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## Faizabad verdict key to avoiding incidents like Jaranwala: CJP Isa

After IB and PEMRA, defence ministry, PTI and ECP seek to withdraw their pleas; hearing adjourned till Nov 1

ISLAMABAD (INP): If the Faizabad sit-in verdict was implemented, the Jaranwala incident could have been prevented, said Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday as the Supreme Court adjourned the hearing on a set of pleas challenging the judgment till November 1.

A three-member bench led by CJP Isa and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Athar Minallah was hearing a set of pleas challenging the top court's judgment in the Faizabad sit-in case,

wherein intelligence agencies were directed not to exceed their constitutional mandates.

As the outset of the hearing, the Ministry of Defence, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) filed applications to withdraw their pleas.

Similar, applications were earlier submitted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra).

The CJP wondered as to why the review petitions

were being withdrawn. "It appears that an order was given to file review petitions," he observed.

CJP Isa remarked that there will be no future for Pakistan without accountability. The truth will be set free, he said, asking "why is everyone scared of telling the truth about filing review petitions?"

Online adds: Supreme Court (SC) has remarked why the decision on Faizabad Dharna case has not been implemented and all are so much fearful.

SC has sought implementation report from fed-

eral government on decision in Tehreek Labaik Pakistan (TLP) 2017 Dharna case while hearing review petition against the decision Thursday.

The court while adjourning the hearing of case till November 01 sought written replies from the lawyers of the respondents till October 27.

The court remarked all respondents were not present today. Another chance is given to respondents in connection with attendance.

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QUETTA: An illuminated view of Mian Ismail Masjid decorated with colorful lights in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) celebrations.



MADINAH MUNAWRAH: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited Masjid-e-Nabvi (the Prophet's Mosque) in Madinah and paid his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (SAWW).

## COAS says Law enforcement actions against illegal activities to continue with full force

Underscores the need for synergy among all relevant departments for gainful effects of the landmark initiatives

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday said the law enforcement actions against a spectrum of illegal activities will continue with full force in collaboration with the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and the government departments concerned to rid the country of substantial economic losses it suffered persistently due to pilferage done by different methods.

The Army Chief visited Lahore and attended meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee along with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Raza

Naqvi. During the Apex Committee meeting, the COAS was briefed about overall security situation, including Law Enforcement Actions against electricity and gas theft, hoarding and foreign currency smuggling, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Forum was also briefed on measures taken for the protection of minorities and the progress of operations in the Kacha area. The forum also reviewed the repatriation of illegal foreign nationals.

The Forum was also apprised on progress on SIFC and Green Punjab initiatives.



LAHORE: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir attending Punjab Apex Committee. Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi is also present.

## Govt. aiming to establish exemplary educational institutions for women: Jan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai has stated that it is aim of the provincial government to establish exemplary educational institutions for women in all districts of province.

The caretaker Minister was speaking on occasion of the visit of Sheikh Fatima Binte Mubarak Girls Cadet College in Turbat on Thursday.

Also accompanied with him was the Dean of Law Faculty of University of Turbat, Dr Gul Hasan Baloch.

The Principal of Girls Cadet College, Brigadier Humayun Ajmal welcomed the Minister on his arrival at the college.

During the visit, Principal briefed the Minister

about different sections of the college.

He informed that the cadet college established with cooperation of United Arab Emirates is the first girls cadet college of the province and third of the country.

He told that girl students from all over the country including Kech are studying in the college.

He said that excellent academic environment and other necessary facilities have been provided to the students in college, Principal informed further.

Jan Achakzai on the occasion praised the college administration headed by Brigadier Humayun and remarked that higher educational institutions are operating like this cadet college for girls thanks to their efforts.

## PM Kakar pays respects at Roza-e-Rasool (SAW)

MADINAH MUNAWRAH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited Masjid-e-Nabvi (the Prophet's Mosque) in Madinah and paid his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (SAW).

The prime minister offered nawafil at the Roza the Wednesday evening.

Afterwards, the caretaker Prime Minister visited the International Fair and Museum of the Prophet (SAW)'s Biography and Islamic Civilization, located adjacent to Masjid-e-Nabvi.

Dr Nasir Misfir Al-Zahrani, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Prophet (SAW)'s Museum, warmly welcomed the prime minister.

The prime minister was given a comprehensive briefing about the historical museum, which showcases the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as well as the Islamic civilization.

## Pak-China ties to be stronger, more stable, says Solangi

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi has expressed confidence that relations between Pakistan and China will further strengthen and become more stable.

In a conversation with China Media Group's Urdu service in Beijing before his return home from an official visit to China, Murtaza Solangi congratulated the Chinese government and people on the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

He said that the BRI has provided new development opportunities to developing countries, including Pakistan.



TURBAT: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai addressing students at Government Degree Girls College

## Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) to be celebrated with great religious zeal, fervor today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) will be celebrated with great religious zeal and fervor across the country tomorrow Friday.

The day will dawn with thirty-one guns salute at the federal capital and twenty-one guns salute at all the provincial capitals.

Special prayers for the unity of Muslim Ummah and progress and prosperity of the country will be offered in the mosques after Fajr prayers.

Special conferences, events and Mehfil-e-Milad are being arranged to pay respect to the last messenger whose life and teachings are beacon of light for the whole mankind.

A two-day National Seerat-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon) is commencing in the federal capital in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW). Prominent Ulema, Mashaikh and scholars will participate in the Conference and throw light on various aspects of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW).

Buildings, streets, roads, mosques and houses are being decorated with colourful lights in connection with the auspicious occasion.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with a delegation of the members of the British Parliament and the representatives of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora in the UK, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pakistan's stance on Israel-Palestine conflict remains Unchanged: FM Bilal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Caretaker Foreign Minister Bilal Abbas Bilal has said that Pakistan's stance on Israel-Palestine conflict has always remained same and the issue should be resolved as per aspirations of the Palestinians.

Addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday, he expressed serious

concern about the human rights violations occurring in Palestine, and underscored that Al-Quds should be recognised as the capital of Palestine.

Jalil Abbas Bilal further stated that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar had actively participated in several conferences during the United Nations General Assembly

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## Quetta reports 20 cases of conjunctivitis

QUETTA (APP): Medical Superintendent Helper Eye Hospital Quetta, Dr. Hafizullah Muhammad Shahi, said on Thursday that 20 patients infected with conjunctivitis have been brought to HEHQ during the last week.

Three of the people affected by conjunctivitis—an inflammation of the transparent membrane that lines the eyelid and eyeball—are from Turkey.

While talking to APP, MS said, "Conjunctivitis does not exist in Balochistan, but this disease has been transferred here from other provinces."

"As many as 20 patients were brought to Helper Eye Hospital Quetta," he said, adding that the patients brought to the hospital belong to different areas of the province, including Machh, Lorelai, and Ziarat. About their condition, the MS said they were out of danger and improving.

He noted that people affected by conjunctivitis show symptoms of allergy, eye irritation, and itching. In such a case, the patients should be brought to the hospital immediately so that they can be treated in time.

## President, British MPs call for an end to India's human rights abuses in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi and the members of the United Kingdom's parliament on Thursday expressed deep concern over the human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the persecution of the minorities in India.

The matter was discussed by the Members of Parliament (MPs) and the representatives of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora in the UK called on President Alvi here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The delegation was led by Chairman

of Labour Friends of Kashmir UK, Shadow Minister Andrew Gwynne.

The meeting highlighted the need for an action by the international community to put pressure on India to stop its human rights abuses in IIOJK.

President Alvi said India was involved in the genocide of Muslims, persecution and suppression of minorities, burning and destroying the churches in Manipur, and the extra-judicial killings of the leaders of minority communities regionally and internationally.

He said the psyche of India was changing as it had been influenced by the

extremist Hindutva ideology which aimed to marginalize minorities, particularly the Muslims.

He mentioned that Pakistan was committed to safeguarding the rights of its minorities, and took prompt action if any injustice was done to them.

The president highlighted that India was trying to change the demographic structure of the IIOJK to transform the Kashmiri people into a minority in their own land.

He urged the world to put pressure on India to reverse its illegal demographic changes in the occupied territory.

## Domki felicitates Muslims on auspicious occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW)

Rabi-ul-Awwal - auspicious month for Muslims: Governor Kakar

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has felicitated the Muslims on the auspicious occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW).

In a felicitation message issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that this day of 12th Rabiul Awwal is not only great for the Muslims but also for the whole universe and humanity when the Holy Prophet (PBUH) came in this world as beacon of light and ultimate success of the mankind.

He said that with His (PBUH), there was beginning of ending ignorance and darkness from the world.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to fully

follow the teachings and actions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and promote the spirit of tolerance and unity.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki also said that Eid Miladun Nabi (PBUH) has great importance for the Muslims and it is our good luck that we are the followers of the great Prophet.

Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar on Thursday said that the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal is a holy and auspicious month for all Muslims.

In which the Holy Prophet came to this world as the Mercy of the Worlds and erased the darkness of ignorance and illuminated it with the light of faith, he added.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Senior Program Officer United States Educational Foundation Shehram Niazi meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Pak-Iran Joint Border Commission meets in Iranian city Mir Java

QUETTA: The Pak-Iran Joint Border Commission's meeting was held in the Iranian city of Java on Thursday.

The Chief Collector Customs Balochistan, Abdul Qadir Memom led the Pakistani delegation while Iranian side was represented by the Director General Transit and International Transport, and Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, Javed Hyderi.

Other concerned high ups of both the countries particularly related to the border trade and security

matters participated in the meeting.

The Iranian delegation welcomed Pakistani authorities in Iran and hoped that the meeting would prove to be fruitful for the traders of both the countries.

During the course of meeting, the matters pertaining to Pak-Iran border trade, issues of transport at border, movement of the vehicles and people at the border.

Moreover, the participants also discussed the matters for increasing the limit of business and trade between the two countries.



## TDEA-FAFEN conducts seminar on 'Technology for Election Integrity'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) on Thursday urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to initiate a wide-ranging dialogue on the need to introduce election results audit as well as regulate the election-related use of social media for the upcoming general elections.

FAFEN believed that the Elections Act, 2017 provides adequate legal space for the Commission to introduce these measures employing its powers under Section 4(3) to be read with Section 239.

FAFEN proposed a detailed methodology for the election results audit based on the provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, and Election Rules, 2017,

which will be made public on October 9, 2023. The proposed audit encompasses a methodical scrutiny of election results forms for enhancing election integrity and legitimacy.

These forms are prepared by the federal, provincial, and judicial officials deployed as election officials and are officialised sans scrutiny by the ECP.

The members of civil society and technology experts reinforced the need for such measures during a seminar on 'Technology for Election Integrity'. Organized by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability - Free and Fair Election Network (TDEA-FAFEN), the seminar emphasized the cau-



Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani administering oath to the newly elected Executive Body of Parliamentary Reporters Association at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) in Islamabad.

## Holy Prophet (SAWW) perfect model for success in both worlds, NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad PBUH is the perfect model to be emulated for success in both worlds.

He said that the teachings and practices outlined by last Prophet PBUH have been a true beacon of light for whole humanity. He also added, "it is the Holy Prophet's perfect teachings and practical model which guide the Muslim Ummah in all spheres of life and also guide them to overcome socio economic challenges. He

expressed these views while extending warm felicitations to the Muslim Ummah on the blessed occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi PBUH (12 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1145 A.H.).

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that the Holy Prophet PBUH has been a torch bearer to whole mankind. He emphasized that every human society can achieve goals of progress and prosperity by implementing teachings of the Holy Prophet PBUH. He added, "tolerance and forbearance practiced and taught by the Holy Prophet PBUH are essential to create pluralistic society."

