

# Independent

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## Pakistani mountaineer Shehroze sets another record

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistani mountaineer Shehroze Kashif has set another record. He is the youngest mountaineer to climb 13 peaks above 8000 meters. Shehroze Kashif has crossed this milestone by submitting Chu Yu in China, 8188 meters high. Chu Yu is the sixth highest peak in the world. Shehroze Kashif wants to become the youngest climber to climb all 14 peaks above 8000 meters. Shehroze plans to climb Shishapangma located in China in middle of this month.

## Actions of LEAs, govt depts. against illegal activities to continue with full force: COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Friday said the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and other Government departments will continue the enforcement actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities. The Army Chief made these remarks during his visit to Karachi where he attended a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee

along with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. During the Apex Committee meeting, the COAS was briefed about the Revised National Action Plan, Operation in the Kacha Area of Sindh, Security of Foreign Nationals employed on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Non-CPEC and Private Projects, Repatriation of illegal foreigners, Foreign Currency Regularization Measures, Karachi

Transformation Plan, Progress on SIFC initiatives in Sindh and Green Sindh initiatives. The Army Chief underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for the gainful effects of the landmark initiatives. The participants affirmed that state institutions, government departments and people are united for the progress and prosperity of the province. Earlier, upon arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Karachi Corps.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar chairs Provincial Apex Committee meeting held at CM House in Karachi. Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir is also present.



LEHRI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki enquiring about health of patients during his visit to HRC Lehri

## Administrative officers must improve service delivery: GoB determined to provide basic amenities of life in remote areas of Balochistan: caretaker CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki says immediate solution of longstanding problems quite difficult but not impossible; assures to make sincere efforts to resolve within limited time

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that we are determined to provide basic amenities of life including source of communications, education, health and clean drinking water in the far flung areas of the province. He said that it is our endeavour to take such steps in the available limited time which may benefit the people of province at large.

This and similar other views were expressed by the caretaker Chief Minister while speaking at public gathering in native area Lehri on Friday. A large number of people present at the gathering who also informed the Chief Minister about their issues. They also presented the applications about their issues to the Chief Minister. Also accompanied with the caretaker provincial Ministers Asifur Rehman Dummar and Mir Danish

Langove while Secretary Communication and Works, Akbar Baloch, Commissioner Sibi, Bashir Ahmed Bangulzai and other concerned high ups were also present. Addressing the public, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that he is well aware of the public issues, and added that it is quite difficult to resolve the longstanding issues but it is not impossible. He said that these issues can be resolved gradually, if the steps are taken with sincerity and dedication.

## President for expanding bilateral trade volume with Bahrain

KARACHI (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need to expand bilateral trade volume with Bahrain, besides exporting high number of skilled labour force to the country.

Talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain Saqib Rauf who called on him at the Governor House, the president said demand for skilled labour force in different socio-economic related fields, especially information technology and artificial intelligence, was increasing in the international market. Therefore, he said the ambassador-designate should be fully focused on capturing the market demand by exporting the required skilled workforce from Pakistan. President Alvi said Pakistan attached special importance to the brotherly relations with Bahrain. He stressed that economic, educational and cultural ties with Bahrain, should be strengthened. He said the Pakistan embassies abroad should play their due role in exporting skilled labour force from Pakistan and increasing foreign remittances for the country.

## Interim Govt. committed to effectively address issue of illegal immigration: Achakzai

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan is committed to addressing issue of illegal immigration in the province. An extensive meeting was held here aimed at enhancing coordination among various agencies involved in implementing the action points of the National Action Plan, as directed by the Apex Committee. The official sources informed that the meeting focused on reviewing progress towards meeting the national deadline and emphasized the repatriation of illegal immigrants. These individuals, who have entered the country unlawfully, will be detained under the Foreign Act and subsequently deported. Furthermore, the meeting addressed the need for a unified document regime at the border. It is important

to note that this campaign is directed against illegal aliens and not targeted at any specific nation. It was mentioned in the meeting that with only 24 days remaining, we have a limited timeframe for the voluntary repatriation of all non-documented immigrants. This deadline presents a crucial opportunity for individuals to comply with the necessary procedures and ensure a smooth transition. In conclusion, the firm resolve was expressed that the GOB is committed to effectively addressing the issue of illegal immigration in Balochistan. By fostering seamless coordination among relevant agencies and providing a clear deadline for voluntary repatriation, we aim to ensure the successful implementation of the National Action Plan.

