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## PM directs to curb smuggling by enhancing surveillance at irregular border crossings

Emphasizes utilization of country's immense natural resources; Says main constitutional responsibility of caretaker government is to provide assistance in elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the Customs authorities to establish a monitoring system at irregular border crossings to prevent smuggling in the country.

He was chairing a meeting to discuss measures for

discouraging smuggling and promoting trade through legal channels. He was given a detailed briefing by the Ministry of Commerce.

PM Kakar was informed about proposed plans to enhance exports volume, besides possible steps to curb smuggling. Different modalities of

trade under the Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement were also reviewed. It was recommended to improve the system for scanning and monitoring of the traded goods.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has underlined the need for taking more steps to fully

utilize the potential of country's immense natural resources.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review performance of Petroleum Division in Islamabad Tuesday, he said road infrastructure needs to be improved to access the natural resources.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Petroleum.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing a review meeting.

## Interior Minister vows to tackle illegal immigration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti Tuesday vowed to tackle the illegal immigration issue and provide foolproof security to the foreigners.

He was chairing a meeting on law and order situation in the country here, which was attended by senior officials from the police, security agencies, and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA).

The minister said that maintaining law and order was the top priority of the government and that miscreant activities by any individual or group would not be tolerated.

He directed the authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the return of foreigners living illegally in Pakistan.

Sarfraz Bugti also or-

dered completion of the action plan to open three more border crossings on the Pakistan-Iran border.

The minister stressed the need to clearly define the scope of police and security agencies in order to improve their performance. He also directed the authorities to provide state-of-the-art training and resources to the civil armed forces.

Regarding the security of foreigners, the minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of the code of conduct by finalizing it. He also ordered the provision of all possible facilities to visa applicants for business and investment.

The minister called another meeting next week to review the implementation of the National Action Plan.

## FM sends to IMF new plan regarding relief in electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Ministry has sent new plan regarding relief in electricity bills to IMF through which IMF has been assured that no relief out of budget will be provided.

According to government sources the additional amount allocated for IPPs can be adjusted for extending relief to electricity consumers.

Sources said over Rs 15 billion will be allocated for IPPs again on receipt of installments of the bill. According to finance ministry sources finance ministry authorities will again talk to IMF ON NEW PLAN. In new plan IMF has been assured for not providing relief out of budget.

Earlier IMF had rejected government plan on extending relief to people on electricity bills.

IMF sought new plan to provide relief to electricity consumers.

## Elahi arrested again after being released from police line

ISLAMABAD (Online): Tehreek-e-Insaf President and former Punjab Chief Minister Ch. Pervez Elahi was arrested again after being released from the police line.

According to the spokesperson of the Capital Police, Pervez Elahi has been arrested in the case number 3/23 registered in the police station CTD.

According to sources, PTI president will be transferred to CTD police station. Pervez Elahi came out of the police lines in the car of Sardar Abdul Razaq Advocate, his lawyer Sardar Abdul Razaq Advocate and the driver were taken down and Pervez Elahi was taken along with the car.

In this regard, his lawyer Abdul Raziq Advocate said that Pervez Elahi was released on a court order but has been arrested again.

## ECP notifies 20 victorious candidates for reserve seats in Balochistan district councils

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday notified the names of 20 elected members for women's reserved seats in the local government elections held on August 23, 2023, encompassing the district council seats in six Balochistan's districts.

The notification includes the following districts: Pishin, Nushki, Dera Bugti, Kacchi, Kalat, and Panjgur. The returned candidate for the District Council in Pishin includes Bibi Hajira, daughter of Ihsan Ullah, representing JUI-P. Bibi Guldasta, daughter of Syed Abdul Kabeer from PKMAP, and Bibi Sajida, daughter of Rozi Khan from JUI-P, have also been notified.

Additionally, Bibi Salma, daughter of Noor Uddin, Bibi Rubina Tareen, and Bibi Pari Gul, daughter of Jahangir Shah, all from

JUI-P, have been officially announced as returned candidates.

Women received official notifications as the returned candidates for reserved seats from district council Nushki.

This includes Bibi Samina, representing JUI-F and daughter of Muhammad Yousaf, along with Hanain Mengal, daughter of Muhammad Rahim, representing BNP, for the Nushki District Council.

In the case of the Dera Bugti District Council, the female candidates who have been officially notified are Shehzadi, an Independent candidate and daughter of Sher Dil, as well as Bakht Bibi and Salehat, both from BAP and daughters of Dhalak Khan and Raja respectively.

Similarly, for the

Continued on page 2

## SC reserves judgment in NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has reserved judgment on PTI chairman Imran Khan petition against NAB amendment.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked it can be estimated from the reasons for withdrawing NAB amendment that tilt is towards where.

He gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench during hearing of Chairman PTI petition against NAB amendment here Tuesday.

The other two members of bench are Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

At the inception of hearing of the case counsel for chairman PTI told the court written submissions have been filed.

The CJP Umar Ata Bandial while inquiring remarked have you read NAB report, NAB has told the reasons in respect of the references which were returned till May. It can be

assessed from the reasons for returning the reference tilt is towards where. All have come on record the references of which personalities have been returned.

The CJP remarked one amendment came in May and second in June in section 23 of NAB law. The references which were returned before May are still held by NAB. Who will give reply to these questions from NAB side.

NAB special prosecutor said in his reply to question that additional prosecutor general will reach within some time.

Khawaja Haris said several pending cases were returned after amendments.

The CJP remarked too much work of NAB has been finished after amendment. The CJP inquired has NAB legal powers to send the cases.

Lawyer Khawaja Haris replied NAB has no powers to deal with the cases after NAB amendment. NAB has no legal powers to send the cases.

## Govt to pay compensation to heirs of deceased youngster, assures Jan Achakzai

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial government would pay the financial compensation to the deceased youngster killed allegedly during firing incident near Imdad chowk in Quetta the other day.

This assurance was made by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while speaking to the protestors who blocked the Airport

road against the incident on Tuesday afternoon.

The protestors including heirs were protesting against the killing of a youngster as a result of firing.

While the airport road was blocked by the protestors, long queues of vehicles were seen there causing disruption in traffic.

The people particularly the students and passengers faced problems due to suspension of traffic due to protest.

However, the road was opened and traffic restored after successful negotiations between the caretaker Minister Information and protestors.

Jan Achakzai said that the protestors have been assured to meet their demands.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Minister also met the Collector Customs on the issue and discussed with him the matter.

## Messages on Defence day of Pakistan: We have to make pledge on Defence Day not to let sacrifices of martyrs waste: CM Domki

Governor calls for creating spirit of September 6, 1965 to tackle today circumstances facing country: Says "let's make conscious efforts for stability and development of the country together after forgetting our mutual differences"

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that we have to make pledge on this Defence Day of Pakistan not to let waste the great sacrifices of our martyrs, and would always play our role as patriotic Pakistani for defence, development and stability of the country.

This was stated by the caretaker Chief Minister in a statement issued here marking the Defence Day of Pakistan observed today (Wednesday).

The caretaker Chief Minister said that 6th September is such a day in history of Pakistan that gives us lesson to maintain national spirit and resolve for safety, stability and defence of our beloved country, which had been demonstrated by the whole nation during the war of September 6, 1965.

He said that on that day, our brave armed forces and whole nation had proved with unity that the majority of weapons or number don't have meaning in front of the unity and power of belief.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki also said that that was the historic day when our armed forces had defeated

the enemy defending successfully the country.

He said that the Pak army had foiled the nefarious designs of the Indian army by successfully defending the geographic frontiers of the country.

He said that our brave forces have been rendering sacrifices for the country and nation since its inception, and thus saved it.

He also said that the people of Balochistan are also the strong arms of brave forces and security agencies. He also paid homage to all martyrs of the country on Defence Day.

He said that it is our resolve to provide peaceful and conducive environment for conducting free and fair general elections in the prov-

ince. Meanwhile the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that the circumstances being faced by the country today requires that the whole nation may create the same spirit, unity and solidarity again, which was demonstrated during the war of 1965.

The Governor stated so in a message issued here on eve of the Defence day of Pakistan being observed today (Wednesday).

In his message, the Governor said that we are observing the day today when our brave and daring armed forces had successfully defended the country

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QUETTA: Senator Danesh Kumar meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

## Governor discuss political situation, law & order with Chairman Senate



Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar met the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed the matters about the latest political situation as well as the measures taken for protection of public life and property in the province.

In addition to this, the matters pertaining to promotion of higher education and other matters of mutual interests were also discussed threadbare during the meeting between Chairman Senate and Governor Balochistan. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor stressed that we have to take practical steps to get rid of the backwardness and remove sense of deprivations among prevailing among them at the public level.

Both the leaders expressed satisfaction over that at present there are pleasant relations among the center and provinces, however, more efforts are necessary for strengthening these relations.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai distributing awards among heirs of Shahuda during Shah-e-Pakistan CMAward 2023 ceremony

## چمن میں بہار

تمہاری شجاعت اور لہو سے ہے

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## September 6: A day of national pride in Pakistan's military history



On September 6, 1965, Pakistan faced a grave challenge to the sovereignty and integrity, which the nation and its valiant armed forces met with great courage and determination, defeating the sinister designs of much-larger enemy – India.

Since then, the nation has been observing the Defence Day every year with great zeal, seeking Allah Almighty's blessing and support for the country's integrity, prosperity and independence.

The day is commemorated to revive the national spirit and renew the pledge of defending the country against all sorts of threats, paying homage to the sons and daughters of the soil who laid down their lives and endured the vagaries of war in defending the motherland.

Fifty-five years back, it was the first full-fledged war with India after a clash in 1947-48 on the core issue of Kashmir, which unfortunately still remained unresolved even after the passage of more than 70 years, besides becoming a nuclear war flashpoint. Later, the two armies also fought in 1971 and 1999 and remained eyeball-to-eyeball several times.

The latest episode took place in February, 2019 when Indian aircraft intruded Pakistani airspace after the Pulwama incident, whom the Pakistan Air Force gave a befitting reply by gunning down its two fighter jets and arresting a pilot.

Initially, the Indian forces intruded Pakistani area in the Rann of Kutch in April 1965, whom was ejected in a sharp and short conflict. Both the armies had fully mobilized, with eyeball-to-eyeball contact. Pakistan proposed cease-fire, India accepted, following which an agreement was signed and the forces were disengaged.

Past midnight on September 5-6, without a formal declaration of war, Indian army crossed the international border and attacked Lahore and Kasur fronts. Pakistan Army and Air Force halted the attack in its tracks, inflicting heavy casualties on the aggressor. On September 7, a single Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Pilot, Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam, Sitar-i-Juraat, in his F-86 Sabre, shot down five Indian Air Force (IAF) attacking Hunter aircraft in a single sortie, an unbeaten world record till date.

On September 6-7

night, three teams of Pakistan's Special Services Groups were parachuted on the IAF bases at Pathankot, Adampur and Halwara to neutralize them.

To relieve pressure on Lahore front, on September 7-8 night, after crossing two major water obstacles in a bold thrust, Pakistan's armoured and mechanized formations supported by artillery and PAF overran area Khem Karn, six to eight miles inside Indian territory. Vital Indian positions at Sulemanki and across Rajasthan and Sindh were also captured in bold and swift attacks.

On the same night, one Corps of Indian Army launched its main effort east of Sialkot with one armoured and three infantry divisions on Pakistan's extended 15 Division front, screened only by gallant 3 Frontier Force and B Company 13 Frontier Force (Reconnaissance & Support). The 24 Infantry Brigade, led by Brigadier A.A. Malik, Hilal-i-Juraat, which was on the move in area Pasrur, rushed 25 Cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Nisar Ahmad, Sitar-i-Juraat, on 8 September to delay and disrupt enemy thrusts.