Further, he also expressed that Pakistani society needs practical implementation of teachings of the Holy Prophet PBUH for harmony and national unity.

Speaker National Assembly and former Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf has also said that Muslim Ummah is facing a serious challenge of Islamophobia. He said that every Muslim must practically follow and highlight true message of Islam in order to tackle this challenge. He stressed on youth to keep themselves abreast to the teachings of the Holy Prophet PBUH and practically follow these teachings in their lives.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George speaking at "Awareness Raising & Sensitization Session on Human Rights" in National College of Arts.

## It seems as if judges are sitting here for assistance of lawyers: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa while expressing displeasure over lack of preparation in different cases has remarked it seems as if judges are sitting here to assist the lawyers.

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) here Thursday.

The CJP imposed fine of Rs 1 lac more on the petitioner who had come in the court against fine of Rs 2 lac.

The court wrote in its decision high court imposed fine of Rs 2 lac but the pe-

itioner did not learn a lesson.

The CJP reprimanded advocate on record remarking your license should be cancelled. Give arguments on the merit of the case. Tell us if this petition is maintainable or otherwise. If you will not give reply then we cancel your license.

The counsel said our case is time barred.

The CJP remarked court wants to hear your case but you are saying it is time barred. You are not clerk but are senior advocate of Supreme Court (SC). Filing such cases affects fixation of other cases. We will respect you.

## NA Speaker felicitates newly elected members of PRA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Thursday extended felicitation to the newly elected office bearers of the Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) for taking oath as the Association's body members.

He said that PRA had always played a pivotal role in bringing the people and the parliament closer.

He extended felicitation to the newly elected President of the Executive Body of PRA Usman Khan, Secretary Naved Chaudhry, Naib President Ahmed Nawaz, Finance Secretary Asghar Chaudhry, Information Secretary Javed Hussain, Joint Secretary Shakir Abbasi and members of the Governing Body including Asia Ansar, Javed Noor, Ayesha Naz, Nader Gormani, Abdul Razzaq Khatri, Atif Shirazi and Saima Malik. The Speaker said that their successful election as President and members of the newly elected body and office bearers of the PRA indicated the confidence reposed on them. The Speaker said that the Parliamentary Reporters Association was an integral part of the Press Gallery of the Parliament.

## Police Khidmat Markaz issues 73,378 general police verification certificates

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police's Khidmat Markaz has played a crucial role in assisting citizens by issuing a staggering 73,378 General Police Verification Certificates. These certificates serve a variety of purposes, including character certificates, foreigners' registration, and the registration of tenants and domestic servants. According to the police spokesman, the initiative has been driven by the unwavering commitment of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, who has issued special directives to ensure the provision of maximum services to the residents of Islamabad. As a result of these efforts, the

Islamabad capital police has implemented several measures to enhance citizen services. The Police Khidmat Markaz has witnessed a substantial influx of applications throughout the year, with 73,563 applications for general police verification certificates being received. Of these, a commendable 73,378 certificates have already been issued to citizens following thorough verification by the relevant police stations. The processing of the remaining applications is actively underway.

To obtain a general police verification certificate, applicants are required to present their original Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC).

## IHC rejects apology of DC ICT in Afridi arrest case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday rejected the unconditional apology of Deputy Commissioner ICT Irfan Memon in a contempt case against him and others pertaining to the issuance of MPO orders for the arrest of PTI's leader Shehryar Afridi.

The court instructed the prosecution to prepare a schedule of further proceedings in the case.

IHC's Justice Babar Sattar heard the case wherein DC Irfan Memon, SSP Operations Jameel Zafar and others also appeared.

At the outset of hearing, Irfan Memon extended unconditional apology before the bench.

## PC Deputy chairman reviews progress on SDGs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC) Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan on Thursday chaired a progress-review meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting, attended among others by Joint Chief Economist Zafar ul Hasan, Chief SDGs M Ali Kemal and senior officers from provinces, including

on Annual Development Plans (ADPs) aligned with relevant SDGs and other policies, particularly focusing on high-priority areas; Annual Plan of SDGs for 2023-2024 and the pathway forward for 2030 and status update on technical working group committees.

The quarterly meeting was aimed at assessing performance, analyzing challenges, and charting the way



forward with actionable points to accelerate SDGs' progress.

Chief SDGs M Ali Kemal, in his briefing, expressed concern over the slow pace of achieving SDGs "due to pandemic, floods and [economic] recession."

He emphasized that during the mid-term review "we have devised a plan to accelerate the progress [on achieving the SDGs]."

## Nawaz must brace legal formalities upon his return: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party Central Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi Thursday said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Supreme Nawaz Sharif must brace legal formalities upon his return to the country before the forthcoming general elections.

Talking to PTV news channel, Kundi said that no one is above the law and won't be allowed to violate

it, adding, Nawaz Sharif will have to face due legal action upon his return to the country.

Our party believes in the supremacy of the constitution, adding, our stance is clear on elections and implementation of equal law to all.

Replying to a question, he also claimed that PPP would clinch victory in the next general elections as it has strong roots in masses.

## Eid Milad to be celebrated with splendor in federal capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal dawned, Pakistan has come alive with vibrant celebrations in honor of Eid Miladun Nabi, the birthday of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him, slated for September 29.

The devout across the country have embarked on adorning mosques, homes, and businesses with resplendent lights, creating a captivating atmosphere. In the bustling Industrial Area, Sector I-9, industrialists have not only adorned their business establishments but also illuminated the roadsides with an array of colorful lights, lending a picturesque charm to the surroundings.

Government buildings, following an annual tradition, have been aglow with radiant lights in preparation for the 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, the date observed for this revered occasion. In recognition of the signifi-

cance of Eid Miladun Nabi, both the federal and provincial governments have officially declared September 29 as a public holiday, marking it as a day of traditional and religious reverence.

In anticipation of the festivities, the Islamabad Capital Territory administration, Islamabad Police, and Islamabad Traffic Police have devised stringent security and traffic plans to ensure the smooth progress of rallies in the federal capital and its adjacent areas during the celebration of Eid Miladun Nabi. This proactive approach would maintain peace and security throughout the commemorations.

Speaking to APP, Muhammad Amir Attari, a Public Relations Officer of Dawat-e-Islami in Islamabad, shared details of the grand celebrations planned for this auspicious occasion. He disclosed that numerous rallies would be

organized, commencing from various sectors and suburban areas of the federal capital, as a tribute to the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him.

The main march, orchestrated by Dawat-e-Islami in the federal capital, would commence from Jamea Masjid Faizan-e-Madina, Sector G-11 Markaz, following Friday Prayer. It would culminate at the same venue with Magrib Prayer, accompanied by supplications for Pakistan's peace, progress, prosperity, security, and sovereignty.

Amir Attari emphasized that these rallies, in commemoration of Eid Miladun Nabi, would not be confined to Pakistan alone but would resonate across the world, demonstrating heartfelt reverence for the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him under the banner of Dawat-e-Islami.



ISLAMABAD: An eye catching view of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) building illuminated with colorful decoration lights for the celebrations for Eid-e-Milad an-Nabi (SAW) with great Zeal in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

## Love, not charity; BISP is an expression of care for deprived: Chairman BISP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has said that BISP is a manifestation of love and care for the less fortunate members of our society. "BISP is about much more than providing monetary aid; it is not charity, it's our expression of love for the deprived segments of society", he said during a heartwarming address to a gathering of BISP employees at the BISP Auditorium Hall.

national, social, and religious responsibility to ensure that every child in Pakistan receives education.

Chairperson BISP called upon the BISP employees to be custodians of this noble mission and to start a movement and campaign for a reformed society.

He envisioned a society where every child has access to education, and where love, humanity, brotherhood, and sacrifice form the core of our values.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib acknowledged that 9.3 million families benefited from BISP's support and the program operates on the principles of humanity, brotherhood, and responsibility.

Despite limited resources, BISP serves as one of the largest platforms dedicated to supporting those in need. It is a blessing and a privilege to be part of this initiative, he said.

Chairperson BISP stressed that all BISP's offices across the country must commit to creating a positive mindset and encourage families to send their children to school.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib expressed his unwavering commitment to altering the prevailing perceptions about the program.

While addressing, he passionately spoke about the crucial role that education plays in uplifting individuals and society as a whole.

He expressed concern over the fact that millions of children in Pakistan do not have access to education and emphasized the need to change this reality. "Education is the real game-changer," he stressed, underlining that it is a na-



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov called on Jamal Shah, Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture.

## Around 3 out of 10 deaths in Pakistan occur due to CVDs: Speakers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Speakers on the occasion of a symposium on World Heart Day Thursday underscored that around 3 out of 10 deaths in Pakistan were contributed by Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) that demanded the masses to take good care of their health and eating habits to avoid serious heart diseases. World Heart Day is celebrated every year on 29th September and the global cardiovascular health community tries to raise awareness about heart disease and its preventive measures. Cardio-vascular diseases (CVDs) are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and include coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, rheumatic heart disease, and other conditions, a news release said. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the most important behavioral risk factors of heart disease are unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and harmful use of alcohol.

"Life is short, but our negligence can make it even shorter", said Mukhtar

Ahmad Ali whose organization Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) is working in Pakistan, in partnership with Global Health Advocacy incubator on eliminating trans fats from the food supply to prevent cardiovascular diseases. "The heart is the vital organ of the human body, and if it is neglected our life and life is compromised and the World Heart Day is a wake-up call for us to take care of our heart before it is too late", he said. Citing statistics, he said, "Globally, cardiovascular ailments cause 17.9 million deaths every year. In Pakistan, according to the WHO (2016) estimates, around 29 percent of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) attributable deaths in Pakistan were due to heart-related disorders, and it is alarming", he added. "Pakistan needs to seriously think about the idea of improving preventive cardiology to contain the fast spread of CVDs", said Prof. Dr. Anjum Jalal an eminent cardiac surgeon who is currently working as Executive Director of Punjab Institute of Cardiology Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: Spouse of the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Naoko Wada presenting souvenir to the participants of program "Let's Explore Colours" in Federal Capital.

## Senate body gets briefing on under-construction project of PIMS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination on Thursday received a briefing on the under-construction project of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

The PWD officials gave the briefing to the Committee that met here with Dr. Humayun Mohmand in the chair.

The committee expressed its displeasure on the pace of ongoing work in PIMS. The committee summoned the concerned DG of PWD to the next meeting.

The case of alleged fake courses by the University of Faisalabad was also

discussed. The chairman said that the various technical degrees are being mixed with professional degrees.

He questioned the existence of any system of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) regarding the examination of such degrees.

The Chairman HEC informed that an allied council has also been formed to look into these matters. Senator Rubina Khalid said that a large number of laser treatment clinics are running.

The chairman committee said that students who bring medical degrees from foreign countries should also bring practice licenses from there.

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**Accruing more debt**

The government has issued new debt of over Rs2.5tr during the first three months of the current financial year to finance its burgeoning fiscal deficit — the gap between its revenues and expenditures — according to new estimates of a Karachi-based brokerage firm.

The new borrowing is nearly 57pc of the total debt of Rs4.4tr it had auctioned during FY23. The issuance of additional debt underlines the government's shrinking tax and other revenues, increased spending and growing reliance on domestic sources to fund its budgeted expenditures as external financing dries up. External financing shrank to its seven-month low of \$316m in August. Cumulatively, Islamabad secured external financing of \$3.2bn in July and August, which also includes Saudi deposits of \$2bn and a guaranteed loan of \$508m for the PAF.

This shows that expectations that multilateral and bilateral partners would allow their coffers to flow to help Pakistan's distressed economy, following the IMF's nod to the Stand-by Arrangement, were very exaggerated.

