

# Independent

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## General elections to be held in last week of January 2024: ECP

Says initial list for the delimitation of constituencies will be published on September 27; seeks DCs help in election preparations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to conduct the general elections in the last week of January 2024, following the completion of delimitation processes. In a statement, an ECP spokesperson mentioned that the commission will publish the definitive list of constituencies on November 30. Subsequently, the general election schedule, spanning 54 days, will be announced in preparation for the elections. In a Thursday meeting, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) reviewed the progress made by the constituency delimitation committees and decided to publish the preliminary list of constituencies on September 27. INP adds The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday announced that general elections would be held in the last week of January 2024. The timeframe that was announced by the ECP lacks a specific date for the elections. It also exceeds the Nov 6

cut-off date suggested by President Arif Alvi by more than two months. In a statement, the election commission said that it reviewed work on delimiting constituencies and decided that the initial list for the delimitation of constituencies would be published on September 27. After hearing objections and suggestions regarding the exercise, the final list would be issued on November 30, the commission said. It said that polls would be held in the last week of January following the completion of a 54-day election campaign programme. The announcement comes a day after the ECP said it had scheduled a meeting with political parties next month to discuss the code of conduct for general elections. According to the ECP, a draft code of conduct has been shared with political parties to get their feedback before finalising the rules of the game.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a meeting with Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Muhammad Ali Durrani, Former Senator and Federal Minister during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

### PM apprises IMF chief of gov's measures to revive, stabilise economy

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar held a meeting with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and apprised her of various measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to stabilize and revive the country's economy. The meeting was held on Wednesday on the sidelines of 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The prime minister expressed gratitude for the IMF's approval of a US\$ 3 billion Stand-By Agreement (SBA) to support Pakistan's economy. He affirmed that the initiatives taken by the government aimed to create a stable and conducive environment for sustainable economic growth and investment.

According to reports, the NAB will likely to reopen the Ramzan sugar mill case against the former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and the plot allegation case against the PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif. Sources said that NAB will also reopen the cases against other political bigwigs and bureaucracy including Rana Mashhood, and former VC Punjab University Mujahid Kamran.

## Pakistan ready to work with US, all partners for prosperous future, says Caretaker PM

Says peace, stability-a key prerequisite for economic prosperity of Pakistan, region

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that Pakistan desired to have peaceful relations with all countries in the region and beyond as peace and stability in its neighbourhood was an essential prerequisite for economic prosperity and social sector development. "We do not wish to join any camp politics as Pakistan has successfully maintained good relations with both the US and China in the past, and would continue to do so. Rather than seeing these relationships as a zero-sum game, we believe that both relationships can coexist and flourish simultaneously," he said while speaking at a session titled "Pak-US Partnership: A Sheet Anchor for Peace, Security & Prosperity", organized by the think-tank "Council on Foreign Relations". He said the world's security challenges had grown increasingly complex. "We are witnessing shared threats and challenges that transcend borders such as military conflicts, terrorism, climate change, food insecurity, rising number of refugees, growing economic divide between the rich and the poor, and the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. These grave issues continue to affect billions of lives worldwide and undermine global peace and security." The shared challenges, he added, provided a new and urgent impetus for Pakistan and the United States

to strengthen their partnership in pursuit of mutually agreed and mutually beneficial solutions. The prime minister said both the countries had prospered whenever they had worked together. "We share common values and are committed to the same national and international goals," he said, adding the bilateral agenda encompassed security cooperation, trade and investment, IT, energy, climate change, agriculture as well as overall connectivity and enhanced people-to-people linkages through greater education and cultural exchanges. "Our joint efforts such as the Green Alliance Framework will help counter climate change, build resilient infrastructure, improve public health, and combat food insecurity." On economic collaboration, PM Kakar said the revival of the Pakistan-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) had recently been witnessed after a gap of eight years. The forum had taken momentous decisions for now and future which should pave the way for enhanced investment in Pakistan. "The United States is our largest export destination. Over the past year, Pakistan's total exports to the US reached an impressive US\$ 8.4 billion. We need to work on US investment in Pakistan," he added.

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### Elimination of extremism, prejudices cornerstone of Pakistan ideology: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that the elimination of extremism and all types of prejudices was not only part of Islamic religious norms and Islamic history but it was also a cornerstone of Pakistan's ideology. In his speech at the International Peace Festival here, he said that National Counter Terrorism Authority had taken important steps to eliminate extremism and terrorism from the society.



The minister said that extremism was one of the elements that destroy peace and violence which breeds terrorism. He opined that protection of the rights of minorities was one of the "roots of the state" as Pakistan was created against the concept of a majoritarian Hindu state in the Subcontinent. He said that the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah elaborated on the rights of minorities in his speech of August 11, 1947. He said that Islam also taught kindness to humanity, irrespective of their caste and creed.

### NAB likely to reopen cases against Nawaz, Shehbaz after SC verdict

LAHORE (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) likely to reopen cases against PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif after Supreme Court (SC) verdict, ARY News reported citing sources. According to reports, the NAB will likely to reopen the Ramzan sugar mill case against the former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and the plot allegation case against the PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif. Sources said that NAB will also reopen the cases against other political bigwigs and bureaucracy including Rana Mashhood, and former VC Punjab University Mujahid Kamran.

### SC imposes fine on lawyer for wasting time

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Thursday imposed a fine worth Rs 5,000 against a lawyer for wasting court's time and ordered him to submit a receipt after depositing the amount in any welfare organization of his choice. A three-member bench headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case pertaining to a property. During the course of proceeding, the CJP remarked that the petitioner's counsel tried to mislead the court. Addressing the counsel, the CJP said that the court did not trust you any more after this act.

### 8 terrorists killed during IBOs in Bannu, North Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Eight terrorists were killed and five others, including their facilitators, apprehended in intelligence based operations in Bannu and North Waziristan districts today. During conduct of first operation in Jani Khel area of Bannu District, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists. Resultantly, six terrorists were sent to hell while five were apprehended. In another operation in Datta Khel area of North Waziristan District, two terrorists were sent to hell in a fierce encounter between security forces and terrorists.

