

# Independent

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## Terms it unconstitutional SC declares Review of Judgments and Orders Act null and void

**Power to invalidate any law should be exercised with utmost care and a law should not be declared invalid when its provisions have compatibility with the Constitution**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three member bench of the apex court on Friday unanimously declared the Supreme Court Review of Judgments and Orders Act 2023 as null and void.

The court issued a written order of 87 pages in the case and said that the Parliament has no powers for legislation against the constitution. The bench issued a detailed decision con-

taining 51 pages while Justice Munib Akhtar wrote an additional note containing 30 pages.

The judgment said that the power to invalidate any law should be exercised with utmost care and a law should not be declared invalid when its provisions have compatibility with the Constitution.

It stated that the said act was clearly contradict-

ing the Constitution of Pakistan and it was not possible to declare this law as compatible with the Constitution. We have taken an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, it said, adding that the courts are empowered to establish the rule of the Constitution.

The verdict said that this judicial power had to

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ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a ceremony in connection with celebration of Minorities' Day event, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## No restriction on Nawaz after completing 5-year disqualification: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said there was no restriction on Pakistani Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif to contest the election as he had completed his five-year disqualification period.

"As far as Nawaz Sharif is concerned, that law is in the field now under which the maximum disqualification period is five years. There is no restriction on Nawaz Sharif as he has completed his five-year disqualification," the prime minister said in an interview with a private television channel (Samaa News).

He said the new law

promulgated by the Parliament had overwritten the previous law which the Supreme Court has not yet annulled.

"Inshallah, I am sure that he will return by next month... He will face the law. The nation will receive him warmly... He will run the election campaign and all of us will be with him," he stated.

Commenting on the Supreme Court's decision on the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023, the prime minister said the legislature had all the powers of law-

Continued on page 2

## 97 pc target of polio vaccination achieved as high profile drive ends in Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Almost 97 percent target of the polio vaccination has been achieved during the high profile anti-polio vaccination campaign that came to an end in Balochistan province the other day.

The anti-polio campaign was launched for five days in 32 districts of the province on Tuesday last. The campaign was run for seven days in polio high risk districts of the province including Quetta, Chaman, Pishin and Killa Abdullah.

According to Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication sources, it was targeted to vaccinate around 2.6 million children below five years of age during the campaign. For the purpose, hundreds of the mobile and fixed site teams have been formed.

While the campaign

was successfully run all over the province despite certain issues and particularly the challenges of weather including rains and flood, the anti-polio health workers reached the far flung areas to administer the anti-polio drops to the children.

An untoward incident was also occurred when two police cops deputed on security of the polio workers were targeted and shot dead in Killi Shah Alam area located in Quetta suburb in start of the campaign.

However, the campaign remained continued without any break.

Needless to mention here is that the last polio case had been reported in Balochistan in January 2021. Since then, no fresh polio case has been reported from anywhere in the province.

## Security forces kill two terrorists in Kech operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces have killed two terrorists and injured one during a successful intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Mazaband Range area of Kech District, Balochistan in the wee hours of Friday.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Friday, a big cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered during the operation.

The killed terrorists were involved in targeting of innocent civilians and law enforcement agencies.

The ISPR said, "The security forces remain committed towards eliminating the menace of terrorism and thwart nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan at all costs."

## ATF personnel martyred in Mastung attack

**Independent Report**  
MASTUNG: A personnel of the Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) was martyred and his brother was seriously injured in a gun attack in the Mastung district of Balochistan on Friday.

Police sources said unknown accused opened fire in the Killi Baqi area of Kanak tehsil of Mastung district.

The firing left one ATF personnel identified as Muhammad Ibrahim martyred and his brother Muhammad Saqib seriously injured. The injured was rushed to Shaheed Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Hospital for medical treatment.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Beat Reporters at Prime Minister's office.

## Development in society possible only with better governance: President

**Urges civil servants to improve service-delivery, ensure good governance**

LAHORE (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has urged civil servants to work with dedication and commitment to improve service delivery and ensure good governance in the country. He also underscored the need to take timely and swift decisions to keep pace with the rest of the world.

Addressing the successful graduates of the 118th Senior Management Course (SMC) and 33rd National Management

Course (NMC) at the National School of Public Policy here on Friday, he said that Islam was a community-based religion and it emphasised serving the poor and showing utmost compassion to them.

"A civil servant must interact with the public and be easily accessible to them in order to address their problems. This principle has been practised by great

Continued on page 2

## Governor dissolves Sindh Assembly

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday dissolved the Provincial Assembly on the advice of Chief Minister Sayed Murad Ali Shah.

Governor, in the exercise of powers, conferred to him under Article 112(1) of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

dissolved Sindh Assembly with immediate effect.

Earlier, Chief Minister Sayed Murad Ali Shah sent advice to Governor Sindh for the dissolution of the provincial Assembly.

Meanwhile, Sindh Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Criminal Prosecution Department also issued a notification in this regard.



QUETTA: Commander 12 Corps Lt. General Asif Ghafoor meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## MPAs asked to clear dues of lodges, utility bills by today; vacate lodges by August 27

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) have been asked to clear the dues of MPAs lodges as well as the utility bills of electricity, telephone and sui Gas, room charges by today (Saturday).

The MPAs have also been asked to vacate the lodges by August 27, 2023.

This and similar other instructions have been issued in an official memorandum issued by the Balochistan Provincial Assembly secretariat on Friday.

The memo sent to the MPAs mentioned that the due constitutional tenure

of Balochistan Assembly is going to end on August 12 (today), therefore, they may clear all their dues of lodges, room charges and the utility bills of telephone, electricity and gas.

It has also been asked to the members of assembly to get NOC after returning vehicles and paying their dues.

Meanwhile, the leader of Opposition, Malik Sikandar Advocate and chairman of the standing committees return their vehicles.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Pakistan has demanded list of the defaulters from provincial assembly secretariat.

## May-9 vandalism:

## ATC dismisses interim bail of Imran in 7 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday dismissed the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan over non-appearance in seven cases pertaining to May-9 vandalism.

ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar conducted the proceedings on the pre-arrest bail petitions of Imran Khan in seven cases, registered under Anti-Terrorism Act, including the Jinnah House attack case.

Earlier, Imran Khan's counsel argued before the court that bail petitions could not be dismissed over non-appearance. He submitted that as per the Supreme Court judgments, the bail petitions could not be dismissed on technical grounds. He pleaded with

the court to grant some time for preparation in this regard.

However, the court dismissed the plea and asked the counsel to advance his arguments on the law point.

The counsel submitted that convicts and accused were regularly produced on the court orders and pleaded with the court to summon the PTI chairman as well.

At this, the court observed that the convicts were not produced and their interim bail was also dismissed, adding that it could not form a new law.

The counsel submitted that the PTI chairman appeared regularly before the court and he still wanted to appear.

## Decision on caretaker PM likely today: Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed the hope that the decision on name of caretaker prime minister would be finalised by Saturday.

The prime minister, in a farewell interaction with the PM beat reporters here, said he would meet the heads of coalition parties on Friday night to discuss the matter which would follow his meeting with Leader of the Opposition Raja Riaz on Friday or Saturday.

He explained that in case of their inability to evolve consensus on a single name, the matter would be referred to the parliamentary committee with a mandate to dispose it of within three days. In case of no agreement at that committee level, the matter would be taken up by the Election Commission who would have to take the final decision within two days.

Responding to a question about the letter written by President Arif Alvi to him and the opposition

leader to finalise the name by August 12, the prime minister said the procedure was very clear in the constitution.

He said the 16 months of his stint were the most difficult time of his 38-year political career. However, consequent to the teamwork and efforts of all the stakeholders made the government achieve success on different fronts.

He said the government machinery worked round the clock during the floods and Rs100 billion was disbursed by the previous government, besides the ones distributed by the provinces and the relevant departments.

He said the agreement with the IMF was a great challenge that was surmounted by the team's efforts otherwise, the country could have faced chaos.

Recounting his government's success at the diplomatic front, the prime minister said they had improved the ties with friendly countries which were strained during the

previous government through baseless allegations. He said the inflation had touched 12.55 which was just 3.5% during the Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

He said the government had to spend \$2 billion to import wheat following the reduced production.

Without naming the news story about the cipher, the prime minister said, "What happened yesterday has exposed everything."

He said the oil prices were not in the government's control; however, they passed on the impact whenever there was any decline.

He told the newsmen that the government had put in place a mechanism in the form of Special Investment Facilitation Council which was a vision for country's progress and prosperity.

Online adds: President Arif Alvi's letter to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and asked to finalize the caretaker Prime Minister.

## 26th PHL Annual Conference begins: Governor calls for creating awareness among masses about prevention of diseases

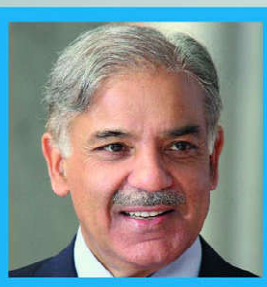
**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The 26th edition of Pakistan Hypertension League (PHL) Annual Conference commenced here in the provincial metropolis on Friday evening. The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan

Kakar formally inaugurated the PHL Annual conference.

A large number senior doctors dealing the health issues related to hypertension and heart diseases are participating in the annual conference of PHL.

Continued on page 2



MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF  
Prime Minister of Pakistan



MS. MARIYUM AURANGZEB  
Ex. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting

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For saving advertising industry by restoring the classified business;  
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For empowering us to generate more revenues for the national exchequer.

Special Thanks to  
Mr. Sohail Ali Khan, Secretary MOIB  
and Mr. Mobashir Hassan, Principal Information Officer  
for their support.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Hamza Shafqaat and DGPR Kamran Asad inaugurating Duty Monitoring Room set up in DGPR



## PCCI organizes seminar on "Sugar is a necessity of life"

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Pishin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) organized a seminar on the theme of "Sugar is a necessity of life" on Friday.

A large number of business community of Pishin, especially sugar dealers, participated in the seminar.

While addressing the seminar, the President PCCI, Syed Abdul Bari Agha, Sugar Dealers Syed Abdul Rahman Shah, Siddique Durrani, Saifullah Longo, Chandra Kumar, Bashir Khan said that we are proud of the Pishin

Chamber of Commerce for holding a successful seminar titled Sugar is a necessity of life.

They also congratulated the Chamber of Commerce that at present there are many chambers in Balochistan but till now no other chamber has played any significant role for resolving the problems of the business community.

All the other chambers observed silence against sugar smuggling, scarcity, and unnecessary price increase, while the bold manner in which the Pishin Chamber of Commerce raised its voice and spoke

for the people of province is admirable.

He charged that step motherly treatment has been meted out with Balochistan from the first day, especially in the current sugar crisis, even the people have been tormented by the businessmen regarding the fair distribution of sugar and the permits issued for sugar as per the law. However, arbitrary customs officials are causing loss of crores to the sugar dealers. Stopping the trucks full load of sugar illegally at the check post for several weeks is cruel, he charged further.



QUETTA: Voice for Baloch Missing Persons Research Coordinator, Hurain Baloch along with Mama Qadeer addresses to media persons during press conference, in Quetta.

## No restriction on Nawaz....

Continued from page 1

making "This is the first time in the history. I have not seen it happening anywhere in the world that legislation is stopped in parliament," he remarked and said the legislation was the job of Parliament, not the Supreme Court. Regarding the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief, he said the court would decide his fate as he had no role in that regard.

However, he said the NAB-Nazir nexus victimised him and his family, Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, and sister of Asif Ali Zardari when they were also denied bail. Contrarily, the PTI government obtained stay orders in the cases of the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit), wheat and sugar scandals.

He told the interviewer

that inflation touched 12.5% during the previous government which stood at just 3.5% during Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said his government reduced oil prices based on international rates after regular reviews, but had to increase them due to global market fluctuations. He said the government spent Rs 40-50 billion for distributing free flour during Ramadan to support the poor. Additionally, it also provided cross-subsidy to those consuming up to 200 units of electricity per month.

