

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVIII No. 260, Safar 27, 1445 AH Thursday September 14, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Writes letter to CEC

## President Alvi proposes November 6 as election date

**Says Constitution empowers him to appoint poll dates; Alvi calls for polls to be conducted across country on same date; Election to NA should be held by 89th day since dissolution**

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi Wednesday wrote a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and proposed November 6 as the date for general elections in the country.

In the letter, the president said he had dissolved the National Assembly on the prime minister's advice on August 9.

The president cited Article 48(5) of the Constitution, which he said "empowers and mandates the president 'to appoint a date not later than ninety days from the date of the dissolution, for the holding of a general election to the Assembly'".

Hence, "in terms of Article 48(5), the general election to the National Assembly should be held

by the 89th day of the date of dissolution of the National Assembly, i.e. Monday, 6th day of November 2023", the letter read.

The president recalled in the letter that "in an endeavour to fulfil the constitutional obligations, the Chief Election Commissioner was invited for a meeting to devise the modalities of implementing the constitutional intent and mandate".

But in his reply, the CEC "took a contrary view that as per the scheme of the Constitution and framework of electoral laws, it was the domain of the Election Commission, and following the publication of last preceding census on August 7, duly notified delimitation of constituencies was in progress,

a mandatory requirement stipulated by Article 51(5) of the Constitution and section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017", the letter said.

Moreover, the Law Ministry also had the same view on the matter, it said, adding that all four provincial governments were of the opinion that the announcement of the election date was the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) mandate.

"Further, there is a consensus that to strengthen the federation and to promote unity and harmony amongst provinces and to avoid incurring unnecessary expenses, general elections to the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies must be held on the same day," it further stated.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talks to the media after the inauguration of Cardiac Hospital.

## UNODC's delegation calls on Governor: We have to find out reasons and motives behind increasing social crimes & use of drugs with negative impacts: Wali

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that we have to find out the causes and motives behind the increasing social crimes and use of narcotics along with their negative impacts so as to pave the way for their elimination.

In this regard, we value a lot the efforts and cooperation of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) a lot, and do expect that it's support and guidance would also remain continued in future.

These views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to a delegation of UNODC who called on him under leadership of Dr. Jeremy Milson here at the Governor House on

Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the economic poor state is the real cause of all social issues.

He said that there have been more negative impacts of the civil war on the whole region that was continued for last forty years in the neighbouring country Afghanistan.

He said that it is necessary for us to motivate our people to get education so that they may be involved in the economic and social activities.

This would not only reduce the impacts of extremism, but would also bring positivity in the society, adding he believed.

In the end, Governor and guests exchanged commemorative shields.



QUETTA: Qari Maulana Abdul Rehman meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai

## Interim Balochistan Government hails visit of US Ambassador to port city of Gwadar

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Interim Government of Balochistan has welcomed the visit of United States Ambassador, Donald Blome to Gwadar the other day.

In an official statement issued here on late Tuesday night, the caretaker Provincial Minister Information, Jan Achakzai said that the government of Balochistan desires to attract investment of US private sector in oil, Information Technology and other sectors in the province.

He said that Balochistan is not only de-

sirous of having investment from government to government but is also exploring the investment opportunities.

Jan Achakzai said that the US private sector can earn huge profit by investing in the oil, IT and mineral sectors in the province. The Interim Minister Information also said that the US Ambassador would also be warmly welcomed in Quetta.

He said that more avenues of cooperation would be discussed with the US ambassador. He also termed the US Embassy as the great friend of Balochistan.

## 'Credible, inclusive' elections crucial for Pak: British HC

ISLAMABAD (INP): British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott Wednesday stressed free, credible, transparent and inclusive elections in Pakistan in a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja in Islamabad.

The British envoy shared on her account on X, formerly Twitter, about the meeting with the CEC at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) office in the federal capital.

"Important introductory meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja at ECP today," Marriott wrote in her post.

The diplomat added that she and the CEC agreed that it is crucial for Pakistan to witness "free, credible, transparent and inclusive elections in line with the law".

## No alliance with PPP likely in next elections: Rana

LAHORE (INP): PML-N Punjab President Rana Sanaulah on Wednesday vehemently denied any possibility of alliance with the People's Party in next elections. "There can be seat adjustment with the PPP on a limited level but there are minimal chances of even such electoral adjustment," Rana Sanaulah said.

"The PPP's criticism on the PML-N suit them and they have right to do so," PML-N leader said. Replying a question, Sanaulah said that as a political party, the PTI has right to do politics and they are entitled of it.



Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his official visit to brotherly country

## One nation, one law to be ensured No one will ever be allowed to hold society hostage: PM

GILGIT-BALTISTAN (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has said no one will ever be allowed to hold the society hostage.

"There is no room for any foreign intelligence agency in Pakistan, our national institutions will take the matters towards improvement. No one should remain under any delusion. Addressing problems of Gilgit-Baltistan is our top priority, he said this while talking to media men after inaugurating OPD services at Cardiac hospital in Gilgit-Baltistan Wednesday.

People of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) have welcomed me with great love. GB is bouquet of people of diverse color and race, he added.

He went on to say accepting the rights of each other equal is foundation of society. Respecting each other is must. People don't remain same. The process

of change continues.

"We will remove the misperceptions with wisdom. The responsibility for rights rests with the state. We will discharge it in a befitting manner. I have come with a message for the people of GB that they should respect rights of each other. Man can never resolve the problems alone. We have to live life together. This is peak of humanity.

The Prime Minister said it is the diversity and scenic beauty of Gilgit-Baltistan that attracts tourists not only from within Pakistan but also Europe and Asia.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said negotiations have been held with the Governor, the Chief Minister and other stakeholders about the constitutional matters of the region. He mentioned that they are working towards finding constitutional solutions to questions related to

the region's identity.

He said it will be our effort to help the people of Gilgit-Baltistan stand on their own feet and live a dignified life. He said they are striving to harness the economic potential of the region in various sectors, including tourism, mining and minerals, and power generation, by implementing long-term policies. He said improving road infrastructure in the region is also amongst our priorities.

He remarked improvement in the areas of tourism, energy and others is our top most priority. The morale of the people of GB is mountains like high, he added.

He said laws will be enforced. Some people are on agenda. We will not allow any one to put jobs on sale.

We have come here to choke the throat of jobs auction.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam convened a meeting with Provincial Law Ministers, Mr. Kanwar Dilshad (Punjab), Mr. Muhammad Omer Soomro (Sindh), Mr. Arshad Hussain Shah (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Mr. Amanullah Kanrani (Balochistan), to discuss matters pertaining to the upcoming general elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies.

## Interim Federal, Provincial Law Ministers vow to ensure transparent elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal and provincial law ministers on Wednesday during a meeting underscored the importance of upholding the principles of democracy and ensuring the smooth conduct of elections.

Caretaker Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam convened a meeting with provincial law ministers including Kanwar Dilshad (Punjab), Muhammad Omer Soomro (Sindh), Arshad Hussain Shah (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Amanullah Kanrani (Balochistan).

