses are out of order for the last six months.

CM Mohsin Naqvi directed to ensure early functional of air conditioners of the Metro Buses. Mohsin Naqvi stated that male and female students will travel free on the

Metro Bus and Orange Line Train. CM Mohsin Naqvi directed Secretary Transport to put up a summary in this regard. CM Mohsin Naqvi inspected the arrangements and facilities at the Metro Bus and Orange Line Metro Train stations. CM Mohsin Naqvi inquired from the passengers about travelling facilities in the bus and assured them resolution of their problems at the earliest. Mohsin Naqvi visited Anarkali Station of Orange Line Metro Train.

## KP Govt bars employees from using social media

PESHAWAR (APP): The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has barred all government servants from using social media to discuss or share information on issues relating to government business.

A notification issued here by the provincial Establishment department, however, said that if required the concerned official would take prior approval of the administrative secretary, head of the attached department or commission as the case may be.

It said that the decision has been taken under Rule-34(A) of the KP government servant (conduct) rules, 1987, adding that the

competent authority has taken cognizance of the various instances wherein the government and civil servants were found participating in discussions on different social media platforms regarding matters about political issues, sectarianism and anti-state activities.

It said that rules 23, 24, 25, 28 and 29 of the KP government servant (conduct) rules, 1987 bar the government servants from expressing their views against the ideology and security of the country and from taking part in any public demonstration directed against a government decision or policy.

## PPP aims to strengthen democracy: Farooq

ABBOTTABAD (APP): President PPP Hazara division Malik Farooq after assuming responsibilities at the Abbottabad Press Club on Wednesday said Pakistan Peoples Party's primary mission is to strengthen democracy and uphold the constitution.

President People's Labour Wing Abbottabad district, former MMA Sajida Tabassum, Zulfiqar Qureshi, Saeed Gul, former district president Sardar Abrar Ahmed, PPP Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa General Secretary Sarfraz Khan, PPP Provincial Vice President Malik Farid Muhammad, Saeed Gul, Muhammad Saeed, Naeed Gul Abbasi also addressed the occasion.

Embracing the legacy of leaders like Founder Chairman Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, the PPP has carved its mission to navigate the country through myriad challenges and lead it towards a brighter future, adding he said.

## Corruption case: Court extends physical remand of Moonis' secretary

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Wednesday extended physical remand of Sohail Asghar Awan, the secretary of former federal minister Moonis Elahi, and another accused for seven days in a corruption case. Earlier, the NAB officials produced Sohail Asghar Awan and Khalid Mehmood Chatta before Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani on expiry of their physical remand term.

## SM Tanveer visits Center for Excellence in Molecular Biology

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer here on Wednesday visited the research institute, Center for Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB) to observe the research process in various departments of the institute's lab. CEMB Director Professor Dr. Muzur Rehman gave a detailed briefing about the center's performance and future plans. The provincial minister was told that the center equipped with modern equipment and knowledge but there was a lack of resources. There were foreign qualified scientists in the institution

who needed support.

While addressing the meeting, the Provincial Minister said that in order to achieve good results, the local scientists had to be given importance and to carry forward the research work with the collaboration of private sector. An economic improvement plan had been made through promotion of modern agriculture and the results of agricultural research were being transferred to the farmers, he added.

SM Tanveer said that recently 40 research projects worth Rs 900 million had been approved by the Punjab Agriculture Research Board.

## LHC moved seeking ban on Tek tok

LAHORE (Online): A constitutional petition has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC) seeking imposition of ban on social media app Tek Tok.

The petitioner has taken the plea it is incumbent on every citizen to be loyal to the citizen under article 5 of the constitution. Immoral material is being uploaded on tek tok persistently. Tek tok removed from its site 11700000 videos uploaded by Pakistanis in the first quarter of the current year for violating community guidelines. Government claims it has no hand in the removal of these videos and tektok has worked out community guidelines as per Pakistani laws.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Jamshoro are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of affluent people, at Hyderabad press club

## Elders urged to cooperate in eradicating drugs, social crimes

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The South Waziristan police have urged residents to cooperate against the menace of drugs and other social crimes.

Addressing a jirga, Station House Officer (SHO) Sarrogha Fahimullah Khan said police were determined to rid Waziristan of drugs and other social crimes, but there was a need that people to extend support to achieve the objective.

The jirga which was held in line with directives of District Police Officer (DPO), South Waziristan, Niaz Muhammad Khan

was attended by local elders, village chairmen and councilors. The SHO said the police and the public would work together to eradicate this scourge and would not let the young generation be ruined by menace. He said, in this regard, a crackdown was being launched against drug dealers and no compromise would be made.

Speaking on the occasion, the elders expressed gratitude to DPO Niaz Muhammad Khan, who has ensured the supremacy of merit by appointing competent police officers.



HYDERABAD: Members of Hyderabad News Cameramen Association are holding protest demonstration against killing of Journalist Jan Muhammad Mehar in Sukkur, at Hyderabad press club.

# International News

## US will welcome Iran's decision to slow down N-plan, says Blinken

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he could not confirm a report that Iran slowed its pace of amassing near-weapons-grade enriched uranium but would welcome any Iranian steps to de-escalate its "growing nuclear threat."

Blinken also told reporters that Iran moving US detainees into house arrest was not related to any other aspect of US policy toward Iran, which he said reflected a strategy of deterrence, pressure and diplomacy.

On Thursday, sources said Iran may free five detained US citizens as part of a deal to unfreeze \$6 billion in Iranian funds in South

Korea. Iran allowed four detained US citizens to move into house arrest from prison. A fifth was already under home confinement.

The Wall Street Journal on Friday reported Iran had significantly slowed the pace at which it was accumulating near-weapons-grade enriched uranium and diluted some of its stockpile, moves that could help ease tensions with the US and revive broader talks over Iran's nuclear programme.

"Of course, we would welcome any steps that Iran takes to actually deescalate the growing nuclear threat that it has posed since the United States got out of the Iran nuclear deal," Blinken told a news

conference, alluding to former US President Donald Trump's 2018 abandonment of that agreement.

Under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between Iran and six major powers, Iran had agreed to curb its nuclear programme to make it harder for it to obtain an atomic weapon — an ambition it denies — in return for relief from US, European Union and United Nations sanctions.

When asked if Iran's reported slowdown and the release of the detainees to house arrest was in any way linked, Blinken said they were different issues.



Taiwan's Vice President William Lai speaks during a welcome dinner in Asuncion, Paraguay, in this handout picture released.

## UN chief urges deployment of police special forces and military support to combat gangs in Haiti

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief urged the international community on Tuesday to deploy a multinational force comprising "police special forces and military support units" to Haiti to combat gangs with sophisticated weapons and restore security to the impoverished Caribbean nation.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a 12-page letter to the U.N. Security Council obtained by The Associated Press

that "Addressing the security situation in Haiti requires a range of coercive law enforcement measures, including active use of force in targeted police operations against heavily armed gangs."

The letter was a response to a Security Council resolution adopted on July 14 asking Guterres to come up with "a full range of options" within 30 days to help combat Haiti's armed gangs including a non-U.N. multinational force. Guterres welcomed

Kenya's offer to lead an international force as well as renewed pledges of support from the Bahamas and Jamaica, and the announcement by Antigua and Barbuda that it is considering contributing to the force. He urged more countries, especially from the Americas, to contribute and "build on this new momentum." Gangs have overpowered Haiti's police, with experts estimating they now control some 80% of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

## Another incident of Holy Quran desecration takes place in Sweden

**Monitoring Desk**  
NORRKOPING: Another incident of desecration of the Holy Quran has taken place outside the Swedish Royal Palace in the capital Stockholm amid a heavy police presence, it emerged on Wednesday.

The incident, which took place on Monday, marked the second time in a matter of weeks that Salwan Momika, 37, and Salwan Najem, 48, have desecrated the Holy Quran, Al Jazeera reported.

Momika, an Iraqi refugee based in Sweden, has been involved in multiple such incidents, the last being on July 31, when he and another man desecrated the Holy Quran outside the Swedish parliament.

The act — permitted under Sweden's freedom of

speech laws — took place at Mynttorget, a central square surrounded by government buildings and the palace, Al Jazeera said.

Momika and Najem engaged in a prolonged, theatrical and now familiar desecration of the Quran while using a megaphone to goad counterprotesters, the report said. It added that "several people in the crowd brought their own megaphones, and the two men were largely drowned out by counterprotesters".

Present among the crowd was a group wearing firefighter-themed outfits whose members chanted "extinguish the hate" while handing out plastic firefighter hats and encouraging onlookers to speak into their megaphones, Al Jazeera stated.



