

# Independent

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## SIFC Apex Committee reviews major macro-economic issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The apex committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Wednesday reviewed major macro-economic issues affecting the investment climate including inordinate delays in restructuring/privatisation of cash bleeding state owned enterprises (SOEs).

The committee also resolved with consensus on fast-tracking the privatisation process and hence, in the larger interest of the country, reduce recurring losses to the national exchequer.

The SIFC convened 6th meeting of its apex committee to review various initiatives being spearheaded through the SIFC forum.

The meeting was chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, members of the cabinet, provincial chief ministers

and the high level government officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The ministries appreciated the forum about the practical steps undertaken during the last one month to improve business and investment environment in the country.

The committee expressed overall satisfaction regarding the ongoing negotiations with foreign and domestic investors for timely realisation of various investment prospects.

The prime minister appreciated the good work put forth by various ministries and departments and directed to continue with the 'Whole of the Government' approach to overcome economic challenges being faced by Pakistan.

The chief of army staff assured unflinching resolve of Pakistan army to support the government's endeavours for a sustainable path towards economic recovery.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing 6th meeting of the Apex Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council

## Army Chief, US defence secretary discuss security issues

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir discussed a string of issues with special focus on security matters during a phone call with US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin on Wednesday.

The US Department of Defence said that Secretary Lloyd Austin discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments in a phone call with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir.

Brig-General Patrick Ryder, the Pentagon Press Secretary, confirmed the telephonic conversation between the top officials.

This was the second high-level interaction between US defence secretary and Pakistan Army Chief since the latter took over as the army chief last year in November.

## Commerce Minister terms GCC-Pakistan FTA as breakthrough for trade

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz here on Wednesday termed the recently signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as breakthrough for trade, making Pakistan the first country to secure such arrangement and providing it access to substantial market.

"This is very positive news for Pakistan exports towards gulf countries," the minister said while addressing a press conference. He was flanked by Federal Caretaker Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali and Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti.

He said, GCC, the six-country bloc comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman,

Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, was established in 2009 and it was after 14 long years that any country was having FTA with the council. The FTA was signed at 5th round of GCC meeting held last week. The minister said that GCC was market of around \$1 trillion exports and \$550 billion imports, however Pakistan's share in imports from was it was \$19 billion dollar average as it was importing energy and petrochemical products while the exports' share was just \$2.5 billion dollar. The minister lauded Saudi Arabia for playing important role in materializing the agreement with six gulf countries, adding that all members of all countries were present during the agreement and they even celebrated it to have such agreement with any country.

## Two civilians martyred; one child injured by unprovoked firing of Afghan sentry at Friendship gate

### Independent Report

QUETTA: An Afghan sentry employed at Friend Ship Gate of Chaman Border Crossing along Pakistan-Afghanistan Border in Balochistan, opened unprovoked and indiscriminate firing at pedestrians moving from Pakistan to Afghanistan.

The incident occurred at the outbound gate located on the zero line. Resultantly, two innocent Pakistani citizens including a 12 years old child embraced shahadat, while another child was injured.

Own troops exercised extreme restraint and avoided any exchange of fire in presence of innocent passengers to avoid collateral damage.

Dead bodies of the deceased have been shifted to DHQ Hospital Chaman and the injured child, who was immediately evacuated by security forces, is under treatment.

Afghan authorities have been approached to inquire the reason of such irresponsible and reckless

act, apprehend and hand over the culprit to Pakistani authorities. IAG is also expected to exercise control over its troops and impart discipline to act responsibly in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

Pakistan remains committed to contribute towards peace, prosperity and development through positive and constructive bilateral relations, however such unpleasant occurrences have the potential to harm the sincere intent and purpose.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Provincial President PPP Balochistan Mir Chanzar Khan Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Will take stern action against elements involved in terrorist activities: Achakzai

QUETTA (INP): Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai has said that stern action will be taken against the elements involved in terrorist activities.

Addressing a press conference in Quetta on Wednesday, he said that the provincial government will also deal the illegal foreign citizens according to the law to ensure implementation of decisions of apex committee.

Jan Achakzai further stated that no one would be allowed to cross our borders without passport.

The Information Minister said Afghan citizens have been involved in terrorist activities in the country.

## Aleema Khan says: Imran disappointed with president as he could not play his constitutional role

LAHORE (Online): Aleema Khan sister of chairman PTI has said party chairman is disappointed with president Arif Alvi for his failure in playing his constitutional role.

She said this while talking to media men here Wednesday.

She stated weight of chairman PTI has reduced but his spirit is high. He has no place for exercise and walk. A petition in this regard has been filed.

Aleema Khan further told chairman PTI has said preparations are underway to award long punishment to him. No one has come to talk to him.

Aleema Khan remarked chairman PTI is disappointed with the president as he could not play his constitutional role. President was to hold election in 90 days but he did not exercise his powers.

## Usman Dar says PTI chief masterminded May 9 events to force army chief's resignation

Announces quitting PTI and politics; alleges "two mindsets" emerged within the party after its govt was ousted.

Monitoring Desk LAHORE: PTI leader Usman Dar, who had allegedly gone missing according to his party, resurfaced on Wednesday and opined that the May 9 attacks were aimed at "removing the army chief".

"Of course, the incident was orchestrated to thwart the appointment [of the army chief]. I believe that Imran also had information from within the institution suggesting that the long march could potentially influence either the appointment or the removal of Gen Asim Munir," he said.

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## Anti-State Youtuber Adil Raja's call with RAW-operative leaked

ISLAMABAD: As per details, Youtuber Adil Raja can be heard in the alleged audio leak talking to RAW operative Rohit Sharma, asking him to malign Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

It was revealed that Adil Raja hired people connected with the Indian intelligence agency Raw for his legal and other matters



Adil Raja: The You Tuber also asked Rohit Sharma for contact numbers of Raw agents Lord Remi Rangers in the UK for 2.5 Lac pounds to dismiss case against him. The audio call proves the anti-state Youtuber's contact with the Raw operatives.

Rohit is also instructing him to accuse that person who launched FIR against Raja, for propagating against India and spreading terrorism in India. If he'll be able to launch fir against him raw will make sure that person remains behind the bars.

Raja was also booked in several cases in Pakistan related to inciting Pakistanis to rebel against the state. In his anti-state acts PTI followers intentionally and unintentionally was helping him.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan inaugurating federal sehat shahulat programme's mobile App. Caretaker Health Minister of Balochistan Dr. Ameer Muhammad Jogeza is also present

## World Teachers' Day message: Heavy responsibilities rest with teachers to increase literacy rate in Balochistan: Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the present government is determined to materialize the dream of educated Balochistan.

In this regard, the role and guidance of our teachers can be helpful.