### Saudi Chief of General Staff lauds exceptional progress of PAF thru indigenization

ISLAMABAD (APP): smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili on Thursday called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaeher Ahmed Baber Sidhu here at Air Headquarters. Leading a high level delegation, the Saudi Chief of General Staff expressed his admiration for the exceptional progress made by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), particularly in the area of indigenization and lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel during the meeting whereas the delegation also underscored discussion on several key areas of mutual interest, defence co-operation and geo-strategic situation, a PAF news release said. On his arrival, a



ISLAMABAD: Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili meeting with Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaeher Ahmed Baber Sidhu at Air Headquarters.

### President urges world to take notice of Indian involvement in Sikh leader's murder

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has strongly condemned the involvement of India in the murder of Canadian Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar and urged the world to take serious note of the state-sponsored killing on the Canadian soil. The President in a statement said that it had been the policy of India to persecute and eliminate the leadership of minority groups in India and outside world. He said the brutal murder of the Sikh leader exposed the real face of India that has been intolerant towards the minority groups. The President said that India had unleashed a reign of terror against the Muslims in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and other minority communities for decades. He regretted that the silence and the inaction of the world over the atrocities being committed by India in the IIOJK and the persecution of minorities and demoralization of their places of worship emboldened India to carry out such operations on foreign soil. The President said it is an open secret that India is the major source of trouble and de-stabilization in the region using the soil of neighboring countries against Pakistan, false flag operations.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with Antonio Guterres, Secretary General United Nations on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York.

### Aneeq highlights need to strengthen Muslim unity, perception worldwide

ISLAMABAD (APP): through the MWL platform, said a statement issued here. Minister Aneeq emphasized the importance of adapting to modern knowledge and the necessity of both short-term and long-term planning to alleviate poverty within the Muslim Ummah. He acknowledged that contemporary challenges such as Islamophobia, climate change, and increasing secularism required concerted efforts and dialogue with non-Muslim communities. During the meeting, both the leaders explored solutions to issues facing the Muslim community

### PM updates Guterres on India's human rights violations in IIOJK

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar met the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and briefed him on India's ongoing human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). In a meeting held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Prime Minister highlighted India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, where it had abolished the status of Kashmir. Kakar called for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Govt announces public holiday for Eid Milad

### Govt announces public holiday for Eid Milad

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government Thursday announced a public holiday on the eve of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi that will fall on Friday, September 29, 2023. The government and semi-government institutions will remain closed on September 29. The schools and other educational institutes will also remain closed on the eve of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi, an auspicious occasion that marks the birth of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW).

### Zardari, Shujaat exchange views on country's political situation

LAHORE (INP): Former president Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) supremo Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain on Thursday exchanged views on the country's political situation. Mr Zardari called on Mr Hussain at the latter's residence in Lahore. On the occasion, Mr Zardari also inquired after Mr Hussain.



LIANYUNGANG: Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti shaking hands with Wang Xiao Hong, Chinese State Councilor and Minister for Public Security in Lianyungang.

### Pakistan, China express strong resolve to enhance mutual cooperation for dev., security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China have reiterated their strong resolve to further enhance the existing excellent cooperation between the two countries. This was expressed in a bilateral meeting between caretaker interior minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and his Chinese counterpart Wang Xiao Hong, Member of the Secretariat of CPC Central Committee, State Councilor and Minister for Public Security in Lianyungang City on the occasion of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum 2023 here Thursday. Federal Interior Minister, while responding to welcome remarks by the host minister, thanked the Chinese government for their warm welcome and hospitality to Pakistan's delegation. Bugti further said that China was a time tested and all weather strategic friend and expressed profound appreciation on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan for the unwavering and unconditional support of the government and the people of China for Pakistan during all challenges. Sarfraz Bugti briefed the host minister about various steps undertaken by Pakistan to ensure the fool-proof security of Chinese in Pakistan who are working on various projects for a better future of people of Pakistan. The Chinese Minister appreciated the strong resolve of the government of Pakistan and various measures taken by it to counter the threat of terrorism, drugs, and risks to the security of Chinese nationals and installations.



LAHORE: Peoples Party (PPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, Chief of Muslim League (PML-Q) during meeting held in Lahore.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### What next?

A crack of the whip was all that was needed. The dollar, which had lately been racing to a new high each day, has now reversed course thanks to an army-sanctioned operation against hoarders and black marketers.

Local media reports that confidence in the rupee has strengthened and that now there are more sellers than buyers in the market.

Meanwhile, social media has been flush with accounts of unscrupulous elements being arrested with breathtaking stashes of foreign currencies, which have subsequently been confiscated by the state.

It remains difficult to sift truth from fiction, however: after all, the state has not shared how this crackdown was planned and executed, who was targeted, and precisely what role the suspects arrested so far played in manipulating the exchange rate.

While the sharp improvement in exchange rates cannot be denied, the citizenry also deserves to know how and why the market was rigged in the first place.

One wonders that if administrative measures were all that were needed to arrest the rupee's sorry slide, why were they not taken sooner? Why did the finance minister in the PDM government not consider this option as he struggled and failed for months to keep the exchange rate in check?

After all, the cost to the country of rounding up a few dozen big fish involved in the currency market racket would have been far lower compared to the lasting cost of creating distortions in the economy by placing artificial and unsustainable controls on the exchange rate.

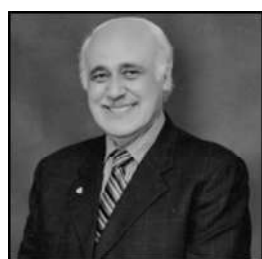
The same question can also be extended to ask why the civil administration was never utilised during the PDM era to control market manipulation in other segments of the economy either. Why were the country's regulatory authorities not mobilised to safeguard the interests of common citizens pleading for support under record inflation?

It seems that when economic historians sit down to reflect on the PDM era, they will find themselves hard-pressed to say anything charitable about the competence of the people at the helm during one of the country's worst crisis periods.