As soon as the pres-

ence of India's one Armoured Division was confirmed, Pakistan Army rushed forward to stop the onslaught on a 30-mile front. The biggest tank battle since World War-II was fought on the Chawinda front by 6 Armoured Division, under command 24 Infantry Brigade Groups and valiantly supported by 4 Corps Artillery led by Brigadier A.A.K. Choudhry, Hilal-i-Juraat.

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) support helped turn the tide of the battle. Before a counter-offensive by 6 Armoured Division on 22 September could be launched, India asked for cease-fire in the United Nations. India's aggression against Pakistan's international borders without a formal declaration of war, had cost it, apart from heavy personnel, material and

extraordinary role in defending the Lahore Bedian area in 1965.

Where the country's armed forces proved their mettle, despite being short in number and having limited resources, the whole nation stood by them shoulder-to-shoulder in thwarting the attack.

otic songs to defend the motherland. Some of the evergreen heart-warming national songs include "Aye Watan Key Sajeelay Jawano, Ae Mard e Mujahid Jaag Zara, A Putter Hatan Tey Nai Wekday, Ae Rahe Haq Key Shaheedo", "Mere Dhool Sipahayya", Rang Laye Ga Shaheedon Ka

*Pakistan armed forces were fighting a war to defend the territorial integrity of the country against a formidable enemy. They did defend the country in a befitting manner. When the war ended Lahore and Sialkot were far away from the reach of the enemy. The enemy suffered heavy losses in terms of military hardware.*



economic losses, 1617 square miles of territory as compared to 446 square miles of Pakistan's open and undefended territory. Many of our martyred national heroes were given awards for their gallantry and bravery. The highest military award of Nishan-i-Haider was awarded to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, for his

Pakistan's artists including Mehdi Hassan, Alam Lohar, Noor Jehan, Saleem Raza and others also played their part and made the whole nation realized that Pakistanis as a nation would not be ill-willed by the designs of adversary. They warmed the hearts and souls of armed forces personnel and civilians with patri-

Laho, Yeh Hawaon Key Musafir, Umeed-e-Fatah Rakho, Apni Jaan Nazar Karoon, Ab Fatah-e-Mubeen Hai, Khitta-e-Lahore Tere Jaan Nisaaron Ko Salaam, Hum Haidery Hain, Toheed Key Matwalon and Jung Khed Nahi Hundi Zanaayaan Di."— APP feature

### Defence Day: For honour and inspiration



By Arif Iftikhar

Very often we take for granted our freedoms as citizens of an independent country and the peaceful surroundings of our city and other places in Pakistan that we visit. This freedom and peace is ensured by the military and security agencies that work round the clock to protect our country from foreign and other kinds of domestic threats. Their role is to work for the defence and security of the country under the guidance of the civilian government; and their personnel make great sacrifices, if necessary, in the course of their duty.

The contributions of the defence services provided by our military forces are marked by the annual celebration of the national Defence Day in our country.

Defence and security of the country under the guidance of the civilian government; and their personnel make great sacrifices, if necessary, in the course of their duty.

The contributions of the defence services provided by our military forces are marked by the annual celebration of the national Defence Day in our country. Defence Day, as the name suggests, commemorates the day when our national armed forces successfully defended the attack of Indian forces on our country in the 1965 war. It is a tribute to our armed forces and all the martyrs of the war. It is celebrated on September 6 each year. The enemy attacked

our borders on September 6, 1965, with a view to invade the attacked areas. It was a reaction to stop the advance of Pakistani military in India Occupied Kashmir. They mainly attacked the regions of Lahore, Sialkot and the desert areas of Sindh. The battle lasted till September 22, 1965, when both sides accepted the United Nations-administered ceasefire.

Our military was successful in defending not only the areas attacked but also in protecting the lives of thousands of civilians and their homes. As such, we owe a duty to honour and respect all the military personnel of our country who gave up their lives so that we, our relatives and our fellow countrymen could live peacefully. This respect and honour should also extend to all those military personnel who supported our martyrs, risked their lives and lived to tell the tale.

Many of our martyred national heroes were given awards for their gallantry and bravery. The highest military award of Nishan-i-Haider was awarded to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, for his extraordinary role in defending the Lahore Bedian area in 1965.

He is among a handful of other gallant and brave military personnel who were martyred and awarded the same award in other battles and wars. They gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in the defence of Pakistan.

## Reminiscing the 1965 War

By Taj MKhattak

President Ayub Khan's brief address to the nation on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1965 was a moment when history of Pakistan took a turn. It was a moment we remember for exactly what we were doing and where we were when it



happened. On that day, a few minutes past eleven in the morning, and barely seventeen years old, I found myself entering office of the President Inter Services Selection Board Kohat as an officer candidate. Just then Ayub's authoritative words "Mere aziz hum watano" (my dear countrymen) from a small transistor boomed across the room – words which electrified an entire nation for defense of their motherland.

President Ayub spoke of how Indian army had attacked Lahore that morning at three different places with an infantry division, three armor regiments and that Pakistan was at war with India. But the Indian attack

was blunted and attackers were stopped dead in their tracks by a much smaller force.

At sea Pakistan Navy was about to write history of its own as every ships in its flotilla - PNS Babur (with Captain M AK Lodhi in command), Khaibar (Captain

accomplishment which will be hard to match today. From the operations branch, if there is one person who deserves a mention, it would be Commodore Saleemi, who as the previous Commodore Commanding Pakistan Navy Flotilla during Rann of

Kutch emergency, had worked up the ships to the pinnacle of operational readiness, which is why their response was so swift and speedy.

Pakistan Navy's only submarine PNS/M Ghazi (with Commander K R Niazi in command) had sailed from Karachi three days earlier on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and on 4<sup>th</sup> September, she was ordered to shift her patrol to within a radius of 50 miles off Bombay (Mumbai). Pakistan Navy was the first to field a submarine in Indian Ocean in 1965 just as it was the first in the world in 1973 to induct Exocet missiles on its helicopters in its nascent naval aviation which dramatically altered battlefield disposi-

tion. This speaks volumes about vision of naval leadership as prudent deployment of Ghazi radiated strategic effects and kept Indian Navy bottled up in various ports and naval bases for entire duration of the war.

Just as war clouds were gathering in August 1965, intelligence reports suggested presence of Indian Navy heavy cruiser INS Mysore, Frigates Beas and Brahmaputra at Calcutta. Soon they were ordered to proceed to west coast to join other destroyers and frigates and were tracked by PN through HF/DF all the way till Cochin. The aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and another heavy cruiser INS Delhi were refuelling at Bombay while carrier borne aircraft had all been shifted to Jammagar by 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Around noon on 7<sup>th</sup> September, all PN ships at sea were alerted about an attack on Dwarka that night, which was about 200 nautical miles from Karachi. They were ordered to assembly point by sunset from where they were to proceed towards Dwarka and on completion of shore bombardment, withdraw to their arc of patrol off Karachi. The force was cautioned about possible presence of some enemy surface combatants and air threat.

There has been some debate as to why Dwarka was chosen for the strike. The intended objectives in the preva-

lent environments of 1965 were, a) to draw enemy units out into barrier laid by PNS/M Ghazi, b) destroy the IAF's only bomber guidance beamer in the area for directing strikes from Jammagar against Karachi, c) to cause alarm and confusion along the Indian coast since Dwarka was the centre business in the region, d) possible diversion of air effort from land operations towards seaward defense of Indian coast and lastly to gain psychological advantage by striking deep into Indian territorial waters. This was a perfectly logical rationale as within 36 hours after the war broke out, Pakistan Navy struck deep into Indian territorial waters, wrested the initiative as well as psychological advantage and put an end to all further air attacks on Karachi by destroying radar and beamer installations at Dwarka.

To achieve this, it was essential to retain an element of surprise. By using a combination of restrictions and relaxations in Electronic Emission Policy on various communication circuits and radars, the force succeeded in keeping its location disguised as it steamed towards target on a south easterly heading at best possible speed. There was no luxury of GPS in those days and war records mentions circumcumulus clouds scudding across the sky making it impossible to do an evening star shoot. With darkened ships,



navigational lights switched off, restrictions on navigational radar, difficulties were experienced in station keeping but ships crews did an excellent job in getting to the firing line in a timely manner.

The Bombardment Orders required units to be in position south south west of Dwarka Light at a distance of six miles and steer north westerly course. Due to restrictions on communication circuits, Bombardment orders were passed to ships either by heaving line or visual signaling. The ships were to be seven cables apart in what was called formation 'Whisky 81' – one of the sequences worked out by Commodore Saleemi for quickly assuming a formation best suited to PN for surface action instead of relying on NATO's tactical publications in use in the Flotilla. Similarly there was a formation

worked out for air defense based on ships weaponry and gun ranges.

The task force finally approached firing position a few minutes past midnight and after sorting out ranging issues one last time, 'Operation Somnath' was executed which authorized each ship to fire fifty rounds of high explosive ammunition. Those who participated in the operation remember the firing as disciplined which on an average, took three minutes to complete. There were some flashes from shore which were initially assumed as coming from Indian shore battery but later evaluated as own HEDA fall of shots.

The Indian Navy official version acknowledged the damage caused as a result of this action. The report stated that around midnight on 8<sup>th</sup> September some shells fell directly on Naval Radar Facility destroying most of the infrastructure. About fifty persons were officially reported dead with many more injured. The Naval Air Station at Dwarka used for test flights for INS Vikrant also received shells on the runway and was rendered ineffective for the next two months.

After the war, questions were asked in Indian parliament as to why Indian Navy didn't respond to this daring attack by Pakistan Navy, especially after President's Ayub's speech left no doubt that Pakistan was at war with India. The Indian Defense ministry maintained that defense of Andaman and Nicobar Islands against an attack from Indonesia was more important than engaging Pakistan Navy.

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## GB unrest

Away from the glare of mainstream media, trouble has been brewing in Gilgit-Baltistan in recent weeks. Demonstrations and counter-protests have been held in the mountainous region, with key thoroughfares blocked and mobile internet shut, as sectarian hatreds have returned to cast a long shadow over the area.

According to reports, action was sought against a religious leader belonging to one school of thought, who had made a controversial statement last month. After protests in Chilas and elsewhere, a case was registered against the said cleric. This led to protests in Skardu and other towns, while allegedly derogatory remarks were made by another cleric, resulting in the filing of a case against this individual. Communal differences may only be a trigger for the protests, as there are several underlying factors in GB fuelling disaffection. However, the state's bulldozing of the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, through parliament has certainly breathed new life into sectarian discourses that were largely dormant. GB may only be the first area where narrow communalism is being revived, thanks to this debatable legislation, and unless democratic forces and enlightened clerics speak up, the fire of hatred may spread, especially to those spots in the country where sectarian tensions are already high.

There are signs that matters are improving, as the region's chief minister met both Shia and Sunni clerics, who have promised to maintain calm. The caretaker federal information minister has said the area is experiencing "peace and stability", while adding that the military had been called in only to maintain peace during Chehllum. Though GB has witnessed sporadic sectarian violence over the past several decades, matters, over the past few years, had been improving where inter-communal relations are concerned. Therefore, the local administration, as well as clerics from both sects, need to support efforts for peace-building and shunning those who promote divisive agendas.

In particular, hate groups must not be allowed to spread their toxic views in an effort to fan communal flames. But beyond GB, unless the bill in question, specifically the amendments to the blasphemy law, is reconsidered, it will only add to extremism and widen fault lines in society. As this paper has argued before, blasphemy cannot be condoned, and all religious figures should be respected. But bringing complicated theological and historical issues before parliament — which are better addressed by subject specialists and scholars of the highest calibre — and then rushing them through without any debate will only add to divisions in the country.

