

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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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; Election date announcement a positive development: Solangi; PDM parties welcome announcement of election date; PTI to move top court**

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.

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.

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.

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ing constituencies and decided that the initial list for the delimitation of constituencies would be published on September 27.

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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.

## Crime against children, women, minorities not to be tolerated: Justice Baqar

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar during his surprise visit to Boat Basin Police station said that he would not tolerate crime against children, women, minorities, and operations against drug mafia be intensified further.

The CM visited two sub-registrar offices- Clifton-II and Saddar Town and checked their record, and listened to the complaints of the people present there.

Boat Basin PS: The interim chief minister paid a surprise visit to Boat Basin Police station, and checked Roznamcha, the record room, and the wireless control room.

To a question, the CM was told that the Boat Basin police had six mobiles, and they were patrolling. The CM through the control room contacted the mobile and asked for their location. One of the mobiles was

present in the Bath Island area, and the other was at Shireen Jinnah Colony.

The CM was told that the crime rate in the jurisdiction of the police was lower, except in Shireen Jinnah Colony and Hijrat Colony.

The CM directed the police to act against the drug mafia. There are reports that shisha was openly used in Clifton and Defence areas and must be stopped.

The SHO briefed the chief minister about the performance of the Boat Basin police and said that patrolling has been accelerated to control street crime.

The CM directed the DIG South Zone and SSP South Imran Qureshi, who after hearing about the CM's visit reached the police station, to issue clear directives to the police that there was zero tolerance against crime against children, women, and minorities.

## 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.

The court imposed the fine on lawyer and ordered him to deposit it to any welfare institution and present receipt.

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

LAHORE (INP): Former president Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) supreme Chaudhry 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.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting were Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Chaudhry Shafay Hussain.

## Kaira says: Election date will alleviate uncertainty

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira, emphasised that providing a specific date by the Election Commission for general elections would help alleviate the prevailing uncertainty.

Kaira reiterated that the PPP firmly upholds its constitutional mandate to hold elections and believes it is essential for stability.

Furthermore, he clarified that the issue of a level playing field is distinct from this matter and should be addressed separately.

It is to be recalled that PPP co-chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari had earlier requested the Election Commission (ECP) to announce a date for polls in the country.

## 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). The Federal Cabinet Division has issued a notification.

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

**IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva appreciates Pakistan's concerted efforts in implementing policies and reforms to revive the 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. Additionally, a strong focus had been placed on protecting the vulnerable segments of society.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva appreciated Pakistan's concerted efforts in implementing policies and reforms to revive the economy.

She assured that the IMF remained committed to continued engagement with Pakistan.

Relatives of father and son killed in Korangi meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

Pak, 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 Ahmad 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 foolproof security of Chinese in Pakistan who are working on various projects for a better future of people of Pakistan.

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

Eight terrorists killed, five apprehended in two separate operations in KP

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces on Thursday killed eight terrorists and apprehended five others including their facilitators in separate intelligence-based operations conducted in two districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said an intense fire exchange took place between the Army troops and terrorists during the conduct of the first operation in general area Jani Khel of Bannu District.

As many as six terrorists were sent to hell while five were apprehended during the operation. These terrorists were involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces, including the facilitation of the Motorcycle



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar presides over a local government meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.

## PM Kakar 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.

The prime minister thanked the Secretary-General for his unwavering support during last year's floods and for co-hosting the Geneva Conference on Pakistan's Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF).

Recognizing the grave threat of climate change, the prime minister stressed the importance of the fulfillment of climate finance commitments by developed nations.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach \$13.186 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reach US\$ 13,186.6 million while reserves held by the central bank stood at \$ 7,695.3 million. The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves increased by \$ 56 million to \$ 7,695.3 million during the week ended on September 15, 2023. Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5,491.3 million, it added. Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ending on September 8, 2023, were US\$ 13,079.1 million. Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were \$ 7,638.9 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were \$ 5,440.2 million.

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 supreme 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 allotment case against the PML-N supreme 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.

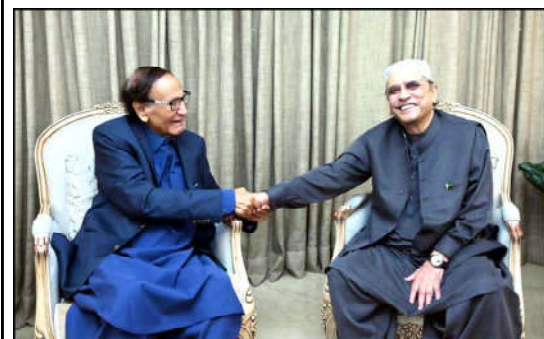
The Paragon Housing Society case against former federal minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq and Salman Rafiq and the misuse of powers case against the Ex-Speaker Punjab assembly Sabtain Khan is also expected to reopen.

chieftain's range or tribe, legal action will be taken against him. If there is a senior politician, then the government will request his disqualification in the Election Commission.

