

# Independent

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Justice Qazi Faez Isa says

## Transferring suo motu powers to three-member committee not an attack on CJP rights

In historic first, the case proceedings were broadcast live; Do not want absolute powers, says CJP; Hearing on law clipping CJP powers adjourned till Oct 3; Seeks replies from all parties by September 25

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Monday observed that parliament's SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 was not an attempt to clip the top judge's rights by devolving the suo motu powers to a three-member committee.

The new CJP passed the remarks during a full court hearing on the petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.

The historic hearing, which was held almost throughout the day, has been adjourned till October 3.

The hearing was seen as historic because, for the first time in the country's judicial history, the Supreme Court allowed live telecast of proceedings on the petitions challenging the contentious law seeking to regulate suo motu powers of the country's top judge.

During the hearing, CJP Isa said arguments in the case will begin afresh because the new bench has been formed.

There were three applications to make a full court, which had been approved, CJP Isa observed.

Ahead of the hearing today, the Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan submitted the federal government's response in

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## Reports of selling arms to Ukraine for IMF bailout package baseless: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): The foreign office on Monday vehemently rejected claims that Pakistan agreed to supply weapons to Ukraine in return for securing an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout in July, saying the country maintained a "policy of strict neutrality." The rebuttal from the foreign office came after The Intercept, a US publication, claimed in its latest report that Pakistan supplied weapons to Ukraine via the United States in order to secure the IMF deal.

The publication backed its claims by two sources with knowledge of the arrangement, saying that internal documents from both the Pakistani and American governments confirm the development.

## Balochistan CM takes notice of girl died falling into open sewer

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki took notice of the girl incident who died after falling into the open sewer of a private shopping Mall in Quetta on Monday.

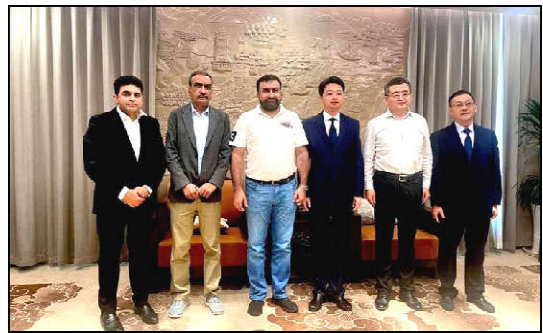
He also sought a report of the incident from the concerned administrative authorities saying that the persons guilty of negligence should be determined after investigation.

He said no exemption would be granted to those found guilty of negligence.

## Solangi felicitates PTV News for live broadcast of SC proceedings

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday congratulated a team of PTV News which ensured live broadcast of a day-long proceedings of the apex court on a case related to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.

"The team of PTV News deserves appreciation for bringing a day-long live broadcast of a very important case (Practice and Procedure Act) of the Supreme Court to the public for the first time in the history of Pakistan," the minister said in a post on X.



Federal Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Bugti received by Mayor Lianyungang on his arrival to attend 2023 Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum.

## Governor Balochistan emphasizes upon: We have to bring people closer to knowledge, wisdom & creativity for promotion of healthy environment

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that we have to bring people closer to the knowledge, wisdom and creative activities in order to promote healthy environment. He said that at the moment, the poverty and illiteracy are two major socio-economic stigma.

The Governor was speaking to the Pashto classical singer, Ejaz Ufaq who called on him here on Monday. The Governor said that the lively people of our society are no more lively because of the poor economic state and undue circumstances of the whole region for last several years.

He said that those creating creative and critic mind are lacking in the society.

While on the other hand, the intolerance and wave of extremism have affected the good sense as well, he regretfully pointed out.

The Governor also said that there are several prominent names in the Pashto music and singing, whose services are invaluable.

Undoubtedly, he mentioned that the signers and artists happen to be the ambassadors of social activities as such there is a dire need to encourage and financially support those associated with them. He also stressed the need to honour the democratic behaviours and difference of opinion and maintain the environment of peace and harmony so as to create more stability, equality and mutual trust in the society.



KARACHI: Amir Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman enquiring about health of Hafiz Hamdullah who was injured in Mastung blast.

## Pace of work on Quetta Dev. Package reviewed: Quetta would turn into modern beautiful city with completion of dev. projects, believes CS

Shakeel Qadir Khan directs to complete all development projects of roads under Quetta Development Package by removing all hurdles in way of completion

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has directed the concerned high ups to expedite the pace of work on development projects of the roads being executed under Quetta Development Package removing all hurdles in way of their timely completion.

The Chief Secretary said that Quetta would turn into a modern beautiful city once the development projects of Quetta Package are completed well in time.

He was chairing a meeting held to review progress of the development projects including roads expansion and repair under

the Quetta Development Package here on Monday. Those who were in attendance at meeting were included: senior Member Board of Revenue, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar, Secretary Communications, Ali Akbar Baloch, Secretary Planning and Development, Asghar Harifal, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Project Director Quetta Package, Muhammad Rafiq Baloch.

The meeting reviewed progress on the projects being executed under Quetta Development Package.

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ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa presides over the hearing of petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, held at Supreme Court of Pakistan Building in Islamabad.

## PM says he will fully present Pakistan's stance on Kashmir issue in UNGA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that he would fully present Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue in the United Nations General Assembly.

He said the United Nations had already pledged to decide the fate of the disputed region of Kashmir through a plebiscite.

In his interview to a private news channel here on Monday recorded before his departure from Islamabad to the US to attend the 78th UNGA in New York, the prime minister said there were various separatist movements in India, including Khalistan, and Pakistan was also a claimant on the issue of Junagadh.

Replying to a question, PM Kakar said he was fully aware of the people's difficulties who were extremely worried over the rising prices of petrol and other



essential items. He said in Pakistan, the petroleum prices were determined on the basis of international prices. Unfortunately, he said, the prices in the international market were very high these days.

With respect to the taxation system in the country, the prime minister said people were facing problems due to a bad tax system that desperately needed to be improved. He said the rupee had stabilized in recent days due to better administrative measures.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai and Minister for Finance Amjad Rasheed addressing a press conference.

## Pakistan can play an important role on UN platform, Munir Akram

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan permanent representative to United Nations Munir Akram said that Pakistan can play an important role on United Nations (UN) platform.

The peace of South Asia is linked Kashmir issue. We want solution for Kashmir issue according to resolutions of United Nations (UN).

In a statement Munir Akram said that world is currently facing many serious challenges such as food insecurity due to wars, in-

crease in global warming, global pandemics and recessions.

He said that United Nations platform can provide best solution to tackle all the challenges. Investment is very important for social development and improvement of economy.

He said that caretaker Prime Minister (PM) will address United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He has scheduled meetings with world leaders and various investment companies.

## LHC issues non-bailable arrest warrants for IGP Islamabad

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for inspector general of police (IGP) Islamabad on his non-appearance despite issuance of bailable arrest warrants, in a contempt proceedings over defiance of an order for production of former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez

Elahi. The court also issued show cause notice to the superintendent police concerned for not executing bailable arrest warrants of the IGP Islamabad.

Justice Mirza Viqas Rauf passed the orders while hearing a contempt petition filed by Qaisara Elahi, wife of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding development projects under Quetta Development Package

## Caretaker CM emphasizes on check & balance in running Govt. affairs & implementation on existing laws

Mir Ali Mardan asks CMIT to ensure effective implementation on strategy for timely disposing of all pending matters

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has emphasized that check and balance is quite necessary in the government affairs and implementation on the existing laws to ensure good governance.

The Chief Minister also stressed that Chief Minister's Inspection Team (CMIT) should demonstrate wholehearted effectiveness while disposing of all the pending cases on merit. He was speaking to the Chairman CMIT, Abdul Rehman Buzdar who called on him on Monday.

During the meeting, Chairman CMIT informed the caretaker Chief Minister about the performance of CMIT.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that correct use of resources and powers is the hallmark of a better and organized form of government for it is necessary to review



the government measures and affairs on that legal lines that are framed for the purpose, he maintained.

He was of the strong view that the fruits of government measures can benefit the people only when the correct use of available resources are ensured.

The caretaker Chief Minister directed to ensure effective implementation on the strategy for timely disposing of all the pending cases.

Meanwhile, a delegation of tribal elders led by Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai called on the

caretaker Chief Minister the same day.

Similarly, the Advisor to Chief Minister, Umair Khan Muhammad Hassani, Chairman Balochistan Revenue Authority, Noorul Haq Baloch, senior member Board of Revenue, Abdul Saboor Kakar, former Minister, Yahya Khan Nasar, tribal elders Anwar Khan Nasar, Abdullah Jan Nasar and former Minister, Mir Habibur Rehman Muhammad Hassani also had separate meetings with the caretaker Chief Minister and discussed different matters.

## CJP refuses to receive guard of honor

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa reached Supreme Court and refused to receive guard of honor.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa has directed the police to fulfill their duties wholeheartedly and refused to receive guard of honor.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa was welcomed by staff on his arrival at Supreme Court.

Speaking to staff on this occasion Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) said that today I have many meetings and there is full court. I need your cooperation.

A guard of honor was to be presented to the Chief Justice by the Islamabad Police.

Police also gave guard of honor to former Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa reached Supreme Court without protocol.

According to media reports CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa has refused to take protocol and car as Chief Justice.

## Govt requests SC to reject petitions against SC Practice and procedure act

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has requested the Supreme Court (SC) to reject the petitions against Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act.

Attorney General has filed federal government written reply in the court in this regard.

Through the reply, the court has been requested the petitions against the law of parliament are non-maintainable. The petitions against practice and procedure act be dismissed.

The federal government has said in the reply that parliament can legislate under article 191 of the constitution. Article 191 of the constitution does not stop the parliament from legislating. The independence of the judiciary is not affected by practice and procedure act. The reply said no power of SC has been returned under practice and procedure act.

## Bilawal says PPP to consider political alliances once election schedule announced

OKARA (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday said the PPP would deliberate on forming political alliances once the election date is announced.

With elections potentially just a few months away, Bilawal has been engaging in public gatherings and organising party meetings as part of the party's electoral preparations of late.

Responding to a question while addressing a press conference in Okara, Bilawal said: "Ask me what alliance I'm going for or not [with any other party] when the election schedule is announced."

The PPP chairman reiterated his request to the ECP to announce the date for the upcoming polls and their schedule. He added that such a move would address any concern of the

PPP or any other party.

Bilawal also talked about the party's recent request to co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari to raise their complaints regarding an "uneven playing field" with all quarters concerned, and requested him to pull through with the responsibility he was given.

"Otherwise, I request Zardari sahib to not tie my hands," he added.

The PPP chairman also expressed his well wishes for new Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and said he hoped that the judge would improve the Supreme Court's affairs.

PPP rules out PTI alliance as PDM parties drift

Bilawal's comments came after the PPP rejected even the possibility of such an alliance with the PTI while the member parties of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) drift apart.



QUETTA: Additional IG Jawad Dogar meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Caption (retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

## Over 2,330 KG charas seized; four arrested: ANF foils major attempt of smuggling of huge quantity of drugs in interior Sindh

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) foiled major bid of smuggling of huge quantity of narcotics from Chaman to interior Sindh via Quetta on Monday. According to ANF spokesman, over 2,330 kilogram of charas was being smuggled by a truck load of mixture of cement when it was intercepted by a team of ANF intelligence. During the thorough checking, the ANF team recovered the huge quantity of narcotics concealed in the hidden area of the cement mixture.

Two accused were also arrested from the truck. In addition to this, a car was also impounded which was clearing the passage for the truck load of narcotics. Two more accused riding in the car were also apprehended. All four accused belonged to Quetta, Chaman and Killa Abdullah.

During the interrogation, the narcotics was being smuggled from Chaman to the interior Sindh.

A case has been registered against the alleged smuggler and further investigations is in progress.



QUETTA: A delegation of tribal elites led by Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

## Judge official secret act court seeks explanation from Attock jail Supdt

ISLAMABAD (Online): Judge official secret act court has sought explanation from Attock jail superintendent for not arranging PII Chairman Imran Khan talks to his sons on telephone and whatsapp.

The contempt of court petition against superintendent Attock Jail for not arranging PII chairman Imran Khan talks on telephone and whatsapp to his sons came up for hearing in official secret act court Monday.

Shiraz Ahmad Ranjha, counsel for PII chairman appeared in the court.

He took the plea PII chairman is not convicted in cipher case. He is in Attock jail on judicial remand. Secret act or Punjab

jail law apply to the criminals.

The counsel for the petitioner said Chairman PII is not criminal in cipher case so far. Punjab prisoners laws apply to convicted criminals. Facility of telephonic meeting in Attock jail is available to all accused.

Counsel for PII said facility of telephonic talks have been provided to all prisoners since two to three years. But not arranging telephonic talks of chairman PII to his sons is injustice.

The counsel Shiraz Ranjha requested the court to initiate the contempt of court proceedings against superintendent jail Attock.

Judge Abul Hasnat

Zulqarnain got written the decision in open court and sought report from the superintendent Attock jail for not arranging telephonic talks of Imran Khan with his sons.

Counsel for PII requested the court to adjourn the hearing till September 26.

The learned judge remarked judicial remand of chairman PII is going to expire on September 26. I will talk to superintendent Attock Jail myself.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain said may be the matters are settled with Attock jail superintendent there.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till September 28.

## Misbah backs Babar Azam as captain for World Cup

**Sports Desk**  
LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Technical Committee chairman Misbahul Haq on Monday defended national team skipper Babar Azam as his side came under massive criticism following its performance in the recently concluded Asia Cup.