That is not to say that the current lot offers much hope. The country is presently managed by a caretaker set-up, but its ministers' promises seem to betray a wider mandate. Yet they seem to be in very little hurry to take the 'difficult decisions' that are supposed to justify them oversteering their welcome.

Successful though it may be, a crackdown against currency dealers can only create limited breathing space. The situation demands that an empowered government, elected by the people, take over post-haste so that responsible decisions can be taken to protect the public's interests.

Alas, this more permanent solution seems to be unacceptable to the wise souls managing Pakistan's affairs these days.



F.S. Aijazuddin

It was a first in Pakistan. Begum Sarina Isa stood next to her husband Qazi Faez Isa while he was being sworn in as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan on Sept 17 by President Arif Alvi. It was a small step for her gender. It was a giant leap backwards for President Alvi.

In 2019, President Alvi, on the orders of his PTI leader prime minister Imran Khan, had filed a presidential reference against Justice Isa, citing misconduct and non-disclosure of assets abroad held by his wife.

At first glance, the image of a couple standing side by side might have appeared a reenactment of the practice in the American White House, where wives stand next to their husbands while they are being sworn in as president. Begum Isa's presence next to her husband had another deeper significance. They stood avenged, their joint snub to judicial persecution.

In June 2020, seven judges of a 10-judge bench of Justice Isa's peers had quashed that presidential reference against him. However, in an unbecoming move, the bench ordered the Federal Board of Rev-e-nue "to conduct an inquiry into the judge's family members' foreign assets and submit a report to the Supreme Judicial Council".

Appearing in person before the same lordships who are now CJP's Isa's colleagues, she told them that the presidential reference had caused her to be "killed a thousand times". In 2022, a contrite Imran Khan admitted that the filing of a presidential reference was a 'mistake'. (Ironically, the accused is now CJP, and his accuser a convict in Attock jail.)

On March 30, 2023, the PDM Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered the withdrawal of the curative review reference against Justice Isa. He said the Isa family had been "harassed and defamed under the guise of a presidential reference".

## Sworn in, not at

The proceedings were televised live — another first. Justice was being seen to be done. It is a novel form of Pakistani soap opera. But such exposure carries consequences. Schisms in the bench soon became apparent. The chief justice had all too often to remind his colleagues that they were paid by the public to adjudicate swiftly and fairly. Each day spent on word-fencing would add 200 new cases to the backlog.

Parliamentary proceedings have been televised for years. They have, however, gradually degenerated from hyperactivity to grandstanding into farce, and now tedium.

CJP Isa will also have to contend with a political patellar reflex, the knee-jerk reaction of every political party to seek redress directly from the Supreme Court, instead of addressing each other.

He should not expect anything from the present interim government — a forlorn hope of wannabes — "without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity" (Ignatius Donn-elly).

It appears determined to have its constitutional tenure of 90 days extended, if necessary by judicial dispensation.

How soon after his return will the ECP announce the date of the next general elections? Does it really matter, when the result is already in the ballot box? Incidentally, Agatha Christie conceived her mystery novels backwards. She knew their denouement before she started writing. — Courtesy Dawn

The chief justice has appointed a woman Jazzeela Aslam — another first — as registrar, the key portal for admission of cases for hearing before the Supreme Court.

His first day as chief justice proved another first. He arrived without an armed escort. (His predecessors were always accompanied by a phalanx of guards, even when one of them inspected the former Lahore Lunatic Asylum.)

He then convened a full 15-member bench to hear a set of petitions challenging the contentious Supreme Court



Parvez Rahim

The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) was constituted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to review compliance with two of its conventions ratified by Pakistan in the initial years. These are the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No 87) and Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No 98).

The CEACR, hereafter referred to as the committee, has carried out a detailed analysis of all provisions of the federal Industrial Relations Act, 2012 (IRA) besides the review of four Acts, promulgated by the respective provinces. The committee endorses 29 changes to the Act so it conforms with the ILO's constitution. Provisions of the federal and the provincial laws are mostly based on the Industrial Relations Ordinance, 1969 generally accepted in Pakistan by employers' and workers' federations.

If the tripartite constituents in Pakistan agree to some of the committee's recommendations, basic amendments will have to be brought into existing provisions of the IRAs. Five recommendations are as follows:

a) The committee recommends deleting section 8 (2) (b) of the Act of 2012: "A trade union ... shall not be entitled to registration ... where there are two or more registered trade unions in the establishment ... unless it has as its members not less

## ILO's advice

than one-fifth of the total number of workmen employed in such establishment..."

When the first PPP government nationalised most industries in 1971, there were hardly one or two unions in each establishment. Some even imposed curbs on union activities, and they existed only in name. However, the situation took a drastic turn after nationalisation. There was a mushroom growth of unions in the state enterprise in Lahore, where I worked. In a few months, it had 17 registered unions, each with some eight to 10 office-bearers who would stop work on the pretext of raising issues with the management. Consequently, out of a workforce of around 2,500 workers, over 150 became non-productive. If the management took disciplinary steps, they responded with accusations of unfair labour practices. A similar situation prevailed in other state enterprises where productivity began to decline rapidly, becoming the government's reason to restrict unnecessary proliferation of unions by law. Now the ILO committee states "it is important for workers to be able to change trade unions or to establish a new union for reasons of independence, effectiveness, or ideological choice".

b) The committee has recommended that the distinction between the Collective Bargaining Union (and minority unions) should be limited. The term 'minority unions' does not refer to unions with members from ethnic or religious minorities, but unions other than the CBA. Besides, rights given to CBA under the law, the committee wants to grant the right to call a strike to other unions in an establishment. Presently, the CBA can go on strike only when there is a failure in the settlement of an industrial dispute. If this right is given to other unions, it will imply that the sword of strike will hang over an employer's head at all times, despite a peace settlement with CBA.