"I will not sit quietly until the bandits are eliminated from the province," Nawaz said. "Criminals with petty cases will be welcomed if they surrender."

Nawaz also said that the government will warn the chiefs and try to settle their disputes. Additional allowance will be given to the personnel operating in the rough area.

there is a crime in any



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

## PPP dismisses ECP's election date announcement as 'unconstitutional'

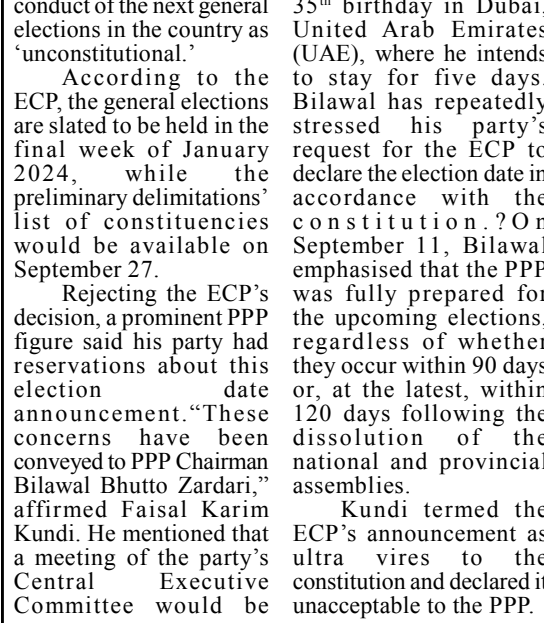
KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) dismissed on Thursday evening the announcement made earlier in the day by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding the conduct of the next general elections in the country as 'unconstitutional.'

According to the ECP, the general elections are slated to be held in the final week of January 2024, while the preliminary delimitations' list of constituencies would be available on September 27.

Rejecting the ECP's decision, a prominent PPP figure said his party had reservations about this election date announcement. "These concerns have been conveyed to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari," affirmed Faisal Karim Kundi. He mentioned that a meeting of the party's Central Executive Committee would be

convened upon Bilawal Bhutto's return to Pakistan to decide on a future course of action. It is noteworthy that Bilawal Bhutto, the PPP chairman and former foreign minister, is presently celebrating his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he intends to stay for five days. Bilawal has repeatedly stressed his party's request for the ECP to declare the election date in accordance with the constitution. On September 11, Bilawal emphasised that the PPP was fully prepared for the upcoming elections, regardless of whether they occur within 90 days or, at the latest, within 120 days following the dissolution of the national and provincial assemblies.

Kundi termed the ECP's announcement as ultra vires to the constitution and declared it unacceptable to the PPP.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab along with others cuts ribbon during inauguration ceremony of vehicles for cleaning in Korangi District, held in Karachi.

# 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 marketeers.

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.

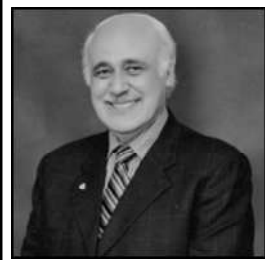
The same question can also be extended to ask why the civil administration was never utilised during the PDM era to control market manipulation in other segments of the economy either. Why were the country's regulatory authorities not mobilised to safeguard the interests of common citizens pleading for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

mitted 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".

The former chief justice, Umar Ata Bandial, served for 22 months. In one early hearing, soon after taking over, he quoted a paragraph from this column, published on Feb 17, 2022. The paragraph anticipated that "his priority in office will be to reduce the backlog of pending cases inherited from his predecessors. In 2001, there were 13,000, 20,000 in 2011, rising to 53,000 in 2022". When he left office, the number had risen alarmingly to 56,544.

CJP Isa will have an even shorter tenure. He has only 13 months left before his retirement on Oct 25, 2024. Will he have time to heal the fractured Supreme Court, or will his stewardship, like his swearing-in, be remembered more for its symbolism than its substance?

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

(Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 — a sad example of the 'bitter' constitutional litigation CJP Bandial complained had impacted adversely the Supreme Court's performance.

