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## Domki for making sincere efforts to make law & order situation in Balochistan exemplary

Caretaker CM hands over modern software to Home Department for Levies Force Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has underlined the need to make sincere efforts for making the law and order situation in the province exemplary keeping the bright traditions of the past alive.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali and Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasar who called on him

here on Thursday. During the course of meeting, the matters about law and order situation, overall administrative affairs were discussed.

Speaking to them, the caretaker Chief Minister said that protection of life and property of the masses is our topmost priority for all available resources are being mobilized.

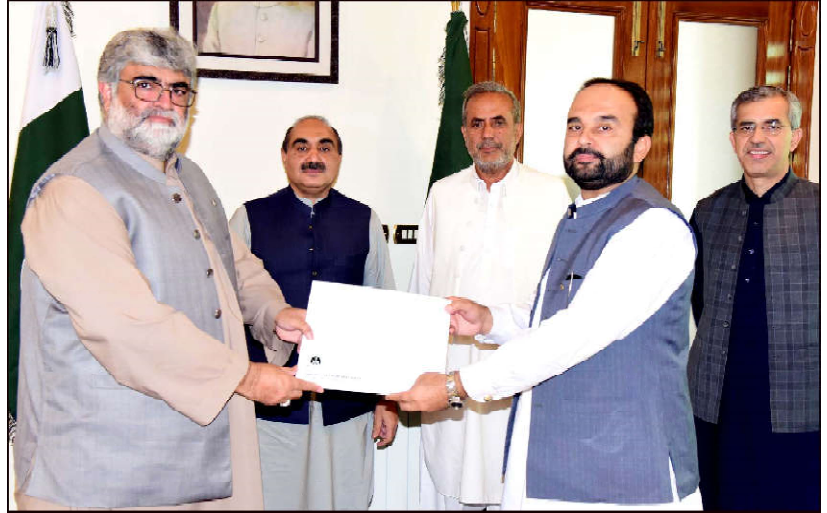
Mr. Domki said that Balochistan is the custodian of peaceful traditions, patience and tolerance, and we need to make efforts with good intention to keep these traditions alive.

The Additional Chief Secretary Home briefed the caretaker Chief Minister about the steps being taken for restoration of peace in view of the regional situation in different areas of the province.

Meanwhile the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki handed over the modern software consisting of more than 60 features to the Home Department here on Thursday.

The modern GIS based

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki handing over the modern software consisting of more than 60 features to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

## Hafiz Hamdullah among 11 injured in road side bomb blast in Mastung

Governor, Caretaker CM condemn attack; direct to bring culprits to justice

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: In all 11 persons including senior leader and spokesman of Jamiat



Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Hafiz Hamdullah was injured in a roadside bomb blast occurred in Mastung area on Thursday afternoon.

According to the

sources of Police and district administration Mastung, the bomb blast occurred at the road side on main Quetta-Karachi highway in Mastung area when the vehicle of JUI leader Hafiz Hamdullah was passing through there.

As the powerful device went off with a big bang, it caused damages to the vehicle carrying the JUI leader and his other associates. As a result, Hafiz Hamdullah and four other persons riding in the vehicle sustained injuries.

Some of the passers-byes were also injured in the blast, the reports suggested.

Continued on page 2

## Governor Balochistan chairs 11th meeting of BUIITEMS's Senate

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presided over the 11th meeting of Senate committee of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) here on Thursday.

Also present in the meeting were the caretaker Provincial Minister Education, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS, Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Professor Sajida Noreen, Secretaries, Akbar Hanif and Abdul Hafeez Jamali, Principal Secretary to Governor,

Hashim Ghilzai, Additional Secretary Finance, Mumtaz Langove, Director HEC, Dr. Zahoor Bazai and other members of the BUIITEMS Senate.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that he is pained while seeing the financial issues being faced by the public sector universities of the province. However, these hardships can easily be overcome by preparing a comprehensive strategy, adding he stressed.

He said that it is a fact that the campuses of university have been established in different districts under political pressure without taking correct view of the prevailing circumstances in the past.

## No relief for Imran, Qureshi in cypher case

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** A special court on Thursday dismissed the post arrest bail petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman and Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the cypher case registered under the Official Secrets Act.

However, the court granted interim bail to PTI leader Asad Umar in the same case against surety bonds of Rs 50,000.

Special Court's Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain announced the verdict which he had reserved earlier after hearing arguments from the two sides. At the outset of hearing, the petitioner's lawyer Salman Safdar Advocate said that an officer of Interior Ministry was the complainant in the cypher case against the PTI chief. The prosecution had to prove that what was the original and copy versions of the cypher, and that how his cli-

## Journalist attacked in Quetta

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Unidentified armed men attack senior journalist in Quetta.

According to Police, Abdul Hai Aryan, a senior journalist with the national broadcasting news channel as a news producer and reporter, was attacked and seriously injured in Zhob, his hometown, last night. The wounded journalist was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. The reasons of the attacked not unknown so far and it was immediately not clear who attacked the journalist. The Quetta Union of Journalists condemned the attack on Mr. Hai as "reprehensible" and demanded immediate action.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye during meeting held in Islamabad.

## ECP responsible to conduct elections: Solangi

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi says it is the prerogative of Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct elections in the country under Article 218 (3) of the Constitution.

Talking to the private channel, he said the job of caretaker government is to facilitate and assist the Commission in electoral process.

The Minister said the Election Commission is busy after the approval of census and it has asked to complete the constituencies by 30th of November.

The Minister expressed hope that Election Commission will release the election schedule after completing the constituencies.

Murtaza Solangi said 54 days will be provided to all parties for election campaign and Election Act is very clear in this regard.

He said that measures against electricity theft will reduce electricity prices and Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Energy both are working on it.

Meanwhile, the Minister, in a statement, expressed his deep grief over the sad demise of mother of Bol News senior reporter Umar Hayat Khan.

Expressing his condolences to Umar Hayat Khan and his family, Murtaza Solangi prayed to Allah Almighty to grant place to the deceased in Heaven and courage to the bereaved families to bear this loss.

## PM directs to expedite privatization process of PIA

**ISLAMABAD (Online):** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar chaired a meeting on matters related to PIA today. The Prime Minister was briefed on the progress of privatization process of PIA.

The Prime Minister said that process needs to be expedited urgently so as to provide a reliable service to the users and to raise the standards of the national flag carrier to match the global airline standards.

He directed all the relevant stakeholders to find an immediate solution to the matters related to this privatization.

## Information Ministry signs MOU with BKT to boost women and youth leadership in Balochistan

**Independent Report**

**ISLAMABAD:** The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Executive Director of the Association for Behavior and Knowledge Transformation (ABKT), Ms. Shad Begum, on behalf of the Balochistan Information Ministry on Thursday.

The MoU aims to boost leadership and development among the incredible women and youth of Balochistan. The partnership covers a wide range of areas, from policy to community development, and aims to harness the untapped potential of Balochistan's people, with a special focus on women and youth.

Specifically, the MoU will focus on the following areas: Capacity building for women and youth leaders; Support for women and youth-led initiatives Advocacy for women and youth rights; Networking with international organizations and diplomatic missions

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai and Executive Director of ABKT Shad Begum signing a MoU

## Chairs conference of Commissioners & DCs: CS directs to expedite measures for improving public service delivery all over province

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has issued standing directives to all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to expedite measures for bringing improvement in the public service delivery working hard round the clock.

The Chief Secretary was chairing the conference of divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners here on Thursday morning.

While addressing the

conference, Chief Secretary said that the process of delimitation of the constituencies has been started by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). In this regard, all the deputy commissioners should follow the directives given by ECP, the Chief Secretary added directing them to complete necessary repair and construction of the polling stations in their respective districts.

Referring the health sector, Chief Secretary said

Continued on page 2

## Caretaker CM inquires about health of Hamdullah; directs to shift injured to Karachi

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inquired about the health of JUI's leader Hafiz Hamdullah, injured in a

bomb blast in Mastung, at the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital here on Thursday.

The caretaker Chief Minister reached the hospital where he visited the trauma center and inquired about health of the injured JUI leader.

He also expressed best wishes for the early recovery of Hafiz Hamdullah. He issued directives to the concerned authorities to shift Hafiz Hamdullah and other injured to blast to Karachi by special plane.

Earlier, Mr. Domki was informed about the treatment of JUI leader and other injured of Mastung blast.

## Petrol price likely to increase by Rs20

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** The inflation-hit masses are all set to get another shock, as the prices of petroleum products are expected to see a staggering rise over the weekend.

A proposal prepared to increase the prices of petrol and diesel from September 16 has come to light. A working paper has been prepared for making changes in the prices of petroleum products.

According to the working paper, the prices of petroleum products are proposed to be increased by Rs20 from September 16, sources say.

## SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 22%

**KARACHI (APP):** State Bank of Pakistan, Thursday, decided to maintain the policy rate at 22% owing to declining inflation, improving agriculture outlook and economic activity, and positive impacts of administrative and regulatory measures against price hike and speculative activity in commodity and forex markets.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that met here at SBP, stressed on maintaining a prudent fiscal stance to keep aggregate demand in check and

Continued on page 2

## PM for expanding cooperation with Turkiye in multiple sectors

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday stressed the need to enhance bilateral cooperation with Turkiye in multiple sectors, including trade, agriculture, energy, mining, IT and defence. Talking to Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, the prime minister said Pakistan was keen to attract foreign investors and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been established to generate new and attractive investment opportunities in priority sectors.

He said in addition to having strong and time-tested bilateral relations, Pakistan and Turkiye shared convergence and close cooperation on a wide range of regional and multilateral issues, including efforts to combat

Islamophobia. He appreciated Turkiye's reconstruction efforts following the tragic earthquake of February 2023 and reiterated Pakistan's readiness to continue extending all possible support to the Turkish people.

The prime minister thanked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Turkish leadership for their warm messages of felicitations on his assumption of office. He said the people of Pakistan enjoyed a historic, cultural and fraternal relationship with Turkiye. President Erdogan enjoyed the same popularity in Pakistan as in his own country. PM Kakar also praised Turkiye for its long-standing and steadfast support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir issue.



ISLAMABAD: Interim Interior Minister, Sarfaraz Bugti called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

## Bugti, Sanjrani discuss country's prevailing law & order situation

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** Caretaker Interior Minister, Senator Sarfaraz Bugti, called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House and discussed with him the prevailing law and order situation in the country.

During the meeting, Senator Bugti assured Chairman Senate that the caretaker government was committed to maintain peace and stability in the country. He emphasized that no one would be allowed to disturb the peace and security of the country under his watch. Senator Sarfaraz Bugti, emphasized the need for collaboration and unity among all stakeholders to address the pressing challenges Pakistan faces. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledged the importance of a collective effort in ensuring a stable and prosperous Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledged the vital role of intra-institutional cooperation among government bodies and security agencies to effectively address Pakistan's challenges. He stressed that collaboration, information sharing, and coordination among institutions are paramount in maintaining national stability and ensuring the safety and security of citizens. Furthermore, the leaders discussed steps taken to restore peace and promote development in the region of Gilgit Baltistan. Senator Bugti shared insights into the on-going initiatives aimed at enhancing security and improving the socio-economic conditions in the area.



QUETTA: BBISE's Chairman Ejaz Ahmed Baloch along with Controller Board Abida Kakar announcing annual result of FSc/FA.

## Hafiza Mariam of Islamia College clinches first position in BISE Intermediate examinations

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The student of Islamia Girls College Quetta, Hafiza Mariam clinched first position in the Intermediate's annual examinations of Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE).

Hafiza Mariam secured 1045 marks in the Intermediate examinations. The student of Balochistan Residential College (BRC), Loralai, Shabbir Ahmed and student of Government Degree Girls College KHuzdar, Javeria Shabbir secured second and third positions respectively by obtaining 1044 and 1042 marks.

This was announced by the Controller BISE, Professor Abida Kakar while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Board office on Thursday afternoon. She declared the result of Intermediate examination for the year 2023 and announced that a total of 95,220 candidates had appeared in the examinations. Out of them, 88,732 candidates could pass the examinations showing pass percentage of 93.20 percent. The Controller informed that 2780 candidates remained absent during papers of different subjects in the examinations. Moreover, the result of 38 candidates were cancelled because of using unfair means in the annual examinations, she maintained.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presiding over 11th meeting of BUIITEMS's Senate



## Islam doesn't allow speaking against other religions: Tahir Ashrafi

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi has said Islam is a religion of peace, love and brotherhood and it doesn't allow speaking against other religions.

He was addressing an inter-religion harmony conference at Jamia Usmania, Razabad, here on Thursday. Bishop of Faisalabad Dr Inderyas, Father Khalid Rasheed Aasi and a large number of ulema were also present.

He said that people belonging to all religions had condemned the Jaranwala incident during which Christians' homes were damaged and churches were vandalised. He said

that it must be a matter of concern for all Muslims that the Christian daughters and sisters spent a night in fields for fear of their lives. He also demanded early release of the innocent people, who were arrested after the incident.

Ashrafi said that the objective of today's conference was to express sympathies with Christians and condemn the Jaranwala and Sargodha incidents. He said that some elements wanted to create anarchy in the name of religion in Pakistan and they were getting support from a neighbouring country, but they could not succeed in their nefarious designs.

The PUC chairman said the Paki-

stani nation was standing with its armed forces.

He said a joint 'Seerat Conference' would soon be organised in Lahore and Islamabad, along with the Christian religious scholars.

Bishop of Faisalabad Dr Inderyas Rehmat said that the Pakistan Ulema Council had always extended coordination to minorities, especially Christians, adding that no doubt ulema and Muslims community stood with them during their difficult times. He demanded punishment to the real culprits of the Jaranwala incident and release of the innocent detainees.

Father Khalid Rasheed Abbasi also spoke on the occasion.



RAWALPINDI: H.E. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador to Turkiya called on Minister for Defence Lt. Gen. Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) in Ministry of Defence.

### Domki for making sincere...

*Continued from page 1*  
software for inventory and crime reporting was handed over to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali by the Chief Minister.

