

# Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 278 Rabi-ul-Awwal 20, 1445 AH Saturday October 07, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## CM Baqar orders integration of Green Line and Orange Line projects

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has directed the provincial transport and mass transit department to integrate the Green Line and Orange Line bus rapid transit (BRT) projects in the city to increase their ridership. The chief minister issued these directives while chairing a meeting to review different projects of the Transport & Mass Transit Department. A statement issued after the meeting said that the meeting participants were told about the Green Line BRT project which was made operational in December 2021. The 20.9-km BRT project currently serves 80 buses operating on its dedicated route with an average ridership of 55,000 people per day. "The CM said that its ridership in terms of buses and the length of the project was not satisfactory," said the statement. At this point, the statement said,

the CM was told that when the other BRTs such as Yellow Line and another feeder would start operating, the ridership of the BRT Green Line would increase to 150,000 to 200,000 daily. While the launch, completion and execution of three other planned Red, Yellow and Blue BRTs remain a distant dream, the situation also doesn't look promising with the two already available projects, Green and Orange. "The CM was informed that the BRT Orange Line was 3.8km with 20 buses on the main track," said the statement.

"Its ridership has been recorded at 3,000 per day. The merger between the Green and Orange line could increase the number of passenger from 3,000 to 25,000 per day. The CM directed the transport department to integrate the Orange Line with the Green Line to increase its ridership."



HYDERABAD: Federal minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi address to media persons at Press Club.

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

HYDERABAD (APP): He informed that all out efforts are being made to provide scholarships to make male and female students of Sindh on priority basis adding that merit is being ensured while selecting the candidates for scholarships. He distributed cheques among the selected male and female students of the University of Sindh, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences and Shaheed Allama Iqbal Open University. The minister said this while talking to media persons after attending the ceremony of the scholarship cheque distribution under National Endowment Scholarship for Talent Scheme among the students at University of Sindh Jamshoro on Friday.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab offering Dua after inaugurating Fauzia Wahab Park, at Aligarh Society in Karachi.

## Mayor inaugurates various development projects

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday inaugurated various development projects including Jam Ikramullah Dharjo Family Park, Sports Ground, Jami Masjid Aligarh Road and Mustafa Jami Masjid Road in Aligarh Society, Sector 5-B, Scheme 33 here. Local officials and workers of the Pakistan People's Party were also present on the occasion. Murtaza Wahab said that the purpose of coming here is that this place was occupied a few years ago. Today, after the removal of encroachment people have started staying here, he said. He said that mosques and parks are being built in this society and we approved the scheme with the help of KDA and developed



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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Friday said the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and other Government departments will continue the enforcement actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities.

The Army Chief made these remarks during his visit to Karachi where he attended a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee along with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. During the Apex Committee meeting, the COAS was briefed about the Revised National Action Plan,

Operation in the Kacha Area of Sindh, Security of Foreign Nationals employed on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Non-CPEC and Private Projects, Repatriation of illegal foreigners, Foreign Currency Regularization Measures, Karachi Transformation Plan, Progress on SIFC initiatives in Sindh and Green Sindh initiatives.

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

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

LAHORE (INP): A fresh medical report of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) supremo, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was submitted to the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday.

The former premier, who had left for London in 2019 on medical grounds, was scheduled to return to Pakistan on October 21. The LHC had allowed Nawaz Sharif to travel abroad initially for a period of four weeks, extendable on the basis of medical reports. As per report, the ex-premier had "some residual anginal symptoms" which would require "frequent follow-up investigations" in London and Pakistan.

The report was signed by Professor Carlo Di Mario, a consultant cardiologist at the Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals, part of Guy's and St Thomas' National Health Service Foundation Trust.

## Acting CJ SHC orders transfer, postings of Court officers

KARACHI (APP): The Acting Chief Justice of Sindh High Court Justice Irfan Saadat Khan has ordered transfer and postings of officers of the court with immediate effect.

According to notification issued by SHC Registrar, Secretary Services Altaf Hussain was transferred and posted as DG (Finance and Accounts) against an existing vacancy. Jawed Akhtar Qazi presently posted as private secretary (protocol) to Judge was transferred and posted as Secretary to Chief Justice while Deputy Registrar (Inspection) Abdul Aziz Chana was transferred and posted as Secretary Services on OPS.

