



# Daily Voice of Masses Independent

## Last call?

Policy confusion, economic disarray, social upheaval, media clampdown and political persecution have cast a suffocating pall on Pakistan.

Amidst this feeling of desolation, a call for forgiveness and cooperation is a reminder that the way out is much simpler than what it has seemed to be.

What President Arif Alvi has said echoes what many politically astute minds believe is the only way for Pakistan to realistically turn the corner: the state must provide an outlet to the public's suppressed will with an election that is free of controversy and fair to all parties.

For a change, it should let the system work in the way it was originally intended to. The country's economic condition presents an unprecedented existential challenge for Pakistan.

No government can realistically expect to survive the difficulties that lie ahead if it comes to power on a stolen mandate. To break free of the past, we must break the mould.

Though the print and electronic media have not been allowed to dwell too long on the topic, the public knows well that it is being ruled by a regime whose priorities and policies are completely at odds with the aspirations of the majority.

The latter's discontent has been made worse by the state-sanctioned use of coercive tactics to restore 'stability', which have yet to yield any tangible dividends for the ordinary citizen.

Those who favour this style of 'political management' must realise that repression has never worked in the past and is unlikely to do so this time. In present conditions, holding an election whose fairness is widely doubted will further fracture the sociopolitical order.

This will not only imperil Pakistan's standing in a rapidly changing world, but the continuing instability is likely to set its economy back by decades. And, by the time the extent of the damage that has been wrought under the present regime is acknowledged, the country will have slumped lower in human development rankings.

The past cannot be undone, but the path we take forward is entirely up to our political, judicial, military and civil society leadership.

The leaders of the different parties must sit together — or be persuaded to if they are not amenable — to agree to some ground rules for the upcoming election. In negotiating these rules, the parties can create the 'level playing field' that each of them has been seeking separately. Meanwhile, the state ought to consider diverting its energies away from the less-than-effective policies it has been pursuing and allocate them, instead, towards ensuring that the political parties have an equal incentive for participating in the talks. This seems like the only 'positive role' it can play at this point. Realistically, and given present conditions, this seems to be the most reasonable path forward.



**By Qamar Bashir**  
Former Press Secretary  
to the President;  
Former MD, SRBC;  
Former Minister Press,  
Embassy of Pakistan  
to France

In the context of PTI's relevance to the elections and to the politics of the country, the challenge lies in PTI's current confrontational stance towards the powerful Army, which plays a significant role in Pakistan's politics. PTI is perceived as actively seeking favor from the public and institutions to establish its superiority over army and its leadership by cultivating its retired and serving officers and by maligning, weakening and discrediting the army as an institution and its leaders.

Whereas, the army as an institution has decided to vehemently frustrate all such efforts by all means at its disposal and at all costs.

The ongoing struggle between PTI and the Army became evident through a PTI-sponsored survey indicating strong public support for Imran Khan, with a 61% positive opinion. Regionally, 29% from Punjab, 28% from Sindh, and 14% from KP had a favorable view of Imran Khan. However, 37% expressed a negative opinion. Notably, Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto also garnered far less public support, with 36% having a positive opinion of both. Shehbaz Sharif, on the other hand, faced a 65% negative rating, with only 32% expressing a positive opinion.

In my official capacity, I had close associations with both PTI and PML(N) leadership during their respective times in government. It's

common for the party in power to conduct surveys to boost their ratings, often through friendly agencies. As a counter strategy, the parties in opposition conduct counter surveys to validate their higher rating and prove the earlier survey as biased. However, this time around neither the PML(N) nor PPP conducted the counter surveys, but intriguingly the army did.

The Army conducted its own survey, titled "National Public Opinion Poll Report," which received an impressive 88% rating. This survey, conducted between June 10 and June 30, gathered responses from 3,500 participants across all four provinces of Pakistan.

Some critics argued that assessing the Army's popularity was unnecessary, as such surveys traditionally focus on public figures rather than the military. However, it's worth noting that similar surveys are commonplace in advanced democracies, including the UK and the USA.