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



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

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 in-

dustrial 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

## Sworn in, not at

## ILO's advice

# Commerce News

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

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq on Thursday highlighting 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.



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

SIALKOT (INP): various leading firms from 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) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and delegations of

## 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.



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 Saeed.

## 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.

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

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL and Ufone 4G) has launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative in response to the devastating natural calamities across the North African countries, 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,

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."

## 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 employment opportunities in the country. He said that there was a positive discussion with the Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar on a 5-point agenda related to the IT Sector.

The issue of dollar retention in the IT industry was discussed in detail and will give good news in this regard soon. This move will not only transfer overseas IT accounts to Pakistan and restore investor confidence, but also accelerate the flow of dollars in the country and increase the volume of IT exports immediately.



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.

## 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



**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.

## 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, provided a comprehensive briefing to the caretaker provincial minister regarding the various divisions and the performance of PDMA. Several PDMA directors and officers were also in attendance. In his briefing, DGP

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.

## 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 checkpoint 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

as Chancellor, he has directed the universities to organize IT trainings for students in collaboration with Punjab Information Technology Board. Governor Punjab said that It is very important to give information technology and vocational training to the youth. He said that a large number of vocational courses were started between 2013 and 2018. Governor Punjab said that IT and vocational training create employment opportunities. On this occasion, the delegation told the Governor of Punjab that IT exports can be increased significantly with the support of the government. The delegation also informed the Punjab Governor about the various problems faced by the IT industry.

## 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 Phurro.

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.

## 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.



**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.

## 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.

# 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 a permanent U.N. Security Council member to circumvent international norms would be dangerous and "paradoxical."

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.**

## 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."



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

## 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.

## 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.

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.

## Poland is done sending arms to Ukraine, Polish leader says as trade dispute escalates

**Monitoring Desk**  
WARSAW: Poland's prime minister said his country is no longer sending arms to Ukraine, a comment that appeared aimed at pressuring Kyiv and put Poland's status as a major source of military equipment in doubt as a trade dispute between the neighboring states escalates. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said in an interview late.



**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.

## Inefficient SOEs inflict Rs500b loss to national kitty in 2022: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Owing to inefficiencies and mismanagement, the deficit State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) incurred overall losses of around Rs500 billion to the national exchequer during last year (2022), Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Dr Shamsad Akhtar said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said there were also profit-making enterprises, which earned an aggregate profit of Rs330 billion out of which Rs185 billion was made by oil and gas companies. In past, the minister said, the governments had established a range of SOEs with good objectives and these promoted economic development besides providing essential public services.

She said, these enterprises spanned over energy, telecommunications, transportation, trade, marketing and financial sector. However, she added, these enterprises suffered due to lack of autonomy, external interference, weak management, limited accountability, inappropriate boards, which she said resulted in financial losses and decline in

quality of services. "There has been massive drain in public resources."

However, the minister added, when privatized, the banking industry was one of the biggest success stories in Pakistan which transformed from loss-making to profitable. Shamsad Akhtar said the overall performance of SOEs was not very healthy what she called "contrary to the expectations" adding that some of these were marred by inefficiencies and mismanagement.

Elaborating upon the SOEs, she said that there were both non-commercial as well as commercial organizations included in it. She said 85 commercial SOEs could pay dividends and some of them could be profitable and some were already earning profits. Out of these, she said 20 enterprises were in power sector, 17 in infrastructure and 14 in mineral, manufacturing and mining. She also shared list of top ten profit-earning and loss-making organizations of fiscal year 2020.

Among the profit-earning companies Oil and Gas Development Company Limited made profit of Rs100.08 billion, fol-

lowed by Pakistan Petroleum Limited with Rs49.4 billion, National Bank of Pakistan with Rs30.6 billion, Government Holdings (Private) Limited with Rs29.8 billion, National Power Parks Management with Rs28 billion, Port Qasim Authority with Rs15.4 billion, National Transmission and Dispatch Company with Rs9.3 billion, Pak Kuwait Investment Company (Private) Limited with Rs6.3 billion, Faisalabad Electric Supply Company Limited with Rs6.08 billion and Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited with 6.02 billion. Among the loss-making entities, Quetta Electric Supply Company incurred loss of Rs108.5 billion, followed by National Highway Authority with loss of Rs94.3 billion, Pakistan Railways with 50.2 billion, Sukkur Electric Power Company with Rs40.8 billion, Pakistan International Airlines Rs36.07 billion, SSGCL Rs21.4 billion, Pakistan Steel Mills Rs20.6 billion, HESCO Rs17.7 billion, Pakistan State Oil Company 14.8 billion and Peshawar Electric Supply Company 14.6 billion.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing National Peace Festival-2023

## WWF-Pakistan organises workshop on climate change education

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: WWF-Pakistan organized a workshop on Climate Change Education, Training, and Public Awareness at the Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi.