Such sensitive issues should not be codified in law in such a haphazard manner. For over four decades, Pakistan has been reeling from the effects of terrifying sectarian violence. To prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws, and the violence this begets, the amendments need to be rethought.



Arifa Noor

The countdown has begun, already — on how long the caretaker set-up can last, and what will replace it, if elections are not called. The first question was always going to be asked, for no one had any doubts that the caretakers would be around for longer than three months. However, few had predicted the rapidity with which the second question would pop up.

Indeed, the pressure on journalists and commentary in general notwithstanding, it is still safe to say the caretaker set-up has not filled many with hope and promise, for the present or future. The oath-taking of the prime minister and the cabinet was about as celebratory as the birth of the second child to the royal family; there is

wee relief but at the back of the mind is a feeling of foreboding of what the spare's efforts to find meaning in life will bring to the family. Margaret, Andrew and now Harry — they all followed the same course.

In our case, the caretakers may be well-meaning men and women, but none of them bring technocratic reputations to ease the worry of the rich, nor do they bring the charisma of a popular leader who can promise better times to a people crushed by inflation. And neither do they enjoy the kind of authority that, say, Musharraf did, which allowed him to promise reform.

As a result, the continuing rumours of delayed elections and the caretaker set-up being in power for some time are now filling people with dread. Even part of the business community, which had pinned its hopes on a technocratic and apolitical caretaker set-up, is now trying to figure out what faraway dream basket they can drop their eggs in.

To be fair, the caretakers were dealt a Titanic though they appear equipped to sail a paper

boat. Consider their short track record, thus far.

They began their stint by encouraging — or perhaps asking for — media attention, lending further credence to concerns of a lengthy stay. (When was the last time a caretaker prime minister made so many public appearances or gave so many speeches on live television?) As a result, the mistakes were made in the full glare of TV channels.

Consider the biggest one, so far. When the electricity bills crisis came, they swung into action. A briefing of the energy secretary was held with journalists, which didn't achieve much. This was followed by a publicised emergency meeting in a bid to figure out short-term relief. The meeting stretched over days and then ended with a vague message that a solution was being found. That is still awaited, although there are few indications anyone is now pinning any hopes on it.

In between has come a flurry of statements which ended up causing so much confusion that they needed clarifications. There was the finance minister

who apparently said she was wondering why she had taken on this impossible job and the prime minister who commented about the magnitude of the bijli protests. And third was the storm in the teacup about the prime minister's visit to Kenya.

While the rest of the clarifications are only of interest to hacks, it is the electricity issue which has led to the perception of the new set-up being uninspiring as well as clueless as those who came before. For those who had pinned their hopes on the caretaker set-up, it was in reality a belief that those behind the scenes would have a plan, which would be executed once those who are simply here for a bit of caretaking were in position. But this 'plan' remained far more invisible than those who are babysitting the caretakers.

Consequently, the run on the rupee continued, while the people took to the streets to protest against their bills. The dreaded implosion seemed to have finally reached the steep slope.

No wonder then that by the end of the weekend,

came tweets galore about the meeting between the 'seniorist' military official and the business community. That all is well has to be said again, shows the realisation of providing assurance and those who have to provide the assurance.

The assurances provided, according to these tweets, were rather reassuring. As was the deadline, again provided in the same message: within six months all would be fixed — from smuggling to the tax base to corruption, which we had always assumed the PTI was so silly to focus on. Even the game-changing investment from friendly countries will arrive within months. Some of the promises brought a sense of déjà vu, reminding me of a bit of many weight-loss diets I had embarked on and abandoned. But as hope wins over experience, let's not be entirely sceptical.

However, there remain a couple of nagging questions. One was mentioned in the beginning of the piece. How easy will it be to keep providing assurances from behind, especially if those officially taking care do not improve their game? For if the eco-

nomic deterioration continues, would this caretaking façade not be dumped, as others have been, for a more direct fixing effort? Or will public opinion and scepticism simply be ignored? It is a question which is being asked with rapidity.

The second question, I tentatively ask: isn't this our third hybrid effort? After all, the PTI and Imran Khan were the first to be 'selected' and they proved inadequate.

So inadequate that the 'change' was replaced by the experienced; Shehbaz Sharif and his Punjab speed were given the chance and he, one has to admit, was far better at keeping everyone happy, from the coalition members to the powerful ones. So much so that the PDM government was christened Hybrid 2.0. But on the economy, he was only successful in making Imran Khan more popular. Has anyone in the PML-N heard the story of the Trojan horse?

So now there has been yet another selection. Third time's a charm, though some are being far too literal and want to know if it's the fourth or the fifth. -- Courtesy Dawn

# The Kakar formula

## How can the law help domestic workers?



Mehnaz Akber Aziz

Slogans of banning child domestic workers are making headlines once again in public seminars and media, gaining attention of the wider civil society due to two ghastly incidents recently.

Rizwana, a 14-year-old domestic maid, was skinned from the head that was left to be infested with maggots. The extent of her suffering is harrowing — her frail body had the weight of multiple painful injuries: fractured teeth, ribs and visible strangulation marks. The employer — wife of a judge and resident of Islamabad — tortured the girl for months who was given in bonded labour by her parents.

Within weeks, there was a second case — in Khairpur Sindh — that left the whole country

shocked. A 10-year-old domestic maid, Fatima, could be seen in a CCTV video, writhing in pain and dying in the house of an influential local 'pir', the employer. Beaten and tortured, the death was caused due to rape multiple times.

The abuse meted out to child and women domestic workers is not new and time and again media picks up a case and it gains momentum publicly. A study by the International Labor Organization (ILO) determines that one in every four households in Pakistan hires a child domestic worker. According to another ILO survey, 8.5 million domestic workers are employed in the country who lack basic education or skills to find alternative employment, so they opt for this mode of earning to escape abject poverty and to earn bread and butter for their families. Domestic work is generally undervalued, invisible and informal as most of these workers belong to most underprivileged communities. They are always susceptible to discrimination with regards to forced or child labour, working condi-

tions, terms of employment, denial of rightful wages, lack of inspection and law enforcement involvement.

The constitution of Pakistan clearly provides a range of provisions with regard to labour or domestic workers rights. Article 11 of the constitution prohibits all forms of slavery, forced labour, services of cruel nature and children (below the age of 14 years) engaged in any "factory or mine or any other hazardous employment". Article 23 provides protection to every person against being deprived of their property. This article is against the bonded labour system that is also prohibited under the Bonded Labour Act.

Article 25 lays down the right of equality of all the citizens before the law and prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sex alone. Similarly, Article 37(e) obligates the state to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work, "ensuring that children and women are not employed in settings unsuited to their age or sex". Moreover, Article 38(a) obligates the state to pro-

mote social and economic well-being of people by "equitable rights of employers and employees".

Consequently, there has been a country-wide realization to undertake concrete policy reforms, legal steps and compliance to protect domestic workers, especially children. In this context, the Punjab Domestic Workers Act 2019, complying with global norms and International Labor Organization's agreements was enacted by the provincial assembly of Punjab.

In similar vein, to cater for a huge number of domestic workers living in the Capital Territory of Islamabad and an increasing number of incidents involving abuses and ill-treatment against them, parliament enacted the Islamabad Capital Territory Domestic Workers Act, 2022 which was moved by this author and that entrenched a legal and contractual mechanism to regulate and protect the rights as well as employment conditions of domestic workers.

As a much-needed initiative, I introduced the Act that recognized the eco-

nomic and social value of thousands of domestic workers residing in Islamabad by bringing them into the mainstream as against their previous exclusion from labour and social protection coverage. Most importantly, the Act banned children under the age of 15 years from being employed. Prior to the Act domestic workers were considered as "invisible", with their employment status not more than "modern-day slaves", while the Act introduced key injunctions given as below:

One, the Act prohibits working of a child below the age of 15 years in a household. Two, the Act allows children under the age of 18 years to do light work in a household, which entails domestic work that is part time in nature and is not likely to harm the child's health, safety and education. Three, the Act further restricts bonded labour or partly forced labour.

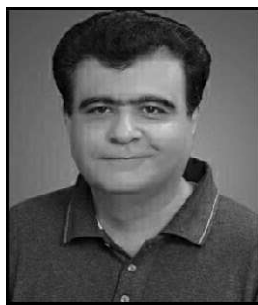
Four, an employer cannot assign extra work to the domestic worker without his/her free will. Five, the Act extends benefits for a domestic worker, including medical care for not only the worker but also his/

her dependents. Six, other benefits include any contribution by the employer in respect of persons employed with him under any scheme of the Employees Social Security Ordinance 1965.

Seven, under the Act every time a domestic worker is hired, a letter of employment, should be drafted, which clearly states the terms and conditions of his/her employment, including the nature of work and the amount of wage. Eight, domestic workers are also restricted from working for more than eight hours a day unless they are paid overtime.

In conclusion, I want to share my earnest concern that the rules that were coordinated by the author and jointly drafted by the Ministry of Law and Justice, International Labour Organization and Unicef, are still lying unattended in government corridors. All the media hype, seminars and pledges are yet to transform into a strong political will to implement the Act that is already in place by immediate passage of the rules and their unmitigated implementation with full commitment. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Political prisoner?



Dr Niaz Murtaza

In 2019, I wrote, under the same title, a column on whether Nawaz Sharif was a political prisoner under the then PTI-establishment hybrid regime. Events since then have shown the weak basis of his convictions. But such is the merry-go-round of politics that I must now write to see whether Imran Khan today is a political prisoner under the PDM-establishment-caretaker hybrid regime. Ironically, PTM leaders may be perpetual political prisoners under all hybrid regimes given their unwillingness to compromise on their principles and strike a deal.

The Council of Europe defines political prisoners as those jailed by rulers via unfair trials due to political enmity, eg. M.K. Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. It may seem odd to call our flawed politicians so. However, credible sources labelled lesser mortals like Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim so too. Stature and perceived dishonesty matter not under global definitions, but only whether a person is being punished due to political reasons via dubious means. Many say Nawaz Sharif had disputes with the security establishment on ties with India and jihadis, which is cited as a reason behind his dubious disqualification. Many say Imran Khan, too, irked the establishment on appointments and governance, which resulted in

the end of its political support for him, leading to his fall. Some say the frictions between Sharif and the establishment related to foreign and security blunders, while those with Khan related to his mercurial actions. But even such pundits feel that Khan's legal woes relate more to his fallout with the establishment than the weight of his alleged crimes.

Like Sharif, he, too, has been disqualified for mis-declaring his assets. With Sharif, the guilty verdict was deemed dubious as it related to receivable assets which are treated as such only under accrual accounting but not under the equally legal cash accounting system. With Khan, the verdict may be correct as he did mis-declare some gift assets. Still, many find the punishment (disqualification and incarceration) very harsh, as the mis-declaration had no major crime; they feel that a fine would have been enough punishment.

Many also highlight process issues during the trial even though they may not change the final verdict. Oddly, online research suggests that Pakistan and Thailand are perhaps the only states that disqualify and jail politicians for an asset mis-declaration even if it hides no major crime. It is hoped that these issues will be considered at appeal stage.

Some other cases against Khan seem weak too. The cipher case charges him with leaking official secrets. Diplomatic ciphers are all categorised as secret documents but many, perhaps most, don't necessarily carry major secrets who deliberate leakage can harm Pakistan and benefit its enemies.

One may argue, in fact, that its reported contents show the haughty ways in which US treats us. The question arises in rational minds whether a

person can be tried for leaking state secrets when actually no secret was leaked and there was no harm done. To many, it seems like a politically motivated trial. True, just as rational minds question the strength of the state's cipher case against Khan, they question the strength of his cipher US conspiracy story too. But even so, that is a political rather than legal issue.

