

# Independent

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## PM urges world to extend financial, technical support to developing countries to address climate change

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has urged the world to extend financial and technical support to developing countries like Pakistan to help them achieve ambitions on climate change. Addressing the Climate Ambition Summit 2023 in New York on Wednesday, he stressed the need for deriving a climate action to achieve the climate goals across the globe. He said climate justice also entails providing developing countries like Pakistan with the financial and technological means to realize these higher ambitions. Highlighting Pakistan's priorities in dealing with the climate vulnerability challenge, the Prime Minister said we have recently adopted our first ever national adaptation plan to build climate resilience. He said our next step is the projections and casting of interventions identified in the adaptation plan complemented by a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy.

efforts to integrate adaptation into our planning forces. In the second phase of the plan, we would prepare a sector specific investment framework, which could serve as a blueprint to translate identified adaptation needs and strategies into tangible and bankable projects. He said Pakistan has also launched the Living Indus Initiative, which is a menu of 25 interventions aimed at restoring the ecological health of Indus River basin. The Prime Minister further said that disaster risk management is a cross cutting priority in our national adaptation plan. Within the last year, we have taken significant steps in enhancing Pakistan's early warning capacity including by updating our national flood prediction plan. Talking about global warming, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said although, Pakistan has not contributed to the problem of global warming, we have chosen to be a part of solution. He said Pakistan seeks to produce sixty percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2030.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the Climate Ambition Summit 2023 held on the sidelines of 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York



LIANYUNGANG: Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing the opening session of the 2023 Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum in Lianyungang.

## Int'l community needs to put joint efforts to tackle common challenges: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has emphasized upon the international community for making collaborative efforts for tackling the common global challenges threatening the security and well-being of all nations. While speaking at the opening session of the 2023 Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum in Lianyungang, China on Wednesday, the minister said that this cooperation and collaboration, guided by the international legal framework, should strive for a more harmonious and secure world where the essence of common security benefits for every country. Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti also stressed upon the need to create structures and mechanisms to safeguard against existing and evolving threats to global public security, including terrorism, violent extremism, majoritarianism, communalism, organized crime, and cybercrime.

## Additional burden of 33 bn ready for electricity consumers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Another bad news has come for the people suffering from inflation. The possibility of further increase in electricity prices has been indicated. It has been reported that after the sharp increase in the prices of petroleum products, preparations are being made to make electricity more expensive. The price of electricity tariff is likely to increase further by Rs. 83 per unit. Central Power Purchasing Agency has submitted application of increase in electricity tariff in NEPRA. The request for increase in electricity tariff was given in the context of monthly fuel price adjustment.

## Solangi terms poet Iftikhar Arif shining star on literary horizon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi while paying tributes to the academic and literary services of renowned poet Iftikhar Arif on Wednesday said that the towering figure was a shining star on the literary horizon who has made an immense contribution in the field of literature. He expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of the documentary film on the life and achievements of the renowned poet named "Barhawan Khiladi" here at the Information Services Academy. Murtaza Solangi said that Iftikhar Arif's name would be at the top of the list of the leading figures of media if the knowledge and literature of Pakistan was prepared. The minister said that Iftikhar Arif started his career with Radio Pakistan and later played a key role in the creation of PTV's famous programs. He said that Iftikhar Arif was like a shadowy tree on the horizon of a literary scene. The participants of the event were also shown the documentary film "Barhawan Khiladi" on the life of Iftikhar Arif.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing during screening of documentary on the life and achievements of Iftikhar Arif Titled "Barhawan Khiladi" at Information Services Academy.

## NAB sends back references to courts after SC verdict

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Wednesday sent back references against politicians to accountability courts after Supreme Court struck down some sections of the amendments made to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) last year by the previous coalition government. The accountability watchdog held an 'emergency meeting' after the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict on a petition filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan against the amendments made to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) last year by the previous coalition government.

## All hope of masses attached with Nawaz prepared to arrive soon: Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE (INP): Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) has said that the countrymen have attached their all hopes with their true and sincere leader Nawaz Sharif prepared to arrive soon. Addressing an MSF ceremony here on Wednesday, she said that voice of the party leader has reached every nuke and corner and it was matter of satisfaction. Maryam Nawaz expressed his pleasure of huge gathering of the children on the occasion.

## Security forces killed terrorist in DIKIBO, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): On 20 September 2023, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan District. During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between Pakistan Army troops and terrorists, resultantly one terrorist was killed while one got injured. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent civilians. Locals of the area appreciated the operation. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

## Pakistan facing big threat of TTP, ISIS-K from Afghan soil: FM Jilani

Pakistan desired peaceful and cooperative neighborly ties with India. Unfortunately Pakistan positive outreach and peace overtures were met with negativity

NEW YORK (APP): Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani on Wednesday said that Pakistan was facing the biggest concern at present with an enhanced threat from the terrorist organizations, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and ISIS-K (Islamic State - Khorasan Province). The foreign minister expressed concern over the outfits' ability to use the Afghan soil to launch attacks on Pakistan. He was speaking on Pakistan's foreign policy and its quest for peace, stability, and shared prosperity at an event of Asia Society, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York. Jilani said Pakistan remained closely engaged with the interim government of Afghanistan on the issue. Highlighting Pakistan's commitment to fighting and defeating the terrorists, he stressed that terrorist outfits trying to gain a foothold in Afghanistan should be treated as a threat to the neighbourhood and the entire international community. After Afghanistan itself, Jilani said, Pakistan had the greatest stake in Afghanistan, i.e., peace within and with its regional and international partners. "This objective lies at the heart of our efforts to directly engage with the Afghan interim government as well as cooperate with the international community on Afghanistan," he said. The foreign minister mentioned that Pakistan had been hosting millions of Afghan refugees for decades and would continue to work with the Afghan authorities and the interna

## PM, Bill Gates discuss polio eradication, gender equality



NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar met with Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to discuss polio eradication, gender equality, nutrition, and financial inclusion, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly Session in New York. The Prime Minister expressed optimism that stopping poliovirus transmission in every area of the country remains possible this year. He underscored that the caretaker government and the National Polio Task Force remain fully committed to reaching children nationwide with polio vaccines, routine immunizations, and other essential health services. Bill Gates reiterated that polio eradication in Pakistan is a top priority, with particular interest in stopping cross-border transmission with Afghanistan and continuing vaccination campaigns in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