The meeting was held to discuss matters pertaining to the upcoming general elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies, said a press release.

During the meeting, all Law Ministers underscored the importance of upholding the principles of democracy and ensuring the smooth conduct of elections.

It was unanimously agreed that the Constitution must be read as a whole and no provision of the Constitution be read in isolation from other relevant provisions. As per the Constitution, the conduct of general elections and announcement of election dates is the sole competence of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

## Four killed, 3 injured as vehicle falls into gorge in Washuk

QUETTA (INP): At least four people were killed and three others injured when a vehicle skidded off road and plunged into a ravine in district Washuk of Balochistan on Wednesday.

Levies sources said that the accident took place at Kano steep where Basima bound vehicle coming from Khuzdar got out of control due to bursting of tyre and fell into a gorge.

## CM takes notice of late arrival of govt. officers and employees in offices

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has taken notice of the late arrival of government officers and employees in the offices and directed the administrative secretaries to take steps for prompt improvement in the situation.

In an official statement issued here on Wednesday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that there is a clear stance of caretaker Chief Minister to stop unaccept-

## CM takes notice of late arrival of govt. officers and employees in offices

Caretaker Minister Information Jan Achakzai says CM has clear stance that unacceptable culture of low attendance in offices must be stopped forthwith

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has taken notice of the late arrival of government officers and employees in the offices and directed the administrative secretaries to take steps for prompt improvement in the situation.

In an official statement issued here on Wednesday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that there is a clear stance of caretaker Chief Minister to stop unaccept-

## COAS lauds Turkish military's efforts to maintain peace in region

Meets President Erdogan, other high-ranking Turkish officials; Turkish leaders acknowledge army, NDMA efforts during quake

RAWALPINDI (Online): Turkish Armed Forces. Turkish leaders acknowledged the efforts extended by Pakistan Army Engineers who worked along NDMA Teams during the unfortunate earthquake that hit Türkiye in February this year. COAS visited the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Ankara to pay homage to the great leader and laid floral wreath in his honour.

COAS later visited the Turkish Land Forces Headquarters, where on his arrival he was given a warm welcome and was presented with the Guard of Honour. COAS was also conferred with the Legion of Merit by the Minister of Defense and Commander Turkish Land Forces in recognition of his services towards promoting defence relations between two countries.

During the meetings, COAS emphasized on enhancing defence collaboration and training cooperation. COAS appreciated Turkish Military's efforts for maintaining peace and stability in the region and also praised the standards of operational readiness of

the region's identity. He said it will be our effort to help the people of Gilgit-Baltistan stand on their own feet and live a dignified life. He said they are striving to harness the economic potential of the region in various sectors, including tourism, mining and minerals, and power generation, by implementing long-term policies. He said improving road infrastructure in the region is also amongst our priorities.

He remarked improvement in the areas of tourism, energy and others is our top most priority. The morale of the people of GB is mountains like high, he added.

He said laws will be enforced. Some people are on agenda. We will not allow any one to put jobs on sale.

We have come here to choke the throat of jobs auction.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki meeting with Commander 12 Corps Lt. General Asif Ghafoor during his visit to Headquarters Balochistan Corps.

## Domki visits Headquarters 12 Corps: Caretaker CM vows to work together for dev. & peace of Balochistan

Commander Balochistan Corps Lt. Gen Asif Ghafoor apprises forum about ongoing strategy for the last one year on instructions of COAS

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki visited Headquarters Balochistan Corps. The members of interim provincial cabinet and senior civil administration officers were also present.

On arrival, the caretaker Chief Minister laid floral wreaths on the martyrs' memorial and offered Fatiha. Later, the caretaker Chief Minister and his team were given a detailed briefing about the security situation of the province and the operations by the security forces. The Commander Balochistan Corps Lt. General Asif Ghafoor apprised the forum about the ongoing strategy for the last one year on the instructions of the Chief of Army Staff, in which the socio-economic development of Balochistan is the main prong and the security forces are to provide a safe and conducive environment for it.

The Chief Minister appreciated the performance of the security forces for peace and development in the province and paid rich tribute to martyrs as a great sacrifice for the security of the motherland.

He said that we all will work together for the peace and development of the province which will also contribute towards peace and prosperity of the country.



MULTAN: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses during public gathering meeting held at Muzaffargarh area in Multan.



QUETTA: A delegation of UNODC led by Dr. Jeremy Milson meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Thursday September 14, 2023

## CJP's legacy

It was "bitter" constitutional litigation, the chief justice believes, that ultimately affected the court's performance. But was it just that? Speaking at a full court reference held to mark the start of a new judicial year, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Monday regretted that the Supreme Court had been pushed into "a trying contest". "We sat back and became its victim and suffered in performance," he reflected. Yet the Supreme Court can hardly be described as having 'sat back' while the country's institutions and political parties were making a mad grab for power.

Over Justice Bandial's tenure, the apex court found itself stumbling from one controversy to another, starting from its overturning of the National Assembly deputy speaker's decision to throw out a no-confidence vote against then PM Imran Khan. At the time, the decision was widely hailed for having put to rest the doctrine of necessity. However, it also set a precedent for the court to go beyond established boundaries as it attempted to do 'justice'. Shortly after, the apex court 'rewrote' the Constitution by nullifying lawmakers' power to defy party lines. Given the political consequences of the court's interventions in these cases, criticism and controversy followed.

It, therefore, surprised no one when, barely a year later, the court's internal differences spilt out into the public domain. The court had overstepped once again by taking up petitions against election delays while the high courts were still hearing the matter. As some of the judges put their foot down to protest their institution's 'transgressions', matters started to unravel quickly. While the PDM government tried to flame the divisions within the court, the chief justice failed to restore unity within his ranks. Progress on key cases quickly stalled, and justice was put on the back-burner as the change of guard loomed closer.

As Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial prepares to hang up his robes, he has started feeling the weight of this legacy he leaves behind. It is difficult not to empathise with him.

Less than two years ago, he was celebrated for being a "soft-spoken man of integrity" and a "competent judge" who was "learned and fair-minded". But the same people who once spoke so highly of Justice Bandial later ruthlessly assailed his capabilities, with some accusing him of "fixing" benches with "like-minded judges" and running a "one-man show". It cannot be easy for anyone to see their reputation — achieved through an entire lifetime's work — be ruthlessly attacked and reduced in such a manner. But such a thing is perhaps unavoidable now, given the judicialisation of our politics. The incoming chief justice should take the experience of the incumbent and those immediately before him as a warning. A ruthless commitment to fair play could help him avoid a similar end next year.



Zahid Hussain

It was the most audacious cross-border incursion by the TTP. Reportedly, hundreds of heavily armed militants stormed Pakistani security posts in Chitral last week. The intruders were said to have been beaten back after three days of fierce fighting but the situation in the remote district is far from normal. Tension continues to grip the region.

There were some reports of the militants having infiltrated the border areas of the Kalash valley. The latest attacks in the treacherous mountainous region mark an expansion in the TTP's cross-border operations. The strategically located northwestern part of Pakistan that borders Afghanistan's Kunar and Nuristan provinces has become the TTP's latest battle-

field. The two Afghan provinces house the largest sanctuaries for the outlawed Pakistani militant group.

