

# Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over introductory meeting of Provincial Cabinet

## Caretaker CM urges ministers to improve performance & governance of respective departments, submit report

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has urged the members of his cabinet to improve performance and governance of their respective departments and submit him the reports on regular basis.

He was chairing the introductory meeting of the caretaker provincial ministers here at the CM secretariat on Tuesday.

The caretaker Chief Minister welcomed the ministers and said that it's matter of immense pleasure and satisfaction that the people like them are part of his cabinet.

He said that it's our joint responsibility to perform as per the mandate given. He said on one hand, it's our responsibility to conduct free and fair elections in peaceful manner, but at the same time it is also our mandate to improve governance in the departments.

He stressed that we would perform our responsibilities in befitting manner together.

He said that it is constitutional obligation to perform according to the mandate given to us by the constitution.

He said it's responsibility of the Services and Gen-

## Caretaker cabinet decides to retrieve official vehicles from former provincial Ministers

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The caretaker Balochistan cabinet has decided to retrieve the official vehicles from the former provincial ministers with immediate effect.

This was announced by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while addressing press conference soon after the meeting of provincial cabinet held at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Tuesday.

Jan Achakzai said that the cabinet has made a decision to retrieve the official vehicles from the former ministers immediately.

He told that although 45 official vehicles have been returned from the former ministers, still 25

## PM for action against elements spreading chaos in name of religion in Gilgit

*Says concentration on self-dependence vital for country's economic revival*

GILGIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to identify the elements spreading chaos in the name of religion in Gilgit, and take strict action against them.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss development projects and law and order situation in Gilgit Baltistan, said the security of every citizen was the state's responsibility. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed about the progress on projects in information technology, health, education, and other sectors, as well as the issues.

He was told that steps had been taken to identify and address the problems confronting the education sector in all GB districts, particularly Diamer and Astore.

The measures taken for the promotion of education sector included the provision of food to the students, reconstruction of buildings and rehabilitation of dilapidated structures, professional training of teachers, and establishment of smart schools.

The prime minister was also apprised of projects in the GB health sector including the establishment of a 24-hour helpline to address the issue of mental health. Besides the performance of the environment and tourism sectors, the prime minister was also briefed about



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a progress review meeting in Gilgit about development in various sectors and situation of law & order in Gilgit-Baltistan

## Governor announces to conduct free courses of modern IT for unemployed youth of Balochistan

*Malik Abdul Wali Kakar says he is committed to make youth skilled along with degree holders; free IT skills to be learnt through Governor Initiative Programme*

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar announced to conduct free courses of the modern information technology for the unemployed youth of the province.

The youth of Balochistan would be learnt skills by the IT professional team coming from Karachi.

The Governor was speaking at the ceremony that marked launching of Governor's IT Initiative programme at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The ceremony was also attended by the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, caretaker Provincial Ministers, Advisors to the Chief Minister, senior government officials, secretaries of different provincial government departments, other



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of the People's Republic of China Mr. Jiang Zaidong, presenting his diplomatic credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr

## President for enhanced cooperation with China, Venezuela, Colombia

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for more robust cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the areas of trade, economy, culture and defence.

He said that China was a reliable and tested friend, and Pakistan wanted to further strengthen the strategic relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The president made these remarks during his meetings with the ambassadors-designate of the People's Republic of China and Venezuela (Non-resident), as well as the Republic of Colombia (Non-resident), who presented their diplomatic credentials and separately called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming Ambassador-designate of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with China as it had always stood by it at difficult times.

He said that Pakistan would continue to support China on all core issues.

Highlighting the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the president said that CPEC would greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

## Fawad appointed as caretaker Federal Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has appointed Fawad Hassan Fawad as Caretaker Federal Minister. President has appointed Fawad Hassan Fawad on the advice of Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar Haq Kakar.

## SC directs LHC to decide within 30 days case against fixation of sugar price

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has directed Lahore High Court (LHC) to decide within 30 days case against fixation of price of sugar.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up the case for hearing Tuesday.

The court maintained the matter is fixed for September 20 in high court. High Court should hear the case on day to day basis and give decision within 30 days.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan remarked this case is against the interim order of high court. Final decision has not come as yet. Case is fixed in high court on September 20. Additional Attorney Generals said SC had ordered sugar mills to deposit the difference of prices in the court.

## Info Minister vows to resolve all genuine issues of Gilgit-Baltistan

GILGIT (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has expressed all-out support to Gilgit Baltistan government in addressing all genuine issues being faced by the region.

Talking to newsmen in Gilgit on Tuesday, he said Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has directed to resolve the issue of wheat subsidy, and the now matter has almost been addressed.

The Information Minister said during his tenure as Director General Radio Pakistan, he raised voice for the people of Gilgit Baltistan and worked hard for the promotion of local languages of the area.

Replying to a question about Prime Minister's visit to Gilgit, Murtaza Solangi said the Prime Minister today spent a very busy day in Gilgit, attended various meetings, interacted with the students, reviewed law and order situation, and pace of work on various ongoing development projects.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference

## Visits Gwadar: Donald Blome assures US assistance for development of Balochistan

*Says we are especially focused on supporting Balochistan and all of Pakistan as it strengthens climate resilience, pursues energy transformation, and fosters inclusive economic growth*

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The United States (US) Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Donald Blome visited the port city of Gwadar on Tuesday.

During the course of visit, the US ambassador reviewed the opportunities to enrich development, trade, and commercial ties, building on the successful outcomes that underpin the robust U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship.

The visit was aimed at underscoring the United States' commitment to the



people of Balochistan, a partnership that remains steadfast and robust.

The United States and Balochistan have a strong history of successful collaboration. In the face of last year's devastating

## At least 2,300 dead in epic Libya floods as 10,000 missing

**Monitoring Desk**

LIBYA: At least 2,300 people have died, and 10,000 are missing after Storm Daniel dumped devastating rain on Libya's northeast, reportedly bursting two major dams and overflowing the already heavily inundated areas of the country.

Tamer Ramadan, head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) delegation in Libya, stated that "the death toll is huge and around 10,000 are reported missing."

Othman Abduljalil, the health minister in Libya's eastern parliament-backed government, reported that as many as 6,000 people are missing in the city of Derna alone, describing parts of it as a "ghost town."

The floods have overwhelmed several cities in the country's northeast, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, including Derna, which has been hit particularly hard.

Hichem Abu Chkiouat, the minister of civil aviation and a member of the emergency committee in the eastern region, painted a grim picture, stating, "The situation was catastrophic... The bodies are still lying in many places."

## Nawaz to return to Pakistan on October 21: Sharif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced that PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif would return to Pakistan on October 21.

Shehbaz Sharif, in a statement, said the PML-N Quaid would be accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival in the homeland.

## PML-N Senator Rana Maqbool passes away

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed passed away in Lahore on Tuesday after having been well unwell for some time.

Ahmed was elected as a Senator in 2018 on a general seat. His tenure was to end next year, in 2024. The deceased PML-N leader was the chairman of the Senate's Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat.

## Govt decides to dissolve BODs of power distribution companies

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker government has decided to dissolve Board of Directors (BODs) of Power Distribution Companies.

Ministry of energy sources said that new members will be appointed in power companies. These members will be technical, capable and non political.

In this respect new boards will be constituted for power distribution companies and NTDC.

According to sources the incumbent board members get Rs 60000 compensation against one day meeting.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar and Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurating IT Initiative Program

## Level-playing field not available to all political parties: Bilawal

SUKKUR (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has demanded that there should be a level-playing field for all political leaders, maintaining that the political leaders are deprived of equal opportunities to contest the upcoming general elections.

He stated this while responding to a question regarding the level-playing field available to his party as the two political bigwigs — PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PTI chief Imran Khan — are currently ineligible to contest upcoming general elections.

He is expected to return to Pakistan in October this year to lead the election campaign of his party.



SUKKUR: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons after condolence with Shaheed journalist Jaan Muhammad Mahar brothers at his residence

Continued on page 2



## India using its judiciary tool to stifle dissenting voices in IIOJK: Speakers

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Speakers at a webinar castigating India for using the judiciary as a tool to stifle dissenting voices in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir said that denying fair trial to Kashmiri prisoners raises a big question mark over the Indian judiciary's impartiality as well as its credibility.

The event hosted on the sidelines of the 54th session of the UNHRC by the World Muslim Congress was co-sponsored by the Universal Human Rights Council late Monday, said a message here on Tuesday.

World Muslim Congress permanent representative to the United Nations Geneva presided and moderated the event. The

panelists include: Barrister Abdul Majeed Trambo PR IHRAAM, Ms Tazeen Hassan Justice for all Canada, Ms. Marry Scully note Rights defender from USA, Syed Faiz Naqashbandi APHC leader, Advocate Parvez Shah APHC leaders and Wasantha Yapa Bandara Member of Sri Lanka parliament speakers while referring to article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, said, "As per the UDHR, every prisoner is entitled to an impartial and public hearing when his or her rights are at stake".

They said that the right to fair trial internationally recognized human right was also an indispensable pillar of justice and democracy.

Highlighting the woeful plight of the Kashmiri prisoners who have been languishing in different jails, they pointed out that fair trial, which happens to be the basic right of every detainee, was denied to Kashmiri political activists, human rights defenders, and civil society activists.

Referring to the illegal detention of political leaders, they said that the Indian government booked the top tier of the Hurriyat leadership and left them to rot in jails. They said that the Kashmiri prisoners who had been arrested on trumped-up charges before and after 5th August 2019 were not given enough opportunity to defend themselves in a court of law.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offers prayer at the Yadgaar-e-Shuhada in Gilgit

## Donald Blome assures US assistance....

*Continued from page 1*

floods, the United States helped 661,000 individuals, providing both food and much-needed cash assistance. And nearly 90,000 children were given nourishing meals to combat the threat of starvation. Over the past year, with U.S. support, 41 health facilities were successfully renovated. In the field of education, U.S. support is strengthening programs at BUIITEMS and Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, and empowering the next generation of youth by developing literacy and education materials in Balochi and various local languages.

During his visit, the Ambassador held productive discussions with political leaders, representatives from the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce, and a diverse group of government and private sector leaders. In his meeting with political leaders, the Ambassador reiterated U.S. support for Balochistan's development, touching on economic growth, disaster

relief and preparedness; security; the benefits of U.S. trade and investment; and measures Pakistan can take to strengthen and improve its investment climate.

Ambassador Blome's meeting with members of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce focused on ways to increase U.S. trade and investment in the region's business, logistics, tourism, fisheries, and blue economy sectors. The group shared how growing these business-to-business relationships can help create inclusive, Pakistan-led growth that supports jobs across Balochistan. They also discussed how deepening business partnerships can enhance technical skills in Balochistan and help increase bilateral trade.

In his meetings with government and business leaders, Ambassador Blome discussed the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, which is helping our countries jointly meet climate, energy, water, and economic needs.

"We are especially focused on supporting Balochistan and all of Pakistan as it strengthens climate resilience, pursues energy transformation, and fosters inclusive economic growth," Ambassador Blome said.

Under the Green Alliance, U.S. assistance has helped more than 12,000 farmers, including many in Balochistan, across 2,000 hectares increase yields and reduce harvest and postharvest losses through improved technology and management practices.

Ambassador Blome also visited Gwadar Port and met with Port Authority Chairman Pasand Khan Buledi to learn about port operations and development plans, Gwadar's potential as a regional transportation hub, and ways to connect with Pakistan's largest export market: the United States. In a meeting with Pakistan Naval West Command, Ambassador Blome discussed regional issues and emphasized a continued partnership in the years ahead.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Aniq Ahmed, Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr

## Jamal Shah for further strengthening cultural, literary ties with Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah called for further strengthening cultural and literary relations with Sri Lanka to further cement bilateral ties. He stated this during a live performance of Sri Lankan cultural troupe comprised of Chandana Wickramasighe and the Dancers' Guild here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Tuesday.

The cultural show was jointly organized by the National Heritage and Culture Division, PNCA, Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi in collaboration with the Consul General of Sri Lanka Karachi aiming to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Diplomatic relations of Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Augustine Christy Ruban, Charge De Affair and Mr U. L. Niyas Deputy Head of Mission Sri Lanka High Commission, Consul General of Sri Lanka in Karachi Jagath Abeywardana and Director General PNCA were also present on the occasion. The dance troupe entertained the audience with

## PM lays wreath on martyrs' monument in Gilgit

GILGIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar arrived here in Gilgit Baltistan on a two-day visit.

Accompanied by Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti and Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi, the prime minister laid a floral wreath at the monument of martyrs at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. A contingent of GB Scouts presented a guard of honour to the prime minister.

The caretaker prime minister was briefed by Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Mohyuddin Ahmen Wani on various matters.

Later, the prime minister visited an exhibition of science models by students of local schools. He evinced a keen interest in the innovative models made by the students and interacted with them. The students presented various models depicting power generation from hydel and solar sources to mitigate impact of the climate change.

The prime minister lauded the abilities of the children and said Pakistan had a bright future ahead due to its talented youth. He appreciated the knowledge of young girls and boys on environmental issues.

## Parliamentarians asked to submit asset statements by December end

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked all members of parliament and provincial assemblies to submit their statements of assets and liabilities including those of their spouses and dependents by December 31. According to ECP, all parliamentarians have to submit their yearly statements of assets and liabilities including similar details of their spouses and dependent children as on the preceding June 30 on Form B for the financial year 2022-2023. The Commission, on the first day of January each year will publish names of members, who fail to submit the requisite statement of assets and liabilities within the period specified under sub-section (1).

