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## Overseas Pakistanis need to avail investment opportunities in Pakistan: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday invited the overseas Pakistanis to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the government for investment in Pakistan.

During a meeting with a delegation of prominent British Pakistani businessmen which called on him in London, the prime minister invited the diaspora businessmen to invest, especially in Special Economic Zones, to contribute to Pakistan's economic recovery. The prime minister highlighted positive economic indicators resulting from reforms pursued by the interim government, including a strengthening Pak. Rupee, reduced inflation, and expected economic growth.

The removal of import restrictions and efforts to restore the business community's confidence are expected to further boost external accounts, he added. PM Kakar spoke about Pakistan's investment-friendly approach, mentioning incentives and ease-of-business reforms. He introduced the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to streamline investment in key sectors through a single-window platform.

This initiative aims at enhancing ease of doing business, removing bureaucratic hurdles, and creating a long-term investment roadmap. Moreover, Prime Minister Kakar also shared the government's resolve and commitment to privatize loss-making state-owned enterprises.



LONDON: A delegation of prominent British Pakistani businessmen call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Caretaker CM reaches Gwadar: GoB starts implementation on roadmap of expediting work on dev. projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker Government of Balochistan has started implementation on the roadmap of executing the ongoing development projects and expediting speed of work on them in Gwadar.

To review this, the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki reached the port city on Monday.

The Commissioner Makran Division, Saeed Ahmed Umrani, Director General Gwadar Development Authority, Mujeeb ur Rehman Qambrani and Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Aurangzeb Badini welcomed the Chief Minister upon his arrival at the Gwadar airport.

He would be briefed about the ongoing development projects and law and order situation in Gwadar. During the visit, caretaker Chief Minister would pay visit to the GDA school, GDA hospital, Gwadar port terminal and Chinese business center.

He would also be briefed about the pace of work of different development projects and accelerating the same and expected date of completion.

It may be mentioned here that it is maiden visit of caretaker Chief Minister to Gwadar after assuming his office.



GWADAR: Commissioner Mekran Division Saeed Ahmed Umrani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki. Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai is also present

## WB playing important role in socio-economic dev. of Pakistan: Chief secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that the World Bank is an important partner out of major development partners of Pakistan. The government values the decade long ongoing assistance a lot which is playing an important role in the socio-economic development of the country.

The Chief Secretary also appreciated the continuous support and resolve of the World Bank for the flood affected areas of the province besides ongoing development projects in Balochistan. The Chief Secretary was speaking to the country director of World Bank, Najy Benhassine, who called on him along with his team here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the development projects between Pakistan and World Bank were discussed.

In addition to this, matters regarding construction of houses for the flood affected people in the province, water supply projects in Quetta city, Balochistan human capital project and assistance for promotion of other activities were also discussed. Moreover, there was consensus on continuing cooperation in development of Human Resources, educational and professional training, employment, water, agriculture, irrigation and livestock sectors.

Also present in the meeting were secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid, secretary Health, Asfandyar kakar, secretary Population welfare, Abdull Khan, Secretary Education, Abdul Rauf Baloch, secretary Public Health Engineering, Saleh Muhammad Baloch and secretary Planning and Asghar Harifal.



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

## Committee formed for first Cloud Policy 2023 of Balochistan: Caretaker Balochistan cabinet approves magistrate powers for EPA under Environmental Protection Act

Cabinet chaired by caretaker CM Ali Mardan Domki agreed upon to extend assistance to all projects of public nature at the government level; performance of treachery care hospitals to be improved all over province further

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Balochistan cabinet has approved to confer the powers of magistrate to the concerned Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 1 of clause Section 32 of the Balochistan Environmental Protection Act 2012.

The interim cabinet also approved to release funds for the Paeds oncology established with cooperation of Indus Hospital in the Sheikh Zayed Hospital Quetta.

The cabinet was agreed upon to extend assistance to all projects of

public nature at the government level. In addition to this, the treachery care hospitals would also be improved all over the province further.

The decisions were made during the meeting of interim cabinet of Balochistan met with the Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in the chair on Monday.

It was second meeting of the interim provincial cabinet chaired by Mr. Domki.

The cabinet decided to form a committee regarding first ever cloud policy 2023 of Balochistan by the department of Science and

Information Technology. The committee would present the policy in the next cabinet meeting for approval after thorough consideration.

Moreover, the cabinet also approved the amended policy of the establishment of the Project Directors, Project staff and Project management unit under the department of Planning and Development Department.

The cabinet also decided to improve the solid waste management system in Quetta.

Similarly, it was decided to present the pending rules of all departments

for approval after being vetted from the concerned forums.

Addressing the cabinet meeting, the caretaker Chief Minister mentioned that certain important decisions were made about the pending matters of different departments as well as those related to the public interests and administrative affairs.

He pledged that whatever time we have would be utilized for the public welfare. e said that the basic objective behind approval of the important decisions is a step forward towards good governance in the province.



RAWALPINDI: Moderator and President Bishops (Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Raiwind) Dr. Azad Marshall along with 13 members' delegation of Christian Community called on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters

## IHC orders to shift chairman PTI from Attock jail to Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked chairman PTI is under trial prisoner and under trial prisoners are kept in Adiala Jail and why then Chairman PTI has been kept in Attock jail.

The CJ IHC remarked chairman PTI be shifted to Adiala jail. Former Prime Minister (PM) should not be kept deprived of facilities under victimization.

The CJ IHC while ordering to provide all facilities under jail manual in jail to chairman PTI arrested in cipher case has remarked the status of conviction of chairman PTI has changed.

**Solangi participates in SCO's Television Festival 2023 in China**  
NANJING (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday participated in the Television Festival 2023, organized by Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Nanjing, China.

On the occasion, Murtaza Solangi met Chinese Minister for National Radio and TV Cao Shumin and thanked her for organizing the festival.

During the meeting, both ministers expressed the resolve to enhance cooperation in the areas of television and radio.

They vowed to promote innovation in media technology and exchange of journalist delegations.

## Expresses deep respect for Christian community COAS calls for promoting greater interfaith harmony in society

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir Monday expressed deep respect for Christian community and stressed upon the need for promoting greater interfaith harmony in society in order to follow Quaid's true vision of a united and progressive Pakistan.

Moderator and President Bishops (Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Raiwind) Dr. Azad Marshall along with 13 members' delegation of Christian Community called on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) here at General Headquarters, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, religious and inter-faith harmony were discussed. The COAS lauded the contributions of Pakistani

Christian Community in national development, including promotion of quality education, healthcare and philanthropic services and outstanding role played by them for the defence of the motherland.

The Army Chief emphasised, "Islam is a religion of peace and there is no space for intolerance and extremism in Islam and society. No one can be allowed to take law in his own hands in a civilised society". The Christian Community members acknowledged Pakistan Army's efforts in combating terrorism and providing secure environment to the minorities in the country.

They appreciated Army Chief's gesture as an inspiration for Pakistani minorities to take greater and more active part in nation building and in restoring their faith in a cohesive and tolerant society.



QUETTA: Country director of World Bank, Najy Benhassine meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

## Date will not be given, only decisions will be made: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has made it clear on the lawyers that date will not be given in the cases now and only decisions will be made.

The CJP has reprimanded the lawyer as well. A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP rejected the plea for giving date in land dispute.

The CJP remarked now remove this concept from your mind that they will go to SC and obtain date. This message is for all of others through you

that the tendency for getting date will not run now. The number of pending cases in court is too much high. There should be notice on one date and arguments on next date here. In other courts it happens so that date is given for presenting any document. When some case comes in SC its all documents are complete.

The CJP further remarked give the arguments in one language. Improve your Urdu or English.

The court while giving this order adjourned the hearing of the case.



QUETTA: Regional Director National University of Modern Languages Quetta Campus Lt. General (Retd) Nisar Ahmed meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## PM's speech at GA is reflection of aspiration of Pakistani people: Jan

Cabinet decides to approach caretaker PM for relief and rehabilitation of flood affectees in Balochistan; says special focus is on IT promotion; health, education and irrigation are priorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The interim cabinet of Balochistan has fully endorsed the stance taken by the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session recently regarding state terrorism of India in the Occupied Kashmir.

The cabinet described the stance adopted by the PM Kakar at United Nations as very positive, and as such the cabinet and people of Balochistan are standing by that stance of PM.

This and similar other views were expressed by

the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while addressing a hurriedly called press conference soon after the cabinet meeting at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

The caretaker Minister Information said that India has been involved in the terrorism in Balochistan, and it is victim of the Indian terrorism.

The caretaker Prime Minister very forcefully raised the issues and highlighted them effectively, and as such the cabinet fully endorsed his stance in

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QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai talking with media men

## For stabilizing country's system: Financial discipline, transparency & accountability must: Governor Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has brought discipline in financial affairs, transparency and accountability in the administrative matters in all national institutions is very necessary for stabilizing the system of country.

The Governor said that the expeditious development of technology and especially its impacts on the accounting and auditing has increased the trend of innovation a lot.

Therefore, it is very necessary to benefit from the modern technology.

These views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to the Accountant General Balochistan, Hasan Saqlain, who called on him here at the Governor House on

Monday. Speaking to him, the Governor urged the AG and his team to create easiness for all the in service and retired employees regarding their salaries and pensions.

He also asked them to expand their performance and services at the district level.

In this regard, the present government has improved the administrative and financial discipline, he mentioned adding that more steps are required to ensure good governance.

The Governor Balochistan said that the national level policies should not only be reflective of the social requirements and present situation, but they should also be the guarantor of sustainable solution to the real issues of the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest of the event Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani performing traditional Arabic Dance along with Ambassador of KSA to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malkiy and others during the celebrations of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at local hotel in Federal Capital.

## Senate chairman extends heartfelt felicitations to Saudi Arabia on its National Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday attended the National Day celebrations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and conveyed warm regards and best wishes on behalf of the Senate and the people of Pakistan to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Royal Family, and Saudi nation.

Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, he expressed his gratitude to Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malkiy, for extending the invitation and commended the progressive portrayal of Saudi Arabia on the event's invitation card, highlighting its holistic development and inclusive vision.

He emphasized the enduring and multifaceted bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, founded on shared values, faith, and aspirations. He acknowledged Saudi Arabia's significant support during challenging times and reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to reciprocate in diplomatic and security matters, highlighting recent high-level military engagements. Sanjrani remarked that the partnership was fortified by an unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability, underlining both nations' readiness to support each other in diplomatic and security matters.

He lauded Saudi Arabia's efforts to promote

regional harmony through diplomacy, dialogue, and mutual respect. He expressed confidence that these initiatives would open doors to mutually beneficial opportunities for trade, cultural exchanges, shared initiatives, and collaborative endeavours, contributing to global progress. He underscored the importance of diplomacy, dialogue, and mutual respect in building a foundation for lasting peace and regional prosperity.