With reports of the militants amassing on the border and tensions building up in the region for some time, the raid didn't come as a surprise. According to some reports, the attacks were led by TTP head Noor Mehsud. The timing of the attacks seemed well calculated as the country celebrated Defence Day on Sept 6. The clashes left casualties on both sides.

While there has been a significant rise in cross-border raids in the former tribal regions, incidents of terrorist violence have also escalated in recent months, taking a huge toll on Pakistani security forces. The militants have virtually declared a war on the Pakistani state. The TTP is not only active in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but has also extended its operations to the troubled Balochistan province. Meanwhile, the latest incident in Chitral has added to our security concerns.

We are now back to the pre-2016 situation, or even worse, with the resurgence of militant violence. The militants appear more

organised and better equipped with sophisticated weaponry. Scores of Pakistani soldiers reportedly lost their lives in August, the bloodiest month, in clashes between the security forces and the militants, with targeted attacks in various parts of KP and Balochistan.

Such a high number of casualties is alarming. The situation is getting worse with reports of tacit support for the TTP from some Afghan Taliban commanders. A major concern for the Pakistani security forces is the militants acquiring modern weapons left behind by the Nato forces and the former Afghan army.

With the interim Afghan Taliban administration refusing to take action against TTP sanctuaries on its soil, security challenges for Pakistan have exacerbated. What is most alarming are reports of the Afghan Taliban also joining the TTP in some of the terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. There was strong evidence of their involvement in the raid on the security post in Zhob district of Balochistan earlier this year. It was among the most lethal attacks in recent years.

The impunity with which such attacks are being carried out against the security forces also raises questions about our own strategy to deal with the existentialist threat. Growing political and economic instability in the country also seems to have given impetus to the militants. The security forces now seem overstretched, with the expansion of militant operations along the long and porous border with Afghanistan.

Some reports quoting TTP sources maintain that the worsening sectarian tension in the nearby area of Gilgit-Baltistan has also been the reason behind the latest TTP incursion into Chitral. The militants are reportedly regrouping under the TTP banner in the area.

Indeed, the Chitral incident cannot be seen in isolation. Cross-border infiltration and clashes are not a new phenomenon in the region. The neighbouring Afghan provinces of Kunar and Nuristan have long been known as the centre of Al Qaeda-backed, religiously inspired militancy. The area became a safe haven for Pakistani militants fleeing from military operations in this country. The return of

Taliban rule in Afghanistan helped them reorganise.

There have been several incidents of cross-border clashes in the district in the past. But the Sept 6 raid was the most serious, with a large number of militants crossing over. A top TTP commander told The Khorasan Diary, a digital news platform, that several villages have fallen to the militants. The claim has not been verified. The area where the infiltration took place is believed to be more vulnerable because of its inhospitable terrain. The mountainous region is covered with snow for much of the year, making cross-border movement extremely difficult.

Given Chitral's geostrategic location the rise of the militant threat there is a serious security concern for Pakistan. The region not only borders Afghanistan but also Tajikistan and China through the Wakhan Corridor. Because of its sensitivity, there is a large presence of Pakistani security forces in the region. But the tough terrain makes it harder to completely stop the infiltration. The latest cross-border attacks are a

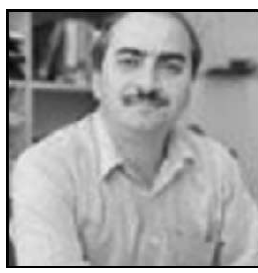
grim reminder of the growing TTP threat to national security.

Indeed, the return of Taliban rule across the border has been a major factor in the resurgence of militant violence in the country but the absence of a clear strategy has also helped the TTP regain some of its lost space. The policy of appeasement has come back to haunt us.

It was a serious mistake on the part of the state to engage in so-called peace negotiations with the outlawed group on the persuasion of the Afghan Taliban administration in 2021. The terms of engagement were set by the militants.

It is that policy of appeasement that the country is now paying for. Indeed, we must put pressure on the Afghan Taliban administration to take action against the militants operating from its soil, but more importantly, we have to set our own counterterrorism policy in order. There still seems to be some confusion over how to deal with the rising TTP threat. The Chitral incident is yet another wake-up call for our policymakers. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Navigating economic corridors



Dr Murad Ali

We are living in an era of 'corridorization', 'economic corridor' being the new buzzword. The proponents of these 'corridors' claim that they are vital for increasing regional connectivity and trade. The latest addition to this bandwagon is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), announced during the 2023 G20 summit held in New Delhi. The official statement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) released by the US government says that India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, Italy, the European Union (EU) and the US have announced to build the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

It has been envisioned that the IMEC is expected to stimulate economic devel-

opment through enhanced connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe. The IMEC comprises two discrete corridors, the east corridor which connects India to the Arabian Gulf via sea and the northern corridor which links the Arabian Gulf to Europe. Like other corridors, the IMEC also includes a railway line via the Middle Eastern countries — the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel — and a seaport linking Indian ports with the Port of Haifa in Israel to European ports. Upon successful fruition, it is expected to provide a reliable and cost-effective cross-border 'ship-to-rail transit network' to supplement existing maritime and road transport routes. US President Joe Biden has labelled the initiative "a real big deal" and a "game-changing investment". Critics say this is a direct challenge to Chinese President Xi's signature Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). PM Modi has stated that it will give a new direction to connectivity and sustainable development. "In times to come, the corridor will become an effective medium for economic integration of India, the Middle East and Eu-

rope", a jubilant Indian premier said. He called it an "historic" agreement. The European commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, described it as "much more than just a railway or a cable". "It is a green and digital bridge across continents and civilisations".

There is unprecedented optimism in Indian media and policy circles. Unnecessarily and as per their habit to bring Pakistan into every discussion, the Hindustan Times came up with the heading: "Melt-down in Pakistan over historic India-Middle East-Europe corridor: 'Wake-up call'".

It is a brave initiative indeed, but it is too early to celebrate or dismiss it. As compared with the BRI, several transnational infrastructure-building initiatives have been announced during the last decade or so, but none has dwarfed the Chinese 'project of the century' thus far.

China is a global development actor and particularly in the realm of mega infrastructure, Beijing has done wonders. According to one research study, "in 2017, seven of the ten largest construction firms, by revenue, were Chinese".

Similarly, in infrastructure building, Beijing is a global leader as it has completed numerous mega projects at home and abroad. Owing to this, among the 20 largest construction contractors, 14 are Chinese, while six are from the EU and there is none from the US.

A recent study illustrates that during the last 20 years, Beijing has financed over 13,000 projects worth \$843 billion in 165 countries. According to the China Power Project of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), under the BRI banner, China has been working in 138 countries with a combined GDP of \$29 trillion and some 4.6 billion people or about 61 per cent of the global population.

According to the American Enterprise Institute's China Global Investment Tracker, financing and implementing more than 4,000 large projects in diverse sectors, China's overseas investment and construction since 2005 has reached \$2.27 trillion. Similarly, since the launch of the BRI, China has invested or lent over \$1 trillion to more than 100 countries who are signatory to the initiative.