However, he said, it was unrealistic to expect economic growth amidst incidents like the one on May 9, which was treason against Pakistan, the Pakistan Army, and the Chief of the Army

Staff." To a question, he said the controversy over the appointment of the army chief was not a positive tradition. In other countries, such appointments were not publicized. The prime minister brushed aside PTI chief's claim of any conspiracy by the United States in the cipher as that time Pakistan's ambassador, in the National Security Committee, had explained that there was no conspiracy to topple the government.

Coming to the approval of census, the prime minister said the government convened the meeting of the Council of Common Interests within few days of the completion of census. As per the CCI decision, the election would be held under the new census, he added.

## Secretary Health terminates 8 doctors on willful absence from duties

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan, Asfandyar Kakar, has suspended eight doctors of Teaching Hospital Loralai on willful absence from duties here on Friday.

"Eight medical officers/lady doctors are terminated on deliberate absence from government duty", said a notification issued by the health department.

The decision against the absentee doctors was made following the complaint and visit of the secretary of health to the teaching hospital Loralai.



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing Graduation Ceremony of NMC at National School of Public Policy.

## SC decision will have no impact in Nawaz Sharif case: Azam Nazir Tarar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar has said repeated interference in powers of parliament is not a good tradition.

He said this while reacting to Supreme Court (SC) decision regarding nullification of Review of order and Judgments act here Friday.

He went on to say procedure is laid down in the constitution that the institutions have to run how. The impression goes that advantage was taken of absence of parliament. The institutions will not gain strength but they will grow weak due to this interference.

He observed this law was long standing demand of councils and bar associations.

He remarked it is beyond comprehension that it is being said the operation is got done from the doctor from whom no healing is coming.

He made it clear this decision will have no impact in Nawaz Sharif case.

SC declares...

Continued from page 1

be exercised with great care to determine whether the law is according to the Constitution or not? The legislation for Supreme Court Reviews of Judgments and Orders Act is beyond the power of Parliament. The court said that there was no ambiguity in the Supreme Court decisions on the scope of revision, adding that Article 188 and the implementation of judicial decisions on it was binding on all. It said the Parliament knows that appeal and revision are two different things.

It has been said in the judgment that every effort was made to see the act as

## India refuses 'special treatment' to Pakistan over World Cup security assurance

Sports Desk

LAHORE: India has refused to give any "special treatment" to Pakistan after the latter sought security assurance for the cricket team during its visit to the arch-rival country for the World Cup this year.

The Ministry of External Affairs of India's official spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi, said that there would be no special treatment for the Pakistan team.

"For us, Pak Team

is as important as any other team. No special treatment will be given proper cover will be provided when & wherever required," the official added.

Last week, the government in Islamabad gave a green signal to the national team to participate in the World Cup to be held in India in October-November this year.

"Pakistan has consistently maintained that sports should not be mixed with politics. It has, therefore, de-

cidated to send its Cricket Team to India to participate in the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had stated in a press release.

However, the foreign ministry expressed concerns over security for the national team in India.

Pakistan will kick off their World Cup campaign on October 6 against the Netherlands at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad.

Development in society...

Continued from page 1

calphs of Islam," Dr Alvi said, adding that welfare of the community should be the first priority of a civil servant.

He said that brilliant civil servants were an antidote to the state's ills and that people with the right attitude could change the world around them. He remarked that the country needed such people more than before as the country was faced with multiple challenges.

Dr Alvi urged the civil servants to follow in the footsteps of the former great civil servants and become a source of resistance against hypocrisy and corruption, besides ensuring good governance.

The president said that keeping pace with modern knowledge was also vital to national progress and the bureaucracy must play its role in steering the country out of problems, and put it

on the path to progress.

Highlighting the role of training institutions like the NSPP and NDU, the president said that these institutions could better train civil servants and equip them with relevant skills to address the administrative and governance issues.

Earlier, Director NSPP Dr Ijaz Munir welcomed President Dr Arif Alvi and thanked his constant patronage of the institution. Shedding light on salient features of the high-profile training institution, he said the NSPP did not confine itself to academics but also provided training on practical strategy and policy formulation.

The NSPP director further said that scholarships were also being awarded to toppers of the SMC and NMC training and they were being sent to Harvard University. Earlier, President Dr Arif Alvi distributed certificates among the successful graduates of the SMC and NMC.

## Transforming Communication: Balochistan's Information Department's Remarkable Journey

A New Era of Transparency, Digitalization, and Progress

Year 2023

Balochistan, known for its vast landscapes and rich culture, has been making significant strides in its quest for progress and development. At the forefront of this transformation lies the Information Department of Balochistan, which, under visionary leadership, has embarked on an impressive journey of modernization and reform. Over the past nine months, the department has undertaken several groundbreaking initiatives that have improved its daily operations and set the stage for a more transparent, technologically advanced, and citizen-centric government.

### 1. Pioneering the Digital Media Policy:

In an era where information dissemination relies heavily on digital platforms, the Information Department took the lead in drafting and submitting the First Digital Media Policy. This forward-looking policy aims to harness the power of digital channels for effective communication with the public, thereby promoting transparency and accessibility.

### 2. Revamping the Advertisement Policy:

Recognizing the need to keep pace with evolving media landscapes, the department approved a new Information Technology enabled Advertisement Policy after a decade. This policy ensures greater transparency in government advertisements on digital and electronic platforms, fostering a fair and competitive environment for media houses while optimizing outreach to citizens.

### 3. Right to Information Rules:

To uphold the principles of democracy and good governance, the Information Department worked diligently to submit the Right to Information Rules to the cabinet for final approval. This move is a testament to the government's commitment to openness and accountability, empowering citizens with the right to access information crucial to their well-being and participation in the decision-making process.

### 4. Empowering the Information Commission:

In a significant step towards institutionalizing transparency, the Information Commission has been notified. This independent body will play a pivotal role in overseeing the implementation of right to information laws, ensuring that citizens' queries are addressed promptly and effectively.

### 5. Digital Information Cell:

Establishing the First Digital Information Cell has been a game-changer for the government's digital presence. This milestone has led to a remarkable 10,000 percent improvement in the government's digital footprint, facilitating direct communication with citizens, and providing them with real-time updates and essential information.

### 6. Strengthening District Information Officers:

By implementing a robust monitoring mechanism for District Information Officers, the department has instilled a culture of accountability and efficiency at the grassroots level. This move ensures better coordination and dissemination of information across the province.

### 7. Harnessing the Power of Media:

The collaboration with Radio Pakistan to establish an FM Radio channel is a step towards expanding the government's outreach through electronic media. This will foster better engagement with citizens, particularly in rural and remote areas, making them active participants in the development process.

### 8. Divisional Information Offices:

The establishment of Divisional Information Offices will significantly improve the efficiency of information dissemination, ensuring that regional matters receive adequate attention while empowering local communities with relevant information.

### 9. Safeguarding Journalists' Rights:

The submission of the Protection of Journalists Bill reflects the government's unwavering commitment to a free and fair press. By ensuring the safety and protection of journalists, the department seeks to enhance media freedom and uphold democratic values.

### 10. Embracing Digital Communication:

The department's efforts to improve websites, launch a YouTube channel, and podcasts with senior government officers have enhanced digital communication channels, fostering more open and accessible dialogue between the government and its constituents.

### 11. Empowering Youth with Education:

Through partnerships with Google International, the Information Department has secured 3000 scholarships for unemployed educated youth of Balochistan. This investment in human capital aims to empower the younger generation with the necessary skills and certifications to excel in a digital world.

### 12. Modernizing Operations:

The digitized 24-hour round-the-clock monitoring room for DGPR ensures efficient crisis management and media monitoring, allowing the government to respond swiftly to emerging situations.

### 13. Nurturing Future Leaders:

The launch of the first internship program provides students with invaluable exposure to the workings of the government sector, equipping them with practical knowledge and skills for their future careers.

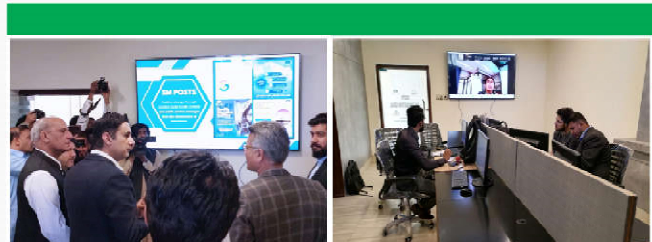
### 14. Strengthening the Workforce:

The successful hiring of lower staff, after a long delay, has bolstered the department's operational capacity, enabling it to deliver services more effectively.

### 15. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:

Collaboration with esteemed institutions like IUMS for staff training and engagement with local universities and NGOs demonstrates the department's commitment to continuous improvement and knowledge sharing.

In conclusion, the Information Department of Balochistan has undertaken a remarkable transformation, spearheading initiatives that embrace technology, transparency, and citizen engagement. These efforts have not only improved daily operations but also placed Balochistan on the path to a more progressive and inclusive future. As we celebrate these achievements, we look forward to witnessing the department's continued dedication to serving the people and promoting an informed and empowered society.



## Governor calls...

Continued from page 1

Appreciating the organizers for holding PHL conference, the Governor said that it is good to see the senior doctors from all over the country while attending the conference in Quetta.

He hoped that the local doctors would benefit from the experiences of the senior doctors and utilize the knowledge gained through the conference in their professional career.

He said that it is responsibility of the government to ensure best health care services for the people particularly those suffering from different diseases.

However, there's also a need to create awareness among the people about the health issues and their prevention, adding he stressed.

He hoped that the PHL conference would go a long way to help improve the health services for the patients suffering from hypertension.

Earlier, the convener of PHL conference, Professor Dr. Jalal Achakzai highlighted the aims and objectives of the conference.

He said that PHL is providing platform to the young doctors to benefit from the opportunity. He said that the PHL is also engaged in creating much needed awareness about prevention of hypertension and heart diseases. Other senior doctors including general secretary of PHL, Professor Muhammad Ishaq also addressed the conference and shared their invaluable experiences of professional life.

They also shared with the participants the latest research and knowledge about hypertension and its prevention.

They also expressed concern over increasing ratio of hypertension among the people especially those are above 50 years.

**اطلاع عام**  
برسر 14 اگست کے موقع پر آئے دہشت گردانہ حملوں میں متاثرہ افراد کو سماجی تحریروں پر پابندی لگانے پر  
نوٹیفکیشن ہے، ان کے سرپرستوں کو گرفتار کرنے اور دہشت گردانہ سرگرمیوں کو روکنے کے لیے  
آزاد ہیں کہ اور نقصان دور دہشت گردانہ سرگرمیوں کو روکنے کے لیے  
عوامی تحفظ اور سلامتی کے لیے ضروری اقدامات کو بروئے کار لگانے کے لیے  
سے متاثرہ شہریوں میں تکلیف کا احساس پیدا ہونے کے لیے ضروری اقدامات کو بروئے کار لگانے کے لیے  
بانت ہے۔ یہ اقدامات ان کو کوئی حائل نہیں دے گا۔ پابندی لگانے پر نوٹیفکیشن ہے، ان کے  
سرپرستوں کو گرفتار کرنے اور دہشت گردانہ سرگرمیوں کو روکنے کے لیے  
نقصان دور دہشت گردانہ سرگرمیوں کو روکنے کے لیے  
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1 Earth Moving Machinery 2,000,000/-  
(Total Item(s) Count: 1283)  
2 Manufactured Vehicles & Accessories  
(Total Item(s) Count: 1283)  
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Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 05 September, 2023 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Directorate General Agriculture Engineering Department Sarisab Road Quetta Phone no: 0819211801 Fax no: 0819211218 Email: zubairhaseeb6@gmail.com  
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ISLAMABAD: Chairman Minorities Alliance Akmal Bhatti led the rally on occasion of World Minorities' Day.

## PM pays tribute to minorities for their contribution in nation-building

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tributes to the minorities for their contribution in nation-building and socio-economic development of the country.

"On the National Day of Minorities, I join the nation in paying rich tributes to our non-Muslim citizens for their valuable contributions in nation-building and assure them of the government's consistent and unwavering commitment to protecting their rights," the prime minister said in a message in connection with the Day.

