

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Apex Committee on National Action Plan.

Gave deadline to illegal foreigners Leave Pakistan by Oct 31st

## Apex Committee vows to address all security threats in befitting manner

Interior minister warns deportations will begin after deadline; UNHCR says refugee return should be "voluntary and without any pressure"

ISLAMABAD (Online): Apex Committee of the National Action Plan has vowed to deal possible challenges regarding security situation and ensure implementation of constitution and law as per expectations of the people. The Committee was chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Chief of Army Staff, concerned federal ministers, provincial chief ministers and heads of all civil and military agencies were present in the meeting.

The participants made a comprehensive assessment of the country's internal security situation so that possible challenges can be dealt within a sustainable manner.

The participants of the meeting resolved that despite all difficulties writ of

the state will be ensured. Apex Committee made decisions include, withdrawal of illegal foreign nationals residing in Pakistan, the formalization of border movement procedures in which movement across the border will be permitted only on passports and visas and action against illegal immigration, crack down on trade and property of illegal foreigners.

Meanwhile, a task force has been formed under the Federal Ministry of Home Affairs to investigate fake identity cards, businesses and properties to deal with illegal identity cards and properties.

The Forum reiterated the need to further enhance and strengthen ongoing operations against growing illegal activities including drug trafficking, hoarding, food and currency smug-

gling, illegal remittances and power theft.

The Apex Committee highlighted that the use of force is sole jurisdiction of the state and no person or group will be allowed to use coercive force.

The Committee made it clear that there is absolutely no place for any political armed group or organization in the country and those involved in such activities will be dealt with iron hands.

It was also highlighted that Islam is a religion of peace and the state will not allow anyone to achieve political goals by interpreting the religion in their own way.

The Committee said that state will protect the rights of minorities given to them by Islam and consti-

tution. The forum emphasized that those who campaign for propaganda and disinformation should be dealt with strictly under cyber laws.

The Apex Committee reiterated its determination that the principles of faith, unity and discipline will be followed in true sense and tireless efforts will be continued for development of the country.

APP adds: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti on Tuesday gave a deadline to all illegal foreigners in Pakistan to voluntarily leave the country by October 31st or the law enforcement agencies will deport them on November 1st.

Addressing a press conference after the Apex Com-

mittee meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar at the Ministry of Interior, Bugti said that no foreigner will be allowed to enter Pakistan on fake documents or no without visa documents. He said, the apex committee meeting decided November 1st as deadline for passport and visa renewal for all foreigners living illegally in Pakistan. There is no country in the world which allows foreigners to enter on any other document than visa but unfortunately, our country is the only one where anyone can come without a passport or visa, said the minister adding that after November 1st, no person, resident of any other country, will be able to enter Pakistan without passport and visa.

## SC should admit its past mistakes of endorsing martial laws: CJP

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: During the hearing of the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act case on Tuesday, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa made a compelling remark, highlighting the havoc being wrought by individuals wielding unchecked power.

He astutely observed that when martial law is imposed, the solemn oath taken by judges often fades into oblivion. In contrast, when parliament enacts laws, the judiciary swiftly reacts, holding lawmakers accountable to their oath.

The CJP boldly asserted that the apex court should acknowledge its past mistakes concerning its endorsement of martial laws.

Critics, particularly lawyers, have historically voiced concerns about the

top court's perceived misuse of its jurisdiction under Article 184 (3) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

A full court bench of the Supreme Court is hearing petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023. The bench, headed by CJP Isa and comprising all 15 judges of the Supreme Court, is hearing the pleas.

The highly anticipated case is being broadcast live on state television, as cameras from PTV have been installed inside Courtroom No.1. The hearing commenced at 9:30am today.

The full court bench, led by CJP Isa, included Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice

Sayed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

The hearing was adjourned till Monday, October 9.

At the start of today's hearing, the chief justice said the law affected the CJP and the two senior-most judges of the SC. He added that the law would also apply to future chief justices and senior judges of the apex court. Elaborating further, Justice Isa stated that he felt that he should not have been part of the bench, however, as the law affects all judges of the apex court, it was decided that a full court will hear the case.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the convocation ceremony of the dentistry and nursing departments of the Foundation University School of Health Science (FUSH).

## President stresses competitive jobs opportunities for professionals to prevent brain drain

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said Pakistan was in high need of retaining its skilled professionals including doctors and nurses, and stressed that the present situation necessitates an effective strategy to prevent brain drain.

"Offering competitive job opportunities and creating a favourable work environment is essential to reduce the loss of our precious intellectual elite," he said in his address here at the convocation of the dentistry and nursing departments of the Foundation University School of Health

Science (FUSH).

President Alvi said the country invested its resources in doctors, engineers, and other professionals, however, the flight of skilled human capital had a negative impact on the economy and developmental growth.

He said the effective way to reduce the need for skilled doctors to seek employment abroad was to create better employment opportunities for them within the country.

Pakistan, he said, needed 900,000 nurses compared to the available 300,000 at present to cope

with the requirements in the field of health services.

Dr Alvi said only nine percent of students of F.Sc (Faculty of Sciences) Pre-Medical got admission to medical colleges in Pakistan, while the statistics were 25 percent in India and Bangladesh. The situation needed a strategy to set up more medicine schools to accommodate a greater number of students, he added. The president pointed out that the women doctors who quit their professional fields while in a struggle to balance their family lives was a huge loss to the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a Press Conference.

## Ten terrorists killed amid intense exchange of fire in Pezu IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as ten terrorists were killed on Tuesday by the security forces during an intelligence based operation (IBO) conducted on reported presence of terrorists in the general area Pezu of District Tank.

During the operation, intense fire exchange took place between the Army troops and terrorists, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The ISPR added that these terrorists remained

actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as extortion and killing of innocent civilians.

A large cache of arms, ammunition and explosives was also recovered during the operation.

It added that the locals of the area appreciated the operation. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country," the new release said.

## LG by-polls schedule notified

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has notified the local government (LG) by-polls schedule for four districts of Sindh including Karachi, Khairpur and Hyderabad.

The LG by-polls will be held in Karachi East, Karachi West, Khairpur and Hyderabad districts on November 5. The by-polls will be held on four seats of the union councils (UCs) in the said districts.

## Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf appointed as new Naval Chief

ISLAMABAD (Online): Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf has been appointed as the new Naval Chief.

According to the spokesperson of Pakistan Navy, change of command ceremony will be held on Saturday in Islamabad.

Naveed Ashraf got commission in the Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1989. He is a graduate of National Defense University Islamabad, US Naval War College and UK's Royal College of Defense Studies.

Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf has vast experience of working in key command and staff positions. He is currently serving as the



Chief of Staff at the Naval Headquarters.

In recognition of his exceptional professional services and valiance, Naveed Ashraf has also been awarded with Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-i-Basalat.

