

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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## Caretaker PM vows to conduct free, fair general elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has vowed to conduct free and fair elections, ensuring no organizational or institutional involvement in favor of any party.

In an exclusive interview with foreign media, he said we are entering into the electoral process and the time span, which has been given to the interim government, is according to the law and the constitution.

The Prime Minister said delimitation of constituencies is a constitutional demand, and we should abide by this regulation if we believe in supremacy of the constitu-

tion. To a question about 9th May incidents, he said people have the right to express their sentiments under prescribed law, but we can't allow vandalism in the name of protest or if people are going violent then that kind of situation is not acceptable under any democratic system.

Regarding alleged US involvement in PTI Chief's ousting from the power, he said PTI members have retrieved from that allegation. He said in some Asian states, political leaders sometimes do such acts for populist reasons. He said as a responsible caretaker government, we ensure

that no one can meddle with our domestic affairs. He further said the PTI chief was ousted constitutionally and there was no military coup against him.

Shedding light on the civil-military relations in Pakistan, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Pakistani political leaders had political alliance with military for their own political interests and once they are out of the power they start criticizing the institution to shift the onus of their own failure.

He said the only institution that has the organizational capability left with us is military and anyone

who is dealing with governance has to rely on it to meet the challenges.

Talking about terrorist attacks and relations with Afghanistan, the Prime Minister said we have been facing such attacks almost for fifteen years and we are trying to counter it by kinetic and non-kinetic measures and we have been successful to manage that to a certain level.

He said we are dealing with different layers of authorities in Afghanistan and some are spoiling the peace. He said some banned organizations like TTP have training camps in Afghanistan, which is a point of concern for us.



LONDON: A delegation of prominent British Pakistani businessmen call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



RAWALPINDI: Moderator and President Bishops (Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Raiwind) Dr. Azad Marshall along with 13 members' delegation of Christian Community called on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters

## Overseas Pakistanis need to avail investment opportunities in Pakistan: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday invited the overseas Pakistanis to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the government for investment in Pakistan.

During a meeting with a delegation of prominent British Pakistani businessmen which called on him in London, the prime minister invited the diaspora businessmen to invest, especially in Special Economic Zones, to contribute to Pakistan's economic recovery. The prime minister highlighted positive economic indicators resulting from reforms pursued by the interim government, including a strengthening Pak. Rupee, reduced inflation, and expected economic growth.

The removal of import restrictions and efforts to restore the business community's confidence are expected to further boost external accounts, he added. PM Kakar spoke about Pakistan's investment-friendly approach, mentioning incentives and ease-of-business reforms. He introduced the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to streamline investment in key sectors through a single-window platform.

This initiative aims at enhancing ease of doing business, removing bureaucratic hurdles, and creating a long-term investment roadmap. Moreover, Prime Minister Kakar also shared the government's resolve and commitment to privatize loss-making state-owned enterprises.

## Journalist Imran Riaz recovered, reaches home

SIALKOT (Online): Journalist Imran Riaz Khan has been recovered and has reached his home.

District police have affixed post about recovery and return to his home on their twitter, face book, instagram tek tok page.

Imran Riaz was arrested after violent demonstrations across the country on May 9 following the arrest of Imran Khan, chairman PTI.

Imran Riaz Khan was flying to Muscat from Sialkot international airport when FIA arrested him and handed over him to police.

Following his arrest he was taken to police station cantt and then Sialkot jail.

Father of Imran Riaz Khan filed application in Lahore High Court (LHC) that his son was kidnapped. The kidnapping case of Imran Riaz Khan was registered in civil lines police station under the report of his father.

Chief Justice (CJ) Lahore High Court (LHC) Amir Ali Bhatti took up for hearing the petition filed by father of Imran Riaz Khan on September 20 which was filed against unknown persons and police under section 365 of FIR.

## Expresses deep respect for Christian community COAS calls for promoting greater interfaith harmony in society

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir Monday expressed deep respect for Christian community and stressed upon the need for promoting greater interfaith harmony in society in order to follow Quaid's true vision of a united and progressive Pakistan.

Moderator and President Bishops (Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Raiwind) Dr. Azad Marshall along with 13 members' delegation of Christian Community called on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) here at General

Headquarters, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, religious and interfaith harmony were discussed. The COAS lauded the contributions of Pakistani Christian Community in national development, including promotion of quality education, healthcare and philanthropic services and outstanding role played by them for the defence of the motherland.

The Army Chief emphasised, "Islam is a religion of peace and

there is no space for intolerance and extremism in Islam and society. No one can be allowed to take law in his own hands in a civilised society".

The Christian Community members acknowledged Pakistan Army's efforts in combating terrorism and providing secure environment to the minorities in the country.

They appreciated Army Chief's gesture as an inspiration for Pakistani minorities to take greater and more active part in nation building and in restoring their faith in a cohesive and tolerant society.

## Concept of delaying cases in top court over from now: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa Monday remarked that the concept of delaying cases in top court should be considered as over from now.

During the hearing of a case, the CJP remarked a number of cases were pending in the Supreme Court, adding that in any case the respondents would be notified on one date and decision would be taken on next hearing on the arguments.

The top court imposed

a fine worth Rs 5,000 against a lawyer for wasting the time of court.

The chief justice said that through this case, this message was for everyone that there would be no delay in the cases, adding that it happened in the rest of the courts that time was given to submit the documents.

He remarked that the Supreme Court was the last forum which already had the record of all decisions of the cases.

## IHC orders to shift chairman PTI from Attock jail to Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked chairman PTI is under trial prisoner and under trial prisoners are kept in Adiala Jail and why then Chairman PTI has been kept in Attock jail. The CJ IHC remarked chairman PTI should be shifted to Adiala jail. Former Prime Minister (PM) should not be kept deprived of facilities under victimization.

The CJ IHC while ordering to provide all facilities under jail manual in jail to chairman PTI arrested in cipher case has remarked the status of conviction of chairman PTI has changed. He is under trial prisoner after suspension of his

sentence who are kept in Adiala jail.

Why has he been kept in Attock jail.

During hearing of the petition filed by chairman PTI related to facilities in jail and his shifting from district jail Attock to Adiala jail, the CJ IHC inquired from Additional Attorney General (AAG) that chairman PTI is under trial prisoner in cipher case. All the under trial prisoners of Islamabad are in Adiala jail. Then why the petitioner has been kept in Attock jail. The status of sentence of PTI chairman has changed. He was kept in Attock jail in Toshakhana case and now the sentence has been suspended.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed exchanging views with Donald Blome, US Ambassador to Pakistan during meeting held in Islamabad.