At a press conference, Haq, who is also former captain of the national team, admitted the mistakes made by the team in matches of the tournament.

Last week, the Indian top order completely dominated Pakistan, who had no answer to the batting onslaught by Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul. Asked to chase a gigantic total of 357, Babar Azam and his men could not rise to the occasion and folded for 128. The failure sparked massive criticism on captaincy of Babar Azam.

Amid the criticism, Misbahul Haq hoped that the national team would stage a comeback in the upcoming ODI World Cup, which is set to begin in Oct 5 in India. He remarked that the performance of team in the Asia Cup was disappointing but at the same time he highlighted that win and loss were part of the game.

The burden of the high-margin defeat could not only be put on Babar Azam's shoulder, he said, adding: "It's a failure of the whole team".

## Free ration distributed among thousands of deserving families

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Free ration has been distributed to thousands of deserving families of Balochistan donated by Consul General of China Karachi.

On the occasion of distribution of free ration to the deserving families in different districts of Balochistan, they said that the distribution of free ration to the poor, unemployed, helpless and deserving families of Balochistan by the Consul General of China Karachi is no less than a great blessing for every citizen of Balochistan.

It bears witness to the fact that whenever there is a time of trouble, floods,

Awais Khaver, a research associate and policy expert at the Institute.

Deputy Executive Director, Resilience Development Program & Policy Outreach, SDPI, Shafiqat Munir in his opening remarks said the Institute had conducted a series of policy papers on the country's access to climate finance, disaster risk reduction (DRR), institutional capacity and loss and damage fund.

He said it was beyond that Pakistan was facing climate change, but rather it required adaptation and mitigation efforts to ensure its sustainable future.

When the issues of mitigation and adaptation were discussed it had a price tag that should come from the polluting entities or the country's bearing the burden of global warming, he

added. The panel would be led by Ahmed Awais Khaver the lead author of the policy paper.

Dr Munir underlined that the negative climate financing like investments in solar panels whose waste would be an issue after 25 years also needed to be considered in the major policy discourse.

"Climate change adaptation and DRR need to be linked to get more climate financing to improve the resilience of the country whereas Carbon taxation is an interesting idea and China's example is worth mentioning which had been implemented for its power companies," he added.

The policy paper author, Ahmed Khaver briefed the participants on his study document. Explaining the international

context of climate finance, he said the adaptation finance had increased from 20-28% from 2017-20 whereas there was stagnated funding provided for both mitigation and adaptation-related projects.

"There has been a little increase in international climate finance as \$803 billion have been provided globally for climate finance," he added.

In Pakistan's context, he said the 2022 floods alone caused \$30 billion in losses \$16 billion was required for reconstruction and it required \$7-14 billion for annual adaptation purposes.

Pakistan has not utilized climate investment funds (CIFs) and there was space to engage CIFs and bilateral and multilateral funds still available at the global level, he added.



MOHENJO DARO: A delegation of Russian tourists are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

## Fai urges world leaders gathered at UN to push for Kashmir resolution

UNITED NATIONS (APP): As world leaders descended on New York to speak at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), a prominent Kashmiri leader Monday appealed for decisive steps to implement UN Resolutions on the Kashmir dispute that give Kashmiri people the right of self-determination to decide their destiny.

"The clock is ticking -- every day that passes without resolution of the Kashmir dispute is one day closer to a cataclysm that will reach far beyond the borders of all countries in-

olved," Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice, said in a statement referring to the heightening tensions between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan over the decades-old dispute.

"Kashmir has international legitimacy, having numerous UN Security Council resolutions which have given the right to self-determination to the people to decide their destiny," he said, stressing that those resolutions should once and for all be honoured.

Dr. Fai said the silence of the world powers had emboldened India to un-

leash a chilling campaign of human rights atrocities against innocent Kashmiris, despite being the signatory to the UN Charter itself.

"It is a crime in Kashmir to salute the United Nations Charter or implementation of the Security Council plebiscite resolutions, a shocking affront to the UN General Assembly itself."

Pointing out that Kashmir is the only nation surrounded by three nuclear powers - India, Pakistan & China - Dr Fai said a nuclear threat was everpresent, and he urged the major powers to take this seriously.

rains, storms, earthquakes, the blessed month of Ramadan or the joyous occasion of Eid, China generously helps the people of Pakistan, especially Balochistan, in the true sense. Cooperation has been done and will continue to be done, so now it is common knowledge that Pakistan-China friendship is higher than the Himalayan mountains and stronger than the rocks. It is no less than the help of an angel, because with the free ration given by them, we unemployed, poor, helpless and children of deserving families got something to eat. At the end Pakistan and China slogans of Zindabad were raised.

**Foolproof security to be ensured for minority worship places: DPO City**  
ISLAMABAD (INP): Divisional Police Officer (DPO) City Zone Hassan Jehangir has said all necessary security arrangements have been made to ensure foolproof security of worship places of minority places and these measures will further enhance their protection.

On special directives of Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), the DPO held a meeting with a delegation representing minority communities.

**Quetta would turn into modern....**  
Continued from page 1

The Project Director briefed the participants about ongoing development projects under Quetta development Package.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary directed to complete projects of roads construction at the earliest.

He particularly referred to the projects of Spinnay road, Sabzal Road, Anscorb road, Sariab road, Radio Pakistan link road, Link Badini road and directed to complete these roads project without any further delay.

He also directed to remove the hurdles in their timely completion expediting the pace of work on them.

The Chief Secretary said that Quetta development package would prove to be an important milestone for development of Quetta city.

He said that the pressure of traffic would reduce and situation would improve with construction of the roads in Quetta city.

He said that there would be development and prosperity with completion of development projects.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani being briefed by DG Sports Dura Baloch about Chief Minister Football Gold Cup

**Climate change hitting fight against AIDS, TB and malaria**  
LONDON (INP) Climate change and conflict are hitting efforts to tackle three of the world's deadliest infectious diseases, the head of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has warned. International initiatives to fight the diseases have largely recovered after being badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Fund's 2023 results report released on Monday.

**Transferring suo motu powers...**  
Continued from page 1

the matter, requesting the court to reject the petitions against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act.

"Petitions against acts of parliament are inadmissible. [Therefore,] the petitions against the Practice and Procedure Act should be dismissed," the response submitted by the government contended.

Sources confirmed to Geo News that the decision was made in the full court meeting ahead of the proceedings.

To this end, five cameras were installed in the courtroom number one. Four cameras were installed in the visitors' gallery and one was installed for the lawyers' rostrum in front of the judges' docks.

The full court was constituted by newly-appointed Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and includes Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Ammuddin Khan, Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

Prior to this, a full court meeting was held to consider live broadcasting of today's proceedings and ponder over guidelines for effective hearing of cases. According to the sources, instructions for the live broadcast were issued yesterday (Sunday) — hours after Justice Isa took oath as the CJ.

Upon his arrival, CJP Isa — who reached the apex court in his personal car without protocol — said to the SC staff: "People come to the Supreme Court to solve their problems. Treat visitors like guests."

He further said that the doors to justice should be kept open.

There are nine applications, the CJP remarked at the outset of the hearing, requesting Advocate Khawaja Tariq Rahim to begin his arguments.

The CJP asked counsel Rahim to read the Act and "forget the past".

Justice Ayesha asked the advocate what the effect of Section 5, which gives the right of appeal, would be if the law is sustained.

"Given that the full bench will hear the case. Would the appeal not be heard?"

"Parliament formed a committee of 3 judges to decide on the matters of public interest," Rahim said while referring to the practice act.

To which Justice Mandokhel asked, "What does Article 191 of the Constitution say?"

"The Constitution empowers Parliament to legislate," Khawaja said, adding that the apex court had made its rules through the full court.

During the reading of the Act, Justice Mansoor remarked: "What I understand of your point is that if all this is done by the full court, then it is acceptable; If Parliament does this, then it is wrong."

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Director General Levies invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232409353981

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Clothing & Liveries (Total Item(s) Count: 24)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 90,000,000 in Previous 3 Turn over of at least 400,000,000 PKR in 5 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. The bidder(s) must have similar experience worth not less than 90.00 Million in last 03 years. The firm must be registered with Balochistan Revenue Authority. Must agree to supply required purchase items within 90 days after award of contract. Bidders are required to provide 02x samples of each procurement item. All procurement items, excluding P-Cap, Face covering, Raincoat, Belt, Barrot Cap with badge, Div Sign, Shoulder Badge, shall be sent for Lab Inspection to determine specification of samples. The Bidder must have functional factory / office in Balochistan having PTC Phone & Fax Number Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 06 October, 2023 till 04:30 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 05:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Directorate General, Balochistan Levies Force, Chaman Pathak, Joint Road, Quetta. Phone no: 0819201783 Fax no: 0819201356 Email: nasibkakar67@gmail.com

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR THE OPERATION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF BUS BAYS WITH PROVISION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES**

- National Highway Authority (NHA) intends to offer Operations, Management & Maintenance Contracts (OM&MC) for each Maintenance Unit Packages of Bus Bays on Advance Quarterly Net Guaranteed Revenue basis with 10% Annual enhancement cumulatively to the Private business entities (either sole proprietorship or partnership firm) from through open/competitive bidding initially for a Period of Three (03) Years and after one (01) year, further extendable for Two (02) Years subject to satisfactory performance based on 01 year performance. Detail of Bus Bays is provided in the Request for Proposal (RFP)/Bidding Documents.
- Bidding will be carried out by adopting "Single Stage One Envelope". All eligible/interested bidders registered with Income Tax Department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue, having valid PEC registration in category O-5 for the year 2023. Bid Security amount of Rs.500,000/- for each Location in shape of PO/CDR in favor of NHA RMF Security Deposit/Retention Money Account, detail is as under: -

Maintenance Unit	VENUE	Location	Site	Area
LAHORE	DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MAINTENANCE) SARDAR PUR STOP, NATHE KHALSA, 46-KM MULTAN ROAD, LAHORE	1184	NBC/SBC	PATTOKI BYPASS (LAHORE SIDE)
		1201	NBC/SBC	PHOOL NAGAR BYPASS (OKARA SIDE)
		1287	NBC/SBC	MURIDKE
RAWALPINDI	DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MAINTENANCE) OPPOSITE TO COCA COLA FACTORY MOTORWAY CHOWK, RAWALPINDI	1552	NBC/SBC	MOTORWAY CHOWK
		1553 + 500	NBC/SBC	CHUNGI NO. 26

- The Request for proposal (RFP) documents comprising detailed Terms & Conditions, scope and requisite forms etc, can be obtained from the office of concerned Deputy Director (Maintenance) during the working hours after 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 by depositing of Rs.2,000/- (non-refundable) in form of Pay Order/CDR in favor of NHA RECEIPT ACCOUNT P/N LAHORE. RFP can also be downloaded from NHA website (www.nha.gov.pk) free of cost. The bids will be opened by adopting Single Stage - One Envelope.
- A Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled to be held on October 03, 2023 in the office of concerned Deputy Director (Maintenance). Details are as under:

Maintenance Unit	Address	Name of Concerned Deputy Director (Maintenance)	Contact No.
Lahore	Deputy Director (Maintenance) Sardar Pur Stop, Nathe Khalsa, 46-KM Multan Road, Lahore	Muhammad Umar	0300-9421367
Rawalpindi	Deputy Director (Maintenance) Opposite to Coca Cola Factory Motorway Chowk, Rawalpindi	Mazhar Ali	0300-7795811

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RAWALPINDI	Deputy Director (Maintenance) Opposite to Coca Cola Factory Motorway Chowk, Rawalpindi	October 19, 2023 till 1100 Hours	October 19, 2023, At 1130 Hours

- The Bids shall be opened on the same day in the presence of all bidders or their authorized representatives.
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PID (0) No.1760/23

## 48th Int'l Seerat-un-Nabi Conference helps to promote religious harmony, eco wisdom

ISLAMABAD, September 18 (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is all set to host the 48th two-day International Seerat-un-Nabi (Life of the Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) conference on the of Rabi-ul-Awwal 11 and 12 (September, 28 and 29) in the federal capital.

This conference will feature the distribution of awards for Seerat-related articles and books. The theme of this year's competition for articles and books is "Practical Wisdom for Economic Prosperity in the Light of the Life of the Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him."

Notably, all submitted articles and books are rigorously reviewed by a committee consisting of at least three experts, including professors with Ph.D. degrees.

Subsequently, their reports are handed over to a high-level apex committee, which makes the final decision on which publications deserve recognition.

This year, a total of 137 books and 94 articles on Seerat were received, resulting in 31 individuals receiving awards for books and 35 for articles.

The 66 fortunate recipients will be honored with shields, certificates, and cash prizes.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony plans to print and provide standard articles to libraries in universities across the country, as well as research institutions focusing on Seerat-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him.

The International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference will consist of two main sessions.

In the first session, awards will be presented to authors and poets who have participated in the Seerat-related competition.

The second session will explore various aspects of the Prophet's life, with scholars and orators discussing topics related to economic concepts in light of Seerat-un-Nabi.

The conference aims to bring together renowned religious scholars, both national and international, to bridge intellectual gaps and promote understanding among scholars.

It is expected to have a positive impact on religious harmony and moral values.

Additionally, a Naat (eulogy) gathering will be held to celebrate the beloved Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him, during the opening session of the conference.