For instance, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey in 2018, revealing that the military is the most trusted institution in the United States, with 72% of Americans expressing a great deal of trust and confidence in it. Similarly, a 2022 YouGov Survey found that 62% of Britons have a favorable view of the British Army, while only 16% held an unfavorable view.

The significance of the two surveys conducted in Pakistan lies in their timing, reflecting a prevailing perception that PTI and the Army were engaged in a contest for gaining popularity against each other. This perception, whether rightly or wrongly held, carries profound and far-reaching consequences.

In national discourse, it's not uncommon for political parties to compete with each other. However, when the perception arises that a political party is competing for popularity against the country's most sensitive and critical institution, and vice versa, it raises serious and troubling concerns.

The stark reality is that the Army, as the most powerful institution, has

historically held control over political, economic, and financial discipline in Pakistan. It often remains neutral while vigilantly monitoring the direction each aspect of discipline takes. It has established upper and lower limits of tolerance or acceptable behavior, and when any of these boundaries are breached, it intervenes to bring them back within acceptable bounds. Seasoned and traditional political parties have learned these limits and, no matter the circumstances, strive to operate within them, fully aware of the consequences of deviating from the established norms.

However, PTI, being relatively new to the political landscape and facing the formidable influence of the establishment for the first time, miscalculated the extent of support it could muster through street protests and massive public backing to challenge the Army's overarching role in national politics. If the PTI had previously encountered the establishment's "smart power" with full force, it might have refrained from exceeding the established limits of tolerance.

PTI, along with its public supporters and alleged involvement of retired and serving army officers, had underestimated the extent to which the Army would take action against them, particularly after the disturbing, violent, and unlawful events of May 9. The Army employed a meticulously coordinated combination of kinetic and soft power to effectively remove PTI from the national discourse. It utilized its coercive power to silence PTI's chairman and leaders, preventing them from conveying the party's perspective through national media. High-profile PTI figures and supporters were apprehended, effectively muting their presence in national discussions. It employed fear mongering tactics to dissuade public support for Khan and PTI. This included arbitrary arrests and detentions, often incomunicado for extended periods. Detainees suspected of involvement in attacks faced alleged torture and ill-treatment. Allegedly, families of detainees were threatened with reprisals if they didn't confess to their alleged involvement.

Concurrently, a highly successful strategic communication campaign was launched to undermine PTI and its leadership. It leaked stories to the media while disseminating propaganda and information about Imran Khan and PTI. Released footage showcasing violence involving PTI workers clashing with the police and damaging property was employed to shape public opinion. Journalists were briefed on the violence, and provided with its own version of events to sway the narrative. Engaged with political parties, civil society, and community leaders to discourage support for mass protests, while cautioning the public against participating in protests with threats of consequences.

PTI must maintain transparency about its intentions, policies, and objectives, addressing any misconceptions held by the military. Finding common areas of interest and collaboration for the betterment of the nation is crucial. Respecting the constitutional framework and ensuring that the party's actions align with the laws governing the military's role is imperative. In cases of specific grievances or conflicts, engaging in conflict resolution processes such as mediation or negotiation to reach mutually acceptable solutions is a wise approach. Building trust over time through consistent, responsible actions and a commitment to conflict resolution is a fundamental step. Above all, the PTI should avoid any actions or statements that may provoke the armed forces or create unnecessary tensions.

Simultaneously, it

should change its posture towards other political parties. Rather condemning them of corruption and refusing to engage with them for national construction efforts, it should work on building a consensus with them through collaboration and dialogue which can lead to a more stable political environment.

Despite enduring significant upsurges and retributions, PTI seemingly failed to grasp this lesson. Recent social media posts from PTI leaders who have evaded the law and their supporters openly challenging the army's authority are unwise and provocative. Such confrontational behavior provides the army with justification to respond assertively and decisively. This confrontational stance likely accelerates the use of smart power against the PTI, further diminishing its prospects for a fair and equitable contest in the upcoming elections.