He said today the nation celebrated the role and contributions of the non-Muslim citizens for peace, progress and prosperity of Pakistan on the National Day of Minorities.

"Our minority communities are part and parcel of the Pakistani nationalism. From the freedom struggle to this day, they have contributed meaningfully to building the country. From defence to education to health to social service, there is no walk of life where our non-Muslim brothers and sisters have not played their role in the socio-economic development of the country," he added.

## President acknowledges minorities role in country's development

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday acknowledged the important role of the minorities in development of the country.

Highlighting the role of the minorities in nation-building, he in a message on the occasion of International Day of Minorities said the Constitution guaranteed political, economic and social rights to all citizens irrespective of their religious beliefs or race.

Islam taught us to protect the rights of minorities and equality among all people, he added.

President Alvi said Pakistan always took measures to ensure welfare of the minorities and to encourage their active participation in political and economic development of the country. He also reiterated his unwavering resolve to protect the religious, economic, social and political rights of the minorities.

## Grannas says: Pakistan must take proactive approach to build its resilience, support vulnerable communities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Alfred Grannas on Friday said Pakistan must take a more proactive approach to build its resilience against climate change and support communities more vulnerable to environmental degradation and adverse global warming impacts. The youth are the leaders of tomorrow and it was necessary to begin the change for their future.

He expressed these views during his keynote address at an event in connection with the International Youth Day organised by the Pakistan-German Climate and Energy Partnership (PGCEP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC).

The event, titled "Youth 4 Climate Action: Young Voices, Bold Solutions," was held here to harness the energy and creativity of young individuals towards addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change under the auspices of GIZ (German Development Agency). The conference was a colorful convening that included

panel discussions on pertinent topics and a theatre play by Lokath highlighting gender inequalities during climate crisis was showcased before the participants. Ambassador Alfred Grannas said the conference was intended to address important youth role in climate action. He congratulated the MoCC and GIZ team for organising the event and said that the German mission would achieve meaningful results through Pakistani youth engagement in climate action.

"Climate Change is a global phenomenon and it affects the entire world. This event will provide Pakistani youth to imagine new ideas for addressing climate change," he said.

He added that Germany has been a reliable partner of Pakistan and had a 60-year-old partnership which was strengthened through the iconic Pakistan-German Climate and Energy Partnership (PGCEP). Through the Pakistan-German Climate and Energy Partnership both the friendly countries were working on just energy transition and mitigation of environmental degradation and global warming impacts.

He mentioned that the devastating floods of 2022 inflicted unprecedented damage to various provinces of the country and it was yet not able to overcome the destruction as more monsoon rainfall started playing havoc in vulnerable areas.

"So far some \$10 billion global funding has been extended to Pakistan and out of it \$220 million alone has been given by Germany for flood disaster management. Around 500 million Euros project has been designed to address climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience of Pakistan," he informed. The German envoy told the participants that the first concrete approach on loss and damage fund at the COP-27 Sharm El-Sheikh was the result of a very good cooperation of MoCC and the German delegation led by Shery Rehman the then Climate Change Minister of Pakistan and the German side represented.

## Safe City conducts evaluation of 1600 private cameras in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Technical Team of the Safe City Islamabad Command and Control Center conducted a survey of 1600 private security cameras installed in various areas of Islamabad.

Police said that the technical team surveyed 1600 private security cameras installed at Koral Chowk, Khanna Pul, Express Highway, Aabpara, Melody, Poly Clinic, G-9 Center, F-10 Center, I-10 Green Belt near Sabzi Mandi, I-16 Center, and G-13 Road in Islamabad.

The aim of the survey is to ensure access to

Islamabad Police in urban as well as rural areas in order and enable effective handling and monitoring of incidents or events.

Moreover, private security camera owners were also requested to ensure the proper functioning of their cameras at all times and to provide timely CCTV footage to the police when required in order to assist in crime prevention and investigation.

Police have urged citizens to collaborate in eradicating criminal elements and provide strong support to the force.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan is meeting with the delegation of Shell Global Nature Based Solutions.

## CDA, Hashoo group plant saplings along Srinagar Highway

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with Hashoo Group planted saplings at Rest Area G-11 Srinagar Highway here on Friday to ensure a clean and green environment in the federal capital.

Chairman CDA Captain @ Noor-ul-Amin Mengal speaking on the occasion said environment-friendly measures were being taken in collaboration with the private sector. It was imperative for the private sector to actively participate in eco-friendly summer in Islamabad.

## Speaker NA expresses deep gratitude to all Pakistani Minorities

ISLAMABAD (Online): On the auspicious occasion of National Minorities Day observed each year on 11th August, Hon'ble Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has paid rich tribute and expressed deep gratitude to all Pakistani Minorities for their commendable sacrifices and services for the beloved motherland.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that Pakistan is fully committed to ensure provision of all rights to our brothers and sisters, as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan, particularly in Articles 36. He also added, "Pakistan is home to every citizen living within its boundary and it does not discriminate on the basis of caste, creed, colour and religion", as emphasized by Quaid-e-Azam in his speech on 11th August, 1947, in which he said "We are starting in the days when there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another."

## Kashmiris to observe Aug 15 as Black Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiri people living on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and the rest of the world would observe India's Independence Day on August 15 as Black Day.

Kashmiris observe Aug 15, Indian independence day, as a black day to reiterate ever-lasting hatred against India and to register strong protest over Delhi's forced Aug 05, 2019, sinister action of scrapping the special status of the internationally recognized Jammu and Kashmir state, a private news channel reported.

Kashmiris observe India's all national days including independence day as black day to condemn India for constantly denying Kashmiris' birth right to self-determination and to apprise the external world of India's ongoing worst reign of state terrorism making people of occupied Jammu Kashmir state besieged, at gunpoint by the Indian military and Paramilitary troops.



ISLAMABAD: A painter is teaching the painting to the girls at his pavilion in Weekly Friday Market at Sector H-9 in Federal Capital.

## Radio Pak airing special programmes in connection with Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Radio Pakistan is airing different programmes on the subject from all its stations and units across the country. Radio shows will be held as part of the Independence Day celebrations. Azadi Melas in connection with the Independence Day celebrations are also going to be held all over the country in Punjabi, Sindhi, Balochi, Pashto, Saraiki, Brahvi, Hindko, Balti, Shina and Pahari languages. Thematic dramas on patriotism, social harmony and national integrity are being broadcast on weekly basis, and it will continue till August this year. Special Mushaira will also be aired on 14th August, where eminent poets will present their masterpieces to pay tribute to the nation and its heroes. On August 14, Radio Pakistan Lahore will broadcast a 20 minutes special documentary titled "Constitutional Development of Pakistan from 1947 to 1973" at 4.05 p.m., while Radio Pakistan Islamabad will air a special documentary.

Through these programmes, the news and current affairs and programme wings are highlighting the history of Pakistan, important events, achievements and noted contributions by various personalities in different fields over the past 75



ISLAMABAD: A view of the empty Utility Store at Sitara Market as workers are sitting free due to the ending of the subsidized prices of grocery after ending of the Prime Minister Scheme later than dissolving of the National Assembly.

## Dualization, upgradation of Old Bannu Road nearing completion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway Authority (NHA) has been working on the dualization and up-gradation of 83 kilometer Old Bannu Road in Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province which is nearing completion. An official of NHA told APP on Friday that the project was part of Indus Highway and the first package of the project, 40 kilometer Domail-Khurram portion was awarded to the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) at the bid price of Rs 7.132 billion.

The work on the project was started in February 2018 and so far, about 68.75 percent of physical progress has been achieved mainly due to lack of funds availability, the official added. He said its second package, the 35 km Khurram-Karpa portion costing Rs 5.927 billion was awarded to the FWO. Its work was started in February 2018 and so far about 67.15 percent of physical progress has been achieved.

The third package of Old Bannu road, 8 kilometer Gaandi Chowk-Sarai Naurang section was awarded to M/s NCC-IKAN-HRPL joint venture at the bid price of Rs 0.718 billion. Work on the package also started in February 2018 and it has already been accomplished. He further said that the existing road was single carriageway which was being dualized and improved. He said the project would provide the heavy traffic movement on Indus Highway (N-55) with an alternate route thus sharing the traffic burden with Indus Highway.

The NHA official said that infrastructure development in the less developed areas would contribute to their economic uplift through accelerated trade activities.

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## Benazir Nashonuma Program BISP's reaches to 770,000 beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far reached to over 770,000 lactating mothers and infants through delivering nutritious food, cash stipends and guidance under the Benazir Nashonuma initiative. An official source told on Friday that the Benazir Nashonuma Programme had transacted and expanded beyond its initial pilot project phase, now encompassing the entire country. Presently, BISP is providing support to the lactating mothers and infants through 488 Facilitation Centers spread across Pakistan, delivering both Special Nutritious

Food (SNF) and cash stipends. The Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) intervention of Benazir Nashonuma was designed in August 2020 to increase the uptake of Health and Nutrition services of its beneficiaries. The primary objectives of the program is to prevent stunting in children under two years of age, improve weight gain of pregnant women during pregnancy, reduce anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiencies and prevent low birth weight. World Food Programme (WFP) is the lead implementing partner for Ehsaas Nashonuma. The programme aims to address stunting among pregnant.

## Hot, humid weather expected in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hot and humid weather is expected in most parts of the country during the next twelve hours. However, rain with wind and thunder-shower is expected in northeast Punjab, Potohar region, Islamabad, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir. Gusty and dust raising winds are likely in central and southern parts of the country. Temperature of some major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad and Muzaftarabad twenty-five degree centigrade, Lahore thirty, Karachi twenty-eight.

## PML-N to launch its 'election manifesto' soon: Rana Maqbool

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad Friday said that his party under the leadership of supreme Nawaz Sharif has started preparations for developing its manifesto for the general elections 2023.

"PML-N is confident to win the general elections on the basis of its commendable performance", he said while talking to PTV news channel.

He also briefed the party manifesto aims for socio-economic development, agriculture, employ-

ment opportunities for the youth and public serving as the top agenda of his party.

PML-N will participate in the election with full force and Nawaz Sharif will lead the election campaign, he further added.

"The nation is waiting for Nawaz Sharif and under his leadership, Pakistan will once again take the path of prosperity," he added.

Replying to a question, he made it clear that PML-N is united under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, adding, having a different political opinion is just part of any democratic system.

## IHC announces new bench to hear plea against Afridi arrest in MPO-3

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has formed new bench to hear application against former federal minister Shehyar Afridi arrest under MPO-3. Justice Babar Sattar will hear the plea on August 15. According to details IHC chief justice Aamer Farooq send case to Justice Babar Sattar. Yesterday, Shehyar Afridi filed application through Sher Afzal Marwat advocate in IHC. Secretary interior, IG Islamabad, district magistrate and Superintendent adiala jail were made party in application.



ISLAMABAD: A view of PTA Building illuminated with colorful lights for upcoming Independence Day 76th Pakistan Independence Day (1947) on August 14, 2023.



Saturday August 12, 2023

## A fresh start

It ended in circumstances as controversial as the ones that gave birth to it. The 15<sup>th</sup> National Assembly — formed following the chaotic general elections of 2018 — stood dissolved on Thursday on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice, merely two days before it was to complete its constitutional, five-year tenure. Over its term, it saw two prime ministers sworn into office. One was constitutionally removed for his mismanagement of the economy; the other is about to leave Pakistani democracy considerably compromised. In roughly the same period, two former prime ministers were handed disqualification and jail terms for "corrupt practices".

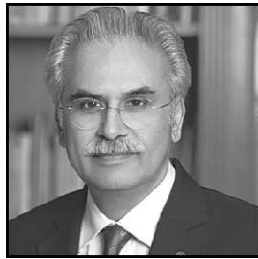
And, over the entirety of this period, Pakistan was run less like the democratic parliamentary republic envisaged in the Constitution and more like a hybrid system in which elected representatives took most of the blame while their 'handlers' took most of the decisions.

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is perhaps not wrong in regretting that the outgoing Assembly may have been "the worst in Pakistan's history". It not only failed in its fiduciary duty under two separate governments, but it also actively undermined Parliament by ceding unprecedented power to unelected quarters. Former prime minister Imran Khan set the tone by outsourcing his government's control to the intelligence apparatus. The latter whipped up votes and coddled or coerced the PTI's coalition partners when the prime minister himself was not in the mood to play nice.