## Pakistan strongly condemns desecration of the Holy Quran in Netherlands

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the latest senseless and deeply offensive act of desecration of the Holy Quran that took place in The Hague, the Netherlands in front of some embassies of OIC member countries including Pakistan.

It is a deliberately provocative and Islamophobic act that has hurt the sentiments of Muslims around the world.

Such acts cannot be condoned under the guise of freedom of expression, opinion and protest, a spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs said. Pakistan believes that freedom of expression comes with responsibilities. National governments should actively prevent racist and

Islamophobic acts, which incite religious hatred. It is important for the international community to raise its voice against Islamophobia and work in concert to promote interfaith harmony.

That was the spirit behind the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022 to mark 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. Pakistan's concerns have been conveyed to the Dutch authorities. We urge them to be mindful of the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and Muslims around the world and take active steps to prevent such hateful and Islamophobic acts, the spokesperson added.

## US Envoy calls on Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Monday called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed and discussed matters of mutual interest between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Planning Minister appreciated the support that Pakistan has received from the United States in the field of development cooperation, bilateral trade and investment promotion.

The two sides also exchanged views on matters of common interest and expressed their resolve to enhance and strengthen bilateral relations.

The Planning Minister highlighted the government's efforts for economic revival. The Minister further stated that the government has formed a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) aimed at attracting foreign investment in various sectors such as Mines and Minerals, Agriculture, Information Technology and Energy and he invited US companies to explore the options to invest in these sectors.

## Senate chairman extends heartfelt felicitations to Saudi Arabia on its National Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday attended the National Day celebrations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and conveyed warm regards and best wishes on behalf of the Senate and the people of Pakistan to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Royal Family, and Saudi nation.

Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, he expressed his gratitude to Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, for extending the invitation and commended the progressive portrayal of Saudi Arabia on the event's invitation card, highlighting its holistic development and inclusive vision.

He emphasized the enduring and multifaceted bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, founded on shared values, faith, and aspirations. He acknowledged Saudi Arabia's significant support during challenging times and reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to reciprocate in diplomatic and security matters, highlighting recent high-level military engagements. Sanjrani remarked that the partnership was fortified by an unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability, underlining both nations' readiness to support each other in diplomatic and security matters. He lauded Saudi Arabia's efforts to promote regional harmony through diplomacy, dialogue, and mutual respect. He expressed confidence that these initiatives would open doors to mutually beneficial opportunities for trade, cultural exchanges, shared initiatives, and collaborative endeavours, contributing to global progress.

## Khawar Maneka arrested while trying to escape to Dubai

LAHORE (APP): Immigration has arrested Khawar Maneka from Airport.

He was going to Dubai by Emirates Airline.

According to sources, Khawar Maneka was stopped at Allama Iqbal International Airport because his name was included in Exit Control List.

A case is registered against Khawar Maneka by Anti-Corruption.

On the other hand, according to spokesperson of Anti-Corruption Establishment Punjab, Khawar Maneka has been arrested on the charge of illegal construction on government land. An inquiry is being made on the reference of Deputy Commissioner against Khawar Farid Maneka.

## NAB submits 15 more references in AC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has submitted fifteen more references to the accountability court after examining the legal details. The Registrar of the Accountability Court and NAB Prosecutor appeared in the court of Judge Muhammad Bashir and informed the court about the legal aspects of the references.

## Solangi participates in SCO's Television Festival 2023 in China

NANJING (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday participated in the Television Festival 2023, organized by Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Nanjing, China.

On the occasion, Murtaza Solangi met Chinese Minister for National Radio and TV Cao Shumin and thanked her for organizing the festival.

During the meeting, both ministers expressed the resolve to enhance cooperation in the areas of television and radio.

They vowed to promote innovation in media technology and exchange of journalist delegations.

Murtaza Solangi called for initiating the Chinese Hour programme on Pakistan Television (PTV).

He also stressed for promoting the activities of Chinese media in Pakistan.



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## Minister directs NRA to observe month of Rabi ul Awwal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi Monday ordered Chairman National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Authority to organize monthlong continuous events to observe holy month of Rabi ul Awwal.

He made these directions while visiting the National Rahmatul-lil-

Alameen Authority here.

During the visit, he also met the authority's Chairman Khurshid Ahmad Nadeem.

Madad Ali Sindhi said the authority's mandate was critical for nation building. The minister said that the Pakistani nation was facing challenges that could only be addressed by the authority.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interfaith Affairs Aneeq Ahmed addressing during the exhibition of calligraphy artworks in Centaurus Mall.

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**Caretaker PM's landmark address at 78th UNGA**

The caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar's address at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Friday last was really remarkable and landmark. In his address, the PM called for countering all forms of terrorism, including "Hindutva extremists". Urging the chair, Kakar emphasized that "Mr. President, we must counter all terrorists without discrimination including the rising threat by far-right and fascist groups such as Hindutva-inspired extremists threatening genocide against India's Muslims and Christians alike." He also urged opposition against the root causes of terrorism which according to him included poverty, injustice, foreign occupation and distinguishing genuine freedom struggles from terrorism. "Pakistan proposes the creation of a committee of the general assembly to oversee the balanced implementation of all four pillars of the global counter-terrorism strategy."

Earlier the PM Kakar had also warned that the "disingenuous reality behind Hindu nationalism politics could ensnare the world in 'fires of war'." His comments come amid the backdrop of an unprecedented flareup of tensions between India and Canada where the latter has accused the former of killing a Sikh separatist leader on Canadian soil.

During an interview on the sidelines of UNGA, PM Kakar said: "We will raise [the issue] at different forums, not because we want to do any propaganda against India, but because of the disingenuous reality hidden behind Hindutva's political agenda in which fascism and chauvinism are very deeply rooted, it is such a dangerous phenomenon that it can ensnare the whole region and the rest of the world in the fires of war." He went on to say, "We will continue playing our role in highlighting that major issue ... we will talk about it wherever we get the opportunity."

The premier said Hindutva politics had affected the region, particularly Balochistan, adding that Pakistan had evidence to support its claims, which included the confession of high-ranking Indian military officer Kulbhushan Jadhav.