The government is also facing difficulties in securing \$6bn through commercial loans and has dollar bond issues. Chances of achieving the budgeted external financing target of \$17.6bn for its expenditures and of meeting its foreign debt and other payments are slim. Last year, the government was able to obtain \$10.8bn in external financing and had to impose strict restrictions on imports and even on legitimate dollar outflows to avoid defaulting.

The centre has been running a large, unsustainable fiscal deficit of around 7pc of GDP for the last many years, which is the main reason for the accumulation of its huge domestic and foreign public debt, external sector fragility and inflation. The pace of debt accumulation has picked up in recent years. This is especially true for domestic public debt, which has grown to around Rs39tr from over Rs30tr a year ago, because of reduced external inflows. Successive governments have tried to justify the worsening fiscal imbalance on the basis of economic development targets.

But these excuses are used only to mask the reality. The fact is that we are in the midst of the worst and longest economic crisis in our history because of the lavish lifestyles of powerful interests at the expense of the people and the well-being of the economy.

The World Bank's country chief had alluded to this a few days back when he pointed fingers at the country's military, business and political elites for the economic mess we are struggling to resolve today.

Pakistan is facing an existential crisis that has severely impacted the majority of its citizens, especially the low- and middle-income segments and small businesses.

Mounting debt and dwindling foreign exchange reserves are two of our biggest challenges, which, without immediate fiscal reform, could lead to total economic collapse.

**Tariq Khosa**

Many foibles and follies have been committed by individuals in positions of authority and institutions responsible for running the affairs of state. They have developed into a cascade of concerns requiring serious introspection for the survival of our state, which is founded on the republican principles of social justice, the rule of law and liberal democracy.

Let us start with the highest office of the state: the president. Dr Arif Alvi is a decent but weak head of state. He has chosen to cling to his esteemed public office rather than quit on the completion of his five-year term and devote himself to organising his tattered political party to which he owes the prestige and status bestowed upon

him, especially at a time when the party chairman is incarcerated.

His ambivalent and weak stance in the context of amended bills relating to the Army Act and the Official Secrets Act defies the logic he tried to project through his personal X (formerly Twitter) account. It clearly shows that he has no access to the president's official social media channels. Nor did he give any reason as to what objections he had raised on those changes made by parliament.

Under the Constitution, his not signing the amended laws had to be clearly articulated in writing. Shifting the blame on his principal secretary was inappropriate. No official inquiry was initiated, and the axe fell on the bureaucrat manning the presidential official business. He was merely transferred.

It was sheer embarrassment when his principal staff officer contradicted the stance by maintaining that the file was not cleared by the president, let alone any verbal instructions being conveyed to return the bills unsigned. A former chief justice of

Laure High Court is the legal adviser and his advice should have been on the file.

Simply put, the president capitulated under the pressure of the sponsors of the two highly controversial legal amendments passed by a parliament that acted as a rubber stamp for 16 months of the PDM coalition government that was foisted by the establishment on a benighted polity.

Another instance of ambivalent 'decision-making' by the president relates to violation of the Constitution by the Election Commission of Pakistan in not announcing the date for national elections to be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly. There is no ambiguity in the constitutional provision but an amendment in the election law is being misused by rulers to suggest to the head of state not to announce the election date.

His response was again vague, proposing Nov 6 as the date to be announced by the ECP that may seek advice from the apex court if the constitutional provision is to be

breached. This amounts to dilly-dallying and such tactics have exposed the machinations of those calling the shots.

It is now an open secret: the ECP, unfortunately, is not an independent constitutional instrument of democracy. It can defy the Supreme Court and the president and get away with it. We are no longer a rule-of-law nation. Edicts of unelected forces are followed by state institutions.

The executive in the shape of the caretaker government, both at the centre and in the provinces, is a puppet governance paradigm, foisted by the deep state. People are now openly talking about the prime minister and his cabinet as an extension of a section of the previous crony regime.

The chairman and some key leaders of a political party are openly complaining about the lack of a level political playing field by alluding to the fact that a certain political party has a greater share and role given through key federal cabinet and advisory slots. While large-scale changes have been made in the adminis-

trative machinery of three provinces, one province has not been touched.

That is where the political battle lines are being redrawn to accommodate a perceived favourable future electoral alliance. We seem unable to abandon the deeply ingrained governance framework based on patronage, kinship, nepotism and corruption.

Our administrative machinery and law-enforcement departments are groaning under political engineering. The culture of merit and fair play is alien to our rulers' Hobbesian mindset that doles out incentives to indolence and promotes patronage as a moral disease. Nothing short of a revolution will save us from our demons.

The idea of meritocracy was injected by the French Revolution into European politics. Article VI of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789) provided a concise vision of this idea: "Law is the expression of the general will; all citizens have the right to concur personally, or through their representatives, in its formation; it must be the same for all, whether it protects

or punishes. All citizens, being equal before it, are equally admissible to all public offices, positions, and employments, according to their capacity, and without any other distinction than that of virtues and talents."

Adrian Wooldridge in *The Aristocracy of Talent* (2021) says that the revolution "abolished the two great principles at the heart of the old society; the feudal principle that defined the relationship between masters and dependents on the basis of land tenure and the dynastic principle that put a family at the heart of power". Lineage, families and dynasties constitute the elite class that consider it their right to govern; the exceptions face immense challenges at the hands of the firmly entrenched forces of status quo. They all capitulate to the actual masters whose primary concern is to safeguard their own narrow institutional interests. In this gloomy scenario has entered a new chief justice: all eyes are on him to save the Constitution and uphold the rule of law. We hope he can fulfil great expectations and make a difference. -- Courtesy Dawn

**The good, bad, and discontented****Aman Rehan**

Last week, after a three-hour long panel talk hosted by my university's alumni group on young lawyers' low compensation and opportunities in Pakistan, I took to Twitter and decided to type out my experience as a young lawyer. I wrote about my decision to no longer work at law firms. What followed was at once surprising and tragic, hundreds of comments started pouring in from people working in the legal profession. Some left practice because they could not make ends meet. Others felt that privilege and a strong financial background provided a cushion to some who could wait it out with low salaries, till they eventually have the experience to make a living.

Much ink has been spilled on highlighting the disparity, and it is safe to

say that a fresh graduate earns below minimum wage, and is sometimes compelled to work for free. A few law firms in Karachi and Lahore may pay their associates around Rs40k-50k, giving themselves a pat on the back for paying above the market.

The demand? Law firms should pay their associates a living wage.

Sympathizing with the 'plight of young law graduates', a senior lawyer laid out the perspective of employers and the dynamics of law firms in Pakistan. He provided explanations for the meagre salaries of fresh graduates on following grounds, which need to be closely reviewed:

The uselessness of a fresh law graduate: I will start with the punchline: "a fresh graduate is a net loss for a law firm." The reason given is a young lawyer's lack of expertise and "ability to save a senior counsel's time."

Let me outline what a young lawyer may add to a firm: they conduct research, go to courts for markings and adjournments, help seniors in compiling files for court, make notes during client meetings for the partners and senior associates

to refer to and cross-check or proof-read documents. While young lawyers at certain firms may not do all these tasks, even doing some of these tasks constitutes labour that must be compensated accordingly. In my personal experience, with the right level of exposure and training, a competent associate can draft applications, rejoinders, legal opinions and entire pleadings within a few months of practice.

It is given that a fresh graduate in any field requires guidance, investment, and assistance to be of use to their managers and seniors. Many companies have structured training programs and paid internship periods to allow employees to adjust into the new job.

Greener pastures and retention: The second argument made is that young lawyers tend to leave. This is followed by the argument that senior lawyers invest their time and money on fresh graduates when there is a high probability that fresh graduates would leave the law firm to pursue higher education, in-house or independent practice.

Graduates in other professions also leave for

foreign degrees and are open to other opportunities while working with their respective employers. The risk of the worker leaving is assumed by any entity looking to hire. Yet how is it that these very common and obvious preferences are used as arguments to severely under-compensate fresh law graduates? Intuitively, any individual who spends five years or three years to enter a field would not jump ship unless there is a system that disincentivises them. The low retention rate of law firms should be treated as a symptom of employer practices, not a cause for mistrust.

Female lawyers and societal pressures: The article insinuated that young female lawyers may leave law firms "after the first year" due to marriage and societal pressure.

Such statements are dismissive towards women in the legal profession, who already brave the unfriendly environments in courts and chambers. Instead, some self-reflection is required by employers on how marriage may deter young people, men and women,

from coming back to law firm work because of the additional responsibilities that cannot be supported, or even alleviated, by the compensation and career progression in law firms. Such 'observations' set back a movement championed by women such as Asma Jehangir which has achieved great strides (an example being the recent elevations of two female Supreme Court justices).

Payment: The argument that law firms bill in lump-sum amounts as opposed to billable hours does not explain the pay disparity. Even if a partner at a large law firm takes up 2-3 new clients per month, they should be able to pay their associates a living wage. Having worked in both litigation and corporate law firms, I can confidently say that depending on the firm, there is a mixture of clients who pay in lump sum amounts, clients on a retainer basis and clients that are billed by the hour.

The way forward: In addition to increasing base salaries, a few suggestions are as follows: law firms could provide breakdowns of how the salary may be used, such

as a transport allowance or a phone allowance. Employers can also implement a mechanism where associates can show receipts for expenses incurred on court days or on-site client meetings (such as transport and food) and then claim these amounts from the firm. These are just starting points and can be built upon further. But more importantly, a shift in mentality needs to happen. On a higher level, better regulatory controls on the profession, and an overhaul of the legal education system is required.

The chief justice of India, during a recent press conference summed up the shift that is required: "too long we regard the youngsters in our profession as slave workers, why? Because that's how we grew up. We can't now tell the young lawyers today that 'that's how we grew up.'"

We can continue to argue that no one is inherently good or bad, and that the market forces and demand-supply are to be blamed. But in all this crossfire, it's the profession that ends up being ugly. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Absurd truths****F.S. Aijazuddin**

"Well, he would, wouldn't he?" That remark by Mandy Rice-Davies (an English model) became famous in the 1960s. She and her call-girl friend Christine Keeler had become embroiled in the political scandal that brought down John Profumo, then a minister in prime minister Harold Macmillan's cabinet. Mandy had been asked by a reporter outside the Old Bailey why Profumo had denied allegations of sexual impropriety between him and Ms Keeler. She retorted tartly: "Well, he would, wouldn't he?"

In an odd way, that word 'denial' connects Mandy with Modi. His government denied any involvement in the murder of a Canadian citizen — Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the chief of Khalistan Tiger Force. Nijjar was gunned down in June 2023 within the grounds of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in British Columbia, on Canadian soil. Earlier in May, the Khalistan Commando Force chief Paramjit Singh Panjwar was shot dead by some unidentified assailants in Lahore, on Pakistani soil. Both assassinations took place in Com-m-onwealth countries. The difference between the two was that, unlike the Pakistanis, the Canadians reacted with unprecedented vehemence.

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau confronted his Indian colleague with this blunt accusation: "Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the government of India and the kill-

ing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar." Modi dismissed the allegations as "absurd".

Gone the previous bonhomie when Tru-d-eau could tease Modi that he had more Sikhs in his cabinet than Modi did. Gone the diplomatic niceties when Common-wealth members bickered behind closed doors. Gone the myth that the Sikh diaspora had assimilated themselves — indistinguishable except for their turbans — into the corpus of their host countries.