## Decision of practice and procedure act case likely on Monday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Arrangements have been made for third hearing of practice and procedure case. There will be live hearing of the case on Monday and a bench has also been constituted in this regard. A full court bench under Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will hear the case. The decision is likely to be announced on Monday. The CJP has already said he will give decision after hearing 3 lawyers. He has asked the lawyers to come prepared. It is pertinent to mention here the hearing of petitions against Practice and procedure act 2023 was adjourned till Monday. The Court had said decision would be given after hearing the case on Monday.

## Shehbaz 'plays down' any legal barrier to Nawaz's homecoming

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday played down any chances of a legal barrier to party supreme Nawaz Sharif's homecoming, as speculations regarding the former prime minister take centre stage in the country's politics. "If Allah wills, Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan on October 21 by the will of Allah," Shehbaz said, stressing that the question regarding his return shouldn't be repeated. The remark came during a press conference in Lahore, as the former prime minister — who led the country for 16 months after the ouster of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government in April last

year — said his elder brother will arrive at the Minar-e-Pakistan following his return to Pakistan. Nawaz, the three-time prime minister, has been living in London following a self-imposed exile since November 2019 owing to health reasons. He was disqualified for life in 2017 by the Supreme Court for not declaring a receivable salary. Meanwhile, speaking about his government's performance before the caretaker government took over, the former premier said: "We desperately tried to solve the problems in 16 months. Shehbaz said, God forbid, what would be the situation had Pakistan actually gone bankrupt?"



LANDIKOTAL: Unregistered Afghan families are willingly enroute their home land passing through Khyber Pass with their homes necessities after the government decided in the apex committee meeting to expell all those Afghans who are living in Pakistan unlawfully



QUETTA: A delegation of Institute of Architects Pakistan Quetta Chapter led by Saif Dotani meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Kabul must stop TTP attacks from Afghan soil to Pakistan: Durrani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Representative for Afghanistan Asif Ali Durrani said that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been carrying out terrorist attacks on Pakistan from Afghanistan and stated Kabul interim government must stop this process. Asif Durrani said that "the peace [the Taliban] brought to Afg must also be brought to our border-

lands." He says TTP fighters in Afg, who he noted are using US weapons, should be "returned to Pakistan or neutralized." He also strongly denied the Afghan accusation of interference in Pakistan. Addressing a function in Islamabad, Asif Ali Durrani said that the Soviet Union was not invited to Afghanistan by Pakistan, nor was the Afghan refugees invited by Pakistan itself.

## Nawaz still suffers from 'chest pain', says report submitted in LHC

LAHORE (INP): A fresh medical report of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) supremo, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was submitted to the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday. The former premier, who had left for London in 2019 on medical grounds, was scheduled to return to Pakistan on October 21. The LHC had allowed Nawaz Sharif to travel abroad initially for a period of four weeks, extendable on the basis of medical reports. As per report, the ex-premier had "some residual anginal symptoms" which would require "frequent follow-up investigations" in London and Pakistan.

## Assures full protection to Hindu community: Jamali calls for conducting joint operation to prevent crimes on Notal, Bhag national highway

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Zubair Jamali has stressed the need to conduct joint operation for prevention of the crimes on Notal, Bhag national highway. In this regard, joint patrolling of the levies and police on the highway. This was stressed at a meeting held on the law and order situation with the caretaker provincial Minister Home in the chair here on Friday. The Additional Chief secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasar was also present in the meeting. The Commissioner Naseerabad, Deputy Inspector General of police, Sibi Range, Deputy Commissioners of

Sibi and Kachhi participated in the meeting through video link. The meeting was briefed about the incidents of crimes on the national highway. The DIG police Special Branch, Ali Sher Jhakrani and Deputy Commissioner Kachi briefed the participants of meeting. It was informed that the crimes occur on 12 kilometer area on the highway. The Inspector General of police has approved two platoons of Balochistan Constabulary for Bhag. The caretaker Minister on the occasion assured that full protection would be provided to the Hindu community. He said that incidents of crime are intolerable and as such targeted operation would be conducted against dacoits.

## Japanese Envoy grieved over Mastung carnage: People, Government of Japan expresses solidarity with people of Balochistan against terrorism

QUETTA: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Wada Mitsuhiro has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the suicide blast of Mastung. In a condolence letter written to the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, the Japanese ambassador expressed deep sympathy and solidarity with the aggrieved families of the Mastung carnage and people of Balochistan on behalf of the people and government of Japan. He said that the government and people of Japan are deeply grieved over the loss of precious lives in the Mastung carnage. He said that the incidents of terrorism like Mastung blast are very condemnable, and as such we hope that the government of Pakistan would improve further the security arrangements for prevention of such acts of terrorism in future. The Japanese ambassador also prayed and expressed best wishes for the early recovery of those injured in the blast.