The Senate chairman said Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's vision, epitomized by the Neom City project and initiatives like the Misk, showcases a holistic approach to modern society while remaining grounded in Saudi Arabia's cultural heri-

itage. Highlighting the close ties between Chagai and Saudi dignitaries, he looked forward to further collaboration with Ma'aden, a rapidly growing Saudi mining company, for mutual development and prosperity in mineral-rich areas. He also emphasized the importance of youth engagement and joint ventures in education, research, technology and innovation as avenues to deepen cooperation between the two nations. In conclusion, Chairman Sanjrani reiterated Pakistan's steadfast support, admiration, and warm wishes to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, pledging to continue fostering this enduring friendship and brotherhood.

## Balochistan media delegation visits Beijing and Qingdao

QINGDAO (INP): With the support of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, an 11-member media delegation from Balochistan, a province in southwestern Pakistan, embarked on a visit to China's capital city, Beijing, and the picturesque coastal city of Qingdao.

The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and China, as well as foster cultural exchanges and explore opportunities for media collaboration, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

The delegation, comprising journalists, editors, and media professionals, received a warm welcome from Chinese officials and media representatives upon their arrival in Beijing.

The visit began with a meeting and discussion with Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Nong Rong at the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The meeting pointed out the path of development and provided important guidance for deepening cooperation and promoting exchanges between China and Pakistan.

Furqan Rao, Incharge, China Desk, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), highlighted that the press

delegation is willing to bridge the "information gap" between the people of Balochistan and the Chinese people and contribute to the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador to China, H.E. Moin ul Haque, the delegation was briefed on bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, especially the current status of CPEC, which he described as the flagship project of the BRI and a strong symbol of Pakistan-China ties.

The media delegation appreciated China's role in the development of Gwadar and Balochistan and said projects such as Gwadar port, hospitals, schools, and roads have greatly contributed to regional connectivity and generated employment opportunities for local people.

The Balochistan delegation also had the opportunity to visit various newsrooms and production facilities, gaining valuable insights into China's media landscape at the Economic Daily and China Central Television Tower.

## US Envoy calls on Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Monday called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed and discussed matters of mutual interest between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Planning Minister appreciated the support that Pakistan has received from the United States in the field of development cooperation, bilateral trade and investment promotion.

The two sides also exchanged views on matters of common interest and expressed their resolve to enhance and strengthen bilateral relations.

The Planning Minister highlighted the government's efforts for economic revival. The Minister further stated that the government has formed a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) aimed at attracting foreign investment in various sectors such as Mines and Minerals, Agriculture, Information Technology and Energy and he invited US companies to explore the options to invest in these sectors.

## Independence of judiciary cannot be tampered: Petitioner files reply in SC practice, procedure act case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Replies have been filed in Supreme Court (SC) on court's orders in SC Practice and Procedure Act case. Khawaja Tariq Rahim counsel for the petitioner Raja Amir Khan has too filed reply.

The petitioner has prayed that practice and procedure act be declared null and void. There can be no tampering in independence of the judiciary. Under practice law, three members committee of judges will reject the plea without hearing it. The interference by the parliament in court's affairs is violation of constitutional distribution of powers. Parliament cannot change the procedure of power of article 184/3 through ordinary legislation. Full court can make amendment in 1980 rules.

Doubtless parliament is supreme but it cannot legislate to regulate the matters of SC.

SC full court bench presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa had directed the respondents to file reply till September 25.

Sources said federal government has filed its reply as well wherein it is stated that no interference has been made in the powers of SC nor has any attempt been made to stifle the independence of the judiciary. The powers of CJP and other judges are there as it is. Attempt has been made to bring transparency in the formation of benches so that benches could be constituted with consultation for people instead of favorite benches. As the CJP has started implementing it therefore, it is requested to court to dismiss the petitions against SC practice and procedure.

actively prevent racist and Islamophobic acts, which incite religious hatred. It is important for the international community to raise its voice against Islamophobia and work in concert to promote inter-faith harmony.

That was the spirit behind the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022 to mark 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. Pakistan's concerns have been conveyed to the Dutch authorities. We urge them to be mindful of the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and Muslims around the world and take active steps to prevent such hateful and Islamophobic acts, the spokesperson added.

## Pakistan strongly condemns desecration of the Holy Quran in Netherlands

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the latest senseless and deeply offensive act of desecration of the Holy Quran that took place in The Hague, the Netherlands in front of some embassies of OIC member countries including Pakistan.

It is a deliberately provocative and Islamophobic act that has hurt the sentiments of Muslims around the world.

Such acts cannot be condoned under the guise of freedom of expression, opinion and protest, a spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs said. Pakistan believes that freedom of expression comes with responsibilities. National governments should

actively prevent racist and Islamophobic acts, which incite religious hatred. It is important for the international community to raise its voice against Islamophobia and work in concert to promote inter-faith harmony.

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GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki coming out of Gwadar airport

## IHC reserves judgment on plea for in-camera hearing of chairman PTI bail petition

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reserved judgment on the plea of special prosecutors for in camera hearing of chairman PTI bail petition in cipher case.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC remarked decision will be given in this regard after seeing the record of case.

The counsel said the entire nation is fixing its eyes on this bail plea.

The CJ IHC said smilingly now live streaming of the courts hearing will be conducted and the entire world will see hearing.

Chairman PTI bail plea in cipher case came up for hearing before CJ IHC Monday.

Barrister Suleman Saifdar appeared on behalf of the petitioner.

Special prosecutors Shah Khawar and Zulfiqar Abbas Naqvi appeared in the court taking the plea in cipher case is being tried under official secret act. Former Prime Minister (PM) and former foreign minister were arrested in the case.

## China a trusted friend, key global player, need to learn from its experience: Speakers

LAHORE (INP): China is a trusted friend and successful global player, we should learn from the China's experience in various walks of life to strengthen our socio economic development activities.

This was stated by the speakers at a cake cutting ceremony in connection with the 74th National Day of China organized by Pak-China Friendship Association (PCFA) Punjab at Lahore Grammar School, Wapda Town, Lahore on Monday.

The aim of this ceremony was to enhance people to people interaction and appreciate the initiative taken by the Chinese leadership for shared future philosophy which is successfully implemented by the Chinese across the globe for peaceful co-existence.

The PCFA Punjab event was graced by Mr. Du Yue, Head Political Affairs, Consulate General People's Republic of China in Lahore, Madam Chang Xiaonong, Vice President

Pakistan China Chandong Chamber of Commerce (PCCSC) at Lahore, Mrs. Zeenat Amir Rokhri, President PCFA Punjab, Mr. Usman Shahjahan, General Secretary PCFA Punjab, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Secretary-General PCFA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Amir Bhatti, Director Indigo Canal.

During the ceremony it was also discussed that we should enhance people to people interaction especially exchange visits with sister cities. Historic city of Xian (capital city of Shaanxi province of China) and Lahore (capital city of Punjab province Pakistan) are enjoying sister city relationship since decade.

The Chinese Consulate General in Lahore hosted a well-attended diplomatic reception last afternoon in Lahore, which was attended by who is who in Lahore a part from Governor Punjab, Chief Minister and good number of Federal and Provincial ministers. Acting Council General Mr. Cao Ke warmly received all guests and spoke very well.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Vice Chancellor BITEMS Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Youth, a source of strength for cause of Kashmir: Dr. Pir

WASHINGTON (Online): An eventful function was held in Northern Virginia to express deep gratitude to dozens of local leaders for their commitment and dedication to the freedom of Kashmir and for their willingness to be the true ambassadors of the people of Occupied Kashmir in Washington metropolitan area and beyond. A special tribute was paid to Sardar Zafar Khan for being nominated by the President of Azad Kashmir to be his special Advisor in the Nation's Capital - Washington, D.C. The speakers highlighted the selfless contribution of Sardar Zafar Khan towards Kashmiri and Pakistani American community.

Sardar Zafar Khan has been a role model for Kashmiri American youth, said Dr. Pir Syed Ali Raza Bukhari, a parliamentarian from Azad Kashmir; Chairman, International Sufi Peace Forum and the Chief Guest of the event.

Sardar Zafar Khan thanked the community for their love and affection that they have shown towards him since he landed in Washington area decades ago. We are positioned at one of the most important capitals of the world - Washington, DC, Zafar added. Our youth and students must be motivated to become trendsetters for the cause of Kashmir. They can mobilize social media, organize seminars, symposiums, lectures on university campuses and elsewhere.

They can play an exceptional role in educating the American public square about the Kashmir conflict.

Dr. Pir Ali Raza Bukhari emphasized that the deteriorating situation in Indian occupied Kashmir is a challenge to the conscience of the civilized world. The presence of 900,000 Indian soldiers have made it largest military occupation on earth. Today the Valley of Kashmir, once known as paradise, has become the killing fields for its inhabitants. The people of Azad Kashmir do feel the pain and suffering of the persecuted civilian population of our compatriots but that is not enough. It is our moral and legal

responsibility to become the true ambassadors of the people of occupied Kashmir.

Dr. Pir Ali Raza Bukhari added that India is implementing her nefarious plan which encompasses massacre of innocent civilians and more importantly issuing domicile certificates to millions of Indian citizens to change the demography of Kashmir. The world needs to know that the issue of Kashmir is both a human rights issue and also the issue of right of self-determination which was pledged to the people of Kashmir by the United Nations as early as 1948.

Dr. Pir Ali Raza Bukhari emphasized that Kashmir cause needs professionals and specialists with diplomatic expertise. The people of Indian occu-

## Pakistani athletes receive warm welcome in Hangzhou

HANGZHOU (INP): The Pakistani contingent received a rousing applause as they entered the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium for the opening ceremony of the 2023 Asian Games.

The enthusiastic welcome was seen as a sign of friendship and respect for the Pakistani athletes, who have a long tradition of sporting excellence at the Asian Games, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Shahid Afraz Khan, a Pakistani sports expert in Hangzhou for the Games, remarked that the host city has made superb arrangements for this major multi-sport competition.

He added, "Fans are getting a chance to learn about each other's culture along with great competition during the Asian Games, which is definitely

athletes."

A contingent of 262 Pakistani athletes and officials, including 137 men and 53 women, will be competing in over 26 sports at the Games.

The Pakistan Swimming Team will be participating from September 24-29, the Hockey Team from September 24-October 7, and the Tennis Team from September 24-30.

Shahid Afraz Khan, a Pakistani sports expert in Hangzhou for the Games, remarked that the host city has made superb arrangements for this major multi-sport competition.

He added, "Fans are getting a chance to learn about each other's culture along with great competition during the Asian Games, which is definitely

a bridge in promoting harmony."

Khan expressed confidence that the Pakistani athletes will perform strongly at these Games, noting their warm reception here underscores the high expectations and support they enjoy.

Their participation also highlights the close Pakistan-China ties, including in sports. Pakistani athletes credited the Chinese government's assistance in their preparations and voiced gratitude for the support.