Muhammad Chuttal has been posted as Secretary (Protocol) II principal seat Karachi on OPS basis, notification reads.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

## ECP orders withdrawal of protocol facilities for former Sindh cabinet members

ISLAMABAD (INP) The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed the chief secretary and Inspector General of Police Sindh (IGP) to withdraw protocol facilities of former provincial cabinet members and others within the next three days, says in media reports. According to a notification, the ECP has instructed Sindh Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Fakhare Alam Irfan and IGP Riffat Mukhtar to promptly submit a compliance report upon the completion of the task. The ECP has observed that former cabinet members were still benefiting from protocol privileges. The Commission reminded that it had previously directed provincial authorities on August 15 to ensure the removal of official accommodations, vehicles, and other perks from former prime ministers, chief ministers, cabinet members, and other individuals.



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

## PTI seeks CJP timely intervention to ensure polls within timeframe

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was constitutionally bound to hold elections within the stipulated 90 days; hence the electoral watchdog and the caretaker government have only 34 days to meet the constitutional deadline. He categorically stated that the nation would not tolerate any unconstitutional attempts to delay the polls beyond the constitutional deadline come what may. The PTI spokesperson said that it was electoral body's main constitutional responsibility and the fundamental right of the people to hold elections within the constitutionally mandated timeframe of 90 days. Therefore, he demanded that the honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan should intervene preemptively in order to thwart any attempt of violation of the Constitution and to make the ECP and the caretaker government bound to ensure holding elections within the constitutional time limits. PTI spokesperson went on to say that the state was subject to the constitution and the constitution made the free will of the public the basis of the political and governmental system. "Suspension of any article or part of the Constitution is akin to suspending the entire Constitution, which is a serious crime," he said, adding that the constitution did not give any authority to any state institution alone or in association.

## Electricity tariff hiked for K-Electric consumers

KARACHI (INP): The Power Division has notified a hike in electricity tariff by Rs4.45 per unit for Karachi consumers following NEPRA's decision.

The latest hike in the electricity tariff was made in terms of the first quarterly adjustment of the previous fiscal year. The additional payments will be received from K-Electric consumers in October and November.

The electricity tariff for K-Electric consumers was increased from Rs1.49 per unit to Rs4.45 per unit.

## Robbers throw acid on boy upon resistance during robbery

KARACHI (INP): Robbers threw acid on a boy upon resistance during a robbery near Hub Chowky in Karachi, police said on Friday.

According to details, robbers equipped with sharp edged weapons and carrying acid, barged into a house and attempted dacoity. Abdul Rehman 14, present in the house offered resistance over which robbers threw acid at him. The robbers fled the scene of crime and scorched boy was shifted to hospital for treatment.

## President for expanding bilateral trade volume with Bahrain

KARACHI (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need to expand bilateral trade volume with Bahrain, besides exporting high number of skilled labour force to the country. Talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain Saqib Rauf who called on him at the Governor House, the president said demand for skilled labour force in different socio-economic related fields, especially information technology and artificial intelligence, was increasing in the international market. Therefore, he said



KARACHI: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain, Mr Saqib Rauf, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Governor House.

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

Stresses question on Nawaz's return shouldn't be repeated

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday played down any chances of a legal barrier to party supremo Nawaz Sharif's homecoming, as speculations regarding the former prime minister take centre stage in the country's politics. "If Allah wills, Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan on October 21 by the will of Allah," Shehbaz said, stressing that the question regarding his return shouldn't be repeated.

The remark came during a press conference in Lahore, as the former prime minister — who led the country for 16 months after the ouster of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government in April last year — said his elder brother will arrive at the Minar-e-Pakistan following his return to Pakistan.

Nawaz, the three-time prime minister, has been living in London following a self-imposed exile since November 2019 owing to health reasons. He was disqualified for life in 2017 by the Supreme Court for not declaring a receivable salary. Meanwhile, speaking about his government's performance before the caretaker government took over, the former premier said: "We desperately tried to solve the problems in 16 months. Shehbaz said, God forbid, what would be the situation had Pakistan actually gone bankrupt? "Petrol pumps would have been empty, medicines would have disappeared and daily necessities would not have been available."