PTI should change its posture sooner the better from its belligerent relationship with the powerful armed forces and should actively seek avenues for constructive and open dialogue with the military leadership. This dialogue should aim to understand the concerns and goals of the armed forces.

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In democratic systems, it's crucial for elections to be inclusive and allow fair competition among various political parties. The exclusion of a major party could be perceived as undemocratic, raising concerns about the legitimacy and fairness of the election. Perhaps the establishment is waiting for the right signals and movements from PTI to allow PTI's leadership and the party to launch an election campaign against other political parties rather than against the military.

It should prioritize good governance, addressing economic and social issues effectively, and plans of action to fundamentally improve the public service delivery to the people in all sectors and disciplines.

It should fundamentally change its narrative from negativity against the army and political parties to positivity through policies and actions that resonate with the population, addressing their concerns and needs while maintaining transparency in its actions to build trust with the public and institutions. Above all, PTI needs to strike a balance between pursuing its political agenda and collaborating with key institutions to ensure stability and progress in Pakistan's political landscape.

It's anticipated that with such concrete, honest, and conviction-driven actions, a change of hearts within the establishment may occur. Deep down, they also recognize that excluding a major political party from participation could significantly compromise the credibility of elections.

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## How can PTI become Relevant Again???

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On the occasion, he

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Later, the minister

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## CM gives keys of 312 new vehicles, uniforms to PHP Police

### Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi gave keys of 312 new vehicles and uniforms to Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) Police at a ceremony held at his office here on Thursday. Addressing the ceremony, the CM said that the incumbent government had given new vehicles to the Punjab Highways Patrol Police after a hiatus of 19 years. Only 47 vehicles were provided to the patrolling police after 2003-04, he remarked.

said and maintained that the government was bound to give two uniforms to the policemen every year. From now on, every jawan and senior police officer would be given two uniforms besides the provision of additional funds, he said. Punjab Highway Patrol police had been given the responsibility of checking the axle load. If the police performed this responsibility in a befitting manner, it would take a lead to Punjab police and traffic police, he remarked.



LAHORE: Police officials restore baton charge and arrest protesters during protest demonstration of Punjab Teachers Union against the ongoing privatization of government schools, amendments to pension regulations and the issue of leave encashment, outside Civil Secretariat in Lahore.

## Commissioner for strict action to prevent smog

### MULTAN (APP):

Commissioner Multan division, Engineer Amir Khattak, ordered crackdown against those involved in burning of crop residues and waste to prevent smog. He expressed these views while presiding over review meeting on performance of environment department here on Thursday.

He also ordered to seal the factories causing environmental pollution by serving notices and asked DCs to launch anti-smog drive in their districts concerned effectively. He said that the elements involved in spreading environmental pollution would be brought to justice in any case.

He directed

environment department to conduct thorough investigation before reporting in the construction plan. Aamir Khattak has ordered action against those who burn crop residues around motorways and highways. He directed transport department to raid against smoke emitting vehicles along with traffic police.

Director environment Mahar Shamshad, while giving briefing, said that inspection of nine units spreading environmental pollution was conducted and notices were served on three units, two FIRs lodged and two units sealed. Likewise, inspection of 46 brick kilns was made and 11 sealed. 4 FIRs registered three notices issued and over Rs eight lac.

He directed

### Naqvi inspects expansion project of Bibi Pak Daman shrine

LAHORE (APP): The renovation and expansion project of the Bibi Pak Daman shrine will be completed by the middle of next month as around 80% of the work has been completed.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the ongoing activities at Bibi Pak Daman shrine early in the morning. Both secretary C&W and architect Nayyar Ali Dada apprised him about the pace of work and the steps taken to improve the interior of the shrine.

While protesting in front of the protest, they raised slogans for the ar-

teachers who serve as key actors in shaping the future of the nation by nurturing young minds, imparting knowledge and unlocking intellectual potential.

Describing teaching as a prophetic profession, he said that teachers must play their proactive role to improve the standard and quality of education in the region.