The 19th Asian Games opened officially on September 23. Over 12,500 athletes from across Asia are competing in 481 events across 40 sports over the next two weeks.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed exchanging views with Donald Blome, US Ambassador to Pakistan during meeting held in Islamabad.

## PM's speech at GA is...

Continued from page 1

the UN, Jan Achakzai maintained. Moreover, referring the cabinet meeting and decisions made in it, the Minister Information said that the cabinet decided to approach the caretaker Prime Minister for provision of relief to those who were affected due to the flashfloods in the province, and are still awaiting the government's assistance.

In this regard, the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki would approach the caretaker Prime Minister Kakar and sought his cooperation for the relief of flood affected people in the province, he maintained.

In addition to this, the cabinet has also decided to lay much focus on the IT promotion and for the purpose, a policy would be adopted, the Minister Information mentioned adding that Balochistan would no more lag behind the other provinces in the IT sector.

Similarly, the cabinet has also decided to form a committee comprising the Ministers and administrative secretaries to sort out the issues related to IT sector.

Jan Achakzai also informed that the cabinet has approved release of Rs. 18 crore for the purchase of medicines for cancer ward.

The approval has also been given for preparation of a feasibility report for rehabilitation of the Pasni fish harbour, Mr. Achakzai told.

The Minister Information said that the interim government has to find the solution to the longstanding issues facing the province.

He particularly referred to the issues related to environment and water and noted with concern that Balochistan has affected the most due to environment. Environment is a challenge facing the province and we have to cope with it, he vowed.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interfaith Affairs Aneeq Ahmed addressing during the exhibition of calligraphy artworks in Centaurus Mall.

## SAPM says: Islamabad's Administration establishes designated support desks for overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) for Overseas Pakistanis Jawad Sohrab Malik on Monday said that Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) has established designated support desks for Overseas Pakistanis to provide multiple essential civic facilities with ease through One Window Operation.

On the special instruction of Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwar Ul Haq Kakar the Capital Development Authority's special desk will assist with the transfer of residential plots, approval of building designs, issuance of completion certificates, payment of annual property tax, and quarterly payment of water supply and other miscellaneous payments for

Overseas Pakistanis, SAPM said.

Jawad Sohrab Malik said that the government has established new support desks for overseas Pakistanis.

The support desks will offer a wide range of services, including assistance with housing, property taxes, and other government services. The goal of the support desks is to make it easier for Overseas Pakistanis to access government services and to increase their trust in the government.

Jawad Malik further said that the official staff from all relevant agencies including CDA, Revenue Department, and Islamabad Police will be present at the support desks to assist and guide Overseas Pakistanis.

SAPM said that the designated support desks services will be extended to other institutions at the federal and provincial levels that offer services to Overseas Pakistanis.

This means that overseas Pakistanis can access a wide range of services at the support desks, from all levels of government. This significant move is expected to increase the trust that Overseas Pakistanis have in the government, adding said it will also help to make it easier for Overseas Pakistanis living to access government services with ease. The support desks are located in ICT's Offices at G-11/4 and CDA's building at G-7/2 Islamabad, which will be open to all Overseas Pakistanis, regardless of where they live in the world.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of daily wagers met the Caretaker Federal Minister for the Ministry of Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi and thank to him for resolving all of their issue.

## Indian forces commit heinous acts in IIOJK: Mushaah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaah Hussain Mullick says Pakistan and its public fully support the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in his claims against India.

She was addressing a rally in Islamabad on Monday against the human rights violations in India.

The Special Assistant said Indian forces are carrying out heinous acts with complete impunity in the occupied Kashmir. She urged the participants to raise their voice for the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu

and Kashmir.

Mushaah Mullick felicitated the people and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on the occasion of its national day.

In a message issued here, she extended her heartfelt congratulations to the Saudi King, Crown Prince and the Royal family, saying that Saudi Arabia witnessed a spate of developments and prosperity under its leadership.

The services of the Saudi Royal family for Islam and Muslims should be overlooked, she stated and added that Pakistanis consider Saudi Arabia as their second home.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti In a Meeting with Former Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Sardar Sher Ali Gurchani Sahib In Islamabad.

## Civil society wants settlement of Kashmir dispute through talks

ISLAMABAD (INP): Civil Society members in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir have urged India and Pakistan to sit together and settle the Kashmir dispute for peace and political and economic stability in the South Asian region.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the Civil Society members including Muhammad Shafiq, Muhammad Ali, Showket Ahmed, Muhammad Asim, Muntzir Nabi, Umar Bazz and Shaheen Nabi in a meeting in Srinagar said the Kashmir issue should be resolved as it will lead to good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan.

The good relationship between two countries will

create a peaceful atmosphere and end the poverty in the two countries, the said.

They said the settlement of the Kashmir dispute is not only in the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir but it will also benefit the entire South Asian region.

They said the spending of the money on purchasing weapon and arms could be used for the development of the people.

The meeting said the illegal process of changing Kashmir's territorial status against the UN resolutions, and the wishes of Kashmiris has gains nothing but added miseries to people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Meeting on 12th convocation of IIUI held

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice President Research & Enterprise, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed on Monday chaired the meeting of the conveners of the sub-committee for 12th convocation of university.

The 12th convocation of IIU will be held on November 8th and 9th of this year. Those attended the meeting included Prof. Dr. N.B. Jumani, Vice President Administration and Finance, Prof. Dr. Abdur Rahman, Vice President Academics, conveners of the committees and relevant officers including directors and in-charges.

During the meeting, the chair was briefed about the procedure and plans of the convocation. Various recommendations were made to make it a memorable and exquisite event.

## 12 accused involved in immoral activities held

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Humak police team apprehended 12 accused including five women involved in immoral activities and recovered cash from their possession, a public relations officer said.

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

During the ongoing crackdown, the Humak police team arrested 12 accused including five women involved in immoral activities. Police team also recovered cash, vehicle and motorbike from their possession. Case has been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

Safety of lives and property of the citizens is the prime responsibility of Islamabad capital police. Citizens are also requested to report any suspicious activity to nearest police stations or at emergency helpline "Pucar-15".



Deputy Chairmanship Planning Commission, Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan chairing a meeting of Central Development Working Party at the Planning Commission.

## Pak reaffirms commitment to eliminate hepatitis by 2030

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has stated that Pakistan remains steadfast in its dedication to addressing the challenge of hepatitis and achieving the WHO's global elimination targets by 2030.

Representing Pakistan at the Second Meeting of the United Nations Group of Friends to Eliminate Hepatitis at the Yale Club in New York, he said our priorities include updating the National Strategic Framework, improving surveillance, expanding hepatitis B birth dose vaccination, increas-

ing HCV testing and treatment, and engaging community-based organizations.

He said that objectives of the Group of Friends aligned perfectly with the overarching theme of UNGA 78, focusing on rebuilding trust and rekindling global solidarity to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting was attended by Health Ministers, WHO officials, several ambassadors and representatives.

According to estimates, around 12 million

people in Pakistan were affected from Hepatitis B and C, with 150,000 new cases reported every year. These multifaceted challenges stemmed from unsafe blood transfusions, unhygienic dental treatments and reused syringes.

Appreciating Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination for launch of National Hepatitis Elimination Profile (N-HEP) Initiative in 2022, the Ambassador noted that Government of Pakistan had set an ambitious target under the initiative, aiming to screen millions of individuals and treat millions affected by hepatitis by 2030.

## Govt plans to preserve Pakistani cultural heritage at int'l forums

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah Monday said that the ministry was actively promoting preservation of Pakistani cultural heritage at the local, national, and international levels.

"We are trying best to strengthen our creative economy, consolidating our cultural and heritage resources and mobilizing our communities", he said while talking to a Private News Channel.

"Pakistani people are hospitable and we need to highlight the correct image of the country at global level", he added.

Talking about 12th Conference of Culture Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, he said conference is focusing on cultural issues with a view to enhance joint cultural action in the areas of cultural planning and development indicators and addressing the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Replying a question, minister said that promotion of national heritage and culture among the people can only prevent the society from social ills hatred.



Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen, Chairman Senate standing committee on Science and Technology presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Ministry of Science and Technology, Islamabad.

## Foolproof security being ensured at High Security zone

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is ceaselessly dedicated to preserving law and order within the federal capital, a public relations officer said.

He said that, to fortify the security of the high security zone, personnel stationed at Margalla Road naka diligently executing their responsibilities, meticulously verifying the particulars of individuals accessing the high security zone and meticulously documenting vehicle information.

Government personnel entering the high security zone are now mandated to display their departmental identification cards. Additionally, individuals with private business within the high security zone are urged to carry their requisite documentation and extend their full cooperation to on-duty personnel.

Senior officers have directed the personnel on duty to uphold the highest standards of diligence and professionalism, cultivating a positive rapport with citizens. Citizens are also urged to promptly report any perceived suspicious activity or individuals to the helpline "Pucar-15".

## Rivers, reservoirs water level report issued

ISLAMABAD (INP): The position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoirs levels and the barrages issued on Monday.

Rivers: Indus at Tarbela: Inflows 88800 cusecs and Outflows 110000 cusecs, Kabul at Nowshera: Inflows 20700 cusecs and Outflows 20700 cusecs, Khairabad Bridge: Inflows 96800 cusecs and Outflow 96800, Jhelum at Mangla: Inflows 8700 cusecs and Outflows 38000 cusecs, Chenab at Marala: Inflows 30600 cusecs and Outflows 4000 cusecs.

Barrages: Jinnah: Inflows 125000 cusecs and Outflows 117000 cusecs, Chashma: Inflows: 144400 cusecs and Outflows 135000 cusecs, Taunsa: Inflows 138000 cusecs and Outflows 117500 cusecs, Guddu: Inflows 130000 cusecs and Outflows 99100 cusecs Sukkur: Inflows 96700 cusecs and Outflows 44900 cusecs Kotri: Inflows 35500 cusecs and Outflows 400 cusecs Trimmu: Inflows 25700 cusecs and Outflow 13100 cusecs Panjnad: Inflows 34800 cusecs and Outflows 17600 cusecs. Reservoirs (Leveland Storage) Tarbela: Minimum operating level 1402 feet, present level 1546.63 feet, maximum conservation level 1550 feet.

## Kundi says: Siraj should not misguide masses for sake of 'publicity'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday lashed out at Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirajul Haq.

In a reaction to the press talk of Mr Haq, Mr Kundi said: "Sirajul Haq should not misguide the masses for the sake of cheap publicity stunts. Sirajul Haq needs to have information of the negotiations made by the PPP with independent power producers (IPPs)."

strengthened if the industrial zones were established," Mr Kundi said.

Earlier today, JI Emir Sirajul Haq fired a fresh broadside at the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and PTI.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Mr Haq asserted: "The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) leaders had waived their cases. The PTI government had vowed to end poverty and create an opportunity of 50,000 jobs in the country."