The second day of the conference will feature the illumination of various facets of the Prophet's life, with scholars and orators discussing topics such as economic stability, state's role, charity, and women's participation in economic growth, all in the light of Seerat-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him.

This event promises to be a significant platform for exchanging ideas and promoting a harmonious society based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov called on Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah.

## AC visits markets, to check price violations, polythene bags, dengue SOPs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Secretariat Aneel Saeed, in a major crackdown on price violations, and unauthorized use of polythene bags, dengue SOPs, and vehicles, inspected here various areas of Secretariat Subdivision, on Monday.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, AC Saeed visited various markets and malls to ensure that shopkeepers were selling essential items at government-fixed prices.

ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said. He also checked the use of unauthorized polythene bags and overall hygiene in the markets. Violators were fined and warned as per the law.

AC Saeed also visited different sites, including marble factories, workshops, tyre shops, nurseries, and junkyards, to ensure adherence to dengue SOPs.

He also inspected dengue larvae in residential areas and took measures where dengue patients were found. In addition, AC Aneel Saeed inspected vehicles for tinted glass, fancy number plates, and unauthorized parking. While multiple vehicles were identified and violation forms were pasted for suspension of registration.

The crackdown by the AC Secretariat is a welcome step in the fight against price violations.

Speaking on this occasion, the Minister said Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy excellent relations rooted deep in shared faith.

Jamal Shah said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan would enhance their relations in the field of art, culture, film and other fields. He said that Azerbaijan would be specially invited to be part of second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Caravan.

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan express desire to boost relations in art, culture

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov called on Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah in Islamabad.

During the meeting, both discussed issues of mutual interest, particularly enhancing cultural relations between the two countries.

He said that the 14th-century Multani Caravanserai in Baku, Azerbaijan is a clear example of our historical relations. He acknowledged the existing scope of cooperation in the field of cultural heritage between the two friendly countries and desired to undertake joint ventures in respective fields.

Azerbaijan Ambassador Khazar Farhadov also values its relations with Pakistan. Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov also spoke about Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations based on deep historical roots.

He said that the 14th-century Multani Caravanserai in Baku, Azerbaijan is a clear example of our historical relations. He acknowledged the existing scope of cooperation in the field of cultural heritage between the two friendly countries and desired to undertake joint ventures in respective fields.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used for construction work of Margalla Road during development work in Federal Capital.

### MDCAT exams

## Medical community stunned as hi-tech cheating unveiled

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a shocking turn of events, the recent Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) has left the medical community in Pakistan reeling from shock, as the use of advanced technology for cheating during the national examination sent shockwaves through the education system.

The exam, which took place on September 10, saw over 180,000 candidates participating, but reports of rampant cheating, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), have raised grave concerns.

It has been alleged that students resorted to the use of Bluetooth devices and other high-tech tools to manipulate their test results, raising questions about the integrity of the examination process.

The revelations have prompted authorities to vow strict action against those responsible. Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan expressed his dismay at the exploitation of advanced technology for cheating, emphasizing the critical need for a thorough investigation.

In response, a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) has been formed to identify and apprehend the culprits behind this elaborate cheating scheme, with suspicions pointing towards influential educational institutions.



ISLAMABAD: Brazilian Ambassador to Pakistan Olyntho Vieira talking to media persons regarding the event entitled "Brazilian Flavors" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

## CDA, ICT admin attacked during action against qabza mafia in Chontra

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) with the assistance of ICT administration and Islamabad Police on Monday initiated anti-encroachment operations against the land mafia without any discrimination, where the enforcement teams were attacked by the non-locals who opened fire under the guise of the genuine affectees.

In this regard, CDA, district administration and Islamabad Police conducted a joint operation against the qabza mafia (encroachment mafia) in Meraberi area of Chontra.

During the operation, qabza mafia opened fired and pelted stones on officers and officials of CDA and Islamabad Capital Territory Police, a news release said.

It was pertinent to mention here that negotiations were also held with

the genuine affectees of the area to demolish the houses constructed after 2004. After the negotiations, the operation was started by the CDA Enforcement, Land and Rehabilitation, and Islamabad Police teams with the support of the administration. During the operation, five houses were demolished and the miscreants started firing which resulted in injuring one of the protestors on the spot.

The land award of Meraberi (Chontra) was announced in 1969. Rehabilitation benefits and compensations have been paid to affectees in lieu of acquired land.

According to the 1985 SUPARCO map, there were a total of 30 houses. In 2004, when this land was handed over by the CDA to the concerned department for further use, there were 342 houses at that time.

## Renowned architect Abdur Rahman Hye remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned architect Abdur Rahman Hye popularly known as A.R. Hye was remembered on Monday on the occasion of his death anniversary. He is considered as pioneer of institutional architecture in Pakistan. Born on December 17, 1919 Abdur Rahman Hye graduated from Sir J. J. College of Architecture, Bombay and then traveled to the United Kingdom.

He completed his architecture degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1951 and was awarded a membership of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Hye specialized in tropical architecture at the Architectural Association School of Architecture.

## IHC summons Ali Wazir's investigation officer

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court Monday summoned investigation officer of former Lawmaker Ali Wazir, whose case was registered at Tarnool Police Station.

Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb heard Ali Wazir's petition regarding his protective bail and the details of all cases registered against him. Attaullah Kundi appeared in the court on behalf of the petitioner Ali Wazir.

## IHC seeks report from education ministry on Quran teaching

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court on Monday sought a report from the Ministry of Education secretary regarding the curriculum and teaching of the Quran and other Islamic books in schools.

The hearing was held in response to a petition concerning the compulsory teaching of nazra (recitation) and translation of the Holy Quran in educational institutions.

The petitioner raised the point of not implementing the Compulsory Teaching of the Holy Quran Act 2017 in Islamabad, which was enforced in Punjab. The petitioner's

lawyer argued that the law had not been fully enforced by the federal government.

Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq noted that Islamic subjects such as Sharia, Islamiyat and Nazra were already being taught in educational institutions. The Ministry of Education representative confirmed that Quranic recitation and translation were being taught in both public and private schools.

The court later sought a detailed report from the Ministry of Education on what was being taught in each class and adjourned the hearing until Nov 14.

## More rain-wind, thundershowers expected in coming days

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast more rain-wind/thundershowers for various parts of the country in the coming days with occasional gaps that would turn the weather pleasant by reducing temperatures.

According to the PMD, few heavy or isolated very heavy falls are expected in Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Umerkot, Tharparkar and Mirpurkhas. The synoptic situation has revealed that a low pressure area (LPA) was located over Southeast of Rajasthan (India) and likely to move south westwards during next 48 hours.



ISLAMABAD: Volunteers are distributing foods among the deserving people at Sector F-7 in Federal Capital.

## 274,994 registered doctors provide medical care to patients: PMDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) Friday said that so far 274,994 doctors were registered with the council to serve patients in the country.

According to an official of PMDC, the Pakistan Medical Council right after assuming the charge and in a very short span of time started working dedicatedly for doctors, students, and relevant stakeholders and took all necessary steps to

resolve their genuine and relevant issues.

He said that the licensing Department of the council during the last nine months issued more than 41,004 renewals, 13,208 provisional registrations to new graduates, and 13,888 full registrations to doctors who completed their house jobs successfully.

Almost 9,440 good-standing certificates were issued to doctors who intended to proceed to work abroad.

## PIMS allocates additional beds for dengue patients

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has allocated 10 additional beds in medical ward-II keeping in view the sudden increase in the number of dengue patients. According to PIMS ED spokesperson Dr Mubashir Mushtaq Doha, a total of seven dengue patients were admitted to the hospital. He said that the Executive Director of PIMS Prof. Dr Rana Imran Sikandar has made all necessary arrangements.

## IHC adjourns Al-Qadir Trust case against Imran, Bushra for indefinite period

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday adjourned the Al-Qadir Trust registration case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi for an indefinite period.

IHC judge Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the case.

Talib Hussain Advocate appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioner while Hazrat Younis appeared on behalf of the State Council.

"Some documents are incomplete in registration under new rules," the State Council's lawyer told the court. "If we are told which

items or documents are incomplete, we will complete them," the petitioner's lawyer stated.

"Tell him all the things that are incomplete," the court directed the State Council's lawyer to tell the petitioner's lawyer about all things that are incomplete. "The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has been summoned by the State Council.

"Bushra Bibi is being repeatedly summoned and harassed. We request that the FIA be stopped from harassing Bushra Bibi.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the trees outside school at Sector F-7 as trimmed by someone with any reason, which needs strict action of Concern authority.

## 19 outlaws arrested; drugs, liquor and weapons recovered

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 19 outlaws during the last 24 hours from different areas of the city and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directives, the Aabpara police team arrested an accused named Alyoun Masih and recovered 2070 gram heroin from his possession. The

Secretariat police team arrested an accused named Majid Hussain and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession. Likewise, the Karachi Company police team arrested an accused named Hamza and recovered 271 gram heroin from his possession. The Sumbal police team arrested two accused named Zahid Hussain and Waqar and recovered 223 bore rifles and one 444 bore gun from their possession. Similarly, the Tarnol police team arrested two accused named Aamir Nazir and Izhar Khalil and recovered 340 gram heroin and 560 gram hashish from their possession. The Sangiani police team arrested two accused named Shafi Ullah and Abdullah.

## Pak must switch from suggestions to actions mode: IPS forum

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan faces deeply ingrained governance challenges that require moving beyond suggestions to concrete and sustained actions. The knowing-doing gap necessitates a proactive stance where solutions are implemented in the form of tangible actions to address the challenges faced by the nation.

The country urgently needs to address major concerns such as poor governance, internal strife, corruption, a flawed education system, moral turpitude, environmental challenges, and healthcare difficulties. This requires consistency in government policies, addressing disparities, utilizing youth as a resource, building narrative and national emotions, and pushing constructive change through research. This was observed by

prominent intellectuals, academics, technocrats, and religious scholars at the annual meeting of the National Academic Council of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

The yearly gathering aims to garner intellectual input from a cross-section of veteran practitioners for IPS' research activities and realistic ideas regarding national issues.

Chaired by IPS' Chairman Khalid Rahman, the meeting was addressed by Prof. Dr Anis Ahmed, Vice Chancellor, Riphah International University; Vice Admiral @ Ifikhar Ahmed Rao, special assistant to the PM on maritime affairs, Prof. Dr Qibla Ayaz, chairman, Islamic Ideology Council of Pakistan; Dr. Syed Mohammad Anwer, Justice, Federal Shariat Court, Razia Sultana, member, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Public Service Commission; Ambassador @ Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS; Dr. Anwar-ul-Hasan Gilani, Chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology; Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal cabinet secretary; Mohammad Bashir Jan Mohammad, chairman, Westbury Group of Companies, Karachi; Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary, water and power; Dr. Syed Tahir Hijazi, former vice-chancellor, Muslim Youth University; Saima Hamid, vice chancellor, Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi; Syed Irfan Hyder, vice chancellor, Ziauddin University, Karachi.; Dr. Syed Junaid Zaidi, former rector COMSATS; Dr. Masood Mehmood Khan, Curtin University, Australia; Dr. Shahida Wizarat, dean, College of Economics and Social Development,

IoBM, Karachi; Prof Jaleel Aali, former HoD Urdu, F.G Sir Syed College; Dr. Naveed Butt, senior physician, Federal Government Services Hospital; Dr. Noreen Sahar, associate professor and chairperson, Department of Anthropology, IUI; whereas Prof. Dr. Fakhir-ul-Islam, director research and academic outreach at IPS moderated the session.

While emphasizing the importance of intellectual and policy-level unpacking of important national challenges, the speakers addressed the critical issue of poor governance as the source of national concerns. They said that overemphasizing immediate fixes at the expense of addressing deeply embedded governance challenges through long-term solutions is problematic. As problems cannot be solved in isolation,

it necessitates systematic and sustained actions, with immediate as well as short-term and long-term solutions, to reform governance.

The speakers called for comprehensive education reforms to build a solid foundation for the nation's future. They said mandatory IT, technological, and vocational education, focusing on character development and moral values, is the practical solution. This is important as the quality of graduates directly impacts the nation's resilience, ability to address challenges, and leadership quality. Additionally, there should be a single national curriculum to counter the increasing polarization and educational disparities because of the different parallel education systems.

Lamenting the current education system's nega-

tive impact on youth's research and innovation potential, the speakers emphasized that young people must be empowered as the drivers of potential change. For that, youth-centric policies and change in the curriculum through relevance audits and accreditations are essential. Moreover, the development of research and innovation potential in colleges and universities must be maintained through successive governments and consistent policies.

The speakers also highlighted the significance of establishing responsiveness and readiness to counter environmental challenges timely. In addition, reforms in healthcare, agriculture, climate, and the economic system must be developed for public welfare and national development.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Tuesday September 19, 2023

**ECP's 'bias'**

The pressure is mounting on the ECP, with another major party expressing serious concerns over the political environment. Over the course of last week, several senior PPP leaders issued strong statements against the "absence of a level playing field" in the run-up to the polls.

The party's chairman publicly stated that he does not think political parties are free to function or campaign independently, and, on Thursday, the party's information secretary told the press that the PPP is concerned over the appointment of several PML-N 'loyalists' in the interim set-up.

"The concern among party members is that the PML-N is getting a kind of favour in the current caretaker set-ups in the federal and Punjab governments. And it's no more secret," she said.

The PTI, too, shared similar objections over the appointment in the caretaker government of several bureaucrats seen as being close to the Sharifs.