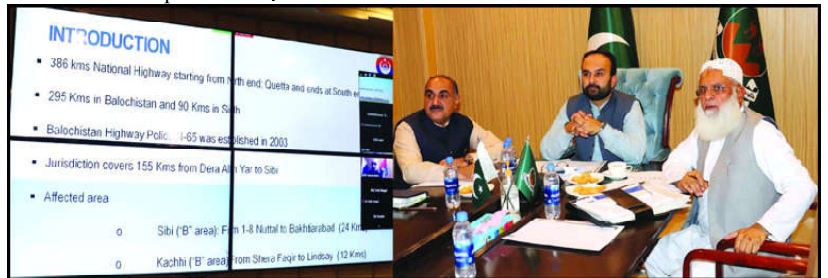
## Unregistered Afghan families start leaving Pakistan after ultimatum

KHYBER (INP): The undocumented Afghans have started to leave Pakistan following the warning issued by the government. The government has set a deadline for the undocumented immigrants to leave Pakistan till Oct 30. Following the ultimatum, as many as 30 Afghan families returned to their hometown through the Torkham border crossing during last few days. A crackdown is already underway against the unrecorded Afghans those are residing in different parts of the country, media reports said. Media reported that people attached with the immigration department are dubbing the return of Afghan families a routine affair. However, independently the departure is considered an outcome of government instructions. It said in the days to come, the migration of Afghan families from Pakistan, majority of them living in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, would increase. Currently the families those are leaving Pakistan are being helped at the Torkham in connection with their clearance. Currently, as many as 23,000 Afghans are living in various parts of Khyber and Afghanistan Commissionerate has also duly registered them, media quoted the deputy commissioner of Khyber as saying.

## 94 illegal Afghan immigrants arrested: SSP Operations

QUETTA: The crackdown has been started against the illegal Afghan and other national immigrants in the provincial metropolis. The SSP Operations Jawad Tariq informed the media that as many as 94 illegal Afghan immigrants were arrested under the Foreign Act. Cases have been registered against the illegal Afghan inhabitants in different police stations, informed SSP Operations.

Moreover, data of the Afghan refugees is also being collected in different police stations of Quetta. The data of some 22,000 Afghan inhabitants have been collected so far, Jawad Tariq added. In addition to this, the information about the properties, business and jobs is also being collected SSP Operations further told. He said that the state policy would be truly followed and implemented regarding the refugees.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali presiding over a meeting regarding law and order

**REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**DAYS REMAINING**

**24**

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## IGP inaugurates modern command and control center at Mardan PS

PESHAWAR (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan on Friday inaugurated the modern Command and Control Center at Mardan Saddar Police Station.

The IGP received a briefing stating that city surveillance in Mardan would be conducted through 200 cameras at the center.

He emphasized that the use of modern technology would assist in controlling crimes and quickly identifying suspects. The Command and Control Center is a project of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, and

the IGP mentioned that a similar system has been initiated in D.I. Khan, Haripur, Kohat, and Nowshera.

Modern cameras have been installed at 34 of the busiest intersections in Mardan city under the Command and Control Center. The IG Police also inaugurated the distribution of police equipment and the new computerized resource management system for security. The IGP also inaugurated the Ababeel Force, consisting of 50 motorbike riders, for urban policing in the city, emphasizing the importance of urban policing.



**KARACHI:** Employees of private news channel are holding protest demonstration against forced dismissals, at Karachi press club.

## Chinese ambassador scholarships awarded to 282 students

SARGODHA (APP): The University of Sargodha awarded Chinese ambassador scholarships to 282 students.

In this regard, a prestigious ceremony was held at the University of Sargodha (UoS). One hundred merit-based, 176 need-based and six scholarships were awarded to the position holders of Chinese language courses by Vice Chancellor UoS Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas.

In a statement, the Chinese ambassador expressed his gratitude to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas and emphasized that China-

Pakistan friendship has a rich history, solid foundation fruitful outcomes, and promising prospects. He also stressed that the youth are the hope of the nation and the scholarship aimed to support students in realizing their dreams and contributing to the strong bond between China and Pakistan. Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor expressed his profound gratitude towards the Chinese embassy for its unwavering support of the University of Sargodha. He stated, "Education is a powerful tool for building bridges and strengthening the bonds of friendship between nations."



**PESHAWAR:** A delegation of tribal elites of merged Districts meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

## No undocumented alien to be allowed to stay in Punjab: CM

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has asserted that all foreign nationals residing illegally in Punjab should voluntarily depart as the initial data of foreign residents has been compiled.

He made these remarks during a media interaction after inspecting the Shahdara flyovers and Bund Road controlled access corridor projects.

The CM issued a stern warning that any foreigner staying unlawfully in the province would not be permitted to dwell. Naqvi stressed the importance of self- eviction by illegal immigrants in Punjab, cautioning that a comprehensive crackdown would ensue if they failed to comply. However, the government would not abuse anyone, he maintained.

The CM observed that the closure of schools had led to a noticeable decrease in pink eye cases.

In response to a query about his health, he conveyed that he is feeling better. Mohsin Naqvi provided updates on the progress of the Shahdara flyovers project, highlighting the rapid completion of the bridge and ongoing activities. Anticipating that the flyovers would be opened to traffic next month, he disclosed that 90 percent of the work had already been accomplished.

Additionally, he informed that two construction companies are working tirelessly to complete the Bund Road project before 120 days. Simultaneously, numerous pending projects in Rawalpindi, including the Ring Road and safe city authority, have been initiated. These projects are slated for completion within 90 to 180 days.

## LWMC deploys additional staff for night shift

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) is taking practical measures to ensure the best sanitation situation in the provincial capital.

Over 300 sanitary workers and 90 vehicles are working the night shift cleaning operation, said a spokesperson. On the instructions of LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din, mechanical sweeping and washing is being conducted across the city in the night shift. The process was activity conducted on MM Alam Road, Canal Road, Khayaban-e-Firdousi, Khayaban-e-Jinnah, Gulberg Town, Jail Road, Ferozpur Road, Liberty Market, Punjab Assembly Road, Mall Road.

## Governor KP says: Grievances of tribal elites about reduction of seats in merged dists will be conveyed

PESHAWAR (APP): A joint people's delegation comprising the chiefs of the combined districts of Kurram, South Waziristan, Orakzai and North Waziristan called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali at the Governor's House on Friday.

In the meeting, the problems and difficulties faced by the people of the merged districts were discussed in detail by the joint people delegation from Kurram, South Waziristan, Orakzai and North Waziristan districts.

With the new constituencies, 6 seats of the National Assembly and 8 seats of the Senate of the merged districts have been eliminated, the delegation said.

The National Assembly Constituencies of Orakzai and South Waziristan have been abolished by the new constituencies, the delegation informed.

There is serious concern among the tribal people about reducing the seats in the National Assembly of the merged districts, the delegation said.

Annual Development funds of 100 billion rupees have not been released for the merged districts, delegation and after the local elections, funds, offices and other facilities were not provided to the elected representatives of the merged districts, the delegation said while briefing the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

After the merger, the tribal people are facing losses and difficulties instead of benefits, the delegation is of the view.

## AJK govt pleased to constitute Reconciliation Committee: AJK PM office

MIRUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted 16-Member Cabinet Reconciliation Committee headed by the minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore to get rid of the ongoing crises over high local power tariff and price hike besides non-availability of flour on subsidised rates and other identical issues.

"In the larger public interest, the AJK government has been pleased to constitute the Reconciliation Committee comprising following members", an official order issued by AJK PM office late Thursday said.

Quoting the official order issued late Thursday by the AJK PM office in the state metropolis, top official sources told APP here on Friday that led by the minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, belonging to PPP AJK in this coalition government, the committee is comprising ministers including Sardar Mir Akbar Khan.



**HYDERABAD:** Dengue patients are under treatment at Bhitai Hospital as the dengue fever is spreading at an alarming proportion in the city.

## 6 killed, 1318 injured in 1244 accidents in Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: At least six persons were killed and 1318 injured in 1244 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 636 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 682 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 598 drivers, 38 underage drivers, 207 pedestrians, and 519 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

The statistics showed that 266 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 263 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 88 in Faisalabad with 102 victims and at third Multan with 86 RTCs and 86 victims.

According to the data 1072 motorbikes, 80 auto-rickshaws, 133 motorcars, 19 vans, 11 passenger buses, 16 trucks and 99 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road traffic accidents.

## International News

## Russian lawmakers will consider rescinding ratification of global nuclear test ban, speaker says

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian lawmakers will consider revoking the ratification of a global nuclear test ban, the parliament speaker said Friday.

The statement from Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of the lower house, the State Duma, followed Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning that Moscow could consider rescinding the ratification of the international pact banning nuclear tests since the United States has never ratified it.

There are widespread concerns that Russia could move to resume nuclear tests to try to discourage the West from continuing to offer military support to Ukraine. Many Russian hawks have spoken in favor of resuming the tests.

Volodin reaffirmed Moscow's claim that Western military support for Ukraine means the U.S. and its allies are engaged in the conflict.

"Washington and Brussels have unleashed a war against our country," Volodin said. "Today's challenges require new decisions."

He said that senior lawmakers will discuss recalling the 2000 ratification of the nuclear test ban at the next meeting of the agenda-setting house council.

"It conforms with our national interests," Volodin said. "And it will come as a quid pro quo response to the United States, which has still failed to ratify the treaty."

Speaking Thursday at a forum with foreign affairs experts, Putin noted the United States has signed but not ratified the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, while Russia has signed and ratified it. He argued that Russia could act in kind.

"Theoretically, we may revoke the ratification," he said.



**Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses the annual meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia.**

## Kosovo-Serbia tension threatens the Balkan path to EU integration, Germany's foreign minister warns

**Monitoring Desk**  
TIRANA: Germany's foreign minister on Friday expressed the European Union's deep concerns following the recent shootout between masked Serb gunmen and Kosovo police that left four people dead and sent tensions soaring in the region.

Annalena Baerbock was in Tirana, Albania at a foreign ministers' meeting ahead of the Oct. 16 summit on the Berlin Process, an initiative from Germany and France to encourage six Western Balkans countries to keep working toward membership in the bloc. The top diplomats of the six countries — Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia — are meeting with Baerbock, EU Enlargement Commissioner Oliver Varhelyi and other senior EU officials.

"The key to resolving the conflict is in Belgrade and Pristina, though some may not be pleased to listen to that," she said.

On Sept. 24, around 30 heavily armed Serb men first killed a Kosovar police officer and then set up barricades in northern Kosovo before launching an hours-long gunbattle with Kosovo police. Kosovo has accused Serbia of orchestrating the "act of aggression" against its former province, whose 2008 declaration of independence Belgrade doesn't recognize. Serbia has denied this, saying that the gunmen acted on their own.

Meanwhile, in Kosovo, Maj. Gen. Angelo Michele Ristuccia, the commander of the NATO-led peacekeeping force, called on both Kosovo and Serbia on Friday to return to the negotiating table to resolve their issues to prevent further violence.

## Sweden pledges more military aid to Ukraine, considers fighter jets

**Monitoring Desk**  
STOCKHOLM: Sweden will send Ukraine a new military support package worth 2.2 billion crowns (\$199 million) - consisting mainly of artillery ammunition - and is looking into sending fighter jets, Defence Minister Pal Jonson said.

Jonson told a news conference the armed forces were due to report by Nov. 6 on the potential for sending Jas Gripen jets to Ukraine after the government asked them to assess the issue. But he reiterated that Sweden would for domestic security reasons need to become member of NATO before it would be able to potentially spare any fighter jets.

Sweden hopes to join the NATO defence alliance soon although its accession has been held up by member states Turkey and Hungary. The new military aid package will be Sweden's 14th to Ukraine since Russia's invasion, taking the total value of the Nordic country's such aid to just over 22 billion crowns. "We need to design our support so that it's long term and sustainable," Jonson said. "It is now important that more countries step up to support Ukraine."



**An soldiers carry a casket during the funeral of the victims of a drone attack targeting a Syrian military academy, outside a hospital in government-controlled Homs.**

## Turkey steps up strikes on militants as conflict escalates in Syria

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Turkish security forces attacked Kurdish militants in northern Syria and eastern Turkey, and Ankara said it will continue to destroy their capabilities across the region as conflict escalated on Friday nearly a week after a bomb attack in Ankara.

The military "neutralised" 26 Kurdish militants in northern Syria overnight in retaliation for a rocket attack on a Turkish base, the defence ministry said. Turkey typically uses the term "neutralise" to mean kill.

The rocket attack on the base, by the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, killed one Turkish police officer and wounded seven officers and soldiers in northwest Syria's Dabiq area on Thursday evening, Ankara said.

Turkey also conducted air strikes and destroyed 30 militant targets elsewhere in northern Syria, including an oil well, a storage facility and shelters, the defence ministry said. "As has been done in Iraq, all the capabilities and revenue sources developed by the terrorist organisation in Syria will continue to be destroyed systematically."

## Syria buries dead after drone attack kills dozens at graduation ceremony

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Syria began burying its dead on Friday after a drone attack on a military academy graduation ceremony in Homs killed dozens, while Damascus pummeled opposition-held areas in response to the assault by "terrorist organisations".

In one of the bloodiest single attacks on the army since the start of Syria's war in 2011, Thursday's assault came just after the ceremony attended by officers and their families, killing and wounding both military personnel and civilians.

State media said on Friday that 89 had died, including 31 women and five children, with 277 other people wounded.

Dozens of distraught victims' relatives gathered outside the Homs military hospital since the early morning, an AFP correspondent said.

## Biden announces \$9 billion more in student debt relief

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Wednesday that his administration has approved an additional \$9 billion in student debt relief for 125,000 borrowers. Biden has said he will pursue new measures to provide student loan relief to Americans after the Supreme Court blocked his plan to cancel hundreds of billions of dollars in debt.

The president said the latest announcement brought the total approved debt cancellation by his administration to \$127 billion for nearly 3.6 million Americans. "This kind of relief is life changing for individuals and their families. But it's good for our economy as a whole as well," he told reporters.

According to a White House fact sheet, the new measures include: \$5.2 billion in additional debt relief for 53,000 borrowers under Public Service Loan Forgiveness programs; \$2.8 billion in new debt relief for some 51,000 borrowers through fixes to "income-driven repayment."

## US gov't doesn't want to build new sections of border wall

**Monitoring Desk**  
MEXICO CITY: The U.S. government does not want to build new sections of wall on its border with Mexico, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Friday, expressing doubt that the planned construction would be carried out.

"It's pure publicity," Lopez Obrador said in a regular morning press conference after the Biden administration announced it would build additional sections of border wall.



**A fallen tree branch is pictured under a truck after Typhoon Koinu passed the southern tip of Taiwan, on the outskirts of Dawu, Taiwan.**

## 1.1 million bullets seized from Iran, US ships them to Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Russia has long turned to Iranian-made drones to attack Ukraine. Now Ukrainian forces will be using bullets seized from Iran against Russia troops.

A U.S. Navy ship seized the 1.1 million rounds off of a vessel that was being used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to arm Houthi rebels in Yemen's civil war in violation of U.N. Security Council resolution.

Those 7.62 mm rounds have now been transferred to Ukraine, U.S. Central Command said Wednesday. The much-needed ammunition has been sent at a time when continued U.S. financial support for Kyiv's fight to defend itself remains in question.

"With this weapons transfer, the Justice Department's forfeiture actions against one authoritarian regime are now directly supporting the Ukrainian people's fight against another authoritarian regime. We will continue to use every legal authority at our disposal to support Ukraine in their fight for freedom, democracy, and the rule of law," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.



LEHRI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki meeting with tribal elders.

### KSRelief to donate 50,000 shelter NFIs, winter kits to Pakistani citizens

ISLAMABAD (INP): King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has initiated a vital project aimed at distributing 50,000 kits including 25,000 shelter NFIs (Non-Food Items) and 25,000 winter kits across Pakistan. The project is planned to be implemented in four phases providing help to individuals who have been affected by recent floods and need assistance. This collaborative effort is being conducted in partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed thanked the Saudi Ambassador for providing 25,000 Shelter NFIs (Non-Food Items) and 25,000 winter kits across Pakistan and said that both countries enjoy strong bilateral relations. "He said that somebody said that we are like brothers. We are not like brothers. We are brothers", he added. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, speaking on the occasion said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is handing over fifty thousand kits as a gift to the brotherly country. This winter aid will be distributed in four phases in all provinces of Pakistan. This gift is presented through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center which is at the forefront in the service of humanity.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed posing for a group photo along with Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, Director King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center Pakistan and others after ceremony "Project for the Provision and Distribution of Shelter NFIs and Winter Kits in Pakistan 2023-2024" at Saudi Embassy in Federal Capital.

### Jan felicitates BRSP on winning Azizul Haq Rural Development Award

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai visited the office of Balochistan Rural Support Programme here on Friday. During the visit, the Minister Information congratulated BRSP on winning the prestigious Azizul Haq Rural Development 2023 and expressed heartfelt pleasure over it. It may be mentioned here that BRSP was conferred the award during a ceremony held at Laos by the center for Integrated Rural Development for Asia Pacific. Speaking on the occasion, Jan Achakzai said that it is a very big honour for BRSP to get the award. We are also proud on it that an NGO got this award. It may be mentioned here that this award is given to the individuals or institutions on demonstrating exceptional performance. BRSP is the first NGO in Pakistan to be conferred this award. The Minister Information said that the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki would invite the BRSP head and honour him and appreciate performance of the institution jointly.



ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed, has reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to fast-tracking the ongoing projects of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

### Police arrest six Afghan immigrants, one drug dealer in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Police arrested six Afghan refugees without valid documents under foreign act at respective areas of Jinnah town area of Quetta on Friday. SHO Jinnah Town Mitha Khan told APP that, on special directive of Inspector General (IG) Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and DIG Quetta Abdul Hai Baloch, police team led by Mitha Khan conducted successful raid at different places and apprehended six Afghan refugees under foreign act. Meanwhile, a drug dealer namely Khan Muhammad has been arrested and narcotics were recovered from his possession during raid. The SHO said that arrested Afghan refugees would be handed over to FIA for further investigation. A drug dealer is being interrogated by police. SHO Mitha Khan said that the protection of people's property and lives was the first priority in which deficiency and negligence would not be tolerated in any case. He said that steps were being taken to improve law and order situation for maintaining peace in the area.



HUB: Construction works of Sindh and Balochistan connecting Bridge is underway, in Hub.

### Planning minister reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to fast-tracking CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to fast-tracking the ongoing projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He made these remarks during a meeting with China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman Yu Bo, a news release said. Sami Saeed said Gwadar was the heart of CPEC and a gateway to prosperity for Pakistan and the entire region. He said Gwadar was being developed as a world-class port and logistics hub, adding, "This will create new jobs and opportunities for the people of Pakistan and boost the economy." He also reiterated that Pakistan was committed to resolving all outstanding issues related to CPEC on a priority basis. China and Pakistan have established a high-level mechanism to address concerns, if any, he added. Chairman Yu Bo briefed the minister about the progress of Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar Free Port. Underscoring the significance of Gwadar within the CPEC framework, he said the first stage of Gwadar port and city development, along with the Gwadar Free Zone, had been completed, marking a substantial achievement. He also highlighted how COPHC's decade-long stewardship had remarkably transformed Gwadar from a modest village into a thriving modern city, replete with cutting-edge technology. During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation in this area.

### Siraj ul Haq says Body responsible for accountability misused for political victimization

PESHAWAR (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Siraj-ul-Haq has expressed concern that institutions responsible for accountability have often been misused for political victimization rather than being allowed to operate freely against those who have plundered the nation. During discussions with various delegations on Friday, he emphasized that, once in power with the support of the people, the JI would work towards meeting the nation's demand for comprehensive accountability. Sirajul Haq lamented the detrimental impact of dynastic rule on both the economy and institutions, particularly highlighting the decisions made by the two previous governments over the past five years. He observed that these decisions had resulted in widespread suffering for the public. The deterioration in the security situation, he noted, had further exacerbated economic challenges, leading to rampant inflation and unemployment. The JI leader expressed his disappointment in the caretaker government's continued adherence.

### China-Pak ties maintaining sound momentum of development: Wang Yi

BEIJING (APP): China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad brothers, senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi said on Thursday, adding that bilateral relations have withstood the test of time and continued to maintain a sound momentum of development. Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, made the remarks when he met with Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani at the third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation held in Nyingchi, southwest China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, CGTN reported. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said Wang, noting the CPEC has brought tangible benefits to the economic development of Pakistan and to local people. Wang said that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote high-quality development of the CPEC. For his part, Jilani spoke highly of the fruitful results of bilateral cooperation and the CPEC, stressing that the Pakistan-China relationship has always been the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. The CPEC has helped Pakistan transform its economic landscape and brought tangible benefits to the country, the foreign minister added. He also extended congratulations on the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. According to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Mo'in ul Haque, at the invitation of the Chinese government, Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani attended 3rd China Tibet Trans-Himalayan Forum in Tibet, China. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for green development, ecological preservation and connectivity for inclusive and sustainable development.



QUETTA: President Anjuman Tajiran Double Road Malik Nadir Khan Achakzai meeting with caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai.

### Pakistani women can perform Hajj 'sans mehram'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony said on Friday that Hajj polity 2024 would be announced in the next two weeks under which women can perform Hajj without a mehram (a close male relative). The ministry further said that the federal cabinet will approve the Hajj polity within 10 days and the Hajj application process for the next year will get following cabinet's nod. Furthermore, the ministry has also prepared strict rules regarding the sighting of the crescent moon. As per the new rules, only the Ruet-e-Hilal committee will announce the sighting of the crescent moon, no private committees will be allowed to do so, the ministry recommended. Earlier, Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed said that the Saudi Arabia government would provide additional facilities and improved services to Pakistani pilgrims during the Hajj 2024. He said accommodation, meals, and transportation for pilgrims would be improved with a more comfortable and convenient experience.

### Ashrafi urges Afghan interim govt to address legitimate concerns for peaceful relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Friday urged the Afghan interim government to prioritize addressing legitimate concerns raised by Pakistan instead of engaging in a blame game. In a conversation with Arab and national media representatives, he underscored the importance of maintaining stability and peace in the region. Ashrafi stated that Pakistan's intentions were clear: it had no desire for instability or lawlessness in Afghanistan, and it expected the same commitment from its Afghan counterparts. He emphasized the historic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan, rooted in social, cultural, and religious bonds, making their peace and prosperity interdependent. Regarding the repatriation of illegal Afghan immigrants from Pakistan, Ashrafi encouraged the Afghan government to engage in open dialogue with Pakistan rather than resorting to hostile rhetoric. He acknowledged Pakistan's four-decade history of hosting Afghan refugees and reassured that this support would continue. However, he stressed that respecting the laws of both countries was crucial for harmonious coexistence. Ashrafi also highlighted the issue of Afghan extremists potentially finding accomplices in recent blasts in Pakistan. He urged both nations to resolve this matter amicably and collaboratively to ensure regional security and stability. He further said there was no acceptance of recognizing Israel as Kashmir and Palestine were declared common issues for the Muslim Ummah.



QUETTA: Chairman Board of Director QESCO Abdul Wahab Magsi presiding over meeting of Board.

### Domki dismayed over delapidated condition of Govt. boys HS Lehri

Mir Ali Mardan Domki directs to ensure release of allocated funds for education sector under PSDP Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed his anguish over the poor delapidated condition of the building of Government Boys High School Lehri. He was on surprise visit of the Government Boys High School during which he inspected its building and other educational facilities available there, on Friday. Mr. Domki reached his native town Lehri on Friday morning, where he was warmly welcomed by the people besides the concerned high ups. He was also presented guard of honour by the contingent of police. The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to ensure release of funds allocated for education sector under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He also directed to provide the necessary equipment in the science and computer laboratory of the Boys High School and make it fully functional. In addition to this, the attendance of teachers should also be checked and ensured in the school, adding he stressed, He also directed the Deputy Commissioner Sibi to pay surprise visits to the educational institutions and ensure presence of teachers there. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister visited the Rural Health Center Lehri and inaugurated its building recently repaired and renovated by the UNICEF. He also met the patients being treated at the RHC. The Secretary Health, Asfandyar Kakar and Director General Health, Dr. Noor Qazi, who were also present on the occasion, briefed the Chief Minister about the healthcare facility in Lehri. The DG Health informed that the necessary medicines and machinery have been provided in the RHC Lehri. Mr. Domki directed the concerned authorities to ensure availability of the standard health services. He on the occasion asserted that it is our priority to provide basic facilities of education, health and water to the people.



QUETTA: Deputy Director NAB Khurram Shahzad addressing a seminar organized by NAB Balochistan in SBK Women's University.

### Minister Information greets Pak team on victory in 1st match of WC

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai congratulated national cricket team on registering thumping victory in its first match of the World Cup cricket. In a felicitation message issued here on Friday, the Minister Information said that it is great to watch Pakistan team winning its opening match in the World Cup. He expressed the hope that the national team would continue to perform in the same manner and with similar spirit.

### Madad expresses concern over deteriorating primary level educational standard

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindh while expressing his grave concern over deteriorating primary level educational standard in the country particularly in Sindh province has informed that the caretaker federal government was making sincere efforts to address this issue and also resolve the issues of all higher learning institutions of Sindh on priority basis. The minister said this while talking to media persons after attending the ceremony of the scholarship cheque distribution under National Endowment Scholarship for Talent Scheme among the students at University of Sindh Jamshoro on Friday. He informed that all out efforts are being made to provide scholarships to make male and female students of Sindh on priority basis adding that merit is being ensured while selecting the candidates for scholarships.

### Coast Guards seize huge quantity of narcotics worth US\$ 21 million

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan Coast Guard recovered huge quantity of narcotics from a vehicle in Gwadar on Friday morning. According to the spokesman of Coast Guard, a patrolling party of Coast Guard tried to intercept a vehicle in Bandri area of Gwadar. However, instead of stopping the vehicle, driver flee from the scene. The Coast Guard sources informed that the value of seized narcotics is stated to be over 21.84 million US dollar in the international drugs market.



UTHAL: Pakistan Coast Guards seize huge quantity of narcotics from a vehicle.