Mr Haq took a jibe at former finance minister Ishaq Dar, saying, "Ishaq Dar had made claims of controlling the rate of the greenback against the rupee."

Speaking about the international lender, Mr Haq raved: "The nation has been made slaves of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)."

Mr Kundi stated: "During the tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Sirajul Haq was the senior minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)."

"The country's economy would have been



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan talking to media persons during the inauguration of Incinerator ceremony in Community Health Centre Kirpa in Islamabad.

## Senate body on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony convenes

ISLAMABAD: Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony was held here at Parliament House on Monday with Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri in Chair.

The Senate committee deliberated on the recent letter written by Saudi Arabia, proposing to reduce the number of Hajj Operators of Pakistan from 905 to 46. Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, stated that the Saudi Arabia intends to provide better facilities to pilgrims, and in this regard, the letter has been sent to all Muslim Countries.

The committee was informed about the ministry preparations for the 2024 Hajj. Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs stated that the Ministry is aiming to introduce Suitcases with QR code and designed scarves for females for the year 2024, to easily identify Hujjaj from Pakistan. He further added that the ministry with the collaboration of Saudi Government is planning to introduce a Short time period for the Hajj.

Furthermore, the committee was informed about the ministry preparations for the 2024 Hajj. Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs stated that the Ministry is aiming to introduce Suitcases with QR code and designed scarves for females for the year 2024, to easily identify Hujjaj from Pakistan. He further added that the ministry with the collaboration of Saudi Government is planning to introduce a Short time period for the Hajj.

Officials apprised that Hajj quota for the year 2023



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Interior Minister Shams Lone and Provincial Food Minister Ghulam Muhammad in a meeting with Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan.

## Capital's waste management system to be further improved

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Monday said that the government has planned to further improve the waste management system in the federal capital.

resources."

He said that the government will improve facilities at Basic Health Units in the federal capital. "We are going to digitize the system."

Addressing the launching ceremony of environment-friendly incinerator at Karpa, the minister said that the federal capital has 5,000 kg of hospital waste. He said that the country is facing the challenges of climate change.

"Our job is to provide the best health facilities to the people. If the health system is better, the health of the people will be better."

He said the country is facing many channels like flood, climate change etc.

He said that the primary health care system needs to be strengthened.

He said that Pakistan is the signatory of Universal Health Coverage and steps are being taken in this regard.

He said that the National Health Card authorities have been asked to have one system for all.

He said, "We are trying to provide the best health facilities to the people with the available

polio from Pakistan." He said that three rounds of polio vaccination drive will be completed by December.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed taking interest in Islamic Calligraphy during "Solo Calligraphy Exhibition" by Wasil Shahid in Federal Capital.



## Punjab CM inaugurates road built from plastic waste in Lahore

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: In a record-breaking development for Punjab, Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the first-ever plastic road in the province today. The historic inauguration took place on Zafar Ali Plastic Road, stretching from Gymkhana Mall Road to Jail Road. Chief Minister Naqvi meticulously examined the quality and construction of this innovative road, accompanied by a detailed briefing on its utility by the Secretary of Communication and Works and esteemed professors from the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore. Commending the

technical expertise and invaluable support provided by UET professors in the creation of this plastic road, Chief Minister Naqvi expressed his appreciation. Addressing the media, he underscored the success of this pioneering venture and revealed plans to expand its scope. Following a thorough one-month review of the existing plastic road, further expansions are on the horizon, including the transformation of Mall Road into a plastic road. One of the key advantages of a plastic road lies in its resilience against rainwater, ensuring a lifespan of a minimum of 10 years. Unlike

conventional roads, these innovative constructions are not susceptible to rain-induced damage. Moreover, the financial outlay for constructing a plastic road has been significantly reduced, with this project amounting to Rs 2 crore as opposed to the standard Rs 6 crore for a regular road. A crucial environmental benefit is that the plastic used in these roads is sourced from recycled materials, effectively repurposing plastic waste that would otherwise contribute to environmental pollution. This eco-friendly approach to road construction not only minimizes costs but also serves as a sustainable solution.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman addressing the ceremony on the eve of Mehfil-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) at Governor House.

## PFA unearths unit producing fabricated milk

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has lodged a First Information Report (FIR) against Mujahid Dairy on account of adulteration in the nearest police station during a raid in Roshan Bhela, Kasur. PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said that acting on the tip of, a dairy safety team of PFA Kasur raided a fake milk production unit and caught the adulteration mafia red-handed producing fabricated milk with hazardous chemicals and other ingredients. He said that the raiding team took milk samples on the spot and found contamination of vegetable oil, whey powder, polluted water and chemicals. The raiding team discarded a huge quantity of substandard milk, 50kg powder and 48kg ghee besides

confiscating a vehicle, 11 drums, mixing machines and other goods during the raid, he added. PFA DG appreciated the raiding team for taking timely action against enemies of public health and ruined their unholy ambitions. He said that adulterated milk was to be supplied to different local milk shops in Lahore. He further said that the use of substandard adulterated milk poses a threat to users' health and causes severe problems like stomach, intestine, food poisoning and gastrointestinal complications. Raja Jahangir said that the Punjab Food Authority is bringing an international-style policy for the supply of pure milk. The PFA was also utilizing all available resources to root out the menace of milk adulteration in Punjab, he said.

## Justice Baqar directs audit of 'varieties, orders holding of Senate meetings

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (rtd) Maqbool Baqar has directed the University & Board department and Higher Education Commission (HEC), Sindh to conduct an audit of all the public sector universities and direct them to establish their pension fund for timely payment of pensions to their retiring or to be retired employees. "I am surprised that nine public sector universities have not held their Senate meeting in the last eight to nine years and they must be taken to task and their senate meeting be held at the earliest. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the Universities and Boards Dept and provincial Higher Education Commission

here at the CM House. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Fakhre Alam, Chairman HEC Prof Tariq Raffi, PSCM Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Secretary U&B Noor Mohammad Samo, and others. HEC: The Chairman HEC told the interim CM that Sindh HEC was established in 2013 with a mandate to promote and improve higher education, research, and development in the Sindh Province. The provincial HEC mainly focuses on faculty development; improving access; promoting excellence in learning and research; governance and quality assessment, monitoring & evaluation, and physical technological infrastructure development.

The important programs of the HEC were the Research Support Program, M.Phil, Ph.D Scholarship Program, Laboratory Strengthening Program, and Smart Classroom program. To a question, CM was told that there were 27 universities in the public sector in the province, of them nine have not held their Senate meetings in the last eight years. At this, the CM said that the Senate was an Apex body of the universities, and their Senate body passed their budgets. It was also pointed out that most of the public sector universities were running huge losses due to financial management. At this, the CM directed the Secretary U&B to conduct an audit of all the universities through well-reputed.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader and Former Provincial Minister, Saeed Ghani in a group photo along with participants of Ten-day Electronic Media Training Course organized by Women Media Center held in Karachi.

## Life of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) beacon of light for entire mankind: Baligh

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony on the theme of "Building Islamic Society in the Light of teachings of Prophet Muhammad SAW" at Governor House Lahore today. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman while addressing the ceremony said that the Uswa Hasana of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is a source of salvation and guidance for us. He said that Allah sent the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a mercy for all mankind. Love for Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is an integral part of our faith, he added. Governor Punjab said that when the Arabs were passing through the age of ignorance, he gave them the message of Allah and enlightened them with the teachings of Islam. He said that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) set an example of

the highest character and forgiveness by forgiving his worst enemies on the occasion of the conquest of Makkah. Governor Punjab said that the problems of the present era can be solved by following the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He said that Islam gave rights to the downtrodden sections of the society and women in the age of ignorance when daughters were buried alive as soon as they were born. He said that the people should develop the habit of research, adding that our religion has placed great emphasis on research and critical thinking. Governor Punjab said that many false and unverified things are spread on social media these days. He said that we should neither believe what we hear nor spread it without confirmation. He emphasized that we need to take guidance from Sirat Tayyaba (SAW) to solve our problems.

## Theatre play "Social Pagal" & "The Father" presented

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI (Online): On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the ongoing Pakistan Theatre Festival in Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, the Theatre plays "Social Pagal" and "The Father" were presented in Urdu language, the writer and director of Theatre Social Pagal, was Shah Fahad, in the cast of the play. Sarmad Aftab, Sherbanu Rahmani, Gulshan Majeed, Hassan Raza, Mishal Chaudhry, Zain Qazi, Haris Ahmad Khan and Mohammad Ghazi Abid, etc. Drama takes viewers through the journey of six psychopaths who confront their demons in prison as they are confined to an obscure realm where life imprisonment is considered the cure for their insanity, a battle of wits ensues and theatre play "The Father" is written by Florian Zeller and directed by Zeeshan Haidar. The cast of the drama included Ghulam Mohiuddin, Abdul Rehman, Alina Gulzar, Saima, Zobi and Owais. The drama depicts an old man grappling with a reality beyond his understanding, his daughter's well-intentioned support meets resistance.

## Provincial ministers lead strategic meeting to address anti-smog

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: An essential meeting convened at the Civil Secretariat, presided over by Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer, meticulously assessed the closure and descaling of factories in relation to anti-smog efforts. In attendance were Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Provincial Minister Bilal Afzal, along with the Secretary and DG of the Environment Protection Department, DG of Industries, and pertinent officials. Notably, the meeting also saw the

presence of Patron-in-Chief of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Sheikhupura, Manzoor Malik, alongside industrialists Mardan Ali, Amjad Khan, and others. Emphasizing the government's duty to furnish a clean environment for its citizens, Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer articulated the need for formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to mitigate environmental pollution, thereby enhancing transparency in governance.

## Court orders to release 12 year-old girl on bail

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR (INP): Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday ordered to release 12-year-old girl on bail. The 12-year-old girl is facing murder charges. She is accused of killing a man named Gohar Ali while cutting fodder in Buner, five months ago. The girl's bail plea was filed in the PHC as she is underage. The court was pleased to release the 12-year-old on bail, which was accepted. It is to be noted that both the parties had registered cases against each other after the incident. Separately in 2021, a judicial magistrate granted bail to six teenage suspects held for allegedly harassing female students.



PESHAWAR: Students are holding protest demonstration against re-conduct of MDCAT, at Peshawar press club.

## SHC orders to block passport, identity card of Hammad in Baldia factory case

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has ordered to block passport, national identity card and bank accounts of Hammad Siddiqui nominated in Baldia factory tragedy. The case on the matter of return of absconding accused in 3 cases including Baldia factory tragedy came up for hearing before SHC Monday. Federal interior secretary appeared in the court. During the hearing of the case, the court expressed annoyance over lack of efforts for bringing absconding accused to Pakistan. The court questioned from federal interior secretary what steps were taken for bringing Hammad Siddiqui to Pakistan. Interior secretary told the court Hammad Siddiqui has left Abu Dhabi

since 2017. Justice KK Agha remarked Hammad Siddiqui had left Abu Dhabi before starting trial of court. Interior secretary said Hammad Siddiqui had left Pakistan in 2013. The court questioned were the passport and national identity card of Hammad Siddiqui blocked. Interior secretary said the period of Hammad Siddiqui passport has expired. The court ordered for blocking passport national identity cards and closing bank accounts of Hammad Siddiqui, Taqi Haider Shah and Khurram Nisar. The court ordered that the details of last landing in Pakistan by Hammad Siddiqui be presented. The court summoned report about absconding accused Taqi Haider and Khurram Nisar besides details.