The software has been prepared by the Chief Minister Delivery Unit (CMDU) exclusively for the Balochistan Levies Force that has the features about the available arms and ammunition in the Levies thanas, other equipment and goods, attendance of the force, crime reporting, etc.

While briefing about the software by the CMDU to Chief Minister, it was informed that the software has been developed on request of the Director General Levies.

It was also informed that the CMDU team would impart necessary training to the concerned staff in the offices of Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners besides the clerical staff of the Levies force.

More features can also be included in the software as per the requirements in

future, it was informed further.

Speaking on occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister appreciated the endeavours of CMDU and the modern software is consisted of the multipurpose informative features in which the complete data of the available resources and steps taken for the crime reporting would be centralized at the district and tehsil level.

He also directed to take result oriented steps for improving governance through effective coordination among all the departments using the modern software and information technology.

In addition to this, he also directed to introduce the IT system of equal nature for issuance of local and domicile certificates all over the province, the caretaker Chief Minister further directed.

Also present on the occasion were the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasar, Secretary IT Department, Abdul Fatah Bhangar and Principal Secretary to CM, Lal Jan Jaffar.



QUETTA: Provincial President PML (N) Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail meeting with caretaker Provincial Minister for Local Bodies Sheikh Mehmoodul Hassan Mandokhail

### Hafiz Hamdullah among...

*Continued from page 1*

However, the area police, Levies and local administration rushed towards the spot and shifted the injured to the Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital where an emergency was already declared.

However, the injured were referred all the injured including Hafiz Hamdullah to Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta for further treatment.

All the injured were admitted in the Trauma center of hospital where they are being provided necessary treatment.

While the condition of all 10 injured is stated to be out of danger, but condition of one injured is stated to be precarious, the sources of Hospital informed.

Meanwhile, the spot of blast was cordoned off by the local administration. Investigations have been started into the blast.

However, no one has claimed the responsibility of blast till ours going to the press.

Meanwhile the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has strongly condemned the attack on senior leader of JUI and former Senator, Hafiz Hamdullah in Mastung.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Thursday, the Governor directed the law enforcement agencies to bring the elements involved in the attack to justice after apprehending them immediately.

He also directed the concerned authorities to provide all facilities of medical treatment to Hafiz Hamdullah and other injured of the Mastung blast.

The Governor also prayed for early recovery of Hafiz Hamdullah and all other injured.

The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir

### SC acquits Ammad Yousaf in sedition case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court Thursday acquitted President ARY News Ammad Yousaf in a sedition case and terminated actions against him.

A three-member bench presided by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan announced the verdict after hearing arguments from respondents.

During the course of proceeding, Justice Shahid Waheed questioned that if the interior ministry had given approval to lodge a case against the accused.

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail asked the prosecution that what evidence it had against the accused.

Petitioner's lawyer Sardar Latif Khan Khosa said that secretary interior had given approval to city magistrate for lodging case against Shehbaz Gil, adding that the name of his client was included later.

On query of the bench, special prosecutor said that they had a transcript which was recovered from the under construction farm house of Ammad Yousaf.

Justice Ahsan asked that under what grounds the case was registered against the petitioner. He noted that the prosecution was not giving answers to the questions of the bench.

The special prosecutor said that there was name of ARY TV administration in the case. He admitted that they had no proof at the time of registration of the case. Justice Ahsan asked that what was meaning of administration as head of channel, which comes under it.



QUETTA: A delegation led by District Chairman Pishin Syed Abdul Shakoor meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

### Steps empowering EC to give election date challenged

LAHORE (Online): The steps for assigning powers to Election Commission (EC) to give election date have been challenged.

In this regard Judicial Activism Panel (JAP) has filed constitutional petition in Supreme Court (SC) Lahore registry making federal government, election commission and others respondents.

Through the petition the court has been requested to declare amendment in election act unconstitutional. Under the con-

stitution the tenure of assembly is five years.

It is pertinent to mention here that ministry of law and justice and Election commission had said to the president through a letter in the matter of date for general elections in the country that powers for giving date for election rest with election commission.

On the other hand president has also given proposal to election commission to hold general election on November 09 throughout the country.

### Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah sculpture unveiled in Beijing

BEIJING (APP): The sculpture of Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Father of the Nation was unveiled at a graceful ceremony held at the Jintai Art Museum here on Thursday. The sculpture, unveiled by Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, is a testament to Jinnah's visionary leadership and was masterfully crafted by renowned Chinese sculptor Master Yuan Xikun, symbolizing the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. The ceremony was attended by Ambassador Sha Zukhang, President of the China-Pakistan Friendship Association, officials from the Chinese People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFC), media, the Pakistani community, and Embassy officials. Master Yuan Xikun, internationally acclaimed for his sculpture, philanthropy, and environmental advocacy, has received a number of prestigious awards.

His work includes 25 sculptures of historical international celebrities at the International Celebrities Sculpture Garden of Beijing, Jintai Art Museum. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted the significance of this unveiling ceremony, coinciding with the 75th death anniversary of Jinnah. He praised Master Yuan's artistic brilliance and attention to detail in creating this sculpture. Ambassador Haque emphasized the deep bonds between China and Pakistan, and reiterated their commitment to a China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future.



BEIJING: The sculpture of Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was unveiled by Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque. It was masterfully crafted by renowned Chinese sculptor Master Yuan Xikun, symbolizing the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China at the Jintai Art Museum.

### CS directs to expedite measures...

*Continued from page 1*

that it is basic right of every human being in the society to get healthcare facilities.

He on the occasion stressed that we have to improve our infrastructure for providing better health facilities to the people.

However, he also stressed the need to adopt healthy lifestyle for laying foundation of a health society.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned authorities to ensure availability of medicines in the public sector hospitals.

About the anti-smuggling drive, Shakeel Qadir Khan mentioned that emergent steps are being taken for prevention of smuggling of Urea and sugar in the province. In this regard, no concession would be given to anyone and legal action would be taken against those involved in the smuggling, adding he warned.

However, he directed the deputy commissioners to provide NOC to the concerned dealers of Urea and sugar in their respective districts.

He said that the smuggling of sugar and Urea creates artificial shortage of these commodities and causes financial loss to the country, therefore, emergent steps are being taken for prevention of the smuggling.

Regarding anti-electricity theft campaign, Chief Secretary directed the deputy commissioners to start operation against power pilferers in collaboration with the concerned officers of the Electric Supply Company in their respective areas.

Chief Secretary said that the objective behind taking these measures is to provide relief to the common men.

About the education sector, he said that it should be our aim of life to ensure quality of education for the children.

He said that the absentee and ghost teachers and employees would not be spared at all.

He directed the deputy commissioners to take disciplinary action against absentee employees.

### PPP focusing on stability of national economy: Shazia Marri

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Parliamentarians Secretary Information Shazia Ata Marri said that her party was primarily focusing on stability of national economy, stressing that while elections were inevitable, the party was not concerned about who sets the date for the general elections.

She was giving a press briefing outside Bilawal House, here on Thursday. She was joined by Faisal Kareem Kundi and Shahzad Saeed Cheema during this briefing, which followed the PPP's Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting.

During the CEC meeting, the matter of elections was thoroughly discussed, and Marri insisted that announcing the election date was as important as

defining the constituencies. She revealed that the next CEC session was scheduled for Friday, September 15, at Bilawal House in Lahore.

The previous CEC meeting, chaired by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, included prominent figures like former president Asif Ali Zardari, Faryal Talpur, former prime minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, and other senior PPP members from across the country. The meeting delved into various pressing issues, including the current political landscape, President Arif Alvi's recommendation to hold elections on November 6, and the absence of an election schedule from the Election Commission.

She voiced strong concerns about what she alleged to be an attempt to corner the PPP.

Additionally, the meeting addressed the devastation caused by floods in certain provinces and the relief efforts in response.

Shazia Marri emphasized the PPP's commitment to upholding the constitution and fulfilling its constitutional duties.

Faisal Kareem Kundi, Secretary Information of the PPP, mentioned that Aitezaz Ahsan and Latif Khosa were invited to the meeting but they couldn't attend due to personal commitments. Latif Khosa's response was expected within seven days, according to Kundi.

Shahzad Saeed Cheema, Secretary Information of the PPP for Central Punjab, further underscored the challenges the party was currently facing in the prevailing political climate.



QUETTA: UN's Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Julien Harneis meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

### Solangi condemns Mastung blast, prays for speedy recovery of injured

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday strongly condemned the Mastung blast injuring JUI-F leader Hafiz Hamdullah and others.

The minister, in a statement, said the attack on the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader was highly condemnable. "Targeting innocent citizens and political figures of the country is a cowardly act," he maintained.

### Information Ministry signs MOU...

*Continued from page 1*

The MoU was signed in the presence of a number of dignitaries, including representatives from the Balochistan government, ABKT, and the diplomatic community.

Speaking on the occasion, Jan Achakzai said that the MoU was a significant step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Balochistan. He said that the Balochistan Information Ministry was committed to working with ABKT and other partners to empower women and youth and create a more just and equitable society.

The MoU is a positive step towards promoting women and youth leadership in Balochistan. It is a testament to the commitment of the Balochistan Information Ministry and ABKT to working together to achieve the SDGs.

### SBP keeps policy rate

*Continued from page 1*

termed it necessary to bring inflation down on a sustainable basis and to achieve the medium-term target of 5-7 percent by the end-FY25.

The MPC vowed to continue monitoring the risks to the inflation outlook and take appropriate action, if required, to achieve the objective of price stability, said a statement issued here by the central bank following the MPC meeting.

The MPC decided to keep the policy rate unchanged while taking into account various factors including the latest inflation outlook that reflected a continuing declining trend in inflation from its peak of 38 percent in May to 27.4 percent in August 2023.

Even though global oil prices have risen recently and are now hovering over the \$90/barrel level while the rise was being passed on to consumers through adjustments in energy prices, inflation is projected to remain on a downward trajectory, especially from the second half of this year, the MPC observed adding that real interest rates continue to remain in positive territory on a forward-looking basis as well.

The committee was confident that the expected ease in supply constraints owing to better agriculture output and the recent administrative measures against speculative activity in the FX and commodity markets would also support the inflation outlook.

The MPC observed that administrative and regulatory measures aimed at improving the availability of essential food commodities and curbing illegal activities in the foreign exchange market have begun to yield results and it has helped in narrowing the gap between the interbank and open market exchange rates.

The MPC noted that the agriculture outlook has improved while earlier concerns related to floods have subsided and cotton arrivals almost doubled from last year.

at improving the availability of essential food commodities and curbing illegal activities in the foreign exchange market have begun to yield results and it has helped in narrowing the gap between the interbank and open market exchange rates.

The MPC noted that the agriculture outlook has improved while earlier concerns related to floods have subsided and cotton arrivals almost doubled from last year.

Moreover, the committee assessed that domestic demand will also remain contained due to the unfolding impact of monetary tightening and envisaged fiscal consolidation.

The committee saw the current account deficit of \$809 million in July 2023 largely in line with the earlier full-year current account projection for FY24,

which already took into account the withdrawal of import prioritization guidelines and the resultant pickup in import volumes.

The MPC viewed that overall imports were expected to remain in check, supported by the favorable trend in non-oil commodity prices, moderate domestic demand and improved cotton production while favorable rice prices and available surplus bode well for the export outlook.

The recent structural reforms related to exchange companies will strengthen their governance structure and improve market functioning, the committee noted and hoped that on balance the current account deficit to remain in the earlier projected range for FY24.

Terming 27.2% increase in FBR revenue in the initial 2 months of FY24 as the impact of both fiscal measures and some recovery in economic activity, the MPC targeted that achieving the viewed primary surplus of 0.4 percent of GDP was critical to support monetary policy in delivering on its objective of price stability.

Attaining fiscal consolidation through broadening the tax base, providing targeted subsidies only to the most vulnerable, and reducing losses of public sector enterprises through privatization or reforms would help bringing inflation down in the targeted range and achieve sustainable economic growth over the medium term, the committee maintained.

Reforming the deval-



QUETTA: Relatives of Mehar Gul Mari are holding protest demonstration for his recovery as soon as possible, at Quetta press club.





ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan visit the Poly Clinic Hospital to review the facilities given by the hospital

## Mushaal vows to continue to raise issue of oppressed people of IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick Thursday vowed to continue raising issues of oppressed people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) at all international forums.

Addressing 'Pehchan Pakistan' conference here at a private university, she said Kashmiris were struggling for the past seven decades for their inalienable right to self-determination as promised by the United Nations.

Mushaal Mullick said India had miserably failed to suppress voice of Kashmiris for freedom de-

spite deployment of more than a million troops in IIOJK. She said nobody was safe in the occupied valley as women and children were being disgraced, and freedom lover youth and other people were being severely tortured.

The special assistant said fake and expired medicines were being supplied to continue genocide of Kashmiri people. She said there was no political, religious and social liberty in IIOJK and massive human rights violations by the occupation Indian forces were routine matter. Mushaal Mullick urged the people in Pakistan and Pakistani Diaspora to support Kashmiri people in attaining their right to self-determination.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors keenly viewing stuff during the inaugurating ceremony of the Two Person Exhibition titled "HAQ" organized by PNCA & Nomad Gallery at PNCA.

## AIOU holds training session on Organic Kitchen Gardening

ISLAMABAD (APP): A one-day hands-on training session on "Organic Kitchen Gardening" was held in Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday.

Around 800 participants including students and their parents, teachers and university staff members attended the session.

Chairman, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Prof Dr. Sher Muhammad was the resource person who shed light on the methods of natural cultivation of vegetables free from pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Dr. Sher explained how to grow healthy organic vegetables at home.

## Police officials encouraged to demonstrate dedication and commitment

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Malik Jameel Zafar has urged police officials to exhibit unwavering

dedication to their professional responsibilities and prioritize addressing public concerns, a public relations officer said.



He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Operations Malik Jameel Zafar holds a meeting with administrative officers, muharrars of police stations, readers, and OSIs from the office of the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs).

During the meeting, he emphasized the importance of unwavering dedication to their professional duties and highlighted that any form of negligence in fulfilling these responsibilities would not be tolerated.

Furthermore, the SSP (Operations) issued directives to all senior officers to maintain seamless coordination with their subordinate staff and promptly

address the issues they faced.

He also took the opportunity to outline the specific responsibilities of administrative officers within the districts and police stations.

He underscored the importance of these officers in accurately compiling and verifying police station records.

Administrative officers were tasked with ensuring the prudent utilization of human and financial resources, as well as the upkeep and maintenance of police station facilities. Importantly, he made it clear that administrative officers should focus solely on their designated duties.

## Paradigm shift in political system must for strengthening democracy to save Pakistan: Speakers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar on democratic governance on Thursday said a paradigm shift based on reforms and rapprochement among the institutions forming the political system to strengthen democracy was a must to save the country from irrevocable crises.

The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) organised a one-day seminar on "Democratic Governance for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies" which was held in connection with the upcoming International Day of Democracy.

Professor of Political

Science, LUMS, Dr Muhammad Waseem in his keynote address said there was a clash of institutions in the administrative troika that had weakened the Parliament whereas the latter was a microcosm of a society in different countries.

He added that the elected representatives in the Parliament reflected the society who were weaker and hence, the Parliament was becoming weak in the aftermath.

He regretted that the outgoing parliament led by the coalition government had passed an unprecedented number of bills in

the shortest span of time which was horrendous as it left the lawmaking body inefficient in discharging its duties.

Prof. Dr Waseem underlined that the process of electing representatives had shifted to the electorate that belonged to the traditional elite symbolising the status quo.

He pointed out that the non-permanent parliament (in terms of tenure) was working along a permanent bureaucracy that left the legislator toothless, hence comprising its service delivery that was termed governance in the democratic system.

## Islamabad Police launch 'School Chalo' initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police have officially initiated the "School Chalo" campaign to address the issue of students who are frequently absent from their educational institutions and can often be found wandering in recreational areas and other public spaces.

In a proactive move under the guidance of Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), the "School Chalo" campaign specifically targets students who are found absent from school or college, often seen loitering in recreational areas, markets, and other public spaces identified through the city's Safe City camera network.

## CDA seals numerous unauthorised expressway structures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA), in collaboration with the local administration, sealed numerous under construction buildings along the Expressway on Thursday due to violations of building regulations.

During an operation along the Expressway, it was discovered that five buildings were under construction without the approval of the CDA. As a result, these structures have been sealed, and notices have been issued to their owners. Furthermore, notices have been sent to 13 building owners in F-17.

## CDA, Mari Petroleum join forces for 2,000 sapling plantation in D-12

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Capital Development Authority (CDA), in collaboration with Mari Petroleum, has embarked on an ambitious endeavor to plant an impressive 2,000 saplings along the picturesque Green Belt of D-12 in Islamabad. Leading this eco-friendly charge is CDA Chairman Captain (Retd) Anwaar ul Haq, who also holds the distinction of being the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

To kickstart this green mission, students from

Saya School joined hands with the CDA in a spirited campaign. Together, they planted saplings ranging from 8 to 10 feet in height, featuring diverse tree species like pelikan, suk chain, and Arjun. Captain Anwaar ul Haq highlighted the importance of private-sector collaboration in driving eco-friendly initiatives, affirming that it's a warm welcome.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the large size portrait of World acclaimed medical researcher, scholar and philanthropist of Pakistan Hakim Muhammad Saeed at Fatima Jinnah Park in Federal Capital.

## 17 outlaws held in last 24 hours

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) apprehended 17 outlaws including six professional beggars during the last 24 hours from different areas of the city and recovered liquor and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

A Public Relations Officer (PRO) Thursday said, "Following the special directions of Islamabad

Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city."

Following these directives, the Shalimar police team arrested an accused named Usama Usman, and recovered one 9mm pistol with ammunition from his possession.

## Kemal says:

## Pakistan needs to embrace sustainable, inclusive growth for enduring development

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chief of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiative, Ali Kemal here on Thursday said that growth was important for the country but it must be sustainable and inclusive for enduring development.

He was addressing at the National People's Assembly, jointly organized by Awaz Foundation Pakistan, GCAP and Pakistan Development Alliance, a

news release said.

He further expressed that this assembly provided a platform for diverse voices to unite and address the challenges and opportunities presented by the SDGs, fostering not just growth, but sustainable and equitable growth for Pakistan.

The event aimed at fostering dialogue and engagement surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was also attended by representatives

of Ujala Network, Child Rights Movement (CRM) and many more, including a diverse range of stakeholders. These include civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, CBOs, political party representatives, media, academia, students and advocates for marginalized groups, including women rights, sexual minorities and human rights defenders.

"In the National People's Assembly, civil society will unite from every corner of the world to

address the pressing needs of SDGs. SDGs 16+ are all interconnected goals from poverty alleviation to education, underscore the importance of inclusivity", said Mohammad Zia ur Rehman, CEO, Awaz Foundation.

Representatives of persons with disabilities (PWDs), women, TGs, children and young people expressed that their diversity was their strength, and their unity was their progress.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senate body on Aviation discussed the matter of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) employees holding fake degrees on Thursday.

At the outset, the meeting was updated on the progress of recommendations made by the Standing Committee to the FIA concerning the appointment of PIA employees holding fake degrees.

Senator Hidayatullah, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation, presided over a meeting here at Parliament House on Thursday, that delved into significant mat-

ters concerning Aviation and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The meeting was attended by Senators Afnan Ullah, Faisal Saleem, and Umer Farooq, and witnessed participation from eminent officials representing the Aviation Ministry, DG Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Chief HR of PIA, and senior officials from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

The FIA submitted a comprehensive compliance report, emphasizing their dedication in expediting the scrutiny process.

As per the directions of the Committee, all cases

were meticulously reviewed, and the report has been formally submitted, the representative added.

Chief HR of PIA provided the Committee with an overview of the entire employee roster, detailing their qualifications, experience, designations, present postings, and acting charges, particularly within Group IV and above. The presentation he provided showed that there are a total of 11,002 Regular employees in Pakistan while the approved HRB is 11,877.

The Committee, with a focus on transparency, inquired about Group V and

above employees. Additionally, they emphasized the preference for hiring native Pakistanis rather than foreign nationals for overseas positions, with Chief HR highlighting the pre-dominance of Pakistani-origin staff in foreign roles.

Further insights revealed that PIA currently employs seven Pakistani-based staff in the UK, spread across three stations. The Committee received an account of the performance evaluation process for UK-based employees, underscoring PIA's commitment to monitor the performance.



ISLAMABAD: Executive Director General, Information Service Academy (ISA), Dr. Tariq Mahmood Khan distributing certificates among the participants of 37th MCMC Domain Specific Training.

## Iranian Embassy flays terrorist attack on JUI-F leader

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday condemned the terrorist attack on Jamiaat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader in Mastung area of Balochistan province.

In a statement shared on the micro-blogging website X, the Embassy wrote in its official handle, "It strongly condemns the terrorist attack against Hafiz Hamdullah, a leader of Jamiaat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) in Mastung, Balochistan."

The ominous phenomenon of terrorism is meant to destabilize the countries and to endanger peace and stability in the countries of the region, it added.

## Exact fake degree case adjourned

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing of Exact fake degree case due to the absence of accused Shoaib Sheikh and his lawyer.

Chief Justice Amir Farooq heard the appeal of Shoaib Sheikh against his conviction in the Exact fake degree case.

Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Dogal and Special Prosecutor Ashfaq Naqvi appeared before the court on behalf of the Federation.

Assistant lawyer Naila Noureen apprised the court that the appellant's lawyer Lateef Khousa could not appear before it due to his commitments in the Supreme Court. Furthermore, a request for exemption from court appearance was submitted on behalf of Shoaib Sheikh.

## PPP issues show cause notice to Khosa over defense of another party

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Secretary General of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Thursday took the step of issuing a show cause notice to

Sardar Latif Khan Khosa, a Member of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of PPP.

This notice was issued because Khosa had defended, pleaded for, and represented the leader of another political party in cases without obtaining prior approval from the party's leadership.

The decision to issue

the show cause notice received the endorsement of the party's leadership.

Notably, the individual Khosa was defending had already been convicted in a case under the Official Secrets Act.

During a speech delivered at a lawyers' function, Mr. Khosa also criticized the state's policy regarding classified information.

Khosa has been granted a seven-day period to respond to the show cause notice, wherein he must provide a satisfactory explanation for his actions.

## Teachers Training Workshop 2023 kicks off at IST

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three-day Teachers Training Workshop 2023 kicked off at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) in Islamabad to build the capacity of educators from across the country in the field of Space Science and Technology. The workshop is being organized by the Space Education Research Lab of the National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA) in collaboration with the Office of Astronomy for Education, International Astronomical Union. Spanning from September 14-16, this initiative is poised to be a transformative experience for the 30 selected educators from across the country.

With a distinguished cadre of seven national and international resource persons, the workshop underscores a commitment to enhance the quality and scope of space science education in Pakistan. The Teachers Training Workshop 2023 is tailored for primary and secondary school science educators, with an ambition to immerse them in the captivating world of Space Science and Technology. The workshop not only aimed at offering innovative teaching techniques and resources but also to establish a deeper understanding of Space Science among educators. It envisions equipping teachers to relay complex space concepts effectively to students of diverse age groups, igniting a passion for space exploration.



ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in painting the cemented flower pot at Nursery along the Park road in Federal Capital.

## UN HR council to redouble its efforts to stop bloodshed of innocent Kashmiris: Activist

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prominent rights activist Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan has urged the UN Human Rights Council to redouble its efforts to stop the bloodshed of innocent civilians in Kashmir by the Indian occupation forces.

Speaking on behalf of International Action for Peace and Sustainable Development, Khan, while taking part in a general debate held under Item 2 at the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, said that people in Jammu & Kashmir were waiting for the third report by the high commissioner, according to a press release issued here on Thursday.

Referring to the highly critical situation in the Indian-occupied territory of

Jammu and Kashmir (IoK), Khan said that the disputed territory continued to reel under India's relentless repression and brutality.

He said that people in Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir were being subjected to all forms of human rights violations.

"The Indian occupation forces not only kill innocent civilians in the area under their control but also across the line of control", Sardar Amjad Yousaf said, adding that the Indian forces deployed on the LoC use snipers to target the civilian population along the ceasefire line and kill innocent people. Seeking the UN High Commissioner's attention towards the ceasefire violations and target killing of civilians by the Indian forces.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Hidayat Ullah, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Aviation presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Friday September 15, 2023

**Nawaz's return**

After living in London in self-exile for the last four years, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif is finally set to return to Pakistan next month. This is welcome news.

This paper has time and again called on Mr Sharif to return and face political and legal realities and end the remote management of his party — both when the PML-N was in opposition and then in government.

That he is finally ready to return to the country and engage with his party and supporters face to face will come as a relief to his party's second-tier leadership that has spent the last year making too many trips to London to seek Mr Sharif's advice on several issues.

However, the country Mr Sharif is returning to is, in many ways, quite different to the one he left in 2019. The economy is in a historic mess and businesses are rapidly losing confidence. Households cannot pay their electricity and food bills.

The government is not generating enough revenue to address any of these serious challenges, and there are no quick fixes to the country's woes. Terrorism, too, is on the rise. The state of human rights in the country is dire. And political space is as narrow as ever.

In this grave situation, what message will Mr Sharif give to his supporters? How will he explain the last 16 months of the PML-N-led PDM government's performance?

How does he plan to counter the enormous support base of the incarcerated Imran Khan, who remains popular despite being pushed out of politics? Importantly, how will Mr Sharif proceed legally against the court cases against him?

The return of the elder Sharif has often been linked to the timing of general elections in the country by members of his party. Now that he is returning, he must call for timely elections — and then face the decisions of a public that is angry and crushed by multiple economic burdens.

For many months after the PDM government came to power, it was speculated that the PML-N was afraid of elections because of how much political capital it had lost during Mr Sharif's prolonged absence, and later because of the PDM's inability to give relief to the public.

Though Mr Sharif's key rival has been removed from the political battlefield for now, the matter of the PML-N's bruised support remains. How he will galvanise his party, and persuade voters remains to be seen, but his party seems to think the 'Nawaz Sharif effect' itself will yield some positive results.

When he returns, Mr Sharif will not only have to explain why he left and stayed away from the country for four years, but also what his party plans to do to address the serious internal challenges the country is facing.

**Sakib Sherani**

Pakistan is experiencing its most severe economic crisis in recent history. However, as I have argued previously, this crisis is "a crisis like no other" (Dawn, May 2022). It is not just an economic meltdown, but a confluence of myriad and complex challenges in the political, governance and environment domains.

With regards to the economy, the current episode is comparable in many ways to the economic crises that have devastated countries such as Argentina, Mexico, Greece and Lebanon, etc in the past. Public commentators as well as policymakers appear to have been slow to recognise the magnitude and complexity of the crisis. Partly due to a lack of appreciation, and largely due to political

considerations, the policy response since last year has also been slow, behind the curve and, now, deeply flawed.

More recent plans formulated to respond to the perennial crisis via attracting investment in a handful of sectors of the economy are overly optimistic as well as simplistic, reducing the country's myriad and complex problems that hinder capital formation, the creation of an entrepreneurial ecosystem, the development of a vibrant export sector, etc, down to a mere shortage of dollar liquidity. For these reasons, it is important to understand why the crisis Pakistan is currently experiencing is so different than the past.

First, this one is unprecedented in its severity as well as its complexity since it has emanated from a confluence of multiple shocks. A large terms of trade shock since 2021 coincided with the impact of a 'sudden stop' in external capital availability caused by the aggressive monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve. In addition, the country is in a full-blown public debt crisis, with the need for a very large

fiscal adjustment over the course of the next few years, one that could total around three to four per cent of GDP — by far the highest the country has ever undertaken.

Along with the fiscal adjustment, Pakistan also needs a degree of orderly (ie negotiated) sovereign debt restructuring or re-profiling, without which its debt repayment capacity will remain unsustainable. To compound the situation, the crisis could also envelop the country's banking sector at some later stage, despite substantial capital and liquidity buffers at present (more on this later).

Second, the sense of a polycrisis is accentuated by the fact that the country is facing a political and constitutional crisis since April 2022. Political uncertainty and institutional gridlock are complicating policy responses and 'whole-of-nation' approaches that are required for an early resolution.

Third, the current economic crisis is accompanied by a crisis of confidence — not just with regard to the prospects of the economy or the rupee

in the short term, but more fundamentally, by a lack of confidence in how the country is run, and in the ability as well as willingness of the elites responsible to change course. Investors, economic agents as well as the country's youth are voting with their feet via capital flight, dollarisation and brain drain. Of all the problems afflicting us, the vaporisation of confidence in Pakistan's long-run prospects is perhaps the most pernicious — and unrecognized.

Fourth, the country's banking sector could experience heightened stress in the months ahead, unlike in previous episodes. There are two potential channels: 1) the government, the banking system's largest borrower, is under increasing fiscal duress, with its fiscal position now clearly unsustainable; 2) any restructuring of sovereign external debt could include domestic public debt — with bank credit to government the largest component. A significant haircut for banks could be inevitable under this scenario.

In this complex and challenging environment, the prospects for Pakistan's economy for the next three to four years appear less than sanguine, despite the relative optimism surrounding the securing of a nine-month Stand-By Arrangement from the IMF. While the near-term risk of a sovereign default has been averted for the interim, continuation of IMF conditionality, stabilisation and austerity policies will need to remain in place beyond the current SBA as the country undertakes a debt workout, one that could include domestic debt as mentioned above. Economic growth will remain suppressed and financial conditions restrictive, while the overall business environment will be challenging, especially for the formal sector.

These difficult conditions are likely to lead to industry and business closures, many permanently, in economic 'scarring'.

Macroeconomic risks are likely to remain elevated, which could be compounded by the risk

of political instability. Climate-related shocks are grey rhinos (slow-moving, probable risks with high impacts) that can precipitate at any time over the forecast horizon. Vulnerability to external shocks will remain high until 'break out' conditions prevail.

Each of the conditions above is necessary though not sufficient on its own. Ultimately, the surest guarantee of finding a path to recovery and durable prosperity is for all stakeholders to view the current crisis as an opportunity for wide-ranging, deep and credible reform.

Tailpiece: Unfortunately, another IMF programme appears inevitable, simply because despite the populist talk, there is no credible and workable alternative plan that anyone has crafted or presented. The glib talk on the media about living without the IMF is, unfortunately, without any basis, and is designed to play to the gallery. Pakistan needs to have its external debt rescheduled, and an IMF programme is necessary for this process. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Fix the education system****Kamila Hyat**

The recent controversy over A-level results in Pakistan has stirred up new thinking on education. While most A-level students who sat for their exams earlier this year are likely to retake them in November 2023 as offered by the Cambridge Board, others are more worried about their future, given how the grades affect students' chances of scoring admission in top-ranking institutions. It is not just students but their parents, teachers and others from various spheres of life who are also now looking at the exam system through a different lens. Some education specialists believe that Cambridge has changed its exam format to some degree this year — a shift from a mainly rote-based system to something that requires greater thinking and ability to put forward arguments clearly.

There are now other exams available in the country which can be seen as an alternative to A-level and appear to provide students a greater opportunity to use critical thinking mind and come up with original thought. The idea of education should be to develop in students the ability to think for themselves and go forward from that point on, instead of encouraging them to memorize page after page of text and repeat it verbatim on answer sheets.

Moving away from this could in fact be the critical step needed to alter our education system and make it more meaningful in different ways. At present, especially at the FSc and FA levels — which is the examination system undertaken by most students in the country — we have an extremely

high dependence on rote learning. The fact that teachers are not trained to teach, but only to make students learn all lessons by heart, simply exacerbates the problem. We need to move away from this.

In recent months, there has been much discussion over the national curriculum and how to improve it. This can be achieved by simply altering the examination system and setting it up in a way that requires students to think as individuals and not repeat long passages of text as if they were some form of robots, or as 'parrots'. This is essential to creating capacities which many parents and even teachers do not believe students possess. It is essential then to move away from this system.

The ability of young children to think and come up with answers to complex questions was exhibited earlier this year at a session organized by a private group which offered winners a chance to visit NASA in the US. Students from low-income schools were asked to develop a scientific object of their choice and on their own. The results were fascinating. Teams of young girls and boys worked to-

gether and came up with interesting inventions, including making paper from chicken feathers. The winning teams visited NASA in Houston and gained an experience which would not have been available to them had it not been for this effort. Besides this, we have also seen plenty of other examples of students performing extraordinarily well in other tasks at school when they are given a chance to think and come up with original ideas.

This would of course mean some major steps within the educational system, beginning at schools and ideally moving on to higher education perhaps in one or two years at the time. In the first place, teachers will need to be trained to educate children as intelligent beings and not as objects capable of rote learning like a recording machine. To do so, they need to undergo new courses and a new curriculum for government-school teachers as well as a compulsory criterion that teachers at private schools have proper certification.

In addition, parents and children would also need to become accustomed to the new mode of learning and understand that it does

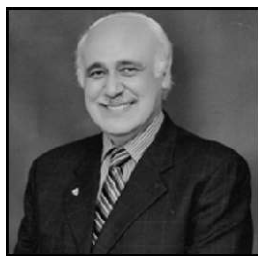
indeed constitute education and not just games as many parents believe to be true of exam systems which demand the child lead the way in the educational process. The fact that children everywhere are able to think is a well-established fact, but the problem lies in our failure to allow them the opportunity to do so or to move forward through their wit rather than through memorization.

Indeed the fact that our exam system is based on memorization may be the most basic flaw in our exam system. We do not need a single curriculum; we need a curriculum that has a basic point on which all students must come through — such as standards in Urdu, Maths and ideally the native language of students as well as English at a later point in their education. We also need an education system which has the capacity to introduce tests and exam papers which force students to think and develop their ideas or thoughts, instead of relying on borrowed ones from exam guidebooks, still widely available at all educational stores and at roadside markets everywhere in big cities.

Altering the education

system in this manner could be of enormous benefit to children everywhere and also help them develop the skills they would need in the outside world as well as from high learning. It is imperative that we begin putting in place such a system block by block and keep building it up. The results of the A-level exam should act as a reminder of what we need to do. It is hard to believe that the results were affected entirely because exams were suspended in parts of the country by political protests. It seems far more likely that at least a large number of candidates do not have the skills Cambridge seeks in its students.

Our examination and teaching system needs to change so that our students at all levels can move forward and not be held back by our focus on rote learning and the many flaws it brings with it. This has to be our first priority in the education sector so that young people can learn how to think, and we can produce thinkers like Dr Abdus Salam and others, who once made their way to the world's top centres of research while starting from our government schools. -- Courtesy TheNews

**What's in a name?****F.S. Aijazuddin**

Pakistan holds an unusual pack of cards. It has no kings. They have been either deposed, exiled, assassinated, or hanged. It has no queens. One potential qualifier Miss Fatima Jinnah was defeated by an armed dictator using rigged polls in 1965, and the second Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was murdered on another's watch in 2007.

It has no jacks. They have either lost heart, swipe clubs against their opponents, or use spades to dig each other's graves. None sparkle like diamonds. All that Pakistan has left is a full deck of jokers.

Each day, we Pakistanis wake up to a false dawn, hoping that each new today will have forgotten yesterday. Each night, we sleep and dream of a utopia where gas and electricity flow like milk and honey.

Were astrologers right when they advised Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to celebrate independence on Aug 15 rather than the unlucky 14<sup>th</sup>? Why did Nehru prefer the name India to the archaic Bharat or emotive Hindustan?

Those who wrote the Indian constitution gave their countrymen both the anglicised India and Sanskritised Bharat. Nehru preferred the former, and not because it could increase the sales of his book *The Discovery of India*.

His feel for the flow of history was too strong. He saw the vast subcontinent — from the top of the northern Himalayas to the southern tip of Cape Comorin — as a contiguous cultural, ethnic, spiri-

tual whole. Not, as the British had done, as a colony consisting of princely states marooned in a sea of vanquished territories. Nor, as his successor PM Modi sees their country, through saffron-tinted lenses.

PM Modi has already demonstrated his electoral authority by redefining borders, revoking Article 370 and appropriating the contested area of Jammu & Kashmir. He now wants Nehru's secular India to convert into BJP's Hindutva Bharat, and Gandhi's charkha or spinning wheel to be replaced by Shiva's trishul or trident.

PM Modi's timing could not have been better. He had an audience of world leaders in New Delhi at the G20 summit. Two leaders to whom this change of name will make no difference are deliberate absentees from the G20 conclave: China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin. To them, India by any other name still smells of regional hegemony.

Once before New Delhi was propelled into such prominence. In 1982, Mrs Indira Gandhi hosted the Asian Games. She commissioned a talented young designer called Rajeev Sethi to refurbish the tired city. He began with the airport where he hung cylindrical cloth tubes stamped with vivid colours drawn from a Rajasthani palette. India's westgate swung gaily above the heads of arriving visitors.

Outside, they were surprised to drive along four-lane highways rather than having to compete, as ambassador J.K. Galbraith put it, with 5,000 years of transport. Seventy-six years later, while India/Bharat is oscillating between names, we in Pakistan are still trying to achieve a cohesive identity and secure our place in the comity of nations.

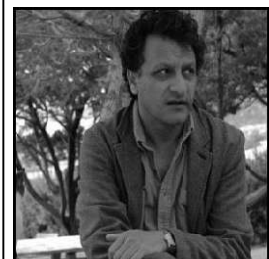
We stood on the doorstep of BRICS and watched Ethiopia slip past us

through the door. We peered over the fence like some inquisitive neighbour while New Delhi celebrated its success at the G20 summit by admitting the 55 member states of the African Union (including Ethiopia) into its fold.

If we are honest with ourselves, we would accept that no one is genuinely fond of us. Who would befriend an importuning beggar whose survival depends on handouts?

Applying the maxim 'jam yesterday, jam tomorrow, but no jam today', yesterday, the Saudis, the UAE and China shored up our forex reserves with billions of dollars as deposits that cannot be spent and will have to be returned. We are assured that tomorrow, friendly Arab countries will commit \$100 billion to reinvigorate our economy. Meanwhile, an insecure interim government tries to convince lenders that we are still a bankable bet.

Without wishing to dilute the nation's optimism, would any country (however cash-heavy) be prepared to lend endlessly to an impecunious bankrupt, whose problems are painfully short-term and their solutions even more painfully long-term, but refuses to tackle either? Political parties demand elections, whenever. The PPP is ready and wants them within 90 days. Others prefer a longer gestation period. How can they assure voters, though, that the next parliament will be better than its predecessors? Or will it be the same rancid water poured in new bottles? Thousands of our educated and skilled citizens are not waiting for the next elections to cast their votes. They are voting with their feet, by migrating to whichever country will admit them — even Ethiopia. Our bankruptcy is not only fiscal. It is intellectual. We have 'an expenditure of words without an income of ideas'. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Healthy opportunity****Arif Azad**

Next week, the UN is convening three high-level meetings on universal health coverage (UHC), tuberculosis (TB) and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR) at its 78<sup>th</sup> General Assembly session.

These meetings are set to review the progress made on these intersecting global health challenges as they are tied to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the changed global pandemic architecture. They give heads of states and governments a chance to revisit the post-Covid global health landscape and recommit themselves to sustained action on the commitments enshrined in the political declarations on TB and UHC made in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The 2019 declarations on UHC-SDG 3.8 set a target of reaching an additional one billion people by 2023 and reversing trends in medical impoverishment caused by out-of-pocket expenses. Yet the latest UHC commitment review's key findings suggest that progress on UHC has stalled and in some cases reversed. This state of play on the follow-up underscores the need for expedited action on delivering on political commitments on TB-SDG 3.3 — which are way off track. Covid has blown these goals off track.

The theme of the 2023 high-level meeting on TB is 'advancing science, finance and innovation, and their benefits, to urgently

end the global tuberculosis epidemic, in particular, by ensuring equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment and care'. At the 2023 meeting, progress on the targets set and achieved so far will be reviewed and a future action plan framed.

In the run-up to the 2023 high-level meeting, civil society groups voiced their expectations of the meeting in May in New York. The key policy asks which emerged out of the civil society consultation focused on reinforcing commitment to reaching all people affected by TB, accelerating research and development in new TB vaccine, drugs and diagnostic services, enhancing funding for TB programmes and prioritising TB across UHC, primary healthcare, pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and anti-microbial resistance.

The first UN high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response has assumed special urgency against the backdrop of the devastating impact of Covid-19 on health systems, SDGs, and pre-existing health inequalities. PPPR is especially important in relation to serious threats which future pandemics pose to the realisation of the SDGs, UHC and TB as demonstrated by the Covid pandemic. The Pandemic Action Network of civil society groups has called on heads of states for vigorous international action on pandemic preparedness in health and beyond health sectors in whole-of-system approach, as well as increasing ownership and accountability of pandemic preparedness and response plans, while ensuring the widest possible participation of civil society and others in these efforts.

However, the draft of the political declaration has been described by health press and advocates as long on words and short on com-

mitments and lacking in ambition. Specific actions have been kicked down the line to 2026 when the UN will convene another high-level meeting to further deliberate on the state of pandemic preparedness. Three years is too long a period when it comes to pandemics, particularly when existing pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms have been found wanting in the Covid response.

More importantly, the publicly released draft of the political declaration does not include any specific financing targets for global and domestic health spending on pandemic preparedness and response. An earlier proposal re-launched to the establishment of an independent monitoring body to assess member state compliance with the pandemic treaty and spending commitment has been done away with in the draft declaration.

UHC, the elimination of TB and new pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms are key to achieving the SDG goals, intersecting and interlinked with nature as they are. Therefore, the convening of three high-level meetings on these global health issues is a rare opportunity for world leaders and member states to tackle global health challenges in a synchronised and integrated way. Pakistan's caretaker government should show leadership and commitment to the broader idea of ensuring that no one is left behind in UHC drives and in accessing new TB vaccine and drugs and that the future pandemic response is robust, equitable and well financed. All this will require careful preparation, nimble-footed health diplomacy and political will at these important high-level meetings in September. Like other member states, Pakistan too should step up. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Religious, political leaders unite for interfaith harmony, urge justice for Jaranwala

FAISALABAD (APP): The leaders from various religious and political groups, representing diverse faiths and beliefs, on Thursday emphasized that Pakistan belonged to all its citizens and no individual, group or organization had the right to use religion as a pretext to take the law into their own hands.

The leaders including Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Bishop Dr Riaz Rahmat, Allama Tahir Al Hasan, Mufti Nasrullah, Mufti Hanif Bhatti, Maulana Asmatullah Muawiyah, Maulana Aminul Haque Ashrafi said this while addressing an interfaith harmony conference.

Addressing the recent tragic incidents in Jaranwala and Sargodha, they had called for swift justice against the culprits and demanded that the facts be laid bare before the nation. They stressed the importance of adhering to the principles of justice and the rule of law.

Chairman PUP Hafiz Muhammad Tahir

Mahmood Ashrafi announced the 'Seerat Rehmat-ul-Alameen Conference' to be held across the country from the first to the end of Rabi-ul-Awwal to educate the public about the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) regarding the rights of minorities, women and humanity as a whole.

Furthermore, he said the PUC and Christian leadership would host joint Seerat Conferences in Lahore and Islamabad to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between Muslim and Christian leaders on matters of shared concern.

He said Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar had jointly called for stringent actions against hoarders of dollars, flour, sugar, and those involved in electricity and gas theft. They emphasized that individuals responsible for exacerbating artificial economic crises should not be granted any leniency, he added. Ashrafi underscored the fundamental right of every Pakistani.



PESHAWAR: A delegation from PK-72 Peshawar tribal elites meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

## Sindh cabinet decides to launch military operation against dacoits, drug mafia

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Government has decided to launch massive operation against dacoits in Sindh's Katcha area with the help of Pakistan Army, Police and the Rangers to eliminate menace of kidnapping of the innocent people.

The decision was made in a cabinet meeting held here at Chief Minister House on Thursday with Caretaker Chief Minister Justice @ Maqbool Baqar in the chair. The cabinet also accorded approval for

extension of Rangers stay for another 6 months in Sindh from September 14, 2023 to February 2024.

The Inspector General Police Sindh Rifat Mukhtar briefed the Cabinet about overall law and order situation in the province with special reference to kidnapping for ransom cases and informed that during current year 2023, as many as 218 people had been kidnapped out of them 207 have so far been recovered.

There are 11 people still under the captivity of the kidnappers, the IG

told the meeting and said of these 11 people seven were from Larkana, 3 from Shaheed Benazirabad and one from Sukkur districts.

The IG told the cabinet that Naveed Lashari were kidnap ped from Jacobabad, Sagar Kumar from Garhi Yaseen, Qadeer, Zaheer, Gulbahar from Kashmir and Shahid and Jabbar from Sukkur, Soomar from Qasimabad Hyderabad and Farhan and Shahid were made hostage by dacoits from Nausheero Feroze. The Caretaker Chief

Minister Justice @ Maqbool Baqar asked the IG Police and other law enforcement agencies for early release of all remaining hostages from their captors.

Justice Baqar also asked the IGP to keep in touch with the family members of the hostages and make them aware about the efforts being made for their release.

The Caretaker CM also directed concerned authorities for immediate suspension of internet services in the Katcha area of the province.

## Steps taken to protect lives, property of minority communities: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Caretaker Minister for Law and Religious Affairs, Justice Retired, Syed Arshad Shah Thursday said that steps had been taken to protect lives and property of minorities as ensuring all the rights to minority community members was among priorities of provincial government.

He was addressing a ceremony that was organized by Provincial Auqaf Department and Churches Association of Hazara.

The ceremony that was aimed to promote interfaith harmony was held in Saint Lucas Church Abbottabad.

The minister expressed satisfaction over spirit of mutual coexistence in Hazara and said that provincial and federal government was committed to protect minorities and their properties.

He said that minorities were safe and enjoying their rights in the country and added that certain forces were fomenting strife and trying to wedge difference between majority and minority.

He said the government was fully aware of these activities and resources were being utilized to wipe out enemies that were hidden.

He also directed to construct damaged wall of Saint Lucas Church and assured steps to protect religious places of minorities.

The minister said that matters would be reviewed about protection of temples and illegal allotment cases.

The ceremony was also attended by minority community leaders, religious figures, deputy commissioner, District Khateeb and pastors of all the churches of Hazara.



FAISALABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council & President International Faith Harmony Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi is addressing to the "Interfaith Harmony Conference" at Razaabad.

## SCCI, Zamung Kor sign MoU for welfare & education of orphan children

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and Model Institute of State Children 'Zamung Kor' have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to support the education and training of orphan children under its social corporate responsibility and collaborate in common interest initiatives.

In this regard, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by SCCI acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi and Zamung Kor Director Naja Mus Sahar during a ceremony held at the

Model Institute of State Children on Thursday.

On the occasion, the secretary social welfare department, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ziaul Haq, the Secretary General of the chamber Sajjad Aziz, officials from Zamung Kor and the Social Welfare Department were present. According to the agreement, both institutions will promote activities of mutual interests, building of academia and industry linkages along with joint training sessions and collective efforts for education of orphan children.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired 40th meeting of the Senate of the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore.

## Sindh Finance Minister for expediting public welfare, rehabilitation works

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development Muhammad Younus Dagha on Thursday directed to expedite work on public welfare projects and rehabilitation of flood affected infrastructure.

He was chairing a meeting regarding projects for the welfare of victims and the rehabilitation of infrastructure affected by the catastrophic floods of 2022 in Sindh. The projects included Sindh flood emergency rehabilitation project, the World Bank assisted Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) project and the Asian Development Bank supported Emergency Flood Assistance programme. The caretaker minister, on the occasion, stressed the need to take practical and result-oriented measures instead of spending more time and cost on the paper work so

that the projects could be made operational at the earliest.

The meeting was briefed that in the first phase of the rehabilitation work, the construction and repair of roads and the improvement of canals was being carried out.

It was further informed that the canal system would be improved by using modern engineering methods to prevent wastage of water.

It was told that emergency Rescue 1122 stations were being set up in the flood affected districts and the same were being handed over to the Department of Rehabilitation, which would be responsible for their operation and maintenance. The meeting was attended by Chairman P&D, Shakeel Ahmed Mangnejo, Secretary Irrigation Niaz Abbasi, Secretary agriculture Rafiq Shaikh, Secretary works and services.



KARACHI: Workers of KMC are spraying Anti Dengue spray in the streets of Sultanabad area to decrease the rising ratio of Dengue patients in Provincial Capital.

## Meeting discusses measures to expedite development process in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Caretaker Provincial Minister for Merged Districts Amir Abdullah here on Thursday chaired a meeting to ponder over measures needed to expedite development initiatives and stimulate growth in merged district.

The meeting formed a working group with caretaker minister as its chairperson and members including special secretaries from Planning and Development (P&D), Health, Education, Home and Mineral.

The primary aim of the working group is to

ensure speedy execution of development projects within the merged districts, bolster investment across various sectors and address critical issues.

On the occasion, the chief secretary reiterated provincial government's commitment to develop merged districts. He underscored the importance of capitalizing on opportunities within tourism, minerals, mining, agriculture, livestock, and other sectors.

He also directed secretaries of relevant departments to brief caretaker minister regarding both ongoing and proposed projects within the merged districts.

## Chinese CG calls on Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of China in Karachi Yang Yundong Thursday called on Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab in KMC head office on Thursday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

On this occasion, China's Vice Consul Xie Shuyue and M. Zheng Chao, Assistant Consul Chen Weilong were also present.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab welcomed the Consul General of China and the accompanying guests on their visit to KMC.

He said that Pakistan and China have good neighboring relations, China has helped Pakistan in every tough time, China's cooperation with Pakistan in various fields is a great example of friendship.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation was trying to provide quality civic facilities to the citizens and for this purpose, development works were being done in different areas of the city.

Along with residential areas, industrial zones are also being developed. Karachi is the commercial hub of Pakistan and the center of industrial and commercial activities.

## 31 new cases of dengue in city

LAHORE (APP): As many as 31 new cases of dengue were reported in the city during the last 24 hours and anti-dengue efforts have also been ramped up. Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider came to field besides gathering data from 1,034 locations. She personally reviewed anti-dengue operations in Defense Phase III.

Two houses were identified with dengue larvae and promptly treated, including surrounding areas with spray. Rafia engaged with residents to discuss performance of dengue teams and assessed their micro-plans and tally sheets. She also emphasized the importance of clearing weeds and grass from vacant plots in the area.

Separately, in UC-72 Anarkali, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Adnan Rashid warned the DDH about duty delays.

Meanwhile, Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Umar Maqbool assessed anti-dengue activities in UC-115 Samanabad.

## Tourist places should be promoted: Governor Sindh

Chief of UNICEF's professional team also calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has stressed the need for proper projection of tourist places in the province so as to attract local as well as foreign tourists to such sites, which would generate employment for the people living there.

This he said while talking with caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism, Environment and Climate Change Arshad Wali Mohammad at Governor House here on Thursday.

Steps to promote tourism in the province, provision of better facilities for tourists, minimizing affects of climate change and protecting natural

environment were discussed in detail on the occasion.

The Governor Sindh said that there were many tourist spots in the province, including Gorakh Hill, which need effective publicity. He asked the caretaker minister to activate Sindh Tourism Development Cooperation (STDC) for highlighting the places of interest of Tourists.

Especially, trained guides should also be assigned Moen-Jo-Daro and Makli graveyards to inform the visitors about their historic importance, the Governor added.

Meanwhile, Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that projects of UNICEF are helping

children of the province in getting better health and education facilities.

This he said while talking with UNICEF Professional Team Chief Prem Bahadur Chand at Governor House here Thursday.

UNICEF projects, provision of better health and education facilities to children, training of teachers and health professionals and other matters of mutual interests were discussed in detail on the occasion.

The Governor Sindh said that UNICEF cooperation in the fields of health and education is commendable and steps are being taken with the help of UNICEF to provide better facilities to children.



LAHORE: Members of Insaaf Lawyer Forum (ILF) are holding protest rally for demanding General Elections after the dissolution of the National Assembly, outside Punjab Assembly in Lahore.

## RDA launches grand operation against illegal housing societies

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) while conducting a grand operation against illegal constructions here on Thursday demolished encroachments and illegal constructions of 11 illegal housing societies.

According to a RDA spokesman, the RDA Task Force formed on the special directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chhatta launched a grand operation and took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators.

He informed that the

society offices, gates, billboards and other infrastructure of Rawal Enclave, Haider Residencia, Park Zameen Town, Al-Haram city, Danyal Al-Haram Block, Tameer Garden, Khan Builders, Manan City, Multi Gardens Phase-II, Faisal Town Phase-II and Capital Smart City Extension were demolished. The Task Force headed by Director General, RDA, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa conducted raids in different areas and demolished illegal constructions besides.

## Female swindler held with fake currency notes

FAISALABAD (APP): Sadar Samundri police have arrested a female swindler along with huge quantity of counterfeit currency notes.

A police spokesman said on Thursday that a couple was busy in purchase of gold jewellery and other items from people in Chak No 447-GB against bogus currency notes of 1000 and 5000 denomination when the area people caught them red-handed.

The male accused managed to escape from the scene whereas the police arrested the female swindler and recovered counterfeit currency notes worth Rs 150,000.

## AKF organizes mass wedding ceremony for 21 destitute couples

PESHAWAR (INP): Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) organized a mass wedding ceremony for 21 destitute couples of the five districts of Malakand division. The mass wedding ceremony of the orphans and destitute couples was organized in Riway Wedding Hall at Thana town of district Malakand, said a press release issued here on Thursday. More than 800 guests including the relatives of the couples attended the

Walima ceremony. So far 497 families have benefited from the mass wedding facility under the auspices of the foundation. Provincial president, AKF KP, Khalid Waqas presided over the ceremony while Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) Siraj-ul-Haq was chief guest on the occasion. Prominent among those who attended the Walima of mass wedding ceremony were included vice president AKF Pakistan, Zakirullah Mujahid.



HYDERABAD: A view of sewerage water accumulated on the road outside railway workshop.

## Sumbal remembered in condolence reference at Secretariat

LAHORE (APP): A condolence reference for former federal interior secretary (late) Abdullah Khan Sumbal was held at the Civil Secretariat here on Thursday.

Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, the senior member board of revenue, additional chief secretary, additional chief secretary (home) and administrative secretaries of all the departments attended the condolence reference while all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link. The condolence reference began with the

recitation of the Holy Quran. The Administrative Secretaries' Committee paid tribute to Abdullah Khan Sumbal for his services in civil service.

The Chief Secretary Punjab said that Abdullah Khan Sumbal was a hardworking and capable officer as well as a very good human being and his services in civil service would always be remembered. He remarked that the sudden death of Abdullah Khan Sumbal is a great loss for his family and the civil service.

At the end of the reference, Fateha was offered for late Abdullah Khan Sumbal.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Deputy Convener, Farooq Sattar exchanging views with Maulana Rashid Soomro, Leader Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JU-I) during meeting held at Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.



## Senate body applauds Power Division for taking swift action against line losses, electricity theft

*Expresses displeasure over absence of Chairman NEPA*

ISLAMABAD (APP): Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Power Thursday applauded the Power Division for taking swift action against the line losses and electricity theft in different DISCOs.

The meeting held here at Old PIPS Hall Parliament Lodges with Senator Saifullah Abro in the chair.

Additional Secretary, Power Division, Arshad Majid apprised that approximately around Rs one billion worth of recovery had been made in the last few days and the Power Division had also reshuffled the officers of various DISCOs to ensure its efficiency.

