





QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

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

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

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

The GDI was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping on September 20, 2022. In his remarks, the Prime Minister

highlighted that progress towards achieving the SDGs has suffered a serious setback due to the poly crises of COVID, conflict and climate change.

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

And he highlighted the need for action in 5 key areas: food production, infrastructure investment, industrialization, resilient healthcare systems and the bridging the digital divide.

The Prime Minister further highlighted the necessity of adequate and appropriate finance at all levels of the development process and welcomed President Xi's announcement of the setting up another fund of USD 10 billion dedicated to the implementation of the GDI.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister stated that Pakistan looks forward to enhancing its cooperation with China and other members of the Group of Friends of GDI to realize their collective aspiration for implementation of the SDGs. The event also heard opening remarks by Mr. Han Zheng, Vice President of China, Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the UN General Assembly, and other high-level dignitaries, as well as a video briefing and presentation on GDI cooperation.

## Saudi FM describes Kashmir dispute a pressing challenge to South Asia's security, stability

NEW YORK (INP): Saudi Arabia's minister of foreign affairs, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, has described the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as a pressing challenge to the security and stability of South Asia.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Prince Faisal bin Farhan was addressing the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Saudi Foreign Minister warned that if the Kashmir dispute is allowed to remain unresolved it will contribute to further instability in the region.

He said Saudi Arabia stands by Muslim peoples in their efforts to maintain their Islamic identity and preserve their country's support for people in areas affected by conflict or unrest, including those in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Prince Faisal bin Farhan maintained its unremitting in its efforts to mediate between the parties involved in the conflict, in an attempt to deescalate it and help bring about a peaceful settlement in accordance with international resolutions. Such efforts are in line with Saudi Arabia's unwavering stance in support of Islamic peoples, he added.

## FM hopes Pakistan's bright times ahead with several investment accords with GCC states in offing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is expecting several investment agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in diverse areas including agriculture and information technology, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani has said.

"The GCC countries have shown a lot of interest in Pakistan's new initiative of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) that focuses on leveraging key sectors by attracting investment from friendly countries, he said in an interview with TRT World. The foreign minister said the GCC countries were interested in Pakistan's areas including agriculture, information technology, mines and minerals, and energy. Already, Pakistan has received the Expressions of Interest from GCC countries in mining and energy, he added. He mentioned that Pakistan was sitting on the seventh largest reservoir of shale gas. "The future looks very bright as far as the investment climate is concerned. We are expecting the representatives of the GCC countries to visit Pakistan this month with a number of agreements and MoUs to be signed," he said. Pakistan, he said, had very close cooperation with the GCC countries including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain with different layers of economic, political, defence and people-to-people relations.

Jilani said Pakistan had taken strong measures to create an environment of good governance and end corruption and smuggling to ensure a conducive environment for investment.

On Afghanistan, he said Pakistan wanted its neighbouring country to attain stability and prosperity but the presence of TTP and ISIS-K were a serious source of concern.

He said dialogue was held with the interim government asking them to fulfill their commitments. He said Pakistan has made to Pakistan as well as the international community whereby they are committed to not allowing the Afghan soil to be used against other countries.

"Unfortunately attacks which take place in Pakistan are emanating from Afghanistan by TTP that remain a major concern for us," he said.

On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he said Pakistan's position was very clear, i.e., War is not an option for anything and the issue needs to be settled through peaceful negotiations.

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## Nationwide anti-polio drive to kick off next week

ISLAMABAD (INP): The nationwide polio eradication campaign will kick off on September 25 after the polio virus was detected in environmental sites in different cities. The campaign will be launched in three phases across the country, say sources, adding that the first phase will be launched from September 25, the second from October 2 and final phase will be kicked off from October 9 to 13.

## SC imposes fine on lawyer for wasting time

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Thursday imposed a fine worth Rs 5,000 against a lawyer for wasting court's time and ordered him to submit a receipt after depositing the amount in any welfare organization of his choice.

A three-member bench headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case pertaining to a property.

During the course of proceeding, the CJP remarked that the petitioner's counsel tried to mislead the court. Addressing the counsel, the CJP said that the court did not trust you any more after this act.

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

## Drug Center inaugurated in Tehsil Pasi in support of social Welfare: Qadir

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Director Social Welfare Department Gwadar Qadir Luqman on Thursday said that a drug center was inaugurated in Tehsil Pasi with the support of social welfare and special education campaign for drug addicts in Pasi city.

In his statement issued here, he said that the Pasi Drug Center will work under the management of Abu Zar Kalanchi Foundation Pasi, whose manpower and administrative matters will be looked after by the Social Welfare Department.

He said that the financial affairs will be under the management of the Foundation adding that the building of Social Welfare Department is under construction, upon completion, the staff of the department will be shifted to the government building and will continue to perform their official duties.

## General elections to be...

Continued from page 1

would be held in the last week of January following the completion of a 54-day election campaign programme.

The announcement comes a day after the ECP said it had scheduled a meeting with political parties next month to discuss the code of conduct for general elections.

According to the ECP, a draft code of conduct has been shared with political parties to get their feedback before finalising the rules of the game.

The draft code says political parties, contesting candidates and election agents shall not propagate any opinion, or act in any manner prejudicial to the ideology of Pakistan, or the sovereignty, integrity or security of Pakistan, or morality or public order, or the integrity or independence of the judiciary of Pakistan, or which defames or brings into ridicule any government institution including the judiciary and the armed forces.

The ECP had ruled out elections this year, citing the need for fresh delimitation of constituencies following the notification of the latest 2023 digital census.

Since the National Assembly was dissolved three days before the end of its constitutional term, Article 224 of the Constitution mandates that elections be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the assembly by November 7.

But at the same time, Section 17(2) of the Elections Act states that "the commission shall delimit constituencies after every census is officially published.

## NACTA actively engaged in developing mechanisms to strategize solutions to growing intolerance: Rai Tahir

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Muhammad Tahir Rai Thursday said the authority was actively engaged in developing mechanisms to strategize solutions for prevailing issue of growing intolerance in the country.

He was addressing the four-day National Peace Festival organized by NACTA in commemoration of United Nations International Day of Peace (marked September 21) concluded here. The objective of this event was to uphold and enhance social agreement against extremism and engage social actors in exchanging knowledge and proposing solutions to promote lasting peace in the country.

The National Peace Festival was concluded with the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, as Chief Guest. The National Coordinator NACTA said, "Global events like wars, epidemics and climate change have definitely affected bil-

ions of people in fields of food and energy. Billions are facing hunger. We are also affected, obviously.

But still Pakistanis are able to face it boldly by sharing food and happiness with each other. We have many blessings which other people don't have." Pakistan with its cultural diversity, he said exemplified the strength of unity in the face of diversity. "We are working with our partners in other ministries and institutions to give solutions and most importantly engage with youth", he said.

The National Coordinator apprised the participants that NACTA was also working with local and international partners, think tanks and other stakeholders to reach out to educational institutions to promote Pakistani way of life which is based on indigenous Pakistani values of hospitality, sympathy and pursuit of happiness. He informed that NACTA had developed a comprehensive National CVE Policy 2023. Pakistan's national narrative against terrorism and extremism is a part of that policy.

Rai said the sport of cricket was our national craze as it binds people from all four corners of the country. "We must promote these values to indirectly prevent extremism. We need to make those ordinary successful Pakistani people our heroes who excel in hard work and education. We need to tell the youth that our future lies in education, science and sports," he added. He was hopeful that the candid discussions during the sessions of the last two days of the National Peace Festival would serve as means to make the world a peaceful planet characterized by tranquility and unity.

## EXTENSION IN TENDER OPENING

The Notice Inviting Tender of Drip Irrigation System for block plantation published in daily newspaper vide PRQ No. 438/22-08-2023 and PRQ No.499/31-08-2023 as well as BPPRA website vide TSE- 232408349273 has been extended. The bids now will be submitted by 27th September, 2023 at 10:00 am and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 pm.

Note:- The tender committee will reserve the right to accept or reject any one or all the tender rates without providing any reason in not applicable for the above mentioned tender or considered as Nil.

DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST QUETTA

PRQ No.632/21-9-2023

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## TENDER NOTICE-CORRIGENDUM

The S&GAD invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items.

TSE-232408350831

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: 28)	5%

Changed Area

S.No	Step Name	Remarks
1	Eligibility Criteria	As per BPPRA Rules
2	Case Schedule	By Default
3	Data Sheet	Specifications as per BPPRA rules

Note: The Remaining Terms & Conditions shall Remain Same.

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules -2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents Procedure of Procurement: Single Slage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 5% 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 02 October, 2023 till 11:30 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:30 PM on EPPS System The bidders who have downloaded Bidding Document(s) before 21 September, 2023 are required to download the amended Bidding Document(s). The Other terms and conditions shall remain same.

Address: block 1 civil secretariat Quetta  
Phone no: 0819202802  
Email: hamidnasar1197@gmail.com

SECTION OFFICER S&GAD

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## General elections to be...

Continued from page 1

lished. Meanwhile Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that announcement of the election date by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was a positive development.

Addressing a news conference, he welcomed the announcement on behalf of the caretaker government. It was a moment of delight that the election would be held in line with the law and the Constitution.

Flanked by Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, he said it was a day of despair for rumour-mongers as the ECP made the announcement regarding general elections which would be held in the last week of January 2024.

As the uncertainty surrounding general elections ended with the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) announcement of a timeframe for the polls, major political parties in the former ruling alliance welcomed the development, hoping that it would remove the apprehensions regarding the political situation of the country.

In a much-awaited move, the electoral authority has announced that elections will be held in January next year following the completion of the delimitation process.

Polls were supposed to have taken place within 90 days, but the election watchdog said it needed more time to redraw constituencies following the latest population census.

"The final list of constituencies will be published on November 30. After that, the elections will be held in the last week of January 2024, after a 54-day election programme," the commission said in a statement.

Reacting to the development, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) viewed it as positive while Awami National Party (ANP) called for a specific date, however, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) decided to challenge the move in court.

PTI to challenge ECP decision

Following the announcement of the poll date, the Imran Khan-led party has decided to challenge the Election Commission's decision to conduct elections in the last week of January.

Speaking to a private tv channel, PTI's core committee member Niazullah Niazi said that the Constitution calls for elections within 90 days and exceeding the period is unlawful.

"We will challenge the Election Commission's decision. The way the ECP is working it does not look like a constitutional institution," Niazi said, adding that President Arif Alvi has the authority to announce a date for polls.

Senior PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal said that his party welcomed the decision by the ECP as it has ended the uncertainty about the delimitation.

"Everyone knew from the first day that the election commission was bound to conduct delimitation after the census," said Iqbal.