## PPP's chairman condoles with family of former MNA Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote

HYDERABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited the residence of the party's former MNA Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote who passed away this week and offered condolence to the bereaved family.

The PPP's Chairman on Friday arrived at the Jaundal Kot village in Matiari district and condoled with Jamote's son and PPP's ex-MNA Syed Tariq Hussain Shah Jamote, Syed Faisal Shah Jamote, Ali Hussain Shah Jamote and Hassan Ali Shah Jamote.



MATIARI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offering condolences and Fateha over the demise of the Syed Ameer Ali Shah Jamot Father of Ex MNA Syed Tarique Shah Jamot at his residence.

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DAYS REMAINING

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## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Costly borrowing

The finance ministry blaming the hikes in State Bank policy interest rates for the rapid growth in public debt is a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

A ministry official told a Senate panel the other day that a 1pc increase in borrowing costs adds a whopping Rs600bn to annual debt-servicing expenses.

He maintained that the debt stock had surged by over Rs7tr since January 2022 due to the increase in the policy rate from 9.75pc to 22pc. That has, indeed, been the case as soaring debt-servicing costs keep forcing the government to borrow more.

As a new World Bank report notes: "Higher policy rates are increasing government borrowing costs, driving higher financing needs. These financing needs are ... being met through increased borrowing from the domestic banking system."

But the official modestly omitted to mention the contribution of the government's profligate fiscal policies to the quicker growth of its debt stock over the last year and a half, ie, failure to contain its large wasteful expenditures and boost tax revenues by broadening the tax base.

He also didn't mention how the spike in government borrowing from domestic banks to finance an average fiscal deficit of over 7pc year after year has crowded out the private sector and fuelled price inflation. The higher interest rate is a major contributor to our debt woes. But it isn't the original sin.

In this case, extravagant fiscal policies are to blame. SBP has no option but to raise borrowing costs to control the aggregate demand, which is expanding mainly because of unrestrained government spending, and tame price inflation.

The government is stuck in a vicious cycle. Its debt problem is likely to be complicated with the passage of time because of its increasing reliance on domestic banks for financing its fiscal deficit amid shrinking external official budgetary support from multilateral and bilateral lenders.

No matter how miscalculated the SBP decision to hold the interest rate in its last monetary policy committee meeting was in the face of elevated inflation, its reluctance is understandable.

The government's growing need to borrow heavily from the local banks has severely constrained SBP's ability to contain inflation through policy rate increases. As of June, banks had allocated 74pc of their total loans to the public sector.

In contrast, credit to the private sector is down to 26.2pc from 30.3pc a year ago. Reduction in the primary budget deficit is the only sustainable solution for the government to cut its bank borrowings, alleviating the need for new inflationary liquidity injections from the central bank. To achieve that, the government would have to shrink its budget deficit to 2-3pc by increasing tax revenues to 25-20pc of GDP and cutting its wasteful expenditures.

### Digital pedagogy



Neda Mulji

Digital pedagogy is vastly different from in-person teaching and learning. Technology-mediated teaching leads to active involvement, collaboration and personalised learning that is not possible within the confines of a traditional teaching framework. Essentially, digital pedagogy leads learners to new dimensions above and beyond the expertise of a teacher who may not be able to give individual time and attention in large classes.

Remote self-paced learning facilitated by technology in class and at home makes learning far more accessible and effective for students. It also enables in-depth monitoring for the teacher who can see the time spent on the learning modules by each of the students, the tasks attempted and the results. Teachers need the support that digital tools provide. However, the real conundrum for many schools is to initiate ways to integrate digital tools in lesson time.

At first it may seem daunting. For many teachers, it is uncharted territory and it may take a while to get comfortable with weaving in digital teaching methods. If the strategy unfolds in easy steps, the landscape of education can change remarkably.

The essential steps to be taken involve access and availability of tablets at school. These can be easily shared among groups of students.

The next step would be creating time during lesson time, or between lessons, to consolidate learning through

online means. The research capabilities that students can develop in class far exceed the learning they can acquire in isolation at home. Something as simple as a keyword search may not come naturally to students but can be learnt through peer collaboration in class. Students can take quizzes online right after a lesson, providing a quick opportunity for formative assessment. Concepts can be clarified instantly with a child-friendly video that can be watched together.

However, successful implementation of digital pedagogy involves weaving it seamlessly into the curriculum one lesson at a time. Many schools have been successful at initiating language learning through digital reading programmes or audio help for students who struggle with acquiring language skills. Such audio support can act as a personal assistant to the teacher, and not many students need help navigating such digital learning once they are introduced to it. Children are natural explorers and curiosity drives them to try out new things once they are shown how.

Not all teachers are comfortable with it, falling by default back onto a traditional style of chalk and talk. Preparing children for global skills requires inculcating these skills in teachers as well as students. Besides subject knowledge, teachers who succeed in digital pedagogy are those who know how to incorporate digital tools into the structure of their lessons. Some questions to consider are: can children express their ideas using a shared

online document? Can they find the information they need to complete an assignment? Can they produce video or audio content based on what they have learnt in

class? Can they comfortably take assessments online? These are just some examples of areas where the teacher's digital expertise is essential to guide the students' journey.

A winning feature of digital pedagogy is that students don't fall through the cracks easily, as they get to revisit the content repetitively — such as videos, discussion boards and quizzes — as many times as they wish. Technology surpasses the limitations of human patience, and students can benefit by teaching themselves, failing and trying again, asking repetitive questions and retaking assessments.

The added benefit of digital pedagogy is that it helps teachers collect data on student effort and attainment. Technological tools will provide a regular overview to the teacher of dips in a students' performance and marginal learning curves. Without digital tools, such data collection is far less reliable and accurate.

It may be difficult for a teacher to cater to the differing needs of learners and that is where technology fills the gaps with adaptive tests and a personal e-coach. The success of digital pedagogy relies on its impact and not merely its usage, and countless studies have shown improvement in students' academic performance once they start using digital tools.

Digital pedagogy can lead to a paradigm shift in how students work, how long they engage with course content and how well they use technology to teach themselves. No mountain is high enough for those who have acquired the skills and strategy to find their way up, and our young ones are definitely digitally-ready. - Courtesy Dawn

### Father of the Man



Zubeida Mustafa

Why are we what we are is the question. We were not so before and have emerged so over the years. The most likely reasons for our moral decline is the state's failure to protect its children. Pakistan is not child-centric.

The impact on our children of a policy measure in any walk of life is never weighed carefully. Hence children from all classes suffer. The message they receive is that they will have to fend for themselves. Thus they learn to treat others with indifference when they become adults.

They do not grow up to be caring and sharing in their public attitudes, because they have not experienced such treatment towards themselves when they were young. Remember, all the adults in the country — be they the rulers in Islamabad or the beggars in the streets of Karachi — were once children. To quote William Wordsworth, "The Child is father of the Man".

The capacity of a person to hurt others varies, and depends on the mindset he develops in the company he keeps — be it family or friends — and the power he manages to acquire.

Education, the media and the pulpit also shape people's thinking. An environment unfriendly to the child encourages the culture of lying. Without a gun and power, a person's capacity to harm others is somewhat limited. If he is, however, in a position of power he does immense harm by having thousands killed, destroying institutions and robbing millions of the money

that should have rightfully been spent on them. That is how the rot set in and has grown from generation to generation.

The result? Lust for money, a hunger for power, the tendency to cut corners and to get what one wants without working for it. The inherent sense of justice and fair play that every child is born with is eroded by the time she grows up. The exceptions are too few to change the wider picture. Violence and hardship have dominated our public life.

There would not be a single child in Pakistan who has not witnessed or experienced violence in her life, and that must have impacted her psyche. Sahil, an Islamabad-based NGO, recorded 4,253 child abuse cases in 2022, and the number is expected to be higher in 2023. It must be noted that mental health professionals believe that many of these abused children will emerge as the abusers of tomorrow.

Educating each and every child appropriately is the only way of rectifying this odious situation that threatens to destroy the future of our children. However, it must be emphasised that our present system of primary school education, has proved to be disastrous. It is actually hostile to the child. Be they state-run schools, private institutions — both upscale and low-fee — or madrasahs, they have harmed students immensely. While the first hardly function, the others overload the students with books, tests, homework and tuitions. Their approach is highly competitive and stressful. Educationists who know insist that in the primary years the child should be taught orally through specially designed play material and attractive storybooks and workbooks. Writing should focus only on the impart-

ing of literacy skills.