c) The committee believes that the current rule — any strike can be prohibited by the government after 30 days — is not aligned with freedom of association. The decision to suspend or prohibit industrial action should not lie with the government but with an independent body. If the latter is nominated by the government, it's advisable for the law to remain as it is for expeditious decision-making.

d) The committee recommends that federal and provincial legislation be amended to protect workers from penal sanctions. Present acts provide punishments of fine, imprisonment and dismissal for those supporting illegal strike or a go-slow, and for violations of the NIRC. I believe peaceful protests should not face punishment.

e) The committee has recommended collective bargaining rights to existing trade unions with less than one-third of the total number of employees, jointly or separately, at least on behalf of members. As the representative union, CBA should not have less than one-third of the total workforce in the establishment. The ILO has given Pakistan until February 2026 to report on the recommendations of their committee. The government has indicated to the ILO that these will be reviewed by the tripartite constituents, comprising government officials, employers and workers. As all critical provisions of the IRA, 2012, are to be reviewed on the basis of the committee's recommendations, this laborious task must be undertaken urgently to meet the ILO's deadline. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### PM encourages world's leading mining firm to invest in Pakistan

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq on Thursday highlighted the SIFC as a one-window platform to facilitate the investors, encouraged Rio Tinto Group — a global leader in mining and minerals — to invest in Pakistan. The prime minister, in a meeting with CEO of Rio Tinto Group Jakob Stausholm highlighted the country's vast untapped mineral reserves, valued at over \$6 trillion, which included substantial deposits of gold, copper, and rare earth metals. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The prime minister outlined Pakistan's robust economic vision, emphasizing the government's commitment to sustainable growth through efficiency enhancement, reduced business costs, regulatory improvements, increased productivity, and higher investments.

He underscored the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which acted as a single-window platform, simplifying procedures and fostering an investor-friendly environment.

He emphasized the significance of the mining sector as a priority for FDI, leveraging Pakistan's abundant natural resources, including

copper, gold, lead, zinc, and rare earth minerals. He also underscored that the Government of Pakistan's objective was to keep the people of Pakistan's interest foremost while having win-win cooperation with companies like Rio Tinto.

The prime minister extended an invitation to Rio Tinto Group's CEO and their team to visit Pakistan and explore investment opportunities further. CEO of Rio Tinto Group thanked the prime minister for the invitation and assured that his team would liaise with the relevant authorities to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's mineral and mining sector.



Regional Director, International Finance Corporation (IFC) for the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Khawaja Aftab Ahmed called on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saad.

### Commerce minister engages leading retailers to boost exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Thursday engaged in productive dialogue with leading retailers to strengthen Pakistan's retail sector to boost exports.

The minister chaired a meeting with prominent retailers from across Pakistan to discuss strategies aimed at enhancing the retail market conditions and improving the nation's exports, said a press release issued here.

The collaborative effort between the government and retailers reflects a shared commitment to achieve economic growth and prosperity. During the meeting, the retailers expressed their strong desire to contribute to Pakistan's export industry. They emphasized the role they can play in expanding the nation's reach in global markets. Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz affirmed the government's dedication to curbing smuggling activities and ensuring that trade operates through legitimate channels.

He stated, "We believe in you and we appreciate the vital role you play in the economy. The government is committed to providing the best opportunities for retailers to export their goods and expand their domestic market presence."

**Natural disasters in Morocco & Libya**  
**PTCL Group extends a compassionate hand to Pakistani affected**

**Independent Report**  
Morocco and Libya. The initiative aims to connect families in Pakistan with their loved ones in these crisis-stricken countries to help them find strength and solace during these tough times. As these two countries are home to a considerable Pakistani diaspora that has been affected by these calamities,

**Pak imported food items worth Rs374.98bn in two months**  
ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan imported food items worth Rs378.98 billion in the first two months of the current FY 2023-24, according to the data shared by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). According to the PBS data, Pakistanis imported tea worth Rs31.64 billion in two months as compared to imports of Rs20.23 billion during the same period, last year.

### Govt to set up 5,000 joint E-working centers for freelancers: Dr. Umar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif has said that steps are being taken to attract global investors in the proposed venture capital for startups.

The minister said he will also visit Saudi Arabia soon while the government is going to set up 5,000 joint e-working centers for freelancers.

Dr. Umar Saif said that interest-free loans to establish the joint E-Working Centers and to facilitate freelancers, resulting in millions of



CEO of Rio Tinto Group Jakob Stausholm calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kayar in New York.

### OGRA strongly rejects misinformation campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Thursday strongly denied the false propaganda circulating on social and national media, evidently aimed at maligning the organization and diverting attention from its actions against illegal and malicious activities of illegal smuggling of Iranian oil and use of flare gas.

In an official statement, a spokesperson emphasized that OGRA maintained a profound dedication to its core mission, which involved transparently regulating and overseeing Pakistan's oil and gas sector with the highest standards of integrity and diligence.

The OGRA remains unwavering in efforts to ensure safety, compliance and fairness for all stakeholders and the nation. He urged the public and media to seek accurate information and refrain from spreading harmful misinformation that could damage the reputation of an institution dedicated to safeguarding Pakistan's energy consumers and promoting a responsible oil and gas sector.



QUETTA: Brigadier Azhar Munir of DHA Quetta addressing during his visit to Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

### Ambassador Mitsuhiro says: Japan keen to develop trade ties with Pakistan

SIKALKOT (INP): Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada has said that his country is keen to boost trade ties and enhance trade volume with Pakistan. He said this while addressing a meeting of Sialkot exporters held at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahab Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and delegations of various leading firms from Japan and Sialkot business community. The Japanese ambassador stressed the need for making all-out sincere efforts to strengthen mutual trade ties between Pakistan and Japan. He said that Sialkot is famous for its production of soccer balls and others. The ambassador said that both nations had been supportive to each other and last year the two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

### PSX stays bullish, gains 107 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday and gained 107.28 points, showing growth of 0.23 percent, closing at 45,910.47 points against 45,803.19 points the previous trading day.

A total of 117,145,448 shares were traded during the day as compared to 103,494,874 shares, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs 4.110 billion against Rs 3.296 billion on the last trading day.