"We have been suffering this face and side of India but the problem is that this is hitting Western capitals now," PM Kakar said. Pakistan would not mock Western countries for not paying heed to the warnings but would instead play a role in ensuring that the danger [of Hindutva] was understood and action was taken to stop it.

The prime minister said the slain Sikh separatist leader was "innocent" and a "martyr", adding that the murder of an innocent person was a "major crime". At the outset of his UNGA address, the premier said world leaders had gathered today at a "tense and pivotal moment in history", referring to the Russia-Ukraine war and tensions between other global powers. "We see the rise of old and new military and political blocs ... geopolitics is resurging when geoeconomics should have primacy."

He emphasized that the world could not afford another cold war as there were far greater challenges confronting humans that demanded global cooperation and collective action. Many countries of the global south have barely managed to stave off defaults, poverty and hunger have grown, reversing development gains of three decades. The premier lamented that last year's "epic floods" had submerged one-third of the country, killed 1,700 people, displaced over eight million people, destroyed vital infrastructure, destroyed vital infrastructure and caused over \$30 billion in damage to the economy.



**Adeel Wahid**

The business model of law firms in Pakistan is oppressive. It is exploitative and unfair, and not meant to attract individuals with talent, integrity and ambition.

One of the major criticisms of the legal profession is that it is ironically manned with many who unreservedly resort to any means, even unfair, to get things done. To ensure that they hold on to their clients, lawyers may provide services of bribing court staff, stenographers and sometimes allegedly even the judges, too. And not all bribes are considered the bad kind; some are expressly asked to be paid by the litigants themselves. The snail's pace at which the judiciary can be brought to function requires, at times, greasing palms only to get things moving.

There are many reasons why the lawyers in Pakistan are the way they are: dismal legal education, tribalism and politicisation of bar associations, and unprofessional and unethical practices normalised through their pervasive use over the years. Most ironically, however, it is not a profession that the aspiring and diligent high school students in Pakistan usually have their ambitions set on. Most of the time, the upright ones just want to steer clear.

Structurally, the challenges are many. To begin with, employment opportunities in law are few, the graduates many. Pakistan's economy is primarily informal, not governed by established principles and rules. Second, the judicial system

**Fair play**

is badly broken and is highly unpredictable. The better option for litigants often is to opt out of the ordeal of an unwieldy system. Third, the state and moneyed interests, as apparent from recent events, do not consider themselves bound by any rules. The result: there is just as much that the law and lawyers can do in Pakistan.

And then there is this entrenched status quo of lawyers, guarding their monopoly with ever watchful eyes. The 'face value' already exists, the stays come easy, with no incentive to pay even below-minimum wages to fresh graduate lawyers. It should come as no surprise that in a society where many lawyers are seen as having few qualms about employing unjust means to obtain relief for their clients, the lofty notions of fairness do not dictate the manner in which the new entrants in the profession are treated. The results in the courtroom are not necessarily procured on the basis of the cogency of arguments or the strength of evidence. If they were, even for the most part, there might have been a need for people with aptitude and talent. But, it seems there is no such need.

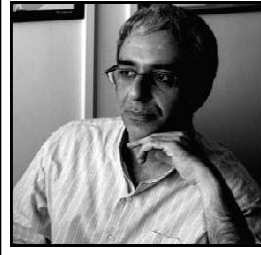
Even without any such need, there are some brilliant lawyers in Pakistan. And most of them deservingly do get to the top. But when they do, the bookkeeping instincts of many kick in. Upending the status quo might not fit in their calculus. And very little is allowed to trickle down, and by design.

Meanwhile, results from the courts, in many instances, can be attained on the basis of other considerations. In a class-conscious society, from the perspective of an employer, it can potentially be more rewarding to hire gradu-

ates who went to the right school and, even more importantly, who have relatives in the right positions, since that may be a firmer guarantor of ensuring a ready stream of clients and favourable orders. This cohort also comes with the added advantage of not being solely dependent on the meagre stipend initially handed out.

And who cares if any hardworking, ambitious and talented potential lawyers, not from those right schools and backgrounds, are compelled to choose other careers. Who advised them to do law anyways? The industry monopolised by some, with no meagre contribution from judges, requires a reset. And in such a reset, there is guidance to be sought not from any wisdom produced by the legal minds in Pakistan. It may be better to look outside, and askance, towards the culture that pervades the world of venture capital, contained in Sebastian Mallaby's *The Power Law: Venture Capital and Making of the New Future*. While the dynamics of Silicon Valley are completely distinct, there is still inspiration to be sought in its original story, which prominently features Arthur Rock and his key insight, that the most opportune investment is in the "intellectual book value" where the emphasis has to be "on the people who you hope will capitalise on their intellect". As Arthur Rock would put it, it is all about "backing the right people".

Arthur Rock, "a self-made loner", also famously said, that "I never wanted to be the richest corpse in the cemetery", and that too, in a world curated to make money, and not justice. -- Courtesy Dawn



**Zarrar Khuhro**

India is having its moment in the sun; the economy is booming, it has landed on the South Pole of the moon and New Delhi just hosted the G20, which was a massive coming-out party for Modi. Earlier, Modi had the red carpet rolled out for him in Washington where the administration fawned over a man who, up until fairly recently, was barred from entering the US due to his complicity in the Gujarat massacres in which over 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed and countless women raped, often in front of their families.

However, times change, and India's burgeoning economy and its value as a hedge against China meant that Modi must be courted and the performative pearl-clutching over the usual Western obsessions with human rights and such was to be dispensed with. That's not a complaint; that's realpolitik.

But the thing with having your moment in the sun is that it can go to your head; as Washington was finalising the menu and selecting silverware, an Indian intelligence operation was underway in America's ally Canada. There, a pro-independence Sikh leader and Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar, was gunned down outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18.

Some months later, and conveniently right after the G20 summit had concluded its speeches and photo-ops, came Justin Trudeau's bombshell where he accused India's intelligence agencies of

being behind the attack. What followed were furious, tit-for-tat expulsions and exchanges, with the accused mastermind, Pavan Kumar Rai, being compelled to leave Canada. India, in its typical style of accusing others of what it itself is guilty of, warned its citizens to "exercise caution" when visiting Canada due to "growing anti-India activities and politically condoned hate crimes and criminal violence" there. After this spectacular example of a pot calling the kettle black — most hate crimes in Canada are committed against Jews, Muslims and Catholics, in that order — India then suspended the processing of visas for Canadians, which is terrible news for the millions of Canadians presumably queuing up to visit India. Diplomatic presence is also being cut back by both countries.