The aim of the workshop was to highlight the implementation status of the province's climate change-related awareness policies, plans, and programs, identifying gaps and carving out targeted solutions.

The scheduled interactive working group sessions with experts and participants culminated in the formulation of Sindh-specific critical pathways for the enhancement of education, training, and public awareness. This was the final workshop from a series of events organized at the provincial level, under the TNC. At the beginning of the event, Director General, National Institute of Oceanography, Dr. Samina Kidwai shared a comprehensive overview of climate

change and oceans and said, "There is a strong linkage between oceans and climate change; oftentimes an overlooked issue. It is critical for us to act on it immediately."

In his welcome note, Senior Director Programmes, WWF-Pakistan, Dr. Masood Arshad, emphasized, "At present, it is common knowledge that climate change has severe impacts on Pakistan, we must now look towards solution and adaptation." Talking about the Third National Communication Process, he highlighted the roles of the various implementing partners and underscored the importance of reporting requirements to the UNFCCC. Ms. Nazifa Butt, Senior Manager Climate and Energy Program, WWF-Pakistan briefed the participants on the preparation underway for the TNC Chief Advisor, Curriculum Wing with the Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, Dr. Fouzia Khan.



LARKANA: Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, Jameel Ahmed Soomro along with activists cutting cake during a ceremony on the occasion of 35th Birthday Anniversary of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PPP Chairman held at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Memorial Hall in Larkana.

## Grant of Katcha area allowance to katcha police personnel

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: With the approval of Competent Authority Katcha Area Allowance at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- per month is sanctioned to the 4500 Police Personnel deployed in Katcha Areas of District Shikarpur, Kashmore, Kandhkot, Sukkur and Ghotki Mirpur Mathelo. The cost centre for admissibility of Katcha Area Allowance shall be notified by the Administrative Department will submit proposal for creation of separate cost centres for Katcha Area in each district and re-allocate the posts as per working strength for Katcha Area from existing sanctioned

strength of District Shikarpur, Kashmore, Kandhkot, Sukkur and Ghotki Mirpur Mathelo. It shall be admissible to only those police personnel drawing salary from cost centre created for Katcha Area of the District Shikarpur, Kashmore, Kandhkot, Sukkur and Ghotki Mirpur Mathelo. The cost centre for admissibility of Katcha Area Allowance shall be notified by the Finance department after creation of cost centres and re-allocation of posts. It shall not be counted towards pension and commutation/gratuity.

## President, former Senator Durrani discuss political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Senator and Federal Minister Muhammad Ali Durrani called on President Dr Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr here on Thursday. The meeting discussed the political situation of the country, the President's media wing said.

## Death of ailing Pakistani national in Afghan jail prompts concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): The death of an ailing Pakistani national in an Afghan prison has sparked significant concerns and calls for the interim Afghan government to work professionally to promote the values of brotherhood and harmony between the two countries.

A resident of Kohat, Behram Shah died on August 18, in Mazar-i-Sharif jail. He was detained by the Afghan authorities on the complaint of an Afghan citizen Abdul Hamid. Bahram Shah was accused of failing to pay a small amount he had taken the guarantee of. According to an analyst, this was not the first time that the Afghan Interim government was acting carelessly in such matters. Even after two years, the interim Afghan government is unable to handle such matters, he commented. As per the report of Afghan jail authorities, Bahram Shah suffered a heart problem and was being treated in the Civil Hospital of Mazar-i-Sharif. During the treatment, the doctor suggested moving him to Kabul and undergoing an operation. In his examination report, the doctor expressed serious concerns over Bahram Shah's health and suggested his immediate release.

However, Afghan judge Maulvi Mubarak ignored the doctor's report and made Bahram Shah's release conditional on providing another guarantor. The death of a Pakistani citizen is an act of negligence on the part of the interim Afghan government. Earlier, two Pakistani laborers were rescued from an illegal private detention of an Afghan citizen, the analyst added.

He said the Afghan foreign ministry was not even aware of the incident the inhuman treatment meted out to the Pakistani prisoner.



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.