# India destabilizing region to establish its hegemony: SAPM

FAISALABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights & Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick condemned on Thursday India's destabilizing activities in the region through state-sponsored terrorism, aimed at establishing its own hegemony.

Speaking to the media after participating in a Mehfil-e-Milad at Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) on Thursday, she asserted that India was engaged in disseminating venomous propaganda against Pakistan. This was occurring despite India's own involvement in recent terrorist activities, as

revealed in Canada, where RAW officials were reported to have been involved in the killing of a Khalistan movement activist.

Mushaal went on to highlight India's support for extremist organizations like the RSS, which she claimed was also collaborating with the Indian government and RAW in developing nuclear weapons. She stated that the RSS and RAW had an extensive global network and were allegedly involved in the harassment of Kashmiris and Sikhs not only in Pakistan but also in Australia and Europe.

However, she welcomed Canada's strong response to the killing of a Sikh leader, asserting that

this incident had exposed India's darker side, as well as the malicious intentions of the Modi government. Mushaal claimed that the Indian government was not only supporting terrorists but also promoting terrorism to suppress the movements for Khalistan and Kashmir freedom.

She emphasised that Kashmiris had been struggling for their right to self-determination for the past 75 years, while India continued to use force to deny them their fundamental and constitutional rights. She expressed regret over the silence of the world's human rights advocates on the pressing issue, describing it as deeply unfortunate.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with Dir Bala Public Jirga during meeting at Governor House.

## Punjab Govt upgrades 20 high schools to model status in Bhakkar

BHAKKAR (INP): The Punjab government has upgraded twenty government High Schools in Bhakkar District to model schools and entrusted their special ownership to the deputy commissioner.

According to media reports, the deputy commissioner, Dr. Noor Muhammad Awan, recently paid a special visit to Government Secondary School Kotla Jam and Government Model Secondary School Kahwar Kalan to review the performance of the teachers, education system, cleanliness, discipline, students' uniforms, school washrooms, and computer lab.

Dr. Awan said that all available resources are being utilized to raise the quality of education in the 20 model schools across the district and make them prominent.

He also distributed hundreds of free saplings to school students to promote plantation and urged them to plant these saplings in their homes and take care of them.

## Police foil counterfeit currency smuggling attempt

PESHAWAR (INP): In a successful operation, Police have foiled an attempt to smuggle counterfeit currency, resulting in the arrest of a suspect found in possession of Rs. 296,000 worth of fake Pakistani currency notes.

Acting on secret information provided by SHO Jamrud, Shamsad Khan, the vigilant team at the Karkhano Market check-post intercepted and detained the suspicious individual, identified as Sikandar, son of Saeed, hailing from Abbottabad.

A thorough search of the suspect revealed the discovery of counterfeit currency notes in his possession.

## Punjab Governor says: Goals of economic dev can be achieved only by creating harmony with IT

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: A delegation of entrepreneurs associated with the IT sector met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation informed the Governor Punjab about the problems faced by the IT industry. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the goals of economic development can be achieved only by creating harmony with information technology and innovation. He said that IT education equips the youth with the skills to earn money through on line jobs. Governor Punjab said that he has formed a consortium on IT in universities. He added that

## Fatima murder case: ATC grants 5-day physical remand of accused

KHAIRPUR (INP): An anti-terrorism court on Thursday granted five days physical remand of accused Asad Shah and co-accused, Intiaz Meerasi in the murder case of child maid Fatima Phuriro.

The investigation officer produced accused Asad Shah and his facilitator Intiaz Meerasi before the court of Badar Qazi today. The investigation officer pleaded for 15 days' physical remand of the

accused. However, the ATC judge approved a five-day remand of the accused in the murder case.

The police on Wednesday released four accused including, SHO Ameer Chang, Dr Fatah Memon and Dr Ali Hasan Watan, in the murder case of Fatima Phuriro who died in the Haveli of Ranipur. The investigating officer claimed that the suspects were set free as they were not named in the FIR.

## Two dead, seven injured as pick up over turns on M2

PINDI BHATTIAN (INP): Two passengers were killed while seven others wounded after a pick up they were travelling in turned side down on Motorway 2 near Pindi Bhattian on Thursday, rescuers and police said.

The ill-fated vehicle was heading to Sargodha from Lahore at the time of the incident.

## Irshad commends PDMA performance

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser, the Provincial Minister for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Social Welfare, Special Education, Women Empowerment, and Prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, paid a visit to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) headquarters. During this visit, Director General PDMA, Jannat Gul Afridi mentioned that PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa annual prepares Monsoon Contingency Plans, Heat Wave Plans, and Winter Contingency Plans in collaboration with stakeholders. These plans classify sensitive districts and ensure that relief materials are pre-positioned in these areas.

Furthermore, during the briefing, it was highlighted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faced significant losses due to floods in 2022. However, due to improved strategies and systems, over four lakh people were successfully relocated to safe areas.

## Charsi Tikka owner arrested for 'molesting' foreign tourists

PESHAWAR (INP): The owner of one of the most famous eateries in Pakistan, Charsi Tikka, Nisar Charsi has been arrested by police for molesting foreign tourists.

Several videos of Nisar Charsi, the owner of the famous Peshawar-based eatery 'Charsi Tikka' in Namak Mandi Food Street, went viral on social media in which he was misbehaving with women tourists from foreign countries.



KARACHI: Patients are sitting after operation during the three-day free eye medical camp organized by Pakistan Insaan Dost Party, at Saddar Regal Chowk in Karachi.



KARACHI: Members of Islami Jamiat Tulba are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use and petroleum products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held at Shaheen Complex in Karachi.

# International News

## South Korean leader warns Russia against weapons collaboration with the North

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: South Korea's president sounded a warning to fellow world leaders Wednesday about the recent communication and possible cooperation between North Korea and Russia, saying any action by a permanent U.N. Security Council member to circumvent international norms would be dangerous and "paradoxical."