LARKANA: Commissioner Larkana Division, Abdul Waheed Shaikh presiding over a meeting of Divisional Task Force for the Department of Education, Health and Public Health, at his office in Larkana.

## Nawabzada Nasarullah 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sep 26

**Independent Report**  
MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great politician known as father of democracy, Nawabzada Nasarullah Khan will be marked on September 26 (Tuesday). Nawabzada Nasarullah's relentless 70-year-long struggle for the supremacy of the constitution, parliament, and democracy remains an enduring legacy. Distinguished religious scholar Moulana Syed Kafeel Ahmed Shah Bukhari will grace the occasion. He will address the audiences, comprising political and social leaders,

along with representatives from various sectors of society. The 20<sup>th</sup>-anniversary ceremony is set to take place at 5 pm at Marhaba Marriage Hall in his hometown, Khangarh. Moulana Syed Kafeel Ahmed Shah Bukhari, the grandson of Moulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Bukhari, will deliver an insightful speech, shedding light on the importance of democracy and unity in the nation. This event stands as a symbol of unity, bringing together leaders from different political parties across Pakistan.

## Watchman of house killed mother, son and threw bodies in well

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI (Online): Watchman of house has killed mother and son in Nazimabad. According to policemen, dead bodies of mother and son have been found from well inside the house in Mujahid Colony, Nazimabad who has been strangled to death. Police said that when the incident was investigated, the watchman of the house was found involved in the murder who strangled both of them to death and threw the bodies into the well.



MUZAFFERABAD: Employees of MNC Traders holds protest in the favor of their demands at Azadi Chowk in the Capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir: Following Prophet (SAWW) teachings key to civilized society: PU VC



ABBOTTABAD: Members of Awam Bachao Tehreek are holding protest demonstration against highly inflated electricity bills, outside WAPDA Office in Abbottabad.

## DRAP officials raid offices of Avastin distributors in Lahore

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (INP): The officials of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) have raided the offices of the distributors of locally made adulterated Avastin injection along with provincial drug inspectors in Lahore. Sources revealed that the DRAP officials raided the local distributors of injection manufacturer Rawish Pharma - AG & Company - and recovered 110 vials of Avastin injection. The officials sent the recovered samples of the injection to the Drug Testing Lab in Lahore. DRAP has stopped the distributors from selling the controversial injection. The DTL will examine the quality of the injection and run a safety

check on it. It has been learned that Genius Advanced Pharma is selling injections of the same batch illegally. Earlier, the Punjab health authorities registered a case against the manufacturers of the spurious eye drug that led to the vision loss among several diabetic patients, including the brother of senior PPP leader Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed. Deputy Drug Controller Hafiz Alam Sher of the chief drug controller office of Punjab lodged an FIR against Naveed Abdullah of Kahna and Bilal Rasheed, alleging that they manufactured the 'controversial drug' on the premises of a private hospital. Saira Memorial Hospital in Faisal Town Lahore.

## Crackdown intensifies as cases of vision loss surge in Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (INP): The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Monday launched a crackdown against medicine distributors amid the rising cases of vision loss due to the use of substandard injections in Punjab, says in media reports. Initially, it was reported that the eyesight of over 40 diabetes patients was affected in Punjab after which the provincial caretaker government imposed a two-week ban on Avastin's sales and usage for ophthalmology-related treatments. But the number has now increased by over 70. After the cases were reported, DRAP banned hospitals, pharmacies, and patients across the country from using the injections. DRAP officials said that no hospital, laboratory, or pharmacy in Pakistan has a licence to repack the injection. They revealed that both unregistered and registered injections are available in the market. The officials further advised the people and hospitals to not use the imported injections before quality check results were obtained.



KARACHI: Activists of Jamaat-e-Ahlesunnat Pakistan are holding Jashan-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) Boats rally in connection of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal the Birthday Ceremony of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) coming ahead, at Manora Beach in Karachi.

LAHORE (INP): Following teachings of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is key to create a civilized society and motive can't be achieved without it. These views were expressed by Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood while addressing a seminar organized by Punjab University Library in collaboration with the Punjab University Librarians Organization (PULO) here on Monday. On this occasion, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that to get out of the crisis situation, everyone including the Ulemas will have to act wisely. He said that the real purpose of a Muslim's life cannot be fulfilled by emotional slogans, but the adoption of the Prophet's (PBUH) life is essential. Hammad Lakhvi, Dean Faculty of Oriental Learning Prof Dr Ghulam Moen-ud-Din Nizami, Chief Librarian Dr Muhammad Haroon Usmani, President PULO Saif-ur-Rehman Atique, faculty members, Librarians and a large number of students were present.

## UK investors show keen interest in Pakistan's capital market

LONDON (APP): The investors of the United Kingdom's capital and financial market in a meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed their keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan. The leaders of the notable investment firms who met the prime minister in London included Fidelity International Limited (FIL), Wellington Management, Ashmore, Jefferies International,

Redwheel Capital, Switex Industrial SA, Oxford Frontier Capital, GuarantCo, JP Morgan, Kalrock Capital, and UBL. UK Prime Minister Kakar informed the delegation about Pakistan's current economic landscape, highlighting government measures for external account improvement. He said that recent administrative actions strengthened the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar, fostering optimism for stability. He said positive indicators, including

inflows from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and friendly nations, contributed to reduced inflation, stabilized reserves, and revival of industrial growth. The prime minister spoke about the potential for foreign direct investment in Pakistan's key sectors and the positive impact of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF, exceeding expectations and stabilizing the economy and currency. Prime Minister Kakar also highlighted economic

improvements such as reduced inflation with expected sustained decline, and upcoming growth in agriculture and industry. He mentioned improved trade after removal of restrictions on imports and fiscal measures for monetary support and medium-term inflation targets. The prime minister highlighted Pakistan's pro-investment efforts, introducing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). This initiative, led by the prime minister himself.



LONDON: Senior leaders of London's capital and Financial Market cell on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: VC PIDE Dr. Nameem ul Haque along with academia from PIDE called the Caretaker Commerce Minister Dr. Goher Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry.

### Commerce minister underscores significance of increasing investment

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Commerce Dr. Goher Ejaz on Monday underscored the critical importance of increasing the investment rate in Pakistan. The minister made it abundantly clear that investing in businesses holds the potential for far greater returns than investing in real estate. Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr. Nadeem ul Haque along with academia from PIDE called on the Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Goher Ejaz, said a press release issued. The meeting was centred around the

prevailing economic situation in Pakistan. Dr. Ejaz expressed the government's commitment to formulating policies that encourage capital investment, thus diverting funds towards businesses rather than traditional savings. The Ministry of Commerce remains dedicated to working in collaboration with key stakeholders to implement policies that will drive economic growth, foster innovation, and enhance the nation's competitiveness on the global stage. During the meeting, Vice Chancellor Dr. Nadeem ul Haque highlighted the pivotal role that PIDE.

### IFC delegation meets Privatization Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad on Monday held a meeting with the team of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for the region headed by its Country Director Zeeshan Sheikh. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Privatization Commission, the Chairman National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, the Additional Secretary of the Power Division, and other senior officers of the Commission. During the

meeting, IFC made a presentation to the participants sharing different best practices around the world to help the government reform electric distribution utilities with a focus on improved customer services, reduction in losses and an enhanced user base. IFC also highlighted in detail different reasons for the failures of governments to successfully undertake privatisation of electric distribution utilities including lack of political

### OGRA reacts to reports of speculations about fuel prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Monday reacted to the speculations about fuel prices. OGRA spokesperson said speculations about increase or decrease in fuel prices should be avoided as the rate of petroleum products is fixed in line with the international market and exchange rate.

The regulator said the rate of crude oil increased in the international market, while the PKR has also regained its value against the greenback. As there is a week left in the announcement of new fuel prices for the month of October, speculations should be avoided because they can 'disturb' the supply chain, the OGRA spokesperson said. Last week, Caretaker Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi hinted at reducing the petrol price in the next fortnight's review as the Pakistani rupee gained massively against the US dollar.

On Sept 15, the government made a massive hike in petrol and diesel prices after making tall claims of providing relief to the masses. A massive hike of Rs26.2 per litre was made on petrol and the new price would be Rs331.38 per litre. Moreover, Rs17.34 was jacked up on diesel and the new price would be Rs329.18 per litre.

### Pakistan, Azerbaijan discuss transport, trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar, and Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov discussed issues of mutual interests and strengthened bilateral ties. The ambassador during a meeting with the minister said the relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is unparalleled in every aspect.

The envoy said, following the commencement of direct flights between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, both countries aim to connect

through railways and road networks. The Ambassador said the primary goal is to boost economic cooperation and facilitate the movement of goods and people. "We are keen on promoting economic cooperation," Ambassador Farhadov said. He further said, "We envision Pakistan becoming a part of international transport networks, connecting with all regional countries." He also highlighted the potential for Pakistani trade to gain access to Europe and Russia through Azerbaijan.

The ambassador said, that to achieve this, the private sector will play a crucial role in promoting trade and economic growth. Shahid Ashraf Tarar expressed his commitment to the idea, said, "I have instructed the Chairman of Railways to work on connecting rail routes with Azerbaijan. "It is time to transform our good relations into economic cooperation," the minister said. Both parties expressed the urgency of finalizing transit trade agreements between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, indicating their willingness to promptly implement these proposals.



QUETTA: Accountant General Balochistan Hassan Saqlain meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

### Minister for strong regulatory system to control price hike

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik on Monday underscored the need for a unified supply chain coupled with a strong regulatory framework to discourage artificial hikes in the prices of food items in the country.

He chaired a meeting of the Agriculture Policy Institute and was also briefed by Director General Abdul Karim on the function of the Institute and its ongoing projects, said a press release. The minister was informed that the API analyzed the impact of important agricultural policies on groups such as consumers, processors, and exporters and advises on policy adjustments needed for

greater efficiency and equity in the country. Dr. Kausar Malik said that the Agriculture Policy Institute should work on a unified comprehensive plan for the food supply chain in consultation with provinces which would pave the way for the control of artificial hike in food prices.

The increase in food prices is the result of a mismatch in demand and supply or hoarding due to weak regulatory frameworks, he said adding that API should come forward with a proposal to activate the Food Security Advisory Council to serve as a bridge between the federation and provinces on the impact of important agricultural policies with special focus on food prices.