Accusations that the May 9 mayhem aimed to cause a mutiny seem far-fetched too to many. How could admittedly condemnable street protests cause a rebellion within, even in Lahore, let alone nationally? Many say it was a law and order issue and those engaging in serious crimes like arson and assault must be tried through civilian courts for those specific crimes, while those guilty of lesser crimes like trespassing can be fined. But there seems little justification for cases in military courts. Thus, today, the leaders of both the largest political parties stand dubiously disqualified from politics for irking the establishment. Scores of PTI workers are languishing unfairly in jail.

While the fortunes of these larger parties fluctuate depending on whether they are the establishment's ladla or pet child, or not at any given time, other leftist activists like Ali Wazir and Imaan Mazari remain permanent sautelas (stepchildren). The only temporary and partial respite they get is when the powers that be are distracted enough to clamp down on the increasingly frequent rebellion by a former right-wing favourite.

Thus, it appears to many that Pakistan's justice system is being manoeuvred to commit injustices against political opponents rather than delivering justice to the people. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Darkness to light



Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Growing violence on educational campuses has debunked the myth that extremism is somehow confined to religious seminars. It is true that, along with other factors, a lack of education is a potential driver for radicalisation. However, education is also one of the most effective mediums for extremists to penetrate youthful minds. Repeated incidents in our educational spaces reflect the disquieting fact that they are now confronted with both physical and psychological insecurity.

After the Brussels attacks of 2016, radicalisation in schools has become a priority area for policymakers and educators. Tackling violent extremism (VE) through interventions in education is part of a broader shift towards countering extremism through efforts that address environments favourable for the spread of hateful ideologies. Through such interventions, schools are expected to create a secure environment for their students, promote tolerance and social inclusion, discourage discrimination, and prevent violence.

Building the faculty's capacity to resolve conflicts and understand the push and pull factors leading to VE is equally important. At school, young people should be taught how to tackle polarisation and respect diversity. Children should be introduced to logic, critical thinking, problem-solving and nego-

tiation skills. Empowering students to think critically, teaching them to challenge ideas, construct rational thoughts, and engage in meaningful debate proves helpful in preventing violent extremism (PVE).

A few societies have focused their activities on the psycho-social theory of Fathali M. Moghaddam in The Staircase to Terrorism. This explores psychological factors that lead an individual to commit a terrorist act. Among the factors are the psychological injustice of material conditions, perceived options to fight unfair treatment, displacement and aggression, moral engagement and polarisation. To apprehend any adverse situation, training teachers to detect early signs of radicalisation is critical. However, for their best interests, teachers should not be viewed as informants, which can undermine their relations with students' families and their community. Community engagement in children's education and building trust between schools and communities should be clear aims of counter violent extremism (CVE) programmes.

Teachers should be on the front line of teaching students how to save themselves from extremists' influence. Discussion meetings between parents, teachers, psychologists, and social workers on the role of psychosocial services for students and breaking of taboos in the individual-psychologist relationship are important. Reintegration of children from conflict areas through special educational programmes delivered via public schools is another neglected area that requires the policymakers' attention. While dealing with P/CVE, teachers should be equipped to raise students' awareness of the risks of extremism and encourage critical thinking. They should educate students about democratic values, and political, religious and ethnic tolerance. They

must create a safe environment for dialogue about controversial topics in class. Ideally, teachers should also provide alternative narratives to extremist propaganda, and teach students how to build a safe online culture.

Social media provides a fertile ground for extremists to recruit new talent. Teachers should be aware of online platforms used by young people and their potential dangers. They should have knowledge about the threats on the internet, especially when it comes to the recruitment of young people by extremists, and about how extremists disseminate propaganda online. They should educate students about the dynamics of hate speech and fake news, as students may be unaware of the messages behind provocative content that is being disseminated in virtual spaces.

If a student disseminates extremist ideologies and distributes hate material among classmates, educationists should be trained on how to deal with such situations. They should be trained on how to work with parents, social services, and police. Responding to the threat of extremism warrants the creation of an appropriate classroom atmosphere and a democratic school culture. Students should be trained on how to identify bias, and teachers should provide a safe space where students feel comfortable expressing their opinions.

Our teachers can perform an immense national service if they help students enhance their awareness and build resilience against radicalisation. Knowing how to identify and respond to signs of radicalisation, engaging constructively in conflict resolution, and facilitating communication can help many vulnerable souls make the journey from darkness to light. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Punjab Governor says: Future of country lies in hands of youth, the role of teachers is vital in grooming new generation

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chancellor/Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman presided over the 360<sup>th</sup> meeting of Punjab University Senate in Old Campus, Lahore here today. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Punjab University Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Registrar Dr Ahmad Islam, and Senate members were present. The Senate approved the budget of the university for fiscal year 2023-24 in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that future of the country lies in the hands of our youth, and the role of teachers is important in grooming the new generation and inculcating positive thinking in them.

He said that Higher Education Commission

was allocated 34 billion rupees in 2013, and this amount was gradually increased every year up to 120 billion rupees by the PML-N government in the 2018-19 budget, which reflects PML-N's vision and commitment towards betterment of education. He said, however, it was unfortunate that the budget of higher education was slashed by the successive government, due to which the universities had to face problems.

He said that when the coalition government came in 2022, the government increased funding for Higher Education Commission despite many challenges including the threat of default. He said that academia-industry linkages were necessary to promote the research culture, and increase the financial resources of the

universities. He said that Punjab University is a prestigious university and is our pride. He underlined the need to inculcate positive thinking and moral values in the youth. He directed the universities to take steps to promote distance education.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood said that Punjab University was providing the cheapest and quality education in the region. He said that the ranking of the university had increased and many subjects had been included in international rankings. He said that several committees have been established to increase the sources of income of the university. He said that the PU was also facing severe financial pressure due to the temporary suspension of the affiliation process of the colleges.



LAHORE: Chancellor/Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman presides over the 360<sup>th</sup> meeting of Punjab University Senate in Old Campus.

## Govt taking steps to improve health facilities: CM Punjab

**Independent Report**

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said that the government was taking measures to bring modernisation and development in healthcare sector, assuring that significant improvements would be witnessed in hospitals in the next 2-3 months. He was addressing the Chief Executive Officers' (CEOs) health conference organised by the Primary & Secondary Health Department at a local hotel.

The CM said "Though we, initially, came for a brief period, the situation has evolved, and it has been decided that we must do our part to provide relief to the public." He highlighted the efforts initiated for the improvement of the healthcare sector from the very first day. He emphasised that it was both his duty and devotion to work towards bettering the healthcare sector.

The chief minister underscored that the health sector and hospital conditions were, currently, far from satisfactory, and it would be incorrect to blame doctors for this situation. Doctors were diligently performing their duties, sometimes even treating five patients on a single bed.

## CM inaugurates 980<sup>th</sup> Urs celebrations of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Senator Ishaq Dar inaugurated the 980<sup>th</sup> Urs celebrations of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali-bin-Usman Al-Hajveri (RA) at his shrine by laying a ceremonial wreath on Tuesday.

During the ceremony, Qari Sadaqat Ali Shah recited verses from the Holy Quran, while Umar Chishti and his companions recited Na'at. Mohsin Naqvi and others offered prayers for the progress and prosperity of the country at the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali-bin-Usman Al-Hajveri (RA). He also inaugurated the distribution of free milk and performed book launching of books of Dr Tahir Raza on Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali-bin-Usman Al-Hajveri (RA). He extended his congratulations to the devotees of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh from around the world, assuring them that all necessary facilities would be provided to visitors during the Urs celebration. He mentioned that arrangements for Langar (free food) were well-organized and emphasized that free milk distribution had also been meticulously planned.

## Governor KP for equipping youth with strong foundation in science and technology

MANSEHRA (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali said on Tuesday to elevate Pakistan to the ranks of developed nations, we must equip our young students with a strong foundation in science and technology, and obtaining higher education was essential in that regard.

He expressed these views while addressing graduates, students, and scholars at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual convocation of Hazara University, Mansehra.

The governor emphasized that obtaining higher education was just the beginning of life's journey and urged the students to apply knowledge and scientific principles in practical lives along good character and ethics for benefit of the society.

Ghulam Ali highlighted that depriving

girls of higher education could not be justified as 52% of the country's population consisted of women.

He urged everyone to pay adequate attention to girls' higher education so that young girls could be well-equipped with advanced education and research to contribute effectively to the country's development.

The governor KP also discussed the lack of links between educational institutions and industries, which had hindered economic progress.

He urged the university professors and faculty members to bridge this gap and actively engage students in industry attachments and internships during their final year of education, ensuring they were well-prepared not only academically but also practically.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with the delegation of Ismaili Regional Council members at CM Secretariat.

## Pak forces defeated India despite lack of resources: Tariq Parvaiz

FAISALABAD (APP): Lieutenant General (Retired) Tariq Parvaiz said that Pak forces laid unprecedented sacrifices in the 1965 war and defeated a heavy-weight enemy despite lack of resources.

During an exclusive interview with APP, he said that Indian army had attacked Pakistan in 1965 at different fronts but Pak military Jawans foiled their nefarious designs by responding their attack strongly.

He said that his unit was tasked with fighting against Indian troops in Rann of Kutch where the enemy was much strong. He said that Raja Nadir Parvaiz was leading his unit who not only defeated the enemy but also captured many persons of the Indian army.

He said the Indian force was equipped with latest weapons but our unit despite lack of equipment

shot down a number of Indian planes. Due to excellent performance of our unit, Raja Nadir Parvaiz was awarded Sitara-e-Jurat, he added.

He said that when the Pak army defeated the Indian troops, people expressed love to raise the morale of Pakistani soldiers. "Although India had attacked Pakistan with heavy force, but the courage of Pak army Jawans as well as the Pakistani nation was visible as both army soldiers and Pakistani people wanted to fight against India ahead of each other."

Lieutenant General (Retired) Tariq Parvaiz said that the war of 1965 broke out in the days of his passing out parade. During this time, when he was going to the front, the enthusiasm of the people on the way was very visible.

## May-9 violence: ATC sends 81 PTI leaders, workers to jail on judicial remand

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday sent 81 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers to jail on judicial remand in cases related to May-9 violence.

Earlier, the police produced 77 accused, including former MNA Aalia Hamza, fashion designer Khadija Shah, Sanam Javed and Tayyaba Ambreen, before ATC Judge Abner Gul Khan on expiry of their second physical remand in a case of attacking the Jinnah House, after addition of new offences.

The investigation officer requested the court to extend the physical remand of the accused as

investigation related to new offences could not be completed. However, the court turned down the request, adding that it had already granted twice physical remand of the accused after the addition of new offences in the case. Subsequently, the court sent the accused to jail on 14-day judicial remand and ordered to produce them on September 19. The court also ordered police to file a challan of the case. Meanwhile, the court also sent the PTI leaders, including Dr Yasmin Rashid, Mian Mahmoodur Rashid, Ejaz Chaudhry and another to jail on 14-day judicial remand in three cases.

## U.S. envoy Blome meets IGP Punjab Usman Anwar

LAHORE (Online): United States ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome yesterday (Tuesday) met with Punjab Province Inspector General of Police Usman Anwar.

The officials discussed law enforcement cooperation, respect for the rule of law, the protection of human rights.

Both have also discussed the shared interest in strengthening the professionalization of law enforcement - including by enhancing access to justice for women and girls and ensuring gender representation in the police force.