## Aneeq emphasizes unity among Muslim nations for global influence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said the Muslim countries would have to portray a soft image of Ummah with concerted efforts on the globe.

He said this in a meeting with Bahraini Parliament Member and former Speaker Sheikh Adel bin Abdulrahman Almuawda, who called on him here in his office.

Sheikh Almuawda met with Minister Aneeq along with Pakistani scholars including Maulana Abu Turab, Maulana Atiqur Rehman Shah Kashmiri, Professor Sajjad Qamar, and Maulana Hafiz Maqsood Ahmad.

During their discussions, both leaders emphasized the promotion of unity within the Muslim Ummah, addressing common issues, and combating Islamophobia.

Minister Aneeq reaffirmed that Pakistan's foundation was rooted in the Quran and Sunnah, and stressed the need for Muslim nations to work collec-

tively to manifest the teachings of Islam. He highlighted that as Muslims, it was crucial to align their actions with Quranic guidance and promote Islamic values to the world.

Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of nurturing the younger generation lamenting that many young individuals were not seeking solutions to contemporary issues within the Quran's teachings.

Sheikh Almuawda expressed his country's deep affection for Pakistan as the only state established in the name of Islam. He also drew attention to historical instances of Islamophobia and the need to change the world's perception of Islam by removing the veil of ignorance.

Both leaders concurred that gradually incorporating religious education in educational institutions and spreading the message of Islam in a gentle and informative manner was essential. He also extended an invitation to Minister Aneeq to visit Bahrain to further strengthen bilateral relations.

## WB country director says: Pak needs 'careful' economic management to get macroeconomic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB) on Tuesday suggested Pakistan to undertake the much-needed fiscal reforms including a reduction in tax exemptions and broadening of tax base, terming them "critical" for economic stability and sustainable economic growth. "Careful economic management and deep structural reforms will be required to ensure macroeconomic stability and growth," WB Country Director for Pakistan Najy Benhassine said while launching "Pakistan Development Update (PDU):

Restoring Sustainability."

With inflation at record highs, rising electricity prices, severe climate shocks, and insufficient public resources to finance human development investments and climate adaptation, he said "it is imperative that critical reforms are undertaken to build the fiscal space and public means to invest into inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient development."

According to the WB report, Pakistan's economy slowed sharply in FY23 with real Gross Domestic Prod-

uct (GDP) estimated to have contracted by 0.6 per cent. "The decline in economic activity reflects the accumulation of domestic and external shocks including the floods of 2022, government restrictions on imports and capital flows, domestic political uncertainty, surging world commodity prices, and tighter global financing."

It said the previous fiscal year ended with significant pressure on domestic prices, fiscal and external accounts and exchange rate, and loss of investors' confidence

## PTI chief's cipher case to be heard in Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Law on Tuesday issued a notification to hold Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman's trial in Adiala jail in the cipher case.

The notification adds that the law and justice division says it has "no objection" to the trial being held in jail.

The notification was issued after special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain wrote a letter to the Ministry of Law, asking it to issue a notification to hold the hearing of the cipher case in the Rawalpindi prison due to security concerns. Earlier, the FIA submitted challan of the cipher case in a special court constituted under the Official Secrets Act. PTI chairman and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi were indicted in the challan.

## Azerbaijan ambassador meets Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov on Tuesday held a meeting with caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest, including bilateral cooperation in the field of health, were discussed.

The minister informed the ambassador about the healthcare initiatives being undertaken in Pakistan.

"We are implementing concrete measures to protect the public from diseases and epidemics."

The minister highlighted ongoing efforts to improve the availability of medicines and the establishment of pharmaceutical parks in Pakistan.

The minister emphasized to utilize technology

transfer for molecular manufacturing in Pakistan.

The minister informed that Pakistan was hosting first Global Health Security Summit. This summit will bring together top health leaders, officials, and technical experts from around the globe. The Global Health Security Summit and the pharmaceutical park initiatives were lauded by the ambassador.

He said the health leadership of Azerbaijan was expected to reach out Government of Pakistan to discuss these initiatives.

In the field of medicine, both countries will benefit from sharing experiences, and there is cooperation in allowing medical students from both nations to enroll in government-approved universities, the Ambassador said.



ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan Ambassador called on Federal Caretaker health minister Dr. Nadeem Jan in his office.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Interim Govt's firm resolve against terrorism & smuggling**

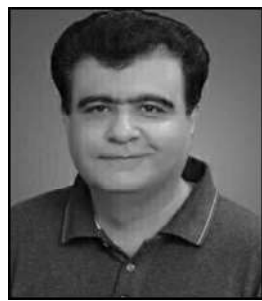
The interim government under leadership of Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar has expressed its unwavering resolve against the smuggling and terrorism in the country. At a presser alongside Interim Information Minister Murtaza Solangi in Islamabad the other day, caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti asserted that there is a "zero-tolerance policy" against smuggling and terrorism, adding that crackdowns against smuggling have borne fruit in cooperation with provinces. Bugti detailed the anti-smuggling operations in the country and said that the economy was suffering massive losses before the crackdowns began. He reiterated that Indian intelligence agency RAW is involved in terrorist activities in Balochistan. The Interior Minister said that the government had managed to bring down the value of the dollar and was making more efforts to bring it down to its original value. He said that action had been taken against 168 currency smugglers.

He said that data on food had been gathered from all provinces and sugar smuggling had been clamped down upon using modern technology. At this important press conference, Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti revealed that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has given very clear instructions to his men that if any of them is found involved in smuggling he will not only be court-martialed but also be sent to jail. He also said that thousands of metric tons of wheat, sugar, urea, and petroleum products had been recovered as a result of successful anti-smuggling and anti-hoarding drive by the government.

While giving details, he said around 22,200 metric tons of wheat, 8,800 metric tons sugar, 4,300 metric tons urea, and petroleum products worth 10,195 metric tons so far recovered during the last one month. Regarding the anti-narcotics drive, the Interior Minister said 43 metric tons of drugs were seized with the registration of 200 cases. Talking about the drive against the smuggling of dollars and illegal money exchange, Sarfaraz Bugti said 168 First Information Reports were lodged against people involved in this illegal activity. Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti went on to say that security officials were involved in cross-border smuggling.

It won't be right if I say straightaway that security forces weren't involved in it, as all this smuggling was being carried out via trucks, not camels. Responding to a question, Sarfaraz Bugti told there are widespread allegations about the involvement of security forces in cross-border smuggling. The remarks of the caretaker minister came amidst the federal government's countrywide crackdown against smugglers involved in the illegal transportation of goods including wheat, sugar and fertilizers and dollars from Pakistan to Afghanistan and petroleum products from Iran to Pakistan. Referring to a meeting, Bugti said that Army Chief had told his people in clear words that those found involved in smuggling would not only be court-martialed but also sent behind the bars. He said that he was part of the meeting. "But their (Army's) process of accountability is not made public and thus doesn't come into our knowledge."