The repeated demand by a subdivision of Sikhs for Khalistan — a separate nation state — has ensured that it remains as potent and combustible a factor both within India and outside it. India has 16 million Sikhs in its Punjab and 2m within reach of it. Over 8m Sikhs live outside India — 800,000 in Canada, 500,000 in the US, another half million in the UK, and the rest scattered across the globe.

Khalistan is spoken of loosely as the area that is India's Punjab. The demand for it emanated first from within India, was fuelled from across the border by Pakistan's Gen Ziaul Haq and his like-minded successors. It is now a rallying call among an increasingly affluent Sikh diaspora.

To the Sikhs, geography and history coincide. The kingdom of Punjab created by the Sikh Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the mid-19th century remained roughly intact until 1947, except at its fringes and earlier when in 1846 Kashmir was sold to Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu, making him maharaja of both. In August 1947 Cynl Radcliffe sliced Punjab into two. One-third (the less arable) went to Indian East Punjab and the larger more fertile became Pakistani Punjab. In 1966, Indian PM Indira Gandhi trifurcated her Punjab to create Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and a residual Punjab.

So, today, the question arises: which area would

comprise a hypothetical Khalistan? Only the present state of Indian Punjab? Or would it also include territory in modern Pakistan that contains shrines sacred to the Sikh faith (Nankana Sahib, Punjab Sahib, Kartarpur, etc)?

Might any future government of a yet unborn Khalistan also demand offshore outposts in Canada, the US, and the UK? For example, the US has Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Britain still retains Gibraltar, the Channel Islands, Tristan da Cunha, and the Falkland Islands. Greece and Turkey share the offshore island of Cyprus, divided since 1964 on ethnic lines.

The timing of PM Trudeau's disclosure is significant. It has taken the shine off PM Modi's self-coronation as a leader of South Asia. Worse, it has dented India's ambition to secure a place as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

He is being reminded that defying UN resolutions consistently for the past 75 years are poor credentials for a seat at its round table. Deflecting an accusation made by a fellow Commonwealth prime minister (who flew over 11,000 kilometres to confront him with 'credible proof' of Indian involvement) is yet another unfortunate example of India's brittle diplomacy.

PM Modi is not inclined to listen to anyone connected with the word Congress, least of all Annie Besant, the first woman president in 1917 of the Indian National Congress. She had cautioned once: "Ref-us-ing to belt-e--ve-until proof-is given is a rational position; denial of all outside of our own ... experience is absurd." It will take time to repair the damage done by the Nijjar/Pan-jwar murders to the carefully crafted myth of Mahatma Modi. Remember, though, Gandhi was the victim, not the assassin. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Peca strikes again****Fariha Aziz**

Muhammad Khalid Jamil, bureau chief ABN News Islamabad, was arrested and charged under Section 20 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (Peca) along with Section 505 of the Pakistan Penal Code. The complaint was made by a technical assistant at FIA Islamabad, accusing Jamil of disseminating an "anti-state narrative by sharing false misleading and baseless information" through his social media posts on X (formerly Twitter).

Since 2017, journalists critical of state excesses and policies have routinely been targeted using Section 20. Jamil's case follows the same pattern. But what's alarming is the use of Section 20 in the ICT jurisdiction after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) struck down the "harm to reputation" portion of it and bound FIA to follow certain procedures, especially in cases against journalists.

The language of Section 20 requires the complainant to be a "natural person" who is the aggrieved party. However, in such cases, it is usually a law-enforcement (LEA) officer or random third party, who operationalises this section of the law. Despite it being a non-cognisable offence, Section 20 routinely features in FIRs against journalists. Peca Rule 7(5) requires an investigation officer to seek the permission of the competent court for investigation under Section 155 of the CrPC. While the FIA is required to do this for Sec-

tion 20, it does not. Instead, FIRs are registered using cognisable sections alongside Section 20, to gain powers to arrest.

Section 33 of Peca lays down the requirement for warrants to conduct search and seizure. Peca Rule 8 re-emphasises the requirement for warrants and for a proper chain of custody to be maintained. This too is not done. Instead, individuals are arrested, their devices are seized, they are coerced into providing their passwords — in breach of Article 13 of the Constitution which protects against self-incrimination — to gain access to devices and social media accounts. And if passwords aren't divulged, then other illegal methods are used to pry entry. Section 34 of Peca requires a warrant for the disclosure of content data. This also exists merely on paper.

Not only is the letter of the law violated so blatantly, but the person implicated is then condemned to the motions of 'the law' even though the offence is not made out. Process is punishment. But this is not about the law, it's about impunity. By now the abuse under Peca is well documented. That the application of Section 20 is illegal stands established in jurisprudence. Yet LEAs are able to repeat their illegal acts as there exists complete impunity in the absence of rule of law and accountability.

What also requires scrutiny is the judicial practice of remanding citizens into police — in this case, FIA — custody. What can't be investigated after the grant of bail? Aren't investigations conducted into non-cognisable offences? Condemning people into LEA custody in what are blatantly politically motivated and illegal cases only serve as a pressure tactic to silence them and warn others. What is the purpose of seizing devices and con-

ducting forensics when the basis of booking someone is a tweet or remarks in the public domain? Especially when the person doesn't deny making the remarks or posting the content. The purpose then is simply to extract information coercively to use for leverage and blackmail.

Consistent today in political cases is the concealment of FIRs, arbitrary cancellation and postponement of bail hearings. When bail is granted, the same individuals are rearrested in fresh cases the minute they step out of jail. Protection orders are issued by high courts but violated with impunity. Con-t-e-mpt applications are filed but amount to little by way of deterrence or accountability. In the tr-ampling of fundamental rights, the writ of the courts also stands challenged.

While courts occasionally provide relief in the few odd cases before them, constitutional courts need to do more than just deal with the case at hand. They need to lay down precedents that extend broader protections and hold to account all those within the state apparatus, who abuse the law.

The Islamabad High Court struck down the PTL ordinance expanding the ambit of Section 20 and the "harm to reputation" part of the 2016 version of the law introduced by the PML-N, but the "false information" portion was left intact. Separately, the Lahore High Court declared all of Section 20 to be constitutional. An appeal against the LHC order was filed before the Supreme Court (SC) and proceedings in the case were stayed. The case has yet to proceed further. Now is the time to turn to the SC to settle the Section 20 question and, along with it, the wider abuse under Peca and the consistent infringement of due process and freedom of expression. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Pakistan has to progress and Pakistan will progress InshaAllah: CM Naqvi

*Says we all make a claim of love with the Holy Prophet (SAW) but do not act upon the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW).*

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Provincial Rehmat-tul-lil-Aalameen (SAW) Conference under the auspices of Auqaf Department Punjab was organized at Alhama Hall today.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi was the chief guest. Ulema-e-Karam and Mashaikh from all schools of thought, leaders of Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and other religions participated in the Provincial Rehmat-tul-lil-Aalameen (SAW) Conference. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi while addressing the Provincial Rehmat-tul-lil-Aalameen (SAW) Conference said that we all make a claim of love with the Holy Prophet (SAW) but we do not act upon the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

If we act upon the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) then our lives will be transformed.

It is the endeavour of the whole team that whatever time is available we should vigorously serve the masses. We are the believers of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and will not be disappointed ever.

Pakistan will take off. A lot of atrocities were perpetrated on our beloved Holy Prophet (SAW). Conspiracies were hatched but the Holy Prophet (SAW) never got disappointed. Mohsin Naqvi said that those thinking of disaster of the country are themselves distracted and driven away from the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

If we are true believers of the Holy Prophet (SAW) then for the sake of Allah Almighty we should shun disappointment. Pakistan has to progress and Pakistan will progress InshaAllah. Pakistan is built to move forward and

the sacred homeland will definitely move forward. If we all put our part in the progress of our country then Pakistan will move forward quite ahead of other countries. The foundation of both Riasat-e-Tayyaba and Pakistan was laid on 27<sup>th</sup> Ramadan-ul-Mubarak. Those talking about disaster of Pakistan should give up disappointment. We are all united, are believer of the Holy Prophet (SAW) who never got disappointed. Mohsin Naqvi said that 22 out of 23 churches of Jaranwala after being restored have been handed over to the christian community while construction and renovation of one church is ongoing. Mohsin Naqvi said that we are celebrating this day of a Great Personality and the Holy Prophet (SAW) has given very clear teachings about the protection of minorities.



MULTAN: Chief Justice Lahore High Court, Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti addresses during ceremony organized by Multan High Court Bar Association, held in Multan.

## World Rabies Day: Dog sterilization centers opened in three KMC hospitals: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that dog sterilization centers had been opened in three KMC hospitals because Rabies problems can be solved by sterilizing dogs.

He said this while talking to media at his participation as chief guest in the awareness walk organized jointly by KMC, Indus Hospital, Infectious Disease Society Pakistan, Dow University of Health Sciences, CDR Health Department Government of Sindh at People's Square on the occasion of World Rabies Day on Thursday.

The Mayor Karachi said that anti-rabies injection should be done immediately instead of home remedies for dog bites. Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Mayor Karachi's

Representative for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, from Indus Hospital Dr. Naseem Salahuddin, Aftab Gohar, Dr. Talat Rumi and Dr. Saqib Ali Sheikh were also present while doctors, experts, teachers with large number of students and citizens participated in the walk.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that on the occasion of International Rabies Day, we decided to organize an awareness walk in Karachi. He said that the sensitivity of this problem felt on watching a video of a child in Hyderabad who was in a lot of pain and could not be rescued. We want such an incident not to happen to anyone else. If such an incident happens to anyone, immediately go to the nearest hospital and get vaccinated, he added.

## More conjunctivitis patients reported

LAHORE (Online): The severity of conjunctivitis and dengue virus has further increased across Punjab, including provincial capital Lahore as a result of which the number of patients suffering from conjunctivitis and dengue fever has increased manifold.

According to reports, 13732 new conjunctivitis patients have been reported across province in last 24 hours.

According to spokesperson of Primary Health Department Punjab, total 368,810 patients of conjunctivitis have been reported in 36 districts this year.

Maximum 3878 patients of conjunctivitis came forward in Bahawalpur last day.

887 patients of conjunctivitis in Lahore, 1208 patients in Multan, 1721 new patients in Faisalabad, 219 new patients in Gujranwala came forward last day.

According to Primary Health Department, a patient with conjunctivitis recovers spontaneously in 8 to 10 days.

Citizens should take care of their eyes. Protect eyes from strong sunlight, smoke and dust. Separate the clothes and towels of the person suffering from conjunctivitis.



KARACHI: Activates of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat hold rally outside KPC.

## Father, daughter killed in tractor trolley-motor cycle collision

ATTOCK (Online): Father and his daughter have been killed in tractor trolley-motor cycle collision near Rawalpindi road Pindi Gheb.

Father and daughter who were riding on motorcycle died on the spot while mother was critically injured. On information Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the bodies of Ashraf and his daughter to Tehsil Headquarters hospital.

According to Rescue the injured lady was referred to Rawalpindi hospital being in critical condition.

## Vision loss incidents: Court remands 5 suspects in police custody

LAHORE (APP): A sessions court on Thursday handed over five suspects, involved in incidents of vision loss among dozens of persons due to use of a local injection, to police on 5-day physical remand.

Earlier, the police produced suspects including Bilal Rasheed and Asim, before Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Nawaz Bhatti.

The police submitted that the suspects were involved in supply of faulty injections which caused vision loss among dozens of citizens across the Punjab. The police requested the court to grant physical remand of the suspects for investigations.

At this, the court handed over the suspects to police on 5-day physical remand and ordered for producing them on expiry of the remand term.



LAHORE: Madad Ali Sindhi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training awarding degrees to successful students during 22nd convocation of Government College University at Government College University.