## LHC dismisses bail plea of Yasmin Rashid

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench on Tuesday dismissed post-arrest bail petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Yasmin Rashid and others in a case of attacking Police Station, during May-9 violence.

The bench, headed by Justice Aalia Neelum, heard the post arrest bail petitions filed by Dr Yasmin Rashid and others. During the proceedings, a prosecutor opposed the bail petitions, saying that after the addition of new offences in the case, the accused was required for investigations. He submitted that no proceedings could be carried out on the petitions in these circumstances.

At this, the bench also agreed with the stance of the prosecutor and dismissed the petitions.

The police had registered a case against PTI leaders and workers after attacking Shadman Police Station, under sections of Anti-Terrorism Act and Pakistan Penal Code.



MULTAN: Rescue workers evacuate people from the villages as water from the Sutlej River continued to inundate settlements along its banks, near Multan.

## Provision of record of cases to Bushra case; LHC seeks reply from respondents

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought reply from the respondents on Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI petition in connection with provision of record of the cases registered against her. The petition filed by Bushra Bibi for provision of record in respect of cases and inquiries against her came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Aalia Neelum here Tuesday.

Federation, NAB, FIA, police and others have been made respondents in the petition. The petitioner took

the plea in the petition that NAB, FIA, Punjab police and other institutions have registered baseless and against the law cases. After her husband she is being politically victimized now. No case or inquiry was pending against her before June 2022.

The petitioner requested the court that details of secret cases, inquiries and investigation be provided to her from June 2022 to date. The court should also stop authorities from arresting her in any case till the provision of details of cases.



KARACHI: Mayor, Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad address to media persons during press conference after inspection visit to Shershah area, held in Karachi.

## Youngsters need to enhance skills to compete in market: VC KU

KARACHI (APP): Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi on Tuesday said that our youngsters have to enhance their skills rather than only complaining regarding job shortages in the country.

The varsities are not responsible for awarding degrees only they have to focus on improving the skills of students so that they can prepare themselves for local and international markets, he said this while addressing the recruitment drive initiated by the KU Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization at the Karachi University Business Incubation Centre (KUBIC).

A large number of students of the Departments of Commerce, Karachi University Business School, and Public Administration participated in it. Dr Khalid Iraqi said that students who want to be successful in their entrepreneurship setup should understand that they must have a good coordination of their minds and hearts so that they can use positive energies in the right direction to produce results that are acceptable everywhere and could click easily in the market.

On this occasion, the Regional Head of the Human Resource Department of Zameen.com .

## Schools, colleges to remain closed on Sep 7 in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Government has decided to close educational institutes in the province on September 07 in connection with the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS).

In pursuance of the decisions of the Steering Committee on Education, all public and private schools and colleges will remain closed on September 07 in connection with the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS).

The

## CM's message on Defence Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has underscored the significance of September 6, 1965, as an indelible chapter in our defence history—a day never to be erased from our collective memory.

In his message on Tuesday, he emphasised that on that fateful day, Pakistan's valorous army not only safeguarded our homeland but also delivered a resounding message to the world. Pakistan possessed the unwavering capability to thwart any

form of aggression, he said.

Under the cover of darkness, a treacherous foe attempted to seize Lahore. However, the world bore witness to the unwavering courage and resilience of Pakistan's armed forces, who repelled the assailants with unmatched valour, he said. Through their enduring sacrifices, Pakistan's soldiers demonstrated that victories in wars were not solely reliant on weaponry but were forged from unwavering faith and unyielding courage, he added. In the annals of history.



CHINIOT: Funeral Prayer of Pakistan's Navy Soldier Hussain Haider offering at Tirkhana Wala Lalian District near Chiniot, The helicopter crashed during the flight at Gawadar "As a result of the crash, two officers and one Soldier of the Pakistan Navy embraced martyrdom."

## Police trace wild bear from Bhatta Chowk

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have successfully found a wild bear from Bhatta Chowk which caused panic in the area a day before.

According to a police spokesman, Naseerabad police launched an operation to trace the wild bear. After hectic efforts, Rawalpindi police caught and tamed it.

Later, the wild bear was handed over to Wildlife department.

Citizens were worried because of reports of the bear's presence. Now they thanked Rawalpindi police for locating the wild bear.

On the other hand, SP Pothohar Waqas Khan appreciated the Naseerabad police team who put their lives in danger to find the bear.

## RUDA provides clarity regarding Mandi project

LAHORE (APP): Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) has issued statement to provide clarity regarding the upcoming 'Mandi' project, here on Tuesday.

The authority is actively working on road connectivity to ensure seamless access to the mandis. Along with that the authority is committed to facilitating shopkeepers as per the principles of a modern mandi.

## Caretaker home minister visits DIGP Traffic Karachi office

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons Brigadier (Rtd.) Haris Nawaz on Tuesday visited the office of DIGP - Traffic Karachi.

On the occasion, the minister laid a floral wreath on the Yadgar-e-Shuhada (martyrs monument) of traffic police and offered Feteha.

The minister said a model project of a separate track for motorcyclists should be started on Shahrah-e-Faisal from Karsaz to Airport.

He directed the DIGP Traffic to compile comprehensive survey report regarding misuse of commercial parking in city buildings and maintenance of parking area.

Recommendations in

this regard should be submitted as soon as possible.

Brig. (Rtd.) Haris Nawaz said police officers and officials should ensure good behavior with the citizens.

During his briefing to the minister, DIGP Traffic Karachi Ahmed Nawaz Cheema told that there were 9077 sanctioned posts while 5557 officials were performing duties.

He said there were 153 traffic signals in the city of which 86 were under the management of Traffic Engineering Bureau, 65 Cantonment Boards and 2 under the management of CAA.

The DIGP said Traffic Helpline 1915 was serving the citizens round the clock.



HYDERABAD: Members of Sohni Dharti Youth Council lit up the candles in memory of national heroes of 6th September in connection with Yum-E-Defa Pakistan outside press club.



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerks Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Lahore press club.

## Ensuring ease of doing business govt's top priority: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Minister of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed reiterated that the caretaker government was committed to providing avenues for the ease of doing business in the country while directing the relevant ministries to play their effective role in the implementation.

The minister made these remarks while chairing a "Sub-Committee on Proposed Law of Pakistan Business Portal" to promote the ease of doing business in the country, said a press release issued here.

The meeting was

attended by the Secretary Ministry of Finance, Secretary Board of Investment (BOI), Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce, Senior Joint Secretary Power Division and representatives from the Law Division were also present at the occasion. The digitalization of regulatory bodies for the ease of doing business was the priority of the government, said the minister while directing the relevant ministries to ensure the complete facilitation for the ease of doing business in the country.

It is noted that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was set up to bring foreign

direct investment to revive the country's economy which envisages capitalising Pakistan's untapped potential in key sectors which include defence production, agricultural and livestock, minerals and mining, information technology and energy.

During the meeting, the BOI gave a detailed briefing while highlighting the key features of the proposed law. The proposed law provides a legal mandate for establishing a registry to map regulations prescribed by government departments and then empirically assess the need for these regulations

through global best practices necessary to attract, realize, and retain investments with an aim to eliminate unnecessary regulations, simplify and automate cumbersome procedures.

The BOI representatives informed the meeting that the implementation of this law will have several benefits for the economy, including increased investment, job creation, and economic growth. It will also help improve our competitiveness in the global market and attract foreign investors who are looking for a stable and predictable regulatory environment.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chaired a meeting regarding the Ministry of Commerce.



KARACHI: Interaction with Business Community by Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

## SIFC assures traders, investors of full facilitation for investments in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Tuesday organized a comprehensive discussion with Sindh's business community and economic experts here to elucidate its positive strategy and assured its complete support to the investors for making investments for the country.

The high-level team of SIFC including Dr. Jahanzeb Khan (Special Assistant to the Caretaker Prime Minister) and Director General SIFC provided a detailed information regarding the Council on the occasion, official sources told APP.

The experts established that Pakistan's agriculture, livestock, information technology, mining and energy sectors have excellent potential for capital.

In this high-level meeting, all the aspects that can play a positive role in improving the investment environment for entrepreneurs in the country were highlighted.

At the end of the meeting, a panel discussion with investors were given an opportunity to discuss investment opportunities and suggestions with the SIFC team.

Investors and economic experts from all over the country participated in the meeting and expressed full confidence in the policies of SIFC.

The recently established SIFC and the Council provides a single window investment facility to the investors which is considered as an excellent facility by the aspiring investors.

## Secretary Power Division chairs meeting to control electricity theft

LAHORE (APP): Federal Secretary, Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Rashid Mahmood Langrial on Tuesday chaired a high-level video-link meeting with all the provincial chief secretaries, Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) and high-up of all the power distribution companies (Discos) to discuss ways and means to control electricity theft in the country.

Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider, Director (Customer Services) Rai Muhammad Asghar, and Director (CMU/Recovery) Rai Masood Kharal represented LESCO in the meeting, according to the company's spokesperson.

The meeting focused on a single point agenda of curbing power theft, and important decisions were made including utilizing all possible measures to prevent theft of electricity; compiling lists of areas where power theft ratio was high, and also the lists of people, who make trouble, misbehave and even resort to violence against the LESCO field staff. The participants of the meeting expressed the resolve that electricity thieves would be dealt with iron hands.

CEO Nokia to visit Pakistan soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Consul General of Pakistan in Finland & Chairman Finland-Pakistan Business Council, Wille Eerola called on Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif here on Tuesday.

The minister during the meeting discussed matters of mutual interest and issues related to increasing IT exports, said a news release.

Dr. Umar Saif there were great opportunities of increasing Pakistan's IT exports in Scandinavian countries.

He said that CEO of Nokia was coming soon to Pakistan, adding that Nokia 4G phones were being assembled in Pakistan. He said that 5G and 6G technology would be discussed with CEO Nokia. On the occasion, Wille Eerola congratulated Dr. Umar Saif on assuming office of Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication.

## Minister Saif says top priority being accorded to solve IT sector problems

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif on Tuesday said addressing the issues faced by mobile manufacturers and the IT sector was the topmost priority of the government.

"Forthcoming months would witness substantial progress in the IT and Telecom sector" the minister, in a statement on the official X (formerly twitter) handle, said.

Dr. Umar Saif expressed the government's resolve to encourage and promote the

manufacturing of affordable and high-quality mobile phones in Pakistan.

He said local manufacturing would help reduce reliance on mobile phone imports, curbing the outflow of foreign exchange.

He said this initiative had the potential to generate employment opportunities at the local level while also propelling Pakistan's high-tech industry forward. The minister said supporting local manufacturing aligned with the government's vision of self-reliance and economic growth.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, sheds 215.94 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Tuesday as it lost 394.77 points and closed at 45,491.48 points against 45,707.42 of the previous trading day, showing a decline of 0.47 per cent.

A total of 55,028,384 shares were traded during the day as compared to the last day's 139,251,269, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs3,047 billion against Rs4,476 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 296 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.



ISLAMABAD: Honorary Consul General of Pakistan in Finland & Chairman Finland-Pakistan Business Council, Mr. Wille Eerola called on Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif.

## Wheat import reduces 100 % in 1st month of FY2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The import of wheat into the country during the first month of the current financial year decreased by 100 percent as compared to the imports of the corresponding month of last year. During the month of July 2023, wheat import into the country remained zero as compared to the imports of 211,597 metric tons valuing \$107.142 million in the same month of last financial year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Meanwhile, the imports of edible oil including palm and

soybean into the country during the first months of the current financial year decreased by 5.40 percent and 6.82 percent respectively as compared to the imports of the same month of the last year.

During the month of July 2023 about 12,575 metric tons of soybean costing \$14.955 million were imported as against the import of 11,000 metric tons valuing 15.809 million of the period last year.