He stressed that heavy responsibilities rest with the shoulders of teachers along with the government to increase the literacy rate and decorate the poor children of remote districts of the province.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor in a message issued marking World Teachers Day on Wednesday.

He said that the very objective behind observance of World Teachers

Day is to highlight the high character and dignity of the teachers.

He said that while the teachers are valued and held in high esteem in the civilized society but our religion set a new example by giving teachers the status of spiritual father.

He said that the teachers play important role in spreading light of knowledge and consciousness.

He stressed that we need help and guidance of the national and international institutions for building capacity of teachers in the educational institutions.

The Governor also appreciated the role of female teachers in the province and said that they are performing well despite the lack of necessary facilities and economic hardships.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

## Some 200 illegal Afghan refugees arrested under Foreign Act, says Commissioner Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has stated that the areas where Afghan refugees are living illegally have been identified.

He informed that some 200 Afghan refugees have also been arrested under the Foreign Act and cases registered against them duly.

This was informed by the Commissioner Quetta while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at his office here on Wednesday.

He said that due action has been started against the refugees living illegally in Quetta on directives of the

government.

He also said that it has been decided to shift the terminals of passenger coaches. The initiative would help reduce the traffic pressure in the city, he added.

Moreover, 11 crush plants have been closed in Quetta.

Similarly, 310 illegal petrol pumps have also been closed in the city, Commissioner maintained.

While on the other hand, action is also continued against the hoarding of sugar and urea fertilizer.

In this regard, 2900 tons of sugar and 2700 tons of urea have been recovered and impounded, he added.

## Health Minister launches health card mobile App

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Wednesday launched the health card mobile App "Meera Sehat Card".

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said that "Sehat Shahulat Program" has been a pioneer in the adoption of digitalization in healthcare since its inception.

He said that now "Meera Sehat Card" is available on Android play store and Apple App store.

He said that currently "Meera Sehat Card" is for permanent resident family (as per NADRA records) of Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and District Tharparkar (Sindh).

The minister said that soon "Meera Sehat Card" will be available for all citizens of Pakistan.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the App gives a comprehensive list of family members.



LAHORE: PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif addressing a political gathering.

## Nawaz Sharif returning to take Pakistan on path of prosperity: Shehbaz

LAHORE (INP): Former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday asserted that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif was returning to take Pakistan towards the path of prosperity once again.

Addressing a workers' convention in Lahore, the PML-N president said that Nawaz Sharif's ouster halted the country's growth.

During Nawaz's tenure, Shehbaz said, there

was nothing known as inflation as the rate of flour and sugar was Rs35 and Rs52. "He [Nawaz] took the country out of the darkness by addressing the problems in line with the power outage and unemployment," he added.

"His only crime was that he worked tirelessly for the country's development, made Pakistan a nuclear power, and established schools and colleges for the youth," he added.

## Illegal immigrants have 27 days to leave Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan have only 27 days left to leave the country and face deportation.

Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation.

It should be noted that in the meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants.

## Balochistan police force becomes active against illegal Afghan refugees & drugs menace

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan police force has become active against the Afghan refugees living illegally besides eradicating the menace of narcotics in the province.

The stern action would be taken against the illegal Afghan refugees in the province. The action to be taken against them is included arrest of the illegal refugees as well as confiscation of the properties and their business.

This and similar other decisions were made in an important meeting held regarding implementation of the decisions of Apex committee here on Wednesday.

The Inspector General of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presided over the meeting. It was informed that the concrete steps have been started by the police for ensuring implementation on certain decisions of the Apex committee.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presiding over a meeting through video link regarding implementation of decision of Apex Committee

## GoB decides to lodge cases against those not returning official vehicles

Independent Report

QUETTA: The interim government of Balochistan has decided to take action and register cases against those not returning 50 official vehicles of different departments in the province.

This was informed by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai in an official

statement issued here on Tuesday.

According to Jan Achakzai, the government has finally decided to register FIRs against those who have not returned the official vehicles to the government yet.

He told that the FIRs would be registered within a week against those who not yet returned the official vehicles.

The caretaker Minister Information asserted that those running these official vehicles would be arrested as well.

He said that the FIRs would be registered once against if they failed to return the vehicles on failure of the given deadline even.

He said that those not returning the official vehicles would be taken to task anyway.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Anti-smuggling drive**

That caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti openly admitted on Monday that security personnel are involved in large-scale smuggling of currency, oil, and other commodities across Pakistan's borders with Iran and Afghanistan should be appreciated.

Mr Bugti not only acknowledged that security officials played a role in the illegal cross-border movement of currency and commodities but also indicated that the army chief had warned his men that those involved in the practice would face court-martial and jail. The clampdown on smugglers and hoarders was launched last month after the army chief's back-to-back meetings with the business community in Lahore and Karachi where he pledged to crack down on illegal activities "to rid Pakistan of the substantial losses it continues to suffer due to pilferage".

The next several weeks will be a test of the civil and military authorities' resolve to expose and punish the elements involved in this illicit cross-border trade as the government intensifies a nationwide crackdown to curb the smuggling out of dollars and commodities such as wheat and sugar, and the influx of cheap petroleum and other items from Iran and Afghanistan. However, our porous borders along Balochistan and KP are not the only routes being used by smugglers to conduct their illegal trade. Indeed, these routes are used to 'import' and 'export' commodities such as sugar, oil, tyres, urea and even vehicles in big numbers.

But high-value products such as branded perfumes, expensive watches and designer purses are mostly being brought from Dubai and other Gulf nations into the country by khepiyaas through major airports and seaports in connivance with Customs officials and personnel of other agencies. These items are mostly smuggled in without the payment of taxes or are hugely under-invoiced. Similarly, it is easier to take dollars out of the country via an airport than any other way. No wonder Peshawar's proverbial Bara bazaar, which used to be the only source of smuggled foreign goods for affluent middle-class families until the late 1980s, has spread across the length and breadth of the country.

The shelves of most shops are stacked with such products because no one asks the powerful trader community to provide documentary proof that taxes were paid on the 'import' of such items.

No anti-smuggling drive can deliver complete success without making it difficult for the traders to display and sell smuggled and under-invoiced goods, in addition to dismantling the nexus between traders and civil and security officials posted along the borders and ports.

Smuggling is eating into the economy, weakening it and imposing enormous costs on the manufacturing industry, jobs and public well-being. We can only hope that the current mobilisation against illegal cross-border trade will not be called off midway as has been the case in the past.

**De-risking climate**



**Aisha Khan**

The IPCC A6 Synthesis Report, which draws together the scientific body's work over the past eight years, stresses that even under a very low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions scenario, global warming is likely to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius this century, increasing the risk of food insecurity, extreme weather and conflict. At current warming levels, communities are already experiencing landslides, flash floods, storm surges, wildfires, droughts and the drying up of springs among other disruptions caused by climate change.