**NOTICE/ CORRIGENDUM & EXTENSION**

In pursuance of letter of BPPRA bearing No.BPPRA/Pr-Sp(G&S)/01-01/2023-24/9682-86 dated 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, certain mandatory changes have been made in the bidding documents for procurement of weapons uploaded under BPPRA website under TSE-232409352151 and published in newspapers under PRQ 535/5-9-2023 therefore, prospective bidders are hereby advised to upload their bids for procurement of weapons under Electronic Public Procurement System based on conditions contained in the revised bid documents already uploaded on BPPRA website. Consequently, date of submission of bids is hereby extended and now bid opening date shall as under:

- Bid Submission date:-09-10-2023 at 4:30 PM
- Bid Opening date:-09-10-2023 at 5:00 PM

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**TENDER NOTICE**

The Project Director Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232409354421

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	ICT Equipment(Network, surveillance devices, storage devices, Office Equipment) (Total Item(s) Count: 7)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules -2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 2 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 3,500,000 in Previous 3 years. Turnover of at least 3,500,000 PKR in 3 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. Procedure of Procurement: Single Slage 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 and the office of the undersigned as tender processing fee in the form of green challan Rs. 1000 PKR in the account at c02716 in favor of Project Director CMPQD. 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 09<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: House No. 81-A Chaman Housing Scheme Airport Road Quetta  
Phone no: 03318390149-03337868226 Fax no: 0 812864466  
Email: dpquettatcity@gmail.com

**PROJECT DIRECTOR Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development**

AB No.114/21-9-2023

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## Speakers say: Pak climate action pompous sans harnessed institutional capacities, coordination

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar on Analysis of Pakistan's Institutional Capacity for Climate Action Thursday said the country's climate action would be fruitless if it was not curated through harnessed institutional capacities, corrected policy endeavours, and improved coordination among the relevant department inclusive interventions to cope with environmental degradation.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organised a special seminar as part of its series of dialogues intended to stir a debate on pressing environmental issues related to the country's efforts and achievements on climate action, global leadership for addressing global warming, climate finance and the first ever loss and damage fund declared due to the country's ardent efforts at

the previous COP-27 conference held in Sharm El-Sheikh.

Research Associate and author of one of the policy paper related to the aforementioned effort, Ahmed Awais Khaver in his opening remarks said the seminar was part of the series of seminars being held in collaboration with Oxfam Pakistan which was the second one of the four sessions to be held by the SDPI.

Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Dr Shafiq Munir in his welcome note said the seminar was part of the pre-launch seminar series prior to the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Dubai, UAE.

He mentioned that the seminar focused the 13th sustainable development goal of Climate Action (SDG-13), whereas SDG-

12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) could not be ignored and it encompassed all climate action by emitting less through less consumption, hence reducing the carbon footprint.

He underlined that the seminar would help debate the capacities of the country to take the daunting of climate action and would help garner more ideas on this policy paper to prepare a better and enriched research document.

Author of the Policy Paper on Climate Action, Awais Umar, Research Associate at SDPI briefed the participants on the document that studied climate action and vulnerability of the country.

He mentioned that Pakistan made a significant contribution through policy making efforts on Climate Action-SDG-13.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi visited the National Curriculum Council (NCC) Secretariat. Director NCC, Dr. Mariam Chughtai gave a detailed on the functions of the NCC in the post 18th Amendment scenario.

## PIC grants swift access to 50yr property records, upholding right to info

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) promptly facilitated a citizen's access to property records spanning 50 years in just one month, underscoring the commission's strong commitment to upholding the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, and ensuring the public's fundamental right to information.

According to details, Sarfraz A. Bhatti, a concerned citizen, sought assistance from the Pakistan Information Commission

when faced with challenges in obtaining property documents from the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

His appeal was set for a hearing on August 23, 2023. During the hearing, the CDA clarified that the requested records, dating back to 1978, necessitated additional time for retrieval.

After numerous hearings and unwavering dedication, the Pakistan Information Commission efficiently obtained and furnished all the requested 50-year-old property records to Bhatti.

In expressing his contentment, Bhatti praised the diligent endeavors of the Pakistan Information Commission in facilitating his access to the information he had sought. He emphasized that this achievement underscores the pivotal role the PIC plays in guaranteeing citizens' access to essential public records.

The Pakistan Information Commission underscored the commission's unwavering commitment to its mission.

## Aneeq extends heartfelt congratulations to Saudia on its 93rd National Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, on Thursday extended heartfelt congratulatory to Saudi leadership Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman on the Saudi Arabia's 93rd National Day.

He, in a statement, said the people of Pakistan shared in the joy of their Saudi brothers and sisters on this momentous day.

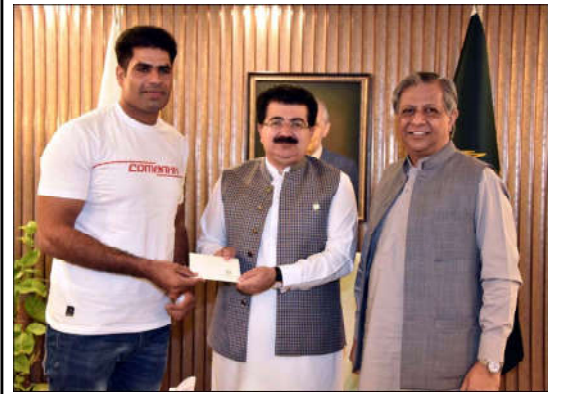
Minister Aneeq praised the Saudi leadership for their exemplary hospitality and provision of facilities to the 'Guests of the Rahman', noting the exceptional care extended to pilgrims and visitors. Saudi Arabia, he emphasized, stood as a distinguished and vital nation within the Muslim Ummah, demonstrating remarkable progress in all fields.

Expressing gratitude for the 27 million Pakistani expatriates, Minister Aneeq highlighted their unwavering efforts in the progress

and development of Saudi Arabia. He acknowledged the unique relationship between Saudi Arabia and its citizens and the worldwide Muslim community, transcending borders and connecting Muslims from every corner of the globe.

Minister Aneeq said Saudi Arabia, with its remarkable journey from its inception to the present day, had witnessed astonishing development, particularly under the visionary leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, especially through the Vision 2030 initiative.

He reaffirmed the friendly and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, underscoring the importance of continued cooperation for the progress and stability of both nations. "On this Saudi National Day, I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes for Saudi Arabia's prosperity and success," Minister Aneeq maintained.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presenting cheque of rupees One Million to Arshad Nadeem, National Athlete who recently won the silver medal in World Athletics Championships in Islamabad.

## Saghar writes letter to Turkish President

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, has written a letter to the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and thanked him for raising voice for the voiceless people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in the UN General Assembly.

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in the letter wrote, "On behalf of the subjugated but determined people of Indian occupied Kashmir, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to

your Excellency for pleading and presenting the Kashmir case vociferously during your landmark speech to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)."

He wrote to the Turkish President that the people of Kashmir owe a debt of gratitude to you for highlighting the plight of Kashmiri people at the global forum and sensitizing world leaders about an early and amicable settlement of the lingering Kashmir conflict that happens to be the cause and consequence of unrest and unabated rights violations in the region.

## PID CVE Media Cell launches Policy Working Group

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Media Cell of the Press Information Department has launched a Policy Working Group which was aimed at enhancing its research capability.

Representatives from leading think tanks in Islamabad participated in the inaugural meeting of the working group, said a news release. Director General Home Publicity Raisa Adil presided over the inaugural meeting, while Deputy Project Director Asad Shabbir gave a comprehensive presentation.

The formation of the policy working group would help enhance the media cell's research capa-

bility while also building broad-based consensus on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's CVE efforts. The participants included Dr. Shafiqat Munir from Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr. Talat Shabbir from the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Reema Shaikat from Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Hassan Ahmad from Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Asad Ullah Khan from Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies, Shahab Siddiqi from Tabadlab, Naufil Shahrukh from Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and Alishah Naeem from Social Protection Resource Centre.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Mohammad Sami Saeed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari, Heads of Missions of the SAARC countries and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Nepal

## India resorting to state terrorism to suppress Kashmiris' struggle

ISLAMABAD (INP): India has been using state terrorism as an official policy to suppress the freedom struggle of the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and intimidate them into submission for the last several decades but failed in its nefarious designs.

An analysis by Kashmir Media Service said India has a gruesome record of targeting dissidents not only in India but also abroad. It said India under extremist Narendra Modi is using its embassies for covert operations by its spies disguising as diplomats. It said Modi's India has taken a page out of Israel's handbook in organizing assassination of Canada-based Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Swedish scholar Ashok Swain has stated that Modi's mafia style-operation in Canada has made India rogue state in the eyes of the West.

Pakistan on Sikh leader's killing in Canada has pointed out that India's terror network has gone

global. It added that assassination of a Canadian citizen by the Indian spies has called into question New Delhi's reliability as a credible international partner.

The analysis maintained that India is using media, cyber technology and terrorism as major hybrid tools to achieve its nefarious designs against Pakistan and the Kashmiris. It said Pakistan remained a target of a series of targeted killings and espionage by India's notorious intelligence agency RAW (Research and Analysis Wing).

The analysis said the Hindutva ideology being espoused by Modi is a form of religious terrorism. It said Modi regime is posing danger to regional as well as world stability through its rogue actions and state sponsored terrorism.

World must break its silence and express outrage at India's state sponsored terrorism, it said, adding that the international community must come forward to rein in Hindutva terrorism.

## ANF continues crackdown against drugs smuggling

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its countrywide crackdown against smuggling of drugs arrested 10 people during 11 different operations and recovered over 157 kg drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

In a raid near Khanna bridge, Islamabad the FIA team arrested an accused belonging to Noshetra and recovered 100 tablets of ecstasy.

In another raid in the cargo office located at Hoxbay Road Karachi, the FIA team recovered 250 tablets of ecstasy.

Audio leak case: Bushra Bibi files petition against FIA investigation

ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI chairman's wife Bushra Bibi has filed a miscellaneous petition against the FIA investigation on the alleged audio leak issue.

Bushra Bibi, through her lawyer Latif Khosa, filed a separate petition in the Islamabad High Court stating that the main case was already pending in this court and the court on September 18 directed the FIA to proceed as per law.

The plea further stated that the main case was now scheduled for hearing on October 30. Despite the pending case, the FIA issued a notice summoning her on September 19.

## Minister for adding more fun, engaging cultural diversity activities to Lok Mela 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Thursday directed Lok Virsa to add more fun and engaging cultural diversity activities including music, traditional food and the works of skilled artisans in ten-day folk festival to be held in November 2023.

Chairing a meeting attended by Executive Director Lok Virsa Muzafar Ali Burki and other senior officials, the minister said that folk festival will play a pivotal role in portraying country's real image and will bring a quality entertainment for the visitors.

Highlighting various aspects of promoting cultural diversity, Jamal Shah said that the culture pavilion of Chitral, Kelash and other small regions would be set up to promote the indigenous cultural diversity of the country.

He said that all our languages should come to act as a binding force. "We have a diverse cultural legacy and that should be promoted," he added.

The minister said that special puzzle competitions and storytelling sessions would be arranged in different languages for youth during ten-day folk festival.

## Justice Mansoor will be on study tour in US till Oct 1

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah will be on a study tour to the United States till October 1. He will participate in the four-day Global Constitutionalism Seminar 2023 to be held at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, said a press release.

Justice Shah Ali Shah will moderate one of the sessions on "equality and rights" as a discussion leader. During his tour, he will be speaking at the Pardee School at the Boston University on September 25, regarding Pakistan's developing jurisprudence and the future law reforms.



Mr. Raisa Adil, Director General (HP-II) / Project Director CVE chairing inaugural meeting of research and policy working group, CVE Media Cell in Islamabad.

## Education institutions halt transportation facility due to lack of funds for fuel

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government schools and colleges of Federal Capital have halted the transportation facility for poor students using buses to and from schools and colleges owing to the lack of funds for fuel.

The inner sources have revealed that the transport service for children at the educational institutions in the federal capital has once again been terminated. Currently, the bus service of colleges including Islamabad Model College for Boys F-8/4 and Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/4 have stopped their bus service owing to the shortage of funds for fuel (diesel).