Meanwhile, India is reacting with typical narrow-minded nationalist bravado, with its media thumping its chest over the 'muscular new India' and pointing out the examples of Gen Suleimani and Osama bin Laden while also fervently denying the accusation. Indian social media, in its usual toxic manner, is heaping abuse upon Canada and Trudeau for 'sheltering terrorists' while celebrating the fact that along with yoga, assassination is also one of India's exports. This sells well in the domestic Indian market, where the populace has been fed a daily diet of hate and religious supremacy which often translates into state-condoned violence against Muslims and other minorities.

Seemingly secure in its Western alliance, India has taken the world's silence as a signal that it can get away with murder abroad, as it has within its own borders and in the region. Unsurprisingly, no one is questioning the possible fallout for fear of

being labelled traitors. So in that scenario, any indications of India projecting its power is appreciated, and certainly the more robust the Indian diplomatic offensive is, the better it'll play in the upcoming Indian polls, especially with the INDIA alliance trying to take the BJP down a peg. For Canada, taking a soft line would be suicidal; home to many diasporas and dissidents due to its liberal immigration policies, allowing an India-ordered assassination to take place without a reaction would mean there would be no stopping other countries with equal or greater capabilities from doing the same. What if, for example, China were to start eliminating Tibetan, Uighur or Falun Gong activists in Canada? So, as India escalates, Canada has started to drip out information and as per a report in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Ottawa is in possession of intercepted communications by Indian officials regarding the murder, along with intelligence provided by another member of the Five Eyes network, of which Canada is a part. They have receipts, and will show them in due course.

This places the West in a tight spot, having to balance between India and their old ally Canada. So far, the responses have been muted amid diplomatic calls for the investigation to be completed, but among analysts, think tanks and influential media outlets, the mood seems to be changing amid a realisation that the Indian alliance carries unexpected costs, among which is giving New Delhi the impression that it can do as it likes, and can use the same tactics and policies it uses in the subcontinent, in their own countries as well. While realpolitik will eventually prevail, the mask is well and truly off. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**UK investors show keen interest in Pakistan's capital market**

LONDON (APP): The investors of the United Kingdom's capital and financial market in a meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed their keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan. The leaders of the notable investment firms who met the prime minister in London included Fidelity International Limited (FIL), Wellington Management, Ashmore, Jefferies International,

Redwheel Capital, Switex Industrial SA, Oxford Frontier Capital, GuarantCo, JP Morgan, Kalrock Capital, and UBL UK. Prime Minister Kakar informed the delegation about Pakistan's current economic landscape, highlighting government measures for external account improvement. He said that recent administrative actions strengthened the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar, fostering optimism for stability. He said positive indicators, including

inflows from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and friendly nations, contributed to reduced inflation, stabilized reserves, and revival of industrial growth. The prime minister spoke about the potential for foreign direct investment in Pakistan's key sectors and the positive impact of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF, exceeding expectations and stabilizing the economy and currency. Prime Minister Kakar also highlighted economic

improvements such as reduced inflation with expected sustained decline, and upcoming growth in agriculture and industry. He mentioned improved trade after removal of restrictions on imports and fiscal measures for monetary support and medium-term inflation targets. The prime minister highlighted Pakistan's pro-investment efforts, introducing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). This initiative, led by the prime minister himself.



LONDON: Senior leaders of London's capital and financial market cell on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: VC PIDE Dr. Nameem ul Haque along with academia from PIDE called the Caretaker Commerce Minister Dr. Goher Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry.

**Pakistan, Azerbaijan discuss transport, trade cooperation**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications for Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar, and Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov discussed issues of mutual interests and strengthened bilateral ties. The ambassador during a meeting with the minister said the relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is unparalleled in every aspect. The envoy said,

following the commencement of direct flights between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, both countries aim to connect through railways and road networks. The Ambassador said the primary goal is to boost economic cooperation and facilitate the movement of goods and people. "We are keen on promoting economic cooperation," Ambassador Farhadov said. He further said, "We envision Pakistan becoming a part of international transport

networks, connecting with all regional countries." He also highlighted the potential for Pakistani trade to gain access to Europe and Russia through Azerbaijan. The ambassador said, that to achieve this, the private sector will play a crucial role in promoting trade and economic growth. Shahid Ashraf Tarar expressed his commitment to the idea, said, "I have instructed the Chairman of Railways to work on connecting rail routes with Azerbaijan."

**FPCCI calls for enhanced cooperation with China in agriculture: Irfan Iqbal**

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has called for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China on the occasion of Anhui - Pakistan International Agricultural Cooperation and Development Forum in China. Agricultural development and modernization of Pakistan should take prominence in CPEC as Pakistan is facing

existential threats vis-à-vis food security for its 240 million populace, he added. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that creation of modern transportation and logistics infrastructure to facilitate the efficient movement of agricultural products; along with technology transfer from China can improve crop yields; modernize irrigation methods and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

**Minister for strong regulatory system to control price hike**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik on Monday underscored the need for a unified supply chain coupled with a strong regulatory framework to discourage artificial hikes in the prices of food items in the country. He chaired a meeting of the Agriculture Policy Institute and was also

briefed by Director General Abdul Karim on the function of the Institute and its ongoing projects, said a press release. The minister was informed that the API analyzed the impact of important agricultural policies on groups such as consumers, processors, and exporters and advises on policy adjustments needed for greater efficiency and equity in the country.

**OGRA reacts to reports of speculations about fuel prices**

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Monday reacted to the speculations about fuel prices. OGRA spokesperson said speculations about increase or decrease in fuel prices should be avoided as the rate of petroleum products is fixed in line with the international market and exchange rate.