## Wafaqi Mohtasib playing leading role in international fraternity of ombudsman: Ejaz

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Wednesday said the Wafaqi Mohtasib institution was playing a leading role among the international fraternity in realizing the ombudsman goals of rule of law and good governance. It was evident from the trust reposed by the 47 members of Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) in the institution by re-electing the Federal Ombudsman as AOA President during the General Assembly moot held at Kazan, Tatarstan, on September 11, he said while addressing a conference. The unopposed reelection, he said, "is a clear



manifestation of the fact that the services of Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan in carrying forward the ultimate goals of ombudsmanhood i.e good governance, fair play, adherence in Pakistan's contribution in promoting the cause of ombudsmanhood in Asia and beyond. Prior to Kazan moot, he said, a meeting of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) was held in Bangkok (Thailand) on July 11, which was actively participated by Pakistan. He said the Asian Ombudsman Association,

## Indian links to Canada target killing shows its 'extrajudicial network' has gone global: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Office on Wednesday said the news of Indian involvement in an extrajudicial killing in Canada had shown that the country's "network of extra-territorial killings had now gone global". "India's assassination of a Canadian national on Canadian soil is a clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty," the FO spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing. Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch was responding to a question on Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement that he had "credible evidence" linking the Indian state to Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder must be based on "some facts."

Nijjar, 45, was shot dead in his vehicle by two masked gunmen in the busy car park of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in British Columbia, a Canadian province. The spokesperson said the incident was a "reckless and irresponsible act" that called into question India's reliability as a credible international partner and its claims for enhanced global responsibilities. About India's previous record, she said for decades, the Indian intelligence agency RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) had been actively involved in abductions and assassinations in South Asia. Pakistan, she said, remained a target of a series of targeted killings and espionage by RAW. She recalled that in December 2022, Pakistan released a comprehensive dossier providing concrete and irrefutable evidence of India's involvement in the Lahore attack of June 2021. The attack was planned and executed by Indian intelligence. In 2016, she said, a high-ranking Indian military officer Commander Kulbhusan Jadhav confessed his involvement in directing, financing, and executing terror and sabotage in Pakistan.

## Pakistan is likely to get \$70 bln foreign investment

KARACHI (INP): Following the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Pakistan is expected to get \$70 billion as a foreign investment on Wednesday. Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir held meetings with business persons and established a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) after which Pakistan is likely to get foreign investment of \$70 billion. The business community, while expressing optimism and positivity, stated that following the army chief's meeting and establishment of the SIFC, the expectation of \$70 billion in foreign investment will put the economy back on track. According to the business community, the relevant authorities should take immediate steps to reduce the price of electricity and petroleum - similar to the value of dollar - to sail out the general public from financial crisis.

## Provinces, ICT must submit Master Plans within a week: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development Muhammad Sami Saeed has said that the provincial governments and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) must submit their respective Master Plans with recommendations within one week. The directives were issued by him on Wednesday while chairing a meeting of a special committee held in Islamabad on building consensus for regulating the conversion of agricultural land to housing societies. The committee was established by the Prime Minister to foster agreement on regulating the conversion of agricultural land to housing societies across the country. Sami Saeed said that keeping in view the challenges being faced by the country, there was dire need to preserve the agricultural land. He reiterated that the government is taking serious steps to preserve the agriculture land in the country. The meeting was informed by the concerned stakeholders from the provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory about the existence of their respective Master Plans, their legal framework and mechanism to implement their laws.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting of a special committee on building consensus for regulating the conversion of agricultural land to housing societies.

## Security forces killed terrorist in DIKIBO, ISPR

He said over 1.9 million households had benefited from the services of the institution since its inception, with a financial impact of Rs 3.1 billion. Last year the resolution of complaints rose to all time high figure of 164,137, while the projected figure of complaints registration during the current year was around 185,000, he added. The Wafaqi Mohtasib said to cater for the marginalised component of the society, the Wafaqi Mohtasib officers held open courts (Khulli Katchehris) under the Outreach Complaint Resolution System (OCR) at sub-division and Tehsil level in far flung areas so that the justice could be imparted at their doorsteps. Established following the First Asian Ombudsman Conference held on April 15-16, 1996 at Islamabad, was a major non-political, independent and professional body of international character representing more than two thirds of the world population. With its current membership of 47 ombudsman institutions of the Asian Region, the Association's permanent secretariat is hosted by the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat at Islamabad, he added. Highlighting the performance of Wafaqi Mohtasib institution, Ejaz Qureshi said some 133,000 complaints had been registered till September 15 and 132,000 of them had been resolved, which reflected the people's trust in the institution.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Sikh activist's murder**

A spat between Canada and India over the murder of a pro-freedom Sikh activist in a Vancouver suburb has turned ugly, with both states expelling diplomats and exchanging accusatory rhetoric. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and prominent advocate for Khalistan, was killed outside a gurdwara he headed in June. In a startling disclosure, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told his country's parliament the authorities were "pursuing credible allegations" that Indian "agents" were linked to the murder. In a related move, Ottawa expelled a diplomat described as India's top intelligence agent in the country.

Meanwhile, New Delhi on Tuesday asked a Canadian diplomat to leave the country apparently due to involvement in "anti-India activities", while an Indian foreign ministry spokesman described Mr Trudeau's claims as "absurd".

Bilateral ties had steadily been declining over the Khalistan issue, as Canada hosts a large Sikh diaspora, and many Canadian Sikhs support the movement for a separate homeland.

Due to these facts, Mr Trudeau had received a somewhat frosty reception during the G20 moot in New Delhi earlier this month, compared to the warm welcome other foreign leaders received. With public allegations, things have come to a head.

Assassinations by states on foreign soil of elements they consider undesirable is part and parcel of international espionage. But perhaps Israel takes the cake where subterfuge is concerned.

Tel Aviv's agents have for decades been taking out targets across the globe. Most of the victims have been Palestinian militants and activists, while lately members of Hezbollah and those linked to Iran's nuclear programme and security institutions have topped the list.

Considering the cosy relationship between New Delhi and Tel Aviv, perhaps the Indians have taken a page out of Mossad's handbook in organising the hit on an individual they considered a "terrorist". Other states, too, indulge in such activities.