### FPCCI calls for enhanced cooperation with China in agriculture: Irfan Iqbal

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has called for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China on the occasion of Anhui - Pakistan International Agricultural Cooperation and Development Forum in China. Agricultural development and modernization of Pakistan should take prominence in CPEC as Pakistan is facing existential threats vis-à-vis food security for its 240 million populace, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that creation of modern transportation and logistics infrastructure to facilitate the efficient movement of agricultural products; along with technology transfer from China can improve crop yields; modernize irrigation methods and promote sustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, an expanded access to Chinese market for agricultural products through reduced trade barriers and streamlined regulations can facilitate Pakistan's agricultural exports.

Mr. Muhammad Sulman Chawla maintained that FPCCI wants Pakistan to fully capitalize on the potential of agricultural development in Pakistan with the help of China and a blueprint needs to be chalked out.

### Younis Dagha says: Import substitution should be integral part of industrial policy

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) imposed pricing caps on digital personal loans by mobile applications. In a significant move towards promoting responsible lending and consumer safety, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) issued an all-encompassing set of requirements for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) offering digital personal loans via mobile applications, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The requirements set a maximum limit for the annual profit rate and the total cost that can be charged by a Nano lender to the borrower. The total cost cap for Nano loans will encompass all associated fees.

He elaborated that inquiries conducted by SBP revealed that a few banks that manage interbank rates have been involved in unfair practices and open market rates are managed by a few foreign exchange dealers.

Dagha also said at the conference that effective import substitution should be an integral part of the country's industrial policy based on achieving growth-based imports. He further said small and medium enterprises (SMEs) must be focused on to achieve high growth and that strategy should focus on skilled youth, high productivity and value addition to agriculture, mining and mineral sectors.



Federal Minister for National food and security and Research is receiving briefing on Agriculture Policy Institute Islamabad.

### Precision agriculture "one-window solution: to develop climate resilient agriculture

ISLAMABAD (Online): "Precision Agriculture is the one-window solution to declining agricultural productivity, exacerbating food insecurity and can aid in developing resilience to recurrent climate disasters" remarked Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI. He was speaking at an Industry Consultation event "National Precision Agriculture Blueprint Study: Needs Assessment and Adoptability Pathways" jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute and NASTAP here today.

He added that the rising population is exerting profound pressure

on the country's natural resources and the mounting per capita burden on agricultural land can be addressed by embarking on the contemporary digital revolution. This digital revolution has modified the workflow expanding it from data analysis to increasing efficiency in resource consumption like water and aid decision making by digitalizing the management of the entire process. "Pakistan is already a water scarce country and the digitalization of inputs like water allows efficient application and quality management as well as greenhouse gas automation to reduce the footprint of

the sector", he added. He urged for the synchronization of the four pillars of agriculture i.e., academia, industry, private sector, and development partners.

The reformation of academic curricula and developing specialized courses in consultation with industry and private sector, eradicating the bureaucratic delays in project development and implementation and reappropriation of agricultural subsidies to climate smart subsidies can mobilize financial resources needed. Further addressing the financing gap, he said that Special Investment Financial

Council will promote corporate farming based on digitalization of agriculture to transform low-productivity lands but will also increase access to financial and technological services to small farmers by strengthening the entire ecosystem.

Dr. Tauseef Ur Rehman, Project Director, GreenAI, highlighted that adoption of precision agriculture holds immense potential for Pakistan. However, challenges like import NOCs, operationalization of drones not legalized, and flight security risks hinder the promotion in Pakistan. Elucidating the blueprint study developed

in consultation with SDPI, he informed that Agriverse National Precision Agriculture cloud has been designed to offer data archiving and dissemination cloud technology for Precision Agriculture.

The technology also offers complete authorization, controlled, and monitored use of drones, UAS Airspace monitoring, flight plan authorization, private sector can assist in developing complete lifecycle management, he said. However, developing the skills of human resources to efficiently apply these modern technologies is critical.

### Dr. Shamshad says: Govt creating level playing field for businesses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar here on Monday expressed commitment to creating a level playing field for businesses and promoting healthy competition across all sectors of economy. She was talking to Chairman Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, who called on the federal minister here, finance ministry posted on social media cite X. "The Chairman CCP, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, called on the Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, & Economic Affairs @Isakhtar, at Finance Division today.... The Minister expressed GOP's commitment to creating a level playing field for businesses.

### EU commissioner calls for more balanced trade with China

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: The European Union's trade commissioner called for a more balanced economic relationship with China on Monday, noting an EU trade deficit of nearly 400 billion euros (\$425 billion), while also warning that China's position on the war in Ukraine could endanger its relationship with Europe.

Valdis Dombrovskis, in a speech at China's prestigious Tsinghua University, said that the EU and China face significant political and economic headwinds that could cause them to drift apart. "The strongest, yet not the only, headwind is Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and how China positions itself on

this issue," he said. Dombrovskis spoke before high-level economic and trade talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng. EU leaders have expressed concern about the bloc's growing trade deficit with China, which reached 396 billion euros last year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen recently announced an investigation into Chinese subsidies to electric vehicle makers, saying a flood of cheaper Chinese cars is distorting the European market. The Chinese government has called the investigation a protectionist act aimed at distorting the supply chain. Dombrovskis, in his Tsinghua address, said the probe would follow well-established rules.



Caretaker Federal Minister for privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad held a meeting via zoom with representative of IFC in Islamabad.

# Azerbaijani and Turkish leaders hold talks, eye land corridor via Armenia

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev hosted talks on Monday with his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan at which he hinted at the prospect of creating a land corridor between their two countries via Armenia, which opposes the idea.

Erdogan pointedly flew into Azerbaijan's autonomous Nakhchivan exclave, a strip of territory nestled between Armenia, Iran and Turkey that Ankara and Baku want to link up with rump Azerbaijan by carving out a land corridor that would run through southern Armenia.

Aliyev in 2021 threatened to create such a corridor - that would create a contiguous land bridge between close allies Turkey and Azerbaijan and deprive Armenia of a land border with Iran - "whether Armenia likes it or not."

The symbolic choice of location for Monday's talks, less than a week after Azerbaijani forces swept into Nagorno-Karabakh to retake control of the breakaway region, is likely to worry the authorities in Armenia, who have in the past rejected such a land corridor while being theoretically open to restoring severed road and rail links.

At a joint news conference at which neither man took any questions, President Aliyev lamented that Soviet-era authorities had deemed part of what he said should have been territory belonging to the Azerbaijani Soviet republic as land belonging to the Armenian Soviet republic.

"The land link between the main part of Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan (the exclave) was thus cut off," complained Aliyev. An influential telegram channel linked to Karabakh Armenians called "Republic of Artsakh" said Aliyev's words looked ominous.

"The new target of Azerbaijan and Turkey is Syunik (a province in southern Armenia through which such a corridor would pass). They are already openly declaring it. Active preparations for war are underway," it said.

Erdogan and Aliyev were due to inspect a newly-modernised military facility in Nakhchivan and to attend a ground-breaking ceremony for a new gas pipeline from Turkey, Russia, which has military facilities in Armenia and a defence pact with Yerevan, is busy prosecuting its own war in Ukraine. It is at odds with Armenia's current prime minister who it deems to be too pro-Western and is keen to further cultivate ties with Baku and Ankara. Erdogan told the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday last week, the day that Azerbaijan began its military operation to retake control of Karabakh.



**Jasminka Dzumhur, Erik Mose and Pablo de Greiff, members of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, attend a news confer**

# Canadian Sikh group urges followers to protest outside Indian embassies

**Monitoring Desk**  
OTOWA: A Canadian Sikh group has called on its members to protest outside the Indian diplomatic missions of main Canadian cities on Monday, a week after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raised the prospect of New Delhi's involvement in the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. Trudeau said last week Canada was pursuing "credible allegations" that Indian government agents may be linked to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was shot dead outside a Sikh temple on June 18 in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb with a high Sikh population.

India swiftly denied any role in the killing and described the allegations as "absurd". The accusations have sparked tensions between the two countries,

# North Korea calls South's leader a 'guy with a trash-like brain' as it slams his UN speech

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korea on Monday called South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol "a guy with a trash-like brain" and "a diplomatic idiot" as it blasted him for using a U.N. speech to issue a warning over the North's deepening military ties with Russia.

In a speech at the U.N. General Assembly last week, Yoon said South Korea "will not sit idly by" if North Korea and Russia agree to weapons deals that would pose a threat to the South. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's trip to Russia earlier this month to meet President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites raised international concern about a possible push by North Korea to receive sophisticated nuclear and weapons technologies in return for replenishing Russia's conventional arms inventory depleted by its war with Ukraine.



**Migrants walk along razor wire looking for a place to cross the Rio Grande river, near the US-Mexico border.**



**Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev attend a welcoming ceremony in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan.**

# Ukraine targets a key Crimean city a day after striking Russia's Black Sea Fleet headquarters

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine launched another missile attack on Sevastopol on the occupied Crimean Peninsula, a Russian-installed official said, a day after an attack on the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet that left a serviceman missing and the main building smoldering.

Sevastopol was put under an air raid alert for about an hour after debris from intercepted missiles fell near a pier, Gov. Mikhail Razvozhayev wrote on the messaging app Telegram. He later added that another missile fragment fell in a park in northern Sevastopol, parts of which had to be cordoned off. Ferry traffic in the area was also halted and later resumed.

Loud blasts were also heard near Vilne in northern Crimea, followed by rising clouds of smoke, according to a pro-Ukraine Telegram news channel that reports on developments on the peninsula. Crimea, illegally annexed by Russia in 2014, has been a frequent target for Ukrainian forces since

# EU commissioner calls for more balanced trade with China & warns that Ukraine could divide them

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: The European Union's trade commissioner called for a more balanced economic relationship with China on Monday, noting an EU trade deficit of nearly 400 billion euros (\$425 billion), while also warning that China's position on the war in Ukraine could endanger its relationship with Europe.

Valdis Dombrovskis, in a speech at China's prestigious Tsinghua University, said that the EU and China face significant political and economic headwinds that could cause them to drift apart.

"The strongest, yet not the only, headwind is Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and how China positions itself on this issue," he said.

Dombrovskis spoke before high-level economic and trade talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng. EU leaders have expressed concern about the bloc's growing trade deficit with China, which reached 396 billion euros last year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen recently announced an investigation into Chinese subsidies to electric vehicle makers, saying a flood of cheaper Chinese cars is distorting the European market. The Chinese government has called the investigation a protectionist act aimed at distorting the supply chain. Dombrovskis, in his Tsinghua address, said the probe would follow well-established rules and be done in consultation with Chinese authorities and stakeholders.

# Four dead as gunmen battle police in Kosovo monastery siege

**Monitoring Desk**  
MITROVICA: Gunmen in armoured vehicles stormed a village in an ethnic Serbian-majority region of Kosovo on Sunday, battling police and barricading themselves in a monastery in a resurgence of violence in the restive north.