The two parties' concerns reflect rather poorly on the ECP: it is, after all, the commission's constitutional responsibility to ensure that elections are held in an environment which does not favour or jeopardise any political stakeholder's interests.

Interestingly, the commission seems to be tacitly acknowledging that the playing field is no longer level. It has written to the caretaker prime minister's secretary, advising him against inducting "persons of known political allegiance".

If the caretaker set-up has been infiltrated by politically inclined persons, which the ECP concedes, the fairness of any election conducted by it will invariably be brought into question.

It may be recalled that one of the excuses given by the ECP for not conducting the KP and Punjab elections earlier this year was that future elections held under the governments formed by political parties in these provinces would not be free or fair. The same logic ought to apply to party loyalists.

Not too long ago, it was only the PTI which seemed to have a problem with the manner in which the ECP was conducting itself.

But while the PTI and Mr Khan's criticism of the commission, its chief commissioner and their alleged 'bias' may initially have been a ploy to push them off the various legal actions they were pursuing, it has lately started seeming somewhat justified.

It may be recalled that in failing to challenge the state's attempts to thwart the PTI, which had wanted early elections in KP, the ECP has already violated the Constitution by failing to adhere to the prescribed 90-day timeline.

It is not only about to repeat that violation again, but it also does not seem committed to the positions it had taken earlier. This is morally and legally indefensible.

The commission must adhere to its constitutional responsibility and immediately address the concerns that are being raised.

**Maleeha Lodhi**

Pakistan's macroeconomic crisis, the most serious in its history, continues to warrant urgent and sustained attention.

As is well known, the roots of this crisis lie in chronic fiscal deficits and external imbalances that are responsible for its perpetual balance-of-payments problems, high inflation and macroeconomic instability, necessitating repeated financial bailouts. Today, this crisis has to be addressed in an adverse global environment where financial market conditions remain tight. All the economic trends for the country are negative and unlikely to be reversed any time soon.

Internal and external financial imbalances remain wide, foreign exchange re-

serves are fragile despite injections of funds from the IMF and friendly countries, inflation is at a historic high, domestic and foreign debt have reached unsustainable levels, the rupee has lost record value against the dollar, exports have fallen, overseas remittances have declined and foreign direct investment has plunged to a new low.

But there is another crisis that is worsening and is also consequential for Pakistan's future. This is the crisis in human development — with most indicators of literacy, education, health and other aspects of social justice and human welfare deteriorating in recent years.

The World Bank calls it a "silent, deep human capital crisis". Its recent report Pakistan Human Capital Review quantifies this crisis and urges increased investment in human capital, pointing out that lack of this will continue to limit the country's growth and development prospects. Many national and international reports and documents paint a grim picture of the state of human development.

According to UNDP's

Global Human Development Report of 2022, Pakistan's Human Development Index rank remains at 161 out of 192 countries with no progress recorded from 2019 to 2022. The WB report places Pakistan in the company of sub-Saharan African countries in the Human Capital Index, which at 0.41, is the lowest in South Asia.

The country's education deficit should be treated as an emergency but barely figures in government priorities. No issue is more important for Pakistan's future than the coverage and quality of education available to our children.

Yet the facts remain dismal. Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of children, over 20 million (aged five to 16) out of school. Twelve million are girls. It means 44 per cent of children in this age group do not go to school. This violates the constitutional obligation set out in Article 25A that enjoins the state to "provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to 16 years".

Of those who do go to school dropout rates are high. All this is the result of

decades of neglect and chronic underspending on education. Just 2.4pc of GDP makes it among the lowest in South Asia. Only 14 of 195 countries spend less on education than Pakistan. Given Pakistan's youthful demographic profile and education poverty, young people face a jobless and hopeless future unless the scale and quality of education is expanded.

Literacy levels have shown little improvement in recent years. Latest available official sources put literacy at 59pc, which means over 40pc of the population are illiterate. The literacy level has been virtually stagnant for the past five years or more, with spending on education also declining. No country has predicated economic progress on an illiterate base. Yet these levels remain largely unchanged.

In youth literacy, which is around 75pc, Pakistan is second from the bottom in South Asia. The gender gap is telling. According to the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18, almost half of women in the age group 15-25 are unedu-

cated. 61pc of rural women are illiterate.

The poverty numbers are equally disturbing. With anaemic growth, soaring inflation (especially food inflation) and limited job creation, poverty has risen and become more severe. Of course, the Covid pandemic and megafloods of 2022 (reflecting the effects of climate change) contributed to this.

But the result is that more people have been driven below the poverty line. According to the WB, poverty is estimated to have risen by five percentage points to 39.4pc in FY23, with 12.5m more people pushed into poverty as compared to the previous year.

One of the most troubling phenomena is that of child stunting, which the Human Capital Review calls a "public health crisis". The report finds around 40pc of Pakistani children under five are stunted — a shocking number.

This condemns these children to a life of physical disability, poverty and deprivation and also exposes them to premature

mortality. This is mostly the result of malnutrition primarily associated with poverty. Malnourished mothers are more likely to have stunted children. It is also the result of high fertility.

It does worse in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2023, where it is 142 out of 146 countries — among the bottom five countries. In educational attainment it is ranked 138 and at 132 for health and survival. Female labour force participation remains low — among the lowest in Muslim countries — 22pc compared to over 80pc for males. These statistics do not fully capture the multiple deprivations and injustices women face but they do underline how much needs to be done for half the country's population.

The overall picture of various dimensions of human development is so bleak that it suggests Pakistan may be sleepwalking to a disaster that can only be ignored at great peril to the country's stability, economic progress and prosperity. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Children's rights matter****Dr Naazir Mahmood**

If there is one single solution to most of our woes, it will definitely be quality education, especially at the school level. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) took up this issue once again at an event in Islamabad, held a month back.

With speakers such as Dr A H Nayyar, Harris Khalique, Nasreen Azhar, Senator Sehar Kamran and Zehra Arshad, the event's participants discussed ways to uphold children's right to education in Pakistan.

Dr A H Nayyar is a preeminent educationist and crusader for quality education. During the event, he highlighted that 13 years have passed since the 18th Amendment that inserted Article 25A into the constitution, guaranteeing compulsory education to chil-

dren aged between five and 16, and yet the situation has not changed much.

Article 25A says: "the state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such manner as may be determined by law."

Here the problem appears to be in the last few words, "in such manner as may be determined by law". The wording is vague and has afforded a lot of leeway to successive governments in the last 13 years to not implement this fundamental right — as they say — 'in letter and spirit'.

Interestingly, it took nearly seven years for all the provinces to pass their provincial acts to outline children's right to education in their respective jurisdictions. Dr Nayyar appreciated that it was the National Assembly under the PPP government that passed the first area-specific law, 'ICT: Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012'.

Sindh was the first province to enact 'The Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2013' (Sindh Act No. XIV of 2013). So the PPP has a unique distinc-

tion of not only introducing the 18th Amendment but also passing the ICT and Sindh Acts as well. Soon after, the PML-N and the National Party coalition government in Balochistan passed 'The Balochistan Compulsory Education Act, 2014' (Act No V of 2014) and the PML-N government in Punjab approved 'The Punjab Free and Compulsory Education Act 2014' (Act No XXVI of 2014).

The PTI government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was the most sluggish in this matter and could pass the law, after a considerable delay, in 2017 as the 'Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Free Compulsory Primary and Secondary Education Act, 2017', (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act XII of 2017).

Dr Nayyar presented an overview of all the provincial laws as all of them talk about providing free education to every child and ensuring compulsory admission and attendance to complete school education. Some laws also want to ensure that the disadvantaged child is not discriminated against and prevented from pursuing and completing education.

But no federal and provincial right to education law mentions that the government will ensure that no child labour takes place in the country. Another problem is the provision of free textbooks that most of the provincial governments are not fulfilling in a timely manner. These books are either not printed in enough numbers or printed too late — after the start of the academic year. Then, the content and quality of these books is also a matter of concern as too much religiosity has been inserted especially under the guise of the Single National Curriculum (SNC) that the PTI government initiated and the PML-N-led coalition government continued under a different name.

Dr Nayyar appreciated the role of education foundations that mostly support rural schools to bring out-of-school children to schools. According to Unesco data, there are nearly three million out-of-school children in the country. That makes nearly 45 per cent of the entire school-age group that ought to be receiving education.

Data by the National Educational Management Information System

(NEMIS) mentions 20 million out-of-school children; this number makes 32 per cent of the total number of the school-age group. Girls are much more likely to be out of school as 77 per cent of school-age girls do not go to school whereas among boys, this percentage is 27 per cent.

Roughly speaking, every third girl and every fourth boy of schoolgoing age is not attending school in Pakistan. The highest percentage is in Balochistan where as many as 47 per cent of children are out of school; this means nearly half of the school-age population is not receiving formal education.

She also suggested that the state must eliminate all gender-based discriminations against girls' education that use cultural mores or security concerns as excuses to deprive girls of education. Civil society and non-governmental organizations could play a major role in promoting education, and Senator Sehar Kamran was in favour of allowing them free space in the country.

General-secretary of the HRCP Harris Khalique reminded the audience that our neighbouring countries such as India have been able to sign dozens of agreements with developed nations, including the US, only because it focused on education and scientific and technological cooperation. Successive governments in Pakistan have not been able to capitalize on such opportunities. Even low-income countries like Lesotho have good education indicators as they spend a substantial amount as percentage of their GDP on education of their children. It is unfortunate that despite the consistent clamouring from civil society for the state to take education seriously, no major efforts are in sight to ensure that the right to education per Article 25A will get serious attention.

With millions of children out of school and the ever-increasing inflation and poverty, there is likely to be even more rampant child labour in the country. Seventy-six years is a fairly long span to educate the nation, instead we have focused more on an anti-people agenda that has left this nation in doldrums. -- Courtesy TheNews

**No easy solution****Huma Yusuf**

Magic wand. Silver bullet. Miracle cure. Pick your idiom, and then forget about it. If there's one thing Pakistanis should learn from the turmoil of recent months it is that there is no quick fix for Pakistan's myriad, complex and increasingly insurmountable problems.

The dysfunctional dance of our institutions has highlighted that while we may cling to the idea of saviours — whether populist politicians or non-sense generals — it is not that easy. Checks and challenge are inherent in our system, and when our institutions do not work cooperatively they thwart each other. In the absence of a long-term strategic vision, recent developments, however dramatic, amount to sound and fury, signifying little.

The president and the ECP, the courts and the establishment, the people and their political representatives — even fathers and sons, if we tune into the mixed messaging from Sindh: they would all like to deliver the antidote to Pakistan's problems. Instead, they stumble over each other, criticise and contradict each other, emphasise each other's failings.

One topic seems to generate more consensus than others, and that is the need for economic stability. All the powers that be recognise that the size of the pie must increase so that all can feed off it. But as the era of 'get a bailout, chug along' ends, views on how the economy should be resuscitated also diverge.

Some are banking on the top-down foreign-investor-saviour, others are backing the bottom-up boost exports approach.

And that, frankly, is how it should be.

There is no silver bullet, no cure-all; not internally to clean our political mess, not externally to buy us out of our economic woes. Pakistanis must accept that our preoccupation with power games and saviour seeking has endured at the expense of policymaking, and we have argued amongst ourselves while problems have mounted. Any meaningful solutions now require time, strategising and holistic handling.

Let's consider an example from our critical textiles and IT sectors. A recent report from Cornell University's Global Labour Institute argues that garment manufacturing in the key markets of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam can expect collective losses of \$65 billion in exports by 2030. This represents a 22 per cent slowdown, and the loss of one million new jobs in these economies. The forecast for 2050 is worse: a collective loss of 68.8pc of exports, and 8.64 million fewer jobs across the four countries.

The report attributes these losses to climate change-linked events, including high heat and flooding, that will disrupt production and supply chains and endanger workers' health, jeopardising productivity. The authors argue that while there is growing awareness in the garment sector around the need to cut emissions and reduce water wastage, countries and companies are not doing enough to implement climate adaptation strategies.

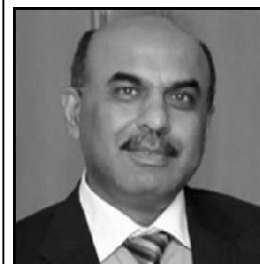
Turning to IT, while we are grounding PIA planes, India has landed a rover on the south pole of the moon. This is a reflection of India's science and technology ecosystem —

the country accounts for 32pc of the world's STEM graduates (43pc of them women). It is currently adding over 2.5m software developers to its workforce each year, and will next year overtake the US in terms of its developer population. Not surprisingly, technology exports make up more than half of India's total services exports.

By contrast, a State Bank report published in May estimated that Pakistan adds 20,000 to 25,000 engineering and IT graduates to the workforce annually, but only 10pc are employable due to their lack of technical and soft skills such as critical thinking and English-language proficiency. These are hardly the indicators of a competitive IT-driven economy.

These examples are meant to illustrate the intractability of Pakistan's problems. Our desire to attract investment and revamp our export economy can only be met with a multifaceted policy push: overhaul of the education system, launch of integrated climate adaptation strategies, updating labour protection provisions, launching progressive data protection legislation, currency stabilisation, making the workforce more inclusive, etc. This is the work of government departments at both federal and provincial levels along with experts, academia, private sector and civil society. It will take time, determination, and a clear vision for the way forward. As I said, no magic wand, no silver bullet.