On the other hand over 277,801 metric tons of palm oil worth \$278.939 million was also imported in the first month of the current financial year.

## Comprehensive strategy rolled out for economic uplift: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker setup has rolled out a comprehensive strategy for economic uplift which is expected to yield positive results, said SM Tanveer, Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skill Development.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been working hard with a focused approach on five major potential areas to

give a turn around to the economy within a shortest possible time. He said that agriculture, IT, exports, electricity and minerals were untapped sectors which could play a major role in stabilizing the national economy.

He said that despite time constraints, caretakers were formulating policies to get the sustained results beyond their tenure.

He said that agriculture was the backbone of national economy which remained neglected during the previous many decades.

He quoted a meeting

with 125 leading scientists, adding that they disclosed that not even a single seed had been approved during the last 15 years.

He said that the cotton with staple length of 27-28 mm had stuck up the research. However he directed that seed already evolved might be released immediately while efforts could be made to develop new seed with staple length of 28 mm.

He appreciated the efforts of caretaker Chief Minister and said that he focused on the cotton crop which was expected to give double yield this year.

## Govt plans to enhance citrus production: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Caretaker Minister for Agriculture, Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skill Development SM Tanveer on Tuesday said that the government was mapping out a comprehensive strategy to enhance citrus production according to international standard in addition to addressing the issues relating to citrus seed, nursery, diseases and pest management for fetching precious foreign exchange for Pakistan after meeting local demands.

He was presiding over a meeting on citrus at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) here on

Tuesday.

He said that sustainable agricultural development was the top priority of the government. He said that citrus action plan committee led by Vice Chancellor UAF Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan was constituted to address the citrus issues.

The minister said that agricultural experts, academia, industry and policy makers had to make joint efforts to achieve food security. "Our agricultural institutions are making great efforts to meet the agricultural needs of the ever-growing population because being an agrarian.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, MSC Denise, America and Lisa, carrying Containers, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal on Monday.

Meanwhile, an oil tanker TTC Viduyt carrying 57,749 tonnes of Gas oil also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port on Tuesday morning.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, three ships, MSC Denise, Lisa and FSM left the port on Tuesday morning, while four more ships, America, New Liberty, Marlen and Falcon Royal are expected to sail on the same day.

Cargo throughput of 152,079 tonnes, comprising 100,042 tonnes imports cargo and 52,037 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 4,266 Containers (1,998 TEUs Imports and 2,268 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 06 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, TRF Kirkenes and TTC Viduyt & three more ships, Fuwairit, Maersk Hartford and MSC Lisbon carrying Palm oil, Gas oil, LNG and Containers are expected to take berths at Liquid Terminal, Oil Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Container Terminal respectively on Tuesday, 5th September.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Women Business Forum led by its President Faiza Mengal meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

ICCI demands Healthy ecosystem for women entrepreneurs to jump-start revival of economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): growth of the economy. He said that when women get economic power, they reinvest it in their families, their communities and bring prosperity to the country.

He said evidence showed that women owned SMEs made a significant contribution to the development of economy as they generated employment, create wealth and improve the social wellbeing of society.

He emphasized to take policy measures to develop a strong venture capital industry with focus to provide easy financing to women entrepreneurs as the current gender-wise distribution of gross loan portfolio of the State Bank of Pakistan showed that a s m a l l percentage of SME loans .

## ICCI demands Healthy ecosystem for women entrepreneurs to jump-start revival of economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan needs to promote women entrepreneurs to jump-start the revival of its economy and put it on the path of sustainable growth.

This was said by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry while addressing a US Speakers Series event organized by ICCI in collaboration with Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IWCCI) under the title "Challenges and Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in venture capital industry".

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that women were 51 percent of Pakistan's total population and their increased participation in economic activity was important to spur the

growth of the economy. He said that when women get economic power, they reinvest it in their families, their communities and bring prosperity to the country.

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## CS terms traders' cooperation essential in managing sugar prices

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary on Tuesday said that amid the crackdown against smuggling and hoarding, it is crucial that sugar dealers and mill owners collaborate with the government in order to manage sugar prices effectively.

The Chief Secretary presided over an important meeting with traders and dealers here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was also attended by the administrative secretaries of the Food and Industries Department.

The participants were briefed about the

updated stock of sugar in the province, rising prices, and their impact on overall inflation.

The chief secretary said that there was no shortage of sugar and that steps were being taken to control the sugar price hike.

He said that the food department and the mill owners should keep a close liaison, adding that mills should declare their stock while the food department's officials should also maintain the record.

The chief secretary said that smuggled sugar confiscated in operations would be sold in the market at the official rate.

## CEO Nokia to visit Pakistan soon

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ISLAMABAD: President Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan Muhammad Kashif Chaudhary talking to media persons along with others at his office in Federal Capital.

## China-Pakistan science, technology, innovation conference held in Beijing

BEIJING (APP): China-Pakistan Science, Technology and Innovation Conference, aimed at developing science & technology bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan, was held in Beijing on Tuesday.

Addressing a sideline forum titled "China-Pakistan Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation- Shared Journey to a Digital Era" at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that China has become a global leader in science and technology and IT fields through strategic investments in AI, 5G,

EVs, biotechnology, renewable energy, robotics, big data and e-commerce, adding that Pakistan would enhance technology cooperation.

"Pakistan itself is committed to its "Digital Pakistan" vision, tapping into its young and enterprising population. We are fostering startup culture and have established the Special Technology Zone Authority to attract tech companies to set up R&D centers and manufacturing units in Pakistan. By offering lucrative tax incentives, we have seen a surge in our IT sector in recent years", he added.

## Rs 77.8 bln projects for remote areas connectivity to be completed by year end

ISLAMABAD (APP): To provide connectivity to remote and unserved areas across the country 83 projects worth Rs 77.8 billion would be completed by December 2023 under the Universal Service Fund (USF).

The official of the IT ministry said the primary objective of the USF was to connect all citizens of the country, as digitalization had become a crucial priority for both

businesses and communities. Under the Next Generation Optic Fiber (NG-OF) Network and Services programme, he said, the USF had made significant strides, contracting over 16,000 km of Optic Fiber Cable (OFC), which was expected to benefit approximately 31.5 million people nationwide. To achieve the milestone, the USF had diligently laid fibre optic cables.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary BISP, Mr. Amer Ali Ahmed chairs meeting with Asian Development Bank's 2nd Portfolio Review Mission at BISP headquarters.



HYDERABAD: People filling their LPG gas cylinder from vendor at Bacha Khan chowk.

## Kremlin says 'nothing to say' on possible visit by North Korea's Kim

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Tuesday it had "nothing to say" about claims by U.S. officials that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un planned to travel to Russia this month to meet President Vladimir Putin and discuss supplying Moscow with weapons for Ukraine.

U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said on Monday that arms negotiations between Russia and the North Korea are actively advancing.

"We have information that Kim Jong Un expects these discussions to continue, to include leader-level diplomatic engagement in Russia," she said in a statement.

Her comments came

after the New York Times cited unnamed U.S. and allied officials who said Kim plans to travel to Russia as soon as next week to meet Putin.

Asked if he could confirm the talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "No, I can't. There's nothing to say."

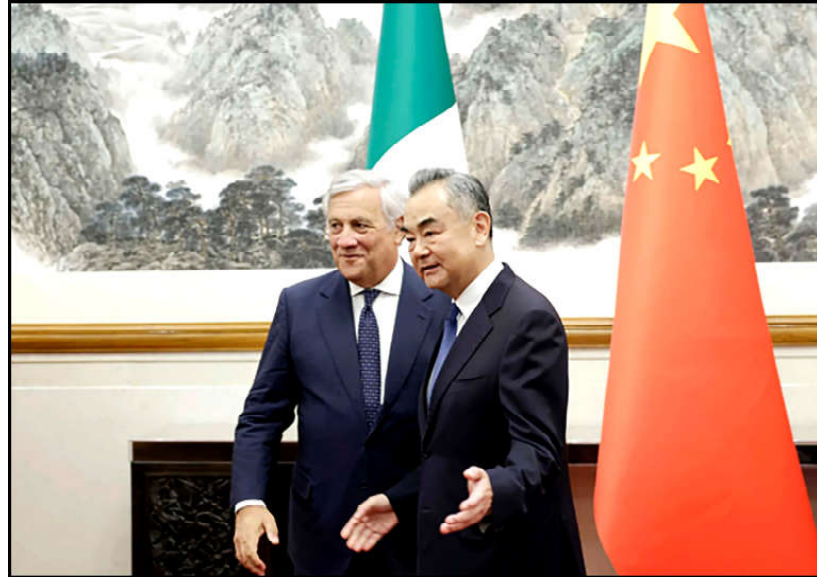
As Russia's isolation over its war in Ukraine has grown, analysts say it has seen increasing value in North Korea. For North Korea's part, relations with Russia have not always been as warm as they were during at the height of the Soviet Union, but now the country is reaping clear benefits from Moscow's need for friends.

Moscow and Pyongyang have denied previous U.S. allegations

that North Korea had provided Russia with arms, but the two countries are promising to boost defence cooperation.

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who visited Pyongyang in July to attend weapons displays that included North Korea's banned ballistic missiles, said on Monday the two countries are discussing the possibility of joint military exercises.

"Just as you can tell a person by their friends, you can tell a country by the company it keeps," said Keir Giles, Senior Consulting Fellow with Chatham House's Russia & Eurasia Programme. "In Russia's case, that company now consists largely of fellow rogue states."



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi meets with Italian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani in Beijing.

## China touts the benefits of its 'Belt and Road' initiative to Italy, which may end the agreement

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's foreign minister is seeking to sell his Italian counterpart on the benefits of leader Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road" initiative of Chinese-built and -funded infrastructure projects, as Rome considers whether to renew the agreement.

In a Monday meeting, Wang Yi told Antonio Tajani that bilateral trade had grown from \$50 billion to nearly \$80 billion and that Italy's exports to China increased by around 30% over the past five years.

While the figures haven't been corroborated, Italy's conservative government has cast doubt on the benefits of the arrangement.

In 2019, Italy became the only European country to sign on to the initiative under then-premier Giuseppe Conte, and it is

not expected to be extended when it comes up for renewal at year's end.

China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted Wang as telling Tajani that "China and Italy should adhere to the right way of getting along with each other" with mutual respect and trust in the face of geopolitical disturbances and that China was ready to push for steady development of China-Italy relations.

The Italian news agency ANSA quoted Tajani as saying that, "Italy is the supporter of dialogue with Beijing at the European Union level too, and of frank, open dialogue on principles and rights." China touts the "Belt and Road" initiative, known as the BRI, as successfully raising infrastructure in underdeveloped nations.

## Ukrainians face fierce Russian resistance

**Monitoring Desk**  
ZAPORIZHZHIA REGION: Three Ukrainian soldiers draw back the sliding roof of their dugout near the frontline, quickly launch several mortar bombs and shout: "Presents for the Russians!"

To avoid revealing their position, they rapidly replace the makeshift roof—consisting of branches and leaves covering tarpaulin stretched over a metal frame—and take cover.

It's a routine they repeat frequently as Ukraine's army tries to battle through vast Russian minefields and heavily fortified trenches in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia.

Kyiv says its troops are gradually pushing back Russian forces in the south after 18 months of occupation, but that fighting is heavy three months into the counteroffensive.

## Five Israelis held in Cyprus over alleged gang rape

**Monitoring Desk**  
NICOSIA: Five Israeli tourists were remanded in Cyprus police custody on Monday in connection with an alleged gang rape of a young British woman in the popular resort of Ayia Napa, authorities said.

The five men, aged between 19 and 20, were arrested on Sunday after a 20-year-old British tourist told police she was gang raped at a hotel room in the Mediterranean island's premier party spot.