## Anwaar Ul Haq says: AJK to announce mega development package for Poonch Division soon

MIRPUR (AJK) (INP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that a mega development package for Poonch Division would be announced soon.

While addressing a public gathering at Hajera in Poonch division on Thursday the PM said that the issue of inflated electricity bills and shortage of subsidized flour has been resolved amicably.

The function was

attended and addressed by senior Minister Colonel (Rtd) Waqar Noor and other Government Ministers including Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Sardar Mir Akbar and Sardar Saud Sadiq and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the government was giving a subsidy of about 1500 rupees on a 20 kg bag of flour. He said it was for the first time that the government suspended the notification and withdrew

additional taxes imposed on the electricity bills.

The PM said that the incumbent coalition government had increased the salaries of government employees despite facing financial constraints.

He said that the government bore a burden of 19 billion rupees in this regard.

Regarding the appointment of an ADC in the area, the PM said that a formal notification to fill the vacancy will be issued in a couple of days.

## Chiniot mines reference: Court summons PA speaker, others

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Thursday summoned eight accused, including Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan, for October 7 in the Chiniot mines and minerals reference. Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani issued the orders on the reference, submitted by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). NAB had approached the court for reopening of the reference, closed under the defunct amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), set aside by the Supreme

Court. An accountability court on October 6, 2022, had returned the Chiniot mines and minerals reference to NAB with an observation that it lacked jurisdiction to proceed further in the case after the amendments introduced to the NAO. Besides Sibtain Khan, Salman Ghani, Muhammad Aslam, Abdul Sattar Mian, Imtiaz Ahmad Cheema and others had been named as the accused in the reference. The bureau had alleged that Sibtain Khan exceeded his powers and awarded a multi-billion contract to a firm of his choice during 2007.

## CTO Lahore intensifies anti smog campaign

LAHORE (APP): Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (ret'd) Mustansar Feroze ordered a crackdown on smoke-emitting vehicles, on Thursday. In a statement, he said that environmental and air pollution causes viral diseases. Therefore, transporters should turn their vehicles on roads only after proper repair and checkup. The violators will be taken to task, he warned.

The Lahore Traffic Police have mobilised all efforts to eliminate potential smog and environmental pollution.

According to an order of the Lahore High Court (LHC).



LAHORE: An eye catching view of the Mosque at Lohaari Muhallah illuminated with colorful decoration lights for the celebrations for Eid-e-Milad an-Nabi (SAW) in Provincial Capital.

## LHC reserves verdict on plea against discharging Parvez Elahi in 3 cases

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday reserved verdict on a petition against discharging former chief minister Punjab Parvez Elahi in three cases registered by Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab.

The single bench comprising Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmad heard the petition filed by the ACE Punjab.

The ACE's prosecutor had argued before the court that a judicial magistrate

discharged Parvez Elahi in three cases. He submitted that the magistrate did not have any powers to discharge an accused from the case. He submitted that the magistrate abolished investigations and the recovery process with the illegal orders. He submitted that the police could recommend the discharging of an accused, if it considered that sufficient evidence was not available against the accused. He pleaded with the court to set aside the orders of discharging Parvez Elahi.

## World Tourism Day celebrated in Chitral

CHITRAL (APP): On the occasion of World Tourism Day, wonderful programs were conducted in Chitral, with the day being celebrated with great enthusiasm, and a walk was organized on this occasion in which a large number of people related to tourism participated.

Students from schools and government officials representing civil society participated in the walk. The participants carried placards inscribed with promoting tourism and maintaining peace in

the beautiful valley of Chitral.

Deputy Commissioner Chitral Muhammad Ali and DPO Chitral Ikramullah Khan were the special guests of the World Tourism Day program. This program was organized with the financial support of the Aga Khan Rural Support Program, managed by the Chitral Tourism Association. Paragliding was performed in the program, and hundreds of people watched this spectacular performance.

## PIMPD trainee officers visit Safe Cities office

LAHORE (APP): The officers, undergoing training as part of the 12<sup>th</sup> induction training course at the Punjab Institute of Management and Professional Development (PIMPD), visited the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) as part of their orientation programme. The delegation consisted of 40 officers.

Director Public Relations Tauseef Sabih Gondal told the delegation the PSCA's mandate has been extended across the Punjab province. He emphasised that a modern infrastructure like Safe Cities is essential for modern policing. Tauseef Sabih, along with DSP Agha Nasir, provided the delegation with a briefing on functioning of the organisation. The delegation visited various departments. The trainee officers were taken to Police 15 Emergency Helpline and the Electronic Data Analysis Centre. They were shown the operations and monitoring procedures for key locations in the city.

The officers were also briefed on the operations of the Media Management Centre and the Advanced Traffic Management System. Tauseef Sabih informed the delegation that the Punjab Safe Cities,

## Minister attends GCU's convocation, praises its role in education development

LAHORE (INP): The Government College University (GCU) Lahore commenced its 22<sup>nd</sup> convocation ceremony on Thursday, attended specially by Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi, former chief justice of Pakistan Tassaduq Hussain Jillani, former deputy speaker of Bahrain Dr. Adil Bin Abdul Rahman, and eminent religious scholar Qari Sohaib Ahmad Meer Muhammad.

The two-day event is being held to celebrate the academic achievements of its distinguished graduates. The convocation activities are being led by GCU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Asghar Zaidi.

Speaking at the first session, Madad Ali Sindhi expressed his pride in addressing the students of an institution where Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal once taught and praised the dedication of Vice Chancellor Dr. Zaidi. He emphasised the need for quality education in Pakistan, and said that no

nation could make progress without instilling educational skills in its youth. He also commended the efforts of historical GCU in the field of education. Vice Chancellor Dr. Asghar Zaidi highlighted the recent developments at the university. He announced that the university's new campus in Kala Shah Kaku had become operational, hosting 13 academic departments and three administrative departments. The GCU has also introduced new programmes in agriculture, artificial intelligence, software engineering, and public policy. He discussed the endowment fund, being established for financial sustainability of the university. Dr. Zaidi mentioned that the grand mosque at the GCU would be inaugurated on 12<sup>th</sup> of Rabi-ul-Awal. A total of 1,210 students would receive medals and degrees in the two-day convocation. These include 15 PhDs, 152 MS/MPH, 159 MSc, and 884 BA/BSc (Hons) degrees.



LAHORE: US Consul General in Lahore Kristin Hawkins inaugurates conservation and restoration project of the historical Wazir Khan Mosque built in 1634.

## Minister for responsible water management in face of climate change challenges

PESHAWAR (Online): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Communication & Works, Muhammad Tahir, Secretary of Irrigation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Ghulam Ishaq, Chief Engineer, also delivered speeches. Representatives from the International Water Management Institute, including Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, water experts Dr. Jehanzeb Masood Cheema, and Kanwal Waqar, and others expressed their views on the importance of water conservation and proper governance for water resources in Pakistan.

The workshop specifically addressed water governance in Pakistan and the challenges posed by environmental changes, highlighting the risks associated with water scarcity. Speakers emphasized the need to improve the existing water management system and implement a comprehensive water accountability system in the province.

He also pointed out that global warming and environmental changes pose significant threats to water resources, making it imperative for our country to adequately prepare to combat these challenges.

He highlighted that the survival of humans and other creatures depends on the blessing of water, and it is our responsibility to use this gift from Allah Almighty wisely. Islam



GILGIT: IGP Gilgit-Balistan Afzal Mehmood Butt visiting Central Jail Gilgit and taking brief from the officials of Jail about security and other issues of prisons.

## KP govt urged to increase admission quota for minorities

PESHAWAR (APP): In a significant move to foster inclusivity and equal access to education for minority communities, civil society organizations, call upon the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to extend the existing two percent admission quota for minorities to all degree colleges and higher educational institutions across the province.

In a press release issued here Thursday, the civil society organizations highlighted that despite the promising step taken by the KP government in 2021, when it approved a two percent admission quota for minority candidates in 27 public sector universities, the

actual implementation of this quota remains disappointingly low. This failure to effectively enforce the allocation underscores the urgency of extending this quota and its vital role in empowering minority communities within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The original intention behind the quota was to promote inclusivity, diversity, and equitable educational opportunities for minority groups, including Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, and others residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "We believe that extending the two percent education quota for minorities to all degree colleges and higher educational institutions,

## Pakistan's economy performs well on external, internal sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Finance Ministry on Thursday said that since the beginning of FY2024, Pakistan's economy stepped up on the recovery path and Pakistan's economy performed well on the external and internal sectors.

In August FY2024, month-on-month exports increased by 14.2 percent while imports grew by 2.1 percent for the same period, according to the monthly economic update and outlook report issued by the Ministry of Finance.

On the external front, the current account deficit and aligned indicators are showing some developments in August, the report said.

Similarly, fiscal performance remains satisfactory at the start of FY2024. It is expected that

the economic revival plan and prudent actions - policies including SIFC and IT policy - will attract new investments to create a multiplier effect in the economy for higher and inclusive economic growth in FY2024 and further in the medium term.

According to the report, recent administrative measures aimed at improving the availability of essential food commodities and expected ease in supply constraints has improved the inflation outlook.

Moreover, administrative and regulatory action for curbing illegal activities in the foreign exchange market have started to yield desired dividends and narrowing the gap between interbank and open market exchange rates.

Similarly, fiscal

performance remains satisfactory at the start of FY2024. It is expected that the economic revival plan and prudent actions - policies including SIFC and IT policy - will attract new investments to create a multiplier effect in the economy for higher and inclusive economic growth in FY2024 and further in the medium term.

According to the report, Foreign Exchange Reserves Pakistan's total liquid foreign exchange reserves increased to \$ 13.2 billion on September 26, 2023, as the SBP's reserves stood at \$ 7.7 billion and Commercial banks' reserves remained at \$ 5.5 billion.

The Monthly Economic Indicator (MEI) is developed as a tool to distribute the past annual GDP numbers, reported by the PBS.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik is addressing a workshop on Climate-Resilient High Yielding and Quality Rice Development at National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad.

## SAPM says: Pakistan assures ILO, EU to fulfill commitments regarding labour standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik Thursday assured International Labour Organization (ILO) and European Union (EU) that Pakistan would fulfill commitments regarding compliance of fundamental labour standards including elimination child and forced labour, freedom of association and gender discrimination.

He was speaking as a chief guest at launch of 'National Report on the General Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+)' organized by the ministry, said a press release here.

The SAPM reiterated that Pakistan was cognizant of the challenges regarding labour rights and committed to overcoming them. Pakistan was on a journey to becoming an

ethical and responsive global partner and the GSP+ was a critical part of that journey, he added. He also emphasized the need of close cooperation and coordination amongst all partners to comply with international convention of labour rights successfully for uninterrupted benefits from the GSP+ status which was imperative for export of goods to EU countries.

The GSP+ is a special incentive arrangement by the European Union for sustainable development and good governance that supports vulnerable development countries.

The Countries graced GSP+ status are required to ratify and compliance with 27 international conventions including labour rights and the Pakistan has already ratified all these 27 core international conventions.



HYDERABAD: A boy is plucking cotton at a field to earn his livelihood for support his family in Hyderabad.

## Need urged for exploiting potential of biogas production

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Thursday stressed the need to exploit the potential of biogas to overcome energy issues and enhance dependency on environmental fuel production in the country. Talking to a delegation of industrialists he said that the use of biogas offers a multitude of economic benefits, including cost savings and enhanced energy security, said a press release.

He said it also aligns with our commitment to sustainability and can serve as a catalyst for

economic growth as well as enhance energy security by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels.

This independence can shield our economy from the volatility of global energy markets and geopolitical tensions, he said adding that the significant potential of biogas as a sustainable energy source can play a pivotal role in improving our economy as it's not only an environmentally friendly alternative but also a valuable resource for job creation.