**Precision agriculture "one-window solution: to develop climate resilient agriculture**

ISLAMABAD (Online): "Precision Agriculture is the one-window solution to declining agricultural productivity, exacerbating food insecurity and aid in developing resilience to recurrent climate disasters" remarked Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI. He was speaking at an Industry Consultation event "National Precision Agriculture Blueprint Study: Needs Assessment and Adoptability

Pathways" jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute and NASTAP here today. He added that the rising population is exerting profound pressure on the country's natural resources and the mounting per capita burden on agricultural land can be addressed by embarking on the contemporary digital revolution. This digital revolution has modified the

workflow expanding it from data analysis to increasing efficiency in resource consumption like water and aid decision making by digitalizing the management of the entire process. "Pakistan is already a water scarce country and the digitalization of inputs like water allows efficient application and quality management as well as greenhouse gas automation to reduce the footprint of

the sector", he added. He urged for the synchronization of the four pillars of agriculture i.e., academia, industry, private sector, and development partners. The reformation of academic curricula and developing specialized courses in consultation with industry and private sector, eradicating the bureaucratic delays in project development and implementation and

reappropriation of agricultural subsidies to climate smart subsidies can mobilize financial resources needed. Further addressing the financing gap, he said that Special Investment Financial Council will promote corporate farming based on digitalization of agriculture to transform low-productivity lands but will also increase access to financial and technological services to small farmers

# Punjab CM inaugurates road built from plastic waste in Lahore

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: In a record-breaking development for Punjab, Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the first-ever plastic road in the province today. The historic inauguration took place on Zafar Ali Plastic Road, stretching from Gymkhana Mall Road to Jail Road, Chief Minister Naqvi meticulously examined the quality and construction of this innovative road, accompanied by a detailed briefing on its utility by the Secretary of Communication and Works and esteemed professors from the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore. Commending the

technical expertise and invaluable support provided by UET professors in the creation of this plastic road, Chief Minister Naqvi expressed his appreciation. Addressing the media, he underscored the success of this pioneering venture and revealed plans to expand its scope. Following a thorough one-month review of the existing plastic road, further expansions are on the horizon, including the transformation of Mall Road into a plastic road. One of the key advantages of a plastic road lies in its resilience against rainwater, ensuring a lifespan of a minimum of 10 years. Unlike

conventional roads, these innovative constructions are not susceptible to rain-induced damage. Moreover, the financial outlay for constructing a plastic road has been significantly reduced, with this project amounting to Rs 2 crore as opposed to the standard Rs 6 crore for a regular road. A crucial environmental benefit is that the plastic used in these roads is sourced from recycled materials, effectively repurposing plastic waste that would otherwise contribute to environmental pollution. This eco-friendly approach to road construction not only minimizes costs but also serves as a sustainable solution.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman addressing the ceremony on the eve of Mehfil-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) at Governor House.

## Life of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) beacon of light for entire mankind: Baligh

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony on the theme of "Building Islamic Society in the Light of teachings of Prophet Muhammad SAW" at Governor House Lahore today. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman while addressing the ceremony said that the Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) is an integral part of our faith, he added. Governor Punjab said that when the Arabs were passing through the age of ignorance, he gave them the message of Allah and enlightened them with the teachings of Islam. He said that the Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) set an example of the highest character and forgiveness by forgiving his worst enemies on the occasion of the conquest of Makkah.

## Court orders to release 12 year-old girl on bail

**PESHAWAR (INP):** Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday ordered to release 12-year-old girl on bail. The 12-year-old girl is facing murder charges. She is accused of killing a man named Gohar Ali while cutting fodder in Buner, five months ago. The girl's bail plea was filed in the PHC as she is underage. The court was pleased to release the 12-year-old on bail, which was accepted. It is to be noted that both the parties had registered cases against each other after the incident. Separately in 2021, a judicial magistrate granted bail to six teenage suspects held for allegedly harassing female students.

## PFA unearths unit producing fabricated milk

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has lodged a First Information Report (FIR) against Mujahid Zubair Dairy on account of adulteration in the nearest police station during a raid in Roshan Bhela, Kasur. PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said that acting on the tip of, a dairy safety team of PFA Kasur raided a fake milk production unit and caught the adulteration mafia red-handed producing fabricated milk with hazardous chemicals and other ingredients. He said that the raiding team took milk samples on the spot and found contamination of vegetable oil, whey powder, polluted water and chemicals. The raiding team discarded a huge quantity of substandard milk, 50kg powder and 48kg ghee besides confiscating a vehicle, 11 drums, mixing machines and other goods during the raid, he added. PFA DG appreciated the raiding team for taking timely action against enemies of public health and ruined their unholy ambitions. He said that adulterated milk was to be supplied to different local milk shops in Lahore. He further said that the use of substandard adulterated milk poses a threat to users' health and causes severe problems like stomach, intestine, food poisoning and gastrointestinal complications. Raja Jahangir said that the Punjab Food Authority is bringing an international-style policy for the supply of pure milk.



LARKANA: Heirs of Lutuf Magsi are holding protest demonstration for demanding recovery of Lutuf Magsi, who was missing four days ago in the limits of Hyderi Police Station, at SSP Chowk in Larkana.

## Provincial ministers lead strategic meeting to address anti-smog

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: An essential meeting convened at the Civil Secretariat, presided over by Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer, meticulously assessed the closure and desalting of factories in relation to anti-smog efforts. In attendance were Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Provincial Minister Bilal Afzal, along with the Secretary and DG of the Environment Protection Department, DG of Industries, and pertinent officials. Notably, the

meeting also saw the presence of Patron-in-Chief of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Sheikhupura, Manzoor Malik, alongside industrialists Mardan Ali, Amjad Khan, and others. Emphasizing the government's duty to furnish a clean environment for its citizens, Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer articulated the need for formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to mitigate environmental pollution, thereby enhancing transparency in governance.

## Theatre play "Social Pagal" & "The Father" presented

**KARACHI (Online):** On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the ongoing Pakistan Theatre Festival in Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, the Theatre plays "Social Pagal" and "The Father" were presented in Urdu language, the writer and director of Theatre Social Pagal, was Shah Fahad, in the cast of the play. Sarmad Aftab, Sherbanu Rahmani, Gulshan Majeed, Hassan Raza, Mishal Chaudhry, Zain Qazi, Haris Ahmad Khan and Mohammad Ghazi Abid, etc. Drama takes viewers through the journey of six psychopaths who confront their demons in prison as they are confined to an obscure realm where life imprisonment is considered the cure for their insanity, a battle of wits ensues and theatre play "The Father" is written by Florian Zeller and directed by Zeeshan Haider. The cast of the drama included Ghulam Mohiuddin, Abdul Rehman, Alina Gulzar, Saima, Zobi and Owais.