By any metrics, China has global footprints when it comes to financing and executing infrastructure projects.

In contrast, the response of other bilateral or multilateral actors has remained lacklustre. To counter the rising role of China, the US and its allies in the Group of Seven (G7) came up with their own initiatives. "China has its Belt and Road Initiative, and we think that there's a much more equitable way to provide for the needs of countries around the world", US President Biden stated at the end of the 47th G7 summit held in Cornwall in the UK in 2021, where he came up with the Build Back Better World (B3W) plan.

Similarly, the EU-led Global Gateway project, announced in 2021, aimed at focusing on physical infrastructure such as fibre optic cables, clean transport corridors and clean power transmission lines. The initiative announced that with strong commitment from EU member-states, the Global Gateway would aim at mobilizing investments of up to 300 billion euros between 2021 and 2027. The EU pledged that key principles would be adhered to includ-

ing democratic values and high standards, good governance and transparency, equal partnership, green and clean, resilient infrastructure, and catalyzing private-sector investment.

Japan's Partnership for Quality Infrastructure Investment is another initiative between the World Bank and the government of Japan to support the development of infrastructure that is resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and supports economic growth.

All these economic initiatives must be welcomed as they aim to increase regional trade and connectivity and bring people, services and goods together. They must not be viewed from a zero-sum perspective as economic corridors should not be used for geopolitical competition by major powers.

Hence, how the latest corridor in the form of the IMEC will fare depends on multiple factors. Raising financing is just one element, bringing participating countries to agree to a clear roadmap linking the UAE and Saudi Arabia with Israel via Jordan is also contingent on the political situation of the volatile Middle East. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Abused at work



Kishwar Enam

Children are a country's most precious investment. But in Pakistan, poor children don't fall in this category. Even after 75 years of existence, we as a nation have not given sufficient importance to child rights.

Child domestic labour refers to hiring children under 18 years in households, with or without a salary. Figures from 2016 showed 12 million child labourers in the country. A study in 2003 showed that eight per cent of all child labour was related to domestic work.

It is also estimated that around 40pc of Pakistanis live in poverty, with some 24pc below the poverty line. For families in such situations, survival is the primary goal. Due to lack of family planning, every child born becomes an additional burden on the parents. Instead of sending them to school, they are sent to work. In some households, having more children means more income, leading to a reprehensible scenario where children are birthed solely for financial gain. The conditions under which these children work is often irrelevant, as long as the parents receive a monthly salary.

The situation is even more disheartening when child rights violations occur in the homes of educated and financially stable families. The recent case of 14-year-old Rizwana, who worked as domestic help in the home of a well-to-do judge is an example. Rizwana's parents did not see her for six months. When they were finally

called to take her home, they discovered she had been brutally abused. The responsibility for this situation lies with the judge and his wife. Rizwana's parents, the trafficker who brought her from her village, and all those who silently watched her work without questioning the circumstances. It seems that our state is blind to these issues.

Children are often preferred over adult domestic workers because they can be paid lower salaries, take up less space, require less food, and are easily controlled and threatened. It is ironic that employers often justify hiring children by claiming that they are helping them live their lives. Employing a child for work is not a favour; it is a crime. It robs them of their precious childhood. It denies them their right to education, trapping not only them but also future generations in a cycle of exploitation.

The proportion of girls involved in domestic labour is much higher than boys, perpetuating gender inequality and limiting future opportunities for girls. For these children, the stress from excessive workloads leads to anxiety, and the loneliness of being away from home can result in depression. Constantly comparing their lives to those of their employer's children can cause low self-esteem and a sense of hopelessness. It can lead to feelings of jealousy, aggression, and cause conduct disorders. In some households, making these children work beyond their capabilities is not the end of it, as they are subjected to abuse — physical, sexual and psychological.

Another recent case is that of nine-year-old Fatima, who was sexually abused in the haveli of a pir or spiritual leader. Sadly, she succumbed to her injuries. It was later revealed that many other

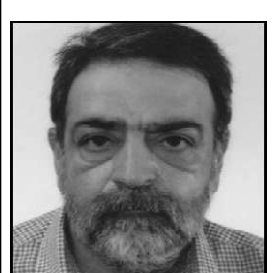
girls were living in the house as domestic workers. These girls are given as gifts to these pirs and feudal lords, and parents receive nominal amounts of money in return. Heartbreaking stories of child domestic labourers treated as slaves by their monstrous employers and often losing their lives come to light every now and then.

Pakistan has ratified conventions on child labour and has laws in place to address this issue. Punjab was the first province to pass a law specifically targeting domestic labour in 2019, which banned children below 15 years old from working as domestic labourers. Sindh does not have a specific law for child domestic labour, but when the Sindh Child Protection law was amended in 2021, child labour in domestic and commercial settings was included in the definition of child abuse, making it more than just a labour issue.

In 2020, a domestic labour law was passed in Islamabad Capital Territory as well. Despite having various laws on child rights, there is inconsistency in the definition of the upper age limit for a child in each law. To address this confusion, it is crucial to establish a unified definition of a child as anyone below 18 years old. This will help clarify the age criteria across all laws. Furthermore, child domestic labour should be banned and criminalised, with the offence being added to the Pakistan Penal Code as a non-bailable and non-compoundable offence. We cannot afford to lose more children like Zohra, Tayyaba, Kinza, Rizwana and Fatima. Our society, lawmakers and government must prioritise action on poverty alleviation, population control, free compulsory education and protecting children from exploitation and abuse.

-- Courtesy Dawn

## Silencing a songbird



Mahir Ali

Just a few days after the elected president of Chile, his close friend and comrade Salvador Allende, had met a violent death in his workplace, the man described by Gabriel García Márquez as "the greatest poet of the 20th century, in any language" lay on his bed in a Santiago clinic, ailing and distraught.

The poet's wife, Matilde, had left his bedside to return to their home in Isla Negra to collect some books that Pablo Neruda wished to take with him to Mexico, where he had been invited to retreat by the country's president, Luis Echeverría. She received a phone call from Neruda, who sounded unusually agitated. She rushed back, fearing the worst.

On doctors' orders, Matilde had tried to shield her husband from the worst news about the atrocities unfolding in the wake of the Sept 11, 1973, coup. But he could not be denied access to his friends, and when she returned, a highly distressed Neruda informed her: "They're killing people, they're handing their bodies over in pieces. The morgue's full of the dead... Didn't you know what happened to Victor Jara? He was one of those they tore to pieces, they destroyed his hands... Oh my God, that's like killing a nightingale. And they say he kept on singing and singing, and that drove them wild."

His information was reasonably accurate. Victor Jara was arguably the most potent symbol of the cul-

tural revolution that had accompanied — and in some ways facilitated — Popular Unity's ascent to power in 1970. He was an internationally acclaimed theatre director who had, since his deprived childhood, also been deeply immersed in Chilean folk music, and eventually started writing his own songs to supplement the vast repertoire he had imbibed from his mother and his broader milieu.