**Democracy stalls**



Dr Niaz Murtaza

Our democratic journey is like that of a small boat caught in stormy seas. But in a country where the vast majority has not seen the fruits of democracy in real life, it is often hard for many to realise that democracy matters. Even highly educated persons often argue that we need good governance, whether it comes from democracy or autocracy. Such talk reflects the sorry reality that even after 75 years, we have no consensus on democracy, unlike in most Saarc states where democracy is a given and the only debate is on improving it. It also reflects the sordid fact that such people have not done a serious analysis of our own and global trends to realise that only democracy leads to durable good governance. Thus, such talk is reflective of not wisdom but naivete.

Democracy is a form of governance based on participation, tolerance and human rights unlike despotism. But for even many educated people, these are abstract luxuries that we can't afford yet and governance must yield immediate economic progress, infrastructure, utilities and law and order even if via autocracy. A regime that doesn't ensure participation, tolerance and human rights can't give the latter concrete outcomes for too long, as global trends show.

Among the four autocracy types, monarchies are almost all gone, except the Gulf ones which thrive only on oil money. Army regimes today all do poorly in

Myanmar, Sudan, Egypt and West Africa. Theocracy in Iran and Afghanistan is struggling. Among one-party autocracies, only China and Vietnam do well, but most others — as in North Korea, Cambodia, Laos and Central Asia — don't. Also, none of our parties have the strength to be given carte blanche. Against this, dozens of democracies are doing well, even regionally. But democracy takes time to mature and deliver. In India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, it took decades. Yet people there still stuck with it to later pick its tasty fruits.

In Pakistan, even a few years of bad outcomes under a severely controlled democracy grappling with the bad legacies of long autocracy are enough for us to yearn for autocracy despite its decades of poor outcomes notwithstanding absolute powers and lavish US aid. Many blame all our ills on democracy even though we have not had even for one day the unshackled democracy some of our neighbours have had for decades. There were no national polls from 1947 to 1958 and a dubious constitution only lasted two years. Since 1958, our history is simple: we have been ruled directly by the establishment or by three parties (the PPP, PML-N and PTI) whose founders were initially brought into politics by the establishment which later fell foul of all three. Thirteen out of our 15 national polls and referendum since 1958 were seen to be rigged by the establishment and one by civilians (1977). We have obviously invented a fifth autocracy type — hybrid autocracy chairs — where the establishment keeps changing the junior civilian face once it invariably becomes too big for its boots and starts wanting to don the establishment's bigger

and shinier boots, only to be booted out.

Until 1971, the main impetus for autocracy came from the Bengali numerical edge that banded together western civilian and khaki elites against democracy. Since then, the main impetus is the establishment's unwillingness to let civilians rule. All three civilian elite groups — landed, commercial and middle class — have taken turns at forming parties, winning with varying levels of establishment support initially and then trying to tame it. Our problems are not the fruits of democracy but the thorns of autocracy as even our civilian regimes are establishment-controlled.

The five forms of autocracy can't deliver in a huge, diverse and unruly state like ours. The way forward is democracy. Despite all the beating democracy has taken, its pre-fruits quickly sprout whenever the establishment loosens its grip even briefly as in 1972-77 and 2008-2018 in the form of the Constitution, devolution and fair polls. True, governance was still bad as democracy matures slowly. Yet, our situation now is so bad, we can't wait for democracy to yield good governance slowly. We need good governance right after the next polls to avoid doom. But we must not try to get it via a hybrid regime; it must be through fair polls. The media, civil society, the people, donors etc must democratically pressurise the winner to appoint a competent prime minister and cabinet, from its ranks and beyond, which undertakes equitable reforms while the Zardaris, Sharifs and Imran run their parties and support reforms. The next regime may be a make or break one for us. We can't afford another business-as-usual one. If it fails, so may Pakistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Washed away**



Sajjad Hussain Changezi

Calls for protests against inflated electricity bills and increased fuel prices have become common in Pakistan's big cities, but one wonders how poor families in the rural areas are faring in the midst of such hardship. A household survey of 600 families in district Kech in Balochistan, Pakistan's poorest province, gives shocking details.

Survey respondents included families apparently benefiting from the BRACE Programme, an EU-funded poverty reduction initiative implemented by the Balochistan and National Rural Support Programmes. The survey reveals that although average monthly household income has increased by 29 per cent since the baseline in 2018, monthly expenditure has risen by more than 34pc. Despite the best efforts of NRSP and supporting partners, the end result is that poverty in these households has increased, with a net negative saving amount. If the beneficiaries of a poverty-reduction initiative are suffering setbacks, one can only imagine what rural families not covered by any social protection scheme must be going through.

ForeSight Research, a Karachi-based research firm, conducted the baseline in 2018, midline in 2021 and endline in 2023. The surveys also reveal that the lion's share, ie, 72pc of total household expenditure averaging Rs24,720 is spent on food. This was 60pc in 2018 and 66pc in

2021. If three-fourths of a family's budget is taken up by food expenses, there is no room to build assets or invest in personal and professional skills development. This is also evident from the land ownership pattern which has reduced since 2018. A decline of 5pc has been reported. In other words, most households are living at the basic survival level or even struggling to maintain the ownership of their assets.

Another major finding of the survey is that the impact of climate change has made its way from science conferences and university research papers into the common people's lives. Nothing shows that more clearly than when people from two tehsils of a single district complain about two contrasting weather phenomena. In Tump tehsil in Kech district, 45pc of the respondents complained about "excessive rainfall", whereas 50pc of the respondents in Turbat tehsil of the same district cited "lesser rainfall" as the major climate problem. A climate change expert can explain that although the obvious impact may vary from one village to another, droughts and floods are two sides of the same coin, ie, climate change.

The unpredictability of rainfall has made it difficult for rural communities to make arrangements for the safety of their families, crops and livestock. Over the last five years, loss of livestock has reportedly increased from 24pc to 45pc, loss of agricultural output from 15pc to 44pc and damage to personal property from 19pc to 26pc.

Families and communities usually step up in response to external challenges but beyond a certain threshold, they lose their stamina to put up a united front against visible external threats such as climate change. It is a most worrying find-

ing that, after the initial increase in collective efforts to protect the environment, as noted in the midline survey, fewer respondents now say they are continuing tree plantation efforts, preventing deforestation or adapting to extreme weather conditions by means of improved house construction.

Economic hardships beyond a certain threshold also result in social deterioration. This is evident from the fact that the perception of people helping each other in need has decreased from 56pc in 2018 and 30pc in 2021 to 20pc in 2023. Not surprisingly, when surveyors inquired about trust in local representatives, an increased percentage of respondents — 29pc in 2023 compared to 20pc in 2021 and 15pc in 2018 — opted for "no trust".