## Nawabzada Nasarullah 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sep 26

**MUZAFFARGARH (APP):** The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great politician known as father of democracy, Nawabzada Nasarullah Khan will be marked on September 26 (Tuesday). Nawabzada Nasarullah's relentless 70-year-long struggle for the supremacy of the constitution, parliament, and democracy remains an enduring legacy. Distinguished religious scholar Moulana Syed Kafeel Ahmed Shah Bukhari will grace the occasion. He will address the audiences, comprising political and social

leaders, along with representatives from various sectors of society. The 20<sup>th</sup>-anniversary ceremony is set to take place at 5 pm at Marhaba Marriage Hall in his hometown, Khangarh. Moulana Syed Kafeel Ahmed Shah Bukhari, the grandson of Moulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Bukhari, will deliver an insightful speech, shedding light on the importance of democracy and unity in the nation. This event stands as a symbol of unity, bringing together leaders from different political parties across Pakistan.

## Crackdown intensifies as cases of vision loss surge in Punjab

**LAHORE (INP):** The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Monday launched a crackdown against medicine distributors amid the rising cases of vision loss due to the use of substandard injections in Punjab, says in media reports. Initially, it was reported that the eyesight of over 400 diabetes patients was affected in Punjab after which the provincial caretaker government imposed a two-week ban on Avastin's sales.



HYDERABAD: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident during the Shiite procession of Chup-Iazia on the occasion of 8th Rabi-ul-Awwal every year to commemorate the death of Hazrat Imam Hasan al-Askari (R.A), in Hyderabad.

# International News

## Azerbaijani and Turkish leaders hold talks, eye land corridor via Armenia

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev hosted talks on Monday with his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan at which he hinted at the prospect of creating a land corridor between their two countries via Armenia, which opposes the idea. Erdogan pointedly flew into Azerbaijan's autonomous Nakhchevan exclave, a strip of territory nestled between Armenia, Iran and Turkey that Ankara and Baku want to link up with rump Azerbaijan by carving out a land corridor that would run through southern Armenia. Aliyev in 2021 threatened to create such a corridor - that would create a

contiguous land bridge between close allies Turkey and Azerbaijan and deprive Armenia of a land border with Iran - "whether Armenia likes it or not." The symbolic choice of location for Monday's talks, less than a week after Azerbaijan forces swept into Nagorno-Karabakh to retake control of the breakaway region, is likely to worry the authorities in Armenia, who have in the past rejected such a land corridor while being theoretically open to restoring severed road and rail links. At a joint news conference at which neither man took any questions, President Aliyev lamented that Soviet-era authorities had deemed part of what he

said should have been territory belonging to the Azerbaijani Soviet republic as land belonging to the Armenian Soviet republic. "The land link between the main part of Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan (the exclave) was thus cut off," complained Aliyev. An influential telegram channel linked to Karabakh Armenians called "Republic of Artsakh" said Aliyev's words looked ominous. "The new target of Azerbaijan and Turkey is Syunik (a province in southern Armenia through which such a corridor would pass). They are already openly declaring it. Active preparations for war are underway," it said.



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev attend a welcoming ceremony in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan.

## Ukraine targets a key Crimean city a day after striking Russia's Black Sea Fleet headquarters

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine launched another missile attack on Sevastopol on the occupied Crimean Peninsula, a Russian-installed official said, a day after an attack on the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet that left a serviceman missing and the main building smoldering. Sevastopol was put under an air raid alert for about an hour after debris from intercepted missiles fell near a pier. Gov. Mikhail Razvozhayev wrote on the messaging app Telegram. He later added that another missile fragment fell in a park in northern Sevastopol, parts of which had to be cordoned off. Ferry traffic in the area was also halted and later resumed. Loud blasts were also heard near Vilne in northern Crimea, followed by rising clouds of smoke, according to a pro-Ukraine Telegram news channel that reports on developments on the peninsula. Crimea, illegally annexed by Russia in 2014, has been a frequent target for Ukrainian forces since

## EU commissioner calls for more balanced trade with China & warns that Ukraine could divide them

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: The European Union's trade commissioner called for a more balanced economic relationship with China on Monday, noting an EU trade deficit of nearly 400 billion euros (\$425 billion), while also warning that China's position on the war in Ukraine could endanger its relationship with Europe. Valdis Dombrovskis, in a speech at China's prestigious Tsinghua University, said that the EU and China face significant political and economic headwinds that could cause them to drift apart. "The strongest, yet



Jasminka Dzumhur, Erik Mose and Pablo de Greiff, members of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, attend a news confer.

## Four dead as gunmen battle police in Kosovo monastery siege

**Monitoring Desk**  
MITROVICA: Gunmen in armoured vehicles stormed a village in an ethnic Serbian-majority region of Kosovo on Sunday, battling police and barricading themselves in a monastery in a resurgence of violence in the restive north. Kosovo police said one officer and three of about 30 attackers died in shootouts around the village of Banjska. Monks and pilgrims were locked in the Serbian Orthodox monastery's temple as the siege raged for hours. Ethnic Albanians form the vast majority of the 1.8 million population of Kosovo, a former province of Serbia. But some 50,000 Serbs form the majority in the north, where clashes in May injured dozens of protesters and Nato alliance peacekeepers. The Serbs have never accepted Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence and still see Belgrade as their capital more than two decades after a Kosovo Albanian guerrilla uprising against repressive Serbian rule. It was unclear who was behind Sunday's violence, but Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Interior Minister Xhelal Sveclla blamed "Serbia-sponsored criminals".



Migrants walk along razor wire looking for a place to cross the Rio Grande river, near the US-Mexico border.

## Canadian Sikh group urges followers to protest outside Indian embassies

**Monitoring Desk**  
OTAWA: A Canadian Sikh group has called on its members to protest outside the Indian diplomatic missions of main Canadian cities on Monday, a week after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raised the prospect of New Delhi's involvement in the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. Trudeau said last week Canada was pursuing "credible allegations" that Indian government agents may be linked to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was shot dead outside a Sikh temple on June 18 in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb with a high Sikh population. India swiftly denied any role in the killing and described the allegations as "absurd". The accusations have sparked tensions between the two countries, with each nation expelling diplomats, and New Delhi suspending visas for Canadians. Jatinder Singh Grewal, a director for Sikh for Justice in Canada, told Reuters on Sunday that his organisation will lead the demonstrations outside the Indian embassies and consulates in Toronto.