Meanwhile, Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi took notice of this issue and sought a report in this respect.

Sources further stated that buses of more colleges will also be stopped from Monday, while most of the children of colleges in Islamabad may be deprived of transportation facilities from next week. On the other hand parents viewed that at a time when the academic session is about to middle and students mid examination are going to be held in the next month October, it is cruel to end the transport facility.

In 1941, "Dhanadan," a film made in Bombay, further catapulted her into stardom. After the establishment of Pakistan, she continued her illustrious career, making her mark not only as an actress but also as a playback singer.

Patriotism and recognition During the Indo-Pak war of 1965, Noor Jehan lent her soul-stirring voice to sing national songs that would become an integral part of Pakistan's history. In recognition of her exceptional contributions to the nation, the Government of Pakistan awarded her the



ISLAMABAD: People stand under the sheds at restaurant in G-8 Markaz during rain fall in Federal Capital.

## Police chief facilitates direct public access in online 'Khuli Katcheri'

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, conducted an online "Khuli Katcheri", providing residents with direct access to high-ranking police officials.

During the online session held on the other day, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan personally addressed public inquiries via phone calls between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. He listened to callers' concerns and instructed relevant officers to find immediate solutions.

The majority of the issues raised pertained to individual citizens and their interactions with local police stations.

Addressing the citizens, ICCPO emphasized the police force's dedicated efforts to swiftly resolve public issues.

He underscored that

such initiatives aimed to bridge the gap between the police and the community.

Citizens from various parts of the city presented their proposals and concerns to ICCPO. Many of the issues discussed were related to personal matters, ongoing investigations, the expedited handling of cases, and other community-related topics.

The Chief of Capital Police also highlighted the noticeable decrease in crime incidents within the federal capital, attributing this improvement to effective policing measures, the dedication of police personnel, and rapid responses to calls made to the Pucar-15 hotline. Additionally, citizens were encouraged to collaborate with the Islamabad Capital Police by reporting any suspicious activities through the Pucar-15 helpline.

## Noor Jehan: The melody queen who lit up hearts

ISLAMABAD (INP): On September 21, 1992, a star was born in Kasur, whose radiant talent would transcend time and place to become a cherished icon in the hearts of millions.

This star was none other than the incomparable Noor Jehan, also known as the "Melody Queen." Today, as we celebrate what would have been her ninety-seventh birthday, we reflect on the extraordinary life and legacy of this musical legend.

From her early days in Kasur, Noor Jehan possessed a melodious voice that was destined to become the soul of the subcontinent's music industry. She was not just a singer; she was a brilliant musician who effortlessly blended emotion and melody in her performances.

A remarkable career Noor Jehan's artistic journey began in 1935 when she made her debut as a child star in the film "Pind Di Kadiyan." Her acting talents shone brightly in renowned films like "Anmol Ghari," "Hersial," and "Sassi Pannu." However, it was her collaboration with the music maestro Ghulam Haider in the 1941 film "Khazanchi" that marked a turning point in her career. Noor Jehan's mesmerizing playback singing left an indelible mark on the hearts of audiences.

In 1941, "Dhanadan," a film made in Bombay, further catapulted her into stardom. After the establishment of Pakistan, she continued her illustrious career, making her mark not only as an actress but also as a playback singer.

Patriotism and recognition During the Indo-Pak war of 1965, Noor Jehan lent her soul-stirring voice to sing national songs that would become an integral part of Pakistan's history. In recognition of her exceptional contributions to the nation, the Government of Pakistan awarded her the

Presidential Medal for Good Performance and Nishan Imtiaz.

Throughout her career, Noor Jehan recorded songs for approximately 995 films. Her final film, "Gabru Punjab Da," was released in 2000, leaving an indomitable legacy in the world of cinema.

Noor Jehan's musical prowess extended beyond the realm of film songs. She sang more than ten thousand ghazals, each delivered with unmatched eloquence and grace. Her mastery over the nuances of words and the delicate fluctuations of tone earned admiration not

only in Pakistan but also in India, where renowned singers lauded her artistry.

A farewell to the Legend Sadly, on December 23, 2000, after a prolonged illness, Noor Jehan bid farewell to the world. Her memory lives on through her timeless music, a treasure trove of melodies that continues to captivate generations.

She rests in eternal peace at the Defense Society Cemetery in Karachi, a fitting tribute to a woman whose voice lit up hearts and whose music transcended boundaries.



Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad

# Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Friday September 22, 2023

## What next?

A crack of the whip was all that was needed. The dollar, which had lately been racing to a new high each day, has now reversed course thanks to an army-sanctioned operation against hoarders and black marketeers.

Local media reports that confidence in the rupee has strengthened and that now there are more sellers than buyers in the market.

Meanwhile, social media has been flush with accounts of unscrupulous elements being arrested with breathtaking stashes of foreign currencies, which have subsequently been confiscated by the state.

It remains difficult to sift truth from fiction, however: after all, the state has not shared how this crackdown was planned and executed, who was targeted, and precisely what role the suspects arrested so far played in manipulating the exchange rate.

While the sharp improvement in exchange rates cannot be denied, the citizenry also deserves to know how and why the market was rigged in the first place.

One wonders that if administrative measures were all that were needed to arrest the rupee's sorry slide, why were they not taken sooner? Why did the finance minister in the PDM government not consider this option as he struggled and failed for months to keep the exchange rate in check?

After all, the cost to the country of rounding up a few dozen big fish involved in the currency market racket would have been far lower compared to the lasting cost of creating distortions in the economy by placing artificial and unsustainable controls on the exchange rate.

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

It seems that when economic historians sit down to reflect on the PDM era, they will find themselves hard-pressed to say anything charitable about the competence of the people at the helm during one of the country's worst crisis periods.

That is not to say that the current lot offers much hope. The country is presently managed by a caretaker set-up, but its ministers' promises seem to betray a wider mandate. Yet they seem to be in very little hurry to take the 'difficult decisions' that are supposed to justify their overstaying their welcome.

Successful though it may be, a crackdown against currency dealers can only create limited breathing space. The situation demands that an empowered government, elected by the people, take over post-haste so that responsible decisions can be taken to protect the public's interests.

Alas, this more permanent solution seems to be unacceptable to the wise souls managing Pakistan's affairs these days.



Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

How is Pakistan gearing up for COP28 that begins on Nov 30 in Dubai? The foremost challenge for the interim government is determining how best to harness the momentum that Pakistan built at the last climate summit as the chair of the G77+China, a group that represents the Global South in international negotiations. Domestic and international expectations are high.

The expectations are interwoven with the urgency of four fundamental challenges. First, political and macroeconomic stability. Second, roadmap for institutional and policy reforms. Third, proposed climate finance architecture. Fourth, climate-smart action on the ground, within the provinces. Clarity on these four tracks will set the direction

of Pakistan's climate-resilient and low-carbon development journey. Can Pakistan manage these expectations under the present set-up?

One of the most significant discussion points at the COP28 would be the review of the Global Stocktake just released by UNFCCC. The GST has assessed the global response on three questions: i) where are we, ii) where do we want to go, and iii) how do we get there. Pakistan's narrative needs to respond to these questions, with an unblinking eye on the third one.

It was the first stock-taking exercise undertaken under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. It will unleash a chain of complex global processes. The report has presented 13 findings that will inform the global revisions of the Nationally Determined Contributions, together with the architecture of the proposed Loss & Damage fund, and reform of multilateral development banks. All these will serve as the basis of global commitments, culminating in the submission of two five-yearly NDCs in 2025 and 2030. The first will feed into the second GST in 2028.

This process is synchronised with 2030, by when the global average emissions need to be reduced by 45 per cent and reach net zero by 2050.

The year 2030 is regarded as catalytic to stabilising global temperatures at 1.5 degrees Celsius, and for SDG implementation. In other words, climate and the development discourse are entwined and defy sectoral boundaries. Global success on climate action will help consolidate national gains on SDGs.

The decisions taken at COP28 will, therefore, bind Pakistan in a long process that will be reflected in the next generation of sectoral policies at national and provincial levels. A well-considered response to GST will give clear signals on the basic questions mentioned, ie, where we are presently, where we want to go, and how we would get there. Our responses to the first two questions will understandably determine the availability and level of international interest to bridge growing financial and investment gaps.

All 13 findings of the GST are relevant for Pakistan, some more directly and

immediately than others. While Pakistan can proudly tick several boxes, an earnest internal assessment will help identify some immediate actions as we proceed towards aligning the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), NDC, and climate policies with actions in the provinces. The GST has made three conclusions, each has a bearing on Pakistan's climate actions: i) on mitigation, all national commitments made under the respective NDCs will collectively not reduce global carbon emissions to meet the 1.5°C target, ii) on adaptation, the progress in countries' abilities to enhance their resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate impact has not decreased, and iii) on means of implementation (a code-word for finance, technology transfer and capacity building), the developed economies are delinquent regarding their commitments.

The GST findings, however, have now been overtaken by an actual increase in global average temperatures. According to data released by NASA, global temperatures in July this year exceeded 1.5°C. This spike is partially attributed to El Niño, a periodic climate pattern of oceans warming and

affecting global weather patterns. This development has violated the sacrosanct threshold, making way for 'overshoot' to become a likely scenario of global warming. Anticipating this occurrence, an Overshoot Commission was set up in 2022 to examine the options of reducing risks when global warming surpasses 1.5°C. In our policy landscape, no discourse has taken place on the implications of the overshoot for Pakistan, even if former foreign minister of state Hina Rabbani Khar continues to be one of the 12 commissioners. Instead of immediate actions, the big polluting countries, together with the major oil-producing countries, appear to be open to considering a 'temporary' overshoot, implying that Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) technologies will eventually help reduce temperatures to below the 1.5°C threshold.

The Overshoot Commission's recently released report has called for accelerating emission reductions, more resources to adapt to climate impact, and scaling up CCS technologies. Arguing that the commission is being used to pro-

vide solar radiation modification, some commissioners have resigned or publicly shown indignation on how it is being used to pave way for SRM, which seeks to reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the planet's surface by releasing aerosols into the high atmosphere or by whitening the clouds. SRM has persistent ethical, technical and policy questions that can alter rain patterns, cause droughts over some areas and floods in others.

The outgoing government had convened the Climate Change Council meeting to help prepare for participation in COP27. It is time to convene the second council meeting, prior to COP28, to keep up the momentum and to sign off the national narrative.

The prime minister, himself from a highly climate-vulnerable province, can engage with the provinces to initiate the development of their roadmaps for NAP implementation, climate finance architecture and cataloguing climate actions on the ground. This will help set the direction of the journey of Pakistan's climate-smart development. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Climate action leadership

## Lawyering and its discontents



Feisal Naqvi

The plight of young law graduates, and specifically the fact that they get paid very little, has recently been much discussed on social media. Since some of the contentions raised are factually valid, an alternate perspective may be worth considering. To begin, I concede that law graduates have it rough. Yes, they do make less than fresh graduates in other fields. Yes, law firms do not offer a living wage to fresh graduates, not even the best ones. Yes, law firms ask fresh graduates to prioritize experience over earnings. And yes, law firms tend to value in-house experience differently from experience within a law firm.

Given the foregoing, many young lawyers also believe that senior lawyers act unfairly when it comes to paying junior lawyers.

To that extent I disagree. Before I elaborate, one caveat: I focus on litigation, as does my law firm. Litigation has different dynamics from a practice focused on transactional work (locally known as 'corporate' work).