"Teachers must perform their duties honestly, give hundred percent results, and make sure that the future of children is bright", he said.

He said that the government was cognizant of the problems being faced by the teaching community. He assured the delegation that in addition to teachers' promotions, all their problems would be solved on a priority basis.

"A cabinet committee has been constituted to solve the problems of teachers", the PM said, adding that suspended teachers would be reinstated. The government, he said, would ensure the protection of peoples' rights as per the constitution and law of the land.

"I will continue to fight for the constitutional rights of the people of Azad Kashmir", he said, adding that when we talk about our legitimate rights we must not forget our duties and obligations towards the state. In order to improve the overall performance of government offices and departments, the PM said that biometric attendance has been made compulsory in schools.

## Journalists hold protest for arrest of Maher's killers

### Independent Report

MIRPUR MATHELO: On the call of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists to arrest the killers and facilitators of journalist Shaheed Jan Muhammad Maher of Sukkur, the journalists on behalf of Ghotki Union of Journalists led by President Aamir Chana, General Secretary Taj Tanwari, in the district headquarters, journalists organized a protest at press club.

While protesting in front of the protest, they raised slogans for the ar-

rest of the killers and facilitators. In the protest, senior vice president of Ghotki Union Hakim Khan Abro, president of DHQ Press Club Saqib Nasir Galani, president of Jarwar Press Club Ali Gohar Gabol, senior journalists Mumtaz Arain, Riaz Arain, Tanveer Ahmed Soomro, Zaheer Wasir, Muhammad Ali Sheikh, Naveed Chughtai, Ghazi Wasir, Abdul Majeed Shar, Sherbaz Shar, Naeem Akram Mashoori, Farid Malik, Asad Ghani, Rizwan Bhutto and others participated. The protest-

ers said that even after two months have passed since the murder of Shaheed Jan Muhammad Maher, the killers and facilitators have not been arrested, which is an example of the great incompetence of the police and the government.

If the killers of journalist Jan Muhammad Maher and their facilitators are not arrested immediately, a strong and decisive protest will be held in Sindh Bahar on the call of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists.

## PIO assures CPNE's delegation of resolving print media's issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan on Thursday assured a delegation of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers' Editors (CPNE) that the issues faced by print media would be resolved on priority.

The delegation, led by CPNE's Senior Vice President Anwar Sajidi and Secretary General Ajaz ul Haq, was called on the PIO here at his office, said a news release.

He further listened to their issues and assured the delegation to address and resolve the problems on priority.



HYDERABAD: Participants are showering rose petals in Indus River on the eve of World Food Day organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held in Hyderabad.

## PITB monitoring system proving effective in dengue surveillance

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) has been at the forefront of innovative technology solutions to address the public health challenges.

It introduced the Smart Dengue Monitoring System, which has been playing a pivotal role in efficiently measuring the performance of anti-dengue surveillance activities, ultimately aiding in control of the dengue epidemic.

This emerged during a progress review meeting, chaired by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf, according to a press release, issued here on Thursday.

The participants in the

meeting were apprised that a total of 77,000 Android users were registered on the Dengue Tracking System, actively participating in monitoring and performing anti-dengue activities. On average, 45 million Android-based activities are registered quarterly, with an average of 650,000 daily registrations, showcasing the system's robust capabilities.

Faisal Yousaf said, "The PITB Smart Dengue Monitoring System stands as a remarkable example of how technology can be harnessed to address pressing public health concerns efficiently and effectively."

## International News

## Biden warns Iran to 'be careful' about actions in region

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Wednesday issued a stark warning to Iran to "be careful" around its actions in the region following Hamas' attack on Israel. During a roundtable with Jewish community leaders on the administration's efforts to provide support for Israel, Biden stressed the assistance that the US is providing, adding that he's been frequently speaking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The US is "surging additional military assistance to the Israeli Defense Force, including ammunition, interceptors to replenish the

Iron Dome, we moved the US carrier fleet to the eastern Mediterranean and are sending more fighter jets there, to that region, and made it clear, made it clear to the Iranians – be careful," Biden said.