For all their failings, democratic governments (when they are not plagued by paralysing polarisation) are well set up to handle complexity, build consensus and mobilise holistic approaches, which are needed urgently. Let's have timely elections, and then enable elected representatives to get on with addressing our real problems. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Policy perspective****Naeem Memon**

After vacillating for five years, Sindh has finally nailed a water policy. The document needs some editorial brushwork but is otherwise fairly comprehensive. The policy has tried to encapsulate the issues of irrigation, drinking water, the municipal uses of water, sustainability of the natural ecosystem and water quality.

Due to the presence of multiple departments, the management of water resources has remained fragmented. The Sindh Irrigation Department (SID), the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), water and sanitation agencies, the Local Government Department, the Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (formerly KWSB), the Public Health Engineering Department, the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency and the Sindh Agriculture Department are the prominent bodies involved in water management in different domains.

The policy envisages the amalgamation of SID and SIDA to create a unified 'Sindh Water Resources Management Department'. Interestingly, SIDA was carved out of SID under institutional reforms introduced through the National Drainage Program in 1998. SIDA was assigned the ambitious agenda of farmers-led participatory management of the canal systems, including the recovery of water cess and the judicious distribution of water. However, the experiment had

little impact in terms of overhauling the irrigation system.

One is unsure how the new entity will improve the efficiency and management of water resources. Its most critical challenge will be to address poor water governance. Today's faltering water governance system is their own fault and new inventions aren't needed to identify the causes and cure of the malaise.

Non-transparent and unfair water distribution, water theft, tampering with outlets, direct outlets from main canals to favour privileged landlords, artificial breaches and shoddy maintenance of channels are only a few among a long list of distortions that have blighted irrigation in Sindh. These problems are not just because of operational bottlenecks; they also emerge from politics in the province which is controlled by the feudal aristocracy. The irrigation bureaucracy has been installed mostly on the whims of the landed oligarchy. Both safeguard each other's interests. Hence the entire water distribution system has been ring-fenced, with both benefiting from its malfunctioning.

Inefficiency is another factor that has plagued Sindh's waterscape. The more than 60 per cent conveyance losses not only result in wastage but also reduce the soil's productivity due to waterlogging and salinity. Resultantly, the crop-per-drop ratio continues to plunge.

According to the water policy, 61pc of the cultivable area in Sindh is saline or sodic. The Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates irrigation water productivity in Pakistan at \$0.3 per cubic metre, much lower than the figure for other irrigation systems of comparable size. The acreage of water-thirsty crops rice and sugarcane is another major cause of imprudent water usage. These two

crops consume about a third of the irrigation water in Sindh.

The water requirement of these crops is three to five times higher than that of oilseeds and pulses. The policy alludes to the need to reduce water-intensive crops yet concedes, ironically, that over the last decade, the acreage of these two crops has increased by 30pc. Shifts in the cropping pattern is treacherous territory as this can lead to a collision with the troika of agriculturalists, industrialists and politicians. Most of the 32 sugar mills in Sindh are owned by political families, who also possess large parcels of cropland. Shifting the cropping pattern is desirable yet one cannot expect much from a spineless administration in the absence of political will.

Domestic water requirements are a snowballing challenge as the urban population grows rapidly. According to the latest census, 53.7pc of Sindh's population is urban. Unfortunately, the water and sanitation infrastructure and services are in a state of disarray in urban centres. The WASH [water, sanitation and hygiene] Sector Development Plan, 2016-26, estimated an annual investment of Rs100 billion till 2030 for the universal coverage of WASH services in the province. The policy prescribes making WASH management bodies autonomous entities that can efficiently generate resources and operate on the basis of competence. This prescription was tested by creating the North Sindh Urban Services Corporation in 2010 that, however, miserably failed due to persistent political intrusion. The policy stipulates several remedies to problems that have sapped the water sector for decades. A fundamental challenge will be its effective implementation through a structured approach that is not confined to perfunctory meetings and reports. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Naqvi enhances Sino-Pak ties at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ningxia Friendship Forum

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi Monday actively participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum, held at the Yuehai Convention Center in Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia Province, China. Upon his arrival at the Yuehai Convention Center, he was warmly welcomed by Ningxia Communist Party Chairman/Governor, Zhang Yupu, and Secretary General/Chief Minister Liang Yanshun, along with the government delegation. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi held the distinguished position of being the chief guest at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum. In honor of his presence, a welcoming lunch was graciously

hosted by the International Friendship Cities Forum. Addressing the gathering, Mohsin Naqvi expressed his deep sense of honor in being part of the Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum. He highlighted the enduring and amiable nature of China's relationship with Pakistan, underscoring President Xi Jinping's genuine fondness for Pakistan and its people. Mohsin Naqvi emphasized Punjab's vast potential, housing a population of 140 million, and described it as a province teeming with countless opportunities for development. He also envisioned new avenues of collaboration and growth blossoming in Ningxia. The chief minister

underscored that the primary objective of Punjab's official delegation visit to China was to engage with experts from diverse fields, and he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to tap into collective wisdom through the International Friendship Cities Forum. Zhang Yupu, the Ningxia Communist Party Chairman/Governor, extended a warm and open-hearted welcome to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the Punjab delegation. Likewise, Ningxia Communist Party Secretary General/Chief Minister Liang Yanshun extended a warm welcome, emphasizing their duty to cooperate for the development and prosperity of the people of Punjab.



LAHORE: Participants of Foreign Diplomatic Course from ASEAN member states led by Director General of Foreign Service Academy, Muhammad Mazhar Javed in a group photo with Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

## Mayor Karachi inaugurates Hydari Sports Football Ground in Malir

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday said that the journey of improvement in Karachi will "In shaAllah" continue under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto and Asif Zardari. He said this while addressing a ceremony held on the inauguration of the Hydari Sports Football Ground in Malir, Ibrahim Hydari on Monday.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Mayor Karachi's Representative for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, former member of Sindh Assembly Mahmood Alam Jamot, former member of National Assembly Syed Agha Rafiullah and other officials and workers of PPP were also present. Barrister Murtaza

Wahab said that for the first time in the history of Karachi, after assuming the charge of local bodies, he and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad decided to respond to criticism with our work. He said that Bilawal Bhutto took steps for its rehabilitation and construction under the Karachi neighbourhood improvement projects so that the people of the area could be provided with quality sports and entertainment facilities.

He said that a pavilion for spectators, toilets, pedestrian paths, offices, rooms for players, a light tower, car parking and footpaths in the outer part, and complete boundary walls have also been constructed with water supply to the ground from the existing pumping station.

## Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with ASEAN member states

### Independent Report

LAHORE: The participants of Foreign Diplomatic Course from ASEAN member states led by Director General of Foreign Service Academy, Muhammad Mazhar Javed called on Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman today here at Governor House Lahore. The delegation comprised 22 diplomats from eight ASEAN member countries. On this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman welcomed the foreign diplomats from

various ASEAN countries to the Governor House. He said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with ASEAN member states. He said that Pakistan has pleasant and friendly relations with ASEAN countries and is committed to further strengthening and deepening its ties with ASEAN countries. He said that the Foreign Service Academy is a premier institution with global reach. It has trained over three thousand diplomats, half of which are foreign diplomats. The Punjab

Governor expressed hope that this course at Foreign Service Academy would immensely help them to hone their diplomatic skills. He said that people to people connections play an important role in improving relations between countries. Governor Punjab said that there are vast opportunities to promote trade relations with ASEAN countries. He further stated that Pakistan exports high-quality textile products to international markets, adding that ASEAN.



LAHORE: Interim State Minister of Tourism/Chairman PTDC, Poet, Syed Wasi Shah addressing a press conference at College of Tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM).

## Javed Akram says: Improvement of govt hospitals first priority for the caretaker government

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram paid a detailed visit to the under-construction emergency, trauma centre and cardiac centre of Jinnah Hospital, here on Monday.

Special Secretary Development Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department Wajid Ali Shah, Principal Allama Iqbal Medical College Prof Dr. Nadeem Hafeez Butt, MS Jinnah Hospital Dr. Yahya Sultan, Deputy Chief IDAP Omar Bela and other officers were present. The minister said the new emergency, trauma centre and cardiac centre would be developed for convenience of patients coming to Jinnah Hospital Lahore. Due to the increasing population,

there was a dire need for expansion of existing public sector hospitals, he added. "Only after increasing the efficiency of government hospitals, we will be able to provide better health facilities to the growing population," he said. The minister said that improvement of government hospitals was the first priority for the caretaker government, adding that the caretaker chief minister was personally visiting various government hospitals to review the issues. For the past several decades, no attention had been paid to building new large public hospitals across the province including Lahore. The Punjab government was bringing about reforms for improvement of government hospitals, he added.

## Best arrangements will be made for 12<sup>th</sup> Rabi-ul-Awwal: Arslan

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Monday said that the best possible arrangements will be made in consultation with all stakeholders to observe 12<sup>th</sup> Rabi-ul-Awwal with religious fervor.

He said that a focal person has been appointed for the arrangements of Rabi-ul-Awwal in the district. The Mayor will fully cooperate with the organizers of Rabi-ul-Awwal processions, "the Mayor expressed these views while addressing a meeting held with the scholars and organizers of Rabi-ul-Awwal procession in relation to the arrangements here in his office. On the occasion, Municipal Commissioner, Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Deputy Mayor Dr Arshad Mughal, Additional

Deputy Commissioner Liaqat Ali Kalhoro, SSP Sukkur Irfan Samo, departmental heads of Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC), scholars, religious leaders, and a large number of organizers of the procession were also present. During the meeting, scholars and the organizers of Rabi-ul-Awwal processions presented suggestions regarding Rabi-ul-Awwal and emphasized the need for immediate resolution of various issues. Most of the problems raised were related to sanitation, road, encroachment, street lights, load-shedding of electricity, and security. They thanked Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh for inviting them to discuss arrangements for Rabi-ul-Awwal.

## FIA arrests 4 on Hundi charges

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Faisalabad circle claimed to have nabbed four accused including owner of a private factory on Hundi charges and recovered currency of various countries from their possession. FIA spokesman said here on Monday that on a tip-off FIA team conducted raid at a water pump factory situated at Jhang Road and arrested its owner accused Malik Babar Shehzad who was involved in Hundi.

The FIA team recovered 660 British pounds, 12000 Pak rupees, laptop and mobile phones from his office which were used for Hundi transactions. Meanwhile, FIA team also arrested three accused including Muhammad Abid, Muhammad Imran and Abdur Rehman from Sadhar Bypass and Jinnah Colony and recovered 1500 Saudi Riyals, 500 UAE Dirhams, 2500 Pak rupees.

## One woman shot injured, other trashed in different incidents

ATTOCK (APP): One woman was shot and injured while another was trashed in two separate incidents in various parts of district Attock on Monday, police sources said.

According to police sources, a man has shot dead his neighbour over suspicion that his wife is being brainwashed by the lady to get a divorce from him and contract a second marriage in village Bhadian in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station. Walyat Khan reported to the police that his neighbour Khyber Zaman suspected that my wife was brainwashing his wife to get a divorce and contract a second marriage.



FAISALABAD: People are standing in a queue to receive free food being distributed by volunteers.

## KU, Japanese Plus. signs MoU to provide IT training to computer science students

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi and Plus W, Inc., the global recruiting company based in Japan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide training to the students of the KU computer science department so that they could be prepared for the Japanese IT market.

KU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the Executive Vice President and the Chief Operating Officer of Plus W Takashi Horiuchi inked the MoU documents at the VC Secretariat here on Monday. Head of Global Business and Pakistan Business Hiroyuki Shiono,

the Deputy Head of Global Business and Pakistan Business Hafiz Muhammad Umair Munir, and the Associate of Global Business Division Muhammad Talha Munir participated in the meeting while the KU Registrar Professor Dr. Abdul Waheed, faculty of computer science department and the Director of Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization were present on this occasion.

As per the MoU, Plus W would give three months of short-course certification in Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Blockchain, Deep Learning, Machine Learning and other technologies.



FAISALABAD: Teachers and students of private school holds protest in the favor of their demands outside DC Office in City.

## Anti Smog Campaign: Commissioner for strict action against smoke emitting vehicles

MULTAN (APP): In a move to combat pollution in Multan Division, a state-of-the-art inspection campaign for public transport vehicles has been initiated, here on Monday.

Employing the latest technological marvels, mobile inspection stations are currently at the forefront, meticulously scrutinizing vehicles for emissions compliance. Chairing a high-level conference dedicated to anti-smog initiatives, Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak outlined a comprehensive strategy. It includes the meticulous maintenance of Veda buses,

which are set to undergo a transformation in alignment with environmental standards. Under the unwavering directive of the Punjab government, a comprehensive review of public transportation is underway, with a commitment to safeguard the convenience of the city's inhabitants.

Commissioner Aamir Khattak underscored the imperativeness of an all-encompassing approach to thwart potential smog-related crises. This includes a resolute grand operation aimed at mitigating pollution's root causes. The rainfall in various city localities was recorded in early hours. Farrukhabad recorded 18 mm rain, Gulberg 16 mm, Walled city 15 mm, Paniwala Talab 09 mm, Airport 07 mm, Johar Town 06 mm, Lakshmi Chowk.

## Pesco's dues recovery drive in Dera circle yields results

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera circle of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) has sped up a crackdown against power theft and defaulters, recovering over Rs 18 million of its dues over ten days from defaulters in the area. The operation was conducted by Pesco City division and Pesco Tank on the directives of Superintendent Engineer Pesco Dera Circle Sardar Aslam Khan Gandapur from September 7 to 17.