Litigation fees in Pakistan are normally paid on a lump-sum basis. Senior lawyers therefore tend to value a junior lawyer on their ability to save the senior lawyer's time. And from that perspective, fresh graduates are generally not very useful.

Let me try to unpack my statements above. A lump-sum fee means that the law firm or counsel involved will get one fixed amount, no matter how long it takes and no matter how many people work on it. This is very different from the norm in the United States where law firms get paid on an hourly basis, with the hours of each lawyer being charged to the client. In that model, not only do junior associates pay for themselves but they are money makers for law firms since the firm keeps the difference between the associate's billings and the annual salary of the associate.

In the lump-sum fee model, the senior counsel receives his/her entire fee for a case on day one. All expenses incurred by the senior counsel thus directly reduce the take-home amount of the senior counsel. In these circumstances, the senior counsel has a very serious incentive to reduce the number of associates working for him and thereby maximize his/her own income.

One may ask why Pakistani firms do not switch to hourly billing models. The short answer is that hourly billing models make sense in the context of complex litigation where large firms work on convoluted matters requiring teams of lawyers. Pakistan has very few disputes of that type, in part because our civil dispute resolution system is hopelessly broken. Here, almost all 'high-end' litigation consists of seeking interim relief, which in turn has a huge amount to do with a lawyer's 'face value' and little to do with the quality of preparation.

What can override a senior counsel's desire to maximize his/her own income? Well, like all sensible people, senior lawyers are happy to pay for good

value. In the case of junior lawyers, that 'value' is the junior lawyer's ability to save the senior counsel's time. If a junior counsel can do work of a sufficiently high standard, then the senior counsel has extra time available to them. And extra time means (in theory) extra money for the senior counsel.

The kicker in the previous paragraph was the phrase 'work of a sufficiently high standard'. Unfortunately, most fresh graduates are unable to do such work. Instead, no matter where they have graduated from, the ability of most fresh graduates to actually save a senior counsel's time is minimal.

This is not a Pakistan problem: this is a universal problem. The nature of the best law schools is such that they focus on academic skills; the kind of skills that show their true worth in a decade, not the kind of skills that make somebody a great associate on day one. I graduated from Yale Law School and upon graduation, my ability to do work of a 'sufficiently high standard' was at par with a snowball's ability to survive in hell. I got paid extremely well in

my first job because my Wall Street firm could bill out my time on an hourly basis. But that kind of work payment structure does not exist in Pakistan.

Furthermore, fresh graduates do not become useful by the mere passage of time. Instead, senior counsel have to actively invest time and effort in training junior counsel in order to get assistance of the quality they desire. In my experience, it takes about two years' worth of training for a fresh graduate to be worth their salary. Yes, sometimes it takes less time. But quite often it does not. And as already noted, in Pakistan a fresh graduate remains a liability till such time that they become trained.

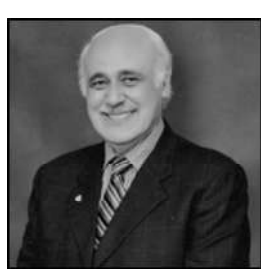
A further problem with junior lawyers is that they tend to leave. Again, this is a universal feature of legal practice: it does not suit everyone. Many people decide after a couple of years of practice that they have had enough and would rather do something else.

In the case of Pakistan, several additional factors exacerbate the retention problem. First, those who are ambitious often

feel the need to venture overseas for an LLM in order to burnish their credentials. Second, in the case of female graduates, the social pressure to get married and leave the workforce ramps up hugely after the first year. Third, many Pakistanis believe that the only real way for lawyers to succeed is to go independent and to set up their own firms. Fourth, ours is a culture where relationships are exceptionally important. When friends send children, nephews, and nieces for internships, it is very difficult to refuse. Finally, firing people is even more socially problematic than saying no. So, not only do the good ones leave but the bad ones stick around.

My purpose here is not to justify the current situation (especially in relation to the pressures on young women), only to explain the existence of a situation which suits neither senior counsel nor junior. There may well be ways to ameliorate the problem (and I will discuss some of those in a subsequent column). But let us begin with a clear-headed analysis of the facts. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Sworn in, not at



F.S. Aijazuddin

It was a first in Pakistan. Begum Sarina Isa stood next to her husband Qazi Faez Isa while he was being sworn in as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan on Sept 17 by President Arif Alvi. It was a small step for her gender. It was a giant leap backwards for President Alvi.

In 2019, President Alvi, on the orders of his PML-N prime minister Imran Khan, had filed a presidential reference against Justice Isa, citing misconduct and non-disclosure of assets abroad held by his wife.

At first glance, the image of a couple standing side by side might have appeared a reenactment of the practice in the American White House, where wives stand next to their husbands while they are being sworn in as president. Begum Isa's presence next to her husband had another deeper significance. They stood avenged, their joint snub to judicial persecution.

In June 2020, seven judges of a 10-judge bench of Justice Isa's peers had quashed that presidential reference against him. However, in an unbecoming move, the bench ordered the Federal Board of Rev-e-nue "to conduct an inquiry into the judge's family members' foreign assets and submit a report to the Supreme Judicial Council".

Appearing in person before the same lords who are now CJF's Isa's colleagues, she told them that the presidential reference had caused her to

be "killed a thousand times". In 2022, a contrite Imran Khan admitted that the filing of a presidential reference was a "mistake". (Ironically, the accused is now CJF, and his accuser a convict in Attock jail.)

On March 30, 2023, the PDM Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered the withdrawal of the curative review reference against Justice Isa. He said the Isa family had been "harassed and defamed under the guise of a presidential reference".

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

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

The chief justice has appointed a woman Jazela Aslam — another first — as registrar, the key portal for admission of cases for hearing before the Supreme Court.

His first day as chief justice proved another first. He arrived without an armed escort. (His predecessors were always accompanied by a phalanx of guards, even when one of them inspected the former Lahore Lunatic Asylum.)

He then convened a full 15-member bench to hear a set of petitions challenging the contentious

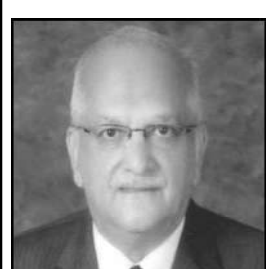
Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 — a sad example of the "bitter" constitutional litigation CJP Bandial complained had impacted adversely the Supreme Court's performance.

The proceedings were televised live — another first. Justice was being seen to be done. It is a novel form of Pakistani soap opera. But such exposure carries consequences. Schisms in the bench soon became apparent. The chief justice had all too often to remind his colleagues that they were paid by the public to adjudicate swiftly and fairly. Each day spent on word-fencing would add 200 new cases to the backlog.

Parliamentary proceedings have been televised for years. They have, however, gradually degenerated from hyperactivity to grandstanding into farce, and now tedium. CJP Isa will also have to contend with a political patellar reflex, the knee-jerk reaction of every political party to seek redress directly from the Supreme Court, instead of addressing each other.

He should not expect anything from the present interim government — a forlorn hope of wannabes — "without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity" (Ignatius Donnelly).

It appears determined to have its constitutional tenure of 90 days extended, if necessary by judicial dispensation. How soon after his return will the ECP announce the date of the next general elections? Does it really matter, when the result is already in the ballot box?



Parvez Rahim

The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) was constituted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to review compliance with two of its conventions ratified by Pakistan in the initial years. These are the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No 87) and Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No 98).

The CEACR, hereafter referred to as the committee, has carried out a detailed analysis of all provisions of the federal Industrial Relations Act, 2012 (IRA) besides the review of four Acts, promulgated by the respective provinces. The committee endorses 29 changes to the Act so it conforms with the ILO's constitution. Provisions of the federal and the provincial laws are mostly based on the Industrial Relations Ordinance, 1969, generally accepted in Pakistan by employers' and workers' federations.

If the tripartite constituents in Pakistan agree to some of the committee's recommendations, basic amendments will have to be brought into existing provisions of the IRAs. Five recommendations are as follows:

a) The committee recommends deleting section 8 (2) (b) of the Act of 2012: "A trade union ... shall not be entitled to registration ... where there are two or more registered

## ILO's advice

trade unions in the establishment ... unless it has as its members not less than one-fifth of the total number of workmen employed in such establishment..."

When the first PPP government nationalised most industries in 1971, there were hardly one or two unions in each establishment. Some even imposed curbs on union activities, and they existed only in name. However, the situation took a drastic turn after nationalisation. There was a mushroom growth of unions in the state enterprise in Lahore, where I worked. In a few months, it had 17 registered unions, each with some eight to 10 office-bearers who would stop work on the pretext of raising issues with the management. Consequently, out of a workforce of around 2,500 workers, over 150 became non-productive. If the management took disciplinary steps, they responded with accusations of unfair labour practices. A similar situation prevailed in other state enterprises where productivity began to decline rapidly, becoming the government's reason to restrict unnecessary proliferation of unions by law. Now the ILO committee states "it is important for workers to be able to change trade unions or to establish a new union for reasons of independence, effectiveness, or ideological choice".

b) The committee has recommended that the distinction between the Collective Bargaining Union (and minority unions) should be limited. The term 'minority unions' does not refer to unions with members from ethnic or religious minorities, but unions other than the CBA. Besides, rights given to CBA under the law, the committee wants to grant the right to call a strike to other unions in an establishment. Presently, the CBA can go on strike only when there is a failure in the settlement of

an industrial dispute. If this right is given to other unions, it will imply that the sword of strike will hang over an employer's head at all times, despite a peace settlement with CBA.

c) The committee believes that the current rule — any strike can be prohibited by the government after 30 days — is not aligned with freedom of association. The decision to suspend or prohibit industrial action should not lie with the government but with an independent body. If the latter is nominated by the government, it's advisable for the law to remain as it is for expeditious decision-making.

d) The committee recommends that federal and provincial legislation be amended to protect workers from penal sanctions. Present acts provide punishments of fine, imprisonment and dismissal for those supporting illegal strike or a go-slow, and for violations of the NIRC. I believe peaceful protests should not face punishment.

e) The committee has recommended collective bargaining rights to existing trade unions with less than one-third of the total number of employees, jointly or separately, at least on behalf of members. As the representative union, CBA should not have less than one-third of the total workforce in the establishment. The ILO has given Pakistan until February 2026 to report on the recommendations of their committee. The government has indicated to the ILO that this will be reviewed by the tripartite constituents, comprising government officials, employers and workers. As all critical provisions of the IRA, 2012, are to be reviewed on the basis of the committee's recommendations, this laborious task must be undertaken urgently to meet the ILO's deadline. -- Courtesy Dawn

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

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

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

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

To a question, the CM was told that the Boat Basin police had six

mobiles, and they were patrolling. The CM through the control room contacted the mobile and asked for their location. One of the mobiles was present in the Bath Island area, and the other was at Shireen Jinnah Colony.

The CM was told that the crime rate in the jurisdiction of the police was lower, except in Shireen Jinnah Colony and Hijrat Colony. The CM directed the police to act against the drug mafia. There are reports that shisha was openly used in Clifton and Defence areas and must be stopped.

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

The CM directed the DIG South Zone and SSP South Imran Qureshi, who after hearing about the CM's visit reached the police station, to issue clear directives to the police that there was zero tolerance against crime against children, women, and minorities. "We have to give respect to women, love to our children, and respect the minorities - this is how societies develop," he said.