Balochistan has long suffered from political instability and economic deprivation but now poor families across the country are nosediving into poverty. The middle class is rapidly thinning and millions of families find it hard to keep their hopes alive for economic betterment. The economic situation needs a stable political leadership to plan and implement concrete measures, especially in regions vulnerable to climate change.

As for the international community, these findings should serve as yet another reminder that the regions and communities surveyed, though contributing least to environmental pollution are the ones bearing the brunt of climate change. The European Union has focused on Balochistan but the centre and the provincial government need to lead from the front to support the rural, poor and marginalised communities of Balochistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**ADB report**

**Political stability following elections to boost business confidence in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its recent report that political stability after upcoming elections in Pakistan could boost business confidence and pave way for new standby arrangement with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Political stability following general elections later this year, if achieved, will boost business confidence, as will a new standby arrangement agreed with the International Monetary Fund to support economic

stabilization and rebuild fiscal buffers," says Asian Development Outlook (ADO) for September 2023.

The outlook has slightly revised Pakistan's growth target to 1.9 percent for the fiscal year 2023-24 against its projections of 2 percent made in April 2023.

"In Pakistan, growth is forecast at 1.9% in FY2024, slightly below the April projection, assuming continued implementation of reforms and supportive macroeconomic policies, recovery from flood-

induced supply shocks, and improving external conditions," it added.

The report revised down the country's growth estimate for FY2023 to 0.3% (0.6% forecast in April).

According to report, the revised projection assumes a modest rebound in demand, with private consumption and private investment growing by about 3% and 5%, respectively.

Fiscal and monetary tightening will crimp demand, as will inflation staying in double digits. On

the other hand, implementation of the economic adjustment program and a likely smooth general election should boost confidence, while the easing of import controls should support investment as fiscal tightening restrains public consumption.

On the output side, better weather conditions will enable an increase in the area under cultivation and in yields, supporting recovery in agriculture.

The government's relief package of free seeds, subsidized credit,



Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chaired a meeting on Seed System of Pakistan and reviewed its challenges and future prospects at Islamabad.

**Shahid Tarar says: PR's existing infrastructure, rolling stock to be improved through private investments**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Railways, Communication, and Maritime Shahid Ashraf Tarar Tuesday said the existing infrastructure, rolling stock, factories, and railway stations will be improved through private sector investments.

He said this while chairing a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Railways to discuss the

self-reliance plan of Pakistan Railways. Shahid Ashraf said that Pakistan Railways is following three pronged strategy to revive and expand railways in the country which include safety, efficiency, and self-reliance.

The minister said that Pakistan Railways has taken several initiatives to cut costs and enhance its revenue.

**Chairman HCCI's subcommittee of Traffic, Road management meets SP Traffic**

HYDERABAD (APP): On the directives of the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Adeel Siddiqui, Chairman of the Sub-committee of Traffic and Road Management Syed Ali Hassan Laljal along with members Muhammad Adnan Khan and Muhammad Danish met with SP Traffic Ghulam Rasool Sial and discussed the matters related to mutual interest.

SP Traffic Ghulam Rasool Sial said that police constables were per-

forming their duty on busy roads, Schools, Colleges and main commercial markets and also assisting to maintain the smooth flow of vehicles on the roads.

He said that traffic police sergeants and SO were monitoring the traffic system while the quick response force was also working for the restoration of traffic on emergency basis. He said that steps would be taken immediately for the restoration of traffic in those areas which were highlighted by the subcommittee of HCCI.

**KCCI, NUTECH ink MoU for establishment of campus in Karachi**

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and National University of Technology (NUTECH), on Tuesday, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of NUTECH Karachi Campus. President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh and Registrar NUTECH Islamabad Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moazzam Ejaz, signed the MoU here at KCCI, wherein both institutions have mutually agreed upon

principles for establishment of NUTECH Karachi Campus (NKC), said a statement issued here.

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Director General Airport Security Force (ASF) Maj. Gen. Adnan Asif Jha, Pro Rector NUTECH Maj. Gen. Khalid Javed, Registrar NUTECH Brigadier Dr. Syed Adnan Qasim, Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala and other representatives

of business community.

As per MoU, NUTECH and KCCI will jointly develop NKC academics, research and skills system based on export-supported strategies while both the institutions would also collaborate for intellectual, research, academic and professional cooperation to promote creation, development, implementation, transfer and export of indigenous industrial knowledge, technologies and skills.

**Chinese policy bank ups loan support for farmland cultivation**

BEIJING (APP): The China Development Bank (CDB), one of the country's policy banks, has stepped up loan support for the cultivation of high-standard farmland. By the middle of September, the lender had issued a total of 24.5 billion yuan (about 3.42 billion U.S. dollars) in loans to support farmland cultivation, which is expected to help foster 4.25 million mu (about 283,333 hectares) of high-standard farmland.

**Rabi crop cultivation and season starts**

Independent Report UMER KOT: Rabi crop cultivation and season has started, Urea pesticide and black marketing continues, farmers and farmers are in trouble and demand to take notice.

According to the details, preparations have started for the cultivation of rabi crops such as wheat, springer, wadaf and others in Umardot district including Kunari taluka. of black marketing. Due to this, the farmers and the farmers are suffering from severe problems, due to which the spring season and wheat

harvest target is affected. Instead of the rate of 11 thousand 591 rupees, it is being sold at 12 thousand 01 rupees.

Even though the rate is higher from 02 hundred to 05 rupees, urea fertilizer is not available in the market. From where they are busy selling urea fertilizer in black at high prices to influential farmers, various fertilizer dealers in their position blamed the ongoing crisis on the fertilizer companies and said that the fertilizer companies did not get the required quantity of urea fertilizer on time.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways, Shahid Ashraf Tarar chairing a meeting at Ministry of Railways.

**HESCO recovers Rs2.835 billion from consumers, electricity thieves**

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has recovered Rs2.835 billion since September 7 out of Rs169 billion in payable dues over the public and private sector consumers as well as in fines from the electricity thieves.

The company's spokesman Sadiq Kubar informed here on Tuesday that 1075 letters for registration of FIRs against electricity thieves had also been submitted in various police stations during the ongoing crackdown against theft and for the recovery.

According to him, the police had so far lodged 409

FIRs besides arresting 43 suspected thieves.

He said that the power supply from 1,159 pole-mounted transformers had been disconnected so far including the removal of 224 PMTs against which unpaid dues had accrued to Rs365.2 million.

He apprised that the highest recoveries of Rs318.28 million and Rs274.75 million were made on September 18 and September 15, respectively, from the defaulting consumers while the lowest recovery of Rs36.9 million was done on September 12.

**Rupee gains Rs 1.04 against US Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed 20th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs 1.04 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.76.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.5 and Rs 286.3 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased Rs 3.34 to close at Rs 299.56 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.90, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).