Libyan security forces stand guard in Tripoli, Libya.

## Syrian president doubles public sector wages as national currency spirals downwards

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Syria's president early Wednesday doubled public sector wages and pensions as the war-torn country's national currency spiraled further downwards, reaching a new low for the year.

President Bashar Assad issued the two decrees just before midnight Tuesday as the Syrian pound's value against the U.S. dollar declined to a new all-time low, down from 7,000 at the beginning of 2023 to 15,000 pounds to the greenback. At the start

of the conflict in 2011, the dollar was trading at 47 pounds.

For over a year, Damascus has been restructuring its program of subsidies for gasoline, diesel for heating, and bread. At the launch of the restructure in February last year, Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous said the move to scale back fuel subsidies would allow the program to target the poorest families more effectively as well as reducing the Syrian state's deficit.



Ukrainian soldiers stand with Ukrainian flag in Urozhaine, Donetsk Region, Ukraine in this screen grab obtained from a handout video released.

## Nagorno-Karabakh residents say 'disastrous' blockade choking supplies

**Monitoring Desk**  
TBILISI: Residents of Nagorno-Karabakh say it is getting harder to access food, medicines and other essential supplies as an Azerbaijani blockade of the breakaway region drags into its ninth month.

The U.N. Security Council will discuss the blockade on Wednesday, after a former International Criminal Court prosecutor this month said the blockade may amount to a "genocide" of the local Armenian population — an assertion that

Azerbaijan's lawyers said was unsubstantiated and inaccurate.

Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but its population of 120,000 is overwhelmingly ethnic Armenian and the enclave's one remaining land link to Armenia, the Lachin corridor policed by Russian peacekeepers, was first disrupted in December.

Three residents of Karabakh said basic foodstuffs, fuel and medicine were almost exhausted.

## US asks Iran to stop selling drones to Russia-FT

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: U.S. is pushing Iran to stop selling armed drones to Russia as part of discussions on a broader unwritten understanding between Washington and Tehran to de-escalate tensions, the Financial Times said on Wednesday, citing people briefed on the matter.

The U.S. is pressing Iran to stop selling armed drones to Russia, which Moscow is using in the war in Ukraine, as well as spare parts for the unmanned aircraft, the report said, citing an Iranian official and another person familiar with the talks.

The White House and Iran's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. The news comes as Washington and Iran are trying to ease tensions and revive broader talks over Iran's nuclear program.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday that he would welcome any Iranian steps to de-escalate its "growing nuclear threat."

## Russian strikes hit Ukraine areas far from front lines

**Monitoring Desk**  
LVIV: Russian air strikes hit two western regions of Ukraine bordering Nato member Poland and other areas on Tuesday, killing three people in a factory and wounding more than a dozen, Ukrainian officials said.

Local media said the attacks were the largest air assault on the Lviv region since the Russian invasion in February 2022. The fatalities were reported in the north-western region of

Volyn. Officials said an industrial enterprise in the regional capital Lutsk was hit by the overnight attack.

Several people were also hospitalised, Governor Yuriy Pohulyaiko said.

Swedish industrial bearings maker SKF said its factory in Lutsk was hit by a missile overnight, killing three employees. Footage released by Ukraine's state emergency service showed rescuers pulling a man from the rubble.

## Poland displays military might in big parade

**Monitoring Desk**  
WARSAW: Poland's biggest military parade since the Cold War took place in Warsaw on Tuesday, as the Nato-member country flexed its military muscle in what the government hoped would be both a message to Moscow and to voters ahead of elections in October.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made boosting the armed forces a priority for Poland's ruling nationalists Law and Justice (PiS), and with the election campaign.





ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the inaugural session of MED-Health Expo and Summit 2023.



## President stresses adopting preventive measures to avoid diseases

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said adopting preventive measures could help people avoiding or minimizing intensity of diseases, and improving the overall health condition of population of the country.

Health and education were two basic sectors which needed to be put on top priority because nations always build on these two areas, he said while addressing the "Med-Health Expo 2023 and Summit" here. The president said the people specially those with limited resources could easily avoid the chronic diseases such as breast cancer, hepatitis, and communicable diseases by adopting preventive measures.

With regard to deteriorating health sector in the

country, he highlighted that lack of decision-making, avoidance of merit and corruption in the past were the main reason behind limited health facilities in the country. The health sector exhibition was organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) aimed at information exchange, learning, and cooperation opportunities for health professionals.