The conversations and meetings this year leading up to COP28 so far have not injected new hope for either a fair or safe world. From the Bonn talks in May to the UNGA Climate Summit in September, the emphasis has remained on the need to do more, without any concrete action to achieve the elusive target of decarbonising the economy through deep, rapid and immediate cuts in emissions.

Environmental ministers from G20 nations, representing countries that account for 80pc of GHG emissions failed to agree on ways to curb emissions and address other crucial matters at the Delhi Summit. The lack of consensus after a year filled with climate-induced disasters and repeated calls for action sends a strong signal of what to expect from the critical COP negotiations.

The second meeting of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the UNGA of the re-

cently concluded SDG Summit marks the midpoint of the goals set for 2030. The mismatch between the actions and transformative shifts needed to avert the climate crisis and absence of some of the big emitters does not lend hope of any momentum in the accelerator agenda. The SDG theme of peace and security for the year has failed to reignite optimism, deepening misgivings about multilateral processes and fair outcomes.

The recently published first global stocktake synthesis report, which is a culmination of two years of data collection from scientists, technocrats and business people, recognises the role of the Paris Agreement in driving near-universal climate actions, but falls short of projecting the grim reality. It urges the need for prioritising the phasing out of fossil fuels and working with all levels of government to scale up tried and tested solutions while investing in new, innovative technologies.

All eyes will now be on Dubai to see how the presidency leverages the stocktake to course correct and transition to a safer trajectory with a rapid response plan. As always, finance will dominate the negotiations, and the issues of drastic cuts in emission, doubling adaptation finance and operationalising the loss and damage fund alongside the need for reform in the global financial architecture will be key determinants in setting the future agenda.

So far, all the climate reports have one thing in common. All serve as a wake-up call for moving past statements, advisories and prose that use climate as a glossary to list thematic areas or highlight threats that are already being experienced by people, but fail to provide timely solutions.

The pivot shift from

Paris to Dubai comes at a time when much has changed since the 2015 Paris Agreement. The need for keeping temperatures below 1.5°C, capping peak emissions by 2025, reducing GHGs by 2030 to stay within the safe threshold of planetary boundaries, higher costs for mitigation and adaptation, the war in Ukraine and the changing geopolitical landscape are all new elements that have added greater urgency to finding solutions.

While the cost of making transformative changes may be high, the price of inaction will come with a greater cost to human life, plunging millions into poverty and deepening inequality.

The stocktake 2023 is not merely about assessing where countries stand on Nationally Determined Contributions, it is also about using current trends to anticipate threats to human security and making a call on how we see humanity. If all lives matter, then negotiators need to redefine the battle lines and engage with the intent of de-risking climate security. This will require all countries to engage on climate at the international and regional level, putting other differences and disputes aside and working together with a single-point agenda that pivots around human security. It is time to move beyond power, politics, policy and profit to look at the human angle of the unfolding tragedy and remember the moral compact that served as the backbone of the Paris Agreement to bring parties together. With the clock ticking, it is time to cut to the chase and decide if all lives are equal or other considerations play a role in the human security calculus. The bar on expectation is diminishing fast, pushing some nations closer to the edge. It is time for an honest reset. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Open-ended conflict**



**Mahir Ali**

Early last month, Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg offered an extraordinary revelation at a meeting with European parliamentary committees. "The background," he said, "was that President Putin declared in the autumn of 2021, and actually sent a draft treaty that they wanted Nato to sign, to promise no more Nato enlargement."

"That was what he sent us. And [it] was a precondition for not [invading] Ukraine. Of course, we didn't sign that."

Until then, any Western politician who hinted at any kind of provocation behind Russia's military overreach risked being labelled an apologist for Vladimir Putin. The unreasonably hawkish Stoltenberg obviously does not fall in that category, and he went on to remind his audience about how Moscow's venture had backfired, with Nato spreading its wings to Finland and, potentially, Sweden, apart from fast-tracking eventual Ukrainian membership.

Western diplomats, including the more enlightened minds at the US State Department, have been aware since at least the 1990s that Nato's eastward expansion was a red line for Moscow. Mikhail Gorbachev was verbally promised it wouldn't occur, and regretted not insisting on a written assurance. Even Boris Yeltsin, effectively a US puppet, bristled at Nato's ambitions. By the time Putin replaced him in 1999-2000, key Eastern European states had already switched their satellite sta-

tus from ex-Soviet to American via Nato membership, and the Baltic republics followed.

Putin seemed willing to accept this as a fait accompli, but Nato's membership offers to Georgia and Ukraine seemed like overkill. From Moscow's vantage point this wasn't all that different to how Washington would feel - or react - if any future Sino-Russian military alliance sought to woo Canada or Mexico.

In his discourse, Stoltenberg proudly framed Nato's rejection of Putin's overture as a suitable riposte to a belligerent dictator. The idea of a more diplomatic response that might have averted a bloody war appears not to have troubled his conscience.

None of this detracts from the fact that Russia was the aggressor in February 2022, and Ukraine the victim. The provocation that Stoltenberg has belatedly acknowledged by no means adds up to any justification for Putin's "special military oppression", which has consumed tens of thousands of lives and heaped untold misery on Ukrainians in the regions bordering Russia. Nor should anyone ignore Putin's contentions and often ridiculous excuses for pretending that the mediaeval origins of the Russian empire in the Kyiv region somehow sanctify his ambitions. However, it's not altogether absurd to perceive Ukraine as simultaneously a victim of Nato's unreconstructed preoccupations. Once its raison d'être disappeared with the demise of the Soviet Union and its hegemonic arena of influence, a new enemy had to be found. Al Qaeda and its offshoots offered a convenient distraction for a few years, but once that petered out, Russia and a changing China under Xi Jinping conveniently resurfaced as the leading adversaries.

Pakistan played a co-

starring role in the so-called war on terror (arguably as a sidekick to both the hero and the villain), and it is even said to have had a cameo in the latest conflict. It has lately been claimed (though denied by the FO) that it has been supplying weapons to Ukraine since last year, and that this was crucial for its access to the latest tranche of IMF funds, apart from the usual 'structural adjustment'.

That is by no means implausible, given Pakistan's pre-existing defence trade ties with Ukraine — it has even been suggested that many of the weapons sent back originated from Ukraine. What sounds dodgier is the claim that the notorious 'cipher' was part of a US plan to oust Imran Khan just so that Pakistani shells and missiles could be delivered to Ukraine. The diplomatic missive was received well after the no-confidence motion was in train. The de-thronement was manipulated as much as the enthronement, but most probably not at Uncle Sam's behest. It was just another failed military experiment, and the future is unwritten. The only potential solution — a decisive army exit from politics — is unlikely to be on the cards anytime soon.