Meanwhile, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held their first phone call since both countries renewed diplomatic ties, an Iranian presidential aide said.

During the call, both leaders discussed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, "the need to end war crimes," as well as Islamic unity. Raisi's deputy for political affairs,

Mohammad Jamshidi, said on X, the platform previously known as Twitter, Biden calls UAE president to discuss situation.

US President Joe Biden spoke Wednesday with United Arab Emirates President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan "to discuss the terrorist attacks on Israel," according to the White House. "The President stressed his condemnation of Hamas's terror and his warning against anyone who might seek to exploit the current situation," the White House said in a readout of the call. "The two leaders also discussed the importance of ensuring humanitarian assistance reaches those in need."

### Russian foreign ministry calls for Gaza ceasefire to allow in food and medicine

#### Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry urged Israel on Thursday to agree to a ceasefire in Gaza to allow in food and medicine and said it was unacceptable that what it called the "indiscriminate" bombing of the Gaza Strip was causing so many civilian casualties.

Moscow stated after Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov spoke to Hussein Al-Sheikh, secretary general of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), by phone.

Israel said earlier on Thursday there would be no humanitarian exceptions to its siege of the Gaza Strip until all its hostages were freed after the Red Cross pleaded for fuel to be allowed in to prevent overwhelmed hospitals from "turning into morgues".

The Russian foreign ministry said Bogdanov and Al-Sheikh had agreed on the need for a ceasefire and for the opening of human corridors to deliver food and medicine to Gaza's population.



GAZA CITY: Palestinians look for survivors under the rubble of a building following an Israeli air strike as bombing of the besieged enclave continued for the fifth consecutive day.

## 130 countries to take part in Belt and Road Initiative celebrations next week

### Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China announced on Wednesday it will host a gathering of foreign leaders next week to celebrate a decade of its Belt and Road Initiative project, with Russian President Vladimir Putin expected to attend.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a landmark project in President Xi Jinping's bid to expand China's clout overseas, with Beijing saying this week it had now inked over two trillion dollars in contracts across the world. Representatives from over 130 countries are

due to take part in the event, scheduled for Oct 17 and 18, with Xi set to deliver an opening speech and hold a welcoming banquet for foreign leaders.

It is the third forum of its kind since China launched the vast investment initiative, with events previously held in 2017 and 2019. Russian President Putin has said he will attend the event, in what will be his first visit to China since the Ukraine war began last year. Top Russian diplomat Sergei Lavrov will also attend and hold talks with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, Moscow said.

China and Russia describe each other as strategic allies, frequently touting their "no limits" partnership and economic and military cooperation. China has refused to condemn the war, and has tried to position itself as a neutral party, while at the same time offering Moscow a vital diplomatic and financial lifeline.

"We welcome countries and partners actively participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to come to Beijing to discuss cooperation plans and seek common development,"

Wang Yi, Moscow said.

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## Russia, Kyrgyzstan to create joint air defence system

### Monitoring Desk

BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan's parliament on Wednesday ratified an agreement for a common air defence system with Russia, a day before a planned visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to the Central Asian country.

The agreement provides that a land plot of 12 acres at the Kant Russian military base in Kyrgyzstan will be used for the joint programme.

Lawmakers examined and adopted the bill on the ratification of the agreement between the Kyrgyz Re-

public and the Russian Federation for the creation of a Joint Regional Air Defence System," the Kyrgyz parliament said.

Putin had been scheduled to travel to Kant, but the Kyrgyz presidency said on Wednesday the visit had been cancelled, without providing more details.

The Russian leader is still due to speak with his Kyrgyz counterpart Sadyr Japarov on Thursday, and attend a summit gathering leaders of post-Soviet countries the following day.



Russian veteran human rights campaigner Oleg Orlov talks to the media after a court hearing in which he was found guilty of discrediting Russia's armed forces, in Moscow, Russia.

## Former Hamas chief calls for protests, neighbours to join war against Israel

### Monitoring Desk

DOHA: Former Hamas chief Khaled Meshal called for protests across the Muslim world on Friday in support of the Palestinians and for the peoples of neighbouring countries to join the fight against Israel.

"[We must] head to the squares and streets of the Arab and Islamic world on Friday," Meshal, who currently heads Hamas's diaspora office, said in a recorded statement sent to Reuters.

His rallying call came as Israel vowed to escalate its response to an attack by Hamas with a ground offensive, after Israeli fighters struck more than 200 targets in Gaza city overnight. Gaza's health ministry said at least 950 people have been killed and 5,000 injured in the crowded coastal enclave.

## Over 338,000 Palestinians displaced in Gaza: UN agency

### Monitoring Desk

GAZA: The United Nations has released a harrowing report on the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, revealing that over 338,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in the Gaza Strip. The UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA, described the situation as a "mass displacement" as heavy Israeli bombardments continue to pound the densely populated Palestinian enclave. The crisis deepened as Israel intensified its attacks on Hamas targets in response to the militants' surprise Saturday assault. Israeli forces

reported that approximately 1,200 people, the majority of them civilians, have tragically lost their lives during this devastating onslaught, marking it as one of the most severe in the country's history.

In Gaza, officials reported over 1,000 casualties due to Israel's sustained campaign of air and artillery strikes. OCHA's statement highlighted that nearly 220,000 of the displaced individuals, which make up two-thirds of the total, have sought refuge in schools run by the UN agency that supports Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

## Canadian senate speaker to skip G20 event in New Delhi amid killing row

### Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Canada's Senate speaker will not attend a two-day G20 event in New Delhi this week, India said on Thursday, as ties remain frozen after Canada said it is investigating allegations linking Indian agents to the killing of a Sikh separatist leader. Speaker Raymonde Gagné will not be present at the two-day parliamentary speakers' summit that starts on Friday, as part of India's year long presidency of the Group of 20 (G20).

major economies, which expires in November. "We invite all members for G20 events. Participation is their decision and subject to a number of factors," said Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

"I'll have to check whether anybody is actually attending from Canada because the parliament speaker could not attend." The Canadian senate did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

## Turkiye's Erdogan discusses Israeli Palestinian conflict with UAE president

### Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan discussed the conflict between Israeli and Palestinian forces with Emirati counterpart Mohammed bin Zayed in a call on Thursday. Turkey's presidency said: "During the call, President Erdogan stated that ending the tensions between Israel-Palestine will be possible through the positive steps that the international community, namely regional countries, will take." The presidency said on social messaging platform X.

"Tribes of Jordan, sons of Jordan, brothers and sisters of Jordan... This is a moment of truth and the borders are close to you, you all know your responsibility," Meshal said. Jordan and Lebanon are home to the largest number of Palestinian refugees.

His rallying call came as Israel vowed to escalate its response to an attack by Hamas with a ground offensive, after Israeli fighters struck more than 200 targets in Gaza city overnight. Gaza's health ministry said at least 950 people have been killed and 5,000 injured in the crowded coastal enclave.

## Quality education, major requirement for country's development: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday stressed the universities to provide quality education to the students as it was the foremost requirement for the development of the country.

He directed the education ministry and Higher Education Commission (HEC) to support universities in designing the courses and departments in accordance with the demand of jobs in the market.

Addressing the Convocation ceremony of the Quaid-i-Azam University

here, the president said Pakistan was passing through the economic crisis but hoped that the country would rise again soon by ensuring quality education, rule of law and justice.

"Pakistan has full potential to develop and the sun of development and prosperity would rise in the country soon," he remarked.

During the ceremony, the president gave away medals to the top position holders and conferred degrees to the successful students in various depart-

ments of the university.

Referring to the shortage of professionals, especially in the medical field in the country, the president advised the female professional not to sit at home after completing their degree. He said women of the country were very hardworking and they could play key role in the development of the country by working shoulder to shoulder with the men. However, he stressed the need to stop their harassment at workplaces so that they could work freely.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with CPNE delegation.