The two-day event will showcase the latest research and developments in various medical fields through a series of sessions. President Alvi stressed universities and academia to promote research in the health sector that would bring tremendous improvement in human health. He urged the medical profes-

sionals to move along with the world that was doing advance research on human DNA to predict the disease in people.

He also called upon the industrialists to produce affordable medical devices to ensure access of people especially from all walks of society to the quality medical facilities.

President Alvi said the industrialists and the exporters should explore big potential markets such as Africa to increase their exports of pharmaceutical and surgical instruments. He informed that some 9 million pregnancies occurred annually in the country out of which 50% were unwanted which could easily be avoided by providing contraceptive facilities to the people.

## Looking forward to advancing trade, investment ties with UAE: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that he looked forward to working with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on advancing bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially trade, investment and energy.

The prime minister, in a meeting with the UAE Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, who called on him here, ex-

pressed gratitude for the UAE's support for Pakistan's economic and financial stability.

The ambassador conveyed the greetings of the UAE leadership to the prime minister on his assumption of office.

Prime Minister Kakar thanked the UAE government for the warm congratulatory messages and said that Pakistan and UAE enjoyed historic and deep-rooted fraternal ties.

## Rana Sana, Raja Riaz indicate elections in February 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former interior minister Rana Sanaullah and opposition leader Raja Riaz have indicated that elections are likely to be held in February of the upcoming year.

Rana Sanaullah, representing the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), also revealed that Nawaz Sharif, the party's leader, is anticipated to return to Pakistan ahead of the elections to lead the electoral campaign.

Speaking to private TV news channel, he has said that due to better policies, there are signs of economic improvement in the country.

He has further said

## Pakistan on its way to become an economic hub: Indonesian envoy

ISLAMABAD (INP): Acknowledging that Pakistan has a geo-strategic importance, Indonesia's ambassador to Pakistan Adam M. Tugio has said that Pakistan is going to become an economic hub in future.

Speaking to private TV news channel, he has said that due to better policies, there are signs of economic improvement in the country.

He has further said

that the country's financial condition is improving with the passage of time.

Tugio has said that both Indonesia and Pakistan are brotherly countries, and that the people of Indonesia look up to their brethren in Pakistan with respect. "Indonesia is the largest exporter of crude oil to Pakistan," he has said, adding, "Both the countries can increase trade in the pharmaceutical sector."

## Rupee weakens by Rs 3.43 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday witnessed a Rs 3.43 devaluation against the US dollar in the interbank trading, closing at Rs 294.93 against the previous day's closing of Rs 291.50.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 301.5 and Rs 303.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 3.98 to close at Rs 322.36 against the last day's closing of Rs 318.38, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen went up by 3 and closed at Rs 2.02, whereas an increase of Rs 6.32 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 376.12 as compared to the last closing of Rs 369.80.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 93 paisa each to close at Rs 80.29 and Rs 78.64 respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## President confers Civil Awards on nine more Pakistani citizens

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has conferred Pakistan Civil Awards on nine more citizens of Pakistan for showing excellence and courage in their respective fields. The investiture for the following awards will take place on Pakistan Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, the Cabinet Division said in a press release on Wednesday.

The following are the names of awardees:-

SITARA-IMTIAZ Wahid Maskatia (social services/philanthropy)

Saeed Allawala (social services/philanthropy)

Amina Ganny (social services/philanthropy)

T A M G H A - I - IMTIAZ

Zahid Saeed (social services/philanthropy)

Dr Zia Khan (public service)

Salim Razzak Tabani (social services/philanthropy)

Hassan Syed (public service)

Raheal Ahmed Siddiqui (public service)

Helena Iqbal Saeed (public service)

Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed pays farewell call on President Alvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary of Foreign Affairs Dr Asad Majeed Khan on Wednesday paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The president congratulated Dr Asad Majeed Khan on the successful completion of his term as the 31<sup>st</sup> foreign secretary.

He appreciated the services of the outgoing foreign secretary for promoting Pakistan's stance on different matters.

President Alvi also lauded the foreign secretary's professional competence and initiatives on the diplomatic fronts.

## PTI urges caretaker PM to ensure timely elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): A day after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) failed to give the Supreme Court a final date for the upcoming general elections, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi urged caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to ensure timely polls in the country.