Anyhow, the Western alliance is likely to be more bothered about the emerging signs from Poland, which has pulled back from its crucial support for Ukraine's war effort over a spat about grain imports, and Slovakia, where a pro-Russian politician is in pole position to form the next government. Add to that the US congressional fiasco whereby aid for Ukraine was stripped of the deal that averted a government shutdown. Facilitating some kind of peace rather than egging on the dogs of war would be the best bet for all concerned parties, but don't expect Stoltenberg to acknowledge that until it's too late. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Minister spells out govt strategy to meet energy needs**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali has spelled out the government strategy to meet the future oil and gas needs in an efficient manner by stepping up hydrocarbon exploration activities in potential areas across the country.

"We are coming up with a policy for tight gas, policy for shale gas, we have already announced bids for onshore exploration and in December for offshore exploration," he said in an interview with the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on sidelines of the ADIPEC Conference at Abu Dhabi. He said Pakistan has

a strong presence at ADIPEC this year, with around 10 companies from the exploration, oil marketing, and related sectors. "Indeed, it's a promising start, and on the very first day, we have seen a remarkable response. All our companies are actively engaged, and there's substantial interest in their offerings. The presence here is off to an excellent beginning," he said.

Muhammad Ali laid emphasis on decarbonisation and electrification, saying that they were critical components of Pakistan's energy strategy for the future. "While these aspects may not have received sufficient

attention in the past, there is now a strong focus on them.

Initiatives include energy conservation, electrification efforts, and the re-purposing of natural gas for power generation to electrify appliances and vehicles," he said. He said that on the decarbonisation front, the Climate Ministry was actively engaged in setting up carbon fund while the Energy Ministry was developing a comprehensive carbon policy.

"The ultimate goal is to unite all stakeholders and maximize the potential of these initiatives," he added.

He outlined three key priorities for the energy sector.



**PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali cutting ribbon to inaugurate Mega International Livestock & Fisheries Expo organized by the provincial livestock department.**

**Cao Ke for knowledge sharing, technology transfer between China and LCCI**

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday celebrated the 74<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

The ceremony was attended by Acting Consul General of China Cao Ke and LCCI President Kashif Anwar spoke on the occasion while Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President Pakistan (China) Shandong Chamber of Commerce Chen Qianjiang, Vice President Pakistan Chinese Federation He

Yubing, Vice President Pakistan Chinese Chamber Chen Qianjiang, President Pakistan Tax Bar Association Rana Munir Hussain and LCCI Executive Committee members were also present.

Acting Consul General of China, Cao Ke, emphasized the significance of Lahore as a pivotal city and lauded the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its commendable efforts in promoting trade and industry. He expressed a strong desire for knowledge sharing and

technology transfer between China and LCCI, highlighting the importance of mutual learning. Furthermore, Cao Ke noted that this year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative, along with the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He underscored CPEC's transformative impact on Pakistan's economy, with a substantial \$24.4 billion investment, and said that the ML1 Project will be launched soon.

**Stage-II of Kurram Tangi dam project to generate 65 MW**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Stage-II of Kurram Tangi Dam Project will generate low-cast 65 megawatt (MW) electricity besides storing 1.2 million acre feet (MAF) water for agriculture purpose.

The proposed project would be constructed on Kurram River in North Waziristan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, about 14 Km upstream of Kurram Garhi Headworks and 32 Km North of Bannu City, sources told APP here Wednesday.

They said the project would irrigate 38,000 acres of new land in addition to supplementing 278,000 acres of existing land.

Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has already signed an agreement worth Rs.776.3 million to a joint venture for consultancy services for Stage-II of Kurram Tangi Dam Project.

The joint venture is comprised of four firms — one from Turkey and three from Pakistan — with DOLSAR as the lead firm. The contract comprises of consultancy services for detailed engineering design, preparation of updated PC-I, PC-II for land acquisition and resettlement plan, and tender documents of the project.



**LAHORE: Zubair Motiwalah Chief Executive Officer TDAP addressing the 39th Pakistan International Handloom Carpet Exhibition 2023 seminar at PC Hotel.**

**SNGLPL conducts raids against gas theft, other violation cases**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Task Force of Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) on Wednesday conducted raids against gas theft and other violation cases in various localities of the federal capital including Murree, Fateh Jang, Attock, and Wah Cantt. During the ongoing campaign FIRs against number of individuals involved in tampering with commercial meters were registered besides the imposition of heavy fines on the violators, said a press release.

Spokesman of SNGPL told that a fine of over Rs 0.5 million was imposed on commercial consumers in a single raid.

The spokesman revealed that under the Gas Theft Control and Recovery Act 2016, stringent penalties are being enforced against those causing damage to Sui Gas pipelines or related installations and those involved in gas theft.

Under this Act, individuals involved in damaging gas pipelines can face up to 14 years in prison and a fine of Rs 10 million.

The Official



**MULTAN: A large number of women standing in a queue waiting their turn outside Utility Store to purchase grocery items at Rasheedabad.**

**SCCI says: Traders' role is vital in economic progress and prosperity of the country**

PESHAWAR (Online): President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fuad Ishaq said businessmen are the backbone of the economy and a leading contributor to the economic progress and prosperity of the country.

The SCCI chief recalled the business community of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had rendered incalculable sacrifices in

war against terrorism, which are exemplary and their no precedence in any part of the world.

He said the business community required proper patronage of the government and relief to mitigate hardships of the crisis and war-hit traders' in KP province and to continue their share in economic prosperity and development.

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where threeships namely, Maersk Kinloss, MSC Elaine and Zoe Schulte carrying Containers and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Ocean Bright, Hyde Park and Mirela carrying Steel Coil, Chemicals and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours. A total of seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Elaine, Maersk Kinloss and Spottailare expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo throughput of 128,804 tonnes, comprising 98,748 tonnes imports cargo and 30,056 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 4,904 Containers (3,136 TEUs Imports and 1,768 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

**Governor inaugurates Mega International Livestock Expo**

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Wednesday inaugurated Mega International Livestock Expo that was organized by the provincial livestock department.

The event attracted a significant turnout of farmers, landowners, stakeholders and representatives from various government and non-government organizations

besides private companies. The two-day International Livestock Expo featured over 60 diverse stalls showcasing agricultural machinery, seeds, dairy equipment, livestock and crop disease prevention solutions, vaccines, modern farming technologies, dairy products, livestock aqua feed, medicines, seeds and more.

**125 pc more cotton bales expected this year: ACS**

MULTAN (APP): Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab Saqib Zafar said the government hoped to get 125 per cent more bales of cotton this year as compared to last year. He said, that in view of the food security, the target of wheat production in Punjab has been set at 50 million tons this year. He was talking to farmers after inspecting the cotton crop in Samina Sadat village in DG Khan.

# Naqvi lays foundation stone of RCCI's women entrepreneurs display centre

**Independent Report**  
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and cabinet members conducted a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and laid the foundation stone of the business women, small and medium enterprises and cottage industries display centre by digging the soil with a shovel at the project site. In his address, the chief minister proposed to the business community to take charge of a government hospital and manage it independently. Describing the cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi as a distinctive honour, the CM underscored the collaborative efforts of the government to bring relief to the people. Emphasizing the importance of teamwork, CM stated, "Positive results can only be achieved when the team works together. We are dedicated to providing relief to the public by making full use of the time available." On the occasion, he announced the expansion of the Central Business District Authority from Lahore to Rawalpindi. Naqvi also highlighted the inclusion of business communities in various boards on merit and assured that this inclusion would extend to other boards as well. The CM anticipated a boost in economic activities in Rawalpindi with the initiation of the Central Business District within a month, addressing several concerns of the business community. Calling on the businessmen to contribute to the improvement of hospitals, the chief

minister mentioned the transformation of the Urology Hospital into a PKLI, significantly enhancing its standards. He commended the Provincial Minister for Industries SM Tanveer and the Chief Secretary Punjab for their dedicated work on the one-window operation. Highlighting the study of the one-window operation model in China, the CM announced its implementation by establishing a one-window operation facility in alignment with the recommendations of the six major chambers of commerce and industries in Punjab. "The finalization of this operation is expected in the coming days, facilitating seamless interaction between the business community and 36 departments."



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and others offering Dua after laying foundation stone of the business women, small and medium enterprises and cottage industries display centre.

# BISP chairman emphasis equipping beneficiaries with technical education

NEWSHERA (APP): Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Chairman of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) here Wednesday said that equipping children of the beneficiaries with technical education and vocational training was imperative for their economic empowerment, poverty alleviation and social change in society. He said all initiatives of BISP were aimed at providing much-needed financial support to

disadvantaged people and enabled them to make easy access to essential resources and opportunities for socioeconomic and education development besides nourishment of their children. He said BISP's Kafalat, Taleemi Wazaif, children Naushnuma and other programs were launched by the government to alleviate poverty and ensure the dignity and self-respect of

the downtrodden. Chairman BISP expressed these views while talking to beneficiaries and media during his visit to BISP centres at Risalpur and Nowshera here. Director General BISP KP, Zohra Aslam and other senior officials briefed him about various initiatives, the process of registration, institutional reforms and the disbursement of payment procedure.

# Learning about China's socio-economic growth is need of hour: Minister

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Pakistan has prioritized enhancing cooperation in Energy, Mining, Information Technology, and Agriculture, as emphasized by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of IT Dr. Najeeb Ullah during the 74th Anniversary event organized by the Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) & China Study Centre (CSC) at the University of Peshawar on Wednesday. Dr. Najeeb Ullah, Minister for Science and Technology, IT, Sports, and Youth Affairs, thanked the PCFA & CSC for organizing the event and bringing both countries close to each other. Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Najeeb Ullah congratulated the Chinese people on their national day and advised students to pay attention to understanding Chinese culture, history, and civilization. He also said that we have to learn a lot of things from China's expertise. He highlighted different aspects where Pakistan needs to improve and can learn from China. Science and technology are one of the sectors where we need a lot of improvements.



NEWSHERA: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib visited Point of Sale (POS) retailers in Risalpur, He also interacted with women beneficiaries.

# Teacher holds protest rally

**By Aijaz Mughal**  
UMER KOT: Kurri Protesting in front of the rally press club against the alleged abuses of the biometric department by the teachers, demanding to take notice from the authorities.

According to the details, dozens of teachers took out a rally from Qazi Sultan Main Primary School Kurri and



protested in front of the press club Kurri against the alleged abuses of the biometric department Umer Kot under the leadership of Nazir Arain and Akbar chandio under the government teachers organization PT ALF. He said while talking abuses are on the rise by the newly appointed staff in the Biometric Department, despite appearing on duty, they are not mentioned in the records. He accused that they are performing their duties honestly, but the biometrics people are demanding bribes from them and they are being charged for not paying the bribe money and the officers who are giving them are in their homes. Sitting and having fun while receiving salaries, he demanded to take notice from the authorities and warned that otherwise the scope of the protest will be widened.

# ANF recovers 39 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 39 kg drugs and arrested nine accused including an Afghan national and three women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation conducted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, ANF recovered five kg charras from a car and netted two accused including a woman. In second operation, four suspects including two women residents of Bhakkar were arrested at Multan International Airport while a total of 1650 grams Ice drug was recovered from the bags of the accused, going to Saudi Arabia by flight number PA-870. In third operation, an Afghan citizen and a resident of Peshawar were arrested near Kot Abdul Malik Toll Plaza.

# Nation-wide polio eradication drive continues in AJK

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): The nationwide 5-day polio-eradication drive continued for the third successive day across Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). A total of 720172 children under 05 years of age being targeted to be immunized during the 5-day national polio-eradication drive throughout AJK launched on Monday, State health authorities told APP here on Wednesday. The State Health Services Department set the target of immunizing over 7.20 lakh children

under five years of age with the Polio vaccine and vitamin 'A' drops in all 10 districts in the liberated territory. The sources said only in AJK's capital district of Muzaffarabad, over 1.17 lakh children would be administered Polio vaccines and vitamin 'A' drops during the drive till Oct 6 without any pause. At least 3995 mobile teams of paramedical staff have been constituted to visit door to door to administer the polio vaccine and vitamin 'A' drops during the campaign where a total of 448 fixed centers.

# CM Punjab announces financial aid for injured police worker

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi announced financial assistance for the injured police worker who was shot accidentally during duty in Khushab. The CM stated that the Punjab government would provide Rs 2 million in financial aid to the injured police worker, Shahnaz Abdul Hameed. The decision was made during the 28th cabinet meeting held in Rawalpindi.

# SFA, SSWMB to start project for recycling of left over food items

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Food Authority (SFA) in collaboration with Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) will start collection of leftover food items from Burns Road Food Street for their recycling into fertilizers. Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain informed during a visit to Burns Road Food Street on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Managing Director Solid Waste Management Board Imtiaz Shah and other officials of SFA and SSWMB, said a statement issued here. Heads of SFA and SSWMB discussed in detail the matters relating to collection of waste material including leftover food items from the food street and their recycling with office bearers of Burns Road Food Street Association. Speaking on the occasion Agha Fakhar Hussain said that Sindh Food Authority intended to make Burns Road Food Street a model food street.