# Wars are devastating for humanity Governor Punjab regrets suppression of Kashmiri people by India

### Says efforts made by HWPL in world for peace are praise worthy

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: A delegation of an international peace organization, Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration Light (HWPL) working for global peace, led by Senator Kamran Michael called on Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore.

Rehman said that the efforts made by HWPL in the world for peace since 2014 are praise worthy. He said that wars are devastating for humanity. He said that the Kashmiris in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are still deprived of their legitimate right to self-determination. Governor Punjab said that India is trying to suppress the legitimate right of self-determination of

Kashmiris by usurping their basic human rights. He said that international organizations should ensure the implementation of the UN resolutions to resolve the Kashmir issue. Governor Punjab said international peace organizations need to be more active and play an effective role in resolving Palestine and Kashmir issues for durable peace in the world.



LAHORE: A delegation of an International Peace Organization, Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration Light (HWPL) working for global peace, led by Senator Kamran Michael in a group photo with Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

## CM reviews law & order situation in province

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office to review the steps taken for the protection of life and property of the people in the province.

emphasizing that no faction or gang would be permitted to disrupt the peace of the province.

It was decided that stringent action would be taken against those inciting violence in the name of religion and every possible step will be taken to stop the financing of such elements. Additionally, individuals aiding wrongdoers will face intensified scrutiny, with no exceptions for those operating outside the bounds of the law.

IG police briefed about the law and order situation in the province, along with updates on legal action taken against miscreants. The meeting also paid tribute to the valiant policemen who thwarted a terrorist attack on the Kundal check post in Mianwali. Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, chief secretary, ACS, secretary law, ACS (Home), Addl IG (Special Branch), CCPO, secretary prosecution, Addl IG (CTD), high officials and representatives from law enforcement agencies attended the meeting while RPOs participated through video link.

## CM pins promotional badges to CSO

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (APP): Hamza Amanullah, Chief Security Officer (CSO) of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab has been promoted to the rank of Senior SP.

Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and IG Police Usman Anwar pinned the badges to Hamza Amanullah as Senior SP. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi felicitated Hamza Amanullah and expressed his best wishes for his continued success in his new role. CCPO Bilal Kamyana was also present.

## Follow Quran, Sunnah for peace in society: Nighat

**Independent Report**  
FAISALABAD (APP): Renowned religious scholar Dr. Nighat Hashmi said that application of the Quran and Sunnah to daily life would help reduce intolerance in society and spread the fragrance of love and peace. She was addressing a seminar arranged by the Career Building Society, Senior Tutor Office, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) at the Iqbal Auditorium on Tuesday. She stressed following in footsteps of the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said we have to make efforts to eliminate hatred in society.

## Governor KP stresses upon faculty to improve ranking of institution

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Tuesday laid foundation stone of new academic bloc in Edwards College Peshawar and stressed upon faculty members to revive the past fame and educational standard of the institution.

faculty members and large number of students were also present.

He said that improving educational standard of the college was among his priorities, adding that resources would be utilized to improve its ranking. "As a resident of Peshawar, it is my responsibility to work for improvement of the institutions that was one for its reputation and standard of education", he said.

During visit, the governor also planted a sapling on the college premises. Provincial Caretaker Minister, Hamid Shah,



LAHORE: Representative of Motorway Police and Administrators of Bus transportation Company participate in the awareness rally about smog and fog, at General Bus stand in Provincial Capital.

## 05 dead, 1388 injured in 1302 road traffic crashes in Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1302 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 05 people died, whereas 1388 were injured. Out of these, 687 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 701 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The statistics show that 343 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 345 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 95 in Multan with 93 victims and at third Faisalabad with 78 RTCs and 82 victims.

The majority (74%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 654

The details further reveal that 1388 victims were affected by road traffic crashes including 1130 males & 263 females, while the age group of the victims shows that 191 were under 18 years of age, 770 were between 18 and 40 years and rest of the 432 victims were reported above 40 years of age.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali along with others cutting cake during a ceremony on the eve of National Day of China, at China Window in Peshawar.

## CM aide urges swift progress on Nowshera Mega City Housing project

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Housing and Transport Zafar Ullah Khan Umarzai on Tuesday advocated for expeditious progress in the development of the inaugural phase of the Mega City Nowshera Housing Project.

Pakhtunkhwa Housing Authority (KPHA) officials to complete the initial phase promptly and initiate preparations for the next phase. Dr. Ambar Ali Khan, Secretary of the Housing Department, Javed Ali, Additional Secretary, Roshan Mehsood, Director General of KPHA, Imran Wazir, Additional Director General, and other authority officers were present in the meeting. The meeting included a comprehensive briefing by the secretary on the Mega City project.

## SFA closes kitchen of JSMU for poor hygiene

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Food Authority (SFA), on Tuesday, temporarily closed the kitchen of Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) due to poor hygiene conditions while a penalty of Rs.80,000 was also imposed.

An SFA team led by Deputy Director of Canteens Pervaiz Ali Shahani paid a surprise visit to JSMU and inspected the kitchen was found in a very poor hygiene condition, said a statement issued here.

On the occasion, he also directed the university administration to improve cleanliness as per principles of hygiene. Another team of SFA led by Deputy Director Yasin Sabzoi inspected several restaurants in the district Karachi South on directives of Director General SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain. The team imposed fines amounting to Rs.100000 for poor cleanliness and unsatisfactory hygiene conditions while the kitchen of a restaurant has also been temporarily closed.

## Sindh issues alert for Nipah virus

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Health Department has issued an advisory regarding the potential spread of the dangerous "Nipah" virus, which has affected numerous individuals in India.

In the advisory, the medical superintendents, directors, and livestock departments have been advised to exercise caution in a letter sent by Sindh's director of health to hospitals around the state.

The Nipah virus is known to transmit quickly between and among people and from animals. The warning also lists the virus's symptoms, which can include fever, headaches, body pains, and, in severe cases, coma.

The Nipah virus was first identified in 1998 during an outbreak of illness among pig farmers in Malaysia and Singapore.

# International News

## EU assures Kyiv of support after first meeting outside bloc's borders

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: The European Union signalled its long-term support for Ukraine on Monday as its foreign ministers convened in Kyiv for a historic first gathering outside the bloc's borders.

our solidarity and support to the Ukrainian people", he said, acknowledging that the gathering "does not have the aim of reaching concrete conclusions and decisions".

The meeting came as disagreements grow among EU members over support for Ukraine and as Kyiv's forces make limited gains in a high-stakes counteroffensive against Russian troops. "We are convening in a historic meeting of the EU foreign ministers here in Ukraine, candidate country and future member of the EU," the bloc's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba hailed the discussions as an important signal of European support. "For the first time ever the foreign affairs council is going to sit down outside of its current borders — outside the borders of the European Union — but within future borders of the European Union," Kuleba told reporters alongside Borrell.