He said the growth of the biogas industry can alleviate unemployment and boost local economies.

## Dollar falls by Rs 1.05

KARACHI (Online): Rupee has gained stable position in the face of persistent fall in the value of dollar.

Dollar lost price by Rs 1.05 as greenback was traded for Rs 287.90 during early interbank trading on Thursday.

Dollar was closed at Rs 288.75 in inter bank on Wednesday.

Trading took a positive start in stock market

Pakistan Stock Exchange benchmark KSE100 shares index gained 99 points to close at 46464 points.

## Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach \$13.16 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reach US\$ 13,161.8 million while reserves held by the central bank stood at \$ 7,636.7 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by 59 million to US\$ 7,636.7 million on account of debt repayments during the week ended on September 22, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5,525.1 million, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country.

## Banks to open on Sept 30 for tax collection

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Thursday directed all banks to keep their authorized branches open on Saturday (September 30) in order to facilitate the taxpayers in payment of government duties and taxes. The decision has been taken on the request of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to facilitate the collection of taxes through ADC's Over-the-Counter (OTC) facility, said a statement issued here. All the branches of all banks - opening on Saturday - shall observe extended working hours till 5:00 p.m. for the purpose, it added. The central bank further advised banks to keep their branches concerned open till such time that it is necessary to facilitate the special clearing by NIFT.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the Cabinet Committee on State-owned Enterprises (CCSOE) held at Finance Division in Islamabad.

## Enhanced trade, export volume must for economic stability: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday stressed the need for increasing trade activity and enhancing volume of the country's exports to ensure economic stability.

He expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of the Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) led by Muhammad Ahmed, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Alvi said investment in information technology and boosting its exports would prove helpful in attaining the goals of development and progress.

The delegation apprised the president of the contribution of IIA in promoting exports of the country. It also highlighted the challenges faced by the traders and businessmen.

## Agriculture machinery imports reduced 27.49%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of agriculture machinery and implements during the first two months of the current financial year reduced by 27.49 per cent as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-August 2023 agriculture machinery and implements valued at \$8.878 million were imported as compared to the imports of \$11.830 million of the same period last year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, agriculture and other chemicals group imports into the country during the first two months of the current financial year reduced by 15.48 per cent as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-August 2023, agricultural chemicals costing \$1.439 billion were

imported as against the imports of \$1.702 billion in the same period of last year.

In the last two months, fertilizer imports decreased by 11.65 per cent as 38,600 metric tons of fertilizers valued at \$20.867 million were imported as compared to the imports of 29,978 metric tons worth \$23.620 million in the same period last year. Meanwhile, the imports of insecticides were reduced by 27.03 per cent as 6,620 metric tons of insecticides valued at \$33.099 million were imported as compared to the imports of 7,192 metric tons costing \$45.358 million in the same period last year. During the period under review, the country spent \$431.570 million on the imports of over 350,807 metric tons of plastic materials as compared to the imports of 269,972 metric tons valuing \$452.966 million.

## New rice varieties expected to revolutionize rice sector in Pakistan: Dr. Kausar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik on Thursday said new rice varieties with less cost and high profit are expected to be game changer in the rice sector in Pakistan.

He said while addressing the workshop on Climate-Resilient High Yielding and Quality Rice Development at National Level, organized by Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) to introduce recently

approved high yielding, disease and heat resistant rice varieties which are self-pollinated, said a news release issued here.

These rice varieties have comparable productivity of hybrid rice and thus farmers can use same seed for the next season.

The minister appreciated the efforts of scientists of the National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology for their commendable work. Dr. Kausar Abdullah also acknowledged the

support given by Green Super Rice (GSR), Phase-II project being executed by CAAS, China with the financial support of Melinda and Bill Gate Foundation, United States of America (USA).

He stressed upon the crucial role of research in boosting agricultural production to ensure food security in the country, adding that research was an integral part of economic development therefore we should focus on innovative techniques to improve agriculture in the country.

## Canadian HC visits PSX

KARACHI (APP): Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Leslie Scanlon along with Commercial Counselor Michael Lazaruk and Trade Commissioner Athar Abbashere on Thursday paid a visit to Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

The Managing Director and CEO PSX Farrukh H. Khan, along with PSX Board member, Nadeem Naqvi and the PSX management team held a meeting with visiting Canadian diplomats and discussed matters of mutual interest pertaining to the economy as a whole and the capital markets in particular. The trade and economic team from the High Commission of Canada was also present in the meeting which enabled a discussion on further development of trade.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM on OP&HRD is speaking as a Chief Guest at the launch of National Report on the General Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+).

## Bloomberg says: Pakistani Rupee set to become top performing currency globally

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani currency, Rupee is set to become the top performer globally this month as government crackdown on the illegal dollar trade helped reverse its fortunes, Bloomberg reported on Thursday.

According to Bloomberg report, the rupee surged almost 6% in September, a remarkable feat as most currencies including the Thai baht and South Korean won tumbled against the dollar on speculation US interest rates will stay elevated for longer.

The currency rose 0.1% to Rs 287.95 per dollar on Thursday, after sliding to a record-low of about Rs 307 this month. "Many leakages were

happening through illegal channels of hawala and hundi trade from the open market," Khurram Schehzad, Chief Executive Officer of Alpha Beta Core Solutions Pvt. Ltd, a financial consultancy in Karachi told Bloomberg.

Hawala and hundi are an informal system of fund transfer common in South Asia, it added.

"When the dollar rate reverses everybody, the hoarders, the exporters who are holding their export proceeds, start selling their dollars," Schehzad said.

According to the report, Pakistani government intensified efforts by running after people involved in the illegal dollar trade that helped the currency.



QUETTA: A delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajirun Panjur led by its President Fared Ahmed Baloch meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

## Mobilink Bank, women join forces to champion women's financial inclusion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mobilink Bank and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality, the Empowerment of Women, Pakistan (UN Women Pakistan) to ignite a transformative wave across Pakistan's socio-economic landscape, with a steadfast commitment to advancing gender empowerment and revolutionizing the financial ecosystem.

Through this partnership, Mobilink Bank endeavours to address the unmet financial needs of half of Pakistan's population - women - to create equal opportunities, enable access to essential financial services and promote women empowerment to drive nationwide economic development, said a news release.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives by creating opportunities for increased

digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

The collaboration between Mobilink Bank and UN Women, effective immediately and extendable for one year, marks the beginning of a unified mission. This venture is dedicated to bolstering financial services for women while nurturing inclusivity in the financial landscape. The core objective of this collaborative effort is to uplift women-led small and nano enterprises through tailored capacity-building initiatives. In this joint effort, Mobilink Bank and UN Women will launch economic empowerment programs, aligned with their respective mandates with a special focus on building an enabling environment tailored to address the financial challenges faced by female entrepreneurs. With a gender-responsive strategy at its core, Mobilink Bank will strive to ensure that all its products and services champion inclusivity.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Tree ships namely, Maersk Pelepas, X-Press Bardsey and Sunray carrying Containers and Mogas, berthed at Container Terminal and FOTCO Oil Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Seaspan Ganges and APL Le Havre with Containers also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

A total of eight ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, four ships, X-Press Bardsey, MSC Greenwich, Maersk Pelepas and Hafnia Tanzanite left the port on today morning, while another bulk carrier Kaptadimitros is expected to sail on Thursday.

## Furniture designers meet PFC chief

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said on Thursday that artificial Intelligence (AI) was transforming the fashion world but the fast growing technology would never be a replacement for designers' "original creativity". Talking to a delegation of furniture designers and manufacturers led by Ms Nida Ejaz, he said Fashion innovator Calvin Wong had developed the Interactive Design Assistant for Fashion (AiDA).



PESHAWAR: A person selecting and purchasing colorful toys for his children from a roadside vendor in the Kohati area.

## FCCI president says: Economic diversification vital for sustained growth

FAISALABAD (APP): President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr. Khurram Tariq has said that economic diversification is vital for sustained growth of economy.

He was addressing a function of Association of Certified Chartered Accountant (ACCA) as the chief guest. He stressed the need for diversification of economy and said that it was meant for having a diverse range of industries and businesses, as well as a mix of large and small businesses. "A diversified economy is less likely to be severely impacted by a downturn in a particular sector," he added. He also underlined the need for skilled workforce, adding that a well-educated and well-trained workforce is

essential for economic growth and resilience. He said that governments and businesses should invest in training and education programs to ensure that workers have the skills they need to succeed in the modern economy. Dr. Khurram also supported innovation as yet another factor for economic resilience. He said that innovation is essential for economic growth and resilience. "Governments and businesses should support innovation by investing in research and development, and by creating an environment that is conducive to new business formation and growth," he stressed. He said that creation of a social safety net is also imperative to survive in hard and difficult times.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue Presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

## Jens Stoltenberg meets with Zelensky to discuss battlefield & ammunition needs in Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg met with President Volodymyr Zelensky to discuss the status of the war and needs of troops on Thursday, the day after Russia accused Ukraine's Western allies of helping plan and conduct last week's missile strike on the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters on the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

Zelensky said that Stoltenberg agreed to make efforts to get NATO members to help provide additional air defense systems to protect Ukraine's power plants and energy infrastructure that were badly damaged in relentless and deadly attacks by Russia last winter. He also reminded the secretary-general of the persistent attacks that often strike civilian areas, including 40 drone attacks over-

night. "In the face of such intense attacks against Ukrainians, against our cities, our ports, which are crucial for global food security, we need a corresponding intensity of pressure on Russia and a strengthening of our air defense," Zelensky said. "The world must see how Russia is losing dearly so that our shared values ultimately prevail." Stoltenberg said that NATO has contracts for 2.4 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) in ammunition for Ukraine, including 155 mm Howitzer shells, anti-tank guided missiles and tank ammunition. "The stronger Ukraine becomes, the closer we become to ending Russia's aggression," Stoltenberg said. "Russia could lay down arms and end its war today. Ukraine doesn't have that option. Ukraine's surrender would not mean peace. It would mean brutal Russian occupation. Peace at any price would be no peace at all."



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky attend their press conference in Kyiv, Ukraine.

## Macron proposes limited autonomy for France's Mediterranean island of Corsica

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron proposed granting limited autonomy for Corsica on Thursday in a modest step toward nationalist sentiment on the Mediterranean island. In a speech he described as "an outstretched hand," Macron said: "Let us have the audacity to build a Corsican autonomy within the republic."

within the republic," he said in his address to the island's local elected assembly. The island is home to more than 340,000 people and has been part of France since 1768. But Corsica has also seen pro-independence violence and has an influential nationalist movement. In 1998, in an assassination that stunned the country, pro-independence activists shot dead France's top official on the island, Claude Erignac. Other violence has been mostly low-level, often involving bombs planted in cars or

buildings overnight, when no one is inside. Macron didn't go into great detail about what powers might be transferred from Paris to a more autonomous Corsica. He said that he favors changing the French Constitution to recognize "the specificities" of Corsica's island community. A constitutional change would require French parliamentary approval. "This is how we will turn a page that was marked by somber hours and be able to open another."



French President Emmanuel Macron addresses the Corsican Assembly in Ajaccio, as part of a three days visit in the southern French island of Corsica.