He called the in-charge of the Stable of police horses and got him a briefing. The CM was told that they have 36 horses, and each horse eats 18 kg and all the horses were in good health, except two who were being treated by their Vet. The CM expressed his displeasure on the uncleaned condition of the police station.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with Dir Bala Public Jirga during meeting at Governor House.

## Punjab Governor says: Goals of economic dev can be achieved only by creating harmony with IT

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: A delegation of entrepreneurs associated with the IT sector met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation informed the Governor Punjab about the problems faced by the IT industry. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the goals of economic development can be achieved only by creating harmony with information technology and innovation. He said that IT education equips the youth with the skills to earn money through on line jobs. Governor Punjab said that he has formed a consortium on IT in universities. He added that

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

## India destabilizing region to establish its hegemony: SAPM

FAISALABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights & Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mullick condemned on Thursday India's destabilizing activities in the region through state-sponsored terrorism, aimed at establishing its own hegemony.

Speaking to the media after participating in a Mehfil-e-Milad at Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) on Thursday, she asserted that India was engaged in disseminating venomous propaganda against Pakistan. This was occurring despite India's own involvement in recent terrorist activities, as

revealed in Canada, where RAW officials were reported to have been involved in the killing of a Kashmiran movement activist. Mushaal went on to highlight India's support for extremist organizations like the RSS, which she claimed was also collaborating with the Indian government and RAW in developing nuclear weapons. She stated that the RSS and RAW had an extensive global network and were allegedly involved in the harassment of Kashmiris and Sikhs not only in Pakistan but also in Australia and Europe.

However, she welcomed Canada's strong response to the killing of a Sikh leader, asserting that

this incident had exposed India's darker side, as well as the malicious intentions of the Modi government. Mushaal claimed that the Indian government was not only supporting terrorists but also promoting terrorism to suppress the movements for Khalistan and Kashmir freedom.

She emphasised that Kashmiris had been struggling for their right to self-determination for the past 75 years, while India continued to use force to deny them their fundamental and constitutional rights. She expressed regret over the silence of the world's human rights advocates on the pressing issue, describing it as deeply unfortunate.



FAISALABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussain Mullick addressing a seminar on World Peace Day held at Jarranwala in Faisalabad.

## Haris Nawaz says: Sindh govt determined to get rid of criminals

SUKKUR (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sindh Brigadier Haris Nawaz has warned chiefs and politicians of legal action if crimes occur in their areas.

Addressing a press conference in Sukkur on Thursday, Nawaz said that the Sindh government is determined to get rid of criminals including robbers, thieves and kidnappers. He said that the government is also working to raise the morale of the Sindh Police and equip them with modern weapons. Nawaz said that if there is a crime in any

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

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

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

## Police foil counterfeit currency smuggling attempt

PESHAWAR (INP): In a successful operation, Police have foiled an attempt to smuggle counterfeit currency, resulting in the arrest of a suspect found in possession of Rs. 296,000 worth of fake Pakistani currency notes.

Acting on secret information provided by SHO Jamrud, Shamsad Khan, the vigilant team at the Karkhano Market check-post intercepted and detained the suspicious individual, identified as Sikandar, son of Saeed, hailing from Abbottabad.

A thorough search of the suspect revealed the discovery of counterfeit currency notes in his possession. He had been taken into custody for further investigation.

A case has been registered against the suspect and police are actively pursuing the case to arrest other suspects involved in the fake currency business.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Archaeology, Museums and Information, Barrister Mian Feroze Jamal Shah being briefed by officials during his inspection visit to the Peshawar Museum after completion of renovation work, in Peshawar.

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

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

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

Rejecting the ECP's decision, a prominent PPP figure said his party had

reservations about this election date announcement. "These concerns have been conveyed to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari," affirmed Faisal Karim Kundi. He mentioned that a meeting of the party's Central Executive Committee would be convened upon Bilawal Bhutto's return to Pakistan to decide on a future course of action. It is noteworthy that Bilawal Bhutto, the PPP chairman and former foreign minister, is presently celebrating his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he intends

to stay for five days. Bilawal has repeatedly stressed his party's request for the ECP to declare the election date in accordance with the constitution. On September 11, Bilawal emphasised that the PPP was fully prepared for the upcoming elections, regardless of whether they occur within 90 days or, at the latest, within 120 days following the dissolution of the national and provincial assemblies.

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



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Inauguration ceremony of vehicles for cleaning in Korangi District, held in Karachi.

## Punjab Govt upgrades 20 high schools to model status in Bhakkar

BHAKKAR (INP): The Punjab government has upgraded twenty government High Schools in Bhakkar district to model schools and entrusted their special ownership to the deputy commissioner.

According to media reports, the deputy commissioner, Dr. Noor Muhammad Awan, recently paid a special visit to Government Secondary School Kotla Jam and Government Model Secondary School Kahawar Kalan to review the performance of the teachers, education system, cleanliness, discipline, students' uniforms, school washrooms, and computer lab.

being utilized to raise the quality of education in the 20 model schools across the district and make them prominent.

He also distributed hundreds of free saplings to school students to promote plantation and urged them to plant these saplings in their homes and take care of them.

He also urged the teachers to actively participate in the planting campaign and to educate the students about the importance and usefulness of trees.

Dr. Awan also visited the classrooms and asked various questions to test the mental abilities of the students. He issued various instructions to the education officers for further improvement of model schools.



KARACHI: Members of Islami Jamiat Tulba are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use and petroleum products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held at Shaheen Complex in Karachi.

## Irshad commends PDMA performance

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser, the Provincial Minister for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Social Welfare, Special Education, Women Empowerment, and Prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, paid a visit to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) headquarters. During this visit, Director General PDMA, Jannat Gul Afridi, provided a comprehensive briefing to the caretaker provincial minister regarding the various divisions and the performance of PDMA. Several PDMA directors and officers were also in attendance.

In his briefing, DGP PDMA Jannat Gul Afridi mentioned that PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa annually prepares Monsoon Contingency Plans, Heat Wave Plans, and Winter Contingency Plans in collaboration with stakeholders. These plans classify sensitive districts and ensure that relief materials are pre-positioned in these areas.

Furthermore, during the briefing, it was highlighted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faced significant losses due to floods in 2022. However, due to improved strategies and systems, over four lakh people were successfully relocated to safe areas.

## Two dead, seven injured as pick up overturns on M2

PINDI BHATTIAN (INP): Two passengers were killed while seven others wounded after a pick up they were travelling in turned side down on Motorway 2 near Pindi Bhattian on Thursday, rescuers and police said.

The ill-fated vehicle was heading to Sardogha from Lahore at the time of the incident. Rescuers and police arrived at the site of accident and shifted the dead and the injured to the Pindi Bhattian THQ hospital.

Preliminary findings suggested that the pick up driver was speeding and lost over the steering wheel.

## Fatima murder case: ATC grants 5-day physical remand of accused

KHAIRPUR (INP): An anti-terrorism court on Thursday granted five days physical remand of accused Asad Shah and co-accused, Intiaz Meerasi in the murder case of child maid Fatima Phurro.

The investigation officer produced accused Asad Shah and his facilitator Intiaz Meerasi before the court of Badar Qazi today.

The investigation officer pleaded for 15 days' physical remand of the accused. However, the ATC judge approved a five-day remand of the accused in the murder case.

The police on Wednesday released four accused including, SHO Ameer Chang, Dr Fatah

Memon and Dr Ali Hasan Wasan. In the murder case of Fatima Phurro who died in the Haveli of Ranipur.

The investigating officer claimed that the suspects were set free as they were not named in the FIR. Despite the passage of almost five weeks, co-accused Hina Shah, who is the wife of accused Asad Shah, has not been arrested. Ejaz Khaskhali, a driver of Hina Shah, was arrested from Karachi by Khairpur Police while 11 others were also taken into custody from Asad's residence. The 10-year-old Fatima had died in the Haveli of Asad Shah and the video of her tragic death went viral on social media.



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

## Charsi Tikka owner arrested for 'molesting' foreign tourists

PESHAWAR (INP): The owner of one of the most famous eateries in Pakistan, Charsi Tikka, Nisar Charsi has been arrested by police for molesting foreign tourists.

Several videos of Nisar Charsi, the owner of the famous Peshawar-based eatery 'Charsi Tikka' in Namak Mandi Food Street, went viral on social media in which he was misbehaving with women tourists from foreign countries.

Peshawar police arrested Nisar yesterday after receiving several complaints from citizens for molesting foreign tourists. A case was lodged against Nisar at Shah Qabool police station over the complaint of SI Naeem.

## Ji takes poll date announcement positively, demands transparency

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, he said that in principle the elections should have been held during the first 90 days

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

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

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

Police said that Namak Mandi Food Street - Peshawar is one of the favourite places of tourists. They added that a large number of tourists including foreigners used to visit the food street, as well as Nisar's Charsi Tikka for having traditional cuisines.

After his arrest, police produced Nisar before the magistrate's court in Peshawar. The local court approved the bail of the eatery's owner.

A copy of the FIR said that locals had complained that Khan

## 'India behind target killing of Sikhs across world'

LAHORE (INP): The members of Sikh community staged a protest demonstration outside the Lahore Press Club in Lahore to register their anger against the murder of their leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Canada by the agents of Indian government.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the protesters holding placards and banners

bearing their demands were chanting anti-India slogans.

Former Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights, Mahinder Pal Singh, talking to the media, urged the global community to take a firm stance like Prime Minister of Canada on Indian state sponsored terrorism. He said India has always been behind target killing of Sikhs across the world.



LAHORE: A delegation of entrepreneurs associated with the IT sector in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

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

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq on Thursday highlighting the SIFC as a one-window platform to facilitate the investors, encouraged Rio Tinto Group – a global leader in mining and minerals – to invest in Pakistan. The prime minister, in a meeting with CEO of Rio Tinto Group Jakob Stausholm highlighted the country's vast untapped mineral reserves, valued at over \$6 trillion, which included substantial deposits of gold, copper, and rare earth metals. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The prime minister outlined Pakistan's robust economic vision, emphasizing the government's commitment to sustainable growth through efficiency enhancement, reduced business costs, regulatory improvements, increased productivity, and higher investments. He underscored the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which acted as a single-window platform, simplifying procedures and fostering an investor-friendly environment. He emphasized the significance of the mining sector as a priority for FDI, leveraging Pakistan's abundant natural resources, including copper, gold, lead, zinc, and rare earth minerals. He also underscored that the Government of Pakistan's objective was to keep the people of Pakistan's interest foremost while having win-win cooperation with companies like Rio Tinto. The prime minister extended an invitation to Rio Tinto Group's CEO and their team to visit Pakistan and explore investment opportunities further. CEO of Rio Tinto Group thanked the prime minister for the invitation and assured that his team would liaise with the relevant authorities to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's mineral and mining sector.



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with CEO of Rio Tinto Group Jakob Stausholm in Islamabad.