The purpose of the meeting was to "express

There are growing fears of cracks appearing within the bloc as concern also rises over the support

of key backer the United States. Hungary, Russia's closest ally in the EU, could now be joined by Slovakia as a potential block to more backing as populist Robert Fico pushes for power in Bratislava after winning elections this weekend.

There have also been tensions between Kyiv and some of its most strident backers on the EU's eastern edge — most notably Poland — over the influx of Ukrainian grain into their markets.

France's top diplomat Catherine Colonna appeared to address the concerns, saying the meeting was a signal to Moscow of the bloc's determination to support Ukraine over the long term.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks with European Union Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell as they visit the Memory Wall of Fallen Defenders of Ukraine, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, during the marking of Defenders of Ukraine Day in Kyiv.

## Armenia's parliament votes to join the International Criminal Court, straining ties with ally Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
YEREVAN: Armenia's parliament voted Tuesday to join the International Criminal Court, a move that further strains the country's ties with its old ally Russia after the court issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin over events in Ukraine.

Moscow last month called Yerevan's effort to join the ICC an "unfriendly step," and the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Armenia's ambassador. Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil.

Armenia later sought to assure Russia that Putin would not be arrested if he entered the country.

Still, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called Tuesday's decision "incorrect," saying it will raise "additional questions" in Moscow, even though Armenia is "our ally, a friendly state, our partner, and a lot unites us with the brotherly Armenian people."

Asked if Putin would have to refrain from traveling to Armenia, he added: "Of course, we wouldn't want the president to have to ever, for whatever reason, refuse a visit to Armenia." A diplomatic solution is needed and will be discussed with Yerevan, he said.

## Kremlin says Russia has not abandoned moratorium on nuclear testing

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Tuesday that Russia had not abandoned a moratorium on nuclear testing, and dismissed a suggestion by the editor of a state television channel that Moscow should detonate a thermonuclear device in Siberia as a warning to the West.

China conducted their last nuclear tests in 1996, according to the United Nations. The Kremlin said it had not abandoned the moratorium when asked about remarks by Margarita Simonyan, the editor-in-chief of state-funded broadcaster RT, who suggested that Russia should detonate a nuclear bomb over Siberia.

President Vladimir Putin, who rules the world's biggest nuclear power, has repeatedly cautioned the West that any attack on Russia could provoke a nuclear response.

The Soviet Union's last nuclear test took place in 1990. The United States' last nuclear test took place in 1992 and France and

"At present, we have not left the regime of abandoning nuclear tests," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "I don't think such discussions are possible now from an official point of view," Peskov said, adding that Simonyan's words did not "always" reflect Moscow's official position.



Armenian lawmakers attend the session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia in Yerevan.

## At least 10 people are dead after church roof collapsed in northern Mexico during Sunday Mass

**Monitoring Desk**  
CIUDAD MADERO: The roof of a church collapsed during Sunday Mass, killing at least 10 people and injuring around 60, authorities said as searchers probed in the wreckage throughout the night and into Monday morning looking for survivors and more victims.

The Tamaulipas state police said about 100 people were in the church at the time of the collapse.

Approximately 30 parishioners were believed to have been trapped in the rubble when the roof caved in, officials said. Searchers crawled under the roof slabs and officials brought in dogs to help search for possible survivors.

The state security spokesman's office said early Monday that 10 people had been confirmed dead from the collapse, which it described as likely being caused by a structural failure. The office said 23 of the 60 injured remain hospitalized, with two in serious condition.

The Mexican Council of Bishops issued a statement saying that "we join in prayer at the tragic loss of life and those injured."



Members of a rescue team and people work at a site where a church roof collapsed during Sunday mass in Ciudad Madero, in Tamaulipas state, Mexico in this handout picture distributed.

## Niger says 29 soldiers killed in attack, rejects Algerian mediation

**Monitoring Desk**  
NIAMEY: At least 29 Niger soldiers were killed in an ambush by insurgents near the country's border with Mali, the defence ministry said, the deadliest attack since the military seized power in a coup in July.

Niger and its neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso, also run by military governments that seized power in coups, are all battling militants linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State who have killed thousands and displaced over two million people in the Sahel region. They signed a security pact last month promising to defend each other against rebels or aggressors.

Separately, the Niger junta denied it had accepted an offer by Algeria to act as a mediator to solve its political crisis, even though Algeria had said on Monday it had received official notification of Niger's acceptance.

The attack in Niger took place as soldiers were returning from operations against the militants.

## Nepal hit by two earthquakes, injuring 11 and triggering landslide

**Monitoring Desk**  
KATHMANDU: Two earthquakes rocked western Nepal on Tuesday, injuring 11 people, damaging homes and triggering a landslide that blocked a major highway, authorities said.

The landslide after the quakes of magnitude 6.3 and 5.3 in the district of Bajhang, bordering India, blocked the road to the southern plains, interior ministry official Rama Acharya told Reuters.

The quakes, centred in Talkot and Chainpur, struck at an interval of about 30 minutes. Police official Bharat Bahadur Shah said 11 people — seven women and four men — were injured and were being treated in hospital.

One woman was missing after being hit by another landslide triggered by the quake, he said.

One of the injured people was hit by a falling object, said Narayan Pandey, the top district official. Some homes in Chainpur, a town in the district, collapsed.

## India tells Canada to withdraw 41 diplomats: report

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India has told Canada that it must repatriate 41 diplomats by October 10, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. Ties between New Delhi and Ottawa have become seriously strained over Canadian suspicion that Indian government agents had a role in the June murder in Canada of a Sikh separatist leader and Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who India had labelled a "terrorist".

Gurdwara temple in Surrey, British Columbia and advocated for the creation of a Sikh state known as Khalistan. India has dismissed the allegation as absurd. On September 21, Trudeau called on India to cooperate with an investigation into the murder of the separatist leader in British Columbia and said Canada would not release its evidence for their claims.