However, despite India's posturing, this issue is unlikely to fizzle out, as the Canadian PM would not have made such a major announcement without strong proof.

Along with assuring a large ethno-religious community that their safety matters, Canada will also pursue this murder to protect its reputation as a state where the rule of law is respected, as Mr Trudeau noted. States may indulge in such underhanded behaviour, but the blowback can be embarrassing if things go awry, as the Indian government is discovering.

**Cracking Illicit Dollar Trade: A Solution or a Temporary Fix?**



**By Qamar Bashir**  
*Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC*

High inflation in Pakistan is significantly impacting both the economy and its citizens. This persistent inflation is eroding people's purchasing power, making it increasingly challenging for them to afford essential goods and services. Furthermore, it's putting immense strain on businesses, which are grappling with elevated operating costs and dwindling demand.

The soaring prices of basic necessities are directly contributing to a decline in people's purchasing power, exacerbating poverty levels and food insecurity. As prices rise, individuals find themselves burdened with mounting debts, fostering widespread financial stress and anxiety within society. Additionally, the relentless increase in prices threatens to constrain employment opportunities.

Businesses, in particular, are bearing the brunt of these circumstances. Elevated operational costs can force them to make tough decisions such as downsizing or restraining new hires. This, in turn, compounds the challenges for job seekers and families seeking to support themselves. The pervasive nature of high inflation un-

derscores the urgency of addressing this issue to alleviate the hardships faced by both individuals and enterprises in Pakistan.

Since March 2022, the Pakistani rupee has experienced a substantial depreciation against the US dollar which has appreciated by 100% from Rs. 170 to Rs. 340 before gradually stabilizing at the current rate of Rs. 290, though still notably higher. This dramatic fluctuation in the exchange rate has triggered several distortions in the economy with far-reaching consequences.

First and foremost, the soaring value of the US dollar amplifies the cost of importing goods and services denominated in US dollars. This, in turn, results in higher prices for imported products, which can significantly contribute to inflationary pressures. Additionally, the appreciating dollar makes Pakistani exports more expensive for foreign buyers, potentially diminishing demand for Pakistani goods in international markets. This poses a direct threat to Pakistan's export-oriented industries.

Furthermore, the escalating cost of imports due to the stronger dollar contributes to overall inflation, eroding the purchasing power of consumers and consequently lowering their standard of living. The situation is exacerbated for essential commodities that heavily rely on imports, such as oil and certain food items, as their prices increase, placing additional financial strain on households.

The substantial appreciation of the US dollar also has adverse effects on Pakistan's trade balance. As exports become less competitive and imports become more costly, the country is prone to experiencing a larger trade deficit.

Lastly, foreign in-

vestors may adopt a cautious stance towards investing in Pakistan due to concerns surrounding exchange rate volatility and the economic repercussions of a rapidly appreciating dollar. This heightened uncertainty could potentially result in reduced foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the country, affecting economic growth and stability. Addressing these exchange rate challenges is crucial to mitigate the adverse impacts on Pakistan's economy and ensure a more stable and conducive environment for trade and investment.

The swift and stringent crackdown on Hundi, Hawala, and illegal currency exchange operations, along with border closures with Afghanistan, has indeed had a positive impact on the Pakistani rupee's exchange rate in a remarkably short span. This has provided a degree of stability and relief to an economy that has been grappling with challenges. However, it's essential to recognize that this represents a temporary solution, and sustainable remedies are required, both at the macro and micro levels, to establish lasting stability, consistency, and predictability in the exchange rate—a fundamental requirement for a healthy economy.

While government regulators and the State Bank of Pakistan may have limited options, it's crucial for the State Bank to adopt innovative monetary policies to manage inflation and stabilize the exchange rate, even within these constraints. Simultaneously, the government should explore measures to support export-oriented industries and proactively manage the fiscal deficit to mitigate the impact of a stronger dollar on the economy. Additionally, the central bank may

need to intervene in the foreign exchange market to maintain currency stability and prevent excessive volatility while keeping in view factors such as market sentiment, economic conditions, and geopolitical events.

In this context, the latest Asian Development report on Pakistan's economy presents a sobering picture. It predicts a 0.3% slowdown in the economy for fiscal year 2023, in contrast to the 6.0% growth observed in FY2022. This decline is attributed to a combination of factors, including devastating floods, policy tightening, and substantial efforts to address significant fiscal and external imbalances. The report observed that the floods have resulted in an estimated \$30 billion in damages to infrastructure and crops and have displaced millions of people.

The ADB report projects that Pakistan's economic growth is expected to rebound to 1.9% in FY2024, contingent upon the government's ability to restore macroeconomic stability and implement crucial reforms. The report acknowledges that the government's efforts in post-flood reconstruction will contribute to economic growth in the upcoming years.

Nevertheless, the ADB report emphasizes significant risks to this outlook, including the potential for additional flooding, a global economic slowdown, and an increase in global interest rates. It also underscores the ongoing risks posed by the war in Ukraine and the persistent COVID-19 pandemic, which could negatively affect Pakistan's economy.

In this backdrop, reforms aimed at enhancing economic efficiency and promoting private sector investment are essential. These reforms should target sectors such as

energy, taxation, and labor markets to foster growth.

Given Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, investments in climate resilience and social safety nets are imperative to shield the economy from future shocks and protect the vulnerable from economic hardships. Innovative solutions involving high-end technology and artificial intelligence can transform the tax system, making it more progressive and alleviating the burden on low-income households, thereby reducing poverty and inequality.

Efficiency improvements in the energy sector are also paramount, as it currently faces issues like inefficiency, theft, and mismanagement, contributing to high energy prices. Enhancing energy sector efficiency can bolster competitiveness.

Fostering a favorable investment climate by reducing bureaucracy and corruption and improving infrastructure can stimulate private sector investment, which is a crucial driver of economic growth.

Investing in human capital through improvements in education and healthcare is essential to cultivate a skilled and productive workforce, thereby boosting economic growth and reducing poverty.

Lastly, targeted support for the poor and vulnerable, such as food subsidies and cash transfers, can help them cope with the challenges posed by high prices.

While the crackdowns of illegal currency hoarders provide immediate relief, it's imperative to implement long-term solutions to mitigate the incentives for such illicit activities.