The commission will on January 16 by an order suspend the membership of a

## Bilawal pays tributes to 11 martyred party workers of Zia regime

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tribute to 11 workers of his party who were martyred in 1983 during General Zia's regime at Khairpur Nathan Shah (KN Shah) town of district Dadu.

The PPP Chairman, in his message on their 40th martyrdom anniversary here, said that the Jiyalas of K N Shah were martyred for demanding the restoration of democracy in the country.

"The martyrs of the K N Shah tragedy, Shaheed Abdul Ghani Abro, Shaheed Abdul Aziz Laker, Shaheed Nizamuddin Naich, Shaheed Abdul Nabi Khoso, Shaheed Allah Warayo Langah, Shaheed Shah Nawaz Khoso, Shaheed Habibullah Leghari, Shaheed Didar Khokhar, Shaheed Zameer Hussain Jagirani, Shaheed Ejaz Hussain Khunhar and Shaheed Manzoor Ahmed

Chandio, will live forever in our hearts," he added.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the tree of democracy in Pakistan has been watered by the leadership of the PPP and its workers with their blood.

He said that during the MRD, the Jiyalas under the leadership of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto fought and made sacrifices with determination, courage, steadfastness, and unwavering will, which are unparalleled and eternal. "The youth of Pakistan should study the history of the MRD movement so that they know the great sacrifices made by the generations before them for democracy," he urged.

He reiterated his commitment that his party will not let the sacrifices of the martyrs of K N Shah go in vain, and will continue to play an active role in the stability of democracy and protect the supremacy of the Constitution in the country.



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Labor Federation are holding protest rally against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills

## PM for action against ...

*Continued from page 1*

Minister Murtaza Solangi, Gilgit Baltistan Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, Chief Minister Gulbar Khan, GB chief secretary and IG Police, and senior officers attended the meeting.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday urged all the sectors to concentrate all of their attention and energies on achieving self-dependence which was inevitable to put the country's economy on course to revival.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the Gilgit Baltistan cabinet here during his two-day visit, advised the GB government to fully exploit the potential of the cultivable land of the region instead of depending on the government's subsidy.

In the meeting, the prime minister was apprised of different issues including the non-provision of the subsidy on the wheat crop.

The prime minister assured the GB leadership of the federal government's all-out cooperation.

In the meeting, proposals were put forward to improve the performance of the GB police as well as enhancement of investment and business activities in the region. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy for

them (youth) so that they are able to do well in the modern era, he maintained.

The IT Initiative Programme is part of the initiatives being taken to provide skills to the youth, especially those who are jobless, he mentioned adding that this would enable them to earn livelihood while sitting at their homes.

The Governor said that 10,000 unemployed youth would be imparted free modern skills in different phases in IT/AI courses.

Afterwards, the online applications would be invited from the youth desirous to participate in the courses under IT Initiative Programme.

The Governor exhorted all the enlightened segments of the society to extend wholehearted support to make the IT Initiative Programme successful.

## Governor announces to conduct...

*Continued from page 1*

dignitaries, faculty members and male and female students.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor was appreciative the efforts of IT professional team from Karachi saying that their endeavours deserve commendation.

He said that both the male and female youth can benefit from the IT programme. Malik Abdul Wali Kakar also said that the youth of Balochistan are very talented and hard working, however, they can't utilize their potential just because of the lack of opportunities and facilities in the province, he maintained.

The Governor said that he is committed to make the youth of Balochistan skilled along with the degree holders.

For the purpose, the necessary opportunities are being provided to

## Government of Pakistan Public Works Department Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed bids are invited on single stage two envelop at item rate basis in respect of works tabulated under. The bid shall comprise two envelopes containing separately technical proposal and financial proposal as per PPRA Rule 36(b). Tender documents can be purchased from office of undersigned up to 05/10/2023 on any working day at the cost of Rs.5000/- (in cash), and will be received on 08/10/2023 upto 2.00 PM and to be opened at 02:30 PM on same day. Firms shall attach fixed bid security i.e. call deposit or irrecoverable bank guarantee with technical bid otherwise it shall be treated as non-responsive. Procuring agency reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of bid/proposal as per PPRA Rule 33(1). In case of any holiday next working day will be considered for opening of tender.

Technical proposal shall comprise documents given in eligibility criteria of tender documents IB 26.2(a). Evaluation committee will determine responsiveness of each technical bid.

The financial bids of only successful bidders who comply with the complete eligibility criteria (Pass) will be opened. Financial proposal shall comprise of tender document with filled in "Schedule of Prices" and "Schedule of work". The firms are not allowed to quote their rates other than specified and blank financial proposal shall be declared non-responsive by the evaluation committee.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting to review performance of Chief Minister Delivery Unit

**SHOW CAUSE NOTICE**

WHEREAS, It has been brought to the notice of the Competent Authority through formal inquiry, wherein the Inquiry Officer has recommended that you Mr. Abdul Karim SST (Sci) (B-17), TOT, PITE, Balochistan, Quetta (under transfer Govt. Boys High School Bismillah Khan Sagai District Killa Abdullah) has committed the following act(s) of omission and commission:

1. That you failed to comply with the transfer/posting order and refused to join vide No. SO(S-11)- 135/2023/Edn/2862-68 dated 16th March 2023, wherein, you were posted as SST(Sci) B-17 Govt. Boys High School Bismillah Khan Sagai District Killa Abdullah against vacant and you remained absent to date.
2. WHEREAS, by reasons of above, you are found to be guilty in terms of sections 3 & 4 of the Balochistan Employees Efficiency & Discipline Act, 2011, and liable to a penalty which may include dismissal from service as prescribed under section 3 & 4 of the bid Act.
3. AND WHEREAS I (Abdul Rauf Baloch), the Secretary School Education Department, being competent Authority after considering the above-mentioned facts of the case and reason(s)/ground(s) thereof, I am satisfied that there is no need to hold an inquiry against you under section 5 of the said Act.
4. NOW, THEREFORE, you are hereby called upon to submit a written defense of Show Cause Notice within seven (07) days of the receipt of this notice as to why the penalty/penalties including "dismissal from service" may not be imposed upon you under the bid Act.
5. PLEASE TAKE, notice that in case you fail to submit a reply within the prescribed period, it would be presumed that you have no defense to offer or have declined to offer the same and accepted the charge(s) and in that case, ex-parte order will be passed against you.

**SECRETARY**  
SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
PRQ No.565/12-9-2023  
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**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
**PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
No.SW/A-8/2023-24/1852  
Dated 11/09/2023

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed bids are invited on single stage two envelop at item rate basis in respect of works tabulated under. The bid shall comprise two envelopes containing separately technical proposal and financial proposal as per PPRA Rule 36(b). Tender documents can be purchased from office of undersigned up to 05/10/2023 on any working day at the cost of Rs.5000/- (in cash), and will be received on 08/10/2023 upto 2.00 PM and to be opened at 02:30 PM on same day. Firms shall attach fixed bid security i.e. call deposit or irrecoverable bank guarantee with technical bid otherwise it shall be treated as non-responsive. Procuring agency reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of bid/proposal as per PPRA Rule 33(1). In case of any holiday next working day will be considered for opening of tender.

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SR. NO	NAME OF WORK	Cost of Tender	Fixed Bid Security	Completion Period	Financial Limit
01.	CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONER OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN ATTOCK (SH: AIR CONDITIONING WORKS).	5000	220000	2 Months after completion of civil works	C-6 or above ME-01
02.	CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONER OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN ATTOCK (SH: COMPUTER NETWORKING & TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SYSTEM)	5000	160000	2 Months after completion of civil works	C-6 or above EE-09
03.	CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONER OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN JEHLUM (SH: AIR CONDITIONING WORKS).	5000	220000	2 Months after completion of civil works	C-6 or above ME-01
04.	CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONER OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN JEHLUM (SH: COMPUTER NETWORKING & TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SYSTEM)	5000	160000	2 Months after completion of civil works	C-6 or above EE-09

(Executive Engineer)  
Store & Workshop Division  
Pak PWD, Islamabad  
PID (I) No. 1614/23



## Madad Sindhi launches drug awareness, curtailment drive in academic institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to take effective measures to curtail the spread of drugs in academic institutions across the nation.

Anti Narcotics Force Deputy Inspector General, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Executive Director, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) Deputy Director General, and representatives from the Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) attended the meeting. Senior officials of the ministry including Additional Secretary Junaid Ikhtlaq and Senior Joint Secretary Abdul Sattar Khokhar were also present.

Madad said we had launched a comprehensive campaign to spread awareness about the issue and further take practical and

decisive actions to curtail drug usage in academic institutions across the country.

He emphasized the role of HEC, PEIRA, and FDE to control the spread of drugs in academic institutions. He ordered all of these bodies to conduct a comprehensive exercise to identify the problematic areas in collaboration with the ANF. He said we needed to understand the spread of the problem first before we devised a strategy to curtail it. Madad said youngsters in Europe were dying on the roads because of this problem. He said we had not reached that point yet and we would ensure that we could control this issue before it got out of hands. He said there were almost 250,000 students in the Federal Public Schools that should be put at top priority.

He directed the FDE to table a comprehensive

report on the spread and use of drugs in public schools. He said all of these students were the future of Pakistan and we could not let them waste their potential due to drugs.

Madad was briefed by the representatives of FDE, PEIRA, and HEC about their policies regarding drug use control. He was told that all three institutions had detailed policies that were in place to curb the spread of drugs.

He was informed that the issue remained in the implementation of the policies. He directed all the officials to establish a common forum to oversee the efforts to eradicate drug use in educational institutions.

ANF DIG Rommel Akram told the minister that ANF was able to seize 80% of the total drugs in Pakistan, adding the ANF faced a serious issue of resources as it only had 1972 employees.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George in a meeting with US based NGO.

## Mishaal Malik urges G20 leaders to play due role in resolution of Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Human Rights, Mishaal Hussain Malik Tuesday appealed to the world leaders, participating in the G20 Summit in New Delhi to play their due role in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and to hold India accountable for human rights violations.

"Kashmiris are facing unabated extrajudicial killings, custodial torture, and death, arbitrary detentions, burning and looting of houses to inflict collective punishment, and other worst forms of human rights abuses", she said while talking to a Private news channel.

Pakistanis always stand by the "Kashmiris in their self-determination struggle and will continue to highlight the dispute to the international community, she mentioned.

Replying to a ques-

tion, she replied Indian government is suppressing every voice raised for freedom, the right to self-determination and justice in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She further called on the G20 leaders to help stop imperialist measures like the occupation of people's lands and properties and the confiscation of houses and other properties in Kashmir. Modi Prime minister was trying his best to hide the truth, but the world want to hear the truth, she mentioned. To another question, she called upon the international community to take cognizance of the grave human rights violations being perpetrated by Indian troops in the occupied territory. She asked G20 members should realize that India's ulterior motives behind holding the groupings meeting in IIOJK is nothing.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Mr. Khazar Farhadov calls on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed.

## 26 drug peddlers held, huge cache of narcotics recovered

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 26 drug peddlers who were allegedly involved in supplying drugs at educational institutions and recovered 8,550 grams of hashish and 4,983 grams of heroin from their possession during the last 48 hours from different areas of the capital city.

The Federal Capital Police has intensified its crackdown on drug pushers who were supplying drugs at educational institutions in order to eliminate this menace from the city, a police public relations officer said on Tuesday.

The Margalla police team arrested two accused namely Hanook Tanveer, and Asif Khan, and recovered 980 grams of heroin from their possession. The Karachi Company police team arrested an accused namely Nabeel Masih and recovered 637 grams of heroin from his possession. The Shalimar police team arrested two accused namely Azhar Hussain and Shan Ali besides recovering

560 grams of hashish and 215 grams of heroin from their possession.

Likewise, the Ramna police team arrested an accused namely Sajjad Ali, and recovered 510 grams of heroin from his possession. The Golra police team arrested two accused namely Asif Khan and Afzal and recovered 1021 grams of heroin from their possession. The Sumbal police team arrested an accused namely Shafi Ullah and recovered 1246 gram hashish from his possession. The Industrial Area police team arrested an accused namely Salamah Masih and recovered 550 grams of heroin from their possession.

Similarly, the Tarnol police arrested an accused Ameer Ali, and recovered 225 grams of hashish from his possession. The Sangjani police arrested an accused namely Kashmir Khan and recovered 680 grams of hashish from his possession. The Sabzi Mandi police team arrested two accused namely Hassan Raza and Sher Ahmed.

## PIMS receives five more dengue patients

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has received five more dengue patients during the last 24 hours.

According to PIMS ED spokesperson Dr Mubashir Mushtaq Daba, a total of seven dengue patients were admitted to the hospital.

He said that keeping in view the sudden increase in the number of dengue patients, 10 further beds in medical ward II have been allocated for dengue patients.

He said that the Executive Director of PIMS Prof. Dr Rana Imran Sikandar has made all necessary arrangements to manage dengue cases keeping in view the prevailing high-risk season of disease spread.

## MPO order case: DC Islamabad withdraws MPO order against Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad has withdrawn MPO order issued against PTI president Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi.

The case against MPO order related to Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi came up for hearing before Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri took up the case for hearing.

During the hearing of the case DC Islamabad informed the court MPO order issued against Pervaiz Elahi has been withdrawn.

Upon it the court disposed of Pervaiz Elahi petition.

The court remarked

give us number of other FIR in which Pervaiz Elahi has been arrested.

## Islamabad Police arrest car lifter

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) on Tuesday arrested a wanted member of a car lifter gang and recovered a stolen vehicle worth Rs 3.5 million.

The police spokesman said the accused, Aurangzeb, was arrested in Tarnol area on the basis of technical and human intelligence.

The accused was a habitual offender and had been involved in numerous car-lifting incidents in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and other districts.

He was arrested after the police received a tip-off about his whereabouts. The police also recovered a stolen vehicle from his possession.



ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training launched the Pakistan Foundational Learning Hub. The Pakistan Foundational Learning Hub has been set up with the generous support of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the World Bank.

## Education; key for empowering women: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday emphasized that the provision of basic facilities to educate women and girls would provide them with better socioeconomic opportunities.

"Women are more than half of the country's population and without their participation in the socioeconomic sector, the country cannot progress," said the NA Speaker addressing the delegation of students and faculty members of the Government Associate Degree College for Women Manghot, Gujjar Khan.

"Educating women would render them a more productive and contributive segment of society," he remarked.

The delegation of students and faculty members of Government Associate College for Women Manghot, Gujjar Khan were

on an official visit to express their gratitude and thankfulness to Raja Pervez Ashraf for his dedicated efforts to provide a bus and two Hiaces to their college.

While expressing his gratitude to Allah Almighty for enabling him to fulfill his promise of provision of one bus and two Hiace for transportation of girl students of Government Degree College for women Manghot, he said, "The prime responsibility of parliamentarians being public representatives is to resolve challenges faced by common people."

He said the facility of transportation would enable female students from far-flung areas to get higher education. He also expressed his resolve that he would leave no stone unturned to resolve the challenges faced by the daughters of Gujjar Khan, especially in matters of education and health.

Principal Government Associate College for Women Manghot, Gujjar Khan Samia Nishat expressed gratitude to Raja Pervez Ashraf for the provision of one bus and two Hiace for students and faculty members.

She said that this would prove instrumental in changing the future of girls and women of Gujjar Khan and would ensure their bright future.

She also added, "The provision of transportation facility indicates the dedication and resolve of Raja Pervez Ashraf to address the challenges being faced by people of Gujjar Khan."

The Principal also presented a letter of thanks for his dedication and commitment with which he fulfilled the promise of provision of transportation facilities to Government Associate College for women Manghot Gujjar Khan.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi and Begum Samina Alvi offering condolences and Fataha over the demise of the wife of Air Chief Marshal (r) Asghar Khan.

## Police, FIA harassing Bushra Bibi persistently: Counsel tells IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has clubbed the petitions of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI and Zulfi Bokhari related to audio leaks with already sub-judice petition of Najam ul Saqi.

Justice Babar Sattar of IHC took up the case for hearing Tuesday.

The court while issuing notice adjourned the hearing of the case till September 18.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked assist the court on the legal position of phone tapping. Source of information cannot be asked from the law enforcement agencies.

Counsel Latif Khosa took the plea our phones are being bugged persistently unlikely.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked phones of all are being bugged. There is objection on your petition that you have not challenged any order.

The counsel told the court Police and FIA are harassing Bushra Bibi continuously.

The court remarked assist the court legal position of phone tapping and this aspect of law of evidence on next hearing.

The counsel requested the court to stop FIA from harassing till next hearing.

## AIOU VC says: Youth needs to focus on entrepreneurship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Vice-Chancellor (VC), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on Tuesday emphasized the need to provide maximum opportunities to youth in entrepreneurship for the development and economic stability of the country.

Addressing the prizes and certificates distribution ceremony of best business ideas in entrepreneurship activities, he said this era belonged to skills and education as countries are making amazing products through recycling used plastics to support their economy.

The VC said, "Our young generation is very

skilled, all they need is a guideline to make the best use of their potential."

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) Executive Director, Dr. Latif Gondal said we received 100 applications for the Big Ideas 2021 competition, and 18 students were shortlisted. He said prizes were given to the five best ideas. ORIC Additional Director, Dr. Saima also addressed the ceremony.

AIOU VC, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presented the prizes and certificates to the students. Deans, professors, faculty members, and a large number of students attended the ceremony.

## Renowned poet Rais Amrohi remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned Urdu poet Rais Amrohi was remembered on his birth anniversary on Tuesday.

He was born on September 12, 1914, in Amroha in a notable family of scholars, his real name was Syed Muhammad Mehdi. Almost all the members of his family were poets.

He migrated to Pakistan after partition and settled in Karachi. He was a noted scholar, Urdu poet and psychoanalyst of Pakistan, however, he cannot be classified as a psychoanalyst in a traditional sense, as he looked at psychology through a spiritual perspective rather than a scientific one. He was known for his unique style of Qataniqari (quatrain writing).

## Sedition case: Court approves 3-day physical remand of Wazir, Ex-MNA

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has approved 3 days physical remand of Ali Wazir former Member of National Assembly (MNA) in inciting to sedition on social media case.

The case came up for hearing against Ali Wazir.

FIA presented Ali Wazir in the court of judicial magistrate Shabbir Bhatti. FIA requested the court to grant 10 days physical remand of Ali Wazir. The investigation officer said forensic of mobile and laptop of Ali Wazir is required.

## Bilateral relations in focus as Turkish delegation visits National Heritage Division

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Turkish delegation, led by Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, met with Caretaker Federal Minister Jamal Shah at the National Heritage and Culture Division to discuss mutual interests and bilateral relations.

During the event, Federal Minister Jamal Shah stressed that the profound connection between Pakistan and Turkiye signifies an unmatched display of brotherly bonds and affection, setting it apart from all other relationships.

Jamal Shah expressed that Pakistan highly regards and honors the enduring partnership with Turkiye, as these two fraternal nations consistently offer support to one another in times of need.

The Minister expressed a keen interest in enhancing collaboration in literary, cultural, cinema, film, tourism, and other areas of mutual interest. This aims to deepen and strengthen the effectiveness

and recognition of this relationship.

Turkish Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci emphasized the significant importance of Turkiye's relationship with Pakistan. He also highlighted the immense potential for enhancing cooperation in cultural and literary domains between these two fraternal nations.

He mentioned that the Turkish Embassy plans to host a two-day celebration in Islamabad on October 29, 2023, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

He extended an invitation to the minister to join in marking this significant milestone in Turkey's history—the centenary of the founding of the Republic of Turkiye.

In reply, Shah pledged the complete support of the National Heritage and Culture Division in arranging the two-day festivities for the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.



ISLAMABAD: Former member of Sindh Assembly Irfan Ullah Khan Marwat and former member of KP Assembly Samar Haroon Bilour called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Govt launches 'Smart app' to assist Pakistani Hajj 2024 pilgrims: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said that a strict monitoring system has been introduced for private Hajj tour operators from the year 2024 to provide maximum facilitation to pilgrims and a smart app has been launched to register the complaints of Hujjaj effectively.

Talking to a private channel, he instructed the ministries of Religious Affairs and Information Technology to construct a mobile application and website for the facilitation of Hujjaj to get their complaints registered.

He said that pilgrims can download the smart pilgrim app, which will

provide many services to his or her smartphone and chat with their Hajj service provider to report any violation or file a complaint.

The Hajj directorate will make every effort to provide complete training and facilities to pilgrims so that they can avoid any difficulty in the performance of Hajj, he added.

He made it clear to them that strict action would be taken against them in case of any complaint against private tour operators.

"All such individuals and companies are strongly urged to refrain from any illegal activity", he said, adding, that the ministry would personally supervise all aspects of the Hajj arrangements this year.



ISLAMABAD: Interim Federal Minister for Commerce Gohar Ejaz, Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker, Dean of African Group, Ambassador of Morocco Mohammad Karmoun and other cutting cake to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year at Ambassador residence.

## UN organizes seventh of 12 dialogues about sustainable development in Mansehra

ISLAMABAD (Online): United Nations and the district administration on Tuesday held the seventh of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

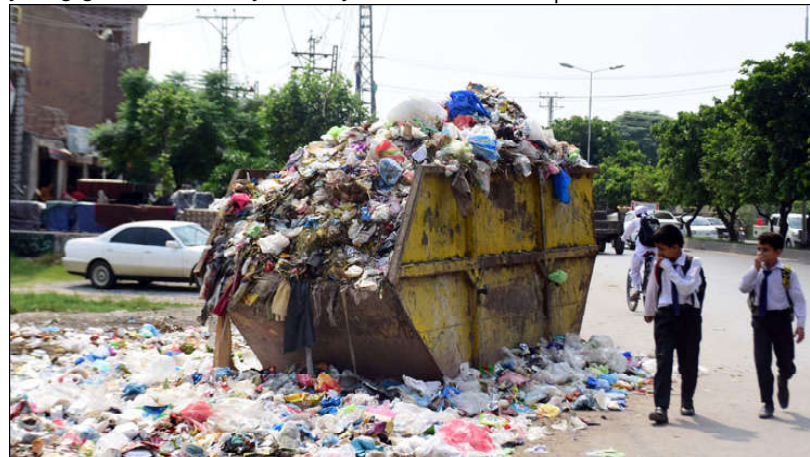
In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories will discuss the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts.

The dialogues will be held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan in the coming weeks, said a UNIC press release issued here.

"These dialogues bring the United Nations closer to the people and the local governments that we serve, said Julien Hameis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to their concerns and their ideas. They will work together, and with us, on accelerating progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty. We will share their suggestions with the Federal Government as we focus on returning to sustainable development."

Six SDG dialogues have already taken place in Bahawalpur, Multan and Rawalpindi, Punjab; Hyderabad and Sukkur, Sindh; and Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The dialogues will help inform discussions ahead of the global SDG Summit which the UN is organizing to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, halfway of the 2030 deadline.

In Mansehra, the dis-



ISLAMABAD: A view of over fill garbage bin and massive garbage along the Lehtrar Road, which is the open sign of the negligence of local administration.



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**Independent**  
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**G20 summit**

Several noteworthy developments occurred at the just concluded G20 summit in New Delhi, reflecting the rapid state of flux the international order is experiencing. The grouping of the world's 19 top economies, along with the EU, just admitted the African Union, while Xi Jinping was conspicuous by his absence, sending an unsubtle message to the host nation as well as Western members of the bloc. Vladimir Putin also stayed away. Though the official declaration denounced the use of force and violation of the territorial sovereignty of any state, there was no express criticism of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a compromise solution that was reportedly reached to bridge the wide geopolitical differences between members of the grouping.

Another major announcement was the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a massive scheme described as a modern 'Spice Route' designed to link India with Europe, via the Arabian Peninsula.

Termed a "real big deal" by Joe Biden, the project is being seen as a rival to China's Belt and Road Initiative that involves transcontinental transportation, energy and data linkages.

From the aforesaid details, it appears that the G20, as well as the G7, are trying to transform themselves from West-led old boys' clubs to more 'inclusive' organisations ready to invite more states from the Global South. The expansion of BRICS and the SCO may have played a role in these changed priorities, which is why the AU has been courted as a partner. Geo-economics and geopolitics are also at play, with the Spice Route taking an aim at the BRI and the Russia-led International North-South Transport Corridor.

Despite being a G20 member, Beijing was not invited to join the new project linking India and Europe. The scheme will also come in handy by connecting Israel with the Arab states.

The building of multiple transcontinental energy and trade corridors is not necessarily a bad thing, as competition can be healthy, while developing states can prosper by attracting investment and serving as conduits in these expansive networks.

Where Pakistan is concerned, due to our internal issues, we are largely spectators rather than active players in these transnational geo-economic networks.

Unfortunately, we have not even fully utilised the potential that CPEC, a BRI project, was supposed to bring.

Pakistan must also realise that despite India's atrocious human rights record in held Kashmir, the West, as well as our Muslim brothers, seem least concerned and are eager to do business with Delhi. The sad reality is that in the international arena, economic heft overshadows morality.

Therefore, if we want to be part of these global trade networks, and if we want our voice heard where issues such as Kashmir are concerned, we need to first address our internal inadequacies.



Arifa Noor

Free of the burden of defending and explaining government policies and actions, Khawaja Asif spoke candidly about his own party. In a recent interview, he agreed the senior leadership of the PML-N — the Sharif brothers — needed to be in Pakistan.

Once ministries are not weighing down our politicians, they are more attuned to the mood of the street, than when they have cabinet meetings to attend.

Silently many of his party members would perhaps agree. For the party seems to be in limbo, while other parties such as the PPP and JUI-F are kicking off political activities, despite the shrinking political space. The PTI is doing little because it is struggling to survive the state's on-

slaught, and the PML-N seems equally paralysed but without good reason.

All the latter seems to have for the moment is a slogan which harks back to the past: Nawaz Sharif as prime minister and the glorious era that was the 2013-2018 term. For obvious reasons, the party doesn't want to own the past 16 months but convincing the people of this remains an uphill battle.

If this were the only challenge the PML-N faced, it may still have found an answer. Instead, it is struggling with much more. First, there is little clarity or belief in Nawaz Sharif's return, despite the party's promises and announcements about the date. And even if he does, his future remains far from clear.

While his campaigning is a necessary condition for the party's performance in the coming election, few are confident he can become prime minister again. For the whispers (similar to the proclamations about the PTI) are that the elder Sharif may have the maqbooliyat but not necessarily the qabooliyat. If they are true then the conclusion is the

young brother is likely to find the doors to the prime minister's house open and not the elder one.

And ordinary mortals have heard these rumours as has the family itself; loud pronouncements from the likes of Javed Latif and Asif Kirmani about how only Nawaz Sharif will be the party's leader and prime minister testify to this. Hence, one is forced to wonder why he would return simply to win the election and hand over government to whoever is in charge, once Shehbaz Sharif is prime minister.

Along with this comes the challenge of winning an election. By all accounts, the PML-N is not in a strong position in Punjab and even with Nawaz Sharif's presence, is counting on 'help' to win the election. But this help is also said to be aiming for a coalition government — if we get to elections. So once again, why would the senior Sharif get his hands dirty? He already considers himself as separate from his party which entered the coalition government in 2022.

Third, the party itself is divided between those

who want the pragmatic Shehbaz Sharif to be in power, allowing them to stay on the right side of the 'help' and those who believe only Nawaz Sharif can run the party and government. What these divisions will mean for the party in case the distance within the family grows is anyone's guess.

But there is more to the N's woes than just sibling rivalry. And for this fourth challenge, a slice of boring recent history must be recounted.

The PML-N journey since its inception has seen many twists and turns. The right-wing party which first emerged to challenge the PPP's domination of Punjab worked hard to burnish its image post-2008. Obviously, the party wanted to put its 1997 term behind it, when its government picked fights with the judiciary and media and attempted to push through the amirul-momineen law.

The principled decision to support the judiciary in 2009 as well as woo liberal sections of society (especially in Lahore) were the beginning. By 2013, these efforts picked up pace; the party brought

forth many parha likha (educated) types, while it also kept the more traditional politicians close. As Maryam Nawaz began playing a role in the party, many women came to the fore. There were other meaningful gestures to try and cultivate this new image.

Nawaz Sharif, as prime minister, celebrated Holi and director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy's film on honour killings was shown at the PM House. Such efforts helped it win over those who once saw the PPP as a progressive option.

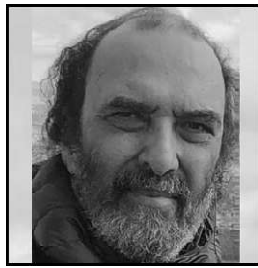
But then came the twist which spares no popular prime minister; Nawaz Sharif was sent home. As in 1999, this was a difficult time for the party: allegations, investigations and prison time for its stalwarts. Opposition time is difficult for the PML-N for other reasons too.

All this led to a vote of no-confidence and the PDM government. But a compromised tenure led to regression on the very issues the Noonies had been at pains to craft a new image on.

The party's image as one which cared about human rights, freedom of expression and other liberal values took a beating as it owned up to the excesses committed during these past 16 months.

This was brought home when the information minister responded to a question about Imran Riaz's disappearance by arguing he wasn't a journalist and when the interior minister justified arrests and the use of force against protesters. Then came the bulldozing of legislation in parliament.

This, too, disillusioned a number of the supporters the PML-N had won over since 2008. Indeed, these past 16 months have ensured the PML-N's face is the Sharif family, along with people such as Rana Sana and Javed Latif, instead of, say, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi or younger, educated people. Eventually, this reversal will prove the hardware to address in a country full of young people looking for change. Especially as the Sharif's seem to think the existential challenge for the party and the family has the same answer. — Courtesy Dawn

**Family at high noon****G20 with a hope and a prayer**

Javed Naqvi

The inveterate Hindu in him spurred the British prime minister to take time off from the G20 summit to offer prayers at Delhi's riverside Akshardham temple. In so doing, he picked up a politically handy applause from the hosts even if the trade pact both eyed has apparently hit the doldrums.

Rishi Sunak could have more usefully nudged his Catholic friend from the US to attend the Sunday mass at Delhi's British-era Sacred Heart Cathedral Church. After all, according to a worrying new survey last week, two-thirds of the polled Democrats don't want Joe Biden as their presidential candidate next year. It could be his age, the fumbling in Vietnam, or his son's legal troubles.

More astutely, it could be the war in Ukraine he has invested

so much in. He can't not be aware that his probable would-be rival is promising the geographically blinkered American electorate an end to the brutal conflict with the snap of his fingers. Clearly, Biden was in greater need of divine help if anyone was among the leaders gathered in Delhi. Whatever his reasons for flaunting his religious preference, Rishi Sunak bucked a quaint trend in his country where more and more people are turning away from religion, that too without excessively troubling the Anglican Church.

Where seeking divine help is concerned, Narendra Modi would perhaps need to work harder on propitiating the divine hand. Merely hoping to inaugurate the Ram temple before the May 2024 general elections could become tricky, the many pats on the back for hosting a powerful summit notwithstanding.

A clutch of by-polls in key states, crucially including Uttar Pradesh, found the prime minister's party trailing behind the newly minted 'INDIA' alliance. Of the seven seats up for grabs, four were wrested by the

alliance while only three remained with the BJP.

In the multicultural jamboree the G20 was, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia played it spiritually safe. As the leaders were being escorted to a guided tour of Mahatma Gandhi's shrine, Mohammed bin Salman it seems followed the rule of his forebears and dodged the Indian protocol for visiting dignitaries. The late King Abdullah was the chief guest at Delhi's Republic Day military parade in 2006, after a diplomatic hiatus of 50 years, when he decided to forgo the mandatory visit to Gandhi Samadhi, citing religious reservations.

Fellow Muslim Pervez Musharraf had not quite seen it that way, so he visited the shrine in July 2001. It's another matter the overture did not eventually assure him success at the Agra summit. The Quaid though an ardent critic of Gandhi had grieved when he was killed by a Hindu assassin. Musharraf, by offering flowers at Gandhiji's shrine not only disapproved with the puritan view supported by the Saudis, but the act also critiqued Mr Modi's fol-

lowers who revile Gandhi and hero-worship his killers.

That said, the two more visible issues that stood out at the G20 summit require a closer look. The inclusion of the African Union into the fold is laudable but needs discussion. And the concern expressed on the Ukraine war appeared to be acceptable to everyone except Ukraine. Let's examine both decisions closely. The quest to include the African Union as a G20 member found Mr Modi positioning himself as the voice for the Global South.

A few weeks earlier, the BRICS summit in South Africa had also extended the membership to a wider representation of Africa.

While Mr Modi moved to reinvent the wheel, his claim of inclusivity was the way Jawaharlal Nehru had always positioned India's foreign policy. Nehru saw Kenneth Kaunda, Julius Nyerere and Gamal Abdel Nasser among the revered African leaders as India's close comrades.

The Non-Aligned Movement was conceived by these leaders as a platform to not only

reject big power loyalties; it also opposed the continued exploitation of their countries by the industrial West, their former colonisers.

Nehru did one better. He saw Asia as the lynchpin of his embrace of the Third World, and it saw him flying ace pilot Biju Patnaik to secretly rescue Indonesian president Sukarno from the colonial plot that toppled him. He saw South Asia as an oasis of fellowship of postcolonial societies, and he spoke of a South Asian confederation ahead of the EU.

Mr Modi, on the other hand, has single-handedly subverted the fellowship by undermining Saarc, mostly, it is suspected, to pander to his narrow political constituency at home. One can be certain that G77, which was founded in 1964 as a club of developing nations and currently includes 130 adherents, continues to represent members from Africa, Latin America, and a host of Asian nations. The G77 members are having their summit in Cuba on Sept 15-16. That's where Brazilian President Lula was headed after taking the G20 gavel from Mr Modi.

However, that's not the priority for the Modi administration evidently. The Indian foreign minister backed out from the Cuba meeting at the last minute. According to reports, a special session of the Indian parliament starting on Sept 18 was given as the reason for India not to send the foreign minister to Havana. The undisclosed agenda has kept the foreign minister from travelling to a Global South event.

This leads to a different understanding of the Delhi summit. Remember that the Davos Economic Forum was a platform for global capitalism and spoke generally for G7 countries. Its critics set up the World Social Forum that prescribed an equitable and sustainable economic order that shared little with private profit. G20 seeks to blur the contradiction with G77.

As for the Ukraine war, the G20's acceptance of the compromise was anticipated by analysts well ahead of the summit. Among them, former Indian diplomat M.K. Bhadrakumar pointed this out in an analysis for NewsClick on Sept 8. It was titled, 'Ice-cracking sounds on frozen lake of US-Russia

**Balochistan's trailblazing women: Breaking barriers and leading the way**

By Hamza Shahzad

When it comes to gender equality Pakistan's Gender Index is the lowest, it is 241 out of 142. We cannot avoid the fact the gender equality indicator of Pakistan is the lowest. Being part of an ultra-religious and male-dominated society, it is not favorable for women to grasp at an executive level. Balochistan, a region known for its rich cultural heritage and wonderful landscapes, is also home to irrepressible and trailblazing women who have been gradually breaking barriers and making their mark in leadership roles. Despite facing several challenges, including cultural norms and socio-economic differences, women in Balochistan are resisting the odds and evolving as leaders in various sectors.

Historically, women of Balochistan have played a crucial role in wars. The most iconic name is Mirzadi Banadi Rind, who led the group supporting the Mughals against the Afghans in the battle of Chusna back in the 16th century. In the mid-17th century, Mai Chaaig ruled Lasbela, she ruled Lasbela for decades. In arts and

music, women also played their part in the best way possible. If we look in literature we find, Rabiakhuzaari, who captivates the people with her poetic approach.

It is clear that there are significant challenges facing women in Balochistan when it comes to education and empowerment. The male-dominated approach and cultural obstructions have hindered female participation in society and prevented girls from receiving education. A lack of education leads to a lack of economic opportunities, as well as issues such as child marriages and maternal mortalities. However, there are women in Balochistan who are leading the way in promoting female education and making efforts to provide quality and skilled education to girls. Dr Qurat ulain Bakhtiyari, Razia Sultana Baloch, Zubaida Jalal, Rahima Jalal, and Dr Shadida Jaffery are just a few of the inspiring women working to ensure that girls in Balochistan have access to education. These women understand the importance of education in empowering women and bringing about positive change in society. They serve as role models and inspiration for others in Balochistan, and beyond. By advocating for female education, these women are working towards a future where women can lead and alter societies for the better.

In Balochistan, women have been gradually dismantling historical gender constraints, actively

participating in politics, and challenging traditional norms. Historically, they were marginalized in political affairs, excluded from decision-making roles, and absent from key positions during the region's governance under Khan's rule. Over time, they made incremental progress, securing limited political roles in state affairs. However, male dominance persisted within political parties, limiting female involvement. A turning point arrived in 1971 when Fazila Aliyani became the first woman elected to the Balochistan assembly and later served as the first female minister for health. This milestone inspired other women to enter politics, despite obstacles posed by tribal and cultural norms. Today, women are increasingly visible in various political parties, integrating into the heart of regional politics. Today, the landscape is rapidly changing, with women becoming members of various political parties. Their active participation is integrating them into the core of regional politics. Dr. Duroshum Ayesha's election as Naseerabad's first-ever chairperson in the 2023 local body elections marked a significant achievement in a region known for its challenges for women. Other remarkable female politicians from the Naseerabad division, including Rubaba Buledi and Rahat Jamal, are also challenging stereotypes. Baloch women, once deprived of economic, social, and political rights, now share equal status with men. National-

ist political parties have established women's wings to address their concerns and empower them politically, leading to progress in addressing women's issues in Balochistan. The Makran region stands out with higher female representation, likely due to its higher literacy rate. Influential figures like Zubaida Jalal, Mahjabeen Sheran, and Meena Majeed have paved the way for other women, demonstrating their capacity to be potent agents of change in a predominantly patriarchal society. These women have pursued political office, championed women's rights, and worked toward greater representation in decision-making bodies.

Women in Balochistan are making significant strides across various fields. Ayesha Zehri broke barriers as the first female deputy commissioner in Balochistan's bureaucracy. Sana Mahjabeen Umrani assumed the role of the first female additional deputy commissioner revenue in Gwadar. Batool Asadi, hailing from the Hazara Community, became the first Assistant Commissioner in Quetta and is now serving as DC Naseerabad. Minorities are also represented, with Maria Shamoona being the first female Assistant Commissioner from the Christian community. Balochistan's women are driving entrepreneurship and economic development, with leaders like Deedar Mengal, Roshan Khurshid Barocha, Hamida Ali Hazara, and Lubana Farooq creating jobs and boosting the

region's economy.

Women in Balochistan are breaking gender barriers across diverse fields, including law enforcement. Pari Gul Tareen, Balochistan's first female Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Quetta, exemplifies this trend. Lt. Zakiya Jamali, hailing from Usta Muhammad, achieved the distinction of becoming the first commissioned female Naval officer from the region, overcoming challenges of her underdeveloped hometown. Inum Kakar, a commando in the female anti-riot force of Balochistan, followed in the footsteps of her Shaheed elder brother, who served in Quetta's Anti-Terrorist Force and martyred in 2013. These 48 lady commandos in the ARF's first batch defy societal norms, redefining perceptions of Balochistan women and showcasing their determination and courage.

These remarkable women deserve recognition for their inspiring achievements, serving as ideals of empowerment and motivation. Hanna Malik, a devoted media practitioner, leads an NGO that empowers Balochistan's youth. Nimra Pirkani, a fervent youth activist, energises positive change.

Anita Jilil Baloch, Balochistan's first female vlogger, triumphed over challenges to become a top vlogger in Pakistan. Nahida Khan represents the Pakistan Women's Cricket Team, breaking barriers in sports. Kalsoom Hazara, Shahida Abbasi, and Nargis Hazara are gold medalists in Karate, setting an

example for aspiring athletes. Advocate Jalila Haider, an outspoken women's rights advocate, was honored as an International Woman of Courage by the US Secretary of State. Mansoor Kakar and Roz Bakht, female football players, champion women's sports in their Pashtun community, serving as role models for aspiring athletes. Despite facing intense cyber trolling and societal pressure, these shining stars defy stereotypes and soar to new heights.