The raids were conducted by teams led by XEN Rural Muhammad Ilyas, XEN city division Fida Muhammad Mehsood, and XEN Pesco Tank Rizwanullah Khan Marwat.

## Hot, humid, partly cloudy weather forecast for city

LAHORE (APP): The city witnessed hot, humid and partly cloudy weather on Monday after an early morning rain, while MET office predicted similar weather conditions for the next 24 hours.

The rainfall in various city localities was recorded in early hours. Farrukhabad recorded 18 mm rain, Gulberg 16 mm, Walled city 15 mm, Paniwala Talab 09 mm, Airport 07 mm, Johar Town 06 mm, Lakshmi Chowk.

## IGP changes IO in Fatima Furrero murder case

SUKKUR (APP): Sindh IGP Rifat Mukhtiar has changed another investigation officer in the case of housemaid Fatima Furrero who was brutally tortured and killed in the mansion of a Pir of Ranipur.

The Sindh IGP issued a notification to appoint CTD Sukkur DSP Abdul Qudoos Kalwar as an investigation officer in the case of the murder of Fatima Furrero case.

Earlier, DSP Safiullah Solangi was appointed as an investigation officer who had replaced IO Muhammad Bachal Kazi.

DIG Sukkur, Abdul Hameed Khoso had

written a letter to the Sindh IGP to transfer the investigation of the case from Khairpur to CTD Sukkur DSP Abdul Qudoos Kalwar. Sukkur DIG Abdul Hameed Khoso on Monday, along with the Khairpur SSP reached the house of the victim girl Fatima Furrero in village Khan Wahan in district Naushahroferoze and condoled with her parents and relatives. Shamim Furrero, mother of the deceased Fatima, told the Sukkur DIG that even a month after the murder of her daughter, the police had failed to arrest Hina Shah and her father Fayyaz Shah.

## FIA cracks down on Hawala & Hundi operations in Kohat

PESHAWAR (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) team on Monday conducted a raid in Kohat, targeting illegal hawala and hundi activities.

The FIA also raided an illegal Z communication operation. During the operation, an amount of Rs. 3,270,000 was seized. Furthermore, receipts and counting machines were recovered from the suspects involved. The FIA apprehended three

individuals associated with the hawala business, identified as Muhammad Sahil, Bashir Ahmed, and Naveed-ul-Rahman. Despite their efforts, the suspects were unable to convince FIA authorities of their innocence.

As a result of these actions, Kohat authorities sealed the suspects' shop. An FIR has been registered against the suspects, and the investigation is currently ongoing to uncover further details.



SUKKUR: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against unrest law and order situation in city, held in Sukkur on Monday.

## SBP says: Banking sector showed steady performance and resilience during H1CY23

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued today the Mid-Year Performance Review (The Review) of the Banking Sector for 2023.

The review covers the performance and soundness of Pakistan's banking sector for the period January to June 2023 (H1CY23). It also briefly covers the performance of financial markets as well as the results of Systemic Risk Survey (which represents views of independent experts about key potential risks to financial stability).

The Review highlights that the macroeconomic environment continued to remain challenging during the first half of CY23.

Domestic financial conditions tightened while the operating environment remained under stress due to elevated inflation and prolonged uncertainty.

Nonetheless, banking sector's balance sheet expanded by 14.0 percent during H1CY23. The expansion in asset base was mainly driven by investments in government securities. Besides strong inflow of deposits, banks' reliance on borrowings remained noticeable during the period. The Review also notes that advances of banking sector recorded a muted growth during H1CY23; private sector advances contracted while public sector availed additional financing mainly for commodity finance operations.

Encouragingly, asset quality indicators improved: net non-performing loans (NPLs) to loans ratio lowered to 0.45 percent at end June-23 (0.68 percent in Jun-22) as banks set aside higher amount of provisioning from steady earnings.

Profitability indicators witnessed noticeable improvement as return on assets (ROA) improved to 1.5 percent in H1CY23 (1.0 percent for CY22). The higher earnings in turn also helped to improve Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the banking sector to 17.8 percent by end June-2023 (17.0 percent at end Dec-2022). With further improvement in solvency indicators, the ability of the banking sector.



FAISALABAD: Workers spreading the rice crop for drying at a rice warehouse.

## Crackdown SNGPL removes 323 illegal connections, recovers over Rs 75.4 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Determined to bring down the Unaccounted for Gas (UFG) ratio, the Regional Directorate of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has launched a massive crackdown against the elements involved in theft of the scarce and precious commodity, which continued unabated.

During the ongoing anti-gas-theft operations, the raiding teams so far unearthed more than 323 illegal connections and recovered Rs 75.4 million from defaulters.

Sharing details, Islamabad-Regional SNGPL General Manager Azhar Rashid Sheikh in an exclusive talk with APP informed the special teams not only identified but also removed more than 270 illegal meters and 53 direct connections and recovered

millions of rupees from the defaulted consumers.

He vowed that the region-wide crackdown against the gas pilferage would continue till knocking down all the elements involved in illegal tapping, causing loss to the national economy and depriving the consumers of gas, which was already in shortage due to the fast depletion in the country's existing hydrocarbon reserves and high-price in the international market.

Accordingly, he said a massive operation to curb gas theft, recover dues, and remove illegal connections was in full swing across the Islamabad-region on directives of the federal government.

So far, he said raids had been conducted in various areas including Chhattah Bakhtawar.

## ICCI calls for ecosystem to promote entrepreneurs & startups

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the government should take policy measures to create an ecosystem for entrepreneurship and startups that would help promote businesses and revive the economy.

He said that Pakistan is a country of young population with over 60 percent share of youth in our total population.

Therefore, every possible effort should be made to develop this huge pool of human capital by providing them business education so that they could be equipped with the right knowledge for business-startups and be

enabled to play a more effective role in the economic development of the country. He said this while addressing as keynote speaker at Business Summit 23 organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with The Career Class in its auditorium.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the government cannot provide jobs to all educated youngsters and the best option to absorb youth in productive activities is to facilitate and encourage them towards entrepreneurship so that instead of becoming job seekers, they could start business ventures and become job creators for others.

## PFC to take part in Dusseldorf, Germany expo

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in the 4-day Dusseldorf-Germany Expo starting from November 13 to discover business opportunities and explore new market access for Pakistani products.

In a press statement, Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that PFC along with Chenone will be participating in this mega event.

He said Chenone will also exhibit its high-quality international standards products to capture their share in the global market.

He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals with international buyers.

He said PFC and Chenone have already attended several other international fairs in the US, China, Italy, Sri Lanka etc. and introduced their products which are in great demand. He hoped to get orders from foreign buyers. TDAP is facilitating the manufacturers of export products. He said he would also hold a series of marathon meetings with tycoons for investment to avail the government unprecedented special package for foreign investors.

## Modest increase in cement prices across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): In Pakistan, the cost of cement has seen a slight increase in the past week, with data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics showing a small rise.

In the northern regions, the price for one cement bag averaged Rs1,208, a 0.16% bump from the previous week's Rs1,206.



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Neil Hawkins called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. The meeting served as a platform for fruitful discussion on bilateral relations, economic cooperation and regional issues of mutual interest.

## China's high-tech materials company to help renovate textile industry in Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): A Chinese leading manufacturer specialize in textiles auxiliaries and organic silicone products has joint hands with local partners to bring technological innovation support to the textile printing and dyeing industry in Pakistan.

"As the pillar industry of Pakistan, textile industry is currently facing two major constraints, namely energy and cotton yarn shortage. The fabric categories of some local printing and dyeing factories are gradually transitioning to a

large proportion of polyester. Chinese chemical fiber suppliers can provide the most suitable chemical fiber raw materials for unique textile categories to match needs," said Xing Pingping, Overseas Sales Manager of Ningbo Runhe High-tech Materials Co., Ltd.

More than 60 percent of Pakistan's textile companies are concentrated in Punjab Province, and Faisalabad is the core textile industrial city here, with nearly 300 dyeing factories of all sizes. According to Xing, recently, his company

joined hands with Pakistani agent FairChem International to hold a textile seminar in Faisalabad, in which China and Pakistan partners jointly discussed the future direction of local textile printing and dyeing industry. More than 150 local practitioners participated to explore new opportunities.

According to data released by Pakistan Customs, in fiscal year 2022, Pakistan's total exports of textiles reached USD19.32 billion, a year-on-year increase of 25.3 percent from the previous fiscal year.

## Cutlery exports increase 1.55% in 2 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The country's cutlery exports witnessed an increase of 1.55 percent during the first two months of the financial year 2023-24 as compared to the corresponding months of last year.

The country exported cutlery worth US \$9.485 million during July-August (2023-24) against the exports of US \$9.340 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 1.55 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the cutlery exports also rose by 11.73

percent during the month of August 2023 as compared to the same month of last year.

The PBS data revealed that the cutlery exports in August 2023 were recorded at \$5.161 million against the exports of \$4.619 million in August 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the cutlery export witnessed an increase of 19.36 percent in August 2023 compared to the exports of \$4.324 million in July 2023.

It is pertinent to mention here that the overall merchandise exports from the country.

## Global oil price surge raises concerns of soaring inflation worldwide

LONDON (INP): The rapid surge in oil prices in the global market triggered fear of an impending inflation crisis across the world.

The recent inflation wave has gripped nations worldwide with concerns mounting that further price increases may be on the horizon due to a surge in oil costs in the global market.

As per reports from the international media outlet 'The Guardian', a 30 percent increase in oil prices has been recorded.



QUETTA: A shopkeeper displaying wall clock in his shop.

## Riphah University organizes successful Expo Jawan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Riphah International University has organized 'Expo Jawan' to create awareness and promotion of modern departments of higher education among the youth.

According to the details, this expo is a unique and first of its kind education event in twin cities held here yesterday.

The expo was held at IFQ Hotel Club Road, which was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Ms. Syeda

Shafaq Hashmi (Deputy Secretary Ministry of Culture and Heritage).

On this occasion, she inspected the stalls of various departments of Riphah University and appreciated it's the efforts for promotion of education. A large number of educational experts, intellectuals, young students and parents of the twin cities participated in the Expo Jawan and benefited from the career counseling provided.

## Turkish stock exchange opens week in red

ANKARA (APP): Türkiye's benchmark stock index opened Monday at 7,952.42 points, slightly down by 0.12%, or 9.56 points, from last week's close.

On Friday, Borsa Istanbul's BIST 100 index closed at 7,961.98 points, plunging 1.93%, with a daily trading volume of 132 billion liras (\$4.9 billion). The US dollar/Turkish lira exchange rate was 27.0165 as of 10.00 a.m. local time (0700GMT), the euro/lira exchange rate stood at 28.8107.

## Pakistan Energy Conference organized by SDPI held

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) Chairman Waseem Mukhtar on Monday said that promoting energy affordability for the export sector through regionally competitive tariffs was a critical factor in boosting economic growth in current challenging times.

Addressing the Pakistan Energy Conference jointly organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Eventive Solutions, he said other critical factors

were boosting investments for a reliable energy supply and transmission system and increasing access, said a press release issued here.

The conference aimed to explore policy solutions and map out a viable way forward to promote renewable energy transition in Pakistan under worsening global and national energy inflation for sustainable economic development and provide relief to the public from external price shocks.

Chairman NEPRA remarked that the sector's success depends on three

factors i.e. reliability, affordability, and accessibility. He further stressed the improvement of the forecast mechanisms to ensure return on investments for renewable energy projects.

"We are confronting a poly-crisis globally and at the domestic level there is a pressing need for innovative solutions to achieve a balance between soaring energy prices and capacity payment issues to alleviate some of the sufferings of the public," said Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI. Romina Khurshid

## Exports increase by 22.45% to Rs.1.27trln in two months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 22.45 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-August (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.1,276,238 million as against Rs.1,042,226 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 22.45 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS. On a year-on-year basis, the exports during August 2023 increased by 26.75 percent and were recorded at Rs.695,136 million compared to the

exports of Rs. 548,440 million in August 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 19.62 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 581,102 million in July 2023.

The main commodities of exports during August 2023 were Knitwear (Rs. 117,892 million), readymade garments (Rs. 83,447 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 47,002 million), cotton yarn (Rs.30,793 million), towels (Rs.25,567 million), made-up articles, excluding towels & bedwear (Rs.18,377 million), rice others (Rs.18,073 million), rice basmati (Rs.16,271 million) and meat and meat preparations (Rs.11,210 million).



QUETTA: A worker supplying kids cycles to shops at Shahra-e-Iqbal.

## 3.93m cotton bales production a good omen for Pakistan economy

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's cotton industry has experienced a remarkable surge in cotton bales production till September 15, 2023, as with the fresh arrival, Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has released yield figures, indicating a robust performance in the sector.

The PCGA official sources told APP with figures that till September 15, 2023, cotton arrivals soared to 3.933 million bales, which is signifying a remarkable 79.87 percent year-on-year (YoY) increase, compared to the same time period last year when arrivals stood at 2.187 million bales.

The substantial growth in cotton arrivals is a promising sign for

which plays a pivotal role in the nation's economy. Cotton and textile exports have remained pillars of Pakistan's economy, the sources said. It is worth mentioning here that cotton arrivals from Sindh have increased by a staggering 2.15 times YoY, reaching 2.389 million bales. This surge reflects a growing focus on enhancing cotton production in the province, they said.

Likewise, the Punjab province, being another significant critical cotton-producing region, has shown considerable yield. Cotton arrivals from Punjab surged by 44 percent YoY, with outcome of total 1.544 million bales. This impressive number marks a 44.57 percent.