The then opposition, too, did not help matters by creating what was sometimes an overly hostile environment, pushing the thin-skinned PTI leadership to opt for ordinances to execute its legislative goals. The PDM tenure saw a continuation of the same once the new government realised that it, too, had little patience or will to play by the rules when 'easier' solutions existed.

The transference of power from elected to unelected decision-makers intensified following the May 9 violence this year, as extensive control over internal affairs was handed over to the security establishment. Its influence has now crept into economic decision-making, industry, and, lately, legislative business.

But the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly is no more, and the upcoming elections offer an opportunity to undo its mistakes. The aspirants to the 16<sup>th</sup> National Assembly must demand that the polls follow the constitutionally defined schedule and be conducted in a free and fair environment. They owe this to their constituents. The next setup must avoid the controversies that dogged the last one if it is to return any stability to the country. Any attempts to extend the tenure of the caretaker government or influence election results through pre-poll engineering should be resisted across the board. If the last five years have taught us anything, it is that tinkering with the democratic process is a recipe for disaster.



**Zafar Mirza**

Diabetes is on a rampage in Pakistan. We are now a country with the third largest population of diabetic adults after China and India. According to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of an atlas produced by the International Diabetes Federation in 2021, Pakistan has 33 million adults with diabetes. This comes to approximately one in four adults above 20 years of age. Even more alarmingly, if we do not take remedial action in terms of prevention and treatment, by 2030 this number is projected to swell to around 43m and, if negligence continues, by 2050, the diabetic population will rise to 62m. Currently, 8.9m people are also estimated to be undiagnosed and another 11m adults have impaired glucose intolerance, ie pre-diabetes.

In 1990, diabetes didn't even appear among the 25 leading causes of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in Pakistan; ie, years of life lost due to premature death plus years lived with disability. By 2019, however, diabetes had jumped to become the eighth leading cause of DALYs. In the decade between 2009 and 2019, death and disability due to diabetes increased by 87 per cent in Pakistan. The trends are dire.

Why is there such a huge number of patients and how to stop this onslaught?

But before that, a word about diabetes, which is commonly known in Pakistan as sugar-ke beemari. In medical science, it is known as diabetes mellitus. Etymologically, both these words are of Greek origin — 'diabetes' means excessive urine and 'mellitus' means sweet. The disease has been known for millennia but the breakthrough came as recently as 1921-22, when a group of researchers in Toronto purified insulin for clinical use. The WHO describes diabetes as "a chronic disease that occurs either when the

pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood glucose. Hyperglycaemia, also called raised blood glucose ... is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes and over time leads to serious damage to many of the body's systems, especially the nerves and blood vessels."

Insulin is essential for the entry of glucose — the ultimate source of energy for us — into cells. In Type 1 diabetes, for unknown reasons, the pancreas no longer produces insulin. The disease requires insulin on a daily basis. Type 1 diabetics cannot survive without insulin. Before the discovery of insulin, Type 1 diabetes was almost a death sentence.

Type 2 diabetes prevents our body from using insulin properly, which can lead to high levels of blood sugar. If not treated properly, it leads to serious physical damage, especially to the feet, eyes, kidneys and heart but, generally, it affects the whole body. Diabetics are also more prone to developing de-

pression. The 33m diabetics in Pakistan actually have Type 2 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes, or insulin-dependent diabetes, affects a relatively minuscule number of people.

So, what has changed in Pakistan that we have such a huge growth in diabetes? Bhutta, Haq and Basit, in an article in *The Lancet* last year, discussed the 'crisis'. The causality is multifactorial, and a result of coexisting genetic and environmental factors. But then, how have genetics and the environment changed to give rise to the current crisis situation? Let's break it down.

Genes with diabetes association and their wide spectrum of variants have been identified. Genetic factors become more significant due to repeated marriages among close relatives; ie consanguinity. Due to high consanguinity in Pakistan, the probability of genetic expression increases. So, repeated marriages within the family increase the chances of diabetes.

But the real issues lie on the environment side. The drastic, negative changes in our lifestyle and diets are considered to be

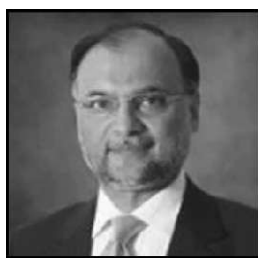
the main culprits behind the high prevalence of diabetes. Along with other non-communicable diseases (NCDs), also called chronic diseases — such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease — diabetes has a strong link with environmental and behavioural factors like unhealthy diet (malnutrition), lack of exercise (obesity), smoking, high blood pressure, air pollution and stress. All these are considered high-risk factors. Rural-urban transition has also played a major role in epidemiological transition to NCDs. Tracing 30-year trends in estimated deaths due to major disease groups in Pakistan reveals it was around 2010 when, for the first time, more deaths in the country happened due to NCDs rather than infectious diseases.

What is to be done? Prevention, early diagnosis through mass screening, and proper management are vital — which is easier said than done as it requires a comprehensive health system response. This includes integrated delivery of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health services at all levels

of the healthcare system, but most importantly at primary healthcare level. The onslaught of NCDs, including diabetes, cannot be dealt with at big hospitals. It requires a strong PHC with full involvement of trained community health workers and a life-long continuum of care. Our health system is not equipped to deal with the epidemic of diabetes. It needs sustained and coordinated whole-of-government and societal efforts. The private health sector also has to be taken into the loop.

Professor Abdul Basit, head of the Baqai Institute of Diabetes and Endocrinology, is an authority on diabetes in Pakistan and he is working hard to turn the tide. He has led national diabetes surveys, registry and research, and contributes immensely at national and international levels. He has developed a plan to establish a national diabetes network consisting of 3,000 NDN clinics across the country through private providers. These clinics will provide the best possible care to diabetics without discrimination. -- Courtesy Dawn

## The 5Es framework



**Ahsan Iqbal**

Given that elected governments in Pakistan tend to have a short-policy horizon, they are often criticized for not developing long-term policies and plans. In sharp contrast to that, PML-N governments have always prioritized long term planning by providing long-term policy documents such as Vision 2010 and Vision 2025. As the current term in government, which came with huge socio-economic and constitutional challenges ends, I am pleased to share that a long-term policy framework called the 5Es Framework has been developed. The framework offers a tangible pathway for economic revival in five priority areas: exports, e-Pakistan, environment and climate change, energy and infrastructure, and equity and empowerment. Through simultaneous progress on these 5Es, I strongly believe that we can put the country on a steady course to sustainable and long-run economic growth.

To develop a broad consensus in our polarized society, we opted for a deliberative and consultative process to develop 5Es framework. In this regard, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives organized the

Pakistan Turnaround Conference in June 2022 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This conference provided us with broad contours to develop a framework for the economic recovery.

The Planning Commission chalked out the concrete 5Es Framework on the basis of deliberations at the conference and additional input from the relevant ministries, departments and academia. The framework comprises multi-pronged strategies and a variety of initiatives to put Pakistan on a sustained growth trajectory in the short to medium term. Most of these strategies and initiatives are already in the implementation phase, and have been included in the Public Sector Development Program 2023-24.

To state the obvious, the PTI regime had left Pakistan with an unprecedented economic crisis, including large current account and fiscal deficits, double-digit inflation, massive depreciation of domestic currency and dwindling foreign exchange reserves. Economic revival has been the government's topmost priority since assuming office in April last year. Through extensive consultations with an array of stakeholders, the root causes of the persisting economic crisis were identified. Chief among them was the structural problem of boom-bust cycles, where every boom was followed by a balance of payments challenge. Consumption-led high growth episodes were financed by borrowed resources. Consequently, the economy continued to face twin deficits, causing stag-

gered growth.

Exports is the first E of this framework due to its critical value. All successful economies in the Global South — for example, China, Vietnam and South Korea — have opted for an export-led growth model. Pakistan has historically relied on import-based consumption, which has led to imbalances in its payments. Now we have to shift towards this export-led growth model to tackle the chronic boom-and-bust cycles by addressing foreign currency liquidity challenges, and keep the economy competitive by laying emphasis on productivity enhancement, product and market diversification, brand development, trade facilitation and linking production networks with global value chains.

The outgoing government launched several initiatives to boost exports, including the National Productivity Master Plan in collaboration with APO and KDI to enhance productivity, trade agreements with Central Asian and Gulf states, and establishment of a border market with Iran to improve intra-regional trade, rationalization of tariff, launch of the Export Readiness Program, promulgation of GI Law for Trade Mark registration, e-Tijarat and E-Commerce Export Framework to boost the exports of Information and Communication Technology products, and the Board of Investment's Pakistan Regulatory Reform Initiative to improve the ease of doing business in Pakistan.

The second E is e-Pakistan, which recognizes the transformative power of

information and communication technology and hence aims to build a digital economy and enhance digital infrastructure in Pakistan. Currently, ICT exports are estimated to exceed \$2.5 billion, significantly low as compared to regional competitors. The current workforce employed in the IT sector is around 625,000 including freelancers. Universities produce 25,000 graduates approximately every year. The global market size of robotics and artificial intelligence alone is projected to exceed \$563 billion by 2030.

To create a holistic digital ecosystem with infrastructure and institutional frameworks for rapid delivery of innovative digital services, the government has taken several steps like formulation of the E-Commerce Policy, establishment of the National Information Technology Board, National Incubation Centres, National Centre of Robotic and Automation, National Centre for Cyber Security, Centre for Excellence in AI. These measures will boost the IT sector, improve service delivery, and drive economic prosperity.

The third E — environment and climate change — highlights the importance of addressing environmental challenges and climate change. Pakistan faces significant challenges in ensuring the sustainability of its environment, water resources, and food security. In recent years, the impact of climate change has worsened these challenges. The devastating floods of last year clearly manifested why Pakistan was ranked as the eighth most vulner-

able on the Climate Risk Index of 2021. Due to a rising population and lack of water resource governance, Pakistan will soon face a water security crisis. Moreover, the frequency of droughts has increased over the past decade, posing immediate food security risks.

The outgoing government adopted several measures to mitigate the effects of climate change. Salient among them are the Clean Green Pakistan Initiative, National Clean Air Policy 2023, the 4RF Strategy, the Sindh Coastal Resilience Project, Green Infrastructure for Resilient Cities, Rural Development and Climate Resilience in Gilgit-Baltistan, Resilience Enhancement, and Livelihood Diversification in Balochistan. Food and water security projects included: vertical farming, regenerative farming, productivity enhancement of rice, sugarcane and wheat, the Naulung Dam Project, the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation Project, and wastewater treatment through bioremediation.

The fourth E is energy. Energy shortages have long plagued Pakistan's socio-economic stability. From 2013 to 2018, Pakistan undertook an ambitious initiative under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to meet these shortfalls, adding 12,230MW to the energy mix. In addition to electricity generation projects, the flagship 660 KV HVDC Transmission Line Project from Matiari to Lahore for generation of 4,000MW capacity has enhanced the grid infrastructure. The government has made significant investments in electricity

generation, including coal, hydro, and renewable sources. Initiatives such as for green building codes and climate-resilient infrastructure will ensure affordable and sustainable energy solutions.

The government is also making concerted efforts to diversify its energy mix by investing in renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydro power. In this regard, the Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy provides a supportive environment for renewable power projects, and increases the share of green energy capacity to 20 per cent by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030 through attracting private capital in the area of green energy. Consequently, this nudge has shown positive results.

In short, the 5Es Framework provides a comprehensive approach to turn Pakistan's economy around. Pakistan has the potential to overcome its economic challenges and emerge as a vibrant and prosperous nation on the global stage. By focusing on export-led growth, digital transformation, environmental sustainability, energy diversification, and inclusive growth, the country can achieve sustainable economic development.