Kosovo police said one officer and three of about 30 attackers died in shootouts around the village of Banjska.

Monks and pilgrims were locked in the Serbian Orthodox monastery's temple as the siege raged for hours. Ethnic Albanians form the vast majority of the 1.8 million population of Kosovo, a former province of Serbia. But some 50,000 Serbs form the majority in the north, where clashes in May injured dozens of protesters and NATO alliance peacekeepers.

The Serbs have never accepted Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence and still see Belgrade as their capital more than two decades after a Kosovo Albanian guerrilla uprising against repressive Serbian rule.

It was unclear who was behind Sunday's violence, but Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Interior Minister Xhelal Svecla blamed "Serbia-sponsored criminals".

"They are professionals, with military and police background," said Kurti, urging their surrender.

The Serbian Orthodox Church's diocese of Raska-Prizren, which includes Banjska, said men in an armoured vehicle stormed the monastery compound, forcing monks and visiting faithful to lock themselves inside the temple.

# President Macron says France will end its military presence in Niger, pull its ambassador after coup

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron announced Sunday that France will end its military presence in Niger and pull its ambassador out of the country as a result of the coup that removed the democratically elected president.

Niger's junta said in response that the announcement signals a "new step towards the sovereignty" of the country.

"Imperialist and neo-colonialist forces are no longer welcome on our national territory. The new era of cooperation, based on mutual respect and sovereignty is already underway," it said in a statement.

The announcement was a significant, if expected, blow to France's policy in Africa, with French troops having had to pull out of neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso in recent years after coups there. France had stationed thousands of troops in the Sahel region at the request of African leaders to fight Islamic extremist groups.

France has maintained some 1,500 troops in Niger since the July coup, and had repeatedly refused an order by the new junta for its ambassador to leave, saying that France didn't recognize the coup leaders as legitimate.

But tensions had mounted in recent weeks between France and Niger, a former French colony, and Macron said recently that French diplomats were surviving on military rations as they holed up in the embassy.

Macron's announcement came after the coup leaders issued a statement earlier Sunday that they were closing Niger's airspace to French planes, commercial and military, so that the new leadership could "retake total control of its skies and its territory." The decision did not apply to other international aircraft. Ali Sekou Ramadan, an aide to Niger's deposed President Mohamed Bazoum, told The Associated Press that Bazoum requested that Macron withdraw the French ambassador, Sylvain Ite, "in order to reduce tension." In an interview with the France-2 and TF1 television networks, Macron said he spoke to Bazoum on Sunday and told him that "France has decided to bring back its ambassador, and in the coming hours our ambassador and several diplomats will return to France."

# Iran says it defused 30 bombs in Tehran, detained 28 people, Tasnim reports

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Authorities in Iran have neutralised 30 bombs meant to go off simultaneously in Tehran and detained 28 terrorists linked to Islamic State, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday, citing the intelligence ministry.

"Some of the members are of Islamic State (IS) and the perpetrators have a history of being affiliated with Takfiri groups in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Kurdistan region of Iraq," Iran's intelligence ministry added in a statement.

The militant group has claimed several attacks in Iran, including deadly twin bombings in 2017 that targeted Iran's parliament and the tomb of the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

More recently, IS claimed responsibility for an attack on a Shia shrine last October, where 15 people were killed in the southwestern city of Shiraz.

# Italian PM admits she hoped to do 'better' on migration

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has admitted she had hoped to do "better" on regular migration, which has surged since her far-right party won historic elections a year ago.

"Clearly we hoped for better on immigration, where we worked so hard," she said in an interview marking the win, broadcast late on Saturday on the TG1 channel. "The results are not what we hoped to see. It is certainly a very complex problem, but I'm sure we'll get to the bottom of it."

Meloni's post-fascist Brothers of Italy party was elected in large part on a promise to reduce mass migration.



**Jens Eskelund president of the European Chamber, speaks to journalists after publishing its European Business in China Position Paper, in Beijing.**

# U.S. exploring potential space force hotline with China, U.S. commander says

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: The United States Space Force has had internal discussions about setting up a hotline with China to prevent crises in space, U.S. commander General Charles Saltzman told Reuters on Monday.

The chief of space operations said a direct line of communication between the Space Force and its Chinese counterpart would be valuable in de-escalating tensions but that the U.S. had not yet engaged with China to establish one.

"What we have talked about on the U.S. side at least is opening up a line of communication to make sure that if there is a crisis, we know who we can contact," Saltzman said, adding that it would be up to President Joe Biden and the State Department to take the lead on such discussions.

The comments come as the U.S. Space Force looks into establishing a branch in Japan, as China's military ambitions in the Indo-Pacific unnerve its neighbours and the war in Ukraine spotlights the importance of space capabilities in warfare.

# Louisiana man who fled attempted murder trial captured after 32 years on the run

**Monitoring Desk**  
ARCADIA: A Louisiana man who fled his 1991 trial for attempted murder has been arrested more than three decades later after authorities found him hiding in Mexico, authorities said.

Greg Lawson, 63, was brought back to the United States on Thursday after being located in Mexico, the FBI said. Lawson was accused of shooting a man in 1991 in Bienville Parish.

Lawson fled the courthouse just as the jury was headed back into the courtroom to return a guilty verdict on a charge of attempted murder, KSLA reported. His truck was found a block away from the courthouse at the time.

# Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge moves toward World Heritage List

**Monitoring Desk**  
ATLANTA: Following widespread bipartisan support, the National Park Service announced Friday that it will nominate the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to join the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List. Inscription on the World Heritage List would honor the Okefenokee's natural and cultural significance and solidify the United States' commitment to protect it.

"This is an opportunity to unite the communities of the Okefenokee and involve people in a meaningful way, activating the natural resources economy by supporting this collective effort to bring international recognition to one of the world's great natural wonders, the Okefenokee," said Kim Bednarek, executive director of the Okefenokee Swamp Park.

The Okefenokee's World Heritage bid has bipartisan congressional support, and the Park Service received more than 10,300 public comments in support of moving forward with a nomination.

# Pro-EU supporters march for Britain to rejoin bloc

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Hundreds of people waving European Union flags on Saturday rallied in central London calling for Britain to rejoin the bloc. The National Rejoin March (NRM) gathered near Hyde Park and was due to culminate in Parliament Square as supportive motorists beeped their horns. Protesters brandished placards reading "the road to rejoin the EU starts here", and "rejoin, rejoice". The NRM movement backs a return to membership of the EU.

# Texas border town 'at a breaking point' amid jump in migration

**Monitoring Desk**  
EL PASO: The dramatic increase in migrants crossing the US border from Mexico has pushed the city of El Paso, Texas, to "a breaking point," with more than 2,000 people per day seeking asylum, exceeding shelter capacity and straining resources, its mayor said on Saturday.

"The city of El Paso only has so many resources and we have come to ... a breaking point right now," Mayor Oscar Leeser said at a news conference.

The arrival of largely Venezuelan asylum seekers is part of a larger swell of immigrants who traveled dangerous routes on buses and cargo trains to Mexican border towns near San Diego, California, and the Texas cities of El Paso and Eagle Pass.

Migrant numbers had plummeted in recent months, and the recent rise has generated a new wave of political attacks on US President Joe Biden head-

Lesser said El Paso plans to open a new shelter, and on Saturday chartered five buses to take migrants to New York, Chicago and Denver.

Republican governors in Texas and Florida have been criticised for sending migrants to cities perceived as liberal such as New York and Sacramento. But Leeser, a Democrat, said all of the migrants on the El Paso buses were going voluntarily to the cities of their choice. Leeser said the Biden had been a good partner. But he said the overall US immigration system was broken. Many migrants from Venezuela, he said, lacked transportation to their desired destinations, while El Paso's current shelter houses only 400 people, and must also be available to help the homeless.

As recently as six weeks ago, about 350 to 400 people were crossing into El Paso per day, but the past few days have brought 2,000 or more.

## PM urges British fashion firm to open buying house in Pakistan

LONDON (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday, highlighting Pakistan's pro-investment policies and facilities, urged the UK-based Boohoo Group to consider opening buying houses in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with leading British businessman and co-founder and Executive Chairman of Boohoo Group Abdullah Kamani, emphasised the advantages of investment in Pakistan and extended an invitation to Boohoo Group to send a buying delegation to Pakistan for enhanced collaboration. In the meeting, Kamani expressed keen interest in establishing long-term buying linkages with Pakistan and the ambition to create a comprehensive

supply chain in the country, encompassing organic cotton to apparel production. They also hoped for improved Pakistan-UK air connectivity to facilitate increased imports from Pakistan. Prime Minister Kakar conveyed Pakistan's commitment to facilitating investment and offered support in establishing manufacturing facilities within the country, particularly within Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The meeting marked a significant step towards enhancing economic cooperation and trade between Pakistan and the firm. Boohoo Group is a prominent British online fashion retailer with annual sales exceeding one billion pounds, with a wide range of popular brands.



LONDON: Co-founder and Executive Chairman of Boohoo Group Abdullah Kamani meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar

## EU releases €1 million in humanitarian aid to respond to monsoon floods

ISLAMABAD (APP): The EU has released an additional €1 million in humanitarian aid to respond to the floods that have affected Pakistan in the past weeks, which have directly or indirectly affected some 900,000 people.

The funding will help address the most pressing needs of vulnerable people in the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), as the areas hit the hardest, said a news release. Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janecz Lenarcic, said: "One year after the tragic floods that caused tremendous suffering in Pakistan, the EU remains committed to helping those most in need. As a new rain season has again displaced thousands of people in parts of the coun-

try, this additional EU funding will help support vulnerable communities as they try to recover their former lives." This allocation will be used to provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to those who remain displaced, as well as those who have returned to their place of origin, given the level of damage to houses and key basic services such as water and sanitation or health. As the winter season approaches, multi-purpose cash assistance, shelter and non-food items will be prioritized.

This new funding comes in addition to the €16.5 million already allocated in humanitarian assistance to Pakistan earlier this year, in order to assist the most vulnerable population affected by conflict and climate-induced disasters.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a meeting with Former Federal Minister Mir Changaiz Khan Jamali in Islamabad.

## Campaign to start in 6 UCs of Pishin today: Special anti-polio drive begins in Chaman, Kila Abdulla

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The special campaign of polio immunization started in districts of Kila Abdulla and Chaman on Monday.

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), the campaign would remain continued for seven days in the targeted areas.

Over 152,000 children below five years of age would be administered the anti-polio vaccine during the campaign for around 700 teams including the mobile ones have been for-

mulated.

The health workers and volunteers would visit the areas and administer the anti-polio vaccine to the children.

The extra-ordinary arrangements including security have been made for the campaign.

Moreover, the special campaign would start in six union councils of Pishin district from today (Tuesday).

Over 20,000 children below five years of age would be administered in these six UCs during the campaign.