One enduring solution is the establishment and enforcement of robust Anti-Money Lau-

ndering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) Regulations. Many countries have stringent AML and KYC regulations in place to meticulously monitor and control currency transactions. These regulations make it arduous for individuals and entities to hoard or transfer large sums of foreign currency without proper documentation.

Governments and financial authorities can bolster their efforts by employing advanced financial surveillance systems to detect unusual or suspicious transactions, which may include large-scale currency hoarding or smuggling.

While cracking down on illegal currency activities provides immediate relief, the long-term goal should focus on reducing the incentives for smuggling and hoarding. This requires the implementation of creative monetary and fiscal policies, updated foreign currency rules and regulations, and the effective use of technology for monitoring and enforcement. Without addressing the root causes and incentives, unscrupulous elements may continue to find new ways to engage in such activities, potentially corrupting regulators and law enforcement personnel along the way.

Pakistan faces a complex economic landscape, and addressing these challenges will require a multifaceted approach that includes monetary policy innovation, support for key industries, fiscal responsibility, and structural economic reforms aimed at improving competitiveness, reducing reliance on imports, and attracting foreign investment.

These efforts are vital to ensure a more stable and resilient economic future for the country.

**Commerce News**

**Integrated Energy Planning to help in tackling energy crisis: Planning Minister**

ISLAMABAD (Online): The caretaker Planning Minister for Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed said that Integrated Energy Planning will help in tackling the energy crisis being faced by the country. He made these remarks while addressing at the workshop titled "Integrated Energy Planning for Sustainable Development, organized by the Energy Wing of the Planning Ministry on

Wednesday. Under the vision 2025, the project IEP was envisioned to make a centralized Energy Planning and Resource Centre (EPRC) that meets the demands of energy planning for the fast development in the world.

The Planning Minister said that the outcomes of the Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) model by the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) will help in achieving the high

industrial growth export-led economic base and to save the foreign exchange reserves.

The event was attended by the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan, country's leading experts in the energy sectors and other stakeholders.

LEAP model is an effort to present a holistic integrated initial approach to Energy Demand and Supply Analysis;

containing all components of integrated balances, it is used to compute long-term energy prices under various scenarios. It is noted that in August 2022, IEP for Sustainable Development took the initiative of providing an in-person LEAP training program where relevant energy sector stakeholders were invited to participate in the training process. EPRC working under IEP started working on Pakistan's first LEAP energy model.



ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Wednesday chairs a meeting to "Build Consensus for Regulating Conversion of Agricultural Land to Housing Societies in Pakistan" at Planning Ministry.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired a meeting on PIA in on September 20, 2023. Advisor to PM on Aviation was also present.

**Jazz CEO calls to shift focus from 2G-only handsets to local assembly of 4G smartphones**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The telecom industry is urging a paradigm shift in Pakistan's local handset manufacturing approach, advocating for a transition from 2G-only handsets to a full focus on the domestic assembly of 4G smartphones.

According to data available on the Pakistan Telecommunication website, out of the 67.7 million handsets assembled within the country since 2020, only 22.9 million were smartphones, indicating a critical need for a directional overhaul in the industry.

In a tweet, Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim highlighted that various countries are phasing out 2G and 3G networks to pave the way for more efficient 4G technology, Pakistan must ensure its populace was digitally equipped for the modern age.

Ibrahim urged the government to take decisive steps, advocating for the discontinuation of both the import and local assembly of 2G and 3G phones.

Instead, he emphasized the need to prioritize the production of high-quality 4G-enabled smartphones.

**PSX loses 20.89 points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) declined by 20.89 points on Wednesday, showing a negative change of 0.05 per cent, closing at 45,889.58 points against 45,910.47 points the previous day.

A total of 129,372,427 shares were traded during the day as compared to 117,145,448 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 3.639 billion against Rs 4.110 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 313 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 132 of them recorded gains and 160 sustained losses.

**Zong 4G announces Huo Junli as new CEO**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading telecommunications company, has announced Huo Junli as the new Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), marking a significant leadership transition.

"Huo Junli has officially taken the helm, succeeding Wang Hua, who has served as CMPak's CEO and Chairman for over five years and will now undertake a new role within the CMCC," a news

release said on Wednesday. Huo Junli holds a Master's degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Beijing University of Posts & Telecommunication, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Xi'an Jiaotong University. "He brings an extensive and diverse background with nearly three decades of experience in the telecommunications industry."

**Thai envoy announces resumption of Thai Airways flights to Pakistan**

LAHORE (APP): In a significant development, the Ambassador of Thailand, Chakkrid Kraichaiwong, announced the revival of Thai Airways services from Pakistan, marking a promising step forward in strengthening bilateral ties. The Ambassador revealed plans to reintroduce five weekly flights from Karachi and Lahore, along with four flights from Islamabad.

This announcement was made during the Ambassador's address here at

Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday. The LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Ch, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, and Minister Adnan Chaudhry (Commercial) at Royal Thai Embassy Bangladesh in Pakistan, Khemathat Archawathamrong, Deputy Head of Mission Royal Thai Embassy Islamabad, Kamol Wan Sriposil, and former LCCI office-bearers and Executive Committee members were also present.

**SBP awards IPA to establish five digital retail banks**

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in a bid to foster innovation, financial inclusion and availability of affordable digital financial services, granted in-principle approval (IPA) for establishing five digital retail banks on Wednesday.

Governor SBP, Jameel Ahmad awarded IPAs to the five proposed digital banks- HugoBank Limited, KT Bank Pakistan Limited, Mashreq

Bank Pakistan Limited, Raqami Islamic Digital Bank Limited and Telenor Microfinance Bank Limited- in a ceremony at SBP Museum Building, said a statement issued here.

The event was attended by sponsors of proposed DRBs, CEOs of incumbent banks, Payment System Operators (PSOs), Payment System Providers (PSPs), Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs),

Fintechs and SBP's top management.

It is pertinent to mention that the central bank had issued NoCs to five successful applicants for establishing digital banks in Pakistan in January 2023 and after fulfillment of the necessary requirements, these entities have now been granted in-principle approval to prepare themselves operationally to launch the digital financial services.

**Rupee gains Rs 1.02 against US Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs1.02 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 293.88 against the previous day's closing of Rs 294.90. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 293.6 and Rs 296.5 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 99 paise to close at Rs 314.29 against the last day's closing of Rs 315.28.