## Alligator killed after Florida woman's body found in jaws

**Monitoring Desk**  
MIAMI: An alligator was killed as it was removed from a creek in the US state of Florida along with a 41-year-old woman's body, officials said on Saturday. Police said they had responded to a report of a body seen in the creek in Largo, Florida, and that the 13-foot, 8.5-inch (4-metre) male alligator was "humanely killed" on Friday. Officers identified the body on Saturday, but said "the manner and cause of death is pending," and that the investigation was ongoing. Witness Jamaricus Bullard told US media that he saw a big alligator and a body in the creek, and ran to a nearby fire station to report it. "I threw a rock at the gator, just to see if it was like really a gator," Bullard told WFLA-TV, an NBC News affiliate, on Friday. "It pulled the body, like it was holding on to the lower part of the torso, and just pulled it under the water." Bullard said the alligator put up a strong fight against authorities.

## Iran says it defused 30 bombs in Tehran, detained 28 people, Tasnim reports

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Authorities in Iran have neutralised 30 bombs meant to go off simultaneously in Tehran and detained 28 terrorists linked to Islamic State, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday, citing the intelligence ministry. "Some of the members are of Islamic State (IS) and the perpetrators have a history of being affiliated with Takfiri groups in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Kurdistan re-

## Italian PM admits she hoped to do 'better' on migration

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has admitted she had hoped to do "better" on controlling irregular migration, which has surged since her far-right party won historic elections a year ago. "Clearly we hoped for better on immigration, where we worked so hard," she said in an interview marking the win, broadcast late on Saturday on the TG1 channel. "The results are not what we hoped to see. It is certainly a very complex problem."



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee to review the prices of essential commodities

## NPMC Meeting: Planning Minister asks provinces to go after hoarders, profiteers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Monday chaired a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to review the prices of essential commodities, directing the quarters concerned to maintain food prices and provide relief to the common man.

The minister emphasized zero-tolerance against hoarders and profiteers, di-

recting the provincial governments to engage their respective Commissions, Deputy Commissioners and Magistrates against the elements involved in hoarders, a news release said.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Statistician from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), representatives from all provinces, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Food

Security & Industries, and other relevant stakeholders. During the meeting, the PBS officials presented the price and inflation data, while representatives from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan apprised the forum on the current production and supply of wheat, sugar and other essential commodities, which remained satisfactory.

The meeting decided that the PBS would give access to its App to the provinces so that prices could be monitored and controlled effectively.

It also highlighted the importance of minimizing the price difference between wholesale and retail items and directed the relevant stakeholders to reduce this difference to maximize relief for the common man.

## Siraj calls upon ECP to promptly announce date of national elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Siraj-ul-Haq has called upon the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to promptly announce the date for the national elections.

Addressing a press conference along with JI secretary general Amirul Azim at the residence of the party's former MNA Mian Aslam on Monday, he said the ECP failed to conduct the polls within the stipulated 90 days following the dissolution of the assemblies, hence, it also fell short in meeting the constitutional requirements.

However, despite of that, Sirajul Haq said the JI believed at least now the ECP should remove ambiguity and announce the precise date for the general election. He urged all institutions, particularly the judiciary, the military establishment, and the ECP itself, to maintain an apolitical stance, refrain from interfering in political matters, and allow the people of Pakistan to exercise their right to elect their representatives in a free and fair manner. The transparent conduct of the elections would serve as a genuine test of the ECP's credibility, he argued.

## PML-N forms committee for Nawaz's warm welcome

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to extend warm welcome to the party's return by next month has constituted a coordination committee. Chief Organizer of PML-N Maryam Nawaz has constituted the party's Punjab, Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and KP women wings' coordination committees for welcome of Nawaz Sharif who has been scheduled to arrive on October 21. As per notification senior party leader Khawaja Saad Rafique has been given responsibility for Rawalpindi division, Malik Ahmed Khan for Gujranwala, Ahsan Iqbal for Sargodha, Khurram Dastagir will head Faisalabad reception committee.

## PM urges British fashion firm to open buying house in Pakistan

LONDON (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday, highlighting Pakistan's pro-investment policies and facilities, urged the UK-based Boohoo Group to consider opening buying houses in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with leading British businessman and co-founder and Executive Chairman of Boohoo Group Abdullah Kamani, emphasised the advantages of investment in Pakistan and extended an invitation to Boohoo Group to send a buying delegation to Pakistan for enhanced collaboration.

In the meeting, Kamani expressed keen interest in establishing long-term buying linkages with Pakistan and the ambition to create a comprehensive supply chain in the country, encompassing organic cotton to apparel production. They also hoped for improved Pakistan-UK air connectivity to facilitate increased imports from Pakistan. Prime Minister Kakar conveyed Pakistan's commitment to facilitating investment and offered support in establishing manufacturing facilities within the country, particularly within Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The meeting marked a significant step towards enhancing economic cooperation and trade between Pakistan and the firm. Boohoo Group is a prominent British online fashion retailer with annual sales exceeding one billion pounds, with a wide range of popular brands.



Deputy Chairmanship Planning Commission, Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan chairing a meeting of Central Development Working Party at the Planning Commission.

## CWDP clears 2 development projects including FIA's operational improvement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Planning Commission (PC) Deputy Chairman Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan on Monday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that cleared two development projects worth Rs 2.42 billion.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Economist, Members Planning Commission and representatives from the various ministries, a news release said. The forum cleared Programme for Flood Response through Reconstruction of Education Facilities in Sindh worth Rs1,566.628m and Operational Improvement of Federal Investigation Agency in AML/CFT, Counter Terrorism Wing & Case Management System worth Rs 858.577m. Under the Programme for Flood Response through Reconstruction of Education Facilities, the Sindh government wanted to meet the need to reduce the dropout and increase enrollment.

## Indian forces commit heinous acts in IIOJK: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mullick says Pakistan and its public fully support the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in his claims against India.

She was addressing a rally in Islamabad on Monday against the human rights violations in India.

The Special Assistant said Indian forces are carrying out heinous acts with complete impunity in the occupied Kashmir. She urged the participants to raise their voice for the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Mushaal Mullick felicitated the people and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on the occasion of its national day.

In a message issued here, she extended her heartfelt congratulations to the Saudi King, Crown Prince and the Royal family, saying that Saudi Arabia witnessed a spate of developments and prosperity under its leadership.

## SAPM says: Islamabad's Administration establishes designated support desks for overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) for Overseas Pakistani Jawad Sohrab Malik on Monday said that Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) has established designated support desks for Overseas Pakistanis to provide multiple essential civic facilities with ease through One Window Operation.