In 1969, he won joint first prize at the first festival of Nueva Canción Chilena — Chilean New Song — with Plegaria a un Labrador (Prayer to a Worker). It was a genre he had helped to propagate, following in the footsteps of Violeta Parra. The festival was held at Estadio Chile, where Jara returned four years later as a prisoner of the junta that snuffed out with extreme prejudice the very idea of a more equitable and humane nation.

On the morning of Sept 11, Jara bid farewell to his family and drove off to his workplace, the State Technical University, despite knowing that a military coup had been launched. Curfew prevented him from returning home, and the following day Jara and hundreds of fellow teachers and students were marched to the nearby stadium, which was serving as a concentration camp for political prisoners. He was recognised and singled out at the gate, abused in the vilest terms, and brutally assaulted. That was just the preamble to at least three days of extreme torture before an officer blew out his brains, and then encouraged his underlings to fire their machine-guns into the assassinated avatar of an aborted dream.

When his widow located his body among the hundreds of unidentified corpses in the city morgue two days later, guided by a yo-yo-ung communist who

risked his life to in-form her, it was riddled with 44 bullet holes. Thanks mainly to Joan Jara and her associates in Chile and abroad, eight former military officers were sentenced five years ago, among them possibly the beast who had battered the hands that gently strummed the guitar. The alleged chief perpetrator, however, remains at liberty in Florida.

Goaded to sing after his initial torture, Victor had defiantly burst into a verse of Venceremos, the Popular Unity theme song. And before he was plucked away from fellow detainees for his final ordeal, he scribbled an anti-fascist poem that, miraculously, was smuggled out of the stadium and soon enough rang out in various parts of the world.

Unaware of all this, Neruda died on the eve of his scheduled departure for Mexico. Some evidence has lately emerged to suggest that he was poisoned, but it remains inconclusive and the whole truth may never be ascertained. It's fairly obvious that an outraged and outspoken Neruda would have been an unpleasant prospect for the Pinochet junta. But whether or not it played any role in silencing the poet, the recent Nobel laureate — unlike Allende or Jara — could not be denied a proper funeral. As armed soldiers and police looked on, deterred from action by dozens of foreign correspondents, the hundreds of funeral marchers recited Neruda's verses, then burst into the Internationale, before raising slogans that invoked (and immortalised) not just Neruda but also Allende and Victor Jara. Half a century later, the outstanding poet's last journey still reflects both the final embers of Popular Unity and the first sparks of the relentless resistance that eventually thwarted the neoliberal aspirations of the US-backed military clique. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Governor KP says: Quality education, research studies imperative for sustainable economic progress, development

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday said that the quality higher education and research studies in universities were vital for sustainable economic progress and development of the country.

Briefing newsmen about the fiscal analysis of KP universities 2021-2024 report prepared by the Governor's Secretariat KP here, the Governor said that no country could achieve goals of economic prosperity and development unless it equipped its people with an ornament of quality higher education and

concentrated on excellent research work. He said the research based education generates employment opportunities and alleviates poverty in society. The Governor said that a total of 34 public sector universities were providing quality higher education to students in KP despite financial constraints.

Haji Ghulam Ali said that the revenue of most of the public sectors universities was decreasing and expenditures were increasing due to poor planning and wrong selection of sites for the establishment of new universities by the past governments.

He said that only one percent was being spent on research work which was very low compared to international standards. The Governor said that in last four to five months, eight public sector universities in KP were functioning without a vice chancellor while VCs of additional seven universities are going to retire shortly. He said that the former PTI government has done great injustice with the universities after passing an act that complicated the appointment of vice chancellors and KP's domiciled human resource for induction in public sector universities.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with IT trainers under the aegis of Akhuwat Foundation at Governor House.

## P&D directed to take land acquisition into account in foreign funded projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to KP Caretaker CM on Planning & Development (P&D), Communications & Works, and Public Health Engineering (PHE), Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah has directed the authorities of the P&D Department to take into account the procedure of land purchase, expenditures, and other required processes in the feasibility reports of development schemes particularly of foreign-funded projects.

He issued these directives during a briefing regarding foreign-funded projects here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Chief P&D Akhtar Rahman and other planning officers.

He said that besides,

the imposition of Section IV, a strategy should also be evolved for land acquisition in the land scarcity districts of the province.

He further directed that the expenditure in all the ongoing provincial, federal, and foreign-funded development projects should be as per the schedule utmost efforts should be made for timely spending of the released funds for the purpose.

He directed the authorities to send the deadline for all the ongoing projects and the proposal of the plan next week so that the projects that are near should be given full attention while separate strategies should be adopted for the long-term projects.

## ICRC, Hilal Ahmar conducts workshop for students at WUS

PESHAWAR (APP): International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Hilal Ahmar (Red Crescent), in collaboration with the Department of Journalism, conducted an informative training workshop for students at Women's University Swabi (WUS). The workshop was aimed at equipping students of the Journalism, Management Science, Urdu, Pak Studies, and Psychology departments

with skills to create effective humanitarian content during times of crises and disasters.

The event featured distinguished speakers who shared their expertise and insights on the crucial role of media and communication during disasters. Azeaz Ur Rehman, ICRC Communication Lead, emphasised the importance of accurate and timely communication in crisis.



LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore, Bilal Saddique Kamyana presides over a high level meeting at his office in Lahore.

## Neither any investigation nor any identification parade is carried out in rape cases: SHC

KARACHI (Online): Justice Amjid Ali Sahito of Sindh High Court (SHC) has remarked neither any investigation is carried out nor any identification parade is conducted in rape cases. The bail plea of one Nazim accused in rape case came up for hearing before SHC Wednesday.

IG Sindh Riffat Mukhtar appeared on court's orders.

Justice Amjid Ali Sahito remarked "IG Sahb what devastation has taken place in Sindh in 15 years

has not occurred any where. It is not known you will be where after 6 months. But you should do good thing with people of Sindh while leaving.

He further observed cheque is given to investigation officer through one hand and is withdrawn from him through other hand. Investigation officers say funds are not provided to them. Therefore, why should we spend money on investigation out of our own pocket.

Justice Amjid Ali Sahito while moving to IG Sindh remarked why the funds for the investigation are not provided directly to police station instead of providing them to every district. When fund is provided to the police station then they will be held accountable for investigation. People of Sindh are setting their eyes on you. IG Sindh Riffat Mukhtar told the court things will be seen changing in Sindh within two to four months.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacts with the doctors and para-medical staff of Cardiac Hospital.

## Equipping youth with IT education is the need of hour: Baligh

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the ceremony of distribution of certificates of appreciation to IT trainers under the aegis of Akhuwat Foundation here at Governor House Lahore today as a special guest.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that information technology has become an integral part of modern life and equipping the young generation with information technology education is the need of the hour. He said the target of economic development can

be achieved by increasing IT software exports. Governor Punjab said that Akhuwat Foundation is doing a good job by giving free IT training to the youth.