## Kausar vows to introduce modern technology in agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik has expressed the government's resolve to introduce modern technology in agriculture sector to ensure bumper crops in the country. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Thursday, he called for enhancing the expertise of food scientists and providing them with latest equipment to produce high quality of seeds and other agricultural inputs. The Minister pledged to prepare a viable plan to fully support the provinces in the areas of modern branches of food sciences and impart training to the manpower. Dr. Kausar said besides Punjab, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have also satisfactory potential in agriculture sector and its potential can be unlocked by enhancing the scope of cultivation. Dr. Kausar Abdullah further underscores the need for taking more appropriate measures to strengthen the food security system in the country, besides improving the global food index as Pakistan is currently ranked at the 99th position in terms of food security index. The minister lauded the efforts of the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council and called for ensuring the dissemination of research results to the doorstep of farmers to turn around the local agriculture sector. He also expressed satisfaction over the increase in local cotton output and said that steps to be taken to resolve the issue of soybeans to facilitate the poultry industry. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali apprised the minister about the research and development activities carried out at the council. He informed that about 180 new research scientists and supporting staff were hired to fulfill the deficiency of the workforce and urged for establishing an endowment fund to enhance expenditure in research and development.

## Ambassador Mitsuhiro says: Japan keen to develop trade ties with Pakistan

SIALKOT (INP): Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada has said that his country is keen to boost trade ties and enhance trade volume with Pakistan. He said this while addressing a meeting of Sialkot exporters held at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) here on Thursday. The meeting was attended by SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and delegations of various leading firms from Japan and Sialkot business community. The Japanese ambassador stressed the need for making all-out sincere efforts to strengthen mutual trade ties between Pakistan and Japan. He said that Sialkot is famous for its production of soccer balls and others. The ambassador said that both nations had been supportive to each other and last year the two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. He said that potential of Pakistan economy was huge and his country was interested in finding more opportunities. He said that 80 Japanese companies were doing business in Pakistan and 80,000 workers were working in these companies in Pakistan. He said that there were so many international competitive companies working in Sialkot. He said that famous prestigious companies including trading companies and logistic companies present here in the meeting have very strong business.



QUETTA: Brigadier Azhar Munir of DHA Quetta addressing during his visit to Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## Pakistan Rupee thrashes US Dollar in interbank trading

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani currency continued its upward trajectory against the US dollar on the 12th consecutive session and gained record Rs1.13 in the interbank market Thursday. Karachi forex traders said that the local currency gained Rs1.13 against the American currency and available at Rs292.75. On Wednesday, PKR gained 0.35% in the interbank market and settled at Rs293.88 with an increase of Rs1.02. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has said that the organization is only asking Pakistan to tax the rich and protect the poor. After a meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly summit, the IMF MD told the media that this was what the people of Pakistan also wanted.

## World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit to be held in November

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 2023 World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit is set to be held from Nov. 8 to 10 in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang Province, the organizers said on Thursday. As this year marks the 10th year that the WIC Wuzhen Summit is held, the 2023 edition will feature new activities including the awarding of honorary titles and the inauguration of a global youth leadership program under the framework of the WIC. Xinhua reported, Themed on "Creating an Inclusive and Resilient Digital World Beneficial to All — Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace," the summit will be attended by guests from home and abroad. This year's event will feature 20 sub-forums on topics such as the Global Development Initiative, coordinated transformation.



Regional Director, International Finance Corporation (IFC) for the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Khawaja Aftab Ahmed called on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed.

## Commerce minister engages leading retailers to boost exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Thursday engaged in productive dialogue with leading retailers to strengthen Pakistan's retail sector to boost exports. The minister chaired a meeting with prominent retailers from across Pakistan to discuss strategies aimed at enhancing the retail market conditions and improving the nation's exports, said a press release issued here. The collaborative effort between the government and retailers reflects a shared commitment to achieve economic growth and prosperity. During the meeting, the retailers expressed their strong desire to contribute to Pakistan's export industry. They emphasized the role they can play in expanding the nation's reach in global markets. Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz affirmed the government's dedication to curbing smuggling activities and ensuring that trade operates through legitimate channels. He stated, "We believe in you and we appreciate the vital role you play in the economy. The government is committed to providing the best opportunities for retailers to export their goods and expand their domestic market presence." In a bid to facilitate access, the Minister pledged to provide retailers with opportunities to reach Central Asian Republics (CARs) and other global markets. He outlined plans to host exhibitions that would enable local retailers to collaborate with international designers and brands, fostering innovation and growth within the sector. Recognizing the importance of E-commerce, the retailers advocated for increased government support in this growing industry. The Minister acknowledged the potential of E-commerce and pledged to work closely with retailers to harness its future prospects effectively.

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's largest telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL and Ufone 4G) has launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative in response to the devastating natural calamities across the North African countries, Morocco and Libya. The initiative aims to connect families in Pakistan with their loved ones in these crisis-stricken countries to help them find strength and solace during these tough times. As these two countries are home to a considerable Pakistani diaspora that has been affected by these calamities, PTCL Group has stepped forward to alleviate the suffering of impacted Pakistanis. Ufone 4G was the first to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Morocco, and now PTCL is expanding the initiative's scope by offering free calls to both Morocco and Libya. The offer is valid for 15 days from September 19 to October 03, 2023, providing 30 minutes of free International Direct Dialing (IDD). However, a Fair Usage Policy (FUP) will be in place, allowing each subscriber to use a total of 30 minutes of free calling over the 15-day period for both countries.



Mr. Ahme Hayat Lak, MD/CEO of OGDCL (Left) and Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector RIC, NUST (Right) exchange documents of understanding after the strategic partnership to Advance Scientific, Education Initiatives and address critical exploration and production (E&P) issues.

## Ahsan Iqbal calls for Export Emergency to boost exports

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary General, PML(N) and former Federal Minister for Planning & Development stressed on imposing an export emergency to boost exports and revive the economy. He said that the business community will have to play an active role in promoting exports by visiting foreign countries along with samples of products. He said that in the next 7-8 years, Pakistan will have to take its exports to US\$ 100 billion to improve the economy. He said that the government should fully support the business community and remove all the hurdles in business promotion. He said this while addressing the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Former Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Hafiz Hafeezur Rahman and former MNA Mian Abdul Manan also accompanied him on the occasion. Ahsan Iqbal said that the biggest challenge for Pakistan is to repay the debt of USD 77 billion in the next 3 years and a rapid increase in exports is inevitable to discharge this obligation. He said that the countries are focusing on brands for exports and Pakistan also needs to promote its brands for exports promotion. He said that the interest rate should be reduced for the industry. He said that if the PML-N government comes in power, it will remove all obstacles in the way of business and promote ease of doing business in the country. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that all political parties should agree on a charter of economy.

## PSX stays bullish, gains 107 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday and gained 107.28 points, showing growth of 0.23 percent, closing at 45,910.47 points against 45,803.19 points the previous trading day. A total of 117,145,448 shares were traded during the day as compared to 103,494,874 shares, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs 4,110 billion against Rs 3,296 billion on the last trading day. As many as 323 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 160 of them recorded gains and 136 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 27 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Yousuf Weaving with 11,645,500 shares at Rs 2.93 per share; SEARLR2 with 7,363,949 shares at Rs 0.77 per share.

## Govt to set up 5,000 joint E-working centers for freelancers: Dr. Umar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif has said that steps are being taken to attract global investors in the proposed venture capital for startups. The minister said he will also visit Saudi Arabia soon while the government is going to set up 5,000 joint e-working centers for freelancers. Dr. Umar Saif said that interest-free loans to establish the joint E-Working Centers and to facilitate freelancers, resulting in millions of employment opportunities in the country. He said that there was a positive discussion with the Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamsad Akhtar on a 5-point agenda related to the IT Sector. The issue of dollar retention to the IT industry was discussed in detail and will give good news in this regard soon. This move will not only transfer overseas IT accounts to Pakistan and restore investor confidence, but also accelerate the flow of dollars in the country and increase the volume of IT exports immediately. Furthermore, Caretaker IT Minister Dr. Umar Saif has said that PSEB should redefine its role to assist IT companies in getting international clients and business and to brand Pakistan in the global market he said this while presiding over the 58th meeting of The Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) here on Thursday. "Pakistan has a unique position in terms of its IT professionals and time zone, it is very important to introduce its IT/ITeS products to the world in the required manners. PSEB must collaborate with Pakistan trade and commerce missions in Pakistani embassies world over to help grow the exports of Pakistani IT companies" he added.



CEO of Rio Tinto Group Jakob Stausholm calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in New York.

## OGRA strongly rejects misinformation campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Thursday strongly denied the false propaganda circulating on social and national media, evidently aimed at maligning the organization and diverting attention from its actions against illegal and malicious activities of illegal smuggling of Iranian oil and use of flare gas. In an official statement, a spokesperson emphasized that OGRA maintained a profound dedication to its core mission, which involved transparently regulating and overseeing Pakistan's oil and gas sector with the highest standards of integrity and diligence. The OGRA remains unwavering in efforts to ensure safety, compliance and fairness for all stakeholders and the nation. He urged the public and media to seek accurate information and refrain from spreading harmful misinformation that could damage the reputation of an institution dedicated to safeguarding Pakistan's energy consumers and promoting a responsible oil and gas sector. The OGRA spokesperson expressed concern that a few self-proclaimed troublemakers are misleading the public with disinformation. He urged the media to verify OGRA's stance before broadcasting or publishing news related to the oil and gas sector.

## Meat exporter's negligence led to restrictions on meat imports from Pakistan

LAHORE (INP): A Pakistani meat exporter's negligence has led to restrictions on meat imports from Pakistan by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the country's largest importer of Pakistani meat. The restrictions, which will come into effect on October 10, will only allow fresh or chilled meat from Pakistan that is vacuum-packed or modified-atmosphere packed with a shelf life of 60 to 120 days. The restrictions were imposed after the UAE authorities discovered a shipment of unhygienic meat from Pakistan. The meat was wrapped in cloth with fungus, showing that the Pakistani exporter had failed to maintain quality and follow global standards.

## Khalil George says: Through collective efforts we can embark upon journey improving country's economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Federation Of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) led by Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman, Vice President of FPCCI held a meeting with Presidents of FPCCI were also part of the delegation. On this occasion, various issues including the country's economic challenges, and problems faced by the business community were discussed in detail. During the meeting, Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman, Vice President FPCCI, while appreciating the energetic caretaker minister for HR, discussed various issues about human rights nationally. He also drew his attention toward the rights of overseas Pakistanis who are our big resource of foreign exchange earnings and inward remittances.



Mr. Khalil George the caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, and discussed strategies and initiatives to enhance international trade, promote exports, and improve the ease of doing business including industrial development. Among others Mr. Muhammad Aslam Sheikh & Mr. Muhammad Ali Sheikh Former Vice meeting.

## South Korean leader warns Russia against weapons collaboration with the North

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: South Korea's president sounded a warning to fellow world leaders Wednesday about the recent communication and possible cooperation between North Korea and Russia, saying any action by a permanent U.N. Security Council member to circumvent international norms would be dangerous and "paradoxical."

Speaking before the U.N. General Assembly, Yoon Suk Yeol invoked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's visit last week to Russia, which is one of the five permanent members of the council, the U.N.'s most powerful body.

Kim met with Rus-

sian President Vladimir Putin in Russia's far east. The two said they may cooperate on defense issues but gave no specifics, which left South Korea and its allies — including the United States — uneasy.

"It is paradoxical that a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, entrusted as the ultimate guardian of world peace, would wage war by invading another sovereign nation and receive arms and ammunition from a regime that blatantly violates Security Council resolutions," Yoon told fellow leaders on the second day of the U.N. General Assembly's annual gathering of leaders. He had been expected to raise

the issue.

Yoon said that if North Korea "acquires the information and technology necessary" to enhance its weapons of mass destruction in exchange for giving conventional weapons to Russia, that would also be unacceptable to the South.