## PSX marks launch of JS Global Banking sector ETF with a gong ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP): A gong ceremony was held at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to formally launch and celebrate the listing of the JS Global Banking Sector Exchange Traded Fund (JSGBETF).

The commencement of trading of units of JSGBETF took place on September 11, 2023, this is the first ETF to be launched by a brokerage house in Pakistan under the SECP's Sandbox Guidelines, 2019, and the eighth ETF to be listed on Pakistan Stock Exchange, said a press release issued here.

JS Global Banking Sector ETF is a sector-

specific ETF that will track a total-return, equally weighted index, JS Global Banking Sector Index (JSGBKTI), and JSGBKTI will be replicating stock selection criteria of PSX's Banking Tradable Index (BKTI).

JSGBETF is a sector-specific ETF that tracks a basket of stocks within the banking sector. It currently consists of eight (8) banking stocks that represent approximately 70 percent of the listed banking sector or approximately 80 percent on free float market cap.

Present at the gong ceremony were the Chief Guest, Chairman SECP, Akif Saeed.



MULTAN: Roadside vendor displaying colorful fancy dresses to attract customers.



PESHAWAR: People buying flowers in Sarki flower market.

## US-Iran ties remain adversarial but door for nuclear diplomacy remains open, US says

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: A detainee swap that secured the release of five Americans held in Iran on Monday does not change Washington's adversarial relationship with Tehran, although the door remains open for diplomacy over Iran's nuclear program, a senior administration official said.

The United States and Iran, after months of Qatar-mediated talks, have struck a deal in which Tehran released five U.S. dual nationals who were imprisoned in Iran in exchange for five Iranians held in the United States.

Speaking to reporters late on Sunday, senior Biden administration officials said Washington would keep up the pressure on Tehran by imposing fresh sanctions on Iran's ministry of intelligence and former President

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for their involvement in the detention of U.S. citizens. The U.S. had also increased its interdiction posture in the region to deter Iranian arms shipments into Yemen. Even so, they said the door for diplomacy over Iran's nuclear program was not entirely shut. "If we see an opportunity, we will explore it but right now, I've really nothing to talk about," the senior administration official said on condition of anonymity.

Asked if there would be any indirect talks with the Iranians this week in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the official said: "You asked if there's any talks planned this week, absolutely not."

It was unclear if the official meant to deny any indirect talks, or if he was deliberately leaving the door open for them.

After taking office in January 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden tried to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal under which Iran had restricted its nuclear program in return for relief from U.S., European Union and U.N. sanctions.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump, a Republican, reneged on that deal in 2018, arguing it was too generous to Tehran, and restored broad U.S. economic sanctions against Iran.

Efforts to revive that deal appeared to die about a year ago, when diplomats say Iran rejected what EU mediators called their final offer. However, earlier this year Washington and Tehran began exploring what analysts describe as "understandings" - which Washington has never acknowledged - to lower tensions over nuclear and other issues.



Siamak Namazi, Morad Tahbaz and Emad Shargi, who were released during a prisoner swap deal between U.S. and Iran, arrive at Doha International Airport, Qatar.

## Poland, Hungary, Slovakia to introduce bans on Ukraine grains

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: Poland, Slovakia and Hungary announced their own restrictions on Ukrainian grain imports after the European Commission decided not to extend its ban on imports into Ukraine's five EU neighbours.

Ukraine was one of the world's top grain exporters before Russia's 2022 invasion reduced its ability to ship agricultural produce to global markets. Ukrainian farmers have relied on grain exports through neighbouring countries since the conflict began as it has been unable to use the favoured routes through Black Sea ports.

## Ukraine says it will sue Poland, Hungary and Slovakia over food import bans

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine plans to sue Poland, Hungary and Slovakia in the World Trade Organization over bans on Ukrainian agricultural products, Ukrainian officials said on Monday. The appeal could be sent "in the near future", a senior official said and followed a decision by the three countries bordering Ukraine to ban imports of the country's key export commodities. Politico had earlier on Monday quoted Ukrainian Trade Representative Taras Kachka as saying in an interview that Kyiv planned to sue the three countries.

## US national security adviser meets Chinese FM

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Malta this weekend, Beijing and Washington said on Sunday, as the world's two largest economies seek to stabilise troubled relations.

Both sides held "candid, substantive and constructive" talks during multiple meetings held Sept 16-17, according to separate statements from the White House and the Chinese foreign ministry published on Sunday.

Sullivan's meeting with Wang was the latest in a series of high-level discussions between US and Chinese officials that could lay the groundwork for a meeting of US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year. Sullivan last met Wang in Vienna in May. China's foreign ministry said both sides agreed to maintain high-level exchanges and hold bilateral consultations on Asia-Pacific affairs, maritime affairs and foreign policy. The White House added that both sides "committed to maintain this strategic channel of communication and to pursue additional high-level engagement and consultations in key areas."

## Canada to give C\$33 million to help buy air defenses for Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
OTTAWA: Canada will contribute C\$33 million (\$24.5 million) to a British-led partnership that is buying air defense equipment for Ukraine to help it fend off Russian missile and drone attacks, Defence Minister Bill Blair said on Sunday.

In a statement, Blair said the contribution was part of the C\$500 million worth of military aid for Kyiv that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in June. Canada, home to one of the world's largest Ukrainian diasporas.

## Russia lashes Ukraine at top UN court in 'genocide' case

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia hit out at Ukraine at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Monday, as the two warring countries squared off in a legal case over Moscow's claim that "genocide" in eastern Ukraine was a pretext for last year's invasion.

Moscow's representative, Gennady Kuzmin, said Ukraine's case that Russia "abused" the United Nations Genocide Convention as a reason to launch its war against its neighbour in February 2022 "couldn't be further from the truth".

When Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion on February 24 last year, part of his reasoning was that pro-Russian people in eastern Ukraine had been "subjected to bullying and genocide by the Kyiv regime".

Two days into the invasion, Ukraine filed a suit at the ICJ, "emphatically denying" this and arguing that Russia's use of "genocide" as a pretext went against the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.

Mere "statements" about genocide are not admissible under international law including the Genocide Convention.

Two days into the invasion, Ukraine filed a suit at the ICJ, "emphatically denying" this and arguing that Russia's use of "genocide" as a pretext went against the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.

## China flies 103 military planes toward Taiwan in new high in activity island calls harassment

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: China's military contributed 103 warplanes toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period in what the island's defense ministry called a recent new high.

The planes were detected between 6 a.m. on Sunday and 6 a.m. on Monday, the ministry said. As is customary, they turned back before reaching Taiwan. Chinese warplanes fly toward the self-governing island on a near-daily basis but typically in smaller numbers. The Taiwan ministry didn't explain what time period it meant by a "recent" high.

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan as tensions have grown between the two and with the United States. The U.S. is Taiwan's main supplier of arms and opposes any attempt to change Taiwan's status by force.

The Chinese government would prefer that Taiwan come under its control voluntarily and last week unveiled a plan for an integrated development demonstration zone in Fujian province, trying to entice Taiwanese even as it threatens the island militarily in what experts say is China's long-running carrot and stick approach.

The presidential candidates had no immediate comment Monday on the latest Chinese military activity. Taiwan's Defense Ministry said 40 of the planes crossed the symbolic median line between mainland China and the island. They included more than 30 fighter jets as well as midair refueling tanker planes. Taiwan also reported nine Chinese naval vessels in area waters in the previous 24 hours. The ministry called the Chinese military action "harassment" that it warned could escalate in the current tense atmosphere.

## UN will end in 1 year probe of Islamic State extremists in Iraq

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The Security Council on Friday voted unanimously to end, a year from now, a U.N. probe into activities of Islamic State extremists in Iraq. The vote came at the request of the Iraqi government.

The U.K.-sponsored resolution noted that Baghdad also asked that U.N. investigators hand over evidence they have gathered so far to the government, so that Iraqi authorities can pursue IS members' accountability, as well as that of those who assisted and financed "this terrorist organization."

The Security Council in September 2017 set up the investigative team — also at Iraq's request — to collect evidence against members of the Islamic State group to be used in trials.

Christian Ritscher, the head of the team, told the council in June that its investigators were compiling evidence on the development and use of chemical weapons by Islamic State extremists and advancing their documentation on the militant group's gender-based violence and crimes against children.

## Thousands of South Korean teachers rallying for new laws to protect them from abusive parents

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: Thousands of South Korean school teachers and staff rallied in Seoul on Saturday for more legal protection from bullying by parents, a rising problem in a country known for its brutally competitive school environments.

The weekend demonstrations in the capital city, were triggered by the death of a teacher who was found dead at her elementary school in July after reportedly expressing emotional distress caused by complaints from allegedly abusive parents.

The protesting teachers, who have rallied for weeks, say current laws make it difficult to exercise control over their classrooms and leave them at the mercy of overbearing parents, who could easily accuse them of emotionally abusing children.

South Korean lawmakers are currently debating bills that would meet some of the teachers' demands for immunity from child abuse claims. But some experts have raised concerns over the potential changes, saying the proposals could further weaken protection for children, who toil for years in hypercompetitive environments.

In South Korea, graduating from elite universities is seen as crucial for career and marriage prospects.

According to Education Ministry and the National Health Insurance Service data provided to liberal opposition lawmaker Kim Wonil last week, more than 820 elementary, middle- and high-school students died of suicide between 2018 and 2022.

Dressed in black, thousands of teachers and school staff occupied a street near the National Assembly, chanting slogans and holding up signs that read: "Grant teachers immunity from child emotional abuse claims."



Members of the World Court listen as Russia begins presenting its objections against the jurisdiction of the World Court in a genocide case brought by Ukraine which claims Moscow falsely applied genocide law to justify its February 24, 2022 invasion, in The Hague, Netherlands.

## Ukraine hits Moscow, Crimea with drones

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia said it had thwarted a coordinated Ukrainian attack on Crimea early on Sunday, while drones also targeted Moscow, disrupting air traffic in the capital, and caused a fire at an oil depot in the southwest of the country.

Attacks deep inside Russia, far from the front lines, have also increased, with Moscow's mayor saying at least two drones were shot down in the region of the capital early on Sunday.

In an opinion piece late on Saturday, Olexsiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's Security Council, urged Kyiv's allies to speed up the delivery of weapons, saying this was the only way to end the war.

"For example, the complete or partial elimination of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, which is a double

task, should significantly accelerate the process of Russia's search for a way out of the ongoing war," Danilov wrote on the Ukrainian Pravda news site.

Russian air defence systems destroyed at least six drones targeting Crimea from different directions, Russia's defence ministry said on Sunday.

In the Moscow region, a drone was destroyed over the Istra district and another over the Ramensky district, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said on Telegram, adding there were no casualties or damage from drone debris.

At least 30 flights were delayed and six cancelled at Moscow's major airports, Russian state news agencies said — a frequent move by aviation authorities during drone strikes.

## 14 killed in Brazil jet crash

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAO PAULO: Fourteen people on a small jet died when the plane crashed in Brazil's northern Amazonas state on Saturday, the state's governor said.

The accident took place in the Barcelos province, some 400km from the state capital, Manaus. "I deeply regret the death of the 12 passengers and two crew members who were victims of the plane crash in Barcelos on Saturday," said Wilson Lima, Governor of Amazonas state on X, formerly known as Twitter.

In an interview, Governor Lima said the bodies had been removed and that the victims were Brazilian tourists.

Lima added that the region faces heavy rainfall and the most likely cause of the accident was an error in the route taken at the time of landing.



People stand looking at the site where an Embraer EMB-110 aircraft of the Manaus Aerotaxi airline crashed, causing the deaths of 14 people during the plane's landing the previous day at Barcelos airport, about 400 km from Manaus, Amazonas state, Brazil.

## Nearly 40,000 displaced in flood-hit Libya: UN agency

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: Over 38,640 people have been displaced as a result of heavy rain and floods that hit the northeastern regions of Libya, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a Geneva-based UN agency, reported Saturday.

In a report, IOM said that the cities of Derna (at least 30,000), Bayda (3,000) and Benghazi (2,195) have the largest number of displaced people. Some of them are temporarily living in old school buildings, others are staying with relatives or families who have agreed to take them in. It emphasises that the numbers quoted appear to be understated due to "the limited data available". There is an acute shortage of drinking water and fuel in all the affected towns, as well as disruptions in communications and power supply, the report says. The situation in Derna is the most difficult. There is only one health facility in the eastern part of the city, but even there, shortages of staff, equipment and medicines (especially antibiotics and medications for chronic diseases) exist.

## 5-year-old girl killed as Italian military jet crashes during exercise

**Monitoring Desk**  
TURIN: An Italian military jet crashed during an exercise in Turin, hitting a car in which an entire family was travelling and killing a five-year-old girl, Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said on Saturday.

Italian news agency AGI reported that the victim's nine-year-old brother was seriously injured, while the two parents and the jet's pilot were not in life-threatening danger.

"The ministry expresses its condolences to the family members," Crosetto said in a statement, adding he "had made available every facility and skill for the handling of the emergency and in support of any people involved".

## Egypt inaugurates newly restored Ottoman mosque at Cairo citadel

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Egypt has inaugurated a newly restored Ottoman mosque, built by the 16th century governor Suleyman Pasha al-Khadim, that lies within the citadel that has dominated Cairo's skyline for centuries.