## DC Jhal Magsi visits to BHU to improve health facilities for people

QUETTA (APP)- Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Ejaz Sarwar on Monday paid a surprise visit to Basic Health Unit (BHU) Fatehpur area of the district to improve health facilities for people.

On this occasion, he reviewed the availability of medicines, malaria kits and other different departments in the said primary health center and checked the attendance of the doctors and other staff.

He also issued instructions to all the staff to ensure their attendance with cleanliness saying that all the doctors and other staff should consider it a sacred duty and be engaged in fulfilling their official duties.

He stressed on all the doctors and other staff that

the first priority of the government of Balochistan was to provide free medicines and medical facilities to the poor patients in primary health centers and government hospitals.

For which all resources are being utilized by the government of Balochistan on an emergency basis so that people can benefit fully from these measures of the government, he said.

He said that for this reason, it was important that doctors and other health-related staff avoid any kind of negligence in fulfilling their duties and spend all their energy to accomplish the responsibility imposed by the government, laziness and negligence will not be tolerated.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee to review the prices of essential commodities

## Mauritania conference

## Ashrafi calls for interfaith dialogue to combat blasphemy and promote peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi invited all faith leaders for inter-faith dialogues to remove differences as burgeoning incidents of blasphemy were promoting an environment of hatred in the community of nations.

Addressing the 36th annual International Conference on Seerat in Mauritania the other day, he said to overcome the menace of Islamophobia was not only the responsibility of Muslims proposing that all faith leaders should come forward and devise a combined strategy to meet the disgraceful acts being occurred worldwide from time to time.

The conference, attended by delegates from 65 Islamic countries, included the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani

and Muslim World League Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa.

Ashrafi who is also the President of International Interfaith Harmony Council categorically stated that the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him was not only the blessing for Muslim Ummah but also for the entire world.

He said the solution of Palestine and Kashmir issues was in the unity and solidarity of Muslim Ummah.

He said Pakistan was a nation of various faiths and sects but it was facing extremism and terrorism for a long time.

"The Pakistani nation was against all extremist and terrorist elements and standing by its security institutions and armed forces through thick and thin," he maintained.

Ashrafi said Islam gave the lesson of respect to all celestial books expressing his dismay over the indecent drive against the Muslims sacred sanctities and values.

He said Islamophobia was endangering the peace of the world urging the international human rights watchdogs to legislate against it to maintain peace and tranquility.

He opined that those who desecrated the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark and made caricatures of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him must be given exemplary punishment as it would help pave the way to create an enabling environment of interfaith dialogue in the world.

Ashrafi said the way Muslim World League had given the message of peace in the "Charter of Makkah

al Mukkaramah", in the same way, the Ulema and Mashaykh of Pakistan had given a clear-cut religious decree against the extremism and terrorism in the "Message of Pakistan".

Talking to Arab media after the conference, he said Palestine and Kashmir were the issues of Muslim Ummah and it would like to resolve them with peaceful dialogues. He said the brutalities of Israel in Palestine and India's in Kashmir were not acceptable at all costs.

Ashrafi said the Muslim world appreciated productive leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman expressing the hope that they would further play their proactive role in the resolution of Palestine and Kashmir issues.

## KPCM approves Rs300,000 for treatment of journalist Zafar Wazir

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan on Monday gave approval three hundred thousand rupees for the treatment of failing journalist Zafar Wazir.

The Interim Chief Minister approved the financial assistance for the medical treatment of the journalist, hailing from Wana, on the request of Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi.

Murtaza Solangi had written a letter to the Chief Minister for the treatment of journalist Zafar Wazir, who has been working with the national media since 2004 and suffering from cardiac issue for some time.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## CWDP clears 2 development projects including FIA's operational improvement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Planning Commission (PC) Deputy Chairman Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan on Monday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that cleared two development projects worth Rs 2.42 billion.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Economist, Members Planning Commission and representatives from the various ministries, a news release said. The forum cleared Programme for Flood Response through Reconstruction of Education Facilities in Sindh worth Rs1,566.628m and Operational Improvement of Federal Investigation Agency in AML/CFT, Counter Terrorism Wing & Case Management System worth Rs 858.577m. Under the Programme for Flood Response through Recon-

struction of Education Facilities, the Sindh government wanted to meet the need to reduce the dropout and increase enrollment.

For this purpose, the government has planned to establish at least 500 elementary schools in the province. The Sindh Education and Literacy Department (SELD) has undertaken multiple initiatives securing development partners' assistance for the upgradation. It brought in 'innovative approaches' through technical assistance with a targeted focus on improving girls' education, girls' retention and successful transition from primary to secondary education. The project has been conceived, considering that the number of elementary schools is much lower than the primary schools in rural Sindh. Under the Operational Improvement of Federal Investigation Agency



QUETTA: Country Representative of UNFPAMr. Loi Shabane meeting with caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar

## Gwadar delegation lauds China's dev. and modernization efforts

ISLAMABAD (INP): A 10-member delegation from Gwadar recently returned from a visit to China, where they observed the country's development and modernisation efforts.

The group expressed appreciation for China's development and its neighborhood diplomacy approach of building friendly ties.

The delegation emphasised that Pakistan's long-standing friendship with China has support across political affiliations and society.

The group, comprising senior academics, researchers, businessmen and administrative officers, was led by Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gwadar (UG).

They embarked on a ten-day visit to China on

September 10, upon invitation from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In Beijing, the delegates met with Liu Jinsong, Director General of the Asian Affairs Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Liu noted that since the start of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a decade ago, collaborative efforts have led to major infrastructure projects in Gwadar, including ports, airports, roads, hospitals and a desalination plant, benefitting the local population.

According to a UG statement, Liu affirmed China's commitment to economic progress in Balochistan and Gwadar.

He said China's friendly policy towards

Pakistan extends to all ethnic groups, with CPEC bringing benefits across regions, tribes and social strata.

The delegation expressed interest in promoting educational partnerships, knowledge exchange and cooperation in trade, technology and infrastructure.

They are keen to build a framework for broader bilateral collaboration beyond just education.

People in Gwadar appreciate the swift, inclusive and mutually beneficial corridor cooperation, the statement said.

They look forward to more people-to-people exchanges and practical cooperation to further boost China-Pakistan friendship for generations.

## NPMC Meeting: Planning Minister asks provinces to go after hoarders, profiteers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Monday chaired a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to review the prices of essential commodities, directing the quarters concerned to maintain food prices and provide relief to the common man.

The minister emphasised zero-tolerance against hoarders and profiteers, directing the provincial governments to engage their respective Commissions, Deputy Commissioners and Magistrates against the elements involved in hoarders, a news release said.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Statistician from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), representatives from all provinces, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Food Security & Industries, and other relevant stakeholders. During the meeting, the PBS officials presented the price and inflation data, while representatives from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan apprised the forum on the current production and supply of wheat, sugar and other essential commodities, which remained satisfactory. The meeting decided that the PBS would give access to its App to the provinces so that prices could be monitored and controlled effectively. It also highlighted the importance of minimizing the price difference between wholesale and retail items and directed the relevant stakeholders.



QUETTA: Senator Prince Agha Umar Ahmedzai meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

## Transfer agreement signing of Ex-TARIQ TO FOCI, UK held in London

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Transfer Agreement Signing Ceremony for the ex-Pakistan Navy Ship TARIQ to Falls of Clyde International (FOCI), UK took place at the Pakistan High Commission in London on Monday.

This ship, formerly decommissioned by the Pakistan Navy on August 4, 2023, has been donated by the Government of Pakistan to FOCI for conversion into a floating museum. It will be displayed at the Clyde Maritime Heritage Center in Glasgow, symbolizing the common national continuous events to observe holy month of Rabi ul Awwal.

He made these directions while visiting the National Rahmatul-lil-Aameen Authority here.

During the visit, he also met the authority's Chairman Khurshid Ahmad Nadeem.

Madad Ali Sindi said the authority's mandate was critical for nation building.

The minister said that the Pakistanist nation was facing challenges that could only be addressed by the authority.

He said that intolerance was rampant in our society and the true message of peace and love of Islam needed to be promoted in the country.

Madad said that Islam was a religion of peace, stressing the importance of the vision of Riyasat-e Madina.

The chairman NRA briefed the minister about the on going activities and mandate of authority.

Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Lord Alan West said "The close relationship between the Navies and Nations of Pakistan and the UK are clearly shown by this historic agreement focused on one ship that fought and represented each country over many years."

The history of ex-PNS TARIQ is noteworthy, having served in the Royal Navy as HMS AMBUSCADE for 18 years.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Saleh Muhammad Nassar presiding over a meeting regarding levies and police check posts

## QESCO crackdown against electricity pilferers and defaulters continues

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) continues its extensive crackdown against those involved in the electricity pilferage and defaulters all over the province including Quetta.

According to spokesman of QESCO, in all 3504 connections have been involved in the power pilferage in the province, while a total of 338 FIRs have been registered against the power thieves.

Of them, 65 FIRs have been lodged in Quetta city, 89 each in Sibi and Loralai, 65 in Khuzdar, 25 in Pishin and five in Makran division.

The QESCO spokesman informed that 123 persons have been arrested on charges of power pilferage in the province.

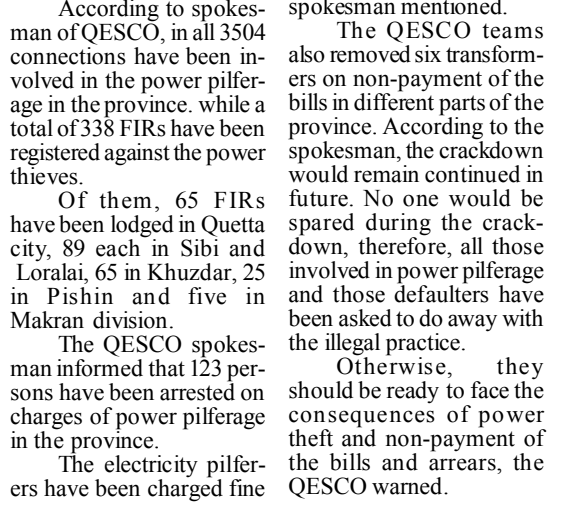
The electricity pilferers have been charged fine

of Rs. 9 crore 27 lakh all over the province, out of which Rs. 5 crore and 70 lakh have also been recovered.

Similarly, Rs. 378 million have also been recovered from 6422 defaulters of the electricity bills, the spokesman mentioned.

The QESCO teams also removed six transformers on non-payment of the bills in different parts of the province. According to the spokesman, the crackdown would remain continued in future. No one would be spared during the crackdown, therefore, all those involved in power pilferage and those defaulters have been asked to do away with the illegal practice.

Otherwise, they should be ready to face the consequences of power theft and non-payment of the bills and arrears, the QESCO warned.



QUETTA: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Provincial General Secretary and Haq Do Tehreek Chairman, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference.