

# Independent

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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 149, Rabi-us-Sani 08, 1445 AH Tuesday October 24, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15

## Chinese investment to prove stimulant for Pakistan's economic growth: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that the Chinese investment expected under the newly signed 20 MoUs would prove to be a stimulant for Pakistan's economic growth. Addressing a press conference about his recent visit to China, the prime minister said 20 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed and hoped that the upcoming government would ensure consistency of the policy. The prime minister, along with a high-level delegation visited China from October 16-20, mainly to attend the Belt and Road Forum where he also held bilateral meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

## Education not an option but a necessity, says army chief

COAS felicitates NUST graduates, underscores their responsibility to figure out challenges faced by country



ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir Monday felicitated the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) graduates on successfully accomplishing their goal and remarked that it was now incumbent upon them to figure out and analyse challenges facing the country and put their intellectual resourcefulness to find their solutions. Chairman NUST Board of Governors, COAS, General Syed Asim Munir as chief guest at the inaugural "Master Convocation Ceremony" conferred medals upon distinction holders.

The annual convocation week of the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) commenced here at the University's main campus, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

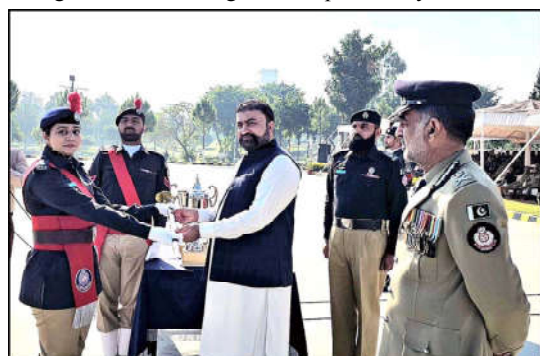
The Bachelor's, Master's and PhD students received degrees during the course of convocation week. Degrees are being awarded to over 3500 graduates from all NUST Schools at the main campus in the 7 core disciplines.

Addressing the graduates, the COAS extended his heartiest felicitations to graduates, their parents and faculty.

He commended NUST for developing a conducive ecosystem for teaching and learning - one that nurtures brilliant minds, who are fully poised to serve the nation.

The army chief emphasized that education was not an option but a necessity.

He highlighted that today was the beginning of a new chapter in students' lives, which heralded a significant change that demanded greater responsibility.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presenting sword of honour to Nayab Ramzan ASP during the passing out ceremony of ASPs of 49th STP.

## 'Election delayed is election denied': Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Despite the Supreme Court's dismissal of the possibility of holding the general elections in the 90-day period defined by the Constitution, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari reiterated his demand for the polls at the earliest, saying that delaying the election is to deny them. "The elections delayed are election denied," Bilawal said while addressing the celebration of the golden jubilee of the Constitution of Pakistan in an event organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Monday.

Bilawal, the former foreign minister, once again sought the election schedule and provision of a "level playing field" for all the political parties. Recalling the lawyers' movement of 2009 for the

restoration of the judiciary, he said it was a seminal incident in the history of Pakistan's judiciary that had a profound impact on the relations between the judiciary and parliament. Without naming him, Bilawal quoted a leading lawyer and member of the movement for the restoration of the former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, as saying that "the 2009 restoration of the judiciary as a result of public pressure had resulted in judges prone to arrogance and a bar prone to violence".

The former minister further said that in the 2013 general election, the judiciary under Chaudhry became a partisan actor with clear favourites in the polls, and the same happened in the 2018 elections.

During the visit, the two sides signed 20 agreements and MoUs, covering cooperation on the BRI, infrastructure, mining, industry, green and low-carbon development, health, space cooperation, digital economy, development cooperation and export of agricultural products to China. "The signing of 20 MoUs was very encouraging. This is after a long time that the MoUs in such a huge number were signed with China... We have brought along three guiding principles of coordination, cooperation and consultation with us," he remarked. He said the MoUs were yet in the planning stage and the assessment of the potential, market needs and impact on exports would precede their execution.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses a Press Conference.

## Caretaker CM emphasizes on getting to motives, elements & aides behind Turbat incident

Domki informed joint investigation of killing of labourers being done keenly; extraordinary headway in probe; directs concerned authorities to review and improve security plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has categorically stated that the writ of state would be established at all cost, and those involved in the assassination of labourers in Turbat would be taken to task. He emphasized that we have to uncover the motives behind the Turbat incident as well as to reach to the elements involved in it along with their facilitators. The Chief Minister was chairing a meeting on law and order situation and review of the progress of investigations into labourers killing at the Commissioner office, Turbat on Monday.

Mr. Domki reached Turbat especially to review the situation following the incident of killing of labourers there. Also present in the meeting were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali, Commissioner Makran, Saeed Ahmed Umrani and other concerned high ups. The Commissioner and other concerned high ups briefed the Chief Minister about the Turbat incident and law and order situation. He also briefed about the steps taken for restoration of peace in Turbat.

It was informed that the profiling of labourers coming from other cities in Turbat and adjoining areas is being done. In this regard, all the private and government construction companies and contractors to take necessary measures.

It was further informed that the joint investigation of the Turbat incident is being done keenly and there's an extraordinary headway.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister the killing of labourers in Turbat was a very sorrowful, and it is a matter of great concern for all of us. He said that we have to reach out and take to the motives as well as those involved in the incident besides their aides to task. He directed the police and other law enforcement agencies to review the security plan and improve it further so that no such incident is occurred in future. He also directed to complete profiling of the labourers and keep updating it in future.

In addition to this, necessary deployment of the police and other LEAs should be made and increase their capacity, the Chief Minister directed further.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Director Colleges Kaleemullah Zaid meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Governor Balochistan emphasizes: We have to enable our children to cope with future challenges

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that we want to prepare our children for future, therefore, it is necessary for us to enable them to cope with the challenges of future instead of letting them live in the past. He urged the parents to seek guidance from new books for education and grooming of their children. He said while the development is continued for development of science and technology and it is not going to stop for us. On one hand, we have to keep abreast the parents with new needs and emerging circumstances, while on the other hand, we have to provide them necessary facilities besides putting the education on modern lines in view of the fast development of the science and technology, adding he stressed. The Governor was speaking to different delegations who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

He said that wastage of any of a child is equal to loss of the whole nation. He regretfully pointed out that majority of parents lack the ability of grooming of the children according to requirements of the modern era because of the social backwardness. If fewer people want to do something for the society in this regard, then the economic conditions and financial hardships become hurdles in their way, the Governor maintained. He said it is also a sorrowful reality that the parents have left their responsibilities at the teachers and educational institutions giving up their responsibilities, and at same time, teachers consider themselves to be responsible according to the curricula, he regretfully pointed out.

He said that we must never forget that we have sacrificed thousands of lives to ensure the survival and bright future of Pakistan," said the minister. Apart from IG Islamabad Police, Commandant National Police Academy, foreign diplomats and families of passing out police officers participated in the ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses during the ceremony regarding the completion of 50 years of the Constitution of Pakistan under the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan held in Islamabad.

## SC declares civilians' trial in army courts as null and void

In a 4-1 majority ruling, court says trial of May 9 suspects will be conducted in ordinary courts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has nullified the trial of civilians in military courts. Announcing the reserved judgment on Monday, the SC accepted the petition filed against the trial in military courts.

The SC said in short order the trial of those accused in May 9 incidents will be carried out in civilian courts. The court declared both the sub sections of section 2-1(D) of official secret act are contrary to constitution. The court also declared clause 4 (59) of official secret act (4) 59. The SC said in its order the cases against the accused be run in criminal courts keeping in view the nature of the offences of the accused.

Decision was announced with 4-1 majority. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, justice Munib Akhtar, justice Mazahar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik rejected the trial of civilians in military courts with consensus. Justice Yahya Afridi differed from the majority decision. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan raised the most important legal and constitutional points remarking tell us those who were tried in military courts in the past were common citizens or terrorists. Constitution provides guarantee to general citizens for protection of their basic rights.

A five members larger bench of SC led by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik took up the case for hearing Monday. At the inception of

hearing the Attorney General (AG) while addressing the court said "I will talk about making or not making constitutional amendment with reference to establishment of military courts. I will talk about this point why the constitutional amendment is not needed in this case. Trial in military courts meet all the requirements of criminal courts. Now the trial has started in military courts. Reasons will also be written in the decisions of military courts. AG said he will give the brief of previous hearing. I will tell why the constitutional amendment is not needed for the present trial. I will talk on article 175. I will read paragraph of Liaqat case. Attack on prohibited buildings and areas can also go to military courts.

At the inception of



TURBAT: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding law and order

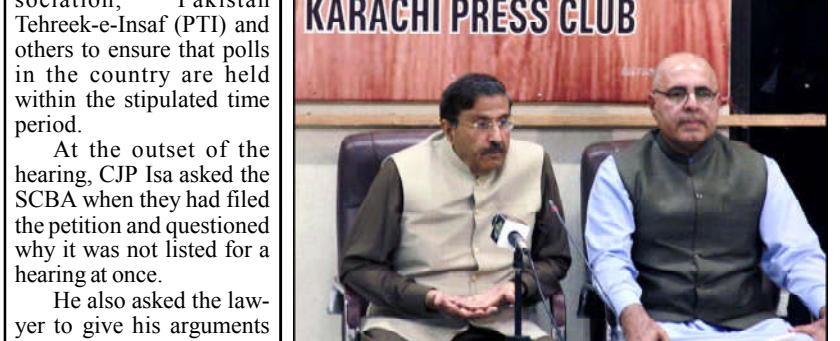
## Meeting 90-day deadline for elections no longer possible: CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Monday observed that it was "not possible" to meet the 90-day deadline for holding elections and lamented the lack of preparations of the petitioners. The CJP passed the observation while hearing the petitions seeking timely elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the assemblies. The CJP is leading a three-member bench comprising himself, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan on the matter.

The pleas were filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and others to ensure that polls in the country are held within the stipulated time period. At the outset of the hearing, CJP Isa asked the SCBA when they had filed the petition and questioned why it was not listed for a hearing at once.

He also asked the lawyer to give his arguments based on facts and lamented the petitioners' lack of preparation. When SCBA lawyer Abid Zuberi started to speak about the 2017 census, the CJP observed that the counsel was not speaking on facts.

Umair Niazi, Khalid Yousif counsels for chairman PTI and Taimore Malik and Raja Qamar counsels for Shah Mehmood Qureshi were present in the court. The counsels for the accused while opposing the indictment once again during the hearing of the case took the plea there is no substance in the allegations. Therefore, indictment cannot be framed. Counsel for FIA took the stance the court had fixed hearing today for indictment but the lawyers of the accused are causing unnecessary delay under different pretexts and through new applications. Therefore court should indict the accused. Upon it court indicted the accused and summoned the witnesses of the case on next hearing.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Interior Minister, Brigadier(R) Haris Nawaz along with Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

## PTI chairman, Qureshi indicted in cipher case

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Abul Hasnat of Special Court established under Official secret act has indicted PTI chairman Imran Khan and his co-accused former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case. Chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi signed the documents related to indictment. However the both have pleaded not guilty and negated the charges leveled against them. The court issued summons to the witnesses for regular trial of the case besides adjourning the hearing of the case till October 27 to record the evidences. Both the accused, Shah Khawar advocate counsel for FIA, other state counsels, Usman Riaz Gul,

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Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Past perfect**

In Pakistan, antiquity has been at odds with the politics of ideology and identity, leading to a partisan concept of culture based on dominance. Therefore, Thursday's judgement by a division bench of the Sindh High Court's Hyderabad circuit on the preservation of Nagarparkar's Karoonjhar Hills and their "protection in conformity with international guidelines" was momentous as it endorsed the range as a well of heritage. The order stated that "the entire range of Karoonjhar Hills is one monument under the law and cannot be divided into pieces and portions". The court also called for the resurrection of every Jain temple in its original form and that statues declared as world heritage be made available.

Sindh's forgotten ties with Jainism nestle in the depths of Nagarparkar and Karoonjhar Hills, a range which some archaeologists say is nearly three billion years old. Nourished by the lost Hakra river, the area thrives as a cultural hub in the Chalcolithic and Paleolithic ages. The pink granite stretch, once known as Kinro, is still encrusted with magnificence: Bodhesar, Sadrho, Ambaji, Virawah temples, the Gorri Jain Mandir and a Bodhesar mosque. Almost six kilometres from central Nagarparkar stands a complex of three Bodhesar Jain temples built in 1375 AD and in 1449 AD; two have domes carved from Karoonjhar stone and the third is in complete decay. While the higher Bodhesar temple, with an uneven stone stairwell, was said to be by the Gulf of Sindhu, Bodhesar talao and a white marble mosque built in 1505 are at the foot of the hills. Such relics, and the remains of the fifth-century Parinagar Fort, which connected Karoonjhar to the sea, illustrate how sacred the slopes were to Jains. The least we can do today is to ensure that all beautiful residues of the past do not fade away as besides monetary rewards, such vestige reconnects us to our humane, accepting selves — an invaluable inheritance for future generations.

**Slow turn of the tide**



**Zarrar Khuhro**

We can see genocide unfold on our phones; scenes of horror dominate our social media feeds as we see images of murdered children and entire families wiped out as Israel converts the concentration camp that was Gaza into an extermination camp.

In this decades-old murderous project, Israel has the support of the entire Western establishment. America not only dispatched a carrier force to protect its ally, but is also leveraging all diplomatic support it can muster and financing Israel's murderous campaign, while being unable to pay for healthcare for its own citizens. The UK, obediently in tow, is doing the same albeit on a smaller scale, while France, that bastion of liberty, banned pro-Palestinian protests along with Germany which has once again decided to dump the burden of its historical guilt over the Holocaust onto Palestinian shoulders. The very existence of Palestine is criminalised in that bastion of freedom and liberty, and the police have been seen beating peace activists regardless of their colour or creed. The irony is lost on these governments, who otherwise spare no effort when lecturing the rest of this benighted globe.

In doing so, they are provided cover fire by Western media, which goes out of its way to conflate all Palestinians with Hamas and not just swallows Israel's lies but also repeats them ad nauseam until — they fervently hope — the lie becomes truth.

Except no one is buying it this time. The Arab world has not seen this kind of outpouring since the Arab Spring, a tide of people calling out not only Israel but also (if carefully) the impotence of their own governments.

Across the Western world tens of thousands of unapologetic, outspoken protesters are showing the world that while their states may stand with Israel, vast numbers of people stand with Palestine.

One reason for this is how badly Western narratives and Western media stand exposed; multibillion-dollar media giants are dragged across the coals and fact-checked by ordinary people armed only with keyboards and a conscience, and star anchors — so convinced of their powers to convince — splutter and rage as their one-sided narrative is picked apart. Despite the attempts by social media companies to censor, throttle and shadowban, the volume and scale of pro-Palestinian and anti-genocide content is too much to curtail.

Even in the US, that one inviolable bastion of Israel, the tide is slowly turning. Over the last week Jewish-American activists have led pro-peace protests that have surrounded the White House and the residence of Vice President Kamala Harris demanding an immediate ceasefire. Marching into the Capitol, young activists and wizened rabbis — many of whom had lost loved ones at the hands of the Nazis — were arrested in their hundreds, but not before delivering a powerful message that they would not allow the state of Israel, abetted by their own country, to weaponise the Holocaust and carry out genocide in the name of the Jewish people. That should send a collective shiver down the spines of traditional Jewish-American

organisations like the Anti-Defamation League and AIPAC, who can surely see these challenges to their self-proclaimed right to speak for all of American Jewry and are aghast that their propaganda is no longer working.

This is a sea change as far as America is concerned, and is only one of many examples of people who had hitherto stayed quiet now speaking out in a clear and united voice; similar sentiments echoed when comedian Dave Chapel echoed cries of 'Free Palestine' at his sold-out show in Boston. The shift is generational and racial; an NPR poll conducted last week shows that while the majority (65 per cent) of Americans — Republicans and Democrats — want the US to publicly support Israel, that percentage drops to 48pc when it comes to Generation Z, and 51pc when it comes to non-whites. The change isn't limited to the streets and social media; a day after the Capitol protests and arrests, Muslim and Jewish Congressional staffers wrote an open letter to their Congressmen and women bosses calling for an immediate ceasefire, although the pervasiveness of fear of retaliation is so great that the signees had to remain anonymous. It's not just the staffers; thus far at least 16 Congress members have called for a ceasefire and perhaps they will add Congressman Justin Amash, who says several of his relatives murdered in Israel's bombing of the Saint Porphyry Church in Gaza, to their number.

The list goes on, and a day will come when the tide will turn completely despite the pervasive power of Israel and its allies. But that day is not today, when Israeli warplanes massacre children to the applause of Western capitals. The time of justice will come, but not now; now is the time of monsters. — Courtesy Dawn

**International Law: Bridging the Divide of Legitimacy**

**By Ayesha Rafiq**

The ongoing debate regarding whether international law qualifies as "true law" hinges upon the interpretation of the term 'law' itself. This dispute, as Professor Glanville L. Williams astutely noted, largely revolves around semantics. Advocates of the position held by figures like Hobbes, Austin, and Pufendorf contend that law derives from sovereign command, enforced by superior political authority, thereby excluding international law from the realm of law. Conversely, those who embrace a broader definition of law assert that it cannot be confined solely to rules dictated by political authority, allowing international law to be recognized as a legitimate branch of jurisprudence.

Austin's proposition that law is the product of a command from a supreme political authority, backed by coercive enforcement, faces criticism. This narrow definition, as pointed out by Professor Oppenheim, fails to account for the unwritten or customary law within municipal legal systems. It is a stark reality that no community or state exists solely on written laws.

Instead, law is better defined as "a body of rules of human conduct within a community, which, by the consent of its community, shall be enforced by external power."

This perspective, shared by scholars like Brierly and Professor Hart, challenges Austin's conception of law.

Several compelling arguments support the notion that international law qualifies as true law: Historical jurisprudence demonstrates that various communities have

established legal systems even without formal legislative authorities. This practice highlights the adaptability and inclusiveness of law as a concept. States routinely acknowledge international law as binding upon them, even when they infringe upon its principles. This recognition underscores the legal character of international law in the eyes of the international community. States, when involved in international disputes, consistently reference the provisions, duties, precedents, and opinions of jurists grounded in international law, reinforcing its legal status. In some states, including the United States and the United Kingdom, international law is integrated into their domestic legal frameworks, further validating its legal character.

Additionally, the establishment of institutions like the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which decides disputes in accordance with international law, affirms the legality of international law. International conferences and conventions treat international law as genuine law, emphasizing its importance in global governance.

The United Nations, founded on principles of international law, explicitly recognizes its role in establishing justice and upholding treaty obligations.

Although international law lacks centralized enforcement, it still operates with sanctions.

These include the use of force under certain circumstances, international enforcement actions, and the authority of international organizations to impose sanctions in

line with their constituent treaties. Public opinion plays a crucial role in enforcing international law, as nations hesitate to violate it in the face of international condemnation.

Critics often cite the frequent violations of international law as evidence against its legitimacy. However, such violations are not unique to international law; they occur in municipal law as well. The frequency of violations should not undermine the status of international law as law. In both contexts, it is the strength of the enforcement mechanism that determines the extent of adherence.

In conclusion, international law possesses the characteristics of law when viewed within its unique context. While it operates in a decentralized system and lacks the efficiency of state legislative machinery, it is as strong and effective as possible given its parameters. Critics should recognize that international law is not meant to replicate municipal law entirely; rather, it functions effectively within its distinctive setting.

As Louis Henkin wisely noted, "much of the misunderstandings of international law is due to failure to recognize law where it exists."

Indeed, international law not only exists but also exerts a substantial influence on the conduct of international affairs in our complex and interconnected world.

*Writer is (Student of National Defense University (NDU), Pursuing a Degree In Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS), Islamabad, Pakistan.)*

**Commerce News**

**PM for accelerated steps to trickle down impacts of reduced oil prices to common man**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate steps for trickling down the impact of reduced prices of the petroleum products to the common man.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting to discuss the impact of oil prices' reduction on commodities' rates,

instructed that the effect of reduction of petrol price by 12.38 percent and diesel by 4.7 percent should be trickled down to the common man at the earliest.

He said Rs 41 billion had been saved due to the stability in dollar rate and reduction in petroleum prices, and the relief would be extended to the common man. The meeting was apprised of the recent oil prices reduction and

outcomes of operation against power theft and smuggling.

It was told that due to the reduced petroleum prices, inflation had come down by 1.7 percent which was the highest during the last year.

The prime minister appreciated the administration for taking steps to reduce oil prices and dollar rate, curb smuggling and transmitting

their impacts to the common man.

He instructed the relevant authorities to strictly deal with the hoarders and profiteers, and viewed that the operation against power theft and smuggling had benefited the consumers.

He said 18 percent reduction of wheat price and sugar by 16 percent in Balochistan was welcoming.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a briefing on decline in prices of essential items as a result of reduction in the prices of petroleum products.



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Secretary Power Gilgit-Baltistan and Chairman of Nor Hydro are signing the memorandum of understanding for the solar project started with the cooperation of Norway, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan and ambassador of Norway is also present.

**Mian Zahid Hussain Nawaz will bring equilibrium to political climate**

ISLAMABAD (PR): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the business community is pinning high hopes on the return of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

His return will result in balanced politics, which will result in political

stability that will help the people and the economy, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that in spite of jail, exile, and other difficulties, the former prime minister did not try to incite the public in his speech, nor did he talk about any kind of revenge, which is a proof of his political insight.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the former prime minister did not make any tall claims or vowed to jail the opponents.

**PSX stays bullish, gains 338 more points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 338.96 points, a positive change of 0.67 per cent, closing at 51,070.83 points against 50,731.87 points the previous day. A total of 364,070,705 shares valuing Rs.15.930 billion were traded during the day as compared to 430,052,557 shares valuing Rs.14.611 billion the previous day. As many as 352 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 171 of them recorded gains and 150 sustained losses.

**Pakistan, France discuss investment opportunities in key sectors**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Caretaker Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar met with French Ambassador Nicolas Galey on Monday to discuss issues of mutual interest, including investment opportunities in key sectors such as railways, motorways, and shipping.

Tarar highlighted the country's democratic stability and bright future, while Galey expressed confidence in the Pakistani market and pledged to

attract more French investment.

Shahid Ashraf Tarar further said that the democratic stability in Pakistan has continued since 2008 and its future is bright. Some of the specific investment opportunities discussed include: A new railway line from Kohat to Kharlachi to connect with Afghanistan, the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway M-6, and the expansion of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.

**President HCSTSI appeals SSGC authorities to resolve gas supply related issues**

HYDERABAD (APP): The President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani has appealed to the Chairperson and Managing Director of Sui Southern Gas Company to resolve the issues of gas supply with low pressure and unscheduled management in Hyderabad.

The citizens particularly the industrialists of Hyderabad are suffering hardship due to gas pressure reduction and unscheduled gas

management, he said in a statement issued here on Monday.

The HCSTSI President expressed annoyance over the non-professional attitude of the SSGC management in Hyderabad including the Regional Manager adding that despite repeated complaints in person about gas pressure reduction and unscheduled management, no positive step was initiated to address the grievances causing financial losses to industrialists of Hyderabad.

**SBP expects real GDP growth in the range of 2-3 percent in FY24**

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Monday, said that Pakistan's economic situation started to show some early signs of improvement and real GDP growth is expected to remain in the range of 2-3% while inflation may subside to 20 to 22% in FY24.

The Central Bank, in

its Annual Report on the State of Pakistan's Economy for the fiscal year 2022-23 released here, underscored the need of initiating broad-ranging reforms to ensure the availability of resources for economic growth and development and also stressed expediting tax policy reforms and speedy implementation of governance reforms in PSEs terming them instrumental to create fiscal space for public investment in human and physical capital.

The SBP also underscored the need to create a conducive environment to support foreign direct investment in exportable sectors and

encourage technology transfers, coupled with agriculture sector reforms that were required to alleviate import reliance and for achieving price stability.

"There is a need to expedite these reforms to achieve a high and sustainable economic growth required to absorb the new entrants in labor market, improve social welfare and raise the general standard of living in the country," the SBP suggested.

The report highlighted that Pakistan's economic situation has started to show some early signs of improvement as the country has been able to secure a US\$ 3.0 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) from IMF, towards the end of FY23.

**Mega job fair on Thursday**

FAISALABAD (APP): A "mega job fair" would be arranged at Government College of Technology (Boys) Samanabad under the aegis of Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) here on Thursday (October 26, 2023). A spokesman of the college said here on Monday that Director General Operations TEVTA Amir Aziz would inaugurate the fair as chief guest whereas President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr Khurram Tariq and former president Board of Management TETVA Engineer Asim Munir would attend the ceremony as guests of honor.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

## CM Naqvi emphasizes swift resolution of issues

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: In a surprise move, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted an impromptu visit to the LDA One Window Cell today. He personally met with the staff of the One Window Cell, engaging in discussions about the challenges they face. Chief Minister Naqvi also sought feedback from citizens regarding the services provided by the One Window Cell. A woman present in the one-window cell extended her prayers and gratitude to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi for tirelessly serving the public day and night. During the conversation, she commended his widespread presence in

schools, hospitals, and various other settings. She prayed for his continued strength and expressed deep appreciation for his visits to hospitals and other critical places. A senior citizen expressed his pleasure at seeing the Chief Minister in the One Window Cell and praised the collective efforts of the team for striving towards improvement. Responding promptly to a citizen's complaint, the Chief Minister immediately summoned the concerned officer and directed swift resolution of the matter. He further instructed that a citizen's long-pending issue, spanning two years, be resolved within four days. Additionally, at the

request of a retired LDA employee's wife, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed the expeditious resolution of a plot allotment matter. He emphasized to LDA officials the utmost importance of promptly addressing citizens' concerns and underscored the need for efficient handling of LDA-related matters. Mohsin Naqvi noted the commendable progress in the performance of the One Window Cell, while acknowledging room for further enhancement. He assured that all endeavors are underway to ensure citizens do not face unnecessary hurdles in seeking assistance from the One Window Cell.



LAHORE: A delegation of overseas Pakistanis led by Chief Coordinator Muslim League (N) International Affairs Amjad Ali Malik and President Muslim League (N) Holland Chaudhry Parvez Sandhila photographed with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman after a meeting

## Pakistan would be put back on path to development very soon: Governor Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: A delegation of overseas Pakistanis led by Chief Coordinator Muslim League (N) International Affairs Amjad Ali Malik and President Muslim League (N) Holland Chaudhry Parvez Sandhila called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest, including the current political situation in the country and the problems faced by overseas Pakistanis, were discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the return of political leader like Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is ray of hope and augurs well for the future of the country. He said that Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in his speech put aside the injustices and excesses committed against him and other leaders of the Muslim League in the past and have given a road map for the development of the country. He expressed hope that Pakistan would be put

back on the path to development very soon. Governor Punjab said that overseas Pakistanis are playing an important role in the country's economy by sending significant foreign exchange. He said that overseas Pakistanis always generously helped their compatriots in difficult times. Chief Coordinator Muslim League (N) International Affairs Amjad Ali Malik said that the return of a sincere, experienced, and humble leader like Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is a good omen for the country.

## Kashmiris to wrench back homes from Indian unlawful occupation: Sardar Attique

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Former Prime Minister, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan Monday said that Kashmiris were fully determined to wrench back their homes from Indian illegal occupation. Kashmiris honor and prosperity would be retrieved by ousting India from Indian Illegal Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Attique, also head of All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference, expressed the views in his 76<sup>th</sup> AJK govt founding anniversary message here.

The anniversary is being celebrated on Tuesday, across AJK and worldwide by 20 million Kashmiris. Azad Jammu and Kashmir government founded on October 24, 1947 after immense human sacrifices is launching region to free rest of the Jammu and Kashmir state under military occupation of India. He pleaded today over one million Indian regular armed forces and half a million informal Indian occupation forces were torturing Kashmiris in homes.

## Gastro takes 60,000 lives per annum in Pakistan: Experts

FAISALABAD (APP): The experts have revealed that the gastroenteritis and stomach diseases are taking the lives of 60,000 people annually in Pakistan. They were addressing an awareness seminar on "Gut Warriors: conquering gastroenteritis through awareness and action" organized by Rotaract Club, under Senior Tutor Office University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) in collaboration with Gastro-Pak Project of Medical Research Council UK. The session was organized to create awareness about gastroenteritis and promote preventive measures to combat this prevalent disease. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Agronomy Department Prof. Dr. Abdul Khaliq stressed the need of water treatment before irrigating the field as the wastewater was contaminating the agricultural produce which was posing serious health hazards.

## Punjab chief secretary orders DCs to ensure new rates implementation

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman directed all deputy commissioners on Monday to ensure implementation of the new rate lists, issued following a reduction in the prices of petroleum products. He issued this directive while presiding over a video-link meeting of the deputy commissioners at the Civil Secretariat here. The meeting reviewed implementation of

reduction in food prices and transport fares. The chief secretary ordered that fare reduction lists be displayed in passenger buses. He said the price magistrates concerned would be responsible in case of sale of commodities at higher than fixed rates. He said that deputy commissioners themselves determine the prices of commodities in their districts, adding that it was also their responsibility to implement these rates.

## PFA issues warning to 209 cereal units

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has served warning notices for improvement to 209 cereal production units and penalised 33 others with hefty fines over violations during the province-wide inspection drive. The authority also stopped production of a unit besides discarding more than 80kg of expired ingredients. PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said in a statement on Monday that the food safety teams inspected 268 cereal units.

## KP Information Minister visits Nowshera

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Responding to directives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the Minister of Information and Public Relations, embarked on an extensive inspection tour of Nowshera district. The primary objective of this visit was to evaluate the implementation of official transportation fares and the pricing of fruits and vegetables at government-approved rates.

While visiting transport terminals, Minister Kakakhel engaged with passengers to confirm their compliance with government-sanctioned fare structures. In instances where transport providers were found to be imposing excess charges, he swiftly intervened, collected the surplus fees, and returned them to the passengers. The Minister stressed the vital necessity for rigorous oversight by district administration and transport authorities at terminals and along roadways to ensure adherence to government-mandated pricing. Minister Kakakhel reiterated his unwavering commitment to adopting a zero-tolerance approach toward those who attempt to charge fares exceeding official rates. He called upon both provincial and regional transport authorities to maintain vigilant supervision of fare pricing. Additionally, he encouraged administrative officers to prepare and prominently display



KARACHI: Members of Pakistan Pediatric Association Sindh are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Karachi press club.

## Through Punjab Health Foundation Roadshows will be organized to provide maximum benefit to doctors. Dr. Javed Akram

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors of Punjab Health Foundation was held in the Department of Specialized HealthCare and Medical Education under the chairmanship of the Caretaker Provincial Minister of Health Prof. Dr. Javed Akram. Special Secretary Operations Raja Mansoor Ahmed, Additional Secretary Admin Zahida Azhar, Secretary Finance Shahida Farrukh, Prof. Dr. Mahmood Shaikat and other officials participated in the meeting. The CFO of Punjab Health Foundation presented the contents of the agenda during the meeting. Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram also approved the minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors of Punjab Health Foundation.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Sindh Tarraqi Passand Party hold a protest against Nawabshah police.

# International News

## Turkey's president submits protocol for Sweden's admission into NATO

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has submitted a protocol for Sweden's admission into NATO to Turkey's parliament for ratification, his office said Monday, bringing the Nordic country a step closer to membership in the military alliance. Erdogan had been delaying ratification of Sweden's membership, accusing Stockholm of being too soft on Kurdish militants and other groups his country considers to be security threats. Turkey also was angered by a series of Quran-burning protests in Sweden. All 31 NATO allies

must endorse Sweden's membership. Turkey and Hungary are the only two allies that have yet to ratify it. A brief statement from the presidential communications directorate said Erdogan had signed the protocol on Sweden's NATO accession, which was then submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. It was not immediately known when Sweden's membership would come to the floor. Sweden welcomed the move. "Glad to hear that Turkish President Erdoğan has now handed over the ratification documents to the Turkish Parliament," Swedish Prime

Minister Ulf Kristersson wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. "Now it remains for Parliament to deal with the issue. We look forward to becoming a member of NATO." Sweden and its neighbor Finland abandoned decades of military nonalignment and sought protection under NATO's security umbrella after President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops to invade Ukraine in February 2022. Finland joined the military alliance in April after Turkey lifted its objections to its membership, saying Helsinki had taken steps to address Ankara's security concerns.



Argentina's presidential candidate Sergio Massa addresses supporters, as he reacts to the results of the presidential election, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## Philippines says a coast guard ship and supply boat were rammed by Chinese vessels at disputed shoal

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: A Chinese coast guard ship and an accompanying vessel rammed a Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat Sunday off a contested shoal, Philippine officials said, in an encounter that heightened fears of an armed conflict in the disputed South China Sea. A top Philippine security official told The Associated Press there were no injuries among the Filipino crew members and an assessment of the damage to both vessels was underway. The official said that the two

incidents near Second Thomas Shoal, where China has repeatedly tried to isolate a Philippine marine outpost, could have been worse if the vessels were not able to maneuver rapidly away from the Chinese ships. The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to a lack of authority to publicly discuss the matter. China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea, including over islands closer to Philippine shore, have raised tensions and brought in the United States, a longtime treaty ally of the Philippines.

## Australian prime minister announces China visit hours before leaving for US to meet Biden

**Monitoring Desk**  
CANBERRA: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he will visit China in early November to meet President Xi Jinping, making the announcement Sunday hours before he departed for the United States to meet with President Joe Biden. The Chinese visit dates were confirmed a day after Beijing agreed to review the crippling tariffs it levied on Australian wine that have effectively blocked trade with the winemakers' biggest export market since 2020. Albanese will become the first Australian prime minister to visit China in seven years when he travels to Beijing and Shanghai on Nov. 4-7. "It's in Australia's interest to have good relations with China," Albanese told reporters at Australian Parliament House.



Palestinians check the damage inside a mosque which was hit in an Israeli air strike, in Jenin refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

## Blinken, Austin say US is ready to respond if US personnel become targets of Israel-Hamas war

**Monitoring Desk**  
REHOBOTH BEACH: Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Sunday that the United States expects the Israel-Hamas war to escalate through involvement by proxies of Iran, and they asserted that the Biden administration is prepared to respond if American personnel or armed forces become the target of any such hostilities. "This is not what we want, not what we're looking for. We don't want escalation," Blinken said. "We don't want to see our forces or our personnel come under fire. But if that happens, we're ready for it." Austin, echoing Blinken, said "what we're seeing is a prospect of a significant escalation of at-

tacks on our troops and our people throughout the region." He said the U.S. has the right to self-defense "and we won't hesitate to take the appropriate action." The warning from the high-ranking U.S. officials came as Israel's military response to a deadly Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on civilians in communities in southern Israel entered its third week. Israeli warplanes struck targets across Gaza overnight and into Sunday, as well as two airports in Syria and a mosque in the occupied West Bank allegedly used by militants as the war threatened to engulf more of the Middle East. Israel has traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group on a near-daily basis since the war began,

and tensions are soaring in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces have battled militants in refugee camps and carried out two airstrikes in recent days. The U.S. announced Sunday that non-essential staff at its embassy in Iraq should leave the country. Blinken, who recently spent several days in the region, spoke of a "likelihood of escalation" while saying no one wants to see a second or third front to the hostilities between Israel and Hamas, which rules Gaza. The secretary said he expects "escalation by Iranian proxies directed against our forces, directed against our personnel," and added: "We're taking steps to make sure that we can effectively defend our people and respond decisively if we need to." Iran is an enemy of Israel.

## Almost 20,000 displaced in Lebanon as clashes on Israel border escalate

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: Almost 20,000 people have been internally displaced in south Lebanon and elsewhere since early October, a U.N. agency said on Monday, as violence escalates on the Lebanon-Israel border following the eruption of the Gaza war. The International Organization for Migration said 19,646 people had been displaced inside Lebanon

since it began tracking movements on Oct. 8, the day after an assault on Israel by Hamas militants and an Israeli counteroffensive on Gaza. It said the movements were mostly by those fleeing the south although some departures were also reported elsewhere. The Israeli authorities have also been evacuating dozens of towns and communities from the north of Israel.

## China calls for ceasefire, again

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China believes "force is not a way to resolve" the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and once again calls for a ceasefire, its envoy for the Middle East pleaded in Egypt, the foreign ministry said on Sunday. Egypt on Saturday hosted a "summit for peace" where UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for swift "action to end this godawful nightmare" after two weeks of Israeli brutality in Gaza.

## Azerbaijan holds first joint drills with Turkiye since Karabakh victory

**Monitoring Desk**  
AZERBAIJAN: Azerbaijan said on Monday it had begun a series of joint military exercises with close ally Turkiye, the first since Baku retook the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh last month, prompting most of the territory's ethnic Armenians to flee. Azerbaijan's defence ministry said in a statement that up to 3,000 military personnel were participating in exercises named for the founder of modern Turkiye, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. It said the drills were being held across Azerbaijan, including in Baku, the Nakhichevan exclave which borders Turkiye, and in what the ministry called the "liberated territories" of

Karabakh. Turkiye has close linguistic and cultural links to Azerbaijan, and offered Baku military and political support during its three decade-long conflict with Armenia, with which Ankara has no formal diplomatic relations. Armenia and Azerbaijan have recently signalled willingness to end a peace treaty formally signing their conflict following Azerbaijan's victory in Karabakh and the exodus of almost all the region's 120,000 ethnic Armenians. The foreign ministers of the two countries, along with those of Turkiye, Iran and Russia, were due to hold talks hosted by Tehran on Monday on progress towards a peace agreement.

## Second aid convoy enters Gaza Strip from Egypt - UN official

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: A second convoy of 14 aid trucks entered the Rafah crossing from the Egyptian side to the besieged Gaza Strip on Sunday night, Juliette Touma, director of communications at the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), told Reuters in Gaza by phone from Amman. Witnesses reported a blast and ambulance sirens on the border earlier. Israel's military said one of its tanks accidentally hit an Egyptian position near the border with the Gaza Strip. Several Egyptian border guards sustained minor injuries after being hit by fragments of an Israeli tank shell, a spokesperson for the Egyptian army said. A witness and a medical source said seven people were wounded and taken to hospital. Israel's defence force "expresses sorrow regarding the incident, which is being investigated," it said in a statement, giving no further details.

There were a total of around 19 trucks in Sunday's convoy carrying medical and food supplies, the security and humanitarian sources said. A first convoy of 20 trucks of badly-needed supplies had entered Gaza on Saturday through Rafah, which had previously been out of operation after bombardments hit the Gaza side of the border and amid wrangling over conditions for delivering aid. Distribution of those supplies began on Sunday, but aid officials are still warning of a humanitarian disaster as supplies of food, water and fuel run low. Israel imposed a total blockade and launched air strikes on Gaza in response to a deadly attack on Israeli soil by Hamas on Oct. 7. The Rafah crossing, the main entry and exit point to Gaza that does not lead to Israel, has become the focus of a push to deliver aid as humanitarian conditions in Gaza worsen.



**TURBAT:** Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inspecting class rooms during his visit to Turbat Law College

# Govt to ensure restoration of peace, protection of life and property of masses at every cost, vows CM

**Independent Report**  
**QUETTA:** The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has reiterated his government's resolve to ensure restoration of peace and protection of life and property of the masses at every cost.  
 Mr. Domki was speaking to the media persons soon after chairing a meeting on law and order in Turbat on Monday.  
 Also present on the occasion were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Muhammad Zubair Jamali and other concerned high ups.  
 Referring the Turbat incident, the Chief Minister

ter said that the tragic incident of killing of labourers was occurred in Turbat few days ago.  
 He said that he wanted to come to Turbat same day the incident occurred, however, he deemed it necessary to send the bodies of those killed as well as their heirs and injured persons to their native areas.  
 He recalled that we sent the family members of the slain labourers and other injured to Multan by the special plane of Government of Balochistan.  
 Similarly, we dispatched the bodies of labourers to Multan from Quetta by special helicopter

He said that the incident of killing of labourers was very painful for him and every individual.  
 He said that he had suspended the SP of Turbat soon after the incident.  
 However, the joint investigation of the incident is underway, and in today's meeting, we have provided an update on the law and order situation besides the progress made so far about the investigations, adding he mentioned.  
 He said that the decisions made in the law and order meeting are of important nature and as such they can't be disclosed before time.  
 "However, I want to

make it clear that those involved in the Turbat incident would be dealt with iron hands", asserted the Chief Minister.  
 He also said that no one would be spared irrespective of one's status.  
 The Chief Minister mentioned that he has issued directives to improve performance of the law enforcement agencies further for prevention of such untoward incidents in future.  
 He also said that the data of labourers coming from other parts of the country to Turbat is being collected, and all available resources would be mobilized for their protection.

## We will continue to play our role for development, peace and stability, Jalil Abbas Jilani

**ISLAMABAD (Online):** Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani said that Pakistan will continue to play its role for development, peace and stability.  
 He expressed his views while addressing the opening ceremony of ASEAN Corner at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.  
 He said that establishment of ASEAN Corner is another step in enhancing the relations between ASEAN countries and Pakistan. Pakistan has very good relations with

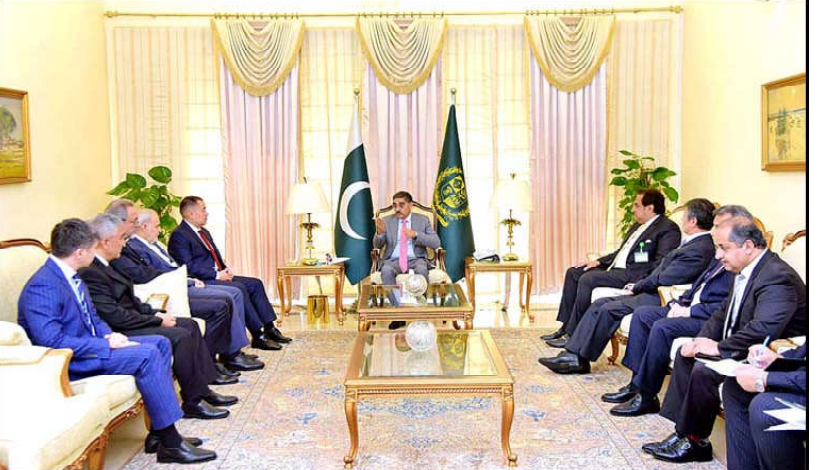
ASEAN countries. Pakistan's relations with ASEAN countries improved further during Corona epidemic.  
 He said that we are further strengthening relations with ASEAN countries by looking at cyber and strategic security.  
 Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an excellent example of regional relations.  
 He said that we also want to expand our regional relations with ASEAN countries.  
 He said that ASEAN countries also

suffer from Indian bias and so does Pakistan.  
 We will launch a bilateral calendar to enhance our events and relations with ASEAN countries.  
 He said that our geographical boundaries increase our importance but climate changes are also affecting us.  
 He said that peace and security is fundamental component for any country.  
 He said that Pakistan believes in ensuring the implementation of UN charter of Human Rights.

## Nawaz Sharif files applications for restoration of appeals in two references

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** The legal team of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Monday filed applications to the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking the restoration of appeals in Avenfield property and Al-Azizia Steel Mills references.  
 Amjad Pervaiz Advocate filed the applications on behalf of the former prime minister. He prayed the court to decide the appeals after hearing arguments on merit in the cases.  
 In the petitions, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif stated that he hadn't completely recovered from the ailment, adding he decided to return to country due to the miserable economic condition of the country. He said that he was awarded the imprisonment sentence by

the accountability court in his absence on July 6, 2018.  
 He said that his wife was under medical treatment and on the ventilator in a hospital in London. He had requested the trial court to delay the judgment but the request was rejected at that time. Despite the fact, he came back to Pakistan, faced the jail and filed appeals against his convictions, he added.  
 He said that the co-accused including Maryam Nawaz and her husband, had already been acquitted in Avenfield property case.  
 The application said that the appeals were terminated in the absence of the petitioner.  
 It said that the former prime minister couldn't appear before the court due to his health issues, adding he had not misused his bail in manner.



**ISLAMABAD:** Ambassadors of the ECO member States called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



**ISLAMABAD:** Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchange views with Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio at naval Headquarters.

## Pakistan keen to strengthen bilateral ties with ECO member states

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday, stressing the significance of Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO), said Pakistan was keen to further strengthen bilateral ties with each ECO member country.  
 The prime minister, in a meeting with resident ambassadors of ECO member states at the PM House, highlighted the significance of the ECO for regional development.  
 He said the ECO member states shared a common history and culture.  
 "Today, the region faces common challenges

that need to be dealt with to create opportunities for collective growth and prosperity," he remarked.  
 In this regard, Prime Minister Kakar highlighted connectivity, trade, energy and economic cooperation.  
 He looked forward to his meetings with the heads of state of ECO member countries on the margins of the 16th ECO Summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from November 8-9.  
 The ambassadors reaffirmed their respective countries' desire to build stronger relations with Pakistan and also their collective commitment to the vision and objectives of ECO.

## Pakistan Railways plans cross-border network to Afghanistan

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Minister for Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar revealed on Monday that Pakistan Railways has strategic plans to develop a railway network connecting Kohat to Kharlachi, promoting connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan.  
 During a meeting with French Ambassador Nicolas Galey, the minister expressed that the Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway M-6 also represents a compelling investment prospect for France. Pakistan National Shipping Corporation is actively broadening its scope, providing further investment avenues.

## CT CM directs to solarize Turbat Public Library; visits Law College

**Independent Report**  
**QUETTA:** The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan visited the public library and Law college Turbat on Monday.  
 During the visit of Library, the Chief Minister went round of its different sections and inspected the facilities available for the book readers and visitors.  
 He handed over the gift of books from the Chinese embassy to the administration of public library.  
 He expressed pleasure over interest of the students in book reading at the library.  
 He on the occasion directed to resolve the issue of internet in the public library at the earliest ensuring the connectivity with other libraries of the country and world.  
 Meanwhile, he visited the law college where the Principal Dr. Gul Hasan briefed him about the functioning of college.  
 He announced that the study tour of college students would be arranged in near future. He also planted a sapling in the premises of law college.



**ISLAMABAD:** Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani along with High Commissioner of Malaysian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad Azhar Malan and others are visiting the ASEAN Corner after the session "Forging Partnerships: Exploring the Future Prospects of Pakistan-ASEAN Relation" at The Institute of Strategic Studies in Federal Capital.

## Physical activities to be started soon: NRL receives exploration license for minerals in Chagai district

**Independent Report**  
**QUETTA:** The National Resources Limited (NRL) has received an exploration lease for minerals in Chagai district, Balochistan.  
 NRL, which is a subsidiary of YB Pakistan Limited, Reliance Commodities (Pvt.) limited and Liberty Mills Limited has been leased out an area of 500 Sq. km in Chagai area. NRL had applied for lease in early 2022 and the lease has been issued after fulfilling all legal and other formalities. The project when materialized will attract major investment in mining and will also generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for people in Pakistan especially Balochistan. Subject to feasibility, NRL will attempt to refine the product locally before being exported.  
 NRL has received NOCs from Environmental as well as Forest & Wildlife department enabling it to start the exploration activities. NRL board has approved exploration plan and currently exploration resources are being hired to start the physical activities soon. NRL spokesman said the company plans to hire all its human resources from within Pakistan especially from Balochistan. We also plan to hire a major foreign consultancy firm to supervise the entire exploration activities. Foremost assignment of this foreign consultancy would be to train the local engineers to make them capable of handling such exploration activities on their own. NRL is confident that this award will encourage many other Pakistani domestic companies to venture into mining sector. Mining Sector has been picked up as one of priority areas to revive our ailing economy and SIFC has developed a road map to revamp and streamline the whole Mining chain from seeking to apply for a mine lease right up to delivering a value added product.

## 14 new Corona cases reported

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Health officials have said that 14 new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country. As per data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.66 percent while no patient was in critical condition.  
 No death was reported from the coronavirus while 2,112 Covid-19 tests were conducted.  
 Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination said that the government had strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. e said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports. There will be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports.

## CPEC Cultural Carvan to promote cultural bonds between Pakistan, China: Jamal Shah

**BEIJING (APP):** Federal Minister for Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah said on Monday that his ministry planned to organize a cultural caravan by the end of this year aimed at transcending economic ties and strengthening cultural bonds between Pakistan, China and the Central Asian States.  
 The cultural excursion under the title 'CPEC Cultural Caravan 2023' will be composed of diverse groups of Pakistani, Chinese and Central Asian artists, musicians, photographers, anthropologists, writers and filmmakers, he said while addressing an award ceremony for the film Ba'tie Girl held in newly renovated auditorium of Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB).  
 The minister also gave away Pakistan-China Cultural Exchange Envoy award to Producer of the film, Xie Peng and Pakistan National Award for Outstanding Achievement in Culture to the co-producer of the film.  
 Jamal Shah informed that the caravan would start from Xi'an, China and travel through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, UAE, Oman, Gwadar, Karachi before culminating in Islamabad.

## PM orders expediting PIA's privatization process

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the process of privatization of the national flag carrier, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).  
 Chairing a review meeting on the financial crisis of PIA, the prime minister stressed the finalization of the privatization process within stipulated time.  
 The prime minister sought regular compliance reports to be submitted to him in this regard.  
 PM Kakar said the government would continue extending support to PIA till completion of its privatization.  
 He said the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), which were facing financial loss, would be privatized to save the national exchequer.  
 The prime minister was given a briefing on the financial situation of PIA.

## Chairman Senate meets Chairman of CPPC

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani on Monday met with Wang Huning, the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).  
 The Chairman expressed his delight at the warm hospitality extended to his delegation and congratulated Mr. Wang Huning on his appointment as the Chairman of the CPPCC and the successful "Two Sessions" held earlier this year.  
 According to news release received here the Chairman emphasized the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, citing it as the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, enjoying unanimous public and institutional support. Both nations pledged unwavering support for each other on key issues, including the "One China" policy and the South China Sea.  
 Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani commended the momentum of high-level exchanges and expressed gratitude for China's invitation to the Pakistan Prime Minister to the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.  
 He looked forward to President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan.  
 The Chairman highlighted the rich history of friendly exchanges between the CPPCC and the Senate of Pakistan and underscored Pakistan's support for China during the COVID-19 outbreak and legislative measures taken in Hong Kong.  
 The Chairman Senate expressed sincere appreciation for China's generous support for Pakistan's economic stability and development.  
 He emphasized the strategic significance of CPEC as the flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative and encouraged more Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan.  
 Chairman Senate stressed the importance of close communication in strengthening the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. He also extended a warm invitation to Mr. Wang Huning to visit Pakistan.  
 Mr. Wang Huning graciously accepted the invitation and mentioned that he would report the warm invitation to President Xi Jinping.

## Balochistan CM advisor meets Sindh Governor, CM

**KARACHI (APP):** Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan Shania Khan called on Governor Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori here on Monday.  
 They discussed inter-provincial coordination, exchange of delegations and cultural relations. The governor said that development of the provinces was top priority of the federation.  
 The Secretary Health, Asfandyar Khan Kakar, Coordinator, Emergency Operation Center, Zahid Shah, Maulana Anwaarul Haq Haqqani besides representatives of WHO, UNICEF and the polio workers would also be participating in the ceremony.  
 He said that the provinces would develop by funding from the federation.  
 Tessori said that the provinces could get benefit from the experiences of each other.  
 The advisor said that cooperation of the federation in Balochistan was appreciable.  
 Meanwhile Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar Monday said that the government hospitals in the province were providing free-of-cost medical treatment to every patient, no matter whether the patient belonged to other provinces, but the Gambat Hospital had some specialities for which they did charge.  
 This he said while talking to the Advisor to Caretaker CM Balochistan for Social Welfare and Special Education, Mrs Shania Khan who called on him here. The advisor said that the Social Welfare Dept of Balochistan had an endowment fund from which the medical treatment of poor patients for deadly diseases was carried out.  
 The patients were referred to hospitals of Sindh such as Dow University Hospital and Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences but the treatment was costly, she said and urged to give subsidy to the patients.  
 The chief minister said that as far as the Dow Hospital, Ojha was concerned it was the personal hospital of the university where subsidized rates were being charged.  
 Talking about the Gambat Hospital, Baqar said that it had a long list of patients for liver transplantation.  
 "Even then I am directing the health department to discuss the matter with both the hospitals for the welfare of poor patients from Balochistan," he said and added Balochs were our brothers, and we would not disappoint them.



**ISLAMABAD (APP):** An Accountability Court (AC) on Monday disposed of a reference against former finance minister Ishaq Dar pertaining to holding assets beyond known sources of income.  
 AC Judge Muhammad Bashir announced the verdict on a petition of former minister.  
 At the outset of hearing, National Accountability Bureau Prosecutor Afzal Qureshi adopted the stance that no evidence had been found against the accused in the said reference, and the trial could not be proceeded in such circumstances.  
 At this, the judge asked the NAB prosecutor to give this statement in writing.  
 The court subsequently disposed of the reference against Ishaq Dar.



**QUETTA:** Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem presiding over meeting regarding repatriation of foreigners living in Balochistan illegally