Implementing the 5Es requires strong commitment from all key stakeholders. We need to go beyond divisive, polarized and hate-based politics and must remain committed to implementing the necessary structural reforms that will guide Pakistan on to a sustainable path of economic prosperity. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Energy Projects Energising CPEC

By Kamran Raja

Energy has remained the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and helped to reduce power shortage in Pakistan. CPEC is expected to have a significant impact on the energy sector in Pakistan. The corridor includes a number of energy projects, including hydropower plants, coal-fired power plants, and wind farms.

These energy projects have a number of benefits for local people. First, they are helping to reduce Pakistan's reliance on imported energy. Currently, Pakistan imports a significant amount of its energy, which is a drain on the country's economy. The energy projects under CPEC will help to reduce this reliance, which will save the country money.

Second, the energy projects under CPEC are creating jobs. The construction and operation of these projects require a large number of workers, which will provide employment opportunities for local people.

Third, the energy projects under CPEC are helping to improve the lives of people in rural areas. Many people in rural areas do not have access to electricity. The energy projects under CPEC have helped to bring electricity to these areas, which will improve the quality of life for many people.

In addition to these

benefits, the energy projects under CPEC are also expected to have a number of positive social changes. For example, they are expected to help to reduce poverty and improve education and healthcare.

Overall, the energy projects under CPEC are expected to have a significant positive impact on the lives of local people in Pakistan. They will help to reduce reliance on imported energy, create jobs, improve access to electricity, industrial growth and bring about positive social changes.

CPEC is making ways for Pakistan to achieve its sustainable energy needs, especially to build its renewable energy power generation capacity from the current 4 per cent to 30 per cent in 2030. The energy cooperation on CPEC is ongoing between China and Pakistan. Overall, there are 21 energy projects under this fate-changing project initiative between both countries. Among these, around a dozen have been completed, and the rest are in the process of completion and are at different stages of development.

In fact, Pakistan was a country that experienced an acute energy crisis previously. Electricity shortages exceeded 7,000MW in the year of 2011. The energy shortage emerged because Pakistan had lacked the power generation capacity. The energy shortfall emerged largely due to the failure of attracting the in-

vestment at a level required for expansion and maintenance of power generation on pace with the growing demand.

However, after the launch of CPEC, Pakistan has constructed new power generating plants which has drastically enhanced the country's energy generation capacity. At present, Pakistan has acquired the capacity to produce more electricity than its requirement. According to the statistics of Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-2020, Pakistan acquired the installed capacity of 35,972MW in 2020. In the same year, Pakistan's consumption capacity stood around 25,000MW. Previously, the primary structural problem of power sector was expansion of power generating units which has already been addressed under the CPEC energy framework and installation of power plants outside of CPEC cooperation.

In total, around 12,000 megawatts of energy would be generated through 21 energy projects envisioned under the ambit of CPEC energy projects. The 21 energy projects will cost around USD \$25 billion. At the moment, over a dozen energy projects have been completed and operationalised at full capacity.

Energy projects completed under CPEC featuring advanced technologies and lower cost not only provided a solution to

Pakistan's electricity shortage, which was a historic achievement for the country but also helped Pakistan improve its energy structure and reduce the cost of power generation.

According to official sources, the total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydropower, stands at 6,570 MW. They generated 28,549.94 Gwh and 25,772.48 Gwh power respectively in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total generation in Pakistan.

As the CPEC energy projects replaced the costlier energy production from furnace oil and diesel to coal and renewable energy resources in the last five years, the energy needs of Pakistan have been fulfilled at lower prices, driving growth in the export-oriented industries.

The Karot Hydropower Plant, the first hydropower investment project under CPEC, and the second phase of the Tar Block II power station project both went into commercial operations in succession in year 2022. The hydropower plant provides Pakistan with clean yet low-priced electricity while the coal-power projects tap into Pakistan's coal resources for power generation, economizing local precious foreign exchange resource.

Additionally, there are many other hydropower projects which are under

construction. Suki Kinari Hydropower project with an installed capacity of 870MW is almost complete and will be operational at the end of this year.

Other CPEC-related hydropower projects include Kohala Hydropower Project and Azad Pattan Hydropower Project. Furthermore, Diamer Bhasha, Neelum Jehlum, Mohmand, and Dasu Dams are also contributing towards Chinese commitment to provide clean and affordable energy in Pakistan.

When renewable energy is talk of the town across the world, Belt & Road Initiative of China is not behind in contributing towards green revolution. On similar lines, CPEC energy investments from China are now focusing on green energy. It won't be an exaggeration if we say that 2023 brought a new era in Sino-Pak cooperation in renewable energy, as we have witnessed extremely encouraging signs in green energy sector between the two friendly nations.

Until now, renewable energy sources make up a very minor fraction of Pakistan's overall power generation mix. According to a recent report of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, the installed capacity for wind and solar accounts for roughly 4.2% (1,831 MW) and 1.4% (630 MW) of a total of 43,775 MW, respectively.

China is already the

biggest investor in green energy in Pakistan. Currently, out of the \$144 million in foreign investment in solar PV plants in Pakistan, \$125 million is from China, accounting for nearly 87% of the total.

Thanks to Chinese investments, a few weeks ago Federal Power Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan inaugurated two new wind energy projects in Jhimpir, Thatta District, Sindh, with an aim to produce cheaper and clean electricity through indigenous energy sources. Wind projects in this region have been one of several renewable energy projects to have received Chinese investment in recent years. Around 90 kilometers from Karachi, Jhimpir is the heartland of the country's largest 'Wind corridor', which has the potential to produce 11,000 megawatts (MW) of energy from green resources. Another major development took place in Wind Energy promotion when Beijing-based multinational wind turbine manufacturer, Goldwind Corporation launched the first-of-its-kind solution factory in Pakistan. The Solution Factory aims to develop localized solutions for Pakistani wind power plants. In conclusion, CPEC energy projects have improved the power industry in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency at lower cost.



## CM reviews arrangements for Independence Day

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting held at CM's office on Friday, reviewed arrangements for celebrating Independence Day. Acting upon directives from the caretaker CM, Independence Day festivities are set to be marked with a blend of grandeur and patriotic fervor, as extensive plans have been finalized for Punjab's jubilant observance.

At night on August 13, a vibrant display of fireworks is scheduled to illuminate the skies. Simultaneously, on the morning of August 14, flag-hoisting ceremonies will be held in unison across all divisional and district headquarters throughout Punjab. On the evening of August 14, national songs and anthems will be presented to the public in special events. Renowned singers will perform. All government and private buildings will be lit up across the province.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conferring the Gold medals and presenting certificates to position holders of Secondary School Examination, at local hotel in Provincial Capital.

## Nasir Shah inaugurates Sabzwari Triangle Park, Wall of Lyari Gate

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister for Local Government (LG) Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that Lyari is the stronghold of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). He said that under the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the guidance of Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, ongoing development projects in Lyari were being completed rapidly.

Nasir Shah said this while inaugurating Sabzwari Triangle Park and the Wall of Lyari Gate along with Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab. On the occasion, former Test cricketer Younis Khan, Hockey Olympian Wasim Feroze, Senator Yusuf Baloch, leader of PPP Nabil Gabol, Javed Naguri, Khalil Hot, Karamullah Waqasi, Chairman Lyari Town Nasir Karim Baloch, Town



RAWALPINDI: Leader of the Transgender Association Saba Gull leads the protest of transgender for the rights, outside press club in city.

## IG Punjab says: Security of all religious places top priority

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that the security of all the religious places including mosques, imambargahs, shrines is the first priority.

The security measures will be improved with the effective use of modern technology and available resources. He expressed these views while meeting the delegation of Muttahida Ulema Board Punjab at the Central Police Office here on Thursday.

The delegation led by Chairman Muttahida Ulema Board Dr. Raghib Hussain Naemi included Moulana Muhammad Hussain Akbar, Mufti Muhammad Ramzan Sialvi, Moulana Syed Ziaullah Shah, Moulana Hafiz Zubair Hassan, Moulana Muhammad Ali Naqshbandi, Moulana

National flags will be displayed at prominent places in all cities.

Famous singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan will perform at the Gaddafi Stadium. Fireworks will be set off at Minar-e-Pakistan and other places. The day will witness a ceremonial flag hoisting at Huzuri Bagh at 8 am, followed by similar observances at landmarks such as Multan Ghanta Ghar. Firework displays and musical performances will grace the night in Multan, where the Metro route will also be illuminated. In the spirit of rejuvenation, the occasion will also see the planting of saplings.

Reflecting the luminance of unity and patriotism, the canals of Lahore and Faisalabad will shimmer with the glow of lit lamps. The CM passionately acknowledged Pakistan's genesis as a product of immense ancestral sacrifices, with a reminder that independence was secured through the crossing of rivers of fire and blood by Muslims.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali along with Chairman Higher Education Commission Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed distributing certificate of electric wheelchairs among the special children/students of the public sector universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Cabinet members return to people with respect, dignity: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over his farewell cabinet meeting at CM House said that he, his cabinet members, and all the MPAs of his party were going back to the people with dignity and respect because they stood by them at a difficult time and served them to the best of their abilities.

The meeting was attended by all the ministers, advisors, special assistants, coordinators, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, PSCM Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Finance Hassan Naqvi, and others. He said that at the start of his government tenure in 2018, the federal

government [PTI] was not ready to cooperate and tried to destabilize the PPP government in Sindh. He further said that under the guidance of former President Asif Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he kept serving our people steadfastly. Murad Shah said that conspiracies from the federal government were still in progress when the fatal pandemic - COVID-19 hit hard. "It created a wave of fear and insecurity among the people," he said and added that his government took concrete steps to face the situation and save the people. He said that the province was still

surviving the COVID losses when the floods of 2022 swept almost across the province. "I had almost lost hope to drain out such a deluge of the water but the cabinet members, party workers, and the leadership supported him and finally the water was disposed of, and wheat crops were sown," he said. Murad Shah said that they have harvested the bumper crop and achieved more than their requirement and now a record cotton crop is being reaped. "We all - the party leadership, ministers, advisors, special assistants, coordinators, MPAs, and party workers remained shoulder by shoulder with the flood-

affected people," he said and added that the houses destroyed by the floods were being reconstructed along with giving the title of the land to the affected people.

Mr Shah said we were going back to our people with respect, dignity, and a feeling of satisfaction that we served the people.

The chief minister thanked his cabinet members, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput and former chief secretary Syed Mumtaz Shah for their support and cooperation. He also thanked the secretaries, heads of provincial government institutions, staff of the CM House.

## CM extends condolences to family of youth killed in dacoity

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday met the family of young Ahmed Afsar, who tragically lost his life during a dacoity incident a few days ago at a clinic in Gulzar Quaid, Airport Housing Society, Rawalpindi.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his grief and sorrow to the widow, uncle, and other relatives of the deceased youth Ahmed Afsar over the tragic incident. He expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family and recited Fatiha for the deceased youth. He consoled the widow and uncle and expressed his compassion towards the children.

The Chief Minister received details about the tragic incident from CPO Rawalpindi. He said that the wrongdoers committed a heinous crime by killing a father of three children. "Punjab Government is with your family, will take complete care of your family," he added.

## Bridegroom kills 3 nephews in marriage firing in NW

PESHAWAR (APP): Three young-age boys were killed and two others injured when their uncle fired at them during his marriage ceremony in Chota Dattakhel Barkili area of North Waziristan, the other day.

Police said the accused bridegroom started indiscriminate firing on his nephews during his marriage rituals, killing three of the children and injuring two others. The deceased children were aged from 8 to 14, the police said. The injured children were shifted to Doaba Hospital, Hangu.

Relatives of the accused told police that the mental condition of the accused was not stable. However, he succeeded in fleeing the area after the killing spree.

## Meeting on social interaction held

DIR LOWER (APP): A meeting under the provincial government's policy "Interaction with Civil Society", adhering to the directives of Deputy Commissioner Dir Lower Ifthikhar Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Relief & Human Rights) Tariq Hussain was held with District Public Prosecutor, Wajid Ali, Child Protection Officer Muhammad Tayyab here on Friday.

The theme of the meeting was "Awareness Raising Campaign Against Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and Child Protection Concerns".



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a farewell cabinet meeting at CM House.