Women in leadership roles in Balochistan face obstinate challenges, including resource limitations, cultural restrictions, and political obstacles. However, their determination remains unwavering. In October 2020, the provincial cabinet approved the Balochistan Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy (2020-2024). This initiative, coupled with the Governance and Policy Project Balochistan, seeks to enhance gender integration in the public sector. With increasing access to education and opportunities, Balochistan's women are poised for significant contributions to various fields. They are not just leaders; they are trailblazers reshaping their communities and region, evident in their achievements across politics, education, and entrepreneurship. Celebrating and supporting these accomplishments can foster Balochistan's progress and empowerment.



## Induction of quality faculty in AJK-run medical colleges ordered

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwaar ul Haq on Tuesday directed for the immediate formation of a joint recruitment committee for the recruitment of quality academic staff in AJK-based public-sector medical colleges in the light of the recommendations of the UHSL (University of Health Sciences Lahore) team.

He was chairing an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Body of state-run Medical Colleges in AJK held here in the State metropolis.

In order to improve the quality and standard of education in the medical colleges of AJK, it was decided that a team of the University of Health Sciences Lahore (UHSL) after a detailed visit to all the three medical colleges of Azad Jammu Kashmir shall submit its recommendations to the Chairman Governing Body.

During the meeting, an Executive Committee headed by the Chief Secretary was constituted to fix the salaries and other allowances of the faculty and staff members of the medical colleges.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said that the college authorities should focus on increasing the revenue of medical colleges and reducing expenses. "Every institution or state entity has to justify its existence", the PM said, adding that no one would be allowed to play with the future of students.

The prime minister directed that transport, theaters, and other

facilities should be provided to the medical students studying in Azad Kashmir.

He said that stern action would be taken against the head of the institution in case merit was violated anywhere. The VC UHSL assured the PM that a team of experts and academia would very soon conduct a visit to all the medical colleges of Azad Kashmir in this regard. The meeting was attended among others by AJK Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, Vice Chancellor University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Professor Dr. Kaleem Abbasi, Additional Secretary Public Health Abdul Sattar Khan and others. Vice Chancellor of the University of Health Sciences Lahore Professor Dr. Ahsan Waheed Rathore participated in the meeting from Lahore via video link.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori briefs detail about the aims and objectives of the bell to Punjab Governor, Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

## Interim CM Sindh meets Jamaat Islami delegation

KARACHI (APP): A delegation of Jamaat Islami (JI) led by its Emir of Karachi Hafiz Naemur Rehman called on Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar and discussed the issues of local bodies, water board, and illegal construction in the city.

The delegation comprised Monem Zafar, Saifuddin, Saleem Azhar, Sadruddin, and Zahid Askari.

Hafiz Naem said that the transition period of newly elected local bodies has come to an end officially but even then, the elected bodies have not been given power to function in the public

interest. At this, the chief minister said that he was taking necessary measures to strengthen local bodies all over the province. "We are strengthening them so that they can work in the interest of the people," he said.

Hafiz Naem complained against KE and said that neither they have controlled power theft nor made investments to improve the generation and distribution system.

At this, the CM said that he held a meeting with the KE authorities on Monday and urged them to improve their system.

The Jamaat delegation took up the issue of illegal construction in the city.

## CJ PHC visits Central Jail, issues release orders for 115 prisoners

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Justice (CJ) Peshawar High Court (PHC) Muhammad Ibrahim Khan on Tuesday visited Central Jail Peshawar and issued immediate release orders for 115 different categories of prisoners.

He was accompanied by Caretaker Provincial Law Minister Justice retired Irshad Qaiser, District and Sessions Judge Peshawar, Ashfaq Taj, and IG Prison Usman Mehsud. Jail Superintendent along with other judicial officials.

Chief Justice visited the Women's Barracks, where he applauded the provision of video-link facilities for female inmates.

He attentively listened to the issues faced

by female prisoners and issued immediate instructions for their resolution.

The Chief Justice toured the newly constructed ward within the jail premises, which functions as a hospital.

He paid visits to ailing inmates and ensured their medical care.

Additionally, he visited a factory within the jail where prisoners were involved in leatherwork, shoemaking, and stitching, imparting valuable vocational skills.

Furthermore, the Chief Justice attended a handicraft and painting class within the jail premises.

Addressing the officers of the jail, the judiciary.



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerics Association holds protest outside press club against the unbearable inflation in Country.

## Governor Mehdi Shah calls on Caretaker PM

GILGIT (APP): Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah on Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

During the meeting, the governor apprised the prime minister of the administrative affairs and law and order situation in Gilgit Baltistan. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The governor also thanked the prime minister for visiting Gilgit Baltistan and his special interest in the development of the region.

## 23 more dengue cases surface in 24hrs

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 23 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 438 in the district.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Tuesday said that, among the new cases, 15 cases had arrived from Potohar town urban, five from Chaklala Cantonment, and one each from Municipal Corporation and Rawalpindi Cantonment area. He said 97 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 52 were confirmed cases while 386 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered 53 FIRs, issued tickets to 16, sealed eight premises, and a fine of Rs 43,500 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Gulbar Khan, Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan during meeting held in Gilgit.

## CM distributes 32 plots allotments letters among police martyred families

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Interim Chief Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, disbursed 32 allotment letters of plots among the families of police martyred at South Punjab Secretariat here on Tuesday. He announced not to charge possession and transfer fees from the families in this connection. He met the heirs of the police martyr and consoled them.

Speaking on the occasion the CM termed armed forces and police martyred heroes saying that alive nations never forget their heroes. He commended the services of the police for maintaining law and order in the province adding that the force had acted with gallantry for eradicating dacoits from the Kacha area.

Provincial Minister, Azfar Ali Nasir, IGP, Dr Usman Anwar, ACS South

Punjab, Saqib Zaffar, Adl Division, Aamir IG South Punjab, Khattak, RPO, Sohail Maqsood ul Hassan, Chaudhary and other Commissioner Multan officials were present.

## Naqvi for completion of Civil Secretariat by Dec

MULTAN (APP): Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman, has given a deadline to complete the Civil Secretariat building by December this year.

He expressed these views during a visit to the under-construction building of the Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Capt. @ Saqib Zafar, was also accompanied by him.

Secretary Finance Punjab Mujahid Sher Dil, Secretary Services South Punjab Amjad Shoaib Tareen, Commissioner Aamir Khattak, DC Umar Jahangir, and CEO IDAP Sohail Ashraf were also present.

Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman inspected the construction quality in the Secretariat and inquired about the road network and landscaping plan. He said that the government wants to inaugurate the Civil Secretariat by December. CS Punjab further said that the establishment of a separate secretariat was a long-standing dream of the people of South Punjab.

Shifting the offices of the departments to the Civil Secretariat will accelerate the pace of development in the region. Chief Secretary Punjab directed to plant mango trees in the Civil Secretariat as mangoes were the identity of South Punjab.

## Home minister terms Safe City project pivotal for safety of citizens

KARACHI (APP): Sindh caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons Brig. @ Harris Nawaz, on Tuesday, observed that the Safe City Project would enhance law enforcement capabilities, improve emergency response times and deter criminal activities.

The minister, while presiding over a high-level meeting regarding Karachi Safe City Project, termed safety and well-being of citizens as the top priority and said that the authorities concerned must remain steadfast in pursuit of its successful implementation. The meeting was attended by Home Secretary Sindh, Muhammed Iqbal Memon; IGP Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar; DIGP Special Branch, Asif

Aijaz Shaikh; Director IT CPO, Tabasum Abid and a 10-member delegation of NRTC led by Commodore @ Raheel.

The meeting was informed that the Karachi Safe City Project envisaged the installation of a network of latest closed-circuit television cameras in the city for digital surveillance while the project involved all the law-enforcement and emergency services' agencies in the metropolis for a quick and adequate response to tackle any law and order situation.

The National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) official informed the meeting that under the project.

## Sindh University extends last date for online exam forms submission

HYDERABAD (APP): The Controller of Annual Examination University of Sindh Jamshoro has informed that the varsity management has extended last date for submission of online examination forms for annual examination of M.Com., M.Sc. and MA (Previous and Final) of affiliated colleges up to September 15, 2023.

According to announcement, the candidates can submit online examination forms for annual examination of M.Com., M.Sc., MA Previous (Failure) and MA Final (Fresh and Failure) up to September 15, 2023 with late fee of Rs. 10,000/-.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Ret'd) Maqbool Baqar exchanges views with Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Walk held in Swat to raise awareness about conservation of butterfly

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Butterfly Society on Tuesday organized a walk in Swat district to raise awareness about the conservation of butterflies and their ecological importance.

The walk, attended by students of different educational institutions, was led by a representative of the Pakistan Butterfly Society and a student of the Zoology Department of Jehanzeb College, Azan Khan.

The Pakistan Butterfly Society has organized a number of events and walks to be held in different cities of the country in connection with the ongoing regionally observed Butterfly Month. "This is the first time

that Pakistan is taking part in Butterfly Month to be observed in the South Asian region in the month of September and will help in the promotion of butterfly monitoring through the capture of pictures in the country.

Participants in the walk were holding play cards inscribed with wording in connection with the conservation of butterflies.

Talking to newsmen, Azan Khan said the objective of the walk was to educate people about the importance of butterflies.

We also demand that the government give legal status to butterflies and their habitats. He said the government has given legal protection to different species.

## Security beefed up in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): The City Capital Police on Tuesday beefed up security measures across the provincial capital following the special instructions of CCPO Peshawar Syed Ashfaq Anwar.

Ashfaq Anwar urged people to cooperate with the police and security forces at pickets and during snap-checking to maintain peace in the city.

According to SP Cantt Waqas Rafiq, the divisional SPs along with other units were directed to monitor the checking process at the blockades, and police officials were directed to take indiscriminate action against the use of tinted glasses in vehicles, unregistered vehicles, and pillion riding. He said that Abaseel Squad and officials of City Patrolling.

## Governor emphasizes to provide financial aid, scholarships to the deserving students

*Sadiq Public School is a prestigious institution*

LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman presided over the meeting of the Board of Governors of Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur was held here today at the Governor House. In the meeting, the Board of Governors approved the annual budget of Sadiq Public School 2023-24. A 5-year financial plan was also approved in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Sadiq Public School is a prestigious institution. Students who graduated from this institution are rendering outstanding services for the country in various fields.

He hoped that Sadiq

Public School's new Principal David Dowdles will bring more improvements in the institution. Governor Punjab, while presiding over the meeting of the Board of Governors, categorically rejected the proposed increase in fees by more than 20 percent, saying that people are suffering from financial problems due to the economic problems of the country, adding that increase in fees may affect many students and may deprive them of studying in the institution.

Governor Punjab emphasized to provide financial aid and scholarships to the deserving students. He added that five (05) per cent of the school's revenue should be allocated for such scholarships.



PESHAWAR: Iran's Consul General in Peshawar, Ali Banafshekhab meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

## Askari Tower case: ATC starts process of declaring 4 PTI leaders proclaimed offenders

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday started the process of declaring four Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Mian Aslam Iqbal and Musarrat Cheema, as proclaimed offenders in a case of attacking Askari Tower, during May-9 violence.

The court directed the prosecution to publish a proclamation in the newspapers for the appearance of the suspects on October 13.

ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan initiated the process on an application filed by the police for the purpose.

The investigation officer of Gulberg Police Station had filed the application with a plea to start the process of declaring Mian Aslam Iqbal, Jamshaid Cheema, Musarrat Cheema and Ghulam Abbas as proclaimed offenders for not joining the investigation and judicial proceedings.



KARACHI: Commuters are facing inconvenience during traffic jam due to construction works of new development projects on University road.

## Dengue; five KP districts declared high risk zones

PESHAWAR (APP): In the wake of a surge in dengue fever cases, the authorities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday declared five districts as high-risk zones.

According to the authorities in the Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, five districts including Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Charsadda and Battagram were among the risky zones with regard to dengue fever spread.

The number of people affected with dengue virus has reached to 165 in the province, the health authorities said adding that in Peshawar district 38 cases of dengue virus

were reported followed by Mardan with 32 cases, Swabi 19 cases, Charsadda 14 cases and Battagram with 12 dengue cases. Till date, the authorities said the cases of dengue fever have been reported from 20 districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A few cases of dengue in some of the districts including Bannu, Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Khyber, Tor Ghar and Haripur were also reported in the last couple of days.

The caretaker advisor for health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has directed stern preventive measures in sensitive districts of the province.

## IUB delegation visits China, signs MoU with various institutions

BAHAWALPUR (APP): A delegation from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, comprising Registrar Prof. Dr. Moazzam Jamil, Principal UCCM, Director Pak-China Cooperation Center (Focal Person) Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Asif, Assist Prof. UCCM Dr. Khalil Ahmed, Lecturers UCCM Hafiz Abdul Sattar, and Rabia Zahid, visited China on an official invitation from TANG International Education China and other Chinese Institutes.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by President Tang International Education, Mr. Li Jinsong, along with his other team members. The delegation members visited the top-ranked institutes in China.

The tour remained highly successful in terms of achieving win-win cooperation in education, innovation, and informatization and strengthening the cooperation of higher education, exchanges.



## PTCL, DynaSys join hands to take IoT & Satellite Communications to next level

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and DynaSys Networks (DynaSys) announced the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) at a ceremony held at the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) in Rawalpindi.

The signing ceremony was jointly chaired by Aamer Ejaz, Group Vice President, Carrier Services, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Ali Akhtar, Founder and CEO, DynaSys Networks, said a news release.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials from both organizations, along with the leadership of NASTP.

The MoU on the Internet of Things (IoT) establishes the technical framework for the integration of DynaSys' IoT platform and end-user devices with PTCL's Cloud and cybersecurity infrastructure as well as wired and wireless transmission networks.

This would culminate in a fully assimilated and first-of-its-kind IoT service that would be commercially available to customers across Pakistan.