**SWCCI, Superior University ink MoU**

SARGODHA (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony was held between the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Superior University Sargodha campus on Wednesday.

The aim of agreement is to providing students with business opportunities in various fields through the Chamber of Commerce. President SWCCI Madam Shamim Aftab, Vice President Tanzila Fiaz, Secretary Chamber Sara Rehan, Executive Members Dr Humaira Azhar, Rubina Mukhtar, Samira Shahid, Shazia Bangash, and from the university side, Director University C a m p u s C h a u d h r y M u h a m m a d Iqbal, Lecturer Anam Khan, and other staff members were present in the ceremony. On the occasion, SWCCI President Madam Shamim Aftab said the Women's Chamber of Commerce had always provided opportunities for women to progress. Female students would also be familiarized with modern business methods in the contemporary era.

## KP CM for timely completion, activation of hydel power projects

PESHAWAR (APP): The 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Fund (HDF) was held here on Wednesday with the Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Finance, Ahmed Rasool Bangash, Advisor to CM on Energy and Power, Dr. Sarfaraz Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Zubair Asghar Qureshi, administrative secretaries

of the concerned departments and other board members attended the meeting.

Besides reviewing progress on the decisions of the last board meeting, the forum accorded conditional approval to the proposed funding for hydel development projects for the fiscal year 2023-24.

The Chief Minister on this occasion, directed the quarters concerned to take necessary steps in order to operationalize the province's own

Transmission and Grid Company adding that the appointment of the chief executive officer of the company be ensured as early as possible for the purpose.

He termed the establishment of the Provincial government's own Transmission and Grid Company as a good move to improve the power supply system in the province and said that its operationalization will substantially reduce the province's dependence on WAPDA infrastructure.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali presides over the 15th Senate session of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan.

## Chairs senate meeting of AWKUM Governor suggests measures to overcome financial problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday chaired the 15<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM) that approved the minutes of the last meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the caretaker education minister, Qasim Jan, Vice Chancellor of the varsity, Dr. Zahoor-ul-Haq, Additional Secretary Education, Javaid Iqbal and representatives of the Higher Education Commission. The meeting

approved minutes of the last senate meeting and discussed matters including draft statutes, university's power of attorney, discipline rules, pay scale and appointments of administrative officials.

The meeting also discussed objections on promotions of administrative staff, appointments of regular faculty members and disbursement of pensions.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that the objective of the meeting is to bring improvement in the whole

system after consultation and deliberation. He said that it is his utmost desire that universities should overcome their financial problems and further improve performances for the betterment of students.

He suggested that universities should devise a strategy with the consultation of insurance companies for payment of pension arrears and added that it would reduce the pension burden on varsities and also help providing financial help to employees after retirement.

## Feroze Jamal says: Provincial govt constantly demanding payment of its rights from the federation

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information, Tourism and Culture Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel has said that the caretaker KP government will never give up the constitutional rights of the province.

His provincial government is constantly demanding payment of its rights from the federation in hydropower, gas royalty and other issues, while positive progress is also expected from the center in this regard, he added.

He expressed these views during a visit to Pakhtunkhwa Radio FM 92.2 and a detailed interview in the program Pakhtunkhwa Online in Peshawar. On arrival at Pakhtunkhwa Radio, he

also inspected the Broadcasting House while Station Director Ghulam Hussain Ghazi briefed him on the performance and role of this provincial Radio network.

Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel said that the announcement of the election date is not the responsibility of the caretaker government, but instead it's the responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan, when asked by the host of the program, Lehaz Ali, about the general elections.

"Whenever the election commission announces the date of the elections, the caretaker provincial government will give full support to conduct fair.



KARACHI: Chief Executive officer State Life Insurance Corporation Shoaib Javed Hussain calls on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

## ATC allows fresh physical remand of Mehmood in 3 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday granted a fresh physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed to police in three cases related to May-9 violence.

The court allowed police three-day physical remand of the PTI leader in three cases, including torching a container at Kalma Chowk and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz office in Model Town.

ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan conducted the proceedings wherein the police produced the accused after bringing him from jail.

The investigation officers had requested the court to grant physical remand of the accused.

They submitted that the custody of the accused was required for interrogation in connection with the new offences added in the cases.

## CCPO Lahore expresses dismay over pending cases

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana expressed disappointment over the pending cases and pending road certificates, and directed the officers concerned to resolve the cases on priority basis.

He expressed this while presiding over a meeting held on the performance of divisional SPs at the conference room of CCPO's office here on Wednesday. In the meeting, a detailed review of the performance regarding the pending road certificates, the cases

under investigation and the silent accused was reviewed.

On the occasion, Bilal Siddique Kamyana said that negligence and lack of interest in duties would not be acceptable, however, the SPs concerned would also be held accountable for the poor performance of SDPOs, SHOs, Incharge (Investigation).

The CCPO Lahore said that challans should be completed, and road certificates and the cases should not be kept pending.

## EUM holds int'l conference on AI, linguistic studies

MULTAN (APP): Emerson University Multan (EUM), Department of English organized an international conference on the importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Linguistics here on Wednesday.

The conference titled "Artificial Intelligence and Linguistics Studies" was addressed by the Dean School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai International University, Dr. HU Kaibo, Dr. Kang Yang, and Dr. Afzal. The speakers shared their experiences with students regarding research and language development, emphasizing their significance.

## ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz called on Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik, Federal Minister for Food Security & Research.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz called on Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik, Federal Minister for Food Security & Research.

## Punjab expands 24/7 healthcare services in underserved areas

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir announced that more than 300 basic health units (BHUs) in remote and underdeveloped areas of the province are now offering round-the-clock medical services, following the directive of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

Dr. Nasir, while presiding over a departmental review meeting on Wednesday, revealed that additional medical staff, including doctors and paramedics, have been deployed to

ensure these BHUs remain operational 24/7.

Additionally, the caretaker government has supplied 300 ultrasound machines to enhance healthcare services at these primary health facilities. Dr. Jamal Nasir outlined that these 24/7 BHUs are equipped to provide Basic Emergency, Obstetrics & Newborn Care (EMONC), Antenatal & Postnatal Care, family planning services, immunizations (BCG, OPV, Hep B, DPT, Measles, TT), laboratory services, ultrasound services, 24-hour ambulance services.