## KP Governor distributes electric wheelchairs among disabled students

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Friday said that the guardianship of special children is the responsibility of the entire society. Addressing as a chief guest at a grand ceremony of distribution of electric wheelchairs among the special children/students of the public sector universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here, he said that the provision of electric wheelchairs will increase the self-esteem of special children.

Chairman Higher Education Commission Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellors,

Secretary Higher Education Department Anila Durrani, students and parents participated in the ceremony. The Governor distributed electric wheelchairs among 30 disabled students of 11 universities of the province under the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchairs Project. He said that he salutes those parents who have made their special children complete the journey from first grade to higher education.

He directed the vice chancellors of the universities to waive the fees of special children studying in their educational institutions

and take measures to provide them with jobs.

The Governor distributed electric wheelchairs among 30 disabled students of 11 universities of the province under the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchairs Project. On this occasion, the Governor praised the academic spirit, courage and dedication of the special students and went to the children and met them and encouraged them.

Addressing the ceremony on the occasion, Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that under the project, electric wheelchairs have been given to 610 disabled children in three phases.

## PHC, LAS ink MoU for provision of legal aid to minority communities

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) and Legal Aid Society (LAS), on Friday, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strengthening access to justice by extending legal support to Hindu and other non-Muslim communities across Sindh.

The MoU was signed by Secretary General PHC Parshotam Ramani and Chief Executive Officer LAS Barrister Hayya Emaan Zahid here at a ceremony in the presence of Chairman PM's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism and Patron-in-Chief of PHC Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani and other representatives of both the organisations.

The signing ceremony was specifically organised on the International Day of

Minorities to highlight the significance and role of minority communities in the development, progress and prosperity of the country while a cake was also cut at the occasion to mark the day. According to the MoU both organisations will work jointly for ensuring access of minority communities to justice in criminal as well as civil matters and safeguarding the rights of marginalised communities across Sindh. As part of the collaboration, PHC will refer cases of the Hindu community to LAS, disseminate Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) material prepared by LAS among its communities.

On the other hand, LAS has pledged its unwavering support.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Qasimabad hold a protest to block Wadhu wah road against bad situation cleaning in their locality.

## KP CM stresses on civil servants to work for people's welfare

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan here Friday stressed on public servants to work tirelessly for resolution of people's problems and their welfare.

Addressing the completion of 33<sup>rd</sup> Senior Management Course (SMC) ceremony as a chief guest here at National Institute of Management (NIM), the caretaker chief minister said that great responsibilities rest on public servants by adopting highest standards of professionalism, management skills and work with utmost dedication imperative for swift resolution of people's problems and welfare of masses.

Congratulating the 34

passed out officers of the SMC, the chief minister said that public servants and officers could not afford leniency in dispensation of official duties.

He directed them to decide cases swiftly on merit and treat general public politely.

He said Pakistan had been created after a lot of sacrifices by our forefathers and the country's problems could be addressed by taking guidance from the teachings of the father of the nation, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He said Pakistan could achieve all heights of success if the entire nation strictly acts on the guiding principles of unity, faith and discipline of the great Quaid.



KARACHI: Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Chairman PM's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism and Patron-in-Chief Pakistan Hindu Council, cutting the Cake Independence day celebration after witnessing MOU signing ceremony between the Pakistan Hindu Council & the Legal Aid Society (LAS).

## Sindh Info Minister hands over Rs 50m grant cheque to KPC President

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister of Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon here on Friday handed over a cheque of Rs 50 million to President Karachi Press Club (KPC) Saeed Sarbazi in the Sindh Assembly as an annual grant from the Sindh Government to KPC.

The provincial Minister of Local Government Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Minister for Excise and Taxation Mukesh Kumar Chawla, Member of Sindh Assembly Owais Qadir Shah, Director Information Administration Muhammad Yusuf Kaburu, Director Press Information Hasan Ashgar

Naqvi and former president of KPC Fazil Jamili were also present.

On this occasion, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government had taken historic steps for the welfare of journalists. From the provision of plots for the residence of journalists to financial assistance for their medical treatment, grants have been provided to journalists' organizations and press clubs, he said.

The Sindh government has also excelled in legislation to protect journalists and Sindh Commission for the Protection of Journalists and Media Practitioners has also been established, he added.



GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish in a meeting with her district people at Assembly Secretariat.

## IGP for merger of small police stations into big police stations

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Friday announced committees for integration of small police stations into bigger ones, turning the small police stations to check posts or reporting centers.

Presiding over a meeting for the purpose of reorganization of police stations in Karachi, the IGP Sindh constituted a committee headed by Additional IGP - Karachi Javed Alam Odho for police stations of Karachi range.

## Merged areas' police end polio duty boycott

PESHAWAR (APP): After a successful round of dialogue between police officers from the settled areas and merged districts, the police in merged areas have assured to end their boycott and join the security duties with the polio teams. Police sources informed on Friday that officers of different ranks from the merged district held a meeting with IGP KP Akhtar Hayat Khan, CCPO, Ashfaq Anwar and others and discussed various issues.

At the meeting, the merged districts informed the KP police chief regarding issues of service structure, appointment of children of the police martyrs in the police force and pension of the former Khassadar Force of the merged districts. The police officers of the merged districts also requested the IGP KP to constitute a committee for forwarding the recommendation regarding appointments of kin of the forces' martyrs.



## Govt provides Rs 2,953m for agro-based SMEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has provided Rs 2,953 million for the modernization of agro-based Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in order to enhance farm output and encourage agricultural sector value addition for enhancing farm income as well as profit maximization.

The amount was disbursed among 177 borrowers under Prime Minister Kissan Package for dairy, livestock food

processing, fruit, and vegetable packaging across the country, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Talking to APP here on Friday he said that the government has also provided Rs1,057 million for mark-up subsidy and a risk-sharing scheme for farm mechanization to enhance per-acre farm income in the country. The amount was disbursed among 507 borrowers by

the end of the last fiscal year.

“Meanwhile, the government has disbursed Rs12,817 million under Prime Minister Youth Agriculture Loan Scheme in order to encourage youth towards agriculture entrepreneurship as well as promote the agriculture and livestock sector in the country, he added.”

The official said that over 24,776 applications were approved and out of that 23,857 applications

were disbursed, adding that an amount of Rs14,917 million was approved and Rs12,817 million disbursed among the applicants.

The government, he said under the Kissan Package had provided Rs3,830.9 million in interest-free loans by June to landless farmers, which were badly affected due to torrential rains and flash floods last year.

He said adding that by the month of June 2023.



LAHORE: 50-member business delegation from ASEAN countries led by Secretary Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Dr Farid Iqbal Qureshi in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman during meeting at Governor House.



ISLAMABAD: MOU signed between Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation and Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. for Export Quality Pink Rock Salt Crushing & Packaging facility.

## ASEAN business delegation calls on Governor Punjab

LAHORE (APP): A 50-member business delegation from ASEAN countries led by Secretary Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Dr. Farid Iqbal Qureshi called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House, here on Friday.

The delegation comprised businessmen from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam and Laos.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said Pakistan wishes to enhance trade relations with other countries including its neighboring countries.

He said people to people contacts and

exchange of business delegations are necessary for strong relations among ASEAN member countries.

The Governor Punjab said Pakistan has made a conducive policy for foreign direct investment and has given special incentives to investors in special economic zones. He said the ASEAN countries can benefit from these special economic zones. He said Pakistani textile products are known globally for their quality. He said Pakistan is keen to expand trade relations with ASEAN member countries in various sectors, adding that Pakistan can export fabrics, textile products, leather, sports goods, sea food, surgical instruments and agricultural produce to the ASEAN countries.

## Zong 4G announces new deal on 76<sup>th</sup> I-Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, the country's leading telecom provider, Friday announced a new offer for its customers in the wake of the 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day falling on Monday.

Zong 4G's latest discount on the Weekly Azaadi Offer allows customers to enjoy an impressive package featuring 76GB of data, coupled with 1000 Offnet and 10,000 on-net minutes, all for an unbeatable price of only PKR 476, said a news release.

The offer strikes the perfect balance between data and calling resources, delivering incomparable value to customers at an affordable rate.

By introducing this outstanding discount, Zong

4G takes its place at the forefront of the telecom industry, solidifying its commitment to offering unparalleled value and premium services to its cherished clientele.

The limited-time offer not only presents a unique chance for customers to join Zong 4G's celebration of success but also reflects the company's commitment to narrowing the digital divide across diverse regions of Pakistan.

“With a commitment to elevating customer experience through unparalleled offers, Zong 4G prioritizes granting access to exceptional packages. Aligning with our customer-centric ethos and Pakistan's 76<sup>th</sup> independence celebration.



MULTAN: Women farmers harvesting the rice crop in their fields near the bypass road in the outskirts of the city.

## SECP imposes maximum term limits on CEOs, directors of CMII

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in order to promote best governance practices and maintain focus on core operations, has introduced maximum term limits for the Chief Executive Officers and Independent Directors to serve in the Capital Market Infrastructure Institutions (CMIIs) i.e. PSX, NCCPL, CDC and PMEX.

SECP has introduced term limits upon the CEO of a CMI to a maximum of three terms with the third term to be allowed only in case of exceptional performance and subject to

a competitive selection process, said a press release issued here.

Moreover, the tenure limits for independent directors have been capped at a maximum of three terms across all CMIIs.

Further, no individual shall serve as an independent director on the board of the same CMI for more than two terms. CMIIs perform important public policy functions including the infrastructure, services and regulations. It is expected that these reforms will encourage greater participation by professionals.

## PSX turns around, gains 616 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Friday, gaining 616.06 points, a positive change of 1.29 per cent, closing at 48,424.40 points against 47,808.34 points the previous trading day.

A total of 368,334,990 shares were traded during the day as compared to 322,207,162 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs17.063 billion against Rs 12.757 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 331 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 207 of them recorded gains and 101 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 53,872,599 shares at Rs 2.16 per share; Oil and Gas Dev with 22,570,520 shares at Rs.103.47 per share and Lalpur Power with 18,636,000 shares at Rs.32.15 per share.

Nestle Pakistan XD witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 85.85 per share price, closing at Rs 7,181.00, whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum with an Rs 27.90 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,636.21. Reliance Cotton witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 37.50 per share closing.

## Weekly inflation up by 0.69 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.69 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on August 10, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 273.43 points as compared to 271.56 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the

combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 30.82 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.76 percent and went up to 279.66 points from last week's 277.55 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 0.68 percent.

## SECP registers 2,220 companies in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,220 new companies in July 2023, a 25% increase from the previous year.

The total capitalization for these companies was Rs. 3.3 billion. The total number of registered companies in the country rose to 197,828.

About 57% of Pakistan's companies are private limited companies, 41% single-member companies, and 2% not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, and LLPs.

99.7% are registered online, and three foreign companies have established business in Pakistan. 86 foreign applicants have registered from overseas, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The information technology sector took the lead with incorporation of 316 companies, trading with 309, services with 260, real estate development & construction with 252, food & beverages with 96, tourism with 91, education with 90.



MULTAN: Members of Multan Chamber of Small Traders are holding protest demonstration against IMF policies, massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, in Multan.

## Foolproof security evolves around railways tracks: DS

MULTAN (APP): Divisional Superintendent (DS) of Railways Hamid Hassan Friday said to have evolved foolproof security of railways tracks, particularly after the Nawab Shah tragedy resulted in the loss of many previous lives.

Talking to APP, he said, “The department will leave no stone unturned to protect railways lines through up-to-date surveillance cameras with the necessary staff alerted for the entire 24 hours.”

Replying to a question about holding two thieves opening clips and fish plates on tracks near Mahmud Kot railways station caught red-handed yesterday.

## ICCI calls for more job quota for minorities in public and private sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Friday organized a ceremony to celebrate National Minority Day.

Former Minister of State for National Health Services Mahesh Kumar Malani was the chief guest while former Member KPK Assembly Sardar Ranjit Singh was also present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony Mahesh Kumar Malani said that minorities in Pakistan enjoy better protection of rights due to which they do not feel any insecurity.

Quaid-i-Azam had said in his speech on 11<sup>th</sup>

August 1947 that the minorities in Pakistan would have equal rights and they would have full freedom to go to their places of worship.