Saifullah Abro said that the Power Division should also reshuffle CEOs of DISCOs and BoDs of various authority, who allegedly had acted malafide and diminishing the capacity of power sector.

The senate body expressed annoyance over the non-implementation of the committee's recommendations relating to 765kV double circuit transmission line from Dasu Hydro Power Station to Islamabad.

The Additional Secretary, Power Division informed the ministry had constituted a committee to investigate the matter and the report would be submitted once it was completed.

Saifullah Abro reiterated that the committee had explicitly identified irregularities in bidding process for the 'Construction of 765KV double circuit Transmission line from Dasu Hydro Power Station to Islamabad' but irony was that, despite making recommendations several times to take action against the alleged officials, Power Division had not taken any action. He further said that

formation of committee was prerogative of NTDC, and the letter written by the Power Division to World Bank for identifying procurement mismanagement in bidding process held no legal standing.

Moreover, the committee expressed displeasure over the absence of the Chairman, NEPA and its Members and decided to issue summons for Chairman NEPA and all its Members to attend next meeting.

While discussing the details of CPEC power plants, the power division informed that sixteen power plants were part of the CPEC, with most of them being wind and solar based projects.

The committee inquired about the government stance on KAPCO Power Plant, whose contract expired in June 2021 with IPPs.



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of prominent businessmen from Lahore and Karachi met with the Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ijaz.

## President orders UIC to pay Rs 4.5 mln insurance claim with 8 years' profit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday ordered the United Insurance Company (UIC) to pay Rs 4.5 million insurance claim to the customer along with eight years' profit.

The president, while rejecting the appeal of the United Insurance Company of Pakistan Limited against the decision of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman, observed that the company had kept the matter pending for eight years and made profit on its customer's money.

According to a news release of the President House Press Wing, Imtiaz Ahmed, a resident of Karachi, had got insured his car for Rs 4.5 million.

When the car was stolen, he approached the UIC with the insurance claim of Rs 4.5 million. However, the company refused to honour his claim on the pretext that Imtiaz Ahmed had overstated the price of the vehicle.

On his petition, the Federal Insurance Ombudsman gave his verdict in favour of Imtiaz Ahmed.

The UIC filed an appeal against the ombudsman's decision before the president, which the latter rejected and ordered the company to pay the insurance claim along with profit for eight years as it had collected the premium from the customer on the insured amount of Rs 4.5 million.

## Pakistan keen to enhance trade, investment relations with Iraq: Ahsan Zafar

ISLAMABAD (INP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan wants to strengthen its bilateral trade and investment relations with Iraq in the traditional and non-traditional sectors that would be mutually beneficial for both countries and Pakistan embassy in Iraq should cooperate with the business community in achieving this goal.

This was stated by him while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Iraq Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed, during his Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) on Thursday.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan and Iraq have good potential to develop strong cooperation in diverse fields including trade & industry, agriculture, tourism, energy, health, defence production. He

said that Pakistan can export many products to Iraq including textiles, pharmaceuticals, rice, food products and can import oil from Iraq.

The ICCI President stressed that the Pakistan embassy in Iraq should identify the demand for Pakistani products and manpower in the Iraqi market and share such information with ICCI so that the business community could capture better market share in Iraq.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed said that he would make all possible efforts to explore new avenues for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports with Iraq.

He said that Iraq is developing as a new market for investors. China has made big investments in Iraq and Pakistani investors should also explore Iraq for business partnerships and investment.

## NPO to organize webinar on peace, justice and strong institution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Productivity Organization (NPO) will conduct a webinar on 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institution' on September 22.

The objective of the workshop is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusion institutions at all levels," according to an NPO document shared here Thursday.

The workshop will provide information about peace, justice and strong institutions in Pakistan, what is meant by peace, justice and strong institutions, five approaches to peace, peace politics, peace power of law and power of communication.

## Bilateral trade between Pak Denmark, textile sector witnessed rise

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ambassador of Denmark Jakob Linulf has said bilateral trade and textile sector have witnessed rise between Pakistan and Denmark.

Strengthening relations in green energy initiatives and energy conservation is our priority, he added. He visited ministry of energy and met energy minister Energy Muhammad Ali in power division.

The two exchanged views on green energy initiatives, energy conservation, Danish Energy Transition initiatives and ongoing projects of investment fund. Pakistan and Denmark have proposed to constitute a cross-functional team of power sector for future discussion and joint workshop.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting regarding automation of FBR functions held at FBR Headquarters in Islamabad.

## Border closure causes lining up of thousands of goods laden trucks at Torkhem: PAJCCI

PESHAWAR (APP): The closure of the Torkhem border for passage of all kinds of traffic between Pakistan and Afghanistan for the last seven days has caused the lining up of thousands of trucks laden with goods in both countries.

"The impasse following a firefight between security forces over the construction of an unlawful structure at zero point has inflicted a loss of around three million US dollars on businessmen by destroying perishable goods including fresh fruit, vegetable, poultry, meat, eggs, juices and others," claims Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi in a press statement issued here on Thursday.

From Torkhem zero point to LandiKotal, more than 1500 to 2000 trucks are parked in queues on both sides of the road waiting for the opening of the border, Zia said.

Similarly, on the Afghanistan side, the number of stranded trucks is more than 2000 to around 2500 because of the season of fresh fruit export to Pakistan.

Zia said big quantities of perishable goods loaded in trucks including fresh fruit like grapes, bananas, citrus, melon dew and vegetables like lady's finger, and tomato have become rot.

Apart from transit trade goods, a large quantity of import and export goods from both countries has become wasted and is stranded due to the closure of the border.

Around 150 to 200 trucks of soapstone and 100 trucks of coal come on a daily basis to Pakistan from Afghanistan. The number of trucks carrying fresh fruit and vegetable are more than the above-mentioned figure, he went on to say.

While a large number of trucks cross the border to Afghanistan carrying export goods from Pakistan like cement, structural iron (sarya), poultry, meat, eggs, banana, potato etc., he continued.

Director PAJCCI urged the quarters concerned to take measures for early resolution of disputes because permanent closure of the border is not a solution and is detrimental to the economies of both the countries and regional trade.

## U.S. Dy Chief of Mission Reaffirms Commitment to Green Shipping

KARACHI (Online): Today in Karachi, the United States reaffirmed its commitment to partnering with the Government of Pakistan and the port and shipping industry to develop a national action.

This plan will encourage more sustainable shipping practices to prevent global climate change and enhance Pakistan's trade competitiveness. U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer co-hosted the second Green Shipping roundtable with Office of the Prime Minister Political Secretary and Chairman for Strategic Reforms Unit Hussain Islam and Ministry of Maritime Affairs Director General for Ports and Shipping Alia Shahid.

Together they underlined the need for immediate and collective action to address climate change.

Mr. Schofer delivered keynote remarks, underscoring the crucial role of sustainable shipping practices in mitigating the impact of climate change. Joined by Consul General Conrad Tribble and representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. Department of Energy, Mr. Schofer emphasized the need for conversations to address these issues.

## Bikes, 3-wheelers sale plunges 18.56% in July, August

ISLAMABAD (INP): The sale of motorbikes and three-wheelers in the country has witnessed a 18.56 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the sale of the corresponding months of the last year.

During the months under review, as many as 161,906 motorbikes and three-wheelers were sold against the sale of 198,824 units in July-August (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA). The sale of Honda motorcycles dipped by 16.96 per cent from 165,090 units to 137,083 units whereas the sale.

## Shamshad for speeding automation of FBR operations

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting regarding Automation Agenda of FBR.

Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to discuss the acceleration of automation of FBR operations, at FBR headquarters today.

Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umar Saif, Chairman FBR, and officers from Revenue Division, IT Division, and FBR attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the FBR team and the team from Ministry of IT and Telecommunication apprised the Minister about the progress on comprehensive plan of automation of FBR's

functions, broadly encompassing tax collection and revenue management. The Minister, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, reiterated the government's dedication to modernizing its fiscal systems to align with international best practices. She stressed the need for leveraging technology to strengthen the nation's revenue collection mechanisms and promote economic growth. She further asserted that automation is not just a choice but a necessity to ensure transparency, accountability, and ease of doing business in Pakistan.

The meeting concluded on the commitment from all the participatory bodies for making dedicated efforts towards this end in order to enhance fiscal governance, boost revenue collection, and stimulate economic growth of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Commerce, Gohar Ijaz calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## German companies keen to joint ventures, investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of German companies led by Muhammad Usman, Country Representative for Pakistan of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and showed interest in joint ventures and investment in Pakistan in areas of their respective fields. The delegation was representing various sectors including telecommunication, automobile, construction, logistics, energy and financial services, said a press release issued here Thursday.

Addressing the German delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan and Germany have great potential to increase bilateral trade in many areas as the current level of two-way trade of around US\$ 4 billion is not matching with the actual potential of both countries.

He said that both countries are doing trade in limited items as Pakistan's main exports to Germany include textiles, leather goods, sports goods, footwear and medical instruments, and its main imports from Germany include machinery, chemical and electrical goods, motor vehicles and iron goods.

## SECP shifts Regulatory Sandbox to "Always Open"

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in order to broaden outreach has restructured its Regulatory Sandbox (RSB) from a cohort-based system to an open status, allowing applicants, including fintech and start-ups, to apply year-round. The applications will be received in three streams: Islamic finance, conventional finance, and women's-specific trades.

For the convenience of applicants, SECP has developed a comprehensive, self-explanatory application format and diagnostic tool. These formats are available at the Sandbox section of SECP's website.

Restructuring of the sandbox was required to reflect its maturity and the lessons learned in the three plus years of its operations. The always open status will ensure continuity in partnerships and allows applicants to approach the RSB at the right point in their development lifecycle.



ISLAMABAD: Danish Ambassador to Pakistan Jakob Linulf held a meeting with Interim Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali at Power Division. Green Energy investment and Energy Conservation opportunities were discussed in the meeting.

## OIC countries must enhance food production: Baidaulat

FAISALABAD (APP): Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) Director General Yeran A Baidaulat said here on Thursday that majority of the OIC countries were facing challenges of food insecurity, necessitating them to enhance food production at organisational as well as individual levels.

Addressing the Afghanistan Agri Business Forum at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here, he said that Afghanistan, in particular, had experienced profound food insecurity and hence top priority should be

given to the issue as any unnecessary delay could destabilise the entire region.

He said that food security was a critical issue that resonates not only within the Islamic world but also on the global stage. He said that the IOFS had tasked with an important mission by the OIC. In the context of the implementation of its mandate on the Afghanistan Food Security Programme (AFSP), several initiatives have been undertaken to enhance the 'Afghanistan Food Security Programme' (AFSP).

## Steady recovery continues; Rupee gains 87 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Thursday witnessed the seventh consecutive recovery session as it gained 87 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs297.95 against the previous day's closing of Rs298.82.

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 Rs300 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 1.08 to close at Rs319.88 against the last day's closing of Rs320.96, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged at closed at Rs2.02, whereas a decline of 48 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs372.12 as compared to the last closing of Rs372.60.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 23 paisa each to close at Rs81.12 and Rs79.43 respectively.



QUETTA: Special Assistant to PM for Afghanistan Asif Ali Durrani addressing regarding Pak-Afghan trade during his visit to Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## Pakistan and Brazil to strengthen trade and investment ties

ISLAMABAD (Online): Brazilian Ambassador Olyntho Vieira called on Dr. Gohar Ijaz, Caretaker Minister for Commerce, Industries & Production in his office today. Both sides realized the fact the current trade volume of US\$ 1.6 billion can be further increased by exploring more areas of cooperation especially in Value added agriculture sector and also in Textile & Garments.

proactive efforts to attract Foreign Direct Investment in key sectors such as Agriculture, Mining, Chemicals, and Information Technology. Commerce Minister extended an invitation to Brazil to consider investing in Pakistan's agricultural sector for farming and also offered to have Joint Ventures with Pakistani companies. Minister Gohar appreciated the Brazil's global prominence in agriculture, and expressed its strong desire to collaborate closely.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saifullah Abro, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Power presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.



## US, Europeans again threaten Iran with IAEA resolution but leave timing open

**Monitoring Desk**  
VIENNA: The U.S. and three European allies have threatened Iran with another resolution at the U.N. nuclear watchdog's board demanding action on issues such as explaining uranium traces found at undeclared sites, but left open whether or when they might follow through.

The warning delivered by Britain, France and Germany - the so-called E3 - and the U.S. to a quarterly International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors meeting published on Thursday comes as the West's standoff with Iran has been complicated by secret U.S.-Iran talks.

A November resolution ordered Tehran to cooperate urgently with the IAEA's investigation into

the presence of uranium particles at three undeclared sites, since narrowed down to two.

Western powers have recently condemned Iran for stonewalling the IAEA on that and other issues like the re-installation surveillance cameras removed last year, and for enriching uranium to up to 60% purity, close to weapons grade. But in parallel diplomats say the United States has held secret "de-escalation" talks with Iran, potentially muddying the waters.

Those de-escalation talks, which Washington does not acknowledge, cover issues such as Iran's recent slowdown of enrichment to 60% purity, frozen Iranian funds abroad, and a prisoner

swap, diplomats say.

"If Iran fails to implement the essential and urgent actions contained in the November 2022 Resolution and the 4<sup>th</sup> March Joint Statement in full, the Board will have to be prepared to take further action in support of the (IAEA) Secretariat to hold Iran accountable in the future, including the possibility of a resolution," the four Western powers said in a statement to the 35-nation IAEA board.

Iran tends to bristle at resolutions against it and respond by expanding or accelerating its nuclear activities. Iran says its nuclear programme is strictly for peaceful uses. Western powers say there is no credible civilian explanation for it.



Members of a medical team from Kozhikode Medical College carry areca nut and guava fruit samples to conduct tests for Nipah virus in Maruthonkara village in Kozhikode district, Kerala, India.

## US sanctions five Turkey-based firms in broad Russia action on over 100 targets

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The Biden administration on Thursday imposed sanctions on five Turkish companies and a Turkish national, accusing them of helping Russia evade sanctions and supporting Moscow in its war against Ukraine.