The mission statement on IoT reaffirmed by both organizations is to jointly become Pakistan's largest IoT service provider with the first to one million active end-user subscriptions.

During the ceremony, Aamer Ejaz, Group Vice President Carrier Services, PTCL & Ufone 4G said, "We are excited to establish a partnership with DynaSys to support the IoT and satcom needs of our business partners. PTCL, a market leader in telecom, is proactively playing its role to bridge the digital divide to bring a positive change in the lifestyle of people.

Such partnerships will help achieve that objective by providing futuristic, innovative and cost-effective solutions even in the remotest parts of the country.

It will contribute significantly towards stirring the business activity and overall

economic growth of the country."

On the occasion, Ali Akhtar, Founder and CEO of DynaSys Networks, said, "The framework that DynaSys and PTCL have formally signed today is a giant leap for materializing IoT in Pakistan. The missing piece of the puzzle so far has been the platform which we have now solved. In the months ahead we will be working hand in glove to materialize Pakistan's first full-fledged IoT service. On satellite communications, it is natural that the talent of both organizations would gravitate towards each other for a high impact market presence. We're taking solid steps to dominate this space."



KARACHI: NASTP Project Director Technology Air Commodore Dr. Tauseef-ur-Rehman, Ali Akhtar, CEO Dynasys and Aamer Ejaz, Group VP Carrier Services PTCL and Ufone 4G, along with senior officials of all three organizations during the signing ceremony between PTCL and Dynasys for development of IoT and SatCom Services in Pakistan, held in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization, Dr. Shamsah Akhtar exchanging views with Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, Turkish Ambassador during meeting held at Finance Division in Islamabad.

## LCCI President, FTO officials distribute tax refund cheques

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar along with the officials of Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) distributed the cheques of tax refunds here at Lahore Chamber on Tuesday.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Advisor in charge FTO Adila Rehman, Advisor Income Tax FTO Khalid Javed, Director FTO Nazim Raza, FBR Chief Commissioner IR RTO Lahore (Inland Revenue-Regional Tax Office) Amjad Farooq, Customs Chief Collector (Enforcement) Mirza Mubashir Baig, Collector (Appraisement) Moneeb Sarwar, Commissioner IR CTO Lahore Khalid Farooq Mian, Commissioner IR Lahore Naveed Khalid, Director Internal Audit Customs Saima Aftab and Director Intelligence and Investigation Customs Saima Shahzad were present on the occasion.

The FTO representatives were of the view that the FTO ensured implementation of its decisions in true sense of words. They lauded efforts of the LCCI President Kashif Anwar, who is also the Advisor to FTO, for organising this ceremony at LCCI. The FTO officials informed that the FTO office is playing an instrumental role in resolving the taxation issues of businesses and ordinary citizens without any discrimination. They said that the cheque distribution ceremony for giving cheques of refunds to the businesses is testament of the commitment of FTO office to facilitate the business community.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar welcomed the continued efforts of Federal Tax Ombudsman and expressed gratitude for paying the pending tax refunds.

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## Rupee gains Rs1.28 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained Rs1.28 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs299.88 against the previous day's closing of Rs301.16.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs297 and Rs30 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.53 to close at Rs321.49 against the last day's closing of Rs323.02, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost 01 paisa to close at Rs2.04, whereas a decline of Rs2.73 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs374.44 as compared to the last closing of Rs377.17.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 35 and 34 paisa to close at Rs81.64 and Rs79.95 respectively.

## First 5G-wired ocean liner's second sea trail completed in Shanghai

ISLAMABAD (APP): China's first domestically built large-scale cruise ship, also the world's first 5G cruiser, Adora Magic City, has successfully undergone a series of tests on its second trial voyage, and it will return on Tuesday as planned.

The ship embarked on its second sea trial on Thursday, and now has completed five major tests including a speed, maneuvering, vibration and noise test, and is awaiting final inspection data, Global Times reported.

The ship plans to dock at the pier in Shanghai on Tuesday to undergo all final checks and inspections, and it will be ready to be handed over to the operator.

Adora Magic City is driven by a podded electric propulsion system, enabling the ship to sail silently and in all conditions. It is equipped with an integrated operating system in the cabin which collects whole vessel's data and shows key indexes at a glance.

Providing stable, dependable, high-speed internet service during a cruise journey is important for Chinese tourists, said Chen Ranfeng, Adora Cruises' CEO.

In January 2023, Adora Cruises, the Chinese cruise brand, announced the cooperation with Chinese mobile broadband provider China Telecom to build the world's first 5G-wired large-scale ocean liner. "The 5G network will provide passengers with high-speed Wi-Fi experience as good as they can access on land," an Adora representative said. "We used to access the internet through satellites, but it was unstable and expensive."

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## Dar visits Geneva to attend WTO's Public Forum

GENEVA (Online): A delegation of Pakistan Senate led by Leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar visited Pakistan Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

The delegation is visiting Geneva to attend the World Trade Organization's Public Forum at the invitation of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Pakistan Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Khalil Hashmi welcomed the delegation and briefed on key tracks of Pakistan's ongoing engagement with various international organizations in the areas of human rights, health, humanitarian as well as trade and development issues.

Leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar highlighted Pakistan's approach and priorities on the global economic agenda.

## Malaysian PM evinces keen interest in Pak Halal products

ISLAMABAD (APP): Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Tuesday visited the Pakistan Pavilion at the 19th International Halal Showcase (MIHAS '23) in Kuala Lumpur, and evinced a keen interest in the Pakistani Halal products.

Pakistan High Commissioner Syed Ahsan Raza Shah extended a warm welcome to the Malaysian prime minister upon his arrival at the Pakistani Pavilion, Pakistan High

Commission in Kuala Lumpur said on X, formerly Twitter.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim got a briefing about "Made in Pakistan" from High Commissioner Ahsan Raza Shah. He praised the high quality of Pakistan's Halal food.

A total of 42 countries, including Pakistan, are taking part in an international expo, which is scheduled to run until September 15.



LAHORE: All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran Chairman, Naeem Mir addresses to media persons during press conference, at Lahore press club

## BAJK remittances surge to Rs 4.6 bln

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has entered into an agreement with two more companies, Instant Cash and International Money Exchange, for immediate collection and payment of remittances or home remittances from around the world while, in a short span of three years, BAJK remittances increased from Rs.80 million to Rs.4.60 billion.

This success became possible due to the strong trust of the overseas diaspora around the world and the effective strategy of the organization.

This was said in a review meeting Bank AJK officials held under its Chief Executive Officer Khawar Saeed regarding the promotion of the bank's business here on Tuesday.

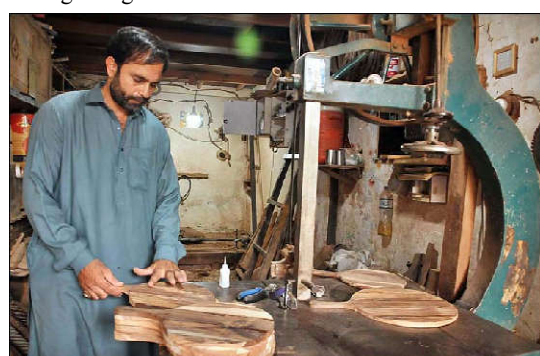
The Chief Executive Officer said that the bank has signed agreements with

2 more credible companies after Western Union for quick and timely collection and payment of remittances from all over the world.

Earlier, the bank signed agreements with RIA and Money Gram.

He further said that special desks have been set up in the bank's designated branches.

The bank spokesperson while releasing details said that the State-owned financial institution's remittances in the year 2019 were only 800 million rupees, which increased to 4.60 billion rupees on 31 December 2022 and 3.94 billion rupees in 8 months of the current fiscal year. This increase was the highest ever since the bank's inception. The CEO said that it is expected that remittances will increase to 6 billion rupees in December 2023.



ISLAMABAD: A carpenter busy in preparing wooden item at his workplace in Federal Capital.

## Cotton arrival grew by 49.37 %

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cotton crop arrival in the local markets has witnessed about 49.37 percent growth during the first week of current month (September) as compared to the arrival of the same month of last year.

By September 01, 2023 about 3.041 million cotton bales were arrived in local markets as compared to the arrival of 1.539 million bales of same month of last year, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Talking to APP here on Friday, he said that encouraging trend in local cotton output was mainly attributed to the provision of certified quality seeds as well as incentives introduced by the government to ensure

proper and fair rate of returns to growers across the country.

The of crop arrival from Sindh Province, he said also grew by 57.84 percent as the province harvested over 1.901 million of cotton bales as against the arrival of 801,772 bales of same period of last year.

Meanwhile, cotton crop arrival from the Punjab Province were recorded at 1.068 million bales as compared to the arrival of 703,993 bales of last year, which posted an increase of 51.82 percent, he added.

The crop arrival from Balochistan grew by 51.92 percent as province harvested 70,600 bales as compared to 33,945 bales of same period last year.

## Senate committee reiterates commitment to fostering supportive business environ.

KARACHI (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, on Tuesday, reiterated its commitment to fostering a supportive environment for businesses in Pakistan and assured traders and the industrial community of their fullest support for resolving the issues.

The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee was held here at Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). Chairman of the committee Senator Zeeshan Khanzada presided over the

meeting while Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Senator Imamuddin Shouqeen, Senator Muhammad Qasim and Senator Khalida Ateeb attended the meeting, said a statement issued here.

Chief Executive Officer TDAP, Muhammad Zubair Motiwala, briefed the committee about trade and investment opportunities in Food, Agriculture, IT and other sectors in Pakistan, the performance of TDAP and outcomes of Pakistan Trade Facilitation Portal.

Chairman Committee Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, on the occasion, said that the visit of the Committee and subsequent deliberations underline the Senate Committee's dedication to fostering a supportive environment for businesses in Pakistan.

The Committee would remain steadfast in its mission to facilitate economic growth, address challenges faced by the business community, and promote a robust export-oriented sector in the country, he vowed.

## Turkish Ambassador calls on finance minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Paçacı called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamsah Akhtar here Tuesday.

According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, both sides discussed various avenues for strengthening economic ties and shared mutual commitment to fostering closer relations between the two nations.

## Railways plan to shift entire power network on solar system in phases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is planning to switch its entire stations' power network including major railway stations, offices, workshops, and factories to solar systems in different phases which would help to save billions of rupees for the department.

"The step is expected to save Rs. 1.8 billion in the first phase to the department, later on, more stations, offices, and other

facilities will be added in the subsequent phases," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Initially, in the first phase, he said that Pakistan Railways wanted to switch around 99 formations, including major railway stations, nine divisional headquarters, and other vital offices, to solar power. He said Pakistan Railways is going to hire the services of the National Engineering



SIALKOT: President Chamber of Commerce Abdul Ghafoor Malik addressing the meeting of Government Excellent Pilot High School Old Boys.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, MSC Rania, Maersk Boston, Ice Fighter and Limra scheduled to load/offload Containers, Condensate and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Oil Terminal and SSGC Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Maersk Columbus and Hafnia Pegasus carrying Containers and Gas oil also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 Hours.

A total of eight ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, three ships, MSC Rania, Maersk Boston and Limra left the port on Tuesday morning, while an edible oil carrier Hua Wei 8 is expected to sail on same day afternoon.

Cargo throughput of 180,983 tonnes, comprising 119,211 tonnes imports cargo and 61,772 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,419 Containers (1,456 TEUs Imports and 1,963 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 10 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Maersk Columbus and Chem Bulldog & two more ships, Chemroad Rose and OM carrying Containers.

## Cars' sale drops 50% during July-August

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of cars during the first two months of the current financial year 2023-24 has dropped by 50.35 percent as compared to the same month of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said.

According to the data, as many as 9,611 cars were sold during the months under review as opposed to 19,358 units in the same months of last year.

The breakup figures showed that 700 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during July-August 2023-24 as compared to the

sale of 3,844 units during July-August 2022-23.

Toyota Corolla and Yaris cars sales also declined by 52.83 percent as it went down to 2,186 units from 4,635 units in previous year.

Suzuki Swift's sales also decreased by 11.48 percent as its sale went down to 755 units from 853 units last year. Sale of Suzuki Cultus declined to 482 units during the first two months of the current year, whereas during the same months last year, the sale was recorded at 1,072 units while the sale of Suzuki WagonR also decreased to 604 units from 647 units last year.

## Lesco detects 205 power pilferers

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) detected 205 power pilferers in all its circles and charged them a total of 443,875 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 18,522 million after disconnecting their supply during its sixth day of anti-power theft operation on Tuesday.

A Lesco spokesman confirmed to media here that 205 connections in all circles were found involved in

electricity theft and applications for registration of FIRs against all electricity thieves have been filed in the respective police stations, out of which 105 FIRs have been registered while an accused has also been arrested. Among the seized connections were one agricultural, six commercial and 198 domestic categories, and: "We have charged them an accumulative detection units of 443,875 worth Rs 18,522,713," he added.



SARGODHA: Labourer busy in cleaning gram pulse "dal chana" at Ghala Mandi.



## N. Korea's leader is in Russia to meet Putin, with both locked in standoffs with the West

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korea's Kim Jong Un rolled into Russia on an armored train Tuesday to see President Vladimir Putin, a rare meeting between isolated leaders driven together by their need for support in escalating standoffs with the West.

Kim is expected to seek economic aid and military technology for his impoverished country, and, in an unusual twist, appears to have something Putin desperately needs: munitions for Russia's grueling war in Ukraine.

This meeting is a chance for the North Korean leader to get around crippling U.N. sanctions and years of diplomatic isolation. For Putin, it's an opportunity to refill ammunition stores that the war has drained.