His vision is being implemented in Pakistan as Temples, Churches and Gurdwaras are safe in Pakistan.

He said that armed forces are fighting against extremists and they will be eliminated soon. He demanded that the political parties should bring more minority members in the national and provincial assemblies.

He lauded ICCI for celebrating National Minority Day and paid tribute to the services.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Sindh Tarraqi Passand Party (STPP) hold a protest rally against inflation.

## Pak-Chinese companies sign agreement for cultivating red chillies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Litong Group, a leading company of China on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Guard Agriculture Research and Services (GARS) for the cultivation of red chillies in Pakistan and subsequently its export to China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

Chen Changwei, Chairman Litong and Chief Executive Officer of GARS, Shahzad Ali Malik signed the MoU on behalf of their respective

companies, said a news release issued here.

Shahzad Ali Malik said that the criteria for selecting seed production land shall consider the underlined factors such as long-term feasibility, land and water availability.

He said that in a phased program, a total of 200,000 acres of land would be brought under chilli cultivation.

He said that joint efforts would be made to promote chilli seed breeding, chilli crop production and research with a focus on developing high-quality chili seeds,

suitable for the local agricultural conditions and crop production for Litong as per requirement.

Shahzad Ali Malik said it will boost chilli export to China and improve the profitability of chilli growers, adding that

Pak-China collaboration in the field of agriculture would be further fortified in the days to come and GARS had over three decades good working relationship with Longping, one of the Chinese pioneer company for first time evolving hybrid rice seed in Pakistan.

## Rupee sheds 90 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed a 90-paise devaluation against the US dollar in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs288.49 against the previous day's closing of Rs287.59.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs294.5 and Rs297.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 55 paise to close at Rs317.25 against the last day's closing of Rs316.70, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.99, whereas a decrease of 24 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs366.67 as compared to the last closing of Rs366.91.

## Prices of daily use item shoots up in USC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Just day after dissolution of national assembly, subsidies removed and edible items at Utility stores skyrocketed.

Ghee price increased from PKr 398 to 423 per kilogram.

In total 25 rupees has been increased in per kg price of ghee.

According to notification here with Online new price of ghee will be implemented from same day it was issued.

Although target subsidy will give benefit to those deserving and registered in BISP.

Prices not only increased for usual citizens but for those who are registered with Benazir Income Support program (BISP). Price increased up to 53 Pkr per kilogram for those benefiting BISP.

## Gold rates dip by Rs 400

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 400 and was sold at Rs 222,400 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs 222,800 on the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 343 to Rs 190,672 from Rs 191,015 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 Karat gold declined to Rs 174,783 from Rs 175,097. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs 2750 and Rs 2357.68 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$4 to \$1,918 from \$ 1,922, the association reported.



SIALKOT: Deputy Director Strategic Export Control Division Pakistan-MOFA Syed Aun Abbas is addressing to Awareness session for exporters at Chamber of Commerce.

## Awareness session on 'Strategic Export Control Division' held

SIALKOT (APP): An awareness session on 'Strategic Export Control Division' was held at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Friday.

The session was attended by SCCI President Abdu Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President

Wahub Jahangir, Deputy Director Strategic Export Control Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Aown Arshad Gillani, Assistant Director Strategic Export Control Division Mussawir Ali Mirza and the business community.

Senior Vice President Wahub Jahangir said Sialkot made footballs, hockey sticks, cricket gears and boxing gloves were used in international games, including

Olympics and the World Cup. Most International Cricket Batsmen prefer bats manufactured in Sialkot. “The inheritance of skilled craftsmanship in manufacturing surgical instruments forms a history spanning over a century that has enabled us to manufacture premium surgical instruments which are exported over to over 140 countries around the world and are used by Medics, Surgeons, Beauticians and Dentists with complete trust,” he said. In leather products and textile sportswear, Sialkot enjoyed a competitive edge over other countries in quality and style, he added.

On this occasion, Deputy Director Strategic Export Control Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,



SIALKOT: A vendor selling dates at his roadside setup.

## PMDC, U.S. Company ink MoU of \$200m investment for Pink Salt export facility

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Mineral and Development Corporation (PMDC) and an American Company on Friday inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a \$200 million foreign direct investment to establish a dedicated facility for crushing and packaging of Pink Salt for export purposes.

The MoU was signed by the Managing Director of PMDC and the CEO of the American Company that would help mobilise million of dollars foreign investment for setting up a modern Pink Rock Salt Crushing and Packaging

Facility, the MD PMDC said in a statement issued here. MD, PMDC, Asad Ahmed said that the facility would be used only for the export of pink salt. The plant for the export of pink salt would be established in Special Economic Zone, Mianwali District, he added. He said that the country would be able to secure a significant place in the world market of pink salt exports. “Pink salt has a market of \$12 billion in the world. We can export one and a half million tons of pink salt annually. The PMDC will try to take the country's share in the global market.



Bangladeshi UN worker in Yemen freed by Al Qaeda branch

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: A Bangladeshi citizen working for the United Nations has been freed after a year and a half abduction by Al Qaeda in Yemen, the prime minister's office said.

southern port city of Aden after a field mission while working for UN Department of Safety and Security. Anam said that he was not physically tortured, but had often been kept blindfolded.

mander who previously survived assassination attempts by Al Qaeda, a security official said. The roadside bomb detonated while their convoy was near the village of Mudiyah in Abyan province.



Bangladeshi national Akam Sofyol Anam, his wife Kazi Nasreen Anam and son Sakeef Anam as they meet Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, after he was freed after a year and a half abduction by Al-Qaeda in Yemen.

North Korea developing nuclear weapons, evading sanctions in 2023 - UN report

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: North Korea continued developing nuclear weapons and producing nuclear fissile material in 2023 and evading United Nations sanctions that aim to cut off funding for Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

cryptocurrency and other financial exchanges globally. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un replaced the military's top general and called for more preparations for the possibility of war.

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In February 2022, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) kidnapped Anam and four others as they returned to Yemen's



Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Head of States and Government extraordinary session in Abuja.

Fighting has left half of Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp 'a hot area,' UN says

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: Days of fighting in the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon displaced several hundred families, destroyed up to 400 houses and left half the camp still off-limits and considered 'a hot area,' a senior U.N. official said Thursday.

and dozens wounded. Klaus said "the camp remains unstable," with the Lebanese military barring access to half the camp because armed fighters are still positioned there and it's not safe though hostilities have ceased.

Poland plans to deploy 10,000 troops to its border with Belarus

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: Poland intends to put 10,000 soldiers along its border with Belarus, the country's defense minister said Thursday as Warsaw worries about the presence of Russian-linked mercenaries in Belarus and migrants trying to cross the border without authorization.

India proposes sweeping overhaul of British-era criminal laws

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's government unveiled new punishments for mob lynchings and crimes against women on Friday in a proposal for the country's biggest criminal justice overhaul since the British colonial era.

Tropical storm triggers floods, evacuations in South Korea

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: South Korea authorities evacuated more than 14,000 people and closed schools in flood-hit areas as tropical storm Khanun swept over the peninsula on Thursday, having pounded southern Japan over the past week.

6 Western nations demand Russia return two regions it took from neighboring Georgia 15 years ago

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: Six Western nations marked the 15th anniversary of Russia's takeover of 20% of Georgia's territory by demanding on Thursday that Moscow return the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions.

17 drown after Rohingya boat breaks up

Monitoring Desk YANGON: At least 17 people drowned when a boat carrying Rohingya refugees broke up at sea this week, rescuers said on Thursday. Thousands of Rohingya risk their lives each year making perilous sea journeys from camps in Bangladesh and Myanmar to try to reach Muslim-majority Malaysia and Indonesia.

Attack on bus kills 23 Syrian troops - war monitor

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: An attack on a military bus in Syria's east killed 23 government troops and wounded more than 10, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) war monitor said Friday, blaming the Islamic State group that operates sleeper cells in lands it once ruled.

Hawaii fire death toll hits 55, expected to rise

Monitoring Desk MAUI: A terrifying wildfire that scorched a historic Hawaiian town and left it in charred ruins has killed at least 55 people, authorities said on Thursday, making it one of the deadliest disasters in the US state's history.

Russian missile debris falls on Kyiv children's hospital, no casualties: Ukraine

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Missile fragments crashed into the grounds of a children's hospital in Kyiv on Friday and explosions rocked the Ukrainian capital as air defenses responded to a morning Russian air strike.

UN completes removal of oil from decaying tanker off Yemen

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: The United Nations said on Friday it had completed the removal of more than 1 million barrels of oil from a decaying supertanker off Yemen's Red Sea coast, averting a potentially catastrophic environmental disaster.

West African bloc activates force for possible Niger intervention

Monitoring Desk ABUJA: The West African bloc ECOWAS on Thursday ordered the activation of a standby force for possible use against the junta that took power in Niger in July.

Journalist jailed in China for 3 years describes standing in sunlight for just 10 hours each year

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: A Chinese-Australian journalist who worked for China's state broadcaster and was convicted on murky espionage charges has spoken out about her detention conditions, including being able to stand in sunlight for just 10 hours a year.

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Tunisia and Libya take 276 migrants stranded in desert border region, bring them to shelters

Monitoring Desk TUNIS: Tunisia and Libya took back 276 sub-Saharan migrants stranded in a desert region along the border between the two countries and brought them to shelters on Thursday.

Biden calls China a 'ticking time bomb' due to economic troubles

Monitoring Desk SALT LAKE CITY: US President Joe Biden on Thursday called China a "ticking time bomb" because of its economic challenges and said the country was in trouble because of weak growth.

to China aimed at stabilizing relations that Beijing described as being at their lowest point since formal ties were established in 1979. China's consumer sector fell into deflation and factory-gate prices extended declines in July.

Iran, US to free prisoners under swap deal

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran agreed to release four American-Iranian dual nationals from Tehran's Evin prison under a prisoner exchange deal between Tehran and Washington, its mission to the United Nations said on Thursday.

Iranian nationals will be released from US prisons as well. Earlier, Iran moved five Americans from jail to house arrest, officials and family members said on Thursday, in the first step of a delicate deal.

6 Western nations demand Russia return two regions it took from neighboring Georgia 15 years ago

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: Six Western nations marked the 15th anniversary of Russia's takeover of 20% of Georgia's territory by demanding on Thursday that Moscow return the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions.

The statement, following closed council consultations on Georgia, said the six countries "are resolute" in reaffirming the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity "within its internationally recognized borders."

Tunisia and Libya take 276 migrants stranded in desert border region, bring them to shelters

Monitoring Desk TUNIS: Tunisia and Libya took back 276 sub-Saharan migrants stranded in a desert region along the border between the two countries and brought them to shelters on Thursday.

Tunisia has been blamed for dumping the migrants in the sizzling heat in the no-man's land near the border post of Ras Jedir. Libya said Wednesday that 27 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa were found dead by Libyan authorities in the western desert near the Tunisian border.



## Promote inter-religious harmony, Masood Khan urges faith leaders

WASHINGTON (APP): With hate speech on the rise worldwide, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, has called for collective efforts to promote inter-religious harmony when he met faith and community leaders on Thursday.

"It is our collective responsibility to combat intolerance, xenophobia, fanaticism and religious hatred worldwide," he said at the meeting, held at the Pakistani embassy, while reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to promote interfaith harmony.

Representatives of various faiths and members of the Pak-American community attended the meeting, with Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Chairman of the Muslim Institute, as the chief guest.

They included, Reverend Canon Justin Murff, Executive Director of the Anglican Office for Government & International Affairs; Muhammad Usman Noori of the Al-Mustafa Trust; Yahya

Hendi, Director of the Muslim Life and Chaplaincy at Georgetown University, Dr. Maqsood Chaudhry, an interfaith activist, Imam Naem Baig, Outreach & Interfaith Director Dar Al-Hijra Islamic Centre.

"Sufism has a great history in Pakistan and it has always worked to connect communities and integrate them as one humanity," the Pakistani envoy told the gathering.

"A cradle of multiple civilizations for centuries, Pakistan's respect for cultural and religious diversity is part of its national psyche and mores.