The designations, first reported by Reuters, target shipping and trade companies accused of helping repair sanctioned vessels tied to Russia's defense ministry and helping the transfer of "dual-use goods". The move is part of a bigger package of measures hitting Russia with sanctions on about 150 targets, including the country's largest carmaker.

The action comes at a delicate moment for U.S.-Turkey relations, with Washington hoping Ankara

will ratify NATO membership for Sweden when the Turkish parliament reconvenes in early October.

The United States and its allies imposed extensive sanctions on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine, but supply channels from Black Sea neighbor Turkey and other trading hubs have remained open, prompting Washington to issue repeated warnings about the export of chemicals, microchips and other products that can be used in Moscow's war effort.

Multiple senior U.S. officials, including Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo, have traveled to Turkey since Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine as part of a pressure campaign to prevent any Turkish companies from helping Russia circumvent U.S. curbs.

## Russia expels two US embassy staff for 'illegal activity'

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Russia said on Thursday it was expelling two U.S. diplomats whom it accused of working with a Russian national charged with collaborating with a foreign state.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement it had summoned U.S. envoy Lynne Tracy and told her that embassy First Secretary Jeffrey Sillin and Second Secretary David Bernstein must leave Russia within seven days.

The U.S. embassy confirmed the expulsions. There was no immediate comment from the State Department in Washington.

"The named people conducted illegal activity, maintaining contact with Russian citizen R. Shonov, accused of 'confidential cooperation' with a foreign state," the Russian statement said.

## Indian firms linked to cough syrup deaths received warnings

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: The deaths of 12 children in northern India between December 2019 and January 2020, police allege, were caused by adulterated cough syrup made by drug-maker Digital Vision. It was not the first time the company's medicines have come under scrutiny.

Indian drugs regulators found quality shortfalls in drugs made by Digital and its unit Orison Pharmaceuticals at least 22 times between 2012 and July this year, according to this news agency review of records from five states and India's federal drugs regulator CDSCO.

The medicines either did not contain the claimed volume of ingredients or failed to dissolve quickly enough for absorption by the body, according to the records.

Digital Vision founder Parshottam Goyal

## Last-ditch hunt for Morocco quake survivors

**Monitoring Desk**  
INEGHEDE: Rescue teams stepped up on Wednesday a massive effort in devastated Moroccan mountain villages as chances fade for finding survivors from last week's earthquake which killed 2,900 people and left many homeless.

Vehicles packed with supplies were inching up winding mountain roads to deliver desperately needed food and tents to survivors of the nation's strongest quake on record and deadliest in more than six decades. Smaller quakes are still rattling the disaster zone and one sent stones falling in the village of Imini Tala, where a person was injured following the jolt, journalists saw. Search teams were still scouring the rubble for the living. Morocco is now well past the 72-hour window when rescues are considered most likely.



View of the Ocean Explorer, a luxury cruise ship carrying 206 people that ran aground, in Alpefjord, Greenland.



Microsoft President Brad Smith, Nvidia's chief scientist William Dally, and Professor Woodrow Hartzog wait to testify before a Senate Judiciary Privacy, Technology, and the Law Subcommittee hearing on "Oversight of A.I. Legislation on Artificial Intelligence" on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S.

## China's defence minister, not seen in weeks, skipped Vietnam meet

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Chinese defence minister Li Shangfu abruptly pulled out of a meeting with Vietnamese defence leaders last week, three officials with direct knowledge of the matter said, amid questions about his more than two-weeks-long absence from public view.

Li, 65, was due to attend an annual gathering on defence cooperation hosted by Vietnam on its border with China on Sept. 7-8 but the meeting was postponed after Beijing told Hanoi days before the event that the minister had a "health condition," two Vietnamese

officials said.

The sudden postponement of the meeting and the reasons cited by China are being reported by Reuters for the first time.

China's State Council Information Office, as well as its defence and foreign ministries did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the Vietnam event. The Vietnamese embassy in Beijing couldn't immediately be reached for comment Thursday evening.

The abrupt cancellation of Li's trip follows China's unexplained replacement of Foreign Minister Qin Gang in July after

a prolonged absence from public view and a shake-up of the leadership of the People's Liberation Army's elite Rocket Force in recent months, moves that have raised questions about the Chinese leadership's decision-making.

Qin's meteoric ascent through the ranks of the Communist Party was partly attributed to his closeness to President Xi Jinping, making his removal after just seven months on the job even more unexpected.

Chinese officials initially said Qin's absence from public view was due to health reasons.

## Mercosur replies to EU trade deal addendum, talks to resume, Brazil says

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRASILIA: Brazil's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that Mercosur's response to the European Union's additions to their long-awaited trade accord has been delivered to Brussels and negotiators will meet by video-conference later in the day.

Splits within South American trade bloc Mercosur have dampened European hopes for the trade deal that was reached in 2019 after two decades of negotiations but has been on hold due to environmen-

tal concerns. Brazil currently holds the pro tempore presidency of Mercosur.

"Mercosur's response to the EU was sent last night," a foreign ministry spokesperson said.

"Today there is a video-conference between Mercosur and the EU to advance the discussion, which has been the subject of frequent meetings between negotiators," he said.

Two European diplomats confirmed this was the case.

## Taiwan blasts Elon Musk over latest China comments

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Taiwan is "not for sale," the island's foreign minister said in a stern rebuke to Elon Musk who asserted Taiwan was an integral part of China, as the billionaire again waded into the thorny issue of relations between Beijing and Taipei. Musk, the owner of the social media platform X formerly known as Twitter, as well as the Tesla (TSLA.O) electric car company and Starlink satellite network, made the comments to the All-In Summit in Los Angeles uploaded to YouTube this week.



Ukrainian servicemen of the Spartan Brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine are seen at a position at a front line, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine.

## France orders iPhone 12 sales halted over radiation

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French regulators on Tuesday ordered Apple to halt sales of the iPhone 12 for emitting too much electromagnetic radiation, and to fix existing handsets.

The French agency that regulates radio frequencies, the ANFR, said testing found that the model emits more electromagnetic waves susceptible to be absorbed by the body than permitted.

The ANFR said it "ordered Apple to remove the iPhone 12 from the French market from September 12 due to the model exceeding the limit" for elec-

tromagnetic absorption by the body.

It said accredited labs had found absorption of electromagnetic energy by the body at 5.74 watts per kilogram during tests simulating when the phone was being held in the hand or kept in a pocket.

The European standard is a specific absorption rate of 4.0 watts per kilogram in such tests.

"Concerning phones already sold, Apple must in the briefest of delays take corrective measures to bring the affected phones into compliance."

## UAE police say they have seized \$1 billion worth of Captagon amphetamines hidden in doors

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Police in Dubai seized 86 million tablets of the amphetamine known as Captagon hidden in a shipment of doors and decorative building panels, authorities said Thursday, estimating its street value at just over \$1 billion.

The bust comes as sales of the amphetamine have become a Mideast-wide problem during Syria's long war.

## Baby drowns during migrant rescue operation

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME/BERLIN: A five-month-old baby boy drowned during a rescue operation off the Italian island of Lampedusa after a boat carrying migrants across the sea from North Africa capsized, ANSA and other Italian news agencies reported on Wednesday.

The tragedy occurred as migrant landings on Lampedusa surged, leaving the small island struggling to cope. About 1,850 new arrivals landed on Wednesday, bringing the total number of migrants in Lampedusa to more than 6,700, according to ANSA. The boat the baby was travelling on capsized shortly before it was intercepted by the Italian coastguard.

## Sweden's figurehead king celebrates 50 years on the throne

**Monitoring Desk**  
STOCKHOLM: Sweden this week marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King Carl XVI Gustaf's accession to the throne with four days of celebrations that culminate with a military parade through the capital.

The scale of the golden jubilee may not reach the levels of royal anniversaries in Britain, but it's still a rare chance for the monarchy to fete itself with pomp and ceremony in the egalitarian Scandinavian country. Carl Gustaf, 77, is the first king in the Swedish monarchy's more than 1,000-year his-

tory to reach 50 years on the throne. And following the death of Queen Elizabeth II last year, he's the second-longest reigning European monarch alive today, after his cousin Queen Margrethe II, who celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Denmark's throne last year. Security is expected to be tight after Sweden raised its terror alert to the second-highest level following a string of public desecrations of the Quran that sparked angry demonstrations across Muslim countries and threats from militant groups.

## F-35 fighter jets land in NATO member Denmark to replace F-16s, some of which will go to Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
COPENHAGEN: Four F-35 fighter jets landed Thursday at an airbase in Denmark in the first installment of the U.S.-made planes ordered by the NATO member to replace its aging fleet of F-16s, some of which have been promised to Ukraine.

Dignitaries and officers clapped as the planes, in Danish Air Force colors, did several flyovers before landing at the Skrydstrup Air Base.

Ukraine has been asking for Western fighter jets to help it resist the Russian invasion that began in February 2022. The United States recently gave its approval for Denmark and the Netherlands to provide Ukraine with the American-made jets.

Last month, the two countries said they would donate F-16 aircraft to Ukraine, with Denmark pledging 19 and the Netherlands an unspecified number. Denmark said it would need to receive new F-35s first, and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said in August that she hoped the first six F-16s could be handed over to Ukraine around New Year.

## Religious hatred 'totally unacceptable', UN chief says on return from G20 summit in India

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, responding to a question about the recent attacks against Muslims and Christians in India, said Wednesday that religious hatred was "totally unacceptable."

The UN chief, back from his trip to New Delhi for the G20 leaders' summit, was asked by a Pakistani journalist whether in light of the summit's declaration, which deplored all acts of religious hatred, he raised with the Indian leadership the recent violence against the minorities by Hindu extremists in India.

"Well, I had no meeting with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi — There was no bilateral meeting during the summit," the secretary-general told a crowded press conference to set the scene for next week's high-level UN General Assembly's debate.

"But", he added, "our position is clear: Religious intolerance is a violation of human rights that is totally unacceptable."

In his opening remarks, the UN chief had a clear message for world leaders arriving in New York next week: "This is not a time for posturing or positioning."

Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will be among over 100 world leaders attending the debate.

"Action is what the world needs," Guterres said defining the gathering of 193 member states for the UN General Assembly High Level Week as a "one of a kind moment" to both assess the state of world affairs but also "act for the common good."

"This is not a time for indifference or indecision," Antonio Guterres told reporters at the UN Headquarters. "This is a time to come together for real, practical solutions."

## SFJ to hold Khalistan Referendum Phase II in October

**Monitoring Desk**  
VANCOUVER: The pro-Khalistan secessionist group, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), plans to hold Khalistan Referendum-II on October 29, 2023, in Surrey, BC, Canada, emboldened by the unequivocal and principled stand of Canadian Liberal and Conservative leadership on pro-Khalistan activities in Canada.

Alongside Khalistan Referendum-II, SFJ has announced its plans for the "Shaheed Nijjar Kill India Referendum", after a turnout of over 135,000 Sikhs in support of Khalistan creation on September 10 at the Guru Nanak Gurdawara in Surrey, British Columbia and to further allow those to vote who couldn't vote due to the heavy turnout.

The central question of the referendum, according to the SFJ, is whether Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma bears responsibility for the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The voting will take place at the Gurdwara, which was the site of the tragic assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the President of Khalistan Referendum Canada and a prominent Sikh activist who was assassinated on

June 18, 2023, by a group of unidentified individuals believed to be Indian state agents.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, SFJ General Counsel, emphasised that pro-Khalistan Sikhs have transitioned from armed struggle to peaceful means, "From Bullet to Ballot" in their quest to liberate Punjab from Indian occupation. In October 2021, the US-based Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) began the Khalistan Referendum voting campaign in the UK. Since then, similar events occurred in over a dozen European cities. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Khalistan Referendum-I took place at Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, drawing an unprecedented turnout of more than 135,000 Sikh voters. Remarkably, this exceeded the previous record set five months ago in Brompton, Canada.

It is worth noting that over 50,000 individuals were unable to cast their votes before the polling concluded.

The independent Punjab Referendum Commission (PRC) employed several hundred individuals to oversee the voting process, ensuring a fair procedure for this significant demand.

## Scientists call fraud on supposed extraterrestrials presented to Mexican Congress

**Monitoring Desk**  
MEXICO CITY: Supposed aliens landed in Mexico's Congress but there were no saucer-shaped UFOs hovering over the historic building or bright green invaders like those seen in Hollywood films.

The specter of little green men visited Mexico City as lawmakers heard testimony Tuesday from individuals suggesting the possibility that extraterrestrials might exist. The researchers hailed from Mexico, the United States, Japan and Brazil.

The session, unprecedented in the Mexican Congress, took place two months after a similar one before the U.S. Congress in which a former U.S. Air Force intelligence officer claimed his country has probably been aware of "non-human" activity since the 1930s.

Mexican journalist José Jaime Maussan presented two boxes with sup-

posed mummies found in Peru, which he and others consider "non-human beings that are not part of our terrestrial evolution."

The shriveled bodies with shrunken, warped heads left those in the chamber aghast and quickly kicked up a social media fervor.

"It's the queen of all evidence," Maussan claimed. "That is, if the DNA is showing us that they are non-human beings and that there is nothing that looks like this in the world, we should take it as such."

But he warned that he didn't want to refer to them as "extraterrestrials" just yet.

The apparently desiccated bodies date back to 2017 and were found deep underground in the sandy Peruvian coastal desert of Nazca. The area is known for gigantic enigmatic figures scaped into the earth and seen only from a bird's-eye view.





ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the Annual Ambassadors' Dinner, organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Democracy in Pak owes a lot to sacrifices offered by SZAB, Benazir: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Thursday said that democracy had rendered itself as best form of government across the world. He said that the countries which cherished and implemented the democratic values had touched the height of prosperity and development.

Raja Pervaiz said "Pakistan has been blessed with energetic and talented youth bulge which will lead Pakistan on the path of development and progress," he expressed these views in his message on the International day of Democracy.

The speaker said the nation would always remain indebted to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for their historic struggle and sacrifices for ensuring democracy in the country.