They appeared before Paralimni district court on the southeast coast, where they were ordered held in custody for eight days on suspicion of rape, police said.

They said the suspects will be held to facilitate their investigation.



Ukraine's President Zelenskyy visits a position of Ukrainian service members at a frontline, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Donetsk region, Ukraine.

## World losing race to meet climate goals, COP28 president says

**Monitoring Desk**  
NAIROBI: The world is losing the race to meet its climate change goals, the president of the upcoming COP28 summit said on Tuesday, as African leaders called for changes to what they say is an unfair international climate finance system.

The grim assessment by Sultan Al Jaber, who will preside over the summit in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in late November, came three days before the United Nations publishes its first "global stocktake", an assessment of how nations are doing in their efforts to

tackle climate change. "We are not delivering the results that we need in the time that we need them," Jaber, who also heads the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, told delegates at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

The summit, which opened on Monday, is focused on mobilising financing for Africa's response to climate change. While Africa is suffering from some of the most severe impacts of climate change, the continent only receives about 12% of the financing it needs to cope, according to researchers. Hundreds of millions

of dollars of investments in sustainable development projects were announced on Monday, and on Tuesday Jaber announced the UAE was pledging \$4.5 billion dollars to develop 15 GW of clean power in Africa by 2030. Africa currently has about 60 GW of installed renewables capacity.

Germany also announced 450 million euros (\$482.31 million) in financing, including 60 million for a green hydrogen project in Kenya, and the United States committed \$30 million to supporting climate resilience and food security efforts.

## South Korea's Yoon to push for stronger response to North Korea at ASEAN

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will push for a stronger response to North Korea's missile and nuclear programmes at summit talks this week, arguing that the weapons pose an existential threat to the region, he told media.

Yoon will leave on Tuesday for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Indonesia and later in the week he will travel to India for a meeting of G20 leaders.

"The Republic of Korea and ASEAN must join forces to respond decisively and cooperate closely on North Korea's nuclearisation," Yoon

told Indonesia's Kompas newspaper in an interview published on Tuesday.

"North Korea's ever-increasing missile provocations and nuclear threats pose a direct and existential threat to ASEAN member states as well," he said.

Yoon said South Korea and the 10-member ASEAN must enhance their cooperation "so the rules-based international order will be able to take firm root in the Indo-Pacific region".

ASEAN members will be joined at their summit this week by leaders and senior officials of other countries including the United States, Japan, South Korea, China and Russia.

## First lady Jill Biden tests positive for COVID-19, but President Biden's results negative so far

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: First lady Jill Biden tested positive for COVID-19 Monday but is experiencing only mild symptoms, her spokeswoman said.

President Joe Biden was tested for the virus following his wife's positive test, but his results were negative. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the president would continue testing regularly and would be monitored for symptoms.

Jill Biden will remain at the couple's home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for the time being, communications director Elizabeth Alexander said.



Cars are stranded on a flooded road, following heavy rain in Toledo, Spain.

## US House panel probes air, rail safety issues

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The House of Representatives Oversight Committee said on Tuesday it is investigating the U.S. Transportation Department's response to a series of aviation and rail safety issues.

Republicans on the panel in a letter to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said the committee was conducting oversight of the department's response to near-miss aviation incidents and train derailments. They also said they were seeking "a briefing, documents and communications related to the department's efforts to investigate and remediate

these issues to protect the safety of all Americans."

The Transportation Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The letter, signed by committee chair James Comer and other committee Republicans, cited unresolved safety recommendations made by the department's Office of Inspector General. "These safety failures have eroded the public's confidence in air and rail safety and necessitates thorough investigation," the lawmakers wrote in the letter. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has been investigating seven near-miss runway events since January.

## India abuzz over rumoured plans to change country's name to 'Bharat'

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India was buzzing with speculation on Tuesday over rumoured plans to scrap the official name of the country's English name after a state-issued invite sent to world leaders referred to it as "Bharat".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has worked to remove lingering symbols of British rule from India's urban landscape, political institutions and history books, but its next move could be the biggest such action yet.

Modi himself typically refers to India as

"Bharat", a word dating back to ancient Hindu scriptures written in Sanskrit, and one of two official names for the country under its constitution.

Members of his Hindu-nationalist ruling party have previously campaigned against using the country's better-known moniker, India, which has its roots in Western antiquity and was imposed during the British conquest. This weekend India hosts the G20 summit of world leaders, capped with a state dinner that invitation cards said would be hosted by the "President of Bharat".

## Turkey's Erdogan says to discuss grain deal with UN's Guterres this month

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey is in close contact with the United Nations on reviving the Black Sea grain initiative and he will discuss it with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at its general assembly this month, Turkish media reported.

Speaking to reporters after talks in Russia with Vladimir Putin, Erdogan was quoted as saying the latest U.N. proposal sought to address some Russian demands, and he repeated he believed a solution could be found soon.

Russian demands include a return of its Agricultural Bank to the SWIFT payments system and insuring the ships involved in the grain initiative, he was quoted as saying by TRT,

Haber Turk, and other Turkish broadcasters.

"On August 28, U.N. Secretary General Guterres, in the letter he sent, proposed an intermediary mechanism that would result from the SWIFT transaction, not directly SWIFT as the Russians wanted," Erdogan said. "They said work was underway on the insurance issue too."

He added that Moscow was putting these two demands forth as "musts" to revive the initiative, and that Putin had told him he would not take steps on this until "Europe keeps the promises they made me", according to Turkish media.

NATO member Turkey is seeking to convince Russia to return to the so-called Black Sea Grain Initiative, brokered by Ankara and the United Nations.

## Chinese spy agency suggests that a Biden-Xi meeting hinges on "sincerity"

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's top security agency has hinted that any meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden in San Francisco later this year will depend on the United States "showing sufficient sincerity".

Biden on Sunday expressed disappointment that Xi was not attending an upcoming summit of G20 leaders in India, but added that he was going to "get to see him".

Biden did not elaborate but the next likely opportunity for Biden to hold talks with Xi, as the two countries seek to stabilise troubled relations, is an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in San Francisco in November. "To truly realise 'from Bali to San Francisco', the United States needs to show enough sincerity," the Ministry of State Security said in a post on

Monday on its WeChat social media page. It was referring to the last meeting between Biden and Xi on the sidelines of a G20 summit on Indonesia's resort island of Bali in November last year. It did not mention the APEC summit in its post.

It is unclear if the ministry, which is China's main intelligence agency, is privy to, or has influence over, Xi's considerations on diplomatic engagements.

This weekend, Premier Li Qiang will lead a delegation to a G20 summit in New Delhi, the Chinese government has announced, all but confirming that Xi would not attend.

The ministry in its post said Biden's administration had adopted a dual-natured strategy towards China, inviting competition with China but also wanting to control the competition.

## Human trafficking ring coerced Cuban citizens to fight for Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
HAVANA: Cuba has uncovered a human trafficking ring that coerced its citizens to fight for Russia in the war in Ukraine, its foreign ministry said, adding that Cuban authorities were working to "neutralize and dismantle" the network.

The statement from Cuba's foreign ministry late on Monday gave few details but noted the trafficking ring was operating both within the Caribbean island nation, thousands of miles from Moscow, and in Russia.

"The Ministry of the Interior... is working on the neutralization and dismantling of a human trafficking network that operates from Russia to incorporate Cuban citizens living there, and even some from Cuba, into the military forces participating in war operations in Ukraine," the Cuban government statement said.

Russia's defence ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Russia last year announced a plan to boost the size of its armed forces by more than 30% to 1.5 million combat personnel, a lofty goal made harder by its heavy but undisclosed casualties in the war.

In late May, a Russian newspaper in Ryazan City reported that several Cuban citizens had signed contracts with Russia's armed forces and had been shipped to Ukraine in return for Russian citizenship.

It was not immediately clear if the Cuban foreign ministry statement was associated with the Ryazan report.

Russia, which has strong political ties with communist-run Cuba, has long been an important destination for Cuban migrants seeking to escape economic stagnation at home.

The defense ministers of Cuba and Russia earlier this year discussed the development of joint "technical military" projects at a meeting in Moscow. The administration of Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel denies any involvement in the Ukraine conflict.

"Cuba is not part of the war in Ukraine," the foreign ministry said late on Monday.

## Torrential rains claim three lives in Spain

**Monitoring Desk**  
MADRID: At least three people died and another three were missing on Monday after heavy rains lashed drought-hit Spain, triggering flash floods that closed Madrid metro lines and high-speed rail links.

The weekend storm affected almost the whole country, with the heaviest rains recorded on Sunday in the coastal provinces of Cadiz, Tarragona, and Castello, according to state weather office Aemet.

Two people died in the central province of Toledo as a result of the storm, the head of the regional government of Castilla-La Mancha, Emiliano Garcia-Page, said, without giving details.

Spanish media said a man was found dead by police during a rescue attempt on a road near the town of Bargas while another man died as rescuers tried to reach him in the town of Casarrubios del Monte.

Police announced on Monday afternoon that the

body of a man in his 50s was found near a river in the town of Camarena, also in the province of Toledo. Emergency services were looking for a man who went missing after his car was swept away early on Monday by a swollen river in the rural area of Aldea del Fresno west of Madrid, a spokesman from Madrid's emergency services, Javier Chivite, told public television RTVE.

Firefighters found his 10-year-old son — who was also in the car and was initially reported as missing — on Monday on top of a tree, he added.

Emergency services had rescued the boy's mother and sister earlier in the day.

## UK government lifts de facto ban on onshore wind farms

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Britain's Conservative government relaxed planning rules Tuesday and lifted restrictions that effectively banned the building of new onshore wind farms in England.

Rules introduced in 2015 by then-Prime Minister David Cameron, who also led a Conservative administration, allowed a single objection to a wind turbine application to block its development. The regulations led to a dramatic decline in the number of new turbines granted planning permission.

Some Conservatives pressured the current government to overturn the rules. Lawmaker Alok Sharma, who was president of the 2021 U.N. climate change conference and led the lobbying campaign, called them "outdated" and "not a sen-

sible way for a planning system to operate."

Authorities said Tuesday that the eased restrictions mean that onshore wind projects supported by local residents will get approved more quickly. They said elected local officials will have the ability to make final decisions based on the prevailing view of their communities, not just a small number of objectors.

Communities that back wind turbines in their areas will also benefit from cheaper electricity, officials said, adding that the way such energy discounts work would be considered later.

Environmental groups said Tuesday's decision, which took immediate effect, was overly cautious and that too many obstacles to building wind turbines in England still exist.



English-language teacher Hafsa, professor Najla Latif, researcher Naveen Hashim, beauty salon worker Zakia Abasi, and TV journalist Muzhgan Ferajji pose for a photograph after their arrival at the Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, near Paris.

## Daroo Khan says Balochistan possesses unique opportunities to improve country's economic prospects

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Business Forum (PBF)'s Balochistan Chairman Engr. Daroo Khan Achakzai said that Pakistan's economic progress and development have been primarily dependent on its agriculture sector and effective reform of the agriculture sector is urgently required.

As the country's largest province by area, Balochistan holds unique opportunities to improve the country's economic prospects, he expressed these views while talking to APP here on Tuesday.

PBF Balochistan Chairman, Engr. Daroo Khan Achakzai stated that tourism is central to the economy of southern Balochistan where clean, eye-catching beaches have not been explored fully.

The province has a coastline 750 kilometers long. Fishing is a good source of income for the people who dwell in this part of the province. According to recent estimations, fishery resources have a value of over \$1 billion, he maintained.