"Such a deal between Russia and the DPRK will be a direct provocation threatening the peace and security of not only Ukraine but also the Republic of Korea," he said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "The Republic of Korea, together with its allies and partners, will not stand idly by."



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a press conference on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York, U.S.

## Saudis, Houthis hold talks to end Yemen war

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed Houthis rebels put a positive spin on historic but inconclusive talks in Riyadh on Wednesday as diplomatic efforts increased to end Yemen's bitter war.

The five days of talks were "positive", Saudi officials and a senior Houthi said, after the rebel delegation ended the first public visit to the Saudi capital since hostilities broke out between the two sides. Underlining the change in atmosphere, the delegation included Hosain Homood

Ala'zi, who in 2017 appeared on a Saudi list of wanted Houthis with a \$5 million reward for information leading to his arrest.

Riyadh mobilised an international military coalition against the Houthis in March 2015, months after the northern fighters with links to Tehran had seized the capital and threatened to overrun the country bordering southern Saudi Arabia.

Hundreds of thousands have died in the fighting or from its impacts, including famine, and millions have been displaced in what the United Nations calls one

of the world's worst humanitarian crises. As the Houthis left, the top diplomats of the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — a key coalition member, and influential in Yemen's government-held south — met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in his meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and the UAE's Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, welcomed the Riyadh talks "aimed at achieving a roadmap to end the conflict."



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is escorted by Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Hakeem Jeffries as he arrives to meet privately with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and other congressional leaders on a visit to the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

## Italy PM Meloni's party irks bad loan investors with new proposal

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's party has filed a new proposal to protect borrowers if they fall behind in repaying their bank debt, another move that investors said stoked risks for the country's 307 billion euro (\$328 bln) bad loan market.

Italian lawmakers upset bad loan investors last month by proposing to give borrowers the right to repay their original loan at the discounted price at which the creditor bank sold it, plus a 20% premium. To dispel concerns, Meloni said on Sept. 7 that there were no measures "on the launch pad" for non-performing loans.

However, lawmakers from Meloni's Brothers of Italy party have now put forward to parliament another rule that would make

it easier to apply their initial proposal.

"The latest amendment aims to help borrowers buy back loans," Senator Renato Ancorotti, one of the promoters of the measure, told Reuters. The proposed changes would make it obligatory in banks' sales of bad loans to include in contracts the price of individual loans, even if they are sold in bulk. As a consequence, investors could act in court to recover soured loans from borrowers only if the contracts comply with the new requirements. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni speaks during the Budapest Demographic Summit in Budapest, Hungary, September 14, 2023.

A preliminary discussion on the proposal, which would be introduced by amending a government decree that in August.

## Mexican president eyes Washington meeting with Biden in November

**Monitoring Desk**  
MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Thursday he had proposed a visit to Washington in November to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden, and had also invited Biden to visit Mexico.

Speaking at a regular government press conference, Lopez Obrador said that he planned to discuss migration, drug trafficking, violence and trade with his U.S. counterpart.

He said he had proposed Washington because he was no longer going to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in San Francisco in November, citing Mexico's lack of diplomatic relations with Peru, the APEC forum's next chair.

## Thousands of Armenians in Karabakh mass at airport after ceasefire deal

**Monitoring Desk**  
YEREVAN: Thousands of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh on Wednesday massed at the airport where some Russian peacekeepers are based after separatist forces agreed to a ceasefire which would see them surrender to Azerbaijan.

Separatists running the self-styled "Republic of Artsakh" urged the population of 120,000 not to rush to the airport in the capital which they call Stepanakert.

"We once again urge the population of Stepanakert not to succumb to panic and not to go to the airport on their own initiative in order to evacuate," the separatists said.

Pictures from Karabakh showed thousands of people at the airport, some with young

## Libya flood disaster displaced over 43,000 people: IOM

**Monitoring Desk**  
DERNA: Libya's flood disaster, which killed thousands in the city of Derna, also displaced more than 43,000 people, the International Organisation for Migration said on Thursday.

A tsunami-sized flash flood broke through two ageing river dams upstream from the coastal city after the Mediterranean Storm Daniel lashed the area on September 10.

It razed entire neighbourhoods, sweeping untold thousands of people into the sea.

The official death toll stands at more than 3,300 — but the eventual count is expected to be far higher, with international aid groups giving estimates of up to 10,000 people missing.

## Germany seeks answers from Poland in visa fraud scandal involving migrants from Asia, Africa

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: German government officials held talks Tuesday with their Polish counterparts asking them to clarify how many visas were issued in an illegal program in which some Polish consulates issued visas in Africa and Asia in exchange for bribes, an official said.

Poland has been shaken for weeks by reports that its consular sections issued about 250,000 visas to migrants from Asia and Africa since 2021 in return for bribes of several thousand dollars each. Poland is a member of the EU's visa-free zone known

as Schengen, and once those migrants arrived in Poland they could cross Europe's borders freely — including into neighboring Germany.

Warsaw's conservative government confirms that some wrongdoing has occurred, and authorities have made some arrests and dismissals, but they insist that the scale isn't as great as what the Polish media have said.

The German government official said the Polish officials were told that the German government expects that the serious allegations of possible visa fraud be resolved.

## India stops new visas for Canadians, asks Ottawa to downsize missions

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India on Thursday suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country, sharply escalating a spat triggered by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations linking New Delhi to a Sikh separatist's murder.

The Indian foreign ministry said Canada has not shared any specific information in connection with the allegations Trudeau made and that New Delhi was willing to look at it if provided.

A blanket suspension of new visas by India for a

Western country is unheard of and marks the lowest point of India-Canada relations. The announcement came hours after Canada's high commission in India said it would temporarily "adjust" staff presence in the country after some diplomats received threats on social media platforms.

But Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Ottawa had been asked to reduce numbers at its diplomatic missions in India to bring parity between the missions of the two countries.

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

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

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said in an interview late on Wednesday that Poland is no longer transferring weapons to



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

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BERLIN: German government officials held talks Tuesday with their Polish counterparts asking them to clarify how many visas were issued in an illegal program in which some Polish consulates issued visas in Africa and Asia in exchange for bribes, an official said.

Poland has been shaken for weeks by reports that its consular sections issued about 250,000 visas to migrants from Asia and Africa since 2021 in return for bribes of several thousand dollars each. Poland is a member of the EU's visa-free zone known

as Schengen, and once those migrants arrived in Poland they could cross Europe's borders freely — including into neighboring Germany.

Warsaw's conservative government confirms that some wrongdoing has occurred, and authorities have made some arrests and dismissals, but they insist that the scale isn't as great as what the Polish media have said.

## Scientists warn entire branches of the 'Tree of Life' are going extinct

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Humans are driving the loss of entire branches of the "Tree of Life," according to a new study published on Monday which warns of the threat of a sixth mass extinction.

"The extinction crisis is as bad as the climate change crisis. It is not recognised," said Gerardo Ceballos, professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and co-author of the study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). "What is at

## Somalia's first all-women newsroom

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOGADISHU: People often laugh when Fathi Mohamed Ahmed tells them she runs the first and only all-female newsroom in Somalia, one of the most dangerous places on the planet to be a reporter.

But Bilan, the media house where Ahmed works as chief editor, is far from a punchline, producing a daily mix of hard news and in-depth features for local and sometimes international audiences.

In its almost 18 months of operation Bilan, which means "to shine a light", has overcome prejudice and insecurity to illuminate some of the most taboo subjects in Somalia, including a female drug epidemic, albinism, women living with HIV and period shame.

## Two mainland China bishops to attend big Vatican

**Monitoring Desk**  
VATICAN CITY: Two bishops from mainland China are due to attend a major Vatican meeting next month, officials said on Thursday, a positive sign after recent tensions between the Holy See and Beijing.

The two bishops were chosen by their brother bishops in China, meaning they likely had approval from the Communist government.

## Canada's Trudeau wants India to cooperate in murder probe, won't release evidence

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday called on India to cooperate with an investigation into the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia and said Canada would not release its evidence.

Trudeau said on Monday that Ottawa had credible allegations linking Indian government agents to the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June, prompting an angry reaction from New Delhi. Nijjar, 45, was a Canadian citizen.

"We're not looking to provoke or cause problems.

But we are unequivocal around the importance of the rule of law and unequivocal about the importance of protecting Canadians," Trudeau told a news conference in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

"That's why we call upon the government of India to work with us to establish processes to discover and to uncover the truth of the matter."

Trudeau sidestepped several questions about when Canada might release the evidence it had, saying merely that the decision to share the allegations had not been made lightly.

## Syrian President Bashar Assad is in China on his first visit since the beginning of war in Syria

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Syrian President Bashar Assad arrived in China on Thursday on his first visit to the country since the start of Syria's 12-year conflict, one in which Beijing has been one of his main backers.

China's Foreign Ministry said Assad would join other foreign leaders attending the opening ceremony of the Asian Games, an international sports event beginning Saturday in the eastern city of Hangzhou.

China has been expanding its reach in the Middle East after mediating a deal in March between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and it continues to support Assad in the Syrian conflict, which has killed half a million people and left large parts of the nation in ruins.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Assad's visit would "further deepen political mutual trust and cooperation in various fields between the two countries and push bilateral relations

to a new level." Nepal's prime minister will arrive Saturday and be in China for one week, the Nepali Foreign Ministry said. Besides Hangzhou, he will also visit the city of Chongqing and Lhasa, the capital of Tibet.

China could play a major role in the future in Syria's reconstruction, which is expected to cost tens of billions of dollars. Syria last year joined China's Belt and Road Initiative in which Beijing expands its influence in developing regions through infrastructure projects.

Assad's office said earlier that the Syrian leader was invited by Xi and would bring with him a high-ranking Syrian delegation. Syria's worsening economic crisis has led to protests in government-held parts of the country. Syria blames the crisis on Western sanctions and U.S.-backed Kurdish-led fighters who control the country's largest oil fields in the east near the border with Iraq.

## New UK defense chief pledges more air-defense, strike weapons for Kyiv

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Air defense and long-range strike weapons are on the U.K. government's priority list for supply to Ukraine, Defence Secretary Grant Shapps said on Wednesday.

In a statement issued on the sidelines of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting at Ramstein air base in Germany on Sept 20, Britain's new defense chief said the equipment would be delivered to Kyiv over the coming months, though he provided few details.

The announcement that additional air-defense capabilities were on their way followed a plea 24 hours earlier by his U.S. counterpart, Lloyd Austin, urging allies to "dig deep" to increase the supply of weapons to counter Russia's continuing aerial bombardment of Ukraine.

The Ramstein meeting brings together ministers and senior officials from nearly 50 nations to coordinate international support for Ukraine. Britain has already supplied hundreds of air-defense weapons to the Ukraine, including Starstreak and AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles.

Long-range strike weapon deliveries from the

British include Storm Shadow cruise missiles and M270 multiple launch rocket systems.

Shapps, who made his first appearance at the Ramstein meeting since taking over as defence secretary from Ben Wallace late last month, said the list of capabilities destined for Ukraine in the coming months would also include artillery ammunition, training and maintenance and repair.

The British recently completed the delivery their 300,00<sup>th</sup> artillery round to Ukraine since the conflict with Russia started. "Today we've demonstrated the UK's unwavering commitment to Ukraine and set out more military support, including pledging tens of thousands more artillery shells to enable Ukraine to defend itself against Russia's unprovoked invasion," Shapps said.