# International News

## Turkiye says Ankara attack assailants trained in Syria

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkiye said on Wednesday that two suspected Kurdish militants who died while staging a weekend attack in Ankara had been trained in Syria. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Turkiye now reserved the right to strike a broader range of Kurdish targets in both Syria and Iraq in retaliation for Sunday's attack. Turkish police shot dead one of the assailants while the other died in an apparent suicide blast outside Turkiye's interior ministry. Two policemen were injured in the incident. "As a result of the work of our security forces, it has become clear that the two terrorists came from Syria and were trained there," Fidan said in televised comments. "From now on, all infrastructure, large facilities and energy facilities belonging to (armed Kurdish groups) in Iraq and Syria are legitimate targets for our security forces." A branch of the Kurdish PKK militia — listed as a terror group by Turkiye and its Western allies — claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack, the first in Ankara since 2016. Turkiye conducted air raids against PKK targets in Iraq hours later. Fidan's comments suggest that Turkiye could expand its air strikes to include war-torn Syria. Syria's Kurds have carved out a semi-autonomous area in the country's north and east. US-supported Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) — the Kurds' de facto army in the area — led the battle that dislodged Islamic State group fighters from the last scraps of their Syrian territory in 2019. But Turkiye views the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) that dominate the SDF as an offshoot of the PKK. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly threatened to expand attacks against the YPG.



This year's Nobel Prize is awarded in 2023 to Mounqi G. Bawendi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge USA, Louis E. Brus, Columbia University, New York USA and Alexei I. Ekimov, Nanocrystals Technology Inc., New York USA, for discovery and synthesis of quantum dots. On the left Professor Johan Aqvist and on the right Heiner Linke, Nobel Committee for Chemistry, Royal The Academy of Sciences.

# Nobel Chemistry prize awarded for discovery of quantum dots used in LED lights

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Scientists Mounqi Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for "the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots", which illuminate computer monitors and television screens and are used by doctors to map tumours. "The Nobel Laureates... have succeeded in producing particles so small that their properties are determined by quantum

phenomena. The particles, which are called quantum dots, are now of great importance in nanotechnology," the Nobel Committee for Chemistry said in a statement. "Researchers believe that in the future they could contribute to flexible electronics, tiny sensors, thinner solar cells and encrypted quantum communication." Nanoparticles and quantum dots are used

in LED lights and can also be used to guide surgeons while removing cancer tissue. The more than century-old prize is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and is worth 11 million Swedish crowns (\$997,959). Earlier on Wednesday, the academy appeared to have inadvertently published the names of the three scientists it said had won this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry.

# Venice mourns after 21 killed in bus accident

**Monitoring Desk**  
MESTRE: Flags flew at half-mast over Venice on Wednesday after 21 people including a toddler were killed when a bus careered off an overpass and caught fire. "The bus flipped upside down. The impact was terrible because it fell from over 10 metres (32 feet)" landing next to railway tracks below, said Mauro Luongo, Venice's fire brigade commander. The dead are thought to be mostly tourists returned from Venice's historic centre to a camping site on Tuesday evening. Fifteen others were injured in what Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro described as "an apocalyptic scene". Firefighters said the bus was electric, despite the Italian interior minister earlier saying it ran on methane. They spent hours extracting bodies from the charred remains of the bus, which was finally removed from the site in the early hours of Wednesday. "Among the difficulties was the fact that the bus was electric so it had batteries. Unfortunately, they caught fire on impact," said Luongo. "That's why operations took a little longer to remove the vehicle."



BANGKOK: This handout photo from the Royal Thai Police shows the arrest of a 14-year-old shooting suspect at the Siam Paragon shopping centre.

# Azerbaijan's Aliyev to skip EU talks with Armenia, angry with France - state media

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAKU: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has decided against attending an EU-brokered event in Spain where he could have held talks with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Azerbaijani state media reported on Wednesday. Aliyev had been considering taking part in a five-way meeting in Granada, Spain, on Thursday with the leaders of France, Germany, Armenia and EU Council President Charles Michel. The five were due to discuss the future of the Nagorno-Karabakh region after Baku took back full control in a 24-hour military operation launched on Sept. 19, and to review the progress of long-running but troubled peace talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Azerbaijan's state-run APA news agency, citing unnamed sources, said Aliyev had decided against attending however. There was no official confirmation that Aliyev would not go. APA said Aliyev had wanted Turkey to be represented at the meeting, but that France and Germany had objected, and said that Baku felt "an anti-Azerbaijani atmosphere" had developed among the meeting's potential participants.



Firefighters and rescue personnel work near a coach after it crashed off an overpass near Venice, in Mestre, Italy.

# First Amendment protects Khalistan Referendum campaign, says US

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: The State Department on Tuesday said that the global Khalistan Referendum campaign run by pro-Khalistan Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) advocacy group is protected under the First Amendment of the US Constitution. During a media briefing at the State Department, a spokesperson was asked to comment on the fact that there were tens of thousands of Sikhs living in US and there was a US-based advocacy group "Sikhs For Justice" managing the Khalistan

# US moves to reunite Afghan children

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States assured Afghans on Tuesday that the reunification of Afghan children who remain separated from their parents abroad remained a top priority for the Biden administration. On Sept 25, the US Department of State released an updated version of the Family Reunification Form, which allows Afghan parolees under the age of 18, who entered the United States without their parents, to apply for relocation of their parents and eligible siblings still living overseas. "The United States has an enduring commitment to the people of Afghanistan," US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said. The United States, he said, would also continue its efforts to provide information and tools to those individuals seeking to reunite with their family members. "Family reunification remains an extremely high priority for Afghans themselves and for the communities who care about them," the US official added.

# At least 23 Indian soldiers missing in flash flood

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: The Indian army said on Wednesday that 23 soldiers were missing after a powerful flash flood caused by intense rainfall tore through a remote valley in the mountainous northeast Sikkim state. "Due to sudden cloudburst over Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim, a flash flood occurred in the Teesta River... 23 personnel have been reported missing and some vehicles are reported submerged under the slush," the army said in a statement. "Search operations are underway." The remote area lies close to India's border with Nepal, and Lhonak Lake sits at the base of a glacier in the snowy peaks that surround Kangchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain. The army said water released upstream from the Chungthang dam meant the river was already more than 4.5 metres (15 feet) higher than usual.

# Foreign troops must leave Maldives, president-elect Muizzu says

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Foreign military forces cannot stay in the Maldives, president-elect Mohamed Muizzu told a rally celebrating his victory in closely watched weekend presidential elections that are expected to redraw ties with India and China. Muizzu, who beat incumbent President Ibrahim Solih in a second-round runoff on Saturday, is backed by a coalition known to be close to China, and championed an "India Out" campaign a few years ago.

## President says: Pakistan needs more women in entrepreneurship for sustainable economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed the need for gender-responsive policies to ensure women's empowerment and said integration of the country's fifty percent population into entrepreneurship was important for a sustainable economy.

"Women need to be given equal opportunities in education, employment, and political domains to help them secure adequate space in mainstream entrepreneurship," he said at an event themed 'Rising Women 2023', organized by Women's Business Network (WBN).