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

### Highly appreciates BRSP's services: Govt. values assistance & initiatives of NGOs, states caretaker CM

#### Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has appreciated the services of Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in different sectors including education, health besides during the natural disasters.

He said that the provincial government values a lot the assistance programmes and initiatives of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and as such every possible cooperation would be extended to them wherever

#### Zubair Jamali pays surprise visit to Airport PS

##### Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mr Zubair Jamali paid surprise visit to the Airport Police Station here on Thursday.

During the visit, the Minister inspected the CCTV cameras, record and rozmacha register of the Thana.

He appreciated the staff of police station for making excellent arrangements and maintaining record in the police station.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Home directed the police force to take special care of the elderly citizens and especially women in police stations.

He said that it is duty of police to protect life and property of the masses. In this regard, police would have to improve its performance further, adding he stressed.

The charter of demand is as under: Former Prime

#### ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the finance ministry to resolve all issues of newspapers on priority.

Talking to a delegation of Council of Pakistan Newspapers' Editors (CPNE) led by its president Irshad Arif here,

the prime minister said the newspapers should play

transaction of foreign currency. The prime minister said the smuggling of petroleum products also continued to cause serious damage to the country's economy. Likewise, he said steps were being taken across the country to prevent power theft.

With respect to smug-

eling of foreign currency, he said strict measures were being taken to stop smug-

eling of dollars in the short

period by which we can use

our trade's capacity."

Speaking about his upcom-

ing visit to China, PM Kakar informed that

Pakistan-China strategic

relations, bilateral trade,

China Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) and

tourism promotion would be discussed during the visit.

Similarly, he said plans

to take full advantage of the

potential of tourism in

Gilgit-Baltistan would also

be part of the discussions.

launched against him.

He said he accompanied a very short delegation during his visit to the US where he effectively presented the Pakistan's case of climate change.

The prime minister pointed out that he pre-

sented the cultural aspect of

climate change to the

world by referring to the

holier Qur'an.

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ued to cause serious dam-

age to the country's econo-

momy. Likewise, he said

steps were being taken across

the country to prevent

power theft.

He said Pakistan had

billions of dollars of trade

potential with Central

Asian states, adding "I am

trying my best to take such

measures during the short

period by which we can use

our trade's capacity."

Speaking about his upcom-

ing visit to China, PM Kakar informed that

Pakistan-China strategic

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potential of tourism in

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be part of the discussions.

### Yousef Aldobeay says

## Kashmir issue is not only of Kashmiris, Pakistan but of entire Islamic world

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldobeay, while reiterating OIC's constant support for the Kashmir issue, said that the issue of Kashmir is not only of Kashmiris and Pakistan, but of the entire Muslim world.

Yousef Aldobeay expressed these views during a conversation with the delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, which met him, today, at the Foreign Office.

He said Kashmiris need patience and hope,

adding the OIC stands by their side in their just struggle for right to self-determination. He further said Pakistan's efforts against Islamophobia are valuable and the fact is that the massacre of Muslims, the destruction of mosques and the desecration of the Holy Quran in India and India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir is Islamophobia, which India is committing.

Yousef Aldobeay said the OIC has rejected the actions of August 5, 2019 in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by Modi-led Indian government and has been demanding that India withdraw its unilateral and illegal actions.

### If I was to do something like Dar, Abbasi, I would have done it so far: Asad

#### ISLAMABAD (Online):

Former secretary general PTI Asad Umar has said if he was to do anything like Usman Dar and Sadaqat Abbasi he would have done it so far. He said this while talking to media men here Thursday. To a question from a journalist as to how he sees Supreme Court (SC) October 11 decision he declared it correct. The journalist asked if Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan now. Asad Umar said this is a good question after this decision that "will Nawaz Sharif return to Pakistan or otherwise. Why Shahbaz Sharif is happy after this decision. This is my innocent question from you that on one decision PTI is

happy and Shehbaz Sharif too is happy. The journalist questioned that Chairman PTI is in jail in cipher case and you have got relief. Asad Umar said the allegation in cipher case is this to whom it was given, he did not use it rightly. We accept it that it has been used legally. Cipher comes in four persons including Prime Minister, foreign minister, army chief and DG ISI. Planning minister stands where. Only my name has come in FIR.