Speculations about the delay in holding polls sparked when Director General (Law) Muhammad Arshad failed to give the apex court a certain date for the polls. Hearing petitions against delimitations of provincial constituencies PS 7, 8, and 9 Shikarpur, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial on Tuesday inquired when were the general elections being held. To this, the director general

## SC to hear case against NAB law amendments on Aug 18

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday fixed the cases pertaining to amendments in the NAB Ordinance for hearing on August 18.

The SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, will take up the case filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman for hearing.

shrugged his shoulders. "As yet, no date for the elections has been decided. The election commission should resolve all issues before the polls," the CJP remarked. In a letter to the interim prime minister, Qureshi apprised Kakar that his party intended to challenge the decision made by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in the court.

On August 5, the CCI "unanimously" approved the 7<sup>th</sup> Population and Housing Census results, making it almost certain that the general elections — which were to be held in November after the dissolution of the National Assembly on August 9 — would not be held during the current year. "Time has come to put the country on the path of law and the constitution," he added



LARKANA: Jamia Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Leader, Maulana Nasir Mahmood Soomro presides over a meeting ahead of the General Elections held at Jamia Islamia in Larkana.

## ITF seeks probe into PIA violations of cabin crew rules

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan International Airlines is in hot water on Wednesday as the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) has expressed concern over the violations of the cabin crew rules by the PIA management.

In a letter written to the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority's (PCAA) director, the ITF conveyed its serious concerns over the tragic death of cabin crew senior purser Rashida Majeed while Samina Aurangzeb was seriously injured. The letter says: "On behalf of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), a global union federation representing nearly 18.5 million transport workers from 740 affiliates in over 150 countries, including Pakistan.



KARACHI: Members of Christian Community are holding protest demonstration against violence on minority community and condemn Faisalabad incident, held at Karachi press club.

## AIG announces cash reward for police party for killing robbers in encounter

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Wednesday announced a cash reward of Rs. 0.5 million for the police party for killing five robbers in a police encounter in North Karachi area.

The Karachi Police Chief appreciated the excellent professional performance of Sir Syed police station's team and also announced certificates of appreciation and cash reward, said a news release.

Karachi Police was utilizing all available resources to control crimes in the megalopolis.

Earlier on Wednesday, five robbers had entered a house near Umm-ul-Quran School, North Karachi Sector 11B by cutting the grill with the intention of robbery. On the information about the presence of robbers on Madadgar 15, a police mobile of Madadgar 15 and the SHO concerned along with 2 police mobiles reached the spot. The police cordoned off the house at which the accused tried to escape by opening fire. All the five accused were killed in the retaliatory firing by the police.

## Five members of Corolla dacoits gang killed in Karachi police encounter

KARACHI (INP): Police in North Karachi on Wednesday have claimed to have shot dead five members of Corolla Gang of dacoits allegedly in an encounter.

Giving details, SHO Sir Syed police station Shahid Taj has said that the dacoits, who came in a car, entered a house in 11-B in North Karachi and held the inmates hostage at gunpoint.

They even subjected members of the family to torture, he further said, adding as soon as the cops arrived at the scene, the dacoits opened fire at them as well.

Resultantly, the SHO added, the cops retaliated, resulting in the deaths of five intruders. "The robbers appeared to be Afghan nationals," he said.

4 dacoits injured in Super Highway encounter

In yet another encounter in the port city, four dacoits were injured when they exchanged fire with the police in SITE area on the Super Highway.

SP Sohrab Goth Chaudhry Sohail Faiz told media that the police reached the crime scene on the complaint of a citizen. "On seeing the cops, the dacoits resorted to firing," he said, adding, "After a fierce encounter, police succeeded in arresting total seven suspects, including four injured ones.

He said a motorcycle, four pistols and bullets were recovered from those taken into custody. "However, one outlaw managed to flee from the spot," he revealed.

Case registered against Imran on misplacement of cipher

ISLAMABAD (Online): Case has been registered against PTI chairman on the matter of misplacement of cipher.

Anti terrorism wing of FIA has registered the case. DIG level officers appointed in Anti terrorism wing are holding inquiry.

Imran Khan had made mention of misplacement of cipher during an interview.

This matter took the steam when the US magazine intercept in its August 9 publication claimed that a copy of cipher which Imran Khan had mentioned is held by it.