President Alvi called for devising demand-driven policies including a supportive institutional environment and a workplace free from harassment to encourage women to pursue their businesses.

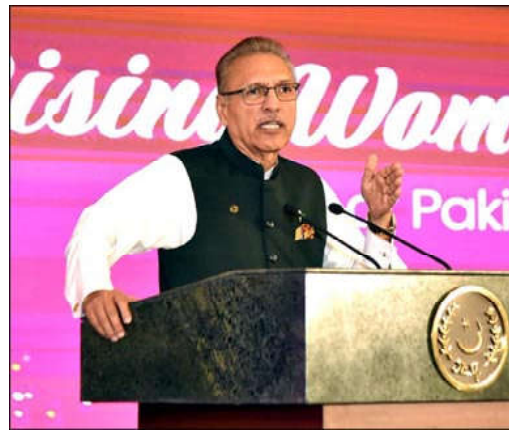
The president highlighted making the information about entrepreneurship more accessible to women and pointed out that only five percent of women availed of the reserved quota of business loans from the State Bank due to a lack of guidance. He stressed the implementation of family-friendly policies for women, such as opportunities for doing business from home and providing them a welcoming environment when they return to work after maternity leave.

The president emphasized providing household women with contemporary skill sets such as the usage of internet to meet the current trends of the world. "We need to train these women to adopt innovative entrepreneurial modes

through the use of information technology to help them earn from their homes," he said.

He mentioned that women could be turned into a productive workforce if provided with equal opportunities in all fields of life. He said the religion Islam and the country's constitution ensured equal rights for women and supported their progress. Despite this, he regretted that absurd cultural norms prevailed in the country where women were denied the right to inheritance.

Ambassador of Austria in Pakistan Andrea Wicke spoke about the need to end gender discrimination and under-valuation of women's work. She said equal pay, financial literacy, and legal protection were significant for women's economic empowerment.



President Dr Arif Alvi addressing an event themed 'Rising Women 2023', organized by Women's Business Network (WBN), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



## At UN, Pakistan pushes for defeating terrorism by settling Kashmir issue

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called for addressing the unresolved conflicts, foreign occupation and denial of right to self-determination, especially in Kashmir and Palestine, in order to completely wipe out terrorism that has spread across the world. "To comprehensively defeat terrorism, we must address not only its symptoms but also its root causes," Ambassador of Austria in Pakistan Andrea Wicke said during a debate on 'Measures to eliminate International Terrorism' on Tuesday.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy spoke about terrorism's emerging trends and underscored

both the importance of agreeing on a legal definition and developing a comprehensive convention on combating the menace. "Any definition of terrorism in the comprehensive convention must also take into account and reflect the new and emerging threats, including violent acts by white supremacists; far right extreme right wing, violent nationalist, xenophobic, Islamophobic, anti-Muslim and Hindutva groups and ideologies in various parts of the world," he said. The new convention, the Pakistani envoy said, must clearly distinguish between acts of terrorism and a legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign and colonial occupation.

## Ashrafi praises 40-year Afghan hospitality, assures for ongoing support in compliance with laws

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Wednesday hailed the forty-year-long hospitality extended to Afghan brothers and assured a continued commitment to their well-being in line with Pakistan's laws.

Addressing a joint press conference of Ulema and Mashaykh regarding the issue of non-Pakistani residents in the country, he underscored that possessing information about them was essential but should not lead to unwarranted complaints.

Ashrafi said the issue of non-Pakistani residents in the country posed a chal-

lenge. As neighboring nations, it was incumbent upon the Pakistan and Afghanistan governments to collaboratively address and resolve these challenges, he added.

He categorically stated that stability in Pakistan equated to stability in Afghanistan, and vice versa. He said the decisions on such matters would be made by the state, with unity among all the stakeholders in this regard.

He said there was no acceptance of recognizing Israel as Kashmir and Palestine were declared common issues for the Muslim Ummah, with a special focus on the ongoing oppression faced by the people of Kashmir.

## CJCS terms NASTP project of national, strategic importance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Tuesday, paid a momentous visit to the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), a strategic project led by Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The visit was aimed at highlighting the significance of this cutting-edge initiative and its potential to revolutionize the national landscape in the fields of aerospace, cyber and computing.

On his arrival at the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park, the distinguished guest was warmly received by Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Principal Staff Officers along with high level civil and military officials were also present at the occasion, a PAF news release said.

During his visit, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was given a firsthand glimpse of the state-of-the-art infrastructure, research & development centers, and innovation hubs dedicated to emerging & disruptive technologies.

The Air Chief elaborated on the park's vision to become one of the world's premier Aerospace, Cyber, and Computing clusters, fostering an environment of cutting-edge design, research and development.

Speaking at the occasion, the Chief of the Air Staff highlighted that National Aerospace Science and Technology Park under the patronage and support of the Government of Pakistan has evolved in a very short span of time through comprehensive planning, focused efforts and mutual collaboration. He extended his appreciation to General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff, for their invaluable cooperation, collaboration, and personal commitment, which played a pivotal role in bringing the true essence of the NASTP concept to fruition.

The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee termed National Aerospace Science and Technology Park as a project of national and strategic significance that would reap multi-dimensional benefits for the country. He emphasized that the NASTP project is poised to catalyze techno-

logical progress and enhance our national self-reliance. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza praised the efforts of Pakistan Air Force and its skilled personnel in the achievement of this unprecedented milestone in record time. He also admired the dynamic leadership of the Air Chief, whose firm resolve and relentless efforts paved the way for the project to be completed at an unprecedented pace.

The National Aerospace Science and Technology Park is all set to serve as a hub for collaboration between academia, industry, and the armed forces in the pursuit of technological advancements. By leveraging the expertise and resources of the Pakistan Air Force, the project aims to drive innovation, nurture talent, and facilitate the development of indigenous aerospace capabilities. The visit of the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee to the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's pursuit of excellence in the aerospace, cyber, and computing domains.



QUETTA: A delegation of BNP Noshki led by Nazeer Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Rs 69 bln money-laundering identified in 5 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The customs authorities Wednesday informed the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue that inspection teams had identified Rs 69.5 billion money-laundering committed by 63 individuals during last five years.

Member Customs, Zeba Hai Azhar briefed the committee in a meeting, chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwala, almost seven accused attached with the solar equipment import-business were among those who smuggled billions of rupees to different coun-

tries. The senate body took up various reports on the massive money-laundering by solar panel/equipment importers was also apprised that two accused had deposited Rs 26 billion in cash for import of solar panels.

The customs official said First Information Reports (FIRs) had been registered against six accused for their alleged involvement in the money laundering for causing dent to the national exchequers.

She highlighted that around 59 percent imports

were done through green channels and most of the transition cleared in the Post Clear Audit a Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) department.