He said that such people and institutions which are working for the welfare of the people are the bright face of the society which needs to be shown to the world. Governor Punjab said that in our society, deficiencies, flaws, and negative things are highlighted, while there are many good things in our society that also need to be highlighted. Governor Punjab added that he was happy to know that

Akhuwat Foundation was offering free courses to students in graphic designing, digital marketing, web and mobile applications development.

He said that these courses will provide entrepreneurship opportunities to the youth, adding that they can earn a handsome amount of money by working on line. Governor Punjab further said that former Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributed laptops among students on merit in 2013, so that our youth can progress in the field of information technology and compete with the world.

## Caretaker home minister for speeding up operations against criminals

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons Brig. @ Harris Nawaz while presiding over a high-level meeting on law and order has directed law enforcement agencies to speed up intelligence-based operations against street criminals, drug dealers, land grabbers and comb out illegal immigrants from the city, through mutual coordinated action.

The Home Minister ordered to evolve a joint strategy for commencing a grand operation against the dacoits and their facilitators

in the Katcha (riverine) areas of the province, according to a news release on Wednesday.

He vowed to take the operation against the lawbreakers to its logical conclusion. The meeting was held here at the office of the Home Minister and attended by Sindh Home Secretary, Muhammad Iqbal Memon, IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar, Addl IGP Karachi Khadim Hussain Rind, Deputy Director General Pakistan Rangers Sindh, and senior officers of other law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

## Two bodies found

FAISALABAD (APP): Bodies of two persons were found from different parts of the area of Thikriwala police station.

Police spokesman said here on Wednesday that some passersby witnessed corpse of a 35-year-old man lying near Lunda Bridge on Ring Road Chak No.64-JB and informed the police.

Meanwhile, body of a 30-year-old youth Mehboob Elahi was found from the Dera of his friend Ahmad Raza in Chak No.64-JB.

The police took both bodies into custody and shifted them to mortuary for postmortem while further investigation was under progress, he added.



GILGIT: Provincial Ministers Gilgit-Baltistan addressing a press conference regarding the Prime Minister visits to GB at ICM Secretariat.

## Meeting decides to establish two base camps, 19 check posts in Katcha area

MULTAN (APP): Important decisions have been taken to maintain law and order on permanent basis in Katcha Area of South Punjab as two base camps and 19 check posts will be constructed for the police in Rahim Yar Khan and Rajanpur districts.

As many as three armored vehicles will also be purchased for the police and Planning & Development department Punjab has approved Rs 1.94 billion in this regard.

An important meeting was held in South Punjab Secretariat on Wednesday regarding infrastructure development in Katcha

area. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. @ Saqib Zafar, Additional IG Police South Punjab Maqsood-ul-Hasan participated in the meeting while Chairman P&D Punjab Ifikhar Ali Sahu joined the meeting through video link. RPO DG Khan, RPO Bahawalpur, DPO Rahim Yar Khan and DPO Rajanpur participated in the meeting virtually.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab Capt. @ Saqib Zafar told the meeting that under the directions of caretaker Punjab Chief Minister, a plan had been finalized for the development.

## LHC moved against not announcing date for election

LAHORE (Online): Petition has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC) against not announcing the date for general election.

The petition has been filed by Azhar Siddique chairman Judicial Activism Panel making federal government and others respondents.

The petitioner has taken plea in the petition that President of Pakistan has to announce the date for election as per constitution.

The tenure of the assembly has expired since several days but the date for general election has not been announced.

## Decision to ensure execution of daily trial of accused on May 9

LAHORE (Online): Caretaker government of Punjab has decided to ensure implementation of decision of daily trial in jail in respect of accused of May 9 tragedy.

Meeting was held under caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Lahore.

The progress on issues related to events of May 9 and Jaranwala was reviewed.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed a team consisting of 3 ministers and senior officers to visit Jaranwala and submit report.

It was also decided in the meeting to ensure implementation of decision of daily trial of perpetrators of May 9 mayhem in jail.

He has also ordered to submit all the challans of Lahore within 3 days on incident of May 9.

It was told in the briefing given in the meeting that construction and renovation of 9 churches in Jaranwala has been completed.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed to complete the construction and renovation of 13 more churches in 2 weeks.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing a Press conference regarding financial situation of Universities. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education Dr. Qasim Jan is also present.

## China-Pak Belt and Road Joint Laboratory to be established in KP varsities

PESHAWAR (APP): The Southeast University (SEU) Naniyang, China's delegation and Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar discussed the possibility of establishing the "China-Pak Belt and Road Joint Laboratory for Smart Disaster Prevention of major Infrastructure" here on Wednesday.

The laboratory will be established in five designated universities of Pakistan including UET Peshawar, UET Lahore, NED Karachi, NUST and BUITEM Quetta.

The delegation met with Secretary Relief and Rehabilitation KP Abdul Basit, Deputy Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) Islamabad, Raja

Shehreyar, VC University of Science and Technology, Bannu, Prof. Dr. Khair-uz-Zaman, VC University of Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Jehan Bakht. The senior officials from PDMA KP, Center for Disaster Preparedness and Management, UoP, China Study Center UoP and Civil Engineering Department UET Peshawar gave their presentations.

Prof. Zhou Dong from SEU said, the Civil Engineering Department SEU is ranked "A+" as a first class discipline, declared by Ministry of Education, China.

He said that the cooperation between SEU and Pakistani universities are part of the "Belt and Road" initiative based on talent cultivation.

## UNDP, KP Judicial Academy train women lawyers in legal aid

PESHAWAR (APP): The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy, has organized a two-day pilot training for women lawyers on representing legal aid clients from 13 to 14 September.

This initiative brings together young 20-female lawyers from Peshawar.

Caitlin Chittenden, Senior Rule of Law and Justice Reform Specialist at UNDP welcomed the participants and highlighted the objectives of the sessions. In his opening remarks,

Muhammad Shoaib, Director General (Acting) laid emphasis on legal aid.

He underscored the significance of legal aid in international and domestic legal frameworks where it is acknowledged as a fundamental human right and a guarantee of a fair trial, equality before the law, protection against discrimination, and access to effective remedies. The Inaugural Session was attended by the faculty members and directors of the Academy. The two-day training program aims to provide participants with an orientation of District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECs).



PESHAWAR: Youngsters enjoying bathing on Kohat Road.

## Mayor Karachi directs KMC's Land dept to conduct survey of land

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Wednesday directed the land department to conduct an immediate survey of their land at Sharea Faisal, I.I Chandrigar Road, University Road, and Sindh Muslim Society.

He expressed these views while presiding over an important meeting of KMC departments related to revenue collection.

He said that to ensure revenue from KMC assets, recovery departments must ensure implementation of instructions within 30 days. Mayor Karachi's

spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Afzal Zaidi, Finance Advisor Ghulam Murtaza Bhutto, Head of Revenue departments, and other officers were also present.

He said that PD Orangi should get possession of 2600 yards of KMC's land within 30 days and the challans of the Land Department, Katchi Abadi, PD Orangi, and State Department regarding land must based on the QR code. The Mayor Karachi said that the State Department within 30 days.



LANDIKOTAL: Customs clearing agents, leaders, political leaders, businesspersons and people are holding protest demonstration against the closure of Pak-Afghan Torkham border, held at Khyber Bazar in Landikotal.