The mosque, with 22 green-tiled domes and minbar (prayer niche) inlaid with renowned Iznik tiles, is Cairo's earliest Ottoman mosque, built in 1528 A.D., eleven years after the Ottoman army under Sultan Selim conquered Egypt from the Mamluk empire.

The 2,360-square metre mosque complex lies on the site of the Fatimid-era tomb of Sayed Sariya, built in 1140 A.D. and which still survives.

"To distinguish the Ottoman mosques, the minaret is usually pencil-shaped," said Mostafa Waziri, head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. "The mosque consists of the prayer area, the vicinity, the Fatimid cemetery and the Kuttab (Quran school)." The mosque, known as the Suleyman Pasha al-Khadim mosque and also the Sariya mosque.

## Trial in Cyprus for 5 Israelis accused of gang raping a British woman is to start Oct. 5

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: The trial of five Israelis accused of gang raping a British woman in a Cyprus hotel room is scheduled for next month, when they will enter pleas to charges including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and abduction, Cypriot police said Monday.



Migrants gather at a reception centre in Lampedusa before European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's visit to the Sicilian island.



**PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq along with other leaders joint hand with other leaders to express their solidarity during protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held near Governor House building in Peshawar.**

## Govt. committed to putting national economy on sustainable growth trajectory: Sami tells WB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami on Monday said the government was committed to putting the national economy on a path of sustainable growth. He expressed these views during a meeting with World Bank's Country Director to Pakistan Njay Benhassine, who called on him here, a news release said.

The WB country director was accompanied by his team including Gailius J. Draugelis (Operations Manager) for Pakistan at WB and Kamran Akbar, (Senior Social Development Specialist). While, the Planning Ministry officials including Chief Executive Of-

ficer CEO, P3A Board, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Member (Infrastructure & Regional Connectivity) at Planning Commission, Dr Waqas Anwar and Member (Social Sector & Devolution) Rafiullah Kakar were also present at the meeting.

The minister appreciated the role of the WB as one of the major development partners of Pakistan. Sami Saeed acknowledged the WB's decades-long assistance, which had been playing a vital role in the socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan.

Also appreciated the WB's continued support and commitment to the ongoing development projects in the country particularly for the flood-affected areas.

"The Planning Ministry is committed to playing its constructive role in facilitating the WB for the implementation of development projects to make Pakistan climate resilient," Sami Saeed said, reiterating the government's resolve for the country's economic revival.

It is to be noted that last year, Pakistan faced unprecedented devastation due to torrential rains and flooding in most parts of the country, which affected 33 million people and caused economic losses worth \$30 billion.

The situation led the government to prepare the 4RF framework (Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF)).

The 4RF document suggested effective coordination and participation arrangements among the federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, international and national NGOs, academia and private sectors. The majority of the projects for the flood-affected areas are being executed by the provinces which have been already approved by the Central Development Working Party and ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council).

On the occasion, the WB Country Director WB appreciated the facilitation and proactive role of the Planning Ministry which established a green channel for the quick approval.

## India, violator of global laws in Kashmir, waging propaganda against Pak

ISLAMABAD (INP): India in violation of all international laws and conventions, is using chemical weapons along with its latest war technology during violent cordon and search operations to suppress the Kashmiris' demand for resolution of the Kashmir dispute in line with the UN-acknowledged right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, India is using its army, paramilitary and police, shielded under draconian law Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to kill Kashmiri

youth in fake encounters and arrest them under Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in the territory.

The Hindutva-inspired BJP government revoked Kashmir's special status in flagrant violation of international laws in August 2019 and settled non-Kashmiris in the territory against the United Nations resolutions.

As part of snatching the Kashmiris' identity, India granted tens of thousands of domicile status to non-Kashmiris.



**QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Advisor Mir Danish Lango meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.**

## Senator Samina hails Justice Qazi Faiz Isa on assuming post of CJP

QUETTA (APP): Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri congratulated Justice Qazi Faiz Isa on assuming the post of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

Expressing good wishes for the new Chief Justice of Pakistan in her congratulatory statement, she said that Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa is an able and senior jurist.

There is a strong hope that under the leadership of the new Chief Justice, the institutions providing justice will be more active and strong and will perform their duties effectively, she noted.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that it is the need of the hour for

the legislature, judiciary and executive to work together for the rule of law and justice in the country. She further said that for some time now, there have been talks of discrimination against institutions providing justice, but Qazi Faiz Isa will further activate and strengthen the public's trust in institutions for the rule of law in the country and restore the dignity of the judiciary.

She further said that Balochistan Awami Party wants rule of law in the country. The eyes of the entire nation are now towards the Supreme Court for cheap and quick justice so that lakhs of cases of common people can be heard immediately.



**QUETTA: DG Khana-e-Farhang Iran Dr. Abul Hasan Miri and Secretary Culture Manzoor Hussain meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani.**

## MoCCC joins forces with UAE's Blue Carbon for sustainable forestry growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCCC) and UAE's Blue Carbon collaborated to unlock economic potential in forestry, aligned with global climate goals, with a focus on carbon reduction projects and their community benefits.

The Ministry of Climate Change recently hosted a four-day technical workshop with UAE's Blue Carbon, attended by representatives from the provincial forestry departments, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, a news release said on Monday.

The workshop's main goal was to explore how Pakistan's Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

(AFOLU) sector can generate carbon credits known as Internationally Transferable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Throughout the workshop, the primary focus was on exploring potential projects to reduce carbon emissions within Pakistan's AFOLU sector, with a specific emphasis on its forests. The in-depth conversations that occurred during these sessions illuminated Pakistan's forest resources and their readiness for Article 6 mechanisms, thereby highlighting potential areas of cooperation with Blue Carbon. Under the guidelines of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, Pakistan's environmental assets were emphasized as valuable tools.

## Capacity of water treatment plant be increased: Caretaker Minister PHE concerned about issue of provision of clean drinking water to Quetta citizens

**Sardar Ejaz Jaffar stresses need to take steps on war footing ground to tackle issue of clean drinking water in Quetta city**

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Population Welfare, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar visited the water treatment plant established on Sabzal road and booster pump at Brewery road Quetta on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were Managing Director WASA, Hamid Latif Rana, Executive Engineer, Abdul Qadir, Executive Engineer Zaheer Sattar and SDO, Fared Ahmed.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Ejaz Jaffar noted with concern that the issue of clean drinking water for the citizens of Quetta has turned serious situation, and as such there is a dire need to take steps on war footing grounds to tackle the serious issue.

He directed to the MD WASA to prepare and submit a map of Quetta city clearly showing the areas where water is supplied

and those with no supply of water.

He also directed to expedite pace of work on the newly installed tube wells further completing the projects within one and half month so as to resolve the issue of water in the city.

The caretaker Minister on the occasion expressed concern over closure of the important project of water treatment plant asking why such an important nature project remained pending for last several years.

However, now it is an encouraging that around 1.8 million gallons of water is being provided for cultivation to Sabzal road, Samungli road and Nau Hisar after treatment of the sewerage water.

He stressed to increase the capacity of water treatment plant further from existing 1.8 million gallons so that the service stations may also be provided the same treated wa-

ter. The Minister also stressed the need to increase awareness among the masses about importance of clean drinking water.

He said that it has come to his knowledge that some officers of WASA are selling the water in connivance with the tanker mafia, which is a great offence.

He warned them to mend their way otherwise stern action would be taken against them.

Sardar Ejaz Jaffar was also concerned about the lack of better strategy for conservation of the rainwater. Earlier, the MD WASA briefed the caretaker Minister about functioning of the water treatment plant. He also informed that currently 2.6 million people of Quetta need around 5 crore gallons of water, but we are supplying 3.5 crore gallons of water. In order to meet the daily water requirement, we are installing 19 tube wells in the hard rock near Akhtarabad.



**ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed meets with delegation of World Bank led by its country Director Njay Benhassine at the Planning Ministry.**

## Man killed in firing

QUETTA (APP): Unidentified armed men on Monday gunned down a man at Qambrani Road near Sariab area of the provincial capital. The police said the victim was near Kashmiri Abad when armed assailants opened fire at him and fled from the scene. As a result, he died on the spot.

The body was shifted to civil hospital where it was identified as Ghulam Qadir.

The body was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico legal formalities.

The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained so far.

## Hamza for making foolproof security arrangements for anti-polio drive

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat has directed to make foolproof arrangements of security in the sensitive union councils and high risk areas of Quetta during the upcoming anti-polio campaign.

In this regard, the police mobile patrolling, cordoning off the areas and checking should be increased further.

This was directed by the Commissioner while presiding over a meeting about the overall situation and security arrangements in Quetta on Monday.

Also present in the meeting were Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad and other high ups of different concerned departments and agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner said that no case of polio has been registered for last one and half year. Despite this, there is a threat of polio in Quetta, therefore, we have to work hard with the same spirit and hard work and eradicate the polio virus, adding he stressed. He also directed to take steps under comprehensive plan for security in wake of the recent incidents during the anti-polio campaign.

He also stressed to make the anti-polio campaign successful by removing the hardships in the sensitive areas.

In addition to this, the cooperation of religious leaders as well as political and social elders should be sought to make the campaign successful.

## 8-year girl raped, strangle to death

KHUZDAR (INP): Unknown culprits abducted, raped and strangled to death a 8-year-old girl in tehsil Nal of Khuzdar, Levies sources said on Monday.

According to details, the girl went missing from the area the other day.

Very next day the throttled body of missing girl was found near her residence.

Levies sources said that two suspects have detained in connection with the rape, murder.

The administration of Teaching Hospital said that samples of the girl's body would be sent to Lahore for forensic report.



**QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat visiting proposed site for bus stand at Railway Station and Koila Phatak**

## On orders of Provincial Ombudsman: WASA starts supply of clean drinking water to office and colony of Met department

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The WASA Quetta has started supply of water to the office and residential colony of Pakistan Meteorological Department here. The water supply was started by WASA in light of the orders of Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan, Nazir Muhammad Baloch Advocate. According to the spokesman of Provincial Ombudsman, the PMD's Usman Ghani had submitted an application to the provincial Ombudsman. According to which, an agreement was signed between PMD and WASA under which the former would provide 10,000

square feet land to WASA in the premises of its office where WASA would install a tube well besides constructing a control room.

As per the agreement, it was decided WASA would ensure free supply of water to the office and colony of PMD. The PMD's official complaint to the Provincial Ombudsman that WASA is not providing water violating the agreement. Therefore, their complaint may be resolved in this regard, it was requested to the Ombudsman. On this, the Director Investigation, Abdul Manan Achakzai issued notice to MD WASA and sought explanation from him.

## Armed bandit injured man in resistance in Mastung

QUETTA (APP): Unknown armed robbers shot and injured a man when he resisted them attempting his bike snatching on the National Highway near the Ghanja Dhori area of Mastung district on Monday.

According to Levies sources, the victim identified as Muhammad Saleh was on his way somewhere on a motorbike when armed bandits intercepted and opened fire at him as he put resistance with them to snatch his motorcycle.

As a result, he received bullet injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital for medical aid.

Levies force registered a case and started an investigation.

## FIA arrest wanted criminal from France

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Interpol Pakistan has arrested the accused Nasir Iqbal from France and later transported him to Sialkot Airport.

According to the FIA spokesperson, the accused Nasir was wanted for a serious crime by the Punjab Police. A case was registered against the accused in Gujrat under the provisions of murder. FIA National Central Bureau (NCB) Interpol Pakistan had issued a red notice for the arrest of the accused. The extradition of the accused was possible due to the close coordination of Interpol Islamabad with Interpol France. Later, FIA Immigration handed over the accused to the concerned police authorities.

## JI stages sit-in outside KP Governor House against electricity, petrol hike

PESHAWAR (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Monday staged a sit-in outside the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor House in Peshawar against the increase in electricity and petroleum prices, as well as rising inflation.

The JI workers have also placed containers near a museum located near the Governor House for the party's three-day sit-in. JI's Amir, Sirajul Haq, has also arrived in Peshawar for the sit-in.

"Our protest movement is peaceful and not aimed at causing chaos; instead, it intends to compel the government to roll back the unjust increase in prices of electricity and petrol," a JI spokesperson said.

He also said that JI will

also approach the Supreme Court against the excessive increases in electricity and petrol prices.

It is noteworthy that JI has also announced protests in Lahore on September 21, in Quetta on September 24, and in Karachi on October 6, all in front of governor houses, to continue their anti-inflation campaign.

## Petitioner requests LHC Court should consider to investigate into ailment of Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE (Online): The petitioner seeking investigation against former Prime Minister (PM) Shahbaz Sharif for sending former PM Nawaz Sharif abroad came up for hearing in Lahore High Court (LHC).

Shahbaz Sharif, speaker national assembly and interior minister have been made respondents. Imran Khan chief election commissioner and IG Punjab have also been made respondents.

A single bench of LHC led by Justice Sultan Tanvir took up the petition filed by citizen Azhar Abbas for hearing Monday.

The court directed the

state counsel to give arguments on the maintainability of the petition. Assistant Attorney General Haroon Rashid said the petition is not maintainable.

The state counsel said the petitioner is directed to resort to Islamabad High Court (IHC).

The court adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

The petitioner has taken plea in his petition that Shahbaz Sharif is charged with sending his brother Nawaz Sharif abroad. Shahbaz Sharif has violated article 62/63 by sending his brother Nawaz Sharif abroad.



**QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE & Population Welfare Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar inspecting water treatment plant and booster pump at Sabzal road.**