On the special instruction of Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwar Ul Haq Kakar the Capital Development Authority's special desk will assist with the transfer of residential plots, approval of building designs, issuance of completion certificates, payment of annual property tax, and quarterly payment of water supply and other miscellaneous payments for

Overseas Pakistanis, SAPM said.

Jawad Sohrab Malik said that the government has established new support desks for overseas Pakistanis.

The support desks will offer a wide range of services, including assistance with housing, property taxes, and other government services. The goal of the support desks is to make it easier for Overseas Pakistanis to access government services and to increase their trust in the government.

Jawad Malik further said that the official staff from all relevant agencies including CDA, Revenue Department, and Islamabad Police will be present at the support desks to assist and guide Overseas Pakistanis.

SAPM said that the designated support desks services will be extended to other institutions at the federal and provincial levels that offer services to Overseas Pakistanis.

This means that overseas Pakistanis can access a wide range of services at the support desks, from all levels of government. This significant move is expected to increase the trust that Overseas Pakistanis have in the government, adding said it will also help to make it easier for Overseas Pakistanis living to access government services with ease. The support desks are located in ICT's Offices at G-11/4 and CDA's building at G-7/2 Islamabad, which will be open to all Overseas Pakistanis, regardless of where they live in the world.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of daily wagers met the Caretaker Federal Minister for the Ministry of Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindi and thank to him for resolving all of their issue.

## Pak reaffirms commitment to eliminate hepatitis by 2030

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has stated that Pakistan remains steadfast in its dedication to addressing the challenge of hepatitis and achieving the WHO's global elimination targets by 2030.

Representing Pakistan at the Second Meeting of the United Nations Group of Friends to Eliminate Hepatitis at the Yale Club in New York, he said our priorities include updating the National Strategic Framework, improving surveillance, expanding hepatitis B birth dose vaccination, increas-

ing HCV testing and treatment, and engaging community-based organizations.

He said that objectives of the Group of Friends aligned perfectly with the overarching theme of UNGA 78, focusing on rebuilding trust and rekindling global solidarity to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting was attended by Health Ministers, WHO officials, several ambassadors and representatives of the member states.

According to estimates, around 12 million

people in Pakistan were affected from Hepatitis B and C, with 150,000 new cases reported every year. These multifaceted challenges stem from unsafe blood transfusions, unhygienic dental treatments and reused syringes.

Appreciating Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination for launch of National Hepatitis Elimination Profile (N-HEP) Initiative in 2022, the Ambassador noted that Government of Pakistan had set an ambitious target under the initiative, aiming to screen millions of individuals and treat millions affected by hepatitis by 2030.

## KPCM approves Rs300,000 for treatment of journalist Zafar Wazir

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan on Monday gave approval three hundred thousand rupees for the treatment of ailing journalist Zafar Wazir.

The Interim Chief Minister approved the financial assistance for the medical treatment of the journalist, hailing from Wana, on the request of Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi.

Murtaza Solangi had written a letter to the Chief Minister for the treatment of journalist Zafar Wazir, who has been working with the national media since 2004 and suffering from cardiac issue for some time.

## Meeting on 12th convocation of IIU held

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice President Research & Enterprise, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU) Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed on Monday chaired the meeting of the conveners of the sub-committee for 12th convocation of university.

The 12th convocation of IIU will be held on November 8th and 9th of this year. Those attended the meeting included Prof. Dr. N.B. Jumani, Vice President Administration and Finance, Prof. Dr. Abdur Rahman, Vice President Academics, conveners of the committees and relevant officers including directors and in-charges.

During the meeting, the chair was briefed about the procedure and plans of the convocation. Various recommendations were made to make it a memorable and exquisite event.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan talking to media persons during the inauguration of Incinerator ceremony in Community Health Centre Kirpa in Islamabad.

## Capital's waste management system to be further improved

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Monday said that the government has planned to further improve the waste management system in the federal capital.

Addressing the launching ceremony of environment-friendly incinerator at Karpa, the minister said that the federal capital has 5,000 kg of hospital waste. He said that the country is facing the challenges of climate change.

"Our job is to provide the best health facilities to the people. If the health system is better, the health of the people will be better."

He said, "We are trying to provide the best health facilities to the people with the available resources."

He said that the government will improve facilities at Basic Health Units in the federal capital. "We are going to digitize the system."

He said the country is facing many channels like flood, climate change etc.

He said that the primary health care system needs to be strengthened.

He said that Pakistan is the signatory of Universal Health Coverage and steps are being taken in this regard.

He said that the National Health Card authorities have been asked to have one system for all.

"We want to eradicate polio from Pakistan." He said that three rounds of polio vaccination drive will be completed by December.

## 12 accused involved in immoral activities held

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Humak police team apprehended 12 accused including five women involved in immoral activities and recovered cash from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police

has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

During the ongoing crackdown, the Humak police team arrested 12 accused including five women involved in immoral activities. Police team also recovered cash, vehicle and motorbike from their possession. Case has been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

## Senate body on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony convenes

ISLAMABAD: Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony was held here at Parliament House on Monday with Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri in Chair.

The Senate Committee deliberated on the recent letter written by Saudi Arabia, proposing to reduce the number of Hajj Operators of Pakistan from 905 to 46. Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, stated that the Saudi Arabia intends to provide better facilities to pilgrims, and in this regard, the letter has been sent to all Muslim Countries.

The Committee recommended that exception should be provided to Hajj Operators for the year 2024 and the proposed number of operators by the Saudi Government should be increased to 100.

The Senate body was

briefed by the ministry on the recent Hajj in 2023. Officials apprised that Hajj quota for the year 2023 was 179,210, divided equally between the government and private sectors.

The cost of Hajj for the North region was Rs. 11,75,000 and for the South region, it was Rs. 11,65,00. However, an average refund of Rs. 97,00 to Rs. 132,00 was issued to each Hajji upon their return from Hajj. Officials further added that around 21,244 complaints relating to food, accommodation and transportation were received during the 2023 Hajj, and fortunately, all the complaints have been resolved.

Furthermore, the committee was informed about the ministry preparations for the 2024 Hajj. Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs stated that the Ministry is aiming to introduce Suitcases with QR code and designed scarves for females for the year 2024, to easily identify Hujjaj from Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed taking interest in Islamic Calligraphy during "Solo Calligraphy Exhibition" by Wasil Shahid in Federal Capital.