# PM directs to reconstruct, improve GB's communication infrastructure

HUNZA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to formulate a strategy to reconstruct and improve the communication infrastructure of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with socio-political leaders of Hunza and visit to Hunar Kohn project of Karakoram Area Development Organization (KADO), assured for early resolution of electricity-related issues faced by the

region. The delegation apprised the prime minister of the issues pertaining to demand and supply of electricity in Hunza, allocation of additional seats for Hunza in the GB Assembly in proportion to the population and other matters. The prime minister instructed for formulation of a strategy for generation of electricity in coordination with the power sector.

The GB's political leadership briefed the prime minister about the challenges confronting the tour-

ism sector of the region. They requested the prime minister to order establishment of aerial connectivity with different parts of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Prime Minister Kakar directed the GB chief secretary to utilise all-out resources for early resolution of the issues.

The prime minister also visited the digital hub at KADO's Hunar Kohn project and rehabilitation center for the special persons.

He lauded the

KADO's services for the welfare of local population.

Prime Minister Kakar, while interacting with the freelancer students of Hunar Kohn project, said the passion of GB youth for development was appreciable.

Former GB Governor Mir Ghazanfar Ali Khan, ex-member of GB Assembly Rani Attiq, members of GB Assembly Col. (Retd) Ubaidullah Baig and Dilshad Bano, and other socio-political leaders attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Tang Chinese International Education and Technology (Pvt) Ltd led by Mr. Song Jianying, which called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



HUNZA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits Karakoram Area Development Authority's 'Hunar Khun' facility.

## Air Chief vows to enhance Pak-Azerbaijan inter-military ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu has reaffirmed his steadfast determination to further enhance the existing inter-military cooperation with Azerbaijan particularly in the fields of training and defence aviation.

He expressed the resolve while talking to Am-

skills and foster greater interoperability between the two air forces.

In the backdrop of upcoming major air exercise being held at Air Power Centre of Excellence, the Air Chief emphasized the pivotal role of joint aerial drills between the respective air forces to foster mutual learning and effectively



bassador of Republic of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov in Islamabad on Wednesday.

On this occasion, he offered full cooperation for comprehensive training programs in order to strengthen their technical

address common security challenges.

In his remarks, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan expressed admiration for PAF's notable achievements in nurturing a vibrant and progressive domestic aviation industry.

## Minister seeks media role to counter negative agenda of hostile elements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneque Ahmad on Wednesday urged the media and religious scholars to play their due role in countering the negative agenda of hostile elements poised to disrupt peace in the country.

Anti-state elements are trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere of this country through different tactics, he said while talking to PTV.

He said the government was organizing the conferences in major cities to promote interfaith harmony, peace, and tolerance, he said.

The Hindu, Sikh, Christian, and Muslim

communities are participating in these conferences to spread the message of peace, tolerance, and harmony among the masses, he remarked.

Commenting on the Jaranwala tragedy, he said, the state was responsible for protecting the life and property of every citizen.

He said the print and electronic media should come forward to create awareness among youth for the bright future of Pakistan. The minister said that Pakistan had the full potential to make progress in every field and that it was the responsibility of every citizen to play a constructive role in the peace and prosperity of this country.



RAWALPINDI: H.E. Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan called on Minister for Defence, Lt. Gen Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) at Ministry of Defence.

## Balochistan Customs seizes 2359 sugar sacks, 28000 liters of foreign petrol

QUETTA (APP): At least 2350 parcels of sugar and 28000 liters of foreign petrol and diesel, 127 cartons of foreign cigarettes and 9 non-customs paid vehicle were recovered after foiling bid of smuggling by Quetta Custom Darakhsan, Field Enforcement Unit and FIA's Anti Corruption Quetta in joint operations in Balochistan on Wednesday. According to the spokesperson of Pakistan Customs Superintendent Dr. Atta Bareach, Darakhsan Field Enforcement Unit and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)'s anti-corruption Quetta Circle took action against

the sugar, petrol, diesel and 9 non-customs paid vehicles of Quetta Customs.

The team conducted successful raid at a warehouse near Bhosa Mandi and seized about 2350 parcels of sugar which would be smuggled. Despite 28000 liters of foreign petrol diesel was recovered from an oil tanker by the Luckpass Field Enforcement Unit.

Meanwhile, 127 cartons of foreign brand cigarettes including 9 non-customs paid vehicles were recovered near Afghan Border by Taftan Rifle and Sindh Regiment at Nokundi during raid.

## Religious scholar shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A religious scholar has been assassinated in the Gulistan Johar area of Karachi, on Wednesday.

According to police, some unknown armed persons riding a motorcycle opened fire on Maulana Ziaur Rehman who was taking a stroll in the park near the FBR building in Gulistan Johar. He died instantly as a result of the indiscriminate fire.

He was the principal of Jamai Abu Bakar Islamai, Gulshan Iqbal.

The CTD and Crime Scene Unit recovered 11 shells from the crime scene, out of which four shells were of 9 mm and seven of 30 bore. The shells have been sent for forensic analysis.

The police hoped that they would be able to identify the target killers with the help of CCTV cameras in the vicinity.

According to SSP Irfan Bahadur, eyewitnesses informed that two armed persons riding on a motorcycle opened indiscriminate fire on the maulana.

## Caretaker PM will attend Gen Assembly meeting, Munir

WASHINGTON (Online): Pakistan Ambassador to US Munir Akram said that Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar is coming to attend General Assembly meeting.

He told that caretaker PM visit to US will be very busy. PM will participate in 5 summit meetings.

In a statement Munir Akram said that how will delegation from Occupied Kashmir come?

They have been locked up. The people of Occupied Kashmir will be represented by delegation of Azad Kashmir.

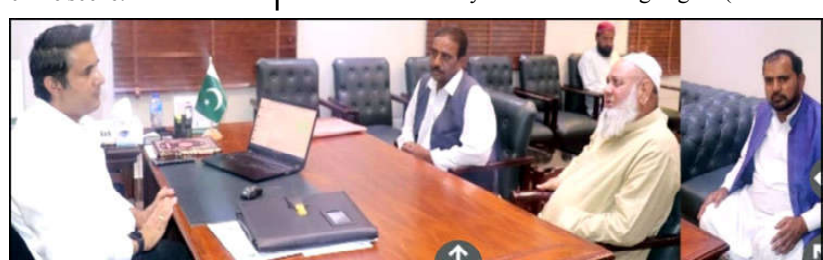
He said that wherever international meetings are held, if Pakistan does not participate then it is not right. Whoever is PM or Foreign Minister he represents Pakistan.

## Journalist shot dead, protest held against murder

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): Armed motorcyclists gunned down a journalist and injured three others in Madina Market of Muridke district Sheikhupura on Wednesday.

Police said that two armed motorcyclists sprayed bullets at journalist Amanat Ali Chouhan killed him on the spot and injuring three others.