To a question from a journalist will he too go to any program like Usman Dar and Sadaqat Abbasi, he said if he was to do such thing he would have done it.



SIBI: Leaders of workers of different political parties meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

### Funds for minorities' protection earmarked in budget: Domki

#### QUETTA (APP):

Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Thursday said hefty funds have been allocated in the budget for the protection, construction and repair of the places of worship of the minority community.

CM Domki while talking to a delegation of the Christian community led by Shaukat Stephen said quota for minorities has been implemented in all departments including all the posts advertised in the Public Service Commission (PSC).



NOKUNDI: President and Chief Executive of Barrick Gold Corporation Mark Baristow being receiving by local community upon arrival in village Humay

### PANAH organizes seminar to create awareness about unhealthy diets

#### QUETTA (APP):

Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) on Thursday organized a seminar on the occasion of International Food Day to raise awareness about unhealthy diets aimed at reducing non-communicable diseases.

Director General Health Dr. Noor Muhammad Qazi said that Ultra-processed foods are a major cause of diseases and various countries have taken other policy options to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods as well as put nutrition warning labels on them so that people can know about the healthier foods.

Secretary General PANAH Sanaullah Ghuman said that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart, diabetes, kidney disease, stroke and several types of cancer are skyrocketing in

of legal action against the power pilferers in Quetta and different other areas of the province, however, 384 FIRs have been registered so far in this regard, the QESCO spokesman added.

Moreover, over Rs. 806 million have been recovered from some 35,000 defaulters in the province. In addition to this, over Rs. 120 million have been recovered from the pilferers on the charges of pilferage of electricity bills and those involved in the pilferage of electricity.

The QESCO spokesman told that the campaign against defaulters and pilferers would remain continued in future as well.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Leader, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

deaths and illnesses.

He added that unhealthy foods such as ultra-processed foods are one of the major causes of diseases. He said Ulama and the media can play an important role in educating people about unhealthy diets. Sanullah Ghuman said that thousands of people are losing their lives every day due to unhealthy food. He added that reports show that reducing consumption of ultra-processed foods as well as putting nutrition warning labels on them so that people can know about the healthier foods.

He said that ultra-processed foods contain harmful ingredients like salt, sugar, trans fats and saturated fats. He called for imposing taxes on ultra-processed foods, regulating their marketing, front-of-pack labelling, warning signs and removing these products from schools to reduce

PANAH is working with Ulama across the country to raise awareness among people and organized a seminar in Quetta to convey our message to the people that they should eat healthy food and avoid unhealthy foods like ultra-processed foods.

### Chinese CG visits APNS office BRF will provide opportunity for progress and development of region and globe: Yang

ISLAMABAD (PR): The Consul General (CG) of the Peoples Republic of China Yang Yundong visited the office of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS). The President Mrs. Nazrafeen Saigol Lakhani and Mr. Sarmaid Ali Secretary General welcomed the honorable guest and stated that Mr. Yang Yundong was the first diplomat to visit APNS House.

Mr. Yang Yundong thanked APNS for inviting him to their head office and said that the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) will be held in Beijing on October 17 and 18 in which more than 130 countries and over 30 International Organizations are expected to participate.

The Chinese Consul General said the belt and road forum under the theme of High-quality Belt and

Road cooperation, together for common development and prosperity will provide an opportunity for progress and development of the region and the globe. The Consul General added that 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of BRI.

Over the past decade, the BRI has established more than 3000 cooperation projects and galvanized nearly USD 1 trillion of investment, creating an array of livelihood projects and milestones of cooperation.

Referring to China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects, Mr. Yang Yundong said this is a pilot project of the BRI and the landmark project for China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era. He said the Chinese Media sector have made several advancements according to the needs of the modern age.