Support of British military vehicles in service in Ukraine is also of growing importance. In July British defense contractor Babcock was awarded a contract by the UK MoD to support urgent operational requirements for Ukraine's military vehicle assets as part of London's support for the country.

## Hackers who breached casino giants MGM, Caesars also hit 3 other firms: Okta

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAN FRANCISCO: Hackers who breached casino giants MGM Resorts International (MGM.N) and Caesars Entertainment (CZR.O) in recent weeks also broke into the systems of three other companies in the manufacturing, retail, and technology space, a security executive familiar with the matter said.

David Bradbury, chief security officer of the identity management company Okta, said five of the company's clients, including MGM and Caesars, had fallen victim to hacking groups known as ALPHV and Scattered Spider since August.

In an interview with Reuters, Bradbury didn't name the other companies, but said Okta was cooperating with official investigations into the breaches.

The hacks have cast fresh spotlight on ransomware attacks — cyber intrusions that af-

fect hundreds of companies every year, from healthcare providers to telecom firms. MGM and Caesars lost market value last week as stock prices fell, and MGM is yet to recover from various operations disrupted at the hotels and gaming venues it owns from Las Vegas to Macau.

San Francisco-based Okta, which says it has more than 17,000 customers around the world, provides identity services such as multi-factor authentication used to help users securely access online applications and websites.

Multiple breaches it identified at its customers last month prompted the company to issue an alert then, Bradbury said.

"We saw this happened in such a small period of time and we thought we should be coming forward to the industry at large and explaining what's happening here," he said.



Davit Melkumyan, deputy of the National Assembly of the Nagorno-Karabakh, arrives in the Armenian delegation for talks after the breakaway region was forced into a ceasefire, in the town of Yevlakh, Azerbaijan.

# PM lauds China's unflinching support to Pak socio-economic development

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic development.

The Prime Minister and Vice-President of China Han Zheng met at the sidelines of UNGA Summit in New York on Thursday.

The Prime Minister noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and

Kashmir reflected China's principled stance for upholding international law and UN resolutions.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship including CPEC and bilateral economic and financial cooperation.

In his remarks, Vice-President Han Zheng said that Pakistan-China friendship is unique and has withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of two nations.

He said as a close neighbor and iron-brother, Pakistan occupies a special position in China's neighbourhood diplomacy and that China would continue its efforts for safeguarding Pakistan's core interests and for the economic development and prosper-

ity of the people of Pakistan. Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on the centrality of CPEC for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing their shared objectives.

The two leaders also expressed satisfaction at the celebratory events held in both countries to mark the 10th anniversary of CPEC.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a meeting with Vice-President of China Han Zheng at the sidelines of UNGA Summit in New York



ZIARAT: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki talking with students during his visit of Government College Ziarat.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, out rightly rejecting any special agenda, said on Thursday that the caretaker government was fully empowered under law to expedite the process for privatization of loss-making state-owned

enterprises (SOEs), initiated way back in 2001-02.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he clarified that no

addition was made to the privatization list, which was updated by the last successive elected governments.

He said the previous elected government had made necessary amendments in the relevant law empowering the caretakers to carry forward the



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali in a meeting with Caretaker Education Minister Abdul Qadir.

privatization process of SOEs, which was initiated by the last government but their transactions were not yet finalized. The minister said that a time-frame was duly fixed to carry out the privatization of each loss-making entity that could not be skipped.

He, however, dispelled the impression that he had been given a special task to shut down the operations of a certain organization.

He said that the Privatization Commission was taking steps to reduce the losses of certain SOEs, which were a burden on the national exchequer.

Fawad said when he took over the office, it was told that the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was facing financial crisis and needed funds to fully restore its flight operations, which were provided within 48 hours.

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## Complain cell set up: Commissioner releases detail of action taken against profiteering, encroachments

QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division has released detail of the action taken against the profiteering, encroachments, illegal crush plants as well as the petrol pumps and vehicles in the division.

Moreover, the administration teams also seized 750 tons of sugar and 1,000 tons of Urea. Meanwhile, a divisional complaint cell has been established for the general public at the commissioner's office on Thursday.

According to the detail, different teams of administration conducted inspection of different areas and made 95 arrests on different charges during the period from September 13 to 19, 2023.

The Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Quetta Division, Muhammad Hanif Kibzai has been appointed the Incharge of complaint cell. The general public may submit their complaints about Tehsil/Revenue staff or revenue affairs, DC office, settlement office, sub-registrar office, Regional Transport Authority and other public issues in the complaint cell.

Similarly, in all 57 shops were sealed with Rs. 164,000 fine also charged to the shopkeepers on violation of certain code.



QUETTA: Activists of Pashtunkhwa Mili Awami Party (PKMAP) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Customs office in Quetta.

## Umair visits Zinc & Lead project in Duddar, Kanraj

QUETTA: The Advisor to caretaker Chief Minister for Mines and Minerals Development Department, Sardarzada Umair Muhammad Hassani visited the Zinc and Lead Project in Duddar, Kanraj area of Lasbela on Thursday.

He inspected the MCC Huaye Duddar Mining Company's project site. He on the occasion visited different sections of the Duddar mining.

The Vice President Mr. Liukai briefed the Advisor to Chief Minister about the project. It was informed that SOPs are being implemented regarding health and safety at the project.

Similarly, it was also

informed that the company management is also working for welfare of the community under corporate social sector responsibility on directions of the Lasbela administration.

The Advisor said that Chinese engineers are working as per the capacity of processing designed in the Duddar Zinc and Lead mine project with assistance of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation.

He on the occasion vowed to strength the China-Pakistan economic social relations further.

Meanwhile, Umair Muhammad Hassani also inspected the Duddar mining command and control operation system.

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

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

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

and these promoted economic development besides providing essential public services.

She said, these enterprises spanned over energy, telecommunications, transportation, trade, marketing and financial sector. However, she added, these entities suffered due to lack of autonomy, external interference, weak management, limited accountability, inappropriate boards, which she said resulted in financial losses and decline in quality of services. "There has been massive drain in public resources."

However, the minister added, when privatized, the banking industry was one of the biggest success stories in Pakistan.

## Ahmed Ali says: Agriculture Dept backbone of our provincial economy

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister of Industry and Commerce, Excise and Taxation and Energy, Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmadzai on Thursday said that the agriculture sector is the backbone of our provincial economy which could not be ignored under any circumstances.

As 70 percent of the population's livelihood is related to this sector, steps are being taken under comprehensive planning for its improvement, he said.

He said that due to

drought and load shedding of electricity, the difficulties faced by our landlords and farmers while the provincial government is fully aware of this. The Minister said that the provincial government under the leadership of Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki is taking concrete steps for a sustainable solution to this issue in the jurisdiction of the provincial government. Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmadzai said that there is a need to develop the agricultural sector on modern lines to provide manpower.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed by Senior Member Board of Revenue Abdul Saboor Kakar regarding departmental affairs.

## CM terms Quaid-e-Azam Residence of Ziarat as great asset of people of Balochistan

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that Quaid-e-Azam Residency of Ziarat is a great asset of people of the province.

He visited different parts of the Quaid Residency and planted a sapling in its premises. He also wrote his comments on the register.

While speaking on the occasion, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that Quaid's affection with people of the province was evident from the frequent visits he had paid to the province before and after inception of the country.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam had started paying visit to the province in the middle of 1934. He also said that the demand about reforms in Balochistan was also included in the famous 14 points of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of his visit to the Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat on Thursday.

He reached Ziarat on his first visit after assuming the office of Chief Minister.

He visited different parts of the Quaid Residency and planted a sapling in its premises. He also wrote his comments on the register.

## Caretaker Information Minister Balochistan appreciates Tech Valley & Google's Initiatives

QUETTA: The caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan, Jan Achakzai, engaged in a fruitful meeting with Umar Farooq, the CEO of Tech Valley, a Google Education and Google Workspace Partner in Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts of Tech Valley and Google in bringing capacity building projects to Balochistan, especially the Google Career Certificates program.

The Google Career Certificates program is a flexible, self-paced online training program that can prepare learners for careers in various high-growth fields, such as IT support, project management, and data analytics. The program is taught by Google experts and includes specialized training, assessments, mentorship sessions, and hands-on practical experience. Mr. Achakzai was particularly impressed with

the fact that the Google Career Certificates program is accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or experience. He believes that the program can play a vital role in empowering the youth of Balochistan and helping them to develop the skills they need to succeed in the digital economy.

In addition to the Google Career Certificates program, Tech Valley is also working to digitize the

## Govt started implementation on 100-day plan of action for promotion of education: Domki

Caretaker CM directs to release funds for making lab of DHQ Hospital fully functional

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim provincial government has started implementation on the 100-day plan of action for promotion of education in the province.

He also informed that 529 students including 346 male and 183 female are enrolled in the college.

He was speaking on occasion of the visit of Government Degree Boys and Girls Colleges, Ziarat on Thursday.

The Principal of College, Professor Naeqebullah Kakar briefed the caretaker Chief Minister about the functioning of college.

He also assured that the issue of shortage of medicines in DHQ Hospital Ziarat would be resolved soon.

## SC dismisses appeal pertaining to refund of income tax under tribal areas' special status

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday dismissed an appeal in a case pertaining to income tax refund under the special status of tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He also assured that the issue of shortage of medicines in DHQ Hospital Ziarat would be resolved soon.

A three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. During the course of proceedings, Riaz Hussain, the petitioner's counsel, adopted the stance that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the Customs Department had issued notifications related to tax refunds for tribal people.

The CJP questioned whether the petitioner wanted issuance of separate notifications for the tribal areas vis-a-vis all laws of Pakistan.

He also assured that the issue of shortage of medicines in DHQ Hospital Ziarat would be resolved soon.

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

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

He also assured that the issue of shortage of medicines in DHQ Hospital Ziarat would be resolved soon.

A resident of Kohat, Behram Shah died on August 18, in Mazar-i-Sharif jail. He was detained by the Afghan authorities on the complaint of an Afghan citizen Abdul Hamid. Bahram Shah was accused of failing to pay a small amount he had taken the guarantee of. According to an analyst, this was not the first time that the Afghan Interim government was acting carelessly in such matters.

## Saudi Chief of General Staff lauds exceptional progress of PAF thru indigenization

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili on Thursday called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here at Air Headquarters.

Leading a high level delegation, the Saudi Chief of General Staff expressed his admiration for the exceptional progress made by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), particularly in the area of indigenisation and lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel during the meeting whereas the delegation also underscored discussion on several key areas of mutual interest, Arabia being the center of defence co-operation and geo-strategic situation, a PAF news release said.

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili the guard of honour. Later, the visiting dignitary was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers. During the meeting, the Chief of the Air Staff shared his pragmatic policy decisions aimed at modernizing PAF through the quick acquisition of niche technologies with a special focus on artificial intelligence, cyberspace, and electronic warfare, in addition to the upgradation of infrastructure and revitalization of operational and training domains. The Air Chief highlighted that Saudi Arabia being the center of the Muslim world and a significant strategic partner, has longstanding religious, cultural,

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On his arrival, a

## Coordinated efforts always improves internal and external defense: Rizwan

FC Balochistan visits emergency services headquarters and academy

INDEPENDENT REPORT LAHORE: The Secretary, the Emergency Services Department Dr Rizwan Naseer saluted to all forces working on borders and en-

ing emergency response capacity for managing all kinds of complex emergencies and disasters. He also shared the new initiative of raising a Rescue Scout



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