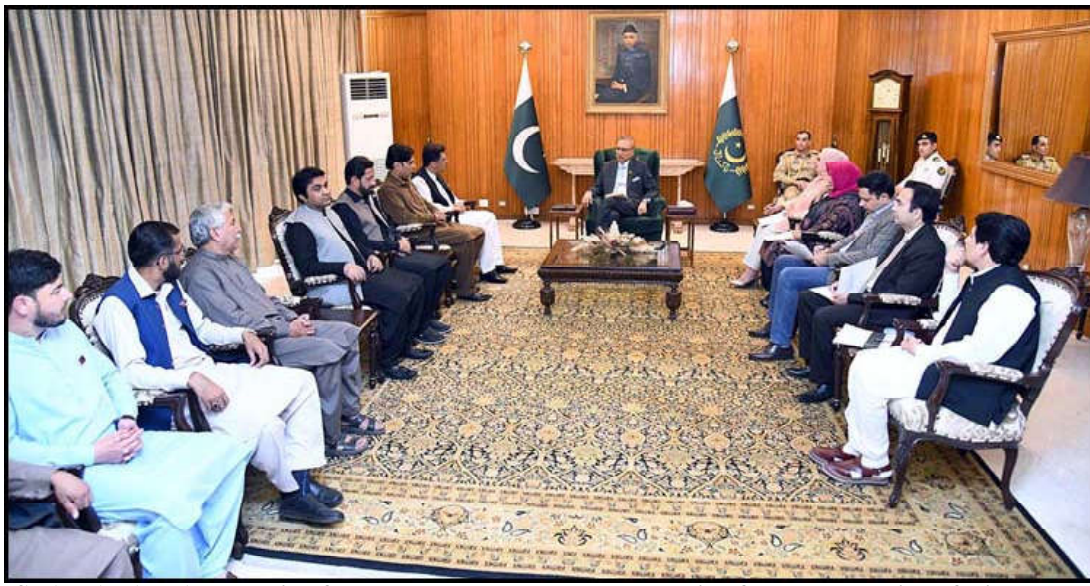
Nijjar, 45, was the president of Guru Nanak Sikh

India suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country on the same day.

## Nine killed after Mexican church roof collapses

**Monitoring Desk**  
MEXICO CITY: A church roof collapsed during Sunday Mass in a northern Mexican city killing at least nine people and injuring 40, authorities said, as searchers worked into the night, desperately looking for another 30 people believed to be trapped under the rubble. Working under floodlights, military personnel supported emergency services using rescue dogs and earth moving equipment to identify and dig out survivors from the ruins of the church in Ciudad Madero.





ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, working for the promotion of Hindko language, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## ICCPO lauds officials for effective measures in crime combating

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan presided over a crime meeting on Tuesday which was held at the Central Police Office, a public relations officer said.

He said that the meeting was attended by CPO Operations, CPO Headquarters, SSP Operations, SSP Safe City, AIG Operations, all Zonal DPOs, SDPOs, and all in-charge police stations.

During the meeting, the ICCPO reviewed the crime situation in the federal capital and commended the performance of the police officials for effective measures in crime combating during the last 09



months. Furthermore, he underscored the commitment to maintain law and order in Islamabad and ensure the safety and security of its citizens. He stated that all available resources would be utilized to achieve this goal.

## Nawaz Sharif to appear before court: Rana

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Punjab President Rana Sanaullah has said that former premier Nawaz Sharif would appear before the court.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, he said the entire PML-N and the public is ready to welcome Nawaz Sharif on Oct 21. He said how the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would attract the voters without hitting the PMLN.

He said the entire Muslim world had celebrated when Pakistan had become the atomic power and it happened under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

The entire nation is facing the crisis like situation due to Baba Rehmaty, however, Nawaz Sharif is coming back to Pakistan for the nation. He said we have to improve the situation of the common man

## Chairman PARC vows to improve crop productivity with a special focus on Oilseed and Sugar Crops

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) recommended 04 new sunflower hybrids, 03 Mustard varieties/hybrids and 1 variety of each soybean, rapeseed, groundnut while 2 varieties of sugarcane for commercial cultivation in the potential ecologies.

The VEC meeting on



and the PMLN head would do it by announcing the party manifesto at a gathering. During the public gathering, he said Nawaz Sharif would also express his view on his narrative and policy as well.

Criticizing the chairman PTI, the former interior minister said due to his conducts he is in jail as we had not instituted case against anyone. He said the neat and clean person turned up disastrous and country could default in his regime. He said that incidents of May 9 were attack on the defense of Pakistan and culprits involved in this occurrence should be given any relaxation. Everyone is free to contest the election as the PMLN does not want to incarcerate anyone, the minister said adding during a meeting with the Election Commission early election had been demanded.

(VEC) and attended by the committee members belonging to various public and private sector organizations and policy makers. In the meeting, 21 proposals for Soybean, Canola, Rapeseed, Mustard, Sunflower, Groundnut, and Sesame candidate varieties/hybrids as well as 04 proposals of sugarcane were assessed.

After thorough evaluation and discussion, the committee recommended 4 new sunflower hybrids, 3 Mustard varieties/hybrids, 1 variety each of soybean, rapeseed and groundnut while 2 varieties of sugarcane for potential ecologies.

## NDMA transitioning from reactive to proactive body with clear futuristic strategy: Inam

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik Tuesday said the Authority was transitioning from a reactive to a proactive organization with a clear futuristic strategy to cope with emerging challenges in the disaster management realm.

He was addressing the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) launching ceremony of its special report titled "Human Security through Development" here.

The chairman said the Human Security Through

Development Report by ISSI was an important document timely launched by the Institute, whereas the authority was to convert such reports into doable actions.

He added that human security should be the main stake of means of development, as there were different definitions of disasters in various societies linked to the individual capacities of the nations to respond to the disasters of multiple natures.

The erratic behavior of natural weather patterns world over were evident and natural disasters were observed in many urban

centers that did not face such threats earlier, he said.

The NDMA, he said was now in a better position to manage the prediction of disasters that had advanced world projections of different level monitoring its changing climatic behavior.

He underscored that the population growth index needed to be watched world over as it was threat multiplier. The NDMA is developing a national think tank and connecting all research conducted in the past decade that could have shaped our national disaster response in the present, he added.

**Pak greets Germany on annual Unity Day**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday extended greetings to the people and Government of Germany as the country celebrated annual Unity Day on the day.

"On the occasion of German Unity Day of the Federal Republic of Germany, we extend our heartfelt felicitations to its people and Government," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

**Pitiless father kills 4 children, throws body in canal**  
LAHORE (INP): A pitiless man killed his four children and threw bodies in canal in Kahna area of Lahore. Police arrested the accused and recovered bodies.

According to details, accused Azeem hailing from Kahna area killed his four children Sabir, Ayesha, Habibi and Samia aged between five to 12 years and threw their bodies in Kasur Lalyani canal.

The culprit staged drama of abduction of his children but police over suspicion arrested him.

During investigation, the accused admitted murder of his four children and police after registering a case against him started investigation.

## AIOU holds National Seerat Conference

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is working to spread the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) and, in that context, the university is hosting a National Seerat conference in the third week of this month. According to the AIOU, Prof this conference is being organized jointly by the Seerat Chair of the University, the Department of Seerat Studies, AIOU and the Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Authority, as per the special directives of the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi.

**PBC celebrates silver jubilee of FM-101 channel with zeal**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): Radio Pakistan has celebrated Silver Jubilee of FM-101 channel with fervour and zeal which was simultaneously launched from Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi in 1998.