Speaking before the U.N. General Assembly, Yoon Suk Yeol invoked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's visit last week to Russia, which is one of the five permanent members of the council, the

U.N.'s most powerful body.

Kim met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Russia's far east. The two said they may cooperate on defense issues but gave no specifics, which left South Korea and its allies — including the United States — uneasy.

"It is paradoxical that a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, entrusted as the ultimate guardian of world peace, would wage war by invading another sovereign nation and receive arms and ammunition from a regime that blatantly violates Security Council resolutions," Yoon told fellow leaders on the second day of the U.N. General Assembly's annual gathering of leaders. He had been expected to raise the issue.

Yoon said that if North Korea "acquires the information and technology necessary" to enhance its weapons of mass destruction in exchange for giving conventional weapons to Russia, that would also be unacceptable to the South. "Such a deal between Russia and the DPRK will be a direct provocation threatening the peace and security of not only Ukraine but also the Republic of Korea."



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a press conference on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York, U.S.

## Saudis, Houthis hold talks to end Yemen war

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels put a positive spin on historic but inconclusive talks in Riyadh on Wednesday as diplomatic efforts increased to end Yemen's bitter war.

The five days of talks were "positive", Saudi officials and a senior Houthi said, after the rebel delegation ended the first public visit to the Saudi capital since hostilities broke out between the two sides. Underlining the change in atmosphere, the delegation included Hosain Homood Ala'zi, who in 2017 appeared on a Saudi list of wanted Houthis with a \$5 million reward for information leading to his arrest.

Riyadh mobilised an international military coalition against the Houthis in March 2015, months after the northern fighters with links to Tehran had seized the capital and threatened to overrun the country bordering southern Saudi Arabia.

Hundreds of thousands have died in the fighting or from its impacts, including famine, and millions have been displaced in what the United Nations calls one

## Canada's Trudeau wants India to cooperate in murder probe, won't release evidence

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday called on India to cooperate with an investigation into the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia and said Canada would not release its evidence.

Trudeau said on Monday that Ottawa had credible allegations linking Indian government agents to the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June, prompting an angry reaction from New Delhi. Nijjar, 45, was a Canadian citizen.

"We're not looking to provoke or cause problems. But we are unequivocal around the importance of the rule of law and unequivocal about the importance of protecting Canadians," Trudeau told a news conference in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

"That's why we call upon the government of India to work with us to establish processes to discover and to uncover the truth of the matter."

Trudeau sidestepped several questions about when Canada might release the evidence it had, saying merely that the decision to share the allegations had not been made lightly.



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and his wife Asma are welcomed upon their arrival at Hangzhou airport.

## Syrian President Bashar Assad is in China on his first visit since the beginning of war in Syria

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Syrian President Bashar Assad arrived in China on Thursday on his first visit to the country since the start of Syria's 12-year conflict, one in which Beijing has been one of his main backers.

China's Foreign Ministry said Assad would join other foreign leaders attending the opening ceremony of the Asian Games, an international sports event beginning Saturday in the eastern city of Hangzhou.

China has been expanding its reach in the Middle East after mediating a deal in March between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and it continues to support Assad in the Syrian conflict, which has killed half a million people and left large parts of the nation in ruins.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Assad's visit would "further deepen political mutual trust and cooperation in various fields between the two countries and push bilateral relations to a new level."

## Mexican president eyes Washington meeting with Biden in November

**Monitoring Desk**  
MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Thursday he had proposed a visit to Washington in November to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden, and had also invited Biden to visit Mexico.

Speaking at a regular government press conference, Lopez Obrador said that he planned to discuss migration, drug trafficking, violence and trade with his U.S. counterpart.

He said he had proposed Washington because he was no longer going to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in San Francisco in November, citing Mexico's lack of diplomatic relations with Peru, the APEC forum's next chair.

## India stops new visas for Canadians, asks Ottawa to downsize missions

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India on Thursday suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country, sharply escalating a spat triggered by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations linking New Delhi to a Sikh separatist's murder.

The Indian foreign ministry said Canada has not shared any specific information in connection with the allegations Trudeau made and that New Delhi was willing to look at it if provided.

A blanket suspension of new visas by India for a Western country is unheard of and marks the lowest point of India-Canada relations. The announcement came hours after Canada's high commission in India said it would temporarily "adjust" staff presence in the country after some diplomats received threats on social media platforms.

But Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Ottawa had been asked to reduce numbers.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is escorted by Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Hakeem Jeffries as he arrives to meet privately with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and other congressional leaders on a visit to the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

## Italy PM Meloni's party irks bad loan investors with new proposal

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's party has filed a new proposal to protect borrowers if they fall behind in repaying their bank debt, another move that investors said stoked risks for the country's 307 billion euro (\$328 bln) bad loan market.

Italian lawmakers upset bad loan investors last month by proposing to give borrowers the right to repay their original loan at the discounted price at which the creditor bank sold it, plus a 20% premium. To dispel concerns, Meloni said on Sept. 7 that there were no measures "on the launch pad" for non-performing loans.

However, lawmakers from Meloni's Brothers of Italy party have now put forward to parliament another rule that would make it easier to apply their initial proposal.

"The latest amendment aims to help borrowers buy back loans," Senator Renato Ancorotti, one of the promoters of the measure, told Reuters.

## Caretaker Govt empowered under law to expedite privatization process, says Fawad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, out rightly rejecting any special agenda, said on Thursday that the caretaker government was fully empowered under law to expedite the process for privatization of loss-making state-owned enterprises (SOEs), initiated way back in 2001-02.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he clarified that no addition was made to the privatization list, which was updated by the last successive elected governments.