## Germany and Israel sign an agreement for Berlin to buy a US-Israeli missile defense system

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: Germany and Israel on Thursday signed an agreement for Berlin to buy the sophisticated Arrow 3 missile defense system, designed to intercept long-range ballistic missiles. The development is the latest step in Berlin's bid to strengthen its air defenses following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Germany aims to integrate the system into wider NATO air defense efforts. Last year, Berlin launched the European Sky Shield Initiative, which now includes 19 countries. Israel secured U.S. approval in August for the \$3.5 billion deal, which was needed because the system was jointly developed with the United States. German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius and his Israeli counterpart

Yoav Gallant signed a memorandum of understanding in Berlin on Thursday for the purchase of Arrow 3. "It is, without exaggerating, a historic day for both our countries," Pistorius told reporters, describing Arrow as "one of the best systems, if not the best." "We see from the daily Russian attacks on Ukraine how important air defense is in general," he added. "Air defense is essential, and particularly for us here in the center of Europe." Germany plans to start using Arrow in late 2025, with the system then being built up step by step. Gallant said that "with two simple signatures today, we made history" and that Israel is "committed to a timely and effective delivery."

## Israeli settlements 'systematically erode' viability of Palestinian state, says UN envoy

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland has expressed deep concern over the relentless expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. During the last three months, more than 10,000 housing units were advanced, he told the UN Security Council in New York on Wednesday. "Settlements further entrench the occupation, fuel violence, impede Palestinian access to their land and resources, and systematically erode the viability of a Palestinian state as part of a two-state solution," the senior UN envoy said. "I call on the government of Israel to cease all settlement activity and dismantle outposts immediately, in line with its obligations under international law," he added.

## India imposes curfew in strife-hit areas of Manipur state

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India imposed a curfew in the capital and some areas of its restive state of Manipur on Thursday, after scores of students were injured in violence following protests against the alleged abduction and murder of two students, authorities said. Ethnic violence has plunged the northeastern state bordering Myanmar into what many security experts describe as an intense civil war fought over land, jobs and political clout between its two largest local groups. "Indefinite curfew had to be implemented

in Imphal and in some other districts," L. Kailun, a senior police official based in the state capital, told Reuters. More than 80 students were injured in Wednesday's clashes, another police official said on condition of anonymity. He added that the situation was "extremely tense" after armed mobs vandalized an office of the ruling political party and hurled petrol bombs at two police sites. Mobile internet services have been suspended in the state for five days, officials said.

## 3 people die in a crash involving 4 vehicles in New Hampshire

**Monitoring Desk**  
HOOKSETT: Three people have died following a crash involving four vehicles in New Hampshire, police said. An SUV side-swiped two vehicles on a road and rear-ended a third on Route 3 before it crossed the road and hit a tree stump on Wednesday afternoon, police said in a news release. The SUV driver and two passengers were taken to a hospital, where they were pronounced dead. Their names were not released. One of the other drivers suffered minor injuries. Police are investigating the crash.

## Youth bring climate case to Europe rights court

**Monitoring Desk**  
STRASBOURG: The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on Wednesday began hearing a case brought by six Portuguese youths against 32 nations for not doing enough to stop global warming, the latest bid to secure climate justice through the courts. "The case concerns... the impact of climate change," said Siofra O'Leary, president of the Strasbourg-based court's 17-judge Grand Chamber, "resulting among other things in heatwaves and wildfires affecting the applicants' lives and health." The youths, aged 11 to 24, say they are suffering from anxiety over their health and natural disasters. Their move to file a complaint with the Strasbourg-based court was sparked by the devastating wildfires that struck Portugal in 2017, killing more than 100 people and charring swaths of the coun-

try. Some plaintiffs claim allergies and breathing problems both during the fires and after, conditions at risk of persisting if the planet keeps warming. "European governments are not managing to protect us," said Andre Oliveira, 15, one of the six involved. "We're on the front lines of climate change in Europe: even in February it's sometimes 30 degrees. The heatwaves are getting more and more serious," he added. Andre and his fellow plaintiffs say the 27 European Union member states along with Russia, Turkey, Switzerland, Norway and Britain have all failed to sufficiently limit greenhouse gas emissions, affecting their life and health. In concrete legal terms, they complain of infringements of their rights to life and respect for private life — articles 2 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

## Iran launches military satellite into orbit

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's Revolutionary Guards successfully launched a third military satellite into orbit on Wednesday, state media reported, citing Minister of Communications Issa Zarepour. The Noor 3 imaging satellite orbits at an altitude of 450 kilometres above the earth's surface and was launched by the three-stage Qased, or messenger carrier, state media said, which launched its predecessor Noor 2 in 2022. The US military says the same long-range ballistic technology used to put satellites into orbit could also allow Tehran to launch longer-range weapons, possibly including nuclear warheads.

## China, Germany resume high-level financial talks after COVID-19

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China and Germany will co-host a third financial dialogue in Germany on Oct. 1, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Thursday, resuming high-level talks that had stalled for several years due to COVID-19. Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng will co-chair the dialogue with German Finance Minister Christian Lindner, ministry spokesman Mao Ning said at a regular news conference. In the last round of talks in January 2019, China and Germany signed agreements to strengthen

coordination in banking, finance and capital markets, and pledged to further open market access and deepen cooperation to broaden economic ties. Since then, the European Union, including Germany, has expressed concerns about being too economically dependent on China. Last week, Germany said it was planning to force telecoms operators to slash the use of equipment from Huawei and ZTE in their 5G networks after a review highlighted an over-reliance on these Chinese suppliers.

## Germany announces extended border controls from this week

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: Germany will introduce extended border controls with Poland and the Czech Republic this week to curb illegal migration, the interior minister said on Wednesday, as a surge in migrant arrivals exposes the cracks in the European Union's asylum system. "If we do not succeed in better protecting the external borders ..., then the open borders within the EU are in danger," Nancy Faeser told reporters in Berlin. Germany, which took in around 1 million Ukrainian refugees over the past year, has also seen a sharp rise in asylum seekers from other regions.

## Philippines urges fishermen to keep up presence at China-held shoal

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The coastguard of the Philippines urged the country's fishermen on Wednesday to keep operating at the disputed Scarborough Shoal and other sites in the South China Sea, pledging to step up patrols there despite an imposing Chinese presence. Philippine vessels were unable to maintain a constant presence but were committed to protecting the rights of fishermen inside the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), coastguard spokesperson

Commodore Jay Tarriela said. "We're going to increase patrols in Bajo de Masinloc and other areas where Filipino fishermen are," he told DZRH radio, referring to the shoal, one of Asia's most contested maritime features, by its Philippine name. On Monday, the coastguard cut a 300-m (980-ft) floating barrier installed by China that blocked access to the Scarborough Shoal, a bold response in an area Beijing has controlled for more than a decade with coastguard ships and a fleet of large fishing vessels.

## Germany bans neo-Nazi group, raids members' homes

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: German authorities raided dozens of locations nationwide on Wednesday after interior minister Nancy Faeser banned a right-wing extremist group accused of spreading Nazi ideology. The headquarters of the group, dubbed "Artgemeinschaft", as well as 26 homes belonging to 39 members were searched in the early hours across 12 states.

## Warehouse blast near Tashkent airport kills one, injures over 160

**Monitoring Desk**  
TASHKENT: An overnight explosion at a warehouse near the airport in Uzbekistan's capital, Tashkent, killed one person and injured more than a hundred, authorities in the Central Asian country said on Thursday. "A teenager born in 2006 died," the Uzbek health ministry said on Telegram, adding that a further 162 had been injured. The emergency situations ministry said powerful lightning had caused "an explosion, then a fire, which is still burning" in a warehouse in the airport zone.

more serious condition, the health ministry said. Videos circulating on social media showed a column of flames and smoke rising into the night sky. The blast blew out the windows of several houses in the surrounding area and damaged their interiors. Explosions continued to ring out in the hours after the blaze broke out as emergency crews tackled the fire and ambulance staff worked to evacuate those injured, an AFP journalist at the scene witnessed. "I woke up at night. I thought it was an earthquake," said Moustafao Kutepov, a 72-year-old retiree who lives nearby and whose house was affected.

## South Korea, Japan, China agree to hold summit at 'earliest convenient time'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: Senior diplomats from South Korea, China and Japan agreed on Tuesday that their countries' leaders would meet at the "earliest convenient time," Seoul's foreign ministry said after a rare meeting aimed at kickstarting trilateral exchanges. "This is how we will turn a page that was marked by somber hours and be able to open another."

meetings and has proposed a summit in late December, Japanese broadcaster TBS reported. Japan's foreign minister, Yoko Kamikawa, said the three countries share the need to restart high-level talks, including summits, "as soon as possible." "I believe it is very valuable to discuss the various challenges the region faces," she told a briefing in Tokyo. The latest meeting was seen partly intended to assuage Beijing's concerns over the two U.S. allies' tightening cooperation after Seoul and Tokyo agreed this year to end legal, diplomatic and trade disputes over issues dating to Japan's 1910-45 occupation of Korea. "We unambiguously believe that carrying out cooperation in the common interests of the three parties."

## North Korean leader urges greater nuclear weapons production in response to a 'new Cold War'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an exponential increase in production of nuclear weapons and for his country to play a larger role in a coalition of nations confronting the United States in a "new Cold War," state media said Thursday. The Korean Central News Agency said Kim made the comments during a two-day session of the country's rubber-stamp parliament which amended the constitution to include his policy of expanding the country's nuclear weapons program.

slowly ends its pandemic lockdown, Kim has been actively boosting his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he attempts to break out of diplomatic isolation and join a united front against Washington. He has described the world as entering a "new Cold War" and that North Korea should advance its nuclear capabilities in response. KCNA's reports on Kim's comments came a day after North Korea confirmed the release of U.S. Army Pvt. Travis King, who is now being flown back to America, two months after he sprinted across the heavily fortified border into the North. King's relatively swift expulsion defied speculation that North Korea might drag out his detention to squeeze concessions from the United States, and possibly reflected the North's disinterest in diplomacy with Washington. KCNA said members of the assembly gave unanimous approval to a new clause in the constitution to "ensure the country's right to existence and development, deter war and protect regional and global peace by rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher level."

## IEA says route to net zero requires more cash and less politics

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: Record growth in clean energy technology, including solar panels and electric vehicles, means it is still possible to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday. But it also said the world would need to invest nearly \$4.5 trillion per year in the transition to cleaner energy from the start of the next decade, up from spending of \$1.8 trillion expected in 2023. Temperatures have hit record levels this year and global averages are around 1.1C higher compared with the pre-industrial average. That compares with the goal set by the 2015 U.N. Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rises well below 2C, while pursuing efforts to limit them to 1.5C to prevent the most severe consequences, such as drought, floods and increased wildfires.

Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, attends a news conference in Brussels, Belgium, December 12, 2022. REUTERS/Johanna Gerom/File Photo Acquire Licensing Rights. Much more effort, however, is still required as a tripling of global renewable capacity, a doubling of energy efficient infrastructure, an increase in heat pump sales and a further rise in EV use are needed by 2030, the IEA said. It also called for a 75% cut in energy sector methane emissions by 2030, which would cost an estimated \$75 billion.



German Federal Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius receives his Israeli counterpart Yoav Galant with military honors in Berlin, Germany.

# President greets nation, Ummah on blessed day of Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)

PM urges nation to follow Prophet (SAWW)'s teachings of compassion, unity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday felicitated the Pakistani nation and the Muslim Ummah on the blessed day of Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him). In a message on the occasion of 12 Rabiul Awwal, he said the arrival of Prophet (SAWW) was good tidings for relieving the suffering of humanity adding that the arrival of the Holy prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) was

the greatest and the most blessed event in history. The president said due to Holy Prophet (SAWW), the humanity was honoured with the reward of guidance and mercy from Allah Almighty. He said Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) was brought to this world as the "mercy for all the worlds". He said the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was an embodiment of obedience to Allah Almighty, justice, compassion, and love

towards human beings. He said Holy Prophet (PBUH)'s teachings are universal and undying source of guidance for the mankind and present solutions to uncountable challenges being faced today and to be faced till the doomsday. "In the whole life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW), we find a perfect model not only for faith and worship, but also for all aspects of life." President Alvi said teachings of the Holy

Prophet (PBUH) with regard to the oneness of Allah Almighty, social justice, human rights, gender equality and welfare of the poor reflected the comprehensiveness and universality of the message of Islam. He said Pakistan was a country with different cultures and religious diversity. "We should give importance to this diversity and should work diligently for the promotion of unity and better understanding."