North Korea's official Korean Central News

Agency said Kim boarded his personal train bound for Russia on Sunday afternoon, accompanied by members of the ruling party, government and military.

His final destination is uncertain. Many had assumed Kim and Putin would meet in Vladivostok, a Russian city close to the border where the two leaders had their last meeting in 2019, and which Putin is visiting this week for an economic forum.

But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed only that Kim has entered Russia, and state news agency RIA-Novosti later reported his train had headed north after crossing the Razdolnaya River, taking it away from Vladivostok. The South Korean news agency Yonhap later published a photo it said showed the train in Ussuriysk, a city

about 60 kilometers (about 40 miles) north of Vladivostok that has a sizable ethnic Korean population.

A green train with yellow trimmings, resembling one used by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on his previous travels, is seen steaming by a slogan which reads "Towards a new victory" on the North Korea border with Russia and China seen from China's Yiyangwang Three Kingdoms viewing platform in Fangchuan in northeastern China's Jilin province on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023. Russia and North Korea confirmed Monday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will visit Russia in a highly anticipated meeting with President Vladimir Putin that has sparked Western concerns about a potential arms deal for Moscow's war in Ukraine.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a meeting with Russian Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Alexander Kozlov upon his arrival in Khasan in the Primorsky region, Russia.

## Taiwan says China is bolstering coastline military bases facing the self-ruled island

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: China is continuously bolstering its military bases along the coastline facing Taiwan, the self-ruled island's Defense Ministry said in a report Tuesday, as Beijing steps up military activities around the territory it claims as its own.

Taiwan said it will continue to monitor the Chinese activities around the island and bolster its defenses in response. Earlier on Tuesday, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it had spotted 22 Chinese warplanes and 20 warships near the island over the previous 24 hours — part of military harassment by

Beijing, which hasn't ruled out force to reunite the island with the mainland.

"This year, the Chinese Communist Party has aggressively expanded its armaments and continued to build various types of fighter jets and drones," Maj. Gen. Huang Wen-Chi, the assistant deputy chief with the General Staff for Intelligence of Taiwan's Defense Ministry, said during a news conference releasing the biennial report.

"The information we have received is that all important military bases along the coast ... are being continuously updated," he added. Huang pointed to

three military airfields in China's southeast Fujian province — Longtian, Hui'an and Zhangzhou — that have recently been expanded. The closest one to Taiwan, Longtian, is only 217 kilometers (135 miles) from the capital, Taipei.

Over the past year, Beijing has stepped up military activities around Taiwan, including by sending warships and warplanes on a near-daily basis.

The latest dispatch of Chinese warplanes and warships came after the United States and Canada sailed warships through the Taiwan Strait in a challenge to Beijing's territorial claims.

## Foreign rescuers join Morocco quake race against time

**Monitoring Desk**  
TALAT NYACOUB: Moroccan rescuers supported by foreign teams on Monday faced an intensifying race against time to dig out any survivors from the rubble of mountain villages after the country's strongest-ever earthquake.

The 6.8-magnitude quake struck the Atlas mountains late on Friday southwest of the tourist centre of Marrakesh. It killed at least 2,862 people and injured over 2,562 others, according to the latest official toll.

In the disaster-stricken community of

Talat Nyacoub, 12 ambulances and several dozen 4X4s from the army and police were deployed while around 100 Moroccan rescuers were searching for signs of life amid the collapsed buildings.

Nearby, a Spanish team of 30 firefighters, a doctor, a nurse, and two technicians coordinating with Moroccan authorities before starting to dig, as a helicopter flew overhead. "The big difficulty is in zones remote and difficult to access, like here, but the injured are choppered out," Annika Coll, who heads the Spanish team, said.

## Putin signals he expects long war in Ukraine, is not betting on Trump

**Monitoring Desk**  
VLADIVOSTOK: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday indicated he was bracing for a long war in Ukraine, saying that Kyiv could use any ceasefire to rearm and that Washington would continue to see Russia as an enemy no matter who won the 2024 U.S. election.

Speaking for several hours at an economic forum in Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok, Putin said Ukraine's counteroffensive against Russian forces had so far failed and the Ukrainian army had sustained heavy losses of 71,000 men in the attacks.

Only when Ukraine was exhausted when it came to men, equipment and ammunition would it talk peace, he said in reply to questions from a Russian television presenter acting as a moderator.

But he said Kyiv would use any cessation of hostilities "to replenish their resources and restore the combat capability of their armed forces."

Putin said many potential mediators had asked him if Russia was ready to stop fighting but said that Russia could hardly do so when it was facing a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

For there to be any chance of talks, said Putin, Ukraine would first have to cancel its self-imposed legal ban on peace talks and explain what it wanted.

"Then we shall see," Putin said.

Russia controls about 18% of Ukrainian territory, including Crimea which it annexed in 2014, and a swathe of eastern and southern Ukraine which it seized after invading Ukraine on Feb. 24 last year in what it called a special military operation.

The war has sown devastation across cities and the countryside, and killed or injured hundreds of thousands of combatants and civilians.

## Iran's Raisi: five US citizens detained in Iran 'in full health'

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Five U.S. citizens detained in Iran, who are expected to be swapped for five Iranians imprisoned in the United States as early as next week, are "in full health," Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said in a television interview on Tuesday.

"They are very healthy and, according to our latest information, they are in full health," Raisi told Lester Holt of NBC Nightly News in an interview taped in Tehran on Tuesday, the U.S. television network said. The five U.S. citizens expected to be released include Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad Sharqi, 59, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, 67, who also holds British nationality, the U.S. administration has said.

The identities of the fourth and fifth Americans have not been disclosed. As part of the prisoner swap deal first made public on Aug. 10, the United States has agreed to the transfer of \$6 billion in Iranian funds from South Korean to Qatari accounts, where they can be spent only on humanitarian goods. Allowing the five to leave Iran would remove a major irritant between

Washington and Tehran, which remain at odds on issues from the Iranian nuclear program to Tehran's support for regional Shi'ite militias. The prisoner exchange could take place as early as next week according to eight Iranian and other sources familiar with the deal, negotiated in indirect U.S.-Iran talks mediated by Qatar. One source familiar with the talks has previously said the Swiss embassy, which represents U.S. interests in Iran, had visited the five Americans and said they were in good health.

"The arrangements have been done and the final action of swapping the prisoners should be finalized in the due time," Raisi told NBC according to excerpts released by the network without specifying a date. While Raisi appeared to acknowledge the \$6 billion may only be used for humanitarian purposes, he said Iran would decide how the money would be spent.

"This money belongs to the Iranian people, the Iranian government, so the Islamic Republic of Iran will decide what to do with this money," Raisi said in the interview, speaking through an Iranian government translator.

## Helping mothers and babies survive childbirth is a personal goal, says Melinda French Gates

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Melinda French Gates says she takes personally the deaths of hundreds of thousands of women and babies during child birth each year and believes more people should get involved in the fight for improving maternal health care.

French Gates, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-founder and co-chair told The Associated Press that when her daughter, Jennifer, gave birth to Leila — Jennifer's first child and the Gateses' first grandchild — earlier this year, she couldn't help but think of her own experience giving birth.

"That's a terrifying day whether you're in a great hospital in the U.S. in a high-income setting or in a low-income setting. It's a scary day for moms, right?" French Gates said. "And you want to survive and you want your baby to survive."

low tech interventions would increase those chances of survival, according to a new report released Tuesday by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that tracks progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals set at the United Nations in 2015.

Those include changes to the protocol for treating serious bleeding, known as postpartum hemorrhage, which is the leading cause of maternal death, treating anemia with a fast-working IV drip rather than tablets, and preventing infections with a specific antibiotic.

Dr. Rasa Iznadegandhar, who directs the foundation's Maternal, Newborn & Child Health Discovery & Tools portfolio, called on the World Health Organization to speed up approval of some of the interventions, which in part are based on research and evidenced funded by the foundation.



French President Emmanuel Macron meets Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh at her office in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Iraq starts relocating Iranian Kurdish fighters from Iran border - Iraq foreign minister

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAGHDAD: Iraq has started relocating Iranian Kurdish groups from Iraq's Kurdish region frontiers with Iran to camps far from the border as part of a security agreement between Baghdad and Tehran, Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein said on Tuesday.

Iraq and Iran signed a border security agreement in March, a move Iraqi officials said was aimed primarily at tightening the frontier with Iraq's Kurdish region, where Tehran says armed Kurdish dissidents pose a threat to its security.

"Based on the agreement between Iraq and Iran, necessary measures were taken to remove these groups from the border areas and they were housed in camps deep inside Iraqi Kurdistan," Hussein told a

press conference on Tuesday. Hussein said he would visit Tehran on Wednesday to deliver the message in person in the hopes that it would prevent any escalation on the border.

Iraq's autonomous northern Kurdish region of sheltering militant groups involved in attacks against the Islamic Republic, with Iran's Revolutionary Guards in turn repeatedly targeting their bases.

The Iranian foreign ministry said last month that under the agreement struck with Iraq, Baghdad committed to disarm Iranian Kurdish opposition groups in Iraq's Kurdistan region, close their bases, and relocate them to other locations before September 19.

## Macron caps Asia outreach with Bangladesh visit

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: President Emmanuel Macron was in Bangladesh on Monday in a bid to "consolidate" France's Asia-Pacific strategy and counterbalance a "new imperialism" in a region where China's influence is increasingly being extended. "Based on democratic principles and the rule of law, in a region facing new imperialism, we want to propose a third way — with no intention to bully our partners or to lead them to an unsustainable scheme," Macron told Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The United States and China are competing for influence in the wider region, and Macron has pushed France as offering an alternative. "Bangladesh is progressively retrieving its place on the world stage," Macron said, speaking after he arrived in the capital Dhaka on Sunday.

## Clashes in Lebanon camp kill six Palestinians

**Monitoring Desk**  
SIDON: At least six people have been killed and dozens wounded in clashes in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon, first responders said on Monday as fighting raged for a fifth day. Violence broke out late on Thursday in the Ain al-Helweh camp on the outskirts of the coastal city of Sidon, just weeks after similar clashes pitted members of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah movement against Islamist militants.

The toll has risen to at least "six dead, one of them killed on Monday, and more than 70 wounded", said Imad Hallak from the Palestinian Red Crescent's Lebanon branch, revising an earlier figure of 60 wounded. The casualties include both fighters and civilians, he added.

Lebanon's powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah group urged a halt to the fighting. "We call for an immediate ceasefire,"

Hezbollah said in a statement on Monday, adding that the group expressed "deep regret" at the violence. A correspondent in Sidon reported ongoing clashes with automatic gunfire and shelling, after fighting had subsided somewhat overnight. Bullets and shells fell outside the camp's walls in past days, the correspondent said.

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said the city's southern entrance was closed to traffic.

The NNA had reported on Saturday that three fighters and one civilian had been killed. Ain al-Helweh is home to more than 54,000 registered refugees and thousands of Palestinians who joined them in recent years from neighbouring Syria, fleeing the civil war there. The camp, Lebanon's largest, was created for Palestinians who were driven out or fled during the 1948 war at the time of Israel's creation.

## Hillary Clinton returns to the White House for arts celebration

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton returns to the White House on Tuesday to speak at an arts event in what will be her first public appearance at the U.S. presidential residence and workplace since her 2016 election loss to Donald Trump.

Clinton will attend an event with first lady Jill Biden to celebrate Praemium Imperiale Laureates, recipients of a global arts prize by the Japan Art Association for lifetime achievement in the arts.

A former senator and first lady, Clinton, a Democrat, was the first woman to be a major U.S. political party's presidential nominee. Prior to that she served as the top U.S. diplomat under President Barack Obama.

## Canada PM Trudeau finally leaves India after plane troubles

**Monitoring Desk**  
OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau belatedly left India on Tuesday after an aircraft breakdown forced a two-day extension of his rocky visit to New Delhi for the G20 summit.

Trudeau arrived in India for the meeting of the leaders of 20 leading economies on Friday and was due to return home on Sunday after laying a wreath at a memorial to Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi.

However, a mechanical fault detected during pre-flight checks resulted in

the grounding of his plane by the Canadian Armed Forces and he was stranded along with his entire delegation.

Air traffic tracker FlightRadar24 showed Royal Canadian Air Force plane CFC01 taking off from Delhi airport shortly after 1pm local time (0730 GMT).

Trudeau's press secretary Mohammad Hussain confirmed to AFP that the Canadian G20 delegation was aboard the flight.

Canadian broadcaster CTV said the Airbus CC-150 had a history of operational issues.

## Mali rebels claim control of northern military camp

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAMAKO: Tuareg rebels in northern Mali said on Tuesday that they had seized control of a military camp in the town of Bourem, a further sign of the unravelling of a 2015 peace accord that had kept fighting between the rebels and the army at bay.

A rebel alliance called the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) has been fighting the army since August, clashes triggered in part by the departure of a United Nations peacekeeping mission which for years had helped broker a fragile peace.



A view shows the damage in Talat N'Yaaqoub, in the aftermath of Morocco's deadliest earthquake.

## 9 island states take ocean pollution case to UN court

**Monitoring Desk**  
HAMBURG: Leaders of nine small island states turned to the UN maritime court on Monday to seek protection of the world's oceans from catastrophic climate change that threatens the very existence of entire countries.

The island states are asking the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to determine if carbon dioxide emissions absorbed by the oceans can be considered pollution, and if so, what obligations countries have to prevent it.

"This is the opening chapter in the struggle to

change the conduct of the international community by clarifying the obligation of states to protect the marine environment," said the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne. "The time has come to speak in terms of legally binding obligations rather than empty promises that go unfulfilled," he told the court based in Hamburg, Germany.