He said the previous elected government had made necessary amendments in the relevant law empowering the caretakers to carry forward the privatization process. Fawad reaffirmed that whatever authority the caretaker government was exercising, was within the ambit of law, as it was only completing the privatization process of SOEs, which was initiated by the last government but their transactions were not yet finalized. The minister said that a time-frame was duly fixed to carry out the privatization of each loss-making entity that could not be

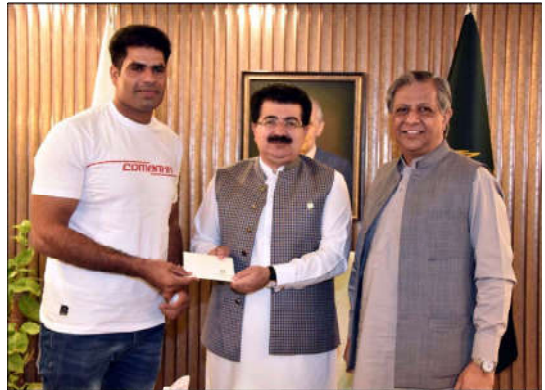


skipped.

He, however, dispelled the impression that he had been given a special task to shut down the operations of a certain organization.

He said that the Privatization Commission was taking steps to reduce the losses of certain SOEs, which were a burden on the national exchequer.

Fawad said when he took over the office, it was told that the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was facing financial crisis and needed funds to fully restore its flight operations, which were provided within 48 hours.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presenting cheque of rupees One Million to Arshad Nadeem, National Athlete who recently won the silver medal in World Athletics Championships in Islamabad.

## PIC grants swift access to 50yr property records, upholding right to info

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) promptly facilitated a citizen's access to property records spanning 50 years in just one month, underscoring the commission's strong commitment to upholding the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, and ensuring the public's fundamental right to information.

According to details, Sarfraz A. Bhatti, a concerned citizen, sought assistance from the Pakistan Information Commission when faced with challenges in obtaining property documents from the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

His appeal was set for a hearing on August 23, 2023. During the hearing, the CDA clarified that the

requested records, dating back to 1978, necessitated additional time for retrieval.

After numerous hearings and unwavering dedication, the Pakistan Information Commission efficiently obtained and furnished all the requested 50-year-old property records to Bhatti.

In expressing his contentment, Bhatti praised the diligent endeavors of the Pakistan Information Commission in facilitating his access to the information he had sought. He emphasized that this achievement underscores the pivotal role the PIC plays in guaranteeing citizens' access to essential public records. The Pakistan Information Commission underscored the commission's unwavering commitment to its mission.

## PID CVE Media Cell launches Policy Working Group

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Media Cell of the Press Information Department has launched a Policy Working Group which was aimed at enhancing its research capability.

Representatives from leading think tanks in Islamabad participated in the inaugural meeting of the working group, said a news release. Director General Home Publicity Raisa Adil presided over the inaugural meeting, while Deputy Project Director Asad Shabbir gave a comprehensive presentation.

The formation of the policy working group would help enhance the media cell's research capa-

bility while also building broad-based consensus on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's CVE efforts. The participants included Dr. Shafiqat Munir from Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr. Talat Shabbir from the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Reema Shaikat from Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Hassan Ahmad from Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Asad Ullah Khan from Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies, Shahab Siddiqi from Tabadlab, Naufil Shahrk from Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and Alishba Naem from Social Protection Resource Centre.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a meeting with Vice-President of China Han Zheng at the sidelines of UNGA Summit in New York

## FM hopes Pakistan's bright times ahead with several investment accords with GCC states in offing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is expecting several investment agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in diverse areas including agriculture and information technology, Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani has said.

"The GCC countries have shown a lot of interest in Pakistan's new initiative of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) that focuses on leveraging key sectors by attracting investment from friendly countries, he said in an interview with TRT World. The foreign minister said the GCC countries

were interested in Pakistan's areas including agriculture, information technology, mines and minerals, and energy. Already, Pakistan has received the Expressions of Interest from GCC countries in mining and energy, he added. He mentioned that Pakistan was sitting on the seventh largest reservoir of shale gas. "The future looks very bright as far as the investment climate is concerned. We are expecting the representatives of the GCC countries to visit Pakistan this month with a number of agreements and MoUs to be signed," he said. Pakistan, he said, had very close cooperation

with the GCC countries including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain with different layers of economic, political, defence and people-to-people relations.

Jilani said Pakistan had taken strong measures to create an environment of good governance and end corruption and smuggling to ensure a conducive environment for investment.

On Afghanistan, he said Pakistan wanted its neighbouring country to attain stability and prosperity but the presence of TTP and ISIS-K were a serious source of concern.

He said dialogue was held with the interim gov-

ernment asking them to fulfill their commitments

commitments that they have made to Pakistan as well as the international community whereby they are committed to not allowing the Afghan soil to be used against other countries.

"Unfortunately attacks which take place in Pakistan are emanating from Afghanistan by TTP that remain a major concern for us," he said.

On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he said Pakistan's position was very clear, i.e., War is not an option for anything and the issue needs to be settled through peaceful negotiations.

He said dialogue was held with the interim gov-

## Justice Mansoor will be on study tour in US till Oct 1

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah will be on a study tour to the United States till October 1. He will participate in the four-day Global Constitutionalism Seminar 2023 to be held at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, said a press release.

Justice Shah Ali Shah will moderate one of the sessions on "equality and rights" as a discussion leader. During his tour, he will be speaking at the Pardee School at the Boston University on September 25, regarding Pakistan's developing jurisprudence and the future law reforms.

## ANF continues crackdown against drugs smuggling

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its countrywide crackdown against smuggling of drugs arrested 10 people during 11 different operations and recovered over 157 kg drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

In a raid near Khanna bridge, Islamabad the FIA team arrested an accused belonging to Noshahra and recovered 100 tablets of ecstasy. In another raid in the cargo office located at Hoxbay Road Karachi, the FIA team recovered 250 tablets of ecstasy.

## Saghar writes letter to Turkish President

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, has written a letter to the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and thanked him for raising voice for the voiceless people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in the UN General Assembly.

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in the letter wrote, "On behalf of the subjugated but determined people of Indian occupied Kashmir, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to your Excellency for pleading and presenting the Kashmir case vociferously during your landmark speech to the UNGA."