ISLAMABAD: MD Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation Engr Asad Ahmad and CEO Hub Salt Ismail Sattar signing MoU for projects on Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a group photo with British parliamentary delegation at Parliament house

## There should be any difference between dacoits, state: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa expressed annoyance over Additional Advocate General (AAG) Punjab Sana Ullah Zahid and government officers in the matter of land compensation.

Sana Ullah Zahid expressed intention to tender resignation over court's attitude.

Justice Athar Minallah controlled the matter remarking government officers don't work and AG Punjab despite being a good lawyer became disturbed due to them.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing Thursday.

During the hearing of the case Justice Athar Minallah remarked the court had issued order one

year back. The CJP remarked we and you are paid salaries out of people pockets. Our performance is nil. There should be some difference between the dacoits and state.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked we are being told after one year the process of payment of compensation is underway. The CJP remarked there should be transparent attitude with the courts. Joking with justice system should stop.

The court said the court issued order on November 17, 2022. The counsel for Punjab government said a miscellaneous application has been filed.

Reply from member board of revenue Punjab was filed. Punjab government accepted the ownership of land by Bashiran Bibi.



UTHAL: Caretaker Provincial Advisor Irrigation Mir Danish Lango talking with mediemen

## Minister urges govt servants to serve public diligently

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Local Government Minister Mehmood Al Hasan Mandokhel, on Thursday said government officers are the servants of the people urging them to serve public diligently. He expressed these views during his visit to Zhob campus of University of Balochistan and addressing a meeting held at DC office Zhob.

The minister inspected various departments of the IT section. He said that the students should pay attention to the acquisition of knowledge. He said that the importance

of information technology in the modern era cannot be denied. The architects of the future should work harder to acquire modern knowledge.

Prior to this, Professor Abdul Salam Lodhi briefed the minister on the issues facing the university. The minister assured to solve the problems faced by the university. Mehboob Ahmad Achakzai, DC Zhob, Naseer Mandukhel, Vice Chairman District Council Maulvi Ibrahim, Engineer Sultan Mandukhel, Muhammad Asif Mandukhel were also present.

## BTTN held seminar on occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi(SAWW)

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) organized an in-house seminar at its Conference Hall on the occasion of Eid-Milad-ul-Nabi (SAW).

BTTN head Brig Agha Ahmad Gul said the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is full of guidance. One can learn a lot from him. Common animosity at the time of the Conquest of Mecca is a great act of forgiveness, teaching us to also learn to forgive.

Also, the wisdom he showed at the place of Hudaibiya where he reached a treaty with the Quraysh to perform Hajj

peacefully the next year rather than with warring with the Quraysh is what speaks volumes of his leadership and statesmanship character, said a press release.

Earlier, Asadullah Raisani formally began the event by quoting one of the famous Hadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also, a White has no superiority over a Black nor a Black has any superiority over a White except by piety and good action."

## Sarfraz Bugti visits FF Steel

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for the Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti paid a visit to FF Steel's head office with an aim to revitalize and fortify the economic prospects of the steel sector, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

During his visit, the minister put special emphasis on comprehending the economic landscape and its repercussions on the steel industry.

The notion of the discussion highlighted the key indicators to help the economy with political instability, massive currency depreciation and shortage of raw materials.

Subsequent discussions between Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and former Senator Nauman Wazir, Chairman FF Steel concluded in an agreement that industries are the enablers of contributing to long-term economic growth and FF Steel eagerly anticipates collaborating to bolster Pakistan's economic stability.

## Sanjrani stresses strengthening Pakistan-UK parliamentary ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, here on Thursday highlighted the importance of strengthening parliamentary ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom to facilitate mutual learning and collaboration.

The chairman expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation from the British Parliament.

The delegation included Shadow Minister and MP Naz Shah, Sam Terry MP, Andrew Gwynne MP, and Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Self Determination Movement International (JKSDMI).

During the meeting, both parties engaged in constructive discussions regarding a range of topics aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

## Money laundering: FIA seizes four luxurious vehicles

KARACHI (INP): The Commercial Banking Circle team of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) continues investigations into trade-based money laundering case and seized four luxurious vehicles here on Thursday. According to details, investigations by FIA against car showroom owners, in order to catch 'trade-based' money laundering in Karachi was in progress.

The FIA in the latest action raided a car showroom at Khalid bin Waleed road and seized four luxury vehicles including, Land Cruiser, Audi and others. The vehicles were seized as the showroom owner failed to present proof of import of the vehicles.

## PMDC signs MoU with Hub Salt, Geological survey of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): As a part of building the mineral-driven economy by the Government of Pakistan, the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) under the control of the Ministry of Energy signed a MoU with Hub Salt and Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP).

Engr. Asad Ahmad, Managing Director, PMDC along with Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, Director General, GSP, and CEO Hub Salt Ismail Sattar signed the agreement, said a news release.

Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) would provide support to PMDC in mineral exploration, encompassing assessment, identification, grading, mineral and rock evaluation, resource assessment, and environmental assessments

both Parties will jointly organize training programs, workshops, conferences, seminars, and events related to research, innovation, and commercialization, especially in the field of Geological Sciences.

The MoU with Hub Salt envisions the establishment of a state-of-the-art Pink Rock Salt Crushing and Packaging facility for export purposes under the theme of "Pink Prosperity".

The Pink Rock Salt facility is exclusively dedicated to export salt base products to international markets which will contribute substantially to Pakistan's foreign revenue. This endeavor is expected to not only bolster economic growth.



QUETTA: Former Opposition leader in Balochistan Assembly Malik Sikandar Advocate and former Federal Minister Prince Essa Jan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Sub-Committee reviews initiatives taken by oil & gas companies in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chaired by Senator Prince Ahmed Omer Ahmedzai, the Sub-Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum meticulously reviewed the initiatives and endeavors undertaken by oil and gas companies in both the public and private sectors concerning corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Balochistan.

Convener of the sub-committee, Prince Ahmed Omer Ahmedzai emphasized that efforts should not be confined solely to Balochistan but should encompass the entire nation of Pakistan. He also stressed the imperative presence of all Pakistan's oil and gas companies in the committee meeting.

The Ministry for Energy (Petroleum Division) chaired a comprehensive overview of its operations in the province of Balochistan, highlighting the substantial funds allocated for the province's betterment. Senator Saadia Abbasi expressed reservations regarding the diminishing impact of these expenditures over the years, despite the significant sums allocated to their policies.

The Ministry for Energy (Petroleum Division) explained that these funds are administered by the social welfare committee, chaired by a nominated official, and executed by the district government. It falls outside their jurisdiction, and political factors often hinder their operational processes.



QUETTA: Members Board expressing their views during emergency meeting of QESCO Board of Directors

## Jan Achakzai says: Services of Mubarak Qazi for Balochi literature to be written in golden words

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the services rendered by renowned poet Mubarak Qazi for promotion of Balochi language and literature would be written in golden words.

He paid tributes to the Balochi poet while addressing a ceremony held in his memory at the Government Degree Girls College Turbat on Thursday.

He said that our poets and writers have played important role in creating consciousness and awareness among the people in Balochistan.

## Govt takes proactive measures to stabilize economy: Shamshad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Division, Dr Shamshad Akhtar on Thursday said the caretaker government has taken proactive measures to stabilize the economy and build market confidence.

The government's stabilization efforts are anchored around the IMF stabilization package, he said in a briefing to the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue which met in the Parliament House, said a press release issued here.

The Minister said that the IMF disbursed \$ 1.2 billion in July 2023.

She said this has also led to the disbursement of \$ 3bn in bilateral assistance (KSA \$ 2bn, UAE \$ 1bn).

As a result, the SBP FX reserves have increased to \$ 7.6bn (1.5 months of import cover) in September, from \$ 4.5bn (0.9 months of import) in June.

She said the government has normalized trade and investment flows.

"We have removed the import ban that badly impacted the availability of raw materials for the industry. The government has relaxed import restrictions, leading to the opening of LCs for imports and the backlog of import payments (Jan-Jul) has now been cleared."

Similarly, foreign investors have been allowed to repatriate profits (withheld since 2022), with \$ 49.2 million repatriated during Jul-Aug, an increase of 74 percent.

The caretaker government has taken appropriate actions to stabilize the volatility and speculation in the exchange rate market.

Actions taken by SBP on exchange companies and crackdown against illegal transactions have helped to reduce the spreads between interbank and open market, she said.

As a result, the PKR has strengthened to 289 against the US\$ in the interbank market, an appreciation of 6.4 percent from 307.1 (05th Sep). In the open market, PKR has strengthened 13 percent by 290.

She said the spread between the interbank and open market has declined to less than 1 percent (from over 9 percent).

## Quetta Traffic Police FM Radio Service 88.6 launched

QUETTA: The Quetta Traffic Police launched the FM Radio 88.6 Service in the provincial metropolis on Thursday.

The Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh formally launched the FM service.

Speaking on the occasion, the IGP said that the Traffic FM service has been started by Traffic Police in order to improve flow of

traffic in Quetta city. He said that the launch of Radio Service was delayed due to the lack of resources and remoteness of the areas.

Despite all odds, we started Radio service in the Traffic police, adding he mentioned.

He said that the listeners would be able to know about the flow of traffic in specific areas.

He urged the people to



QUETTA: Traffic Police launching FM Radio 88.6 Service in the provincial metropolis on Thursday.

fully benefit from the Traffic Radio service while moving on the roads. Moreover, the IGP also talked about the action taken against non-customs paid vehicles besides the vehicles parked wrongly.

He recalled that Traffic police FM Radio service



QUETTA: Members Board expressing their views during emergency meeting of QESCO Board of Directors

moved in different areas of the province. The spokesman informed that in all 339 FIRs have been lodged against those involved in the power pilferage.

At least 127 electricity pilferers have also been arrested so far from different areas.

Over Rs. 110 million have been charged fine on account of the power theft, the QESCO spokesman informed further.

Out of the total fine, over Rs. 75 million have so far been collected, he mentioned.

## Senate body expresses concerns about sale data on dark web

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication Thursday expressed concerns about the sale of Pakistani public data on the Dark web and instructed the safeguarding of public data, including NADRA and banks.

Chairman of the Committee Senator Kauda Babar offered legislative support if needed for the production of data. The official of the Ministry stressed the need for establishing the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) to combat cyber threats and called for public awareness on the cyber security in Pakistan.

306 more connections disconnected against power pilferers and defaulters

QUETTA: In all 306 electricity connections of the pilferers and defaulters were suspended as the extensive crackdown is continued by the Quetta Electric supply company (QESCO) all over the province including Quetta.

According to the spokesman of QESCO, applications were submitted to the concerned police stations for action against 42 electricity thieves in the province.

Moreover, 34 transformers of the defaulters and pilferers were also removed in different areas of the province.

Over Rs. 110 million have been charged fine on account of the power theft, the QESCO spokesman informed further.

Out of the total fine, over Rs. 75 million have so far been collected, he mentioned.



QUETTA: Officers and officials of Directorate of Public Relations greet Muhammad Noor Khetran on assuming charge of Director General Public Relations