Heavy contingent of police headed by District Police Officers (DPO) reached the scene and collected evidences from the crime scene.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President All Quetta Milk Shops Association meeting with Commissioner Quetta Division Hanza Shafqaat

## CNS highlights importance of maritime security under prevailing threats

Pakistan Navy's offshore patrol vessel launching ceremony held in Romania

ROMANIA (INP): Launching Ceremony of state-of-the-art Offshore Patrol Vessel, PNS HUNAIN (Desig) being built for Pakistan Navy was held in Romania.

On the occasion as the chief guest, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi highlighted the importance of maritime security under the prevailing conventional and non-conventional maritime threats to energy and trade highways passing through Indian Ocean Region.

He expressed his confidence that induction of these multipurpose and highly adaptive platforms will further strengthen combat capability of Pakistan



Navy Fleet in safeguarding maritime frontiers.

APP adds: The launching ceremony of the most modern offshore patrol vessel, Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN (Desig), being built for Pakistan Navy was held at M/s DAMEN Shipyard Galati, Romania, on Wednesday.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad

## Kashmiris to stage anti India demo during Modi's address to UNGA: Sultan

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the Kashmiri diaspora community would hold an anti-India protest demonstration in front of the UN office in New York on September 26 when Indian premier Narendra Modi will be addressing the UN General Assembly.

The anti-India protest, he said, would be attended and addressed by the representatives of the Kashmiri expatriate community hailing from different parts of the world.

In a statement issued

on Wednesday, Barrister Sultan said that the protest demonstration being staged in front of the UN General Assembly was meant to expose India's nefarious designs in the region besides seeking the global community's attention towards the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Urging the Kashmiri expatriate community to settle in America and other parts of the world to make it a success, the AJK president said that arrangements for this demonstration have been finalized.

## Govt using resources to solve problems of masses: Hassan

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Balochistan Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Mehmood-ul Hassan Mandukhel on Wednesday said that the caretaker government is using all available resources to solve the problems of the people.

He expressed these views while talking to former Nazim Javed Ahmad Khan, the provincial leader of Muslim League-N called on him at his office here.

Former Nazim informed the minister about the problems of the Railway Colony and the people

of the area in detail.

The minister said that the provincial government believed in serving the people and that all resources would be used to solve their problems in a short period saying that in this regard, any kind of omission or negligence will not be tolerated.

He said that government officers and employees should consider themselves as servants of the people and ensure the solution of their problems and departmental action will be taken against non-performing officers.

## Jamal Raisani says Emerging talent of Balochistan to be fully supported

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture, Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani has assured that the government would not only support the emerging talent of the province, but it would also send the players abroad for necessary training and exposure.

Jamal Raisani was addressing the ceremony of distribution of cash prizes among the medalist players of 34<sup>th</sup> National Games here at the FIFA House located in the Ayub Sports

complex on Wednesday.

He paid tributes to the players who brightened the name of Balochistan at the national level winning medals in different sports.

Also present on the occasion were the Secretary Sports, Muhammad Ishaq Jamali, Director General Sports, Durra Baloch, Assistant Directors Muhammad Asif Langove and Muhammad Asif Farooqui, Manager Bugti Cricket Stadium, Mansoor Khan, office bearers of different sports associations, coaches and players.

## Sibi-Harnai railway line could not be restored

QUETTA (INP): Sibi Harnai railway line could not be restored and the Harnai passenger rack also moved back. According to this news agency, former railway minister Saad Rafique, Balochistan Governor, former federal narcotics minister Shah Zain Bugti, including the parliamentary leaders of Balochistan, after 17 years inaugurated the Harnai passenger section on the Sibi junction on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

After the section was not fully restored, the train was stopped a day later, and now the rucks (coaches) of the passenger train were also recalled.

Shah Zain Bugti participated online in the inauguration ceremony in the Ministry of Railways, while former Railway Minister Saad Rafiq participated in the inauguration ceremony online from Lahore. A day after the inauguration of the train, on August 8, it was announced that the track is not complete, so the train will be run after the track is fully functional. The locomotive that came with it had gone back on the same day.

The spokesman of Pakistan Railways, while giving a stand, said that the rack of Harnai passenger has been brought back.

## Senate delegation visits Geneva for attending WTO's Public Forum

ISLAMABAD (INP): A three-member delegation of Senate of Pakistan is visiting Geneva to attend World Trade Organization's Public Forum at the invitation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The delegation led by Leader of the House, Senator Ishaq Dar, comprises Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah and Senator Kamran Murtaza. The Senate delegation visited United Nations conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretariat and was received and welcomed by Deputy Secretary General UNCTAD, Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno who briefed them on key tracks

of UNCTAD's work in the areas of technical assistance, research and analysis, and consensus building on key global trade and development issues.

Leader of the House, Senator Ishaq Dar appreciated UNCTAD's contribution in highlighting global development challenges and the technical, policy and capacity building support it has provided to Pakistan.

He commended UNCTAD's advocacy efforts for addressing systemic imbalances embedded in the global financial architecture including for debt relief for developing countries, fair allocation and enhancement of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

## PM withdraws chairmanship of CCIT from finance minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has withdrawn chairmanship of Cabinet Committee for Intergovernmental Transaction (CCIT) from finance minister. Sources said the PM while reorganizing the committee has accorded approval to appoint minister for privatization as chairman of committee.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar talking with a delegation who called on him led by Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS)

## Information Technology Initiative Programme: Day of 12 Sept. to be written in golden words in Balochistan history, says Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the day of September 12 would be written in the history of province regarding launch of the Information Technology Initiative.

He said that participation of the people belonging to different walks of life in the very successful programme of IT Initiative is a matter of honour for all of us. In this regard, the Governor thanked caretaker Chief Minister

Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki, his cabinet, Vice chancellors of all universities, civil servants, trader and commerce people and others on extending wholehearted cooperation.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation who called on him led by Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS), here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the Governor shed light on different aspects of

conducting free course of IT/AI for unemployed youth of the province.

Moreover, there was also discussion on progress of the IT Initiative Programme.

Meanwhile, certain important decisions were also made in light of the recommendations of the participants.

Also present in the meeting were the Secretary, Abdul Fateh Bhangar, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai and Director General IT, Irfan Baseer.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani distributing cash prizes among player who won medals in 34<sup>th</sup> National Games

## Pak Navy seizes huge cache of narcotics at sea

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Navy in an intelligence-based counter-narcotics operation along with the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized approximately 782 kilogrammes (Kgs) of narcotics at the Arabian Sea. The apprehended drugs were stowed in hidden compartments of a fishing boat that was successfully intercepted by a Pakistan Navy Ship.

## Quetta district admin recovers 475 tons of sugar, seals 2 godowns

Independent Report

QUETTA: The district administration continued crackdown against the hoarders and profiteers of sugar in the provincial metropolis on Wednesday.

During the course of action, the administration team raided two godowns at Sariab road on late Tuesday night.

covered stored in two godowns. The administration sealed the godowns.

Further action is being taken against the hoarders.

Meanwhile, the general public circles have appreciated the district administration for launching crackdown against the hoarders. As a result of the timely action, the price of per kilogram sugar has come down to Rs. 160 in Quetta city.