## BRI and CPEC vital vehicles for achieving SDGs: PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar noted that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are vital vehicles for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He was participating in a High-Level Meeting on Global Development Initiative (GDI) Cooperation Outcomes held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, according to a report carried by

Gwadar Pro on Thursday. The GDI was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping on September 20, 2022. In his remarks, the Prime Minister highlighted that progress towards achieving the SDGs has suffered a serious setback due to the policy crises of COVID, conflict and climate change.

He expressed Pakistan's support for the GDI and commended the milestones achieved in its implementation, the most recent being the successful launch of the Inter-Agency Task Force on GDI.

## Balochistan's media delegation visits China Economic Net office

BEIJING (APP): A media delegation comprised of journalists from Balochistan province visited office of the China Economic Net, currently the largest and most comprehensive economic information portal in China, here on Thursday. Cui Jun, General Manager of China Economic Net welcomed the delegation and briefed them about role of his media organization in further deepening the friendly relations between China and Pakistan.

He said that China Economic Net is a major news website providing timely economic news reports, in-depth economic analysis, and an unparalleled combination of data relating to the repaid economic development in China in a single platform. Cui Jun also briefed the delegation that China Economic Net has been playing a key role in highlighting ongoing development projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.



KARACHI: Customs Intelligence and Investigation Director, Habib Ahmed along with other officers addresses to media persons during press conference regarding recovered smuggling of essential items, held in Karachi.

## Major Operations of Sindh excise department against drug dealers

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Director General Excise and Taxation Sindh Aurangzeb Panhwar, while releasing the details of the drugs seized in September, has said that throughout the province, on the instructions of Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Secretary Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department Atif Rehman and Director Generals Aurangzeb Panhwar and Waheed Sheikh actions against drug peddlers have been intensified. According to the details from September 1 to September 20, 13 cases were registered across the province. The number of accused arrested in drug trafficking was 14. One vehicle and 6 motorcycles were also seized 1 kg 50 grams of heroin, 25 kg 310 grams of chard, Crystal (Methamphetamine-Ice) one kg and 780 grams and 400 liters of illegal liquor

were also seized. DG Excise and Taxation Sindh Aurangzeb Panhwar further told that 9 cases were registered in Karachi while 10 accused were arrested. One kg 50 grams of heroin, 22 kg 440 grams of chard, one kg 780 grams of crystal and 400 liters of illegal liquor were recovered from Karachi. Two drug dealers were arrested from Hyderabad and 500 grams of chard was recovered from their possession. A drug dealer was arrested from MirpurKhas and one kilogram of 70 grams of chard was recovered from his possession. A drug dealer was arrested from Shaheed Benazirabad and 1 kg and 300 grams of chard was recovered from his possession. A vehicle used in drug trafficking and 5 motorcycles were impounded from Karachi while one motorcycle was impounded from Hyderabad.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Jam are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of influential people, at Hyderabad press club.

## 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 (IIOJ&K) 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 IIOJ&K and the persecution of minorities and demolition 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, providing training, funding and support to the militants for terrorist activities in Pakistan but, regrettably, the world chose to remain silent.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar being briefed by officials during his inspection visit to Clifton Police Station, at Clifton area in Karachi.

## Caretaker govt empowered under law to expedite privatization process: Fawad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, outrightly 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 amend-

ments 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.

## Ji takes poll date announcement positively, demands transparency

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Engr Hafiz Naemur Rehman has welcomed the announcement of date for the general elections in the country and stressed the need for transparency in this regard.

He expressed these views while talking to the media about the development at Idara Noor-e-Haq, the JI Karachi headquarters, here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that in principle the elections should have been held

during the first 90 days after dissolution of the national assembly. However, he said, it is a good omen that the general elections are going to be held.

He further said the Election Commission of Pakistan is responsible to ensure that the date is implemented and the polls are held with complete transparency.

The important question is if the ECP and caretaker government are sincere in free and fair elections or another RTS (Result Transmission System) is ready to collapse, he said.



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

## DG SFA pays a surprise visit to Habib Public University

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain along with his team has paid a surprise visit to Habib Public University Karachi.

The kitchen in the university was found to be in very poor condition and expired meat was found in the kitchen. Due to this situation, the kitchen operation of the university was temporarily suspended and the meat was destroyed while a fine of five lac rupees was also imposed.

Speaking on the occasion of the visit, Director General Sindh Food

Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has warned the kitchen / canteen owners of public and private educational institutions across Sindh to maintain the quality of their respective kitchen / canteen in accordance with health norms and follow the rules of Sindh Food Authority otherwise they will not only be fined and other legal action will also be taken against these kitchens/canteens. He said that the Sindh Food Authority would not compromise on health principles and following health principles was the primary responsibility of all institutions.