Being the pioneer in the FM industry, the prime focus of this channel was to provide an effective platform to the youth, where they can improve their communication skills, and generate revenue for Radio

Pakistan, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

After 25 years, its transmission has been extended to 20 stations with a relaying station at Kallar Kahar. Being the largest FM network in Pakistan, this channel provides coverage to 70 percent area of the country. Besides, transmission of FM-101 is accessed abroad through web streaming with a massive following. Comments and appreciation on social media.

**Cipher case**  
**Court seeks opinion from law ministry on where next hearing to take place**  
ISLAMABAD (Online): Official Secret Act court has sought opinion from law ministry about where the next hearing of cipher case against chairman PTI will take place. Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain of official secret act court has sought opinion by writing a letter to ministry of law.

It has been asked from the law ministry through the letter is there any security threat in bringing chairman PTI to court. Chairman PTI is important person and head of a political party. His security will have to be kept in view. Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain wrote if there are no security threats then the hearing will take place in judicial complex on Wednesday. It is pertinent to mention here judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain had ordered to present chairman PTI on October 4 in cipher case.

**Kainat School delegation**  
**System students visits Safe City Islamabad**  
**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the CPO Safe City/Traffic welcomed the delegation of Kainat School System students at the Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is

playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.

**NIH diagnoses conjunctivitis epidemic**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) has diagnosed the epidemic of conjunctivitis. In a statement, Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the National Institute of Health was a scientific and technical institution, e added that the National Institute of Health was responsible for diagnosis and monitoring of epidemics.

According to the National Institute of Health, the recent outbreak was caused by Coxsackievirus A24, Dr Nadeem Jan added.

# Govt to improve education standard for holistic dev. & economic growth

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi Tuesday said the government was working to improve the status of education in the country in order to ensure development and better economic growth.

He said that education was the basic right of every child and an important tool for the progress and development of any nation and human resource development through better education was the central pillar of the government's

policy.

He was addressing the inter-university business plan competition as chief guest organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industries (ICCI) in collaboration with universities.

Madad Ali Sindhi said that the government had formulated the first ever National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy, which aimed to cater the needs of industrial sector by adding value to human capital through imparting requisite training and

skills.

He lauded the initiative of ICCI for organizing the business plan competition among university students that had provided them a good opportunity to show their innovative business ideas and entrepreneurial skills.

He said that his ministry was ready to collaborate with ICCI in various initiatives to upscale the education sector in order to produce trained and skilled manpower for business and industry.

President, ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, said that

the purpose of organizing the business plan competition among university students was to provide them a good platform to present their innovative business ideas and get the attention of investors for their commercialization.

He stressed that the government should take solid measures to create a conducive environment for innovators and start-ups and focus on fostering a culture of entrepreneurship in the country in order to turn around the economy and achieve sustainable economic growth.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik posing along with DG ISSI Sohail Mahmood and others after Seminar entitled "Human Security Through Development" at Institute of Strategic Studies in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik posing along with DG ISSI Sohail Mahmood and others after Seminar entitled "Human Security Through Development" at Institute of Strategic Studies in Federal Capital.

## At UNGA body Pakistan terms India's occupation of IIOJK 'worst manifestation' of colonialism

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Describing India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," Pakistan has called on the U.N. to push for a peaceful settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and Kashmiri people's wishes. Noting that since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, Ambassador Munir Akram told the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth)

Committee that there are still peoples who are denied the right to self-determination, "most prominently the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine."

The right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, the Pakistani envoy said, was explicitly recognized in UNSC resolution 47 and several subsequent resolutions, which prescribed that the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held

under UN auspices.

These resolutions were accepted by both India and Pakistan, he said, adding that under Article 25 of the UN Charter, both parties are obliged to implement these resolutions. In his remarks, Ambassador Akram also said that durable peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through the two-state solution and the establishment of a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine, with the pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

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According to the National Institute of Health, the recent outbreak was caused by Coxsackievirus A24, Dr Nadeem Jan added.

**IHC restrains police from arresting Sher Afzal without prior permission of court**  
ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped Islamabad police from arresting Sher Afzal Marwat, member of PTI legal team without prior permission of the court.

The petition filed by Sher Afzal Marwat came up for hearing before IHC Tuesday.

Petitioner Sher Afzal Marwat appeared in the court along with his counsel Qazi Adil advocate.

During the hearing of the case the court sought

details of the cases against Sher Afzal Marwat from police and other respondents.

The court also asked the officials concerned to apprise if Marwat's name is included in the Exit Control List (ECL). Later justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir while issuing the order for not arresting Sher Afzal Marwat without prior permission of the court adjourned the hearing of the case till Friday.

**Experts say Pakistan can earn millions of dollars by exporting trained allied health professionals**  
**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can not only earn millions of dollars by exporting trained and qualified allied health professionals including paramedics and medical technicians but quality of healthcare can also be improved at local health facilities, which are facing a severe shortage of skilled healthcare professionals,

of faculty of Allied Health and Interdisciplinary Sciences at Health Services Academy (HSA) Islamabad. With the help of our 16 Ph.D scholars, we would now be able to provide highly educated, qualified and trained workforce in the area of allied health sciences to the country and also send them abroad to earn valuable foreign exchange for the country". Vice Chancellor HSA

the occasion.

Vice Chancellor HSA Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan provided a detailed briefing about the newly established faculty and presented the future vision of Health Services Academy. "Our commitment to excellence and innovation in healthcare education remains unwavering. The Faculty of Allied Health and Interdisciplinary Sciences will

empower our students to excel and contribute significantly to the healthcare sector," he maintained. e informed that both the Allied Health Professionals Council as well as Higher Education Commission were on board and they had assured the health services academy of their complete support in launching various diploma, certificate as well as Masters and Ph.D courses in the field of allied health and interdisciplinary sciences.

health officials said on Tuesday. They said induction of around 16 Ph.Ds scholars, mostly foreign-qualified experts who have joined the Faculty of Allied Health and Interdisciplinary Sciences at Health Services Academy (HSA) Islamabad, Pakistan would be able to produce trained and qualified health professionals as per needs and requirements of the local healthcare industry.

"Today a milestone has been achieved with the launch

of the new faculty. Zamurrad Khan, President Allied Health Professionals Council (AHP), World Health Organization's country representative to Pakistan Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Executive Director of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Polyclinic Dr. Rana Imran Sikandar, heads of leading private health facilities in the capital and other officials were also present on

the occasion.

Vice Chancellor HSA Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan provided a detailed briefing about the newly established faculty and presented the future vision of Health Services Academy. "Our commitment to excellence and innovation in healthcare education remains unwavering. The Faculty of Allied Health and Interdisciplinary Sciences will

empower our students to excel and contribute significantly to the healthcare sector," he maintained. e informed that both the Allied Health Professionals Council as well as Higher Education Commission were on board and they had assured the health services academy of their complete support in launching various diploma, certificate as well as Masters and Ph.D courses in the field of allied health and interdisciplinary sciences.

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