While briefing on the Deposits Protection Corporation (DPC) Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Inayat Hussain said that the funds of depositors had legal protection worth Rs 500,000. Earlier its limit was Rs 250,000 and the said amount limit fully covers 94 percent of depositors under the SBP subsidiary Deposits Protection Corporation (DPC).

## DHIS-11 activated in TB centers of Balochistan: Dr Asif

QUETTA (APP)-Program Manager Provincial Tuberculosis (TB) Program Dr. Asif Shahwani on Wednesday said that District Health Information System (DHIS-II) has been fully activated in TB centers of all districts of Balochistan province. Now the TB data of the entire province has been digitized and simultaneously, the TB data at TB Headquarters and Islamabad can be viewed with the help of (DHIS-II) program, he said. He expressed these views while addressing on the occasion of District Health Information System (DHIS-II) training for the staff of TB centers of all districts of Balochistan here.

Dr. Asif Shahwani said that in the districts of

Balochistan, reporting and monitoring would be done through the use of District Health Information System (DHIS-II).

He said that DHIS provides a baseline data for implementation of district planning and monitoring of disease patterns, key indicators of preventive services, saying that responds to the information needs of the district TB program system performance monitoring function at both the district and provincial levels.

The overall objective of the feedback report from the DHIS program is to inform district managers and facility in-charges about performance and TB disease and treatment, to meet the critical health informa-



QUETTA: Zamindar Action Committee Chairman, Malik Naseer Shahwani addresses to media persons during press conference.

## 16 transformers removed 327 more electricity connections of defaulters disconnected

Independent Report QUETTA: In all 327 more electricity connections of the defaulters were removed and 16 transformers removed during the crackdown continued against the defaulters and pilferers all over the province including Quetta.

The spokesman of QESCO informed that at least 5304 power connections have so been found involved in the power pilferage in the province while 1277 applications have been submitted against the pilferers in the police stations and Levies thanas.

Out of them, 380 FIRs have been registered against the power pilferers in the province as yet, the spokesman informed.

He said that aggregate Rs. 73 crore have so far been recovered on account of the pilfering and arrears of the electricity utility bills.

Over 64 crore rupees have been recovered from some 23,000 defaulters of the bills, he mentioned adding that over 9 crore have been recovered on account of the fine charged to the power pilferers.

## Achakzai to address seminar "Valuable resources of Balochistan"

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan International Think Tank (BITT) and Friends of Universe Society Pakistan will hold a seminar titled "Valuable resources of Balochistan and solution to its economic problems" at Quetta Press Club on October 8, said Ovais Jadoon Chairman of BITT. People from various walks of life will also be awarded for the best performances in their respective fields. Chairman of the PashtunKhwa Milli Awami Party, (PKMAP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai will grace the occasion as chief guest.

## CM grieved over death of father of Sajjad Bokhari

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of father of the senior anchor person and Member Islamabad Press Club, Dr Sajjad Bokhari.

In his condolence statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister prayed may Allah almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family.

## NAB Balochistan organizes anti-corruption awareness event in Usta Muhammad

Independent Report QUETTA: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan Wednesday organized an anti-corruption awareness event at Government Boys High School, Usta Muhammad.

Special District Officer Education Sajid Hussain and District Education Female Asiya Khoso attended the event as guests, said a press release issued here.

The students and teachers of government and private institutions attended the program from different parts of the district.

In the Urdu speech competition, Beenish from Balochistan Public High School secured the first position, while Rimsha from Girls Irrigation Colony School clinched the second position.

In the English speech competition, Aliza from Government Girls High School Bhagya Khan Beladi clinched the first position, while Mahnoor from Government Girls High School

Irrigation secured the second position.

As for the English essay writing competition, Siyara Jami of Balochistan Public School claimed the top spot, with Shabbir Ahmed of Government Boys High School earned the second position.

Likewise, Muhammad Atif from Government Boys High School secured the first position in the Urdu essay writing competition, while Muqaddas from Balochistan Public School attained the second position.

Khadija from Government Girls High School Usta Muhammad claimed the first position, and Bhagya Khan Beladi from Rukhsana Government Girls High School secured the second position in the anti-corruption poster competition.

Muhammad Irfan from Government Boys High School Usta Muhammad emerged as the first-place winner in the calligraphy competition.



QUETTA: Director NUML University Col (Retd) Nisar presenting shield to Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai during his visit

## Pasni artist's sand art amazes Japanese tourists

QUETTA (APP): The Japanese women tourists reached Pasni area of Balochistan to examine the sand art of the Pasni Sand Art Circle.

The renowned Pasni Sand Art Circle (PSAC) created stunning 10,500 square feet beach pattern 3D art on the seashore of the Pasni.

The Japanese tourists, upon their arrival at coastal belt, were welcomed by the famous sand artists Hussain Zeib, Bihar Ali Gohar and Zubair Mukhtar.

The artists of Pasni surprised the Japanese tourist delegation by creating a 3D beach pattern covering 10,500 square feet.

After seeing the pattern art, the Japanese group expressed their surprise and said that they could not imagine that such a talent could exist in such an underprivileged backward area.

The Japanese tourists, consisting mostly of female vloggers, praised the artists' work and promised to make the pattern design viral internationally.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqa at presiding over a meeting regarding issues of traffic and its solution

## Oxygen plant installed in SZH with help of UNDP: Yasir

QUETTA (APP): Executive Director Sheikh Zayed Hospital (SZH) Dr. Syed Yasir Shah on Wednesday said that with the assistance of UNDP, the installation of oxygen plant has been started in Sheikh Zayed Hospital Quetta.

He expressed these views while inspecting the ongoing work in the control room of the oxygen plant along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) delegation.

Executive Director Sheikh Zayed Hospital Dr. Syed Yasir Shah further said that oxygen supply would continue uninterrupted in all wards of the hospital with the installation of oxygen plant and there would be plenty of oxygen for patients.

## Climate change hits Pak elderly population most: George

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director Human Rights Khalil George on Wednesday at a seminar on Older People Day Tuesday said the devastating climate change impacts massively affected the elderly population of the country which was unable to protect itself from natural disasters. He was addressing the HelpAge International Pakistan national seminar held in collaboration with the Ministries of Human Rights (MHR) and Climate Change here, focusing on the theme "Climate Change and its Impact on Older People." The International Day of Older People observed annually on October 1st, serves as a platform to highlight the challenges faced by older individuals

globally while celebrating their invaluable contributions to society. This year's event aimed to draw attention of climate change and the well-being of older people. George said the country lost many of its senior citizens due to natural calamities due to climate change and COVID-19 pandemic which left the society deprived of its mentors and guiding forces.

He said love for elders is the proof of our success in the world and raising awareness among the youth to prevent elder abuse is an important task.

He added that the government had initiated many positive initiatives to ensure the rights of the elderly people which should be promoted and endorsed by the society.