He said that then there

are beautiful date gardens in the Makran division, i.e., Gwadar, Kech and Panjgur, the only modern date-processing plant in Pakistan is situated in Panjgur adding that several types of dates produced and processed here are exported to domestic and international markets.

Pakistan's largest natural gas reserves are also in Balochistan. These account for more than 50 percent of the country's total reserves.

The Sui gas field has been producing gas to the country since 1952. Reko Diq and Saundak are rich in mineral wealth, he said.

He said that the deep-sea port is being developed at Gwadar is the pivot around which the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) revolves, the plains in Nasirabad division feature rice and wheat fields.

The northern part of Balochistan grows plentiful fruits. Apples, grapes, pomegranates, cherries and watermelons of high quality produced here are sold across the country, he explained.



ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu, along with the members of his delegation, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pak, Turkiye reiterate resolve to strengthen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkiye on Tuesday reiterated their resolve to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse areas for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

This bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the visiting Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu, who along with his delegation called on the president at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Pacaci, and government officials of both sides. Welcoming the Commander of Turkish Naval Forces, the president said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations which were based on common religion, historical bonds, besides having similar stance on various issues.

He emphasised the

need to further improve bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including the maritime and defence cooperation. President Alvi recalled his visit to Turkiye in August 2021 to participate in the launching ceremony of the first of the four MILGEM corvettes for Pakistan Navy.

He lauded the regular participation of the navies of the two brotherly countries in bilateral and multi-lateral exercises, adding that the close naval cooperation was a manifestation of

strong relations between Pakistan and Turkiye.

During the meeting, the president highlighted the atrocities being committed by the Indian security forces against the Muslims in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), besides expressing concern over persecution of minorities in India. He stressed that the international community should take notice of the human rights abuses in IIOJK as well as the persecution of minorities in India.

## Pakistan keen to promote cooperation with Iran in fields of media, film: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that Pakistan was keen to promote cooperation with Iran in the fields of media, film and drama.

During a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghaddam, who called on him here, the minister said, "Cooperation between the two countries in the fields of media is the need of the hour."

The minister and the ambassador discussed issues of mutual interest, fraternal relations between the two countries and promotion of cooperation in the field of media.

"Cooperation be-

tween the two countries in the field of media is indispensable," Murtaza Solangi said.

A memorandum of understanding had already been signed between the Associated Press of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), while many other agreements were under process to enhance cooperation between television, films, cinema, literary and linguistic institutions, he maintained.

These agreements, he said, would help project real culture and traditions of the two brotherly countries.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation

in various fields, including economic, commercial, cultural and tourism sectors, besides people-to-people contacts.

The Iranian ambassador congratulated Murtaza Solangi on assuming charge as caretaker minister for information and broadcasting.

Pakistan highly valued brotherly relations with Iran, Murtaza Solangi said, adding both the countries were bound by deep religious, cultural and linguistic ties.

The governments of two countries were promoting close cooperation for the betterment of their people and socio-economic development, he said.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Shania Khan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

## Caretaker Minister Health vows to bring reforms in Health department

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezaai has pledged that the reforms would be brought about in health department making it center of public service.

He was addressing the introductory meeting with the Secretary Health, Asfandiyar Khan and other officers of Health department here on Tuesday.

The Special Secretary Health, Dawood Bazai, Additional Secretary Health, Atiqullah Khan, Additional Secretary, Arif Achakzai, Deputy Secretary Riasat Ali, Deputy Secretary

Najam Tareen and other high ups.

The Secretary Health briefed the caretaker Provincial Minister for Health about the affairs of Health department.

He informed that serious steps are being taken for bringing remarkable improvement in the health sector.

During the course of meeting, the matters about healthcare facilities in interior Balochistan were also discussed.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Jogezaai said that the provincial government is taking steps for provision of better healthcare facilities to the masses in interior province.

## Dr Rubaba hails establishment of anti-rape crises cell

QUETTA (APP): Former Parliamentary Secretary and Chairperson Women Parliamentary Caucus Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi Tuesday hailed the establishment of Anti-Rape Crises cell in hospitals of 34 districts in Balochistan.

She expressed the hope that concrete steps would be taken to complete the construction of forensic lab project proposed in the previous regime.

Ex Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs made these remarks here on Tuesday.

Dr. Rubaba Khan said that the establishment of an Anti-Rape Crises cell in the district headquarters hospitals of Balochistan would provide medical assistance to the rape victims more

effectively.

Through functioning of this cell, she hoped carrying out legal affairs will be easier, ensuring the victims to get speedy justice at the local level.

She noted that the government had agreed to set up a forensic lab under a public-private partnership during the visit of Syed Kaleem Imam, a former senior police officer who served prominently in the police department and anti-crime academic at Quaid-e-Azam University. She also hailed that active role of other organizations for protecting women rights, including Shirkat Gah, Forum for Dignity Initiatives Pakistan, Commission on Status of Women, Aurat Foundation.



QUETTA: Senator Arbab Umar Farooq Kasi and DIG Police Quetta Abdul Hayee Aamir Baloch meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## 6th September is day to remember national spirit and enthusiasm: Jamali

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali has stated that the day of 6th September is a historic day for the whole nation when our armed forces had made it clear to the enemy that Pakistani nation and armed forces know very well how to protect the freedom.

In a message issued here on Defence Day of Pakistan being observed today (Wednesday), the caretaker Minister Home said that 6th September is also the

day to remember the national enthusiasm and spirit and make pledge for sacrificing our lives for the defence of motherland.

He said that on 6th September, 1965, our brave armed forces had foiled the nefarious designs of the enemy and made it a historical day of patriotism, national unity, courage and bravery.

He said that we have made the country's defence invincible by defeating all internal and external conspiracies on the basis of that spirit.

## Final date about return of Nawaz to Pak: Nawaz, Shehbaz make consultation

LONDON (Online): PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif and former Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif have made consultations on the final date about return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan in a meeting.

Shehbaz Sharif is likely to announce date regarding return of Nawaz Sharif soon.

On the other hand consultations are underway among party leaders in connection with announcement of final date with reference to return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan.

An important meeting of PML-N will be convened ahead of announcement about final date. During the meeting telephonic contacts will be made with PML-N leaders available in Pakistan.

## Italian Navy ship visits Pakistan, conducts sea exercise

KARACHI (APP): Italian Navy Ship MOROSINI on Tuesday visited Karachi and conducted bilateral exercise with Pakistan Navy.

Upon arrival at Karachi Port, the Italian Navy Ship was warmly welcomed by senior officials of the Pakistan Navy and the Ambassador of Italy, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

On completion of the port visit, Pakistan Navy Ship SHAHJAHAN with embarked helicopter and PAF fighters carried out a sea exercise with a visiting Italian ship to enhance interoperability between both navies.

## Decision to give relief people from IPPs' money

ISLAMABAD (Online): It has been decided to give relief to the public with the money of IPPs, more than 15 billion of IPPs will be used to give relief in electricity bills.

According to the Ministry of Finance sources, a new plan for relief in electricity bills has been sent to the IMF by the Ministry of Finance.

More than 15 billion was earmarked for payments to IPPs for the current financial year, the additional amount allocated to IPPs can be adjusted to provide relief in electricity bills.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai talking with people protesting against Customs

## Bilawal terms Sept 6 as metaphor for Pakistan's courage

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has termed the September 6 as a metaphor for Pakistan's national courage & bravery and said that the nation is united and always ready to defend its homeland.

In his message to the nation on the occasion of Defence Day, he saluted the armed forces for their bravery and sacrifices. He has also paid glowing tribute to the families of the martyrs of the armed forces for their courage and patience.

The PPP Chairman said that it is a matter of pride for him that the performance of PPP leadership and its governments in the defense of the country has been historic and wonderful.

He reminded that laying the foundations of the nuclear program to make

the defense of the country impregnable was a strategic gift of Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to the nation, adding that Shaheed Mohtama Benazir Bhutto further innovated and strengthened the defense of the homeland by giving the gift of missile technology to armed forces.

"After Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, President Asif Ali Zardari was the second head of the country, who paid tribute to the soldiers for their great service on behalf of the entire nation by increasing the salaries of the armed forces by more than 100 percent," he added.

The Chairman of PPP also reiterated his party's commitment to continue political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people till the independence of Occupied Kashmir from India.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Irrigation Mir Danish Lango meeting with Caretaker Provincial Education Minister Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch

## Pakistan's request to Iran to overcome the shortage of medicines

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam met Federal Minister of Health Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Dr. Nadeem Jan welcomed the Iranian Ambassador and expressed his determination to further strengthen the relationship.

The Iranian envoy said that he wishes the supervisor good wishes and success in assuming the portfolio of health. The appointment of a world-renowned health expert like you will significantly improve the health sector.

Iran wants to invest from Pakistan in the field of medicines. Nadeem Jan, the Federal Minister of Health, said that Pakistan and Iran have deep ceremonies and strong relations spanning centuries.

Pakistan and Iran will benefit from each other's experiences to improve the health sector. In the field of

health, Iran and Pakistan have also agreed to work together for the benefit of the people.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan and Iran should create a coordinated strategy in this regard. The aim is to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life-saving drugs on an emergency basis. The fields of medical education will continue to cooperate with each other.

Health security is our top agenda. We will ensure effective and coordinated measures to deal with cross-border epidemics. It has also been agreed to further increase cooperation in research and technical assistance in the health sector.

Iran's primary health care system is very strong. Pakistan will benefit from Iran's primary health system. We are very grateful for the donation of dialysis machines for the people of Pakistan by Iran.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan at his office.

## Ejaz directs WASA to increase revenue; take steps for water supply

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Jaffar has directed the Balochistan-WASA to take practical steps for provision of water to the citizens on priority basis and increase its revenue by adopting strategy on war footing grounds.

The caretaker Minister was speaking on occasion of the briefing conducted by the Managing Director WASA, Hamid Latif Rana and Project Director QWSP, Imran Durrani here on Tuesday.

Also present on the occasion were the Chief Engineer North, Azam Zarkoon, Director Services Ramzan Achakzai, Director Admin, Ghulam Mustafa and other sector officers.

The Ministers said that the capable and honest officers would be encouraged at every level while in-

competent officers would not be spared at all.

He said that this is an era of social media, through which awareness is created among the people about their rights.

He asked the officers to get afraid of the time when people would not hesitate from extreme step to get their rights.

Sardar Ejaz Jaffar exhorted the officers to play their effective role in improving the water sanitation system in addition to supply water in all areas.

He stressed that WASA can increase its revenue by preparing a better strategy.

He also expressed concern over that B-WASA is operating in a rented building despite it has commercial land. He directed the concerned to prepare an immediate nature plan for construction of a building on the commercial land so as to save millions of rupees on monthly basis.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Chairman, Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal addressing to media persons during press conference.

## Balochistan govt converts 220 water supply schemes to solar energy

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan government has converted 220 water supply schemes to solar energy so far and work in progress to link maximum number of water schemes with renewable energy to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the local masses.

The Caretaker Balochistan Minister for Public Health Engineering Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Jaffar on Tuesday has reviewed the progress on ongoing and new schemes while presiding over a meeting of all the district officers in Chief Engineer Office Quetta.

Chief Engineer North Azam Zarkoon, Chief Engineer South Muhammad Sharif Bangulzai and all SE and EXIN participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the caretaker provincial minister said that the projects should be executed despite limited to paper work and all resources will be utilized for uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water to the people across the province.

He said such kind projects should be initiated which can benefit maximum number of people.

He urged the official to ensure the timely completion of the projects and directed to prepare and submit the PC-1 on new projects by September 30.

The caretaker provincial minister said that the water pipeline affected by the flood should be replaced and repaired immediately.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani being briefed by Secretary Sports Ishaq Jamali regarding departmental affairs