## Gujjar Nullah implementation case: SC issues notice to Murad Ali Shah

KARACHI (Online): Supreme Court (SC) Karachi registry has issued notice to chief minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah on contempt of court petition in Gujjar Nullah implementation case.

The contempt of court petition against Murad Ali Shah on non payment of compensation to the affectees of Gujjar Nullah and other nullahs came up for hearing before SC Karachi registry Wednesday.

Faisal Siddiqui advised the petitioner told the court that the court ordered for rehabilitation of the affectees.

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar inquired why contempt of court plea has been filed so late.

The counsel for petitioner told the court the petition has been filed 2 years late. The court had given time for two years, therefore the petition has been filed two years late. The rehabilitation work for not a single affectee has been done so far.

Karachi police busts gang involved in motorcycle theft

KARACHI (INP): The Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell apprehended six individuals accused of motorcycle theft in Karachi and being sold in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on fake documents.

According to the details, a six-member gang — allegedly involved in selling motorcycles in Balochistan and KPK on fake papers — was busted from different areas of Karachi, recovering six stolen motorcycles from their possession.

## People have right to know about quality of food items: Agha

Sweets/ bakeries items manufacturers/ sellers are bound to mention calories in their food items

Independent Report

KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that in first phase from five star hotels to small hotels/ restaurants have been asked to mention calories in the food items, they serve, and in second phase sweets/bakeries items manufacturers/ sellers are asked to mention calories in their food stuff, they sell.

This he said while addressing as a chief guest at a seminar, held at Food Sciences and Technology Department, Karachi University. The seminar was organized by Sindh Food Authority and KASAN, focusing on menu labeling and nutrition facts, specifically for sweets and baked goods.

Sheikh Muhammad

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## Met office forecast hot, humid weather in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Wednesday forecast hot and humid weather with dust raising winds in most districts of the province during next 24 hours.

According to the met office, partly cloudy weather with chances of light rain or drizzle is expected in coastal areas including Karachi on Thursday.

During the previous 24 hours weather remained dry in Sindh while the highest temperature was recorded in Sukkur and Nawabshah. The maximum temperature in Sukkur and Nawabshah was recorded 39 degree centigrade.



KARACHI: A view of ongoing construction work of Red Line Bus Service named as (Peoples Bus Service) at University Road in Provincial Capital.

## IHC declares arrest of Shehryar Afridi, Gulzar under MPO as illegal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday declared the arrest of PTI leaders Shehryar Khan Afridi and Shandana Gulzar under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) as illegal and decided to indict Islamabad's Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) for contempt of court.

Justice Babar Sattar heard the petitions of Shandana Gulzar and Afridi against their arrests under 3 MPO. Islamabad's Chief Commissioner, Inspector General of Police, and DC appeared before the court.

During the course of proceedings, the deputy

## ATC declares Hammad Azhar, others proclaimed offenders

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court declared Hammad Azhar, Zubair Niazi and Khalid Gujjar proclaimed offenders in police vans burning case.

The court heard the case pertaining to burning of police vehicles outside Zaman Park.

ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmed Buttar initiated proceedings to declare the accused as proclaimed offenders on a police petition pertaining to the vehicles burning case.

The court declared PTI's Hammad Azhar, Zubair Niazi and Khalid Gujjar as proclaimed offenders and ordered is-

## Met office forecast hot, humid weather in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Wednesday forecast hot and humid weather with dust raising winds in most districts of the province during next 24 hours.

According to the met office, partly cloudy weather with chances of light rain or drizzle is expected in coastal areas including Karachi on Thursday.

During the previous 24 hours weather remained dry in Sindh while the highest temperature was recorded in Sukkur and Nawabshah. The maximum temperature in Sukkur and Nawabshah was recorded 39 degree centigrade.

## People have right to know about quality of food items: Agha

Sweets/ bakeries items manufacturers/ sellers are bound to mention calories in their food items

Independent Report

KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that in first phase from five star hotels to small hotels/ restaurants have been asked to mention calories in the food items, they serve, and in second phase sweets/bakeries items manufacturers/ sellers are asked to mention calories in their food stuff, they sell.

This he said while addressing as a chief guest at a seminar, held at Food Sciences and Technology Department, Karachi University. The seminar was organized by Sindh Food Authority and KASAN, focusing on menu labeling and nutrition facts, specifically for sweets and baked goods.

Sheikh Muhammad

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