# International News

## Iran's president denies sending drones and other weapons to Russia and decries US meddling

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Iran's president on Monday denied his country had sent drones to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine, even as the United States accuses Iran of not only providing the weapons but helping Russia build a plant to manufacture them.

"We are against the war in Ukraine," President Ebrahim Raisi said as he met with media executives on the sidelines of the world's premier global conference, the high-level leaders' meeting at the U.N. General Assembly. The Iranian leader spoke just hours after five Americans who had been held in Iranian custody arrived in Qatar, freed in a deal that saw President Joe

Biden agree to unlock nearly \$6 billion in frozen Iranian assets.

Known as a hard-liner, Raisi seemingly sought to strike a diplomatic tone. He reiterated offers to mediate the Russia-Ukraine war despite being one of the Kremlin's strongest backers. And he suggested that the just-concluded deal with the United States that led to the prisoner exchange and assets release could "help build trust" between the longtime foes.

Raisi acknowledged that Iran and Russia have long had strong ties, including defense cooperation. But he denied sending weapons to Moscow since the war began. "If they have a document that Iran

gave weapons or drones to the Russians after the war," he said, then they should produce it. Iranian officials have made a series of contradictory comments about the drones. U.S. and European officials say the sheer number of Iranian drones being used in the war in Ukraine shows that the flow of such weapons has not only continued but intensified after hostilities began. Despite his remarks about trust, Raisi's tone toward the United States wasn't all conciliatory; he had harsh words at other moments. Raisi said his country "sought good relations with all neighboring countries" in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with other lawmakers walks in a procession to enter the new Parliament building, in New Delhi, India.

## Azerbaijan halts Karabakh offensive after ceasefire deal with Armenian separatists

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAKU: Azerbaijan said on Wednesday it had halted military action in its breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh after Armenian separatist forces there agreed to a ceasefire whose terms signalled the area would return to Baku's control.

Under the agreement, confirmed by both sides and effective from 1pm (0900 GMT) on Wednesday, separatist forces will disband and disarm and talks on the future of the region and the ethnic Armenians who live there will start

on Thursday.

Karabakh, a mountainous area in the volatile wider South Caucasus region, is internationally recognised as Azerbaijani territory, but part of it has been run by separatist Armenian authorities who call the area their ancestral homeland.

Fearful of what the future might hold, thousands of Armenians massed at the airport in Stepanakert, the capital of Karabakh which is known as Khankendi by Azerbaijan. Others took shelter with Russian peacekeepers.

Azerbaijan, which sent troops backed by artillery strikes into Karabakh on Tuesday to bring the breakaway region to heel, says it plans to integrate the area's 120,000 ethnic Armenians and that their rights will be protected under the constitution.

But some Armenians — given the region has been at the centre of two wars since the 1991 Soviet fall — are sceptical and neighbouring Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of trying to ethnically cleanse the territory, something Baku denies.

## India moves toward reserving 33% of the seats in Parliament and state legislatures for women

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India's Parliament on Wednesday took a major step toward reserving 33% of the seats in its powerful lower house and in state legislatures for women to ensure more equal representation, an issue that had languished for nearly three decades because of a lack of consensus among political parties.

Indian President Droupadi Murmu called the measure the most "transformative revolution in our times" for gender justice. The Lok Sabha, Parliament's lower house, approved legislation introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

government that is expected to boost its image ahead of national elections before next May. An overwhelming 454 members across the political spectrum supported it and only two voted against it. However, the measure will not apply to next year's national elections, Home Minister Amit Shah said.

The legislation now requires approval from Parliament's upper house and half of the country's 28 state legislatures, which is considered likely. Shah said it will be implemented in the 2029 national elections following a new census and an adjustment of voting districts after next year's elections.



Russian peacekeepers evacuate civilians in the town of Askeran following the launch of a military operation by Azerbaijani forces in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, a region inhabited by ethnic Armenians, in this still image from video published.

## As UN Security Council takes up Ukraine, a potentially dramatic meeting may be at hand

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: All eyes will be on Ukraine's president and Russia's top diplomat at a U.N. Security Council meeting Wednesday: Will they clash? Will they speak? Will they avoid each other entirely? The meeting's topic is deeply relevant to those questions: It's about upholding the U.N. Charter in Ukraine. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres minced no words this week in reiterating that Russia's February 2022 invasion of its smaller

neighbor violated the charter's underpinning—that the 193 U.N. member nations respect each others' sovereignty and territorial integrity. The U.N. chief will brief the 15-member council and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, making his first in-person appearance before the U.N.'s most powerful body, is on tap to follow him. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is No. 11 on the list, and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is scheduled to follow him.

## King Charles greeted in France with pomp, diplomacy on state visit

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: King Charles arrived in France on Wednesday for a three-day state visit, during which he and President Emmanuel Macron will hope to build on symbolism and personal bonds to turn the page on years of rocky relations between the two nations.

The king and his wife, Queen Camilla, were greeted by French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne in a windy Paris, before heading to a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe, where they paid tribute to French and British soldiers who died in two world wars. They then drove down the Champs-Elysees avenue in a French DS car, waving at the thin crowds that had gathered along the tree-lined boulevard. "Shame he didn't drive down in a carriage," Marie-Noelle Ahanso, a 62-year old employee, told Reuters.

## Washington, Riyadh exploring mutual defence pact: New York Times

**Monitoring Desk**  
JEDDAH: American and Saudi officials are discussing the terms of a mutual defence treaty that would resemble military pacts that the US has with allies such as Japan and South Korea — in a bid to get Saudi Arabia to normalise relations with Israel, the New York Times reported.

Under the agreement, both sides would pledge to provide military support if the other country is attacked, either in the region or on Saudi

territory. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is also asking the Biden administration to help his country develop a civilian nuclear programme, which some US officials fear could be cover for a nuclear weapons program to counter Iran, according to an NYT report.

Any treaty with Saudi Arabia that is similar to the American pacts with other allies is sure to draw strong objections in Congress, since some lawmakers, including top Democrats.

## Communications cut to Libya's ruined city

**Monitoring Desk**  
DERNA: Telephone and internet links were severed on Tuesday to Libya's flood-hit city of Derna, a day after hundreds protested there against local authorities they blamed for the thousands of deaths.

A tsunami-sized flash flood broke through two aging river dams upstream from the city on the night of September 10 and razed entire neighbourhoods, sweeping untold thousands into the Mediterranean Sea. Protesters massed on Monday at the city's grand mosque.