The joint counsel representing the islands, Catherine Amirfar, said the point was to force countries to implement substantive measures against climate change.

## Musk biography portrays troubled tycoon driven by demons

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A hotly anticipated biography of Elon Musk describes the turbulent tycoon as a man driven by childhood demons, obsessed with bringing human life to Mars and who demands that staff be "hardcore". Elon Musk is written by star biographer Walter Isaacson, a former editor in chief of Time magazine who is best known for his best-selling portrayal of Apple founder Steve Jobs as well as his looks into the lives of science-focused men such as Albert Einstein.

## Nobel laureate Ressa acquitted in Philippine tax case

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: Philippines Nobel laureate Maria Ressa and her news site Rappler were acquitted of tax fraud by a trial court on Tuesday, in another legal victory for the embattled journalist and for press freedom in the Southeast Asian country.

Ressa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 alongside a Russian journalist, is head of Rappler, which earned a reputation for its intense scrutiny of former President Rodrigo Duterte and his deadly war on drugs. After the verdict was announced, Ressa told reporters her acquittal sends a "good signal" to the business community.



People gather around the rubble of homes in the mountainous village of Imi N'Tala, south of Marrakech.



## Caretaker CM assures acting Afghan CG: GoB to fully cooperate with Afghan Consulate to resolve issues as per law & policy of federal Govt.

**Acting Afghan CG Maulvi Gul Hasan conveys to caretaker CM newly formed Afghan government believes in strong and pleasant relations with Pakistan**

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The acting Consul General of Afghanistan based in Quetta, Maulvi Gul Hasan has stated that the newly formed Afghan government believes in strong and pleasant relations with Pakistan and it is also its preferred policy to promote mutual relations with Pakistan.

The Afghan Consul General was speaking to the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki whom he called here at the CM secretariat on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the issues related to the Pak-Afghan relations as well as problems of Afghan refugees and others were discussed.

During the meeting,

both were agreed on the point that the religion, language and culture of the people of bordering areas of both the countries are similar and they have longstanding relations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Afghan envoy said that purpose of meeting with the Chief Minister was to discuss border matters besides promotion of trade and highlight the issues of Afghan refugees.

He thanked the government and people of Pakistan on hosting the refugees for long time.

He on the occasion requested to the caretaker Chief Minister to resolve the issues of Afghan inhabitants imprisoned in different jails of the province.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the relations between people of Afghanistan and Pakistan especially Balochistan are based on centuries.

He said that it's our duty to look after the Afghan refugees being Muslims and the neighbors.

He assured that the issues raised by the Afghan Consul General including those related to the prisoners would be taken up with the federal government.

He also assured that the caretaker provincial government would extend full cooperation to the Afghan Consulate for resolving all the issues as per the laws and policy of federal government.



DALLAS TEXAS: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Masood Khan meeting with Congressman Keith Self

## Conspiracy to topple Benazir govt: SC rejects appeal pleas of retired army officers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has upheld sentences of two retired army officers involved in the conspiracy to topple government of former Prime Minister (PM) Benazir Bhutto.

Proceedings was initiated against both of the army officers under the charges of their involvement in conspiracy to topple Benazir government in 1995.

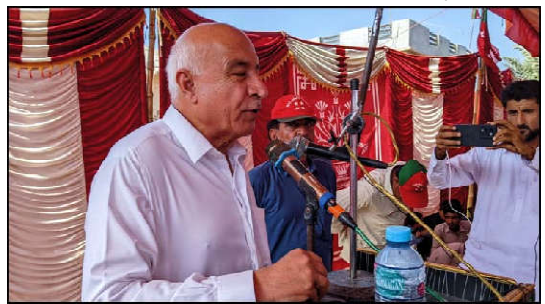
The appeal plea against the sentences of Colonel @ Azad Minhas and Colonel @ Inayatullah. Both former army officers came up for hearing before SC.

Judge Muneeb Akhtar of SC read out the judgment which was reserved on February 15.

The court dismissed the appeal pleas of Colonel @ Azad Minhas and Colonel @ Inayatullah against their sentences.

It is pertinent to mention here the petitioners had resorted to SC in 2016 after their petitions were rejected by Lahore High Court.

The Field Court Martial had sentenced Azad Minhas to two-year and Inayatullah to four-year imprisonment, with hard labor. They were also dismissed from duty.



PASNI: Central President National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch addressing a public gathering

## IHC reserves judgment on chairman PTI plea against hearing of cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reserved judgment on chairman PTI plea against hearing of cipher case in Attock Jail.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq took up the case for hearing Tuesday. Sher Afzal Marwat counsel for chairman PTI appeared in the court.

Sher Afzal Marwat read out ministry of law notification in the court.

He argued ministry of

law shifted the court in Attock jail under what law and powers. How can the trial be transferred from Islamabad to Punjab. Only Supreme Court (SC) can transfer the trial to other province legally. It is not in the powers of chief commissioner or interior secretary to shift the trial to other province.

He argued if trial was to be changed then they were to ask from trial judge and it was not asked.

## Zardari to camp in Lahore for elections strategy

LAHORE (INP): Former president and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari will reach Lahore tomorrow (Wednesday) to focus on the party's affairs in Punjab. The former president will participate in party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting in Lahore scheduled for September. PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will also reach Lahore from Multan tomorrow.

The former foreign minister will stay in Lahore for 4 days where the latter will meet with party workers.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has convened a meeting of its Central Executive Committee (CEC) to mull over the upcoming general election date. The meeting will discuss the country's current political situation and plan for future political developments. The CEC will also review its stance on general elections. The invitations have been sent to all the CEC members which will take place at 3 p.m. on September 14 in Bilawal House Lahore and PPP chairman Bilawal will preside over the meeting.



QUETTA: A delegation of Drug Inspector meeting with caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Jomezai



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacts with school students at the display stalls of various science, technology and artistic projects, at Chief Minister Secretariat in Gilgit.

## Health Card being launched soon; 100 pc people to get facility, announces Dr Jomezai

**Steps taken to provide free medicines for hospitalized patients: Health minister**

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Minister for Health Balochistan, Dr Amir Muhammad Khan Jomezai has announced that the Health Cards are being launched in the province soon. Under the programme, 100 percent people of the province would get the Health Card all over the province. Actually, the Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) would be considered as the Health Card. With this, Balochistan would be the only province where every person/family having CNICs would get the facility.

This was announced by the caretaker Minister Health while chairing a meeting of all the stakeholders of Health here on Tuesday. Also present on the occasion were the Secretary Health, other senior officers, Medical superintendents and Chiefs of all the government hospitals and institutions besides other concerned were in attendance. The Secretary Health briefed the meeting about the related issues besides the steps being taken for improving the state of health affairs in the province. The caretaker Minister said that it is very necessary to continue the process of reforms in the health sector.

He directed to all concerned to ensure medicines and other necessary health facilities at the hospitals so that the people must get relief.

**APP adds:** Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Amir Muhammad Jomezai on Tuesday said that steps were being taken to provide free medicines for hospitalized patients.

He said this while chairing a meeting of all departments concerned to improve the provision of medical facilities in the hospitals of the province.

Secretary Health, officers of Balochistan Health Department, MSs of teaching hospitals, heads of various departments, chief executive of institutes, Young Doctor Association, Bolan Medical and Teaching Association, Pakistan Medical Association, Young Consultant Association participated in the meeting.



Closing ceremony of Joint Naval Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV held at Jubail, Saudi Arabia

## Jl to approach SC to ensure elections within 90 days: Siraj

DIR LOWER (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has said his party would approach the Supreme Court to ensure that elections are held within the constitutionally mandated period of 90 days.

Addressing a press conference in Dir Lower on Tuesday, he also conveyed his desire to engage with other political parties in order to establish a consensus on the date for the general elections.

The JI chief urged the government to combat power theft and reduce power sector losses, while also ending the practice of providing free electricity to government employees, which burdens the less privileged. He criticized the government's inability to justify the inclusion of over

## DC holds meeting for implementation of price control list

HUB (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hub Munir Ahmed Musiani on Tuesday presided over a meeting of the district Price Control Committee to ensure the provision of facilities to people in the district.

Assistant Commissioner Hub Captain Retd Hamza Anjum, Tehsil Dargul Nawaz Anjuman Tajir Hub, Flour Dealers Association and wholesalers dealing in vegetables participated in the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner while addressing the meeting, said that as an administrative officer would give relief to the people during inflation.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat presiding over a meeting regarding traffic problems and its solution

## Commissioner for ending of encroachment to ensure smooth traffic in Quetta

QUETTA (APP)- Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat on Tuesday said that all possible steps should be taken to eliminate encroachment on major roads and provide more parking spaces in order to ensure smooth traffic in provincial capital.

He shared these views while chairing meeting regarding the increasing traffic problems and their possible solutions in Quetta city.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt @ Saad Bin Asad, Secretary Regional Transport Authority

(RTA) Quetta Division Waheed Sharif Umrani, SP Traffic City Malik Javed, QDA, Metropolitan Corporation, Cantonment Board and other related departments.

In the meeting, it was decided that all the relevant organizations should take steps to improve the traffic system in the city. Local buses should be provided with temporary stops under Coala Phatak and Saryab Bridge.

All the warehouse from the city where goods are brought by trucks should be shifted to Hazarganj while the Metropolitan Corporation, District Administration and QDA should take action against those doing business and occupying space under the Sariab Bridge. All bus terminals and their booking offices should be shifted to Hazarganj Terminal as soon as possible, said in the meeting.

In the meeting said that in this regard, all relevant organizations should submit a comprehensive report in one week to solve the traffic problems in the light of which steps will be taken.

Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat said that Quetta is a rapidly growing city and the increasing population is putting pressure on the city's infrastructure including roads due to which there is a problem in the flow of traffic saying that in addition, there are encroachments on major roads which further restrict the flow of traffic.

## Senate body constitutes NCC to control issues against minorities

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights adopted the recommendation to constitute a National Coordination Committee within the Ministry of Human Rights which would include representatives of all Provinces, Police Departments and draft SOP's for effective control on issues that cause suffering to the minorities.

The Senate Human Rights Committee on Tuesday while condemning the recent incident of vandalism of churches/homes in Jaranwala deliberated upon the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the destruction of buildings and people during the devastating incident.

The Secretary Human Rights argued that since the enactment of the 18th amendment the implementation on safeguards and protection of the minorities have devolved to the provinces although the Human Rights Ministry has a very crucial role to play in the matter and should have efficient collaboration between relevant stakeholders, including the police department religious leaders and minority representatives for formulating SOPs by IGPs. The committee adopted the recommendation on the constitution of the National Co-ordination Committee emphasizing on importance of impartiality, sensitivity and swift action to prevent escalation.

Senator Irfanul Haq Siddiqui contended that the recommendations presented by the Ministry is largely to the extend of law enforcing agencies however it is more an issue of dealing with primitive measures and mindset of the people. Public should be sensitised on tolerance and democratic norms he added.



QUETTA: Acting Afghan Counsel Mulavi Gul Hassan calls on Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

## US does not support any political party or candidate in Pakistan, State Dept

WASHINGTON (Online): US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said that US insists on free elections in Pakistan but does not support any political party or candidate.

In the routine news briefing of US State Department on Monday, when asked about the meeting of US ambassador to Islamabad, Donald Blome, with the head of the Election Commission (EC) in Pakistan, he advised the journalist to contact US Embassy in Islamabad.

Matthew Miller said that I will contact embassy for specific comments about this meeting. But I will repeat what I have said many times that US does not take a position on the outcomes of elections in Pakistan. US Ambassador Donald Blome met Chief Election Commissioner on August 24. Earlier Election Commission (EC) had organized an important meeting regarding general elections in country. In response to a question about the dollar exchange rate in Afghanistan being four times higher than the dollar exchange rate in Pakistan, the spokesperson of the US State Department said that we have talked on several occasions about supporting the reforms that will help economy in Pakistan and will allow for improvement.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Advisor Umair Muhammad Hassani meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports Nawabzada Jamal Raisani

## Permanent Representative of Pakistan to OIC calls on OIC Secretary General

JEDDAH (Online): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Ambassador Syed Mohammad Fawad Sher called on the OIC Secretary General, H.E. Hissien Ibrahim Taha at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, today. A wide range of issues were discussed during the meeting.

Ambassador and the Secretary General exchanged views on issues slated for discussion during the forthcoming OIC Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM) and the Islamic Summit including, inter alia, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, Palestine, Afghanistan, Islamophobia incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran and COMSTECH Islamabad (OIC's Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation), etc. Ambassador Fawad Sher noted that Pakistan maintained a firm position and has traditionally played an active role in steering OIC's response to all important issues.

He thanked the Secretary General for OIC's unwavering support to the Jammu and Kashmir cause and urged for the complete implementation of the OIC Plan of Action on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad. On Islamophobia and the repeated incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran, he reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of these despicable incidents.

## 22,000kg narcotics set ablaze in Pishin

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Levies force recovered around 22,000 kilogram of narcotics during a successful raid conducted in Pishin area on Tuesday.

The Levies force led by Assistant Commissioner Pishin, Arsalan Chaudhary raided two godowns in Pishin area from where some 22,000 KG narcotics was recovered.

Both the godowns were demolished and the narcotics recovered from there was burnt by the concerned Levies team.

Needless to mention here is that the operation was conducted by the Assistant Commissioner Pishin on directives of the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Captain (ReyD) Jamil Ahmed Baloch.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner also appreciated performance of the Pishin administration about seizure of huge quantity of narcotics.

He said that the anti-narcotics operation would remain continued in Pishin and other districts of Quetta division.