He expressed that they firmly believed that all powers to determine the destiny of the nation rest with people and it was well documented in the annals of the history that they never compromised on it.



Chairman PM's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism Minister of State Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani in a meeting with caretaker CM Balochistan Ali Mardan Khan Domki at CM House, Quetta.

## UN organizes eight of 12 dialogues about sustainable development in Quetta

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Today the eighth of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development was held in Quetta, Balochistan, by the United Nations and the district administration.

In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories are discussing the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts. The dialogues are being held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan.

"These dialogues bring the United Nations closer to the people and the local governments that we serve," said Julien Harneis, 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 to sustainable development." In Quetta, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event: governance, digital transformation, youth employment and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Nearly 100 local leaders—women and men, including youth—participated together with senior officials from Quetta.



RAWALPINDI: H.E. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador to Turkey called on Minister for Defence Lt. Gen. Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) in Ministry of Defence.

## PAPSA's leaders demand govt to provide relief to private schools

QUETTA (APP) Central leader of Pakistan Alliance of Private Schools Associations Alliance (PAPSA), Sahibzada Sajjad Masood Chishti, Vice Chairman of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Pindarani on Thursday demanded to Caretaker federal and provincial governments would take practical steps to provide relief to private education sectors. They said that private schools were facing difficulties due to inflation and the huge increase in electricity prices.

It is also feared that the number of schools closed due to inflation will be more than the number of private schools closed during the corona epidemic, they said.

They expressed these views while talking to the delegation of Pakistan Alliance of Private Schools Associations. The delegation included central leader Amanullah Tareen, Muhammad Zaman Yousofzai, Haji Abdul Wahab Khan Kakar, Ali Ahmad Baloch, Abdul Qahar Khan Kakar, Madam Shazia Ali, Zia-ul-Rehman Bangluzai, Kaleemullah Khan Achakzai, Mirwais Khan Khilji and others.

## CPEC transforms Pak social economic landscape: Ambassador Haque

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road (BRI), has transformed Pakistan's socio-economic landscape and brought tangible benefits to its people.

"The BRI paved with the principles of peaceful coexistence, good neighborliness, and win-win cooperation has also brought nations together in harmony, transcending differences and working towards shared prosperity," he told local media during his visit to the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body. The ambassadors and diplomats from 18 countries, including Laos, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan participated in a thematic forum with CPPCC National Committee members to exchange views on the role of consultation in deepening Belt and Road cooperation.

## Chairman PM Task Force for Gandhara meets Domki: Steps taken for preservation of places of ancient civilizations being made more effective: caretaker CM

**Dr. Ramesh Kumar opines Gandhara civilization can be helpful in promoting national solidarity among federating units of country**

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the civilization of Gandhara has key importance in the international recognition of Pakistan and the steps taken for preservation of the places having ancient civilization are being made more effective and fruitful.

In this context, the ongoing efforts would also be improved after reviewing the recommendations of the Prime Minister Task Force for Gandhara.

The caretaker Chief Minister stated so while speaking to the caretaker Federal Minister and Chairman PM Task Force for Gandhara, Dr. Ramesh Kumar who called on him here on Thursday.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that comprehensive planning is being made for making the steps of improvement in communication network, easy access and provision of basic facilities sustainable.

He said that it is endeavor of the government to adopt such a comprehensive and coordinated strategy, which has sustainable results, he maintained.

Mardan Ali Domki on the occasion termed the ancient Gandhara civilization as reflection of the tolerance, harmony and brotherhood and appreciated the stance of Dr. Ramesh that the civilization can be helpful in promoting national solidarity among all federating units of the country.

During the meeting, Dr. Ramesh informed the caretaker Chief Minister about the details of proposed Gandhara Corridor project. He told that the ancient archeological sites of Gandhara civilization are located in all the four provinces and Gilgit Baltistan.

Out of them, five archeological locations are present in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one each in Sindh and Balochistan, 10 in Punjab and four in GB, adding he mentioned. While the area of Islamabad was also important part of the Gandhara, adding he mentioned.

Moreover, he informed that the ancient caves situated in Gondrani city Roghan had also been built by the Budhas' followers in the 7th centuries. However, only 500 out of around 1500 ancient caves are present in good condition.

## SC returns PTI's petition regarding elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Registrar Office of the Supreme Court on Thursday raised objections on the constitutional petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking general elections within 90 days of the assemblies' dissolution and returned it.

The Registrar Office objected that the petitioner had not approached the relevant forums before filing the case in the SC.

It also raised the objection on naming President Arif Alvi as respondent, observing that the head of the state could not be made a part of the petition under Article 248. Moreover, it was also not mentioned which fundamental right of the petitioner was violated, the Registrar Office added. The petition also did not meet the requirements seeking the apex court's proceedings under Article 184/3, it said.

## Pakistani pilgrims facing difficulties at Iraqi border

ISLAMABAD (Online): Millions of Pakistani pilgrims entered Iraq through Iran on the occasion of Arbaeen Hussaini. Returning Pakistani pilgrims are facing difficulties at the Chazabeh border.

According to sources, the pilgrims are short of food and water in the heat of 46 degrees Celsius. Women and children are facing very difficult situation in extreme heat neither water nor food nor phone signals are there.

Pilgrims have appealed for help from the Pakistani embassy in Iraq. On the other hand, 18 Pakistani pilgrims are stuck at Baghdad Airport and are not getting return tickets.

## Bugti condemns attack on JUI leader Hafiz Hamdullah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim interior minister Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the attack on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) leader Hafiz Hamdullah on Thursday in Mastung, Balochistan.

The minister prayed for the quick recovery of the JUI leader and others injured in the blast.

He said, the entire nation is united in war against terrorism and will never allow terrorist to succeed in their nefarious designs.

"Terrorists want to spread anarchy in the country," said the minister adding that the government will not spare the enemies of the country's development and peace.

## Lab on Wheel at UoT inaugurated in collaboration with VU

**Independent Report**  
TURBAT: The Mobile Laboratory, also known as the 'Lab on Wheels,' was operationalized at the University of Turbat (UoT). This initiative was launched by the University of Turbat in collaboration with the Virtual University (VU) of Pakistan to enhance academic excellence and research advancement at UoT.

The purpose of this Mobile Lab is to engage the students of the Natural and Basic Sciences and Chemistry Department of UoT in hands-on scientific laboratory activities, bridging the gap between theory and practical knowledge in their respective fields.

Dr. Mansoor Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) of UoT along with Dr. Gul Hasan, Dean of the Faculty of Legal Education inaugurated the Mobile Laboratory in the presence of representatives from Virtual University, UoT's Registrar, Deans, Directors, Heads of various Departments, Faculty Members, Administrative Staff, and Students of UoT. PVC requested the Registrar of the Virtual University to extend this hands-on practical opportunity to UoT's science students every semester. Speaking on the occasion, the PVC stated that this pioneering initiative would provide science students at UoT with ample opportunities to apply their theoretical knowledge.

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## QNETA: Caretaker Provincial Ministers Shaima Khan and Prince Ahmed Ali meeting with Inspector General of Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Ministers Shaima Khan and Prince Ahmed Ali meeting with Inspector General of Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

## Nine students selected from Balochistan for Reko Diq 'Int'l Graduate Programme'

QUETTA (APP): The highly-coveted RDMC (Barrick) International Graduate Program launched in July this year culminated with the selection of nine young graduates from across Balochistan on Thursday. The primary goal is to cultivate a cadre of future experts and leaders who will not only fill the void in the region's skill landscape but also champion the Reko Diq Mining Company along with their province. Being a global company, Barrick has its presence in 19 countries and seeks to facilitate cross-border learning of its team members so that there is opportunity to transfer knowledge and skill and enhance in-country capability. For Pakistan this program is an investment to build national human resource capacity for the mining sector. The International Graduate Program has a term of two years after which employees usually return to their country of origin to work for the Barrick business there.

The nine individuals, four of whom are women, belong to various parts of the province and were selected through a merit-driven process. The graduates selected come from across the province of Balochistan from districts such as Panjgur, Gwadar, Quetta, Loralai, Khuzdar, Pishin and the RDMC district of operations Chagai. Disciplines that RDMC (Barrick) has hired from are Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Renewable Energy and Geology.

RDMC made a conscious effort to find Baloch students since opportunities for employment and training have historically been limited in the province. RDMC approached various educational institutions.

## Peace, equitable development inevitable to attract trade, stop brain drain: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday while calling the international responsibility for peace a foundation for trade, urged the world to ensure equitable development across the world to address the issue of brain drain from developing countries. The president, addressing the Annual LCCI Ambassadors' Dinner 2023, exemplified Europe saying that by enhancing mutual trade, the world had moved towards peace but it required enhanced efforts to create an enabling atmosphere all around. He said Pakistan, being the fifth largest country in the world did not need any charity but the trade with the international world.

He said Pakistan desired the developed world to share its expertise in information technology with Pakistan as pursuing the ideals of "one humanity", they should spend their resources for the betterment of the people outside their borders too. President Alvi said the brain drain made the nations lose competent individuals despite having spent huge resources on their education.

The provision of equitable development would help such individuals to contribute to their own countries. Recounting Europe's journey to get rid of war, the president said women and children had always been the major casualties of conflicts, and the establishment of peace required the elimination of exploitation. Highlighting the double standards, the president said the signing of peace conventions and their violations could not go on simultaneously.

He said the world must focus on enhancing cooperation for the betterment of the next generations as all the world religions preached human service. President Alvi said that as artificial intelligence was impacting human decision-making, it required timely efforts to tackle the challenge before it got out of control. He urged the diplomats to persuade their respective business communities to take advantage of Pakistan's renewed commitment to attract investment with a particular focus on a few sectors through a one-window facility.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hanzha Shafqat and Deputy Commissioner Lt (Retd) Saad bin Asad meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Resignation of Prosecutor General NAB accepted

ISLAMABAD (Online): The resignation of Prosecutor General NAB Justice @ Asghar Haider has been accepted.

According to notification issued by Law Ministry, Law Ministry has issued the notification of approval.

Asghar Haider's resignation is accepted from September 15.

## PPP serves notice to Latif

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has issued a show cause notice to Sardar Latif Khosa, its Central Executive Committee (CEC) member and senior lawyer on Thursday.

Latif Khosa and Aitzaz Ahsan, have been at odds with the party leadership over their support to former prime minister Imran Khan in his legal troubles.

Earlier, both senior lawyers were invited to attend the CEC meeting in Lahore on September 14 (today).

"Latif Khosa has been a member of the People's Party's CEC but without informing the party assisting the head of another party in legal cases, who has been convicted under corruption charges," according to the show cause notice.

"You have criticized the state over cipher in lawyers' convention."

"Deliver your reply of this show cause notice within 7 days, in case of no-reply, action will be taken as per the rules and your basic membership of the party can be terminated," Khosa has been warned.

The PPP's secretary general Nayyar Bukhari has issued the show cause notice to Latif Khosa.

## Prevention of smuggling Jan Achakzai appreciates measures of administration

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has appreciated the measures taken by administration for prevention of smuggling in the province.

In an official statement issued here on Thursday, Jan Achakzai termed the anti-smuggling measures as satisfactory and remarked that the network of smuggling has been exposed because of the measures taken recently by the provincial administration.

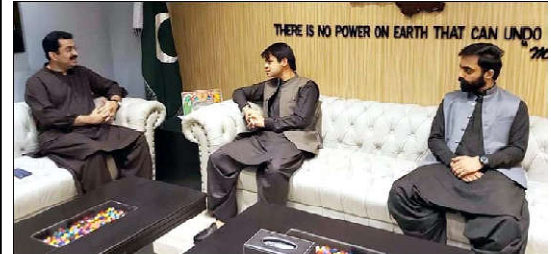
He observed that better coordination is being witnessed among administration of all the districts. Due to the timely intervention, prices of sugar and other commodities have been reduced considerably.

he maintained.

Jan Achakzai said that the smuggling is being eliminated through the best assistance of all law enforcement agencies. He asserted that Balochistan would no longer be a safe place for smuggling of any thing.

In addition to this, the action has also been taken against creating artificial shortage of the dollars for district administration and other concerned departments deserve appreciation, he said.

The caretaker Provincial Minister said that it is our utmost endeavour to provide maximum relief to the masses by taking steps in their larger interest for the provincial administration has demonstrated excellent performance.



QUETTA: Caretaker Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada Jamal Raisani meeting with DG Levies Naseebullah Kakar

## Jan slams attack on Hamdullah: Govt. determined to identify & apprehend foreign elements complicit in attack

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has strongly condemned the attack on senior leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Hafiz Hamdullah in Mastung on Thursday.

In a condemnation statement issued here, the Provincial Minister Information said that the government is determined to identify and apprehend the foreign elements complicit in the attack.

He also said that Balochistan's peace and harmony would not be allowed to be destroyed.

Jan Achakzai said that an investigation has been initiated to bring the culprits involved in the attack to justice. It may be mentioned here that in all 11 persons including Hafiz Hamdullah were injured in a bomb blast occurred on the road side in Mastung area on Thursday afternoon.

## ECP will release election schedule by Nov: Kanwar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kanwar Dilshad, former chief secretary of the election commission on Thursday said that the ECP will release election schedule by November. He said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has currently been engaged in fresh delimitation exercise that could be concluded by November 20. "The constitution says the election should be held within 90 days after dissolution of assemblies," former ECP official said. "A turmoil being created referring the 90 days' condition repeatedly," he added.

Commenting on the President's role, Dilshad said that he could only give his suggestion to the election commission.

Kanwar Dilshad earlier said he did not see the next general elections to be held before February 15, 2024, after the Council of Common Interest (CCI) approval of the Digital Census 2023. Talking to a private TV news channel, the former ECP secretary pointed out that a fresh delimitation exercise, which takes around four to six months, would make it impossible to conduct the general polls due before October 12 this year. He said that the ECP is legally bound to hold a fresh delimitation exercise, noting that the next elections.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Saleh Muhammad Nassar presiding over a meeting of Provincial Task Force for prevention of electricity theft