Gillian Tett of the Financial Times, moderator, Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley, World Bank Group President Ajay Banga and Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay, participate in the United Nations Sustainable Development Forum.

## Indonesia parliament committee approves higher 2024 budget of \$216bn

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia's parliament committee on Tuesday approved the government's higher 2024 budget expenditure of \$216 billion to support economic growth, but some analysts say a bigger spending buffer might be needed to cope with adverse weather events.

President Joko Widodo's budget for 2024, his final year in office, targets expenditure at 3,325.1 trillion rupiah (\$216.27 billion), up 6.45% from 2023's outlook to account

for higher energy subsidies amid rising global oil prices.

The fiscal deficit for next year was seen at 2.29% of gross domestic product versus an outlook of 2.3% of GDP for this year, with 2024 economic growth seen a touch higher at 5.2%.

The fiscal budget proposal was approved by the budget committee chaired by Said Abdullah.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati highlighted the risk of rising global crude oil prices to the budget next year.

## President directs Post Office to return wrongly deducted Rs 1.35 m to pensioner

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the Pakistan Post Office Department to pay Rs 1.35 million to a retired employee as the amount was wrongly deducted from his pensionary benefits by the Postmaster General Punjab, Lahore (the Agency) on account of a mistake in employee's date of birth.

The president gave these remarks while accepting a representation filed by Muhammad Yousof (the complainant) against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib declaring that the Agency had rightly deducted the amount from his pensionary benefits.

President Alvi said that the employee continued to serve four more years in his department after his retirement on the orders of the competent authority and had a bonafide belief of receiving the salary for

the period.

He added that depriving the employee of pensionary benefits and deducting the salary paid in performance of his duties was unlawful and maladministration had been established.

The complainant had alleged that he served for 38 years with the Agency and he retired in 2016 but his department had wrongly recorded his date of birth due to which his retirement year was changed to 2012.

Subsequently, he overworked for additional four years but a huge amount of Rs 1.35 million was unjustifiably deducted in lieu of the salary paid to him for four years from his pensionary benefits.

Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib which passed the orders in the Agency's favour. Afterwards, the

complainant raised the matter with the president by filing a representation against Wafaqi Mohtasib's decision.

President Alvi accepted the representation of the complainant and pointed out that the Agency had notified the date of retirement on superannuation of the complainant effective from 05.05.2016 vide its letter dated 04.06.2015 and the complainant performed his duties on the basis of said order of the Agency.

He stated that although the issue of the correct date of retirement of the employee had been settled by the Federal Service Tribunal and the Supreme Court of Pakistan, however, the issue of depriving a worker of his salary for his services rendered still remained unresolved.

He observed that the complainant was paid for

the performance of duty as ordered and he had a bonafide belief of receiving salary for the said period.

"In other words, he singularly was not at fault as he acted upon the order of the competent authority", he held.

The president also referred to a judgment of the Supreme Court in Engineer-in-Chief Branch through Ministry of Defence etc. vs Jalal ud Din (PLD 1992 SC 207) case, in which the respondent Jalal-ud-Din was unlawfully promoted to a higher post and was paid salaries till such time the promotion was found illegal and the promotion order was cancelled.

The department had started recovery proceedings for the salaries paid during the period he held the higher position.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest of the event Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed cuts the cake along with Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari and others during the celebrations of the Constitution Day and National Day of Nepal at local hotel in Federal Capital.

## High-level dialogue seeks public-private partnership to meet climate action agenda

ISLAMABAD (Online): The upcoming COP-28 is a crucial moment in the global fight against climate change and we must use this opportunity to create an enabling environment to achieve the goals set in the Paris Agreement in 2015.

This was stated by H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, the Ambassador of United Arab Emirates, while speaking at a High-Level Policy Dialogue on "COP-28 and Beyond: Strengthening Climate Action through Public-Private Partnerships". The dialogue was jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition, and the Embassy of United Arab Emirates in Islamabad, here. The UAE ambassador said that the upcoming COP-28 is an excellent opportunity to reset our course, accelerate global commitment and efforts to refocus global stock take for finding solutions to the common climate challenges. "We firmly believe that this glo-

bal challenge requires collaborative efforts of the governments and private sector at global level.

Jacob Linulf, the ambassador of Denmark, while reiterating his country's support for loss and damage fund for Pakistan, said that Pakistan needs to develop a conducive ecosystem for attracting international climate finance.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, SDPI Executive Director, said that climate change is a multi-pronged issue, which is manifesting in different forms and affecting countries without any discrimination. "We need a multipronged strategy to address the complex challenges by joining our heads and hearts to find viable solutions making private sector as part of the solutions for a meaningful climate action. He elaborated that this dialogue has been convened to learn how renewable energy transformation and technology can be adopted to replace carbon-intensive solutions with renewables.

## Pak, Saudi Arabia agree to deepen cooperation in all fields

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday emphasised the vital importance of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations agreed to further deepen mutual cooperation in all fields, especially economy, trade, energy and investment.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The two foreign ministers exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as the regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Jilani thanked the Saudi

leadership for their generous and unwavering support to Pakistan which was particularly instrumental in securing the deal with the International Monetary Fund.

He apprised the Saudi foreign minister of the formation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to facilitate and fast-track potential investments from GCC Member States, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He emphasized that mutually rewarding Pak-Saudi cooperation in key areas including IT, Energy, Infrastructure and labour must be fast-tracked and augmented.

The foreign minister also thanked the Saudi counterpart for hosting more than two million strong Pakistani diaspora

which not only contributed towards the development of both countries but also formed a vital bridge between the two brotherly nations.

Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud highlighted the brotherly relations between the two nations and the valuable contributions made by the Pakistani community in the development of the Kingdom.

The foreign minister reiterated that Pakistan eagerly looked forward to the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are bound by fraternal ties marked by mutual trust and understanding, close cooperation, and an abiding tradition of supporting each other.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

## Minister says: Diabetes medicines supply to be ensured

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan here on Wednesday directed to ensure progress in the supply of diabetes and epilepsy drugs to the masses.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, following the instructions of the Minister for Health, the process of registration of insulin and heparin medicine has started on an emergency basis.

He said that "Dr. Nadeem Jan is ensuring fast-track processing of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan's (DRAP) registration cases on a prior-

ity basis".