"We will continue to nurture that time-honored tradition," he added.

Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali said that Sufi saints in subcontinent had played a vital role in transformation of society.

During thousand years of Muslim rule, he said there had never been any religious conflict among Muslims, Sikhs, and Buddhists, Christians and

Zoroastrians and others. Sufism had also helped protect the society from the scourge of terrorism, citing two major fatwas against suicide attacks and terrorism. Canon Murff, who also represented Archbishop Azad Marshall of the Diocese of Raiwind thanked Pakistan for its commitment towards religious freedom and interfaith harmony.

"In Pakistan, we are aware of our role and opportunity to be good neighbours and to be a good friend," Canon Justin Murff said.

Daniel Spiro, also an inter-faith leader said that the most important thing was to inspire the people, enabling them to recognize the beauty of the religion instead of associating it with fundamentalism and intolerance. Waseem Naqvi, representing Shia community, appreciated the services of Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali for the cause of Pakistan, unity of the Ummah and promoting interfaith harmony in the country.



ISLAMABAD: United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, Julien Harnes called on Chairman Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, at Zardari House in Islamabad.

## Karim hails political parties on dissolution of NA as per schedule

QUETTA (APP): Central senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Chaudhry Naem Karim on Friday said that the leadership of the PML-N was committed to hold general elections after dissolving National Assembly on time.

Because the party considered the people as the source of power and accepting the decision of the people was a form of discrimination, all the political parties deserved congratulations on the completion of the term of the democratic government, he said.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Muslim League-N workers called on him on Friday.

He said that Muslim League-N was a political party that believed in the construction, development, prosperity and service of the country and the nation

saying that Party leader Nawaz Sharif was trusted by people and foreign countries and in difficult times, financial, People support Pakistan in getting out of crises by cooperating.

In this difficult time, the party leaders made difficult decisions by putting their politics at stake and giving priority to the state, he said.

Chaudhry Naem Karim said that party president Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif fought day and night for the development and prosperity of the country and also increased the country's foreign exchange reserves.

While earlier, due to the incompetence and failed policies of those who raised the voices of thieves, the country and the nation, including the country's economy, continued to reach the point of destruction, he said.

## US, Pak honor 75 years with a commemorative stamp

ISLAMABAD (APP): The U.S. Mission to Pakistan culminated its year-long campaign marking 75 years of relations with Pakistan with a reception to honor Pakistan's issuance of a commemorative stamp.

The event was held at the U.S. Ambassador's residence and included Chief Guest Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan as well as other prominent figures from the Pakistan government, academia, and civil society, said a press release issued here by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad on Friday.

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome highlighted the long friendship saying, "This stamp, which highlights both country's symbols of freedom, not only marks the first 75 years of friendship but manifests a vision for our future partnership in many arenas of shared purpose.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Hamza Shafqaat and DGPR Kamran Asad giving away orders to employees appointed in DGPR on deceased quota

## IHC reserves verdict regarding PTI chief's shifting to Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday reserved its judgment, observing that it would pass an appropriate order in an appeal of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman seeking his shifting from the District Jail Attock to the Central Jail Adiala.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq reserved the verdict after hearing arguments from respondents in the said case. During the course of proceedings, the chief justice remarked that the petitioner was of the view that the trial court had sent him to the Adiala Jail but he was lodged in the Attock Jail.

Assistant Advocate General Punjab Rao Shaukat produced the notification regarding shifting of the convict to the Attock Jail, saying reasons were mentioned about the action.

## Without helmets LHC suspends notification on not selling petrol to motorcyclists

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has suspended the notification on not selling petrol to the motorcyclists without helmets. The petition against ban on sale of petrol to motorcyclists not wearing helmets came up for hearing before LHC Friday. A single bench of LHC led by Justice Rahil Kamran Sheikh heard the petition.

The petitioner took the plea ban was imposed on petrol pumps through notification for selling petrol to motorcyclists without helmets. LHC remarked how can the ban be imposed on sale of petrol merely through notification.

The court took the stance doing this is negation of basic rights enshrined in constitution.



QUETTA: Convener of Pakistan Hypertension League (PHL) Conference Professor Dr. Jalal Achakzai presenting memorial shield to Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar during 26th edition of PHL Annual Conference

## PM Shehbaz decides to award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz to martyred paramedics during COVID-19

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has decided to award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (posthumously) to the martyred doctors and health workers who took care of patients without caring for their lives during Corona pandemic.

In a statement on Friday, the Prime Minister paid glowing tributes to the doctors and the front line workers for their services during COVID-19. He said these sons and daughters of

the country died from the deadly pandemic while fulfilling their responsibilities.

He said the whole nation will remain indebted to these dutiful doctors and frontline health workers. He said the families of these doctors and frontline health workers are the pride of the nation.

Tamgha-e-Imtiaz posthumously will be conferred upon eighty-one doctors from Punjab, eighty-seven from Sindh, twenty-three from Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, eight from Balochistan, four from Azad Jammu and Kashmir and one doctor from Gilgit and Islamabad for their hard work and dedication to save people's lives during Corona pandemic.

Fifty-nine nurses and frontline health workers from across Pakistan will also be honored with Tamgha-e-Imtiaz posthumously for saving lives of the people without caring about their lives during the Corona epidemic.

## GC University Lahore honors Lifetime Achievement Award to former COAS Raheel

LAHORE (Online): A ceremony was held in honor of former Army Chief General Raheel Sharif at his alma mater, Government College University, Lahore. General Raheel Sharif was honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by the university.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Asghar Zaidi awarded the former Army Chief with an award.

General Raheel Sharif as the 15th Army Chief rendered valuable services to the country, after retirement as Army Chief, General Raheel Sharif became the first military commander of the Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism

Coalition of 42 countries.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Asghar Zaidi said that he is very proud to give Lifetime Achievement Award to General Raheel Sharif.

There are some students who raise the prestige of educational institutions. We are all proud of the sacrifices and services of General Raheel Sharif and his family, said Vice Chancellor.

On this occasion, former Army Chief General Raheel Sharif said that being a narrator is no less than an honor. My both the brothers also studied from Government College.

## Coast guards seize huge cache of drugs, arrests one

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) seized a large quantity of drugs and arrested a suspect from a car at Naka Khari Checkpost, Balochistan.

The PCG team during checking of vehicles at the Naka Khari Checkpost, recovered 129kg fine quality hashish, a 30-bore pistol along with two magazines and 14 rounds from a vehicle, according to a news release issued here on Friday.

The driver of the said vehicle was taken into custody. Further legal proceedings were underway.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Zahid Saleem presiding over a meeting of Admin & Finance Committee of Balochistan Education Foundation

## National Minority Day observed with traditional fervour of inclusivity, equity

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Minority Day was observed on Friday across the country in general and the federal capital in particular with an aim to highlight their religious and socio-economic rights amid traditional fervour of inclusivity and equity.

Different events and seminars were held across the country to highlight the message of the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had pronounced equal rights to all citizens of Pakistan.

On the occasion, the political leadership in the country also appreciated the contribution of religious minorities and vowed on the equality and protection of the rights of minorities.

The Sikh community arranged an event at Gurdwara Panja Sahab at Hassan Abdal to honour the services and sacrifices rendered by religious minorities for the country.

The President in his message said, "On the occasion of this happy day today I am in the process of nation-building. Want to highlight the important role

of minorities, we acknowledge and appreciate the role of minorities in the development of the country."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the pivotal role played by non-Muslim Pakistanis in the overall development and progress of the nation.

The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf extended heartfelt tribute and profound appreciation to all Pakistani Minorities for their exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication towards the cherished homeland.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensuring the full realization of rights for other fellow citizens, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan, notably within Article 36.

The Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has stated that only his party can put an end to the politics of hatred and division in the country and bring social justice to all disadvantaged sections, including minorities.



QUETTA: Provincial Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi leading a protest demonstration in front of Press Club

## Not worried on annulment of Review and Judgments act by SC: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Leader of the house in Senate Ishaq Dar has said there is no worry due to Supreme Court (SC) decision regarding annulment of Review and Judgments act.

"PML-N will evolve its political and legal strategy. I have kept myself isolated from ongoing consultation process with reference to care taker Prime Minister (PM). Election Commission (EC) has 90 days with it for holding election after signing the summary by president. The results of new population census were accepted unanimously in the meeting of Council of Common Interests (CCI), he said this in an informal chat with the journalists here Friday.

He went on to say it is not mentioned anywhere in the constitution that it is mandatory to hold general election before Senate polls.

We cannot afford country plunges into vortex again from where we have steered it out, he underlined.

He underlined PM and opposition leader have to make decision about caretaker PM with mutual consultation.

It is now binding on EC to hold election in accordance with new population census. It depends on EC when it completes the job of delimitation of constituencies. If efforts are made then this all process can be completed before March.

He stated neither care taker government can do anything nor EC. Election will be held under new population census.

First decision will be made about care taker PM and then care taker cabinet will be framed with consultation.



QUETTA: Pakistan flags, bunting, printed shirts and other items are being selling on roadside stalls in connection of Independence Day of Pakistan coming ahead, at Bacha Khan Chowk.

## KS relief ensures food security for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KSRelief) is pleased to announce the successful completion of the first phase of our food security project for the year 2023-24 in Pakistan.

In collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), we have distributed a total of 26,400 food packages, weighing (2,508) tons, to flood-affected and deserving individuals residing in 12 districts (Jaffarabad, Usta Muhammad, Sohbatpur, in

Baluchistan, Rajgal, Karak, Banu, Upper Swat in KP, Rajanpur and DG Khan in Punjab, Larkana and Umerkot in Sindh) across Pakistan.

The first phase of this initiative has greatly impacted the lives of 184,800 beneficiaries throughout the country. Each food package, weighing 95 kgs, contains essential provisions including 80kg of flour, 5 liters of cooking oil, 5kg of sugar, and 5kg of Daal Chana, providing sustenance for a family throughout the month.

## Free medical camp set up for flood victims in Kharan

QUETTA (APP): A free medical camp was organized for flood victims in Kharan's Madrasa Jamia Farooqia by People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) Kharan with the support of IRC on Friday.

A total of 292 patients including 42 men, 102 women and 148 were examined in the free medical camp by male and lady medical officers. The examined patients were provided free medicines. Malaria and other diseases were also tested in the free medical camp. On this occasion, a free medical camp was organized by IRC under the supervision of Dr. Ali

Shaukat, Attaullah Kactor, Ameer Hamza and District Support Manager of PPHI Kharan, Sohail Islam Baloch. The jointly free medical camp organized by IRC and PPHI was aimed at providing relief to the victims of various epidemic diseases in the areas affected by the recent monsoon rains and flash floods.

Because many households were affected by the floods, various epidemics were feared to spread. In this regard, a free medical camp is being organized for the flood victims so that basic health facilities can be provided to the flood victims at their doorstep.



QUETTA: Dr. Kashif Hashmi along with Dr. Haroon Abid Amin, Jalaluddin Achakzai and others addressing a press conference regarding Hypertension League Conference, at Quetta Press Club.

## Sirajul Haq says Decisions taken by PDM, PPP & PTI govts will continue to impact country

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq declaring the last five years as the most challenging period in the nation's history, has asserted that the consequences of actions taken by the governments of PDM, PPP, and PTI would continue to impact the country.

Speaking at a press conference in Mansoorah on Friday, he emphasized that the dissolution of assemblies had alleviated the burden on the citizens.

Sirajul Haq expressed optimism in the establishment of a neutral caretaker government that would ensure transparent and fair elections within the constitutional timeframe. He warned that if the people's right to choose their repre-

sentatives was denied, Jamaat-e-Islami would resist. He stressed that the judiciary, establishment, and Election Commission should adhere to the constitution and remains politically neutral. The JI, he said while answering a question, would not form alliances with other parties in the upcoming elections.

The JI leader extended his greetings to the non-Muslim community in Pakistan on National Minorities Day, assuring them of their rights' protection when the party comes into power. Siraj highlighted that economic devastation, inflation, unemployment, corruption, terrorism, and lawlessness had escalated during the tenures of the two Prime Ministers from 2018 to 2023.