## Minister for adding more fun, engaging cultural diversity activities to Lok Mela 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Thursday directed Lok Virsa to add more fun and engaging cultural diversity activities including music, traditional food and the works of skilled artisans in ten-day folk festival to be held in November 2023.

Highlighting various aspects of promoting cultural diversity, Jamal Shah said that the culture pavilion of Chitral, Kelash and other small regions would be set up to promote the indigenous cultural diversity of the country.

He said that all our languages should come to act as a binding force. "We have a diverse cultural legacy and that should be promoted," he added.

The minister said that special puzzle competitions and storytelling sessions would be arranged in different languages for youth during ten-day folk festival.

Chairing a meeting attended by Executive Director Lok Virsa Muzafar Ali Burki and other senior officials, the minister said that folk festival will play a pivotal role in portraying country's real image and will bring a quality entertainment for the visitors.

He underscored that

## Police chief facilitates direct public access in online 'Khuli Katcheri'

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, conducted an online "Khuli Katcheri", providing residents with direct access to high-ranking police officials.

During the online session held on the other day, ICPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan personally addressed public inquiries via phone calls between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. He listened to callers' concerns and instructed relevant officers to find immediate solutions.

The majority of the issues raised pertained to individual citizens and their interactions with local police stations. Addressing the citizens, ICPO emphasized the police force's dedicated efforts to swiftly resolve public issues.

He underscored that

## Audio leak case: Bushra Bibi files petition against FIA investigation

ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI chairman's wife Bushra Bibi has filed a miscellaneous petition against the FIA investigation on the alleged audio leak issue.

Bushra Bibi, through her lawyer Latif Khosa, filed a separate petition in the Islamabad High Court stating that the main case was already pending in this court and the court on September 18 directed the FIA to proceed as per law.

The plea further stated that the main case was now scheduled for hearing on October 30. Despite the pending case, the FIA issued a notice summoning her on September 19.

## PM lauds China's unflinching support to Pak socio-economic development

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic development.

The Prime Minister and Vice-President of China Han Zheng met at the sidelines of UNGA Summit in New York on Thursday.

The Prime Minister noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir reflected China's principled stance for upholding international law and UN resolutions.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship including CPEC and bilateral economic and financial cooperation.

In his remarks, Vice-President Han Zheng said that Pakistan-China friendship is unique and has withstood the vicissitudes of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of two nations.

He said as a close neighbor and iron-brother, Pakistan occupies a special position in China's neighbourhood diplomacy and that China would continue its efforts for safeguarding Pakistan's core interests and for the economic development and prosperity of the people of Pakistan. Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on the centrality of CPEC for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives.

The two leaders also expressed satisfaction at the celebratory events held in both countries to mark the 10th anniversary of CPEC.

They also agreed to further deepening their cooperation at the multilateral fora.

Prime Minister and Vice-President agreed to continue the momentum of high level exchanges between Pakistan and China. The Prime Minister invited Chinese Vice-President to undertake a visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience which the latter graciously accepted.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education Mr. Madad Ali Sindhvi visited the National Curriculum Council (NCC) Secretariat. Director NCC, Dr. Mariam Chughtai gave a detailed on the functions of the NCC in the post 18th Amendment scenario.

## NACTA actively engaged in developing mechanisms to strategize solutions to growing intolerance: Rai Tahir

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Muhammad Tahir Rai Thursday said the authority was actively engaged in developing mechanisms to strategize solutions for prevailing issue of growing intolerance in the country.

He was addressing the four-day National Peace Festival organized by NACTA in commemoration of United Nations International Day of Peace (marked September 21) concluded here. The objective of this event was to uphold and enhance social agreement against extremism and engage social actors in exchanging knowledge and proposing solutions to promote lasting peace in the country.

The National Peace Festival was concluded with the Minister for information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, as Chief Guest. The National Coordinator NACTA said, "Global events like wars, opi-

demics and climate change have definitely affected billions of people in fields of food and energy. Billions are facing hunger. We are also affected, obviously.

But still Pakistanis are able to face it boldly by sharing food and happiness with each other. We have many blessings which other people don't have." Pakistan with its cultural diversity, he said exemplified the strength of unity in the face of diversity. "We are working with our partners in other ministries and institutions to give solutions and most importantly engage with youth", he said.

The National Coordinator apprised the participants that NACTA was also working with local and international partners, think tanks and other stakeholders to reach out to educational institutions to promote Pakistani way of life which is based on indigenous Pakistani values of hospitality, sympathy and pursuit of happiness.

## Khalil George says: Through collective efforts we can embark upon journey improving country's economy

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Federation Of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) led by Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman, Vice President of FPCCI held a meeting with

Presidents of FPCCI were also part of the delegation. On this occasion, various issues including the country's economic challenges, and problems faced by the business community were discussed in detail. During the



Mr. Khalil George the caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, and discussed strategies and initiatives to enhance international trade, promote exports, and improve the ease of doing business including industrial development. Among others Mr. Muhammad Aslam Sheikh & Mr. Muhammad Ali Sheikh Former Vice



Mr. Ahme Hayat Lak, MD/CEO of OGDCL (Left) and Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector RIC, NUST (Right) exchange documents of understanding after the strategic partnership to Advance Scientific, Education Initiatives and address critical exploration and production (E&P) issues.

## Education institutions halt transportation facility due to lack of funds for fuel

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government schools and colleges of Federal Capital have halted the transportation facility for poor students using buses to and from schools and colleges owing to the lack of funds for fuel.

The inner sources have revealed that the transport service for children at the educational institutions in the federal capital has once again been terminated. Currently, the bus service of colleges including Islamabad Model College for Boys F-8/4 and Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/4 have stopped their bus service owing to the shortage of funds for fuel (diesel).

Meanwhile, Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindhvi took notice of this issue and sought a report in this respect.

Sources further stated that buses of more colleges will also be stopped from Monday, while most of the children of colleges in Islamabad may be deprived of transportation facilities from next week. On the other hand parents viewed that at a time when the academic session is about to middle and students mid examination are going to be held in the next month October, it is cruel to end the transport facility.