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DRAP has been instructed to ensure registration on the fast track and report to the minister on a weekly basis.

Registration of drugs would help supply drugs in the market, especially for diabetes and epilepsy patients, Dr. Nadeem said.

He said that "the most effective measures are being taken to increase the capacity of the pharma industry".

He said that "the work is being done under a comprehensive strategy to promote the pharma industry in Pakistan".

## 11 outlaws held, drugs, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad capital police on Wednesday arrested 11 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to PM on overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik chairing the 8th Manpower Export Coordination Committee.

## Senate Body for revival of students union after 50 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Education Committee on Wednesday deliberated at length on the revival of Students Union after half a century and maintained that it's revival should be improvised according to new trends and mindset of the young generation.

The Senate Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training met on Wednesday under the Chairmanship of Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui here at the Parliament House.

The committee while taking up the Bill titled The Islamabad Capital Territory Student Union Bill 2023 introduced by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi deliberated that since long serious issues related to discrimination and injustice to students obstructing their social and academic life remained unattended leading to dire consequences such as abductions and killings.

Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi said that these issues can only be resolved through collaboration of the management and the elected bodies and a bridge between the administration and students. The committee was of the view that in order to address these issues prevailing in the student community and ensure democratic and inclusive atmosphere for healthy debate and culture intellect a Student Union should be established in the Islamabad Capital Territory which will play its role as nurseries for training future leadership and will provide forums to students for constructive activities, civic life, understanding or Rights, obligations and their enforcement.

## Punjab Governor says: Unfortunate that youth pushed towards despair

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman attended the opening ceremony of the 13th National Youth Peace Festival 2023 under the title "Aspirations of the Youth for a Democratic, Peaceful and Harmonious Pakistan" at a local hotel in Lahore today. As many as 300 young leaders across Pakistan were present on this occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that the young generation is our future and most valuable asset. He said that it is unfortunate that the young generation has been pushed towards despair, while there are many positive things in society, adding that we have to look at the positive things in society. He said that he has confidence in the abilities of the young generation, and they will take Pakistan to new heights of success and prosperity.

Governor Punjab said that in addition to educating the youth, there is a need to inculcate positive character traits in the youth. He said that in modern era, technology and collaboration are vital to success. He further emphasized the importance of tolerance and understanding other's point of view and said that it is very important for peaceful co-existence in a pluralistic society. US Consul General Kirsten K. Hawkins while speaking on the occasion said that youth can play a robust role for peace. Executive Director of Chanan Development Association Muhammad Shahzad Khan, Shahnaz Fateh, Shireen Sikandar and Humira Aslam and others also addressed the ceremony.

## PTA, FIA conduct raids on franchises involved in issuing illegal SIMs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office in Lahore in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle Wednesday conducted raids against two franchisees of a mobile phone company involved in illegal issuance of SIM in Lala Musa.

During the raid, a laptop, a mobile phone, 48 BVs devices, 48 SIMs, and silicon thumbs were seized

as evidence, and two persons were also apprehended on the premises by the FIA team, said a news release issued by the PTA here.

FIA is currently investigating the matter further. PTA had filed complaints with FIA earlier based on information regarding the illegal issuance of SIMs by the sale channels. A similar raid was conducted in Kasur by the same team a few days back.

## Drive for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Following the special orders of

The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by main-



Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants in full swing, a public relations officer said.

He said that, during this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens.

In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has registered a data of 213 house servants of 554 houses from Sumbal Police Station jurisdiction.

taining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity. He said citizens are also requested that they can ask for the identity of a person if someone dressed in civil clothes comes to their house in order to collect the data. Unregistered employees and tenants could be involved in serious incidents like theft and robbery by impersonating as a common citizen and Islamabad Capital Police is trying to provide a safe environment to the citizens of the federal capital by using all its resources.



LAHORE: Sikh Community of Pakistan holds protest outside Press Club against the alleged death of Sikh person in Canada.

## Show-cause notices issued to police officials over poor performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Traffic Officer has issued show-cause notices to police officials over poor performance and inadequate arrangements at parking places, negligence, and carelessness in official duties. According to police spokesperson, Chief Traffic Officer Syed Mustafa Tanveer has directed to take legal action against illegal parking, double parking, and encroachment on pedestrian walkways outside commercial centers and shopping plazas including the Margalla Road, Super Market F-6, Jinnah Super Market F-7, F-8 Markaz, F-10, G-8 Markaz and other commercial areas. Furthermore, he has instructed to further improve the smooth flow of traffic, control accidents and provide the maximum possible travel facilities to citizens and take strict legal action against drivers who violate traffic laws.

He emphasized that law enforcement should be swift against violators of traffic laws, including those riding motorcycles without helmets, driving recklessly, not wearing seat belts, using mobile phones, disregarding traffic signals, and other traffic violations.

## Saudi General visits NHQ, lauds conduct of Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili on Wednesday called-on Chief of Staff, Pakistan Navy, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf, and lauded bilateral Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV being conducted at Al Jubail.

The Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces visited Naval Headquarters.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional security were discussed. The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Both dignitaries appreciated the successful conduct of PN-RSNF Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV that was recently held at Al Jubail and reaffirmed the resolve to further enhance bilateral defence ties.

The visit of Chief of the General Staff Saudi Arabian Armed Forces will further enhance bilateral defence collaboration between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili called-on Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

## Sikh community protests against India over leader's killing in Canada

LAHORE (INP): The Sikh community staged a protest in Lahore on Wednesday against the Indian government in response to the killing of a prominent Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a vocal advocate of the Khalistan movement, in Canada.

The Sikh community emphasised that Indian intelligence agencies were involved in targeting Sikhs globally, calling on the international community to take note of India's acts of terrorism.

Speaking to the media, former member of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, asserted that India was involved in the assassination of the Khalistan leader.

"Indian government is fearful of the Khalistan referendum and is resorting to targeting Sikhs, but Sikhs have a fundamental right to peaceful and democratic struggle for Khalistan," he added.

He said that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has provided evidence of India's involvement in the killing of Sikh leader, adding that India has long been accused of spreading terrorism.

The Sikh community also raised slogans against the Indian government and demanded that the international community must take notice of the atrocities and ethnic cleansing perpetrated against Sikhs by the Modi government.