The common practices of resorting to corporal punishment and teaching in English which the child doesn't comprehend ensures that the adult who emerges from the school system is emotionally insecure and incapable of critical thinking. He has only learnt to memorise lessons without any understanding. What the children actually need is a lot of love and care that will give them confidence.

The saddest part of the story of the child in Pakistan is that parents — the affluent as well as the indigent — do not seem to understand the excesses committed against their offspring. At times, they themselves unwittingly become the oppressors. The poor send their girls to work as domestic labour in spite of being aware of the risks involved. The privileged demand better performance from their children even if it is beyond their natural capabilities.

What comes as a shock after one learns of the tragedy of the child in Pakistan is the galloping demographic growth rate. According to census authorities, our population has grown from 207.6 million in 2017 to 241.5m — an increase of around 33m in six years.

Billions have been allocated for the population welfare programme. It is not known where these billions have gone, certainly not for advocacy campaigns, nor for counselling couples on the choice of appropriate measures, nor for the purchase of contraceptives supplied free to population welfare centres.

The babies keep coming with unfailing regularity, though the majority of them are uncared for. Family planning is a subject that is never talked about. All suffer the consequences of this silence. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Punjab Governor says: Skilled worker force plays an important role in the development of country

#### Independent Report

LAHORE: A delegation of Auto Air Conditioning Association led by the President of Auto Air Conditioning Association, Malik M. Nadeem met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. A detailed discussion was held regarding the problems faced by the auto air conditioning industry during the meeting. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that skilled

worker force plays an important role in the development of any country.

He said that it is praise worthy that the owners of auto conditioning workshops are earning their own livelihood as well as providing training and employment to many people. While underscoring the importance of vocational and technical education, he said that vocational training is the key to prosperity and development.



LAHORE: China's Acting Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Cao Ke addressing a function held on occasion of the 74th founding anniversary celebration of the People's Republic of China. The event was organised by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

### Weekly inflation goes slightly up by 0.11 percent

#### ISLAMABAD (APP):

The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.11 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on October 5, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 282.00 points as compared to 281.70 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption

group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 37.07 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.49 percent and went up to 286.29 points from last week's 284.89 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517 and Rs 29,518-44,175 increased by 0.38 percent, 0.27 percent and 0.17 percent respectively whereas it declined by 0.03 percent for income group above Rs44,175.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired a Privatisation Commission (PC) Board Meeting.

### Political forces should sign CoE for stable country: Mandviwalla

#### MULTAN (APP):

Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance & Revenue, Saleem Mandviwalla on Friday said mainstream political parties should come forward to sign Charter of Economy (CoE) which was the dire need of the hour.

He said it was imperative for a stable Pakistan which would eventually help tackle challenges on the economic front, besides ensuring the interests of people.

Addressing a news conference with PPP leaders Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Ali Qasim Gilani and others at Multan Press Club, he stated that inflation was at its peak and there was a need to bring rates of commodities down to ensure relief for people.

The Senator said that he had met Faisalabad and Multan business community on Thursday adding their issues would be resolved on priority.

He noted that Pakistan People's Party wanted general elections on time and added that PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and he were meeting with the business fraternity to find solutions to the economic woes of the country.

Replying to a question, the Senator said that whosoever party assumed power after the elections, should act upon CoE. He said that the issues would be resolved on priority.

Earlier, speaking to the executive committee at Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) late on Thursday night, he said that businessmen were the most important people of the country.

He said though the standing committee had an oversight role for the govt departments, even then it took up issues of the business community and got them resolved.

### PSX gains 41 points

#### ISLAMABAD (APP):

The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 41.19 points, a positive change of 0.09 per cent on Friday, closing at 47,493.57 points against 47,452.38 points the previous day. A total of 246,382,303 shares valuing Rs. 7.184 billion were traded during the day as compared to 462,865,965 shares valuing Rs. 8.998 billion the previous day.

As many as 351 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 190 of them recorded gains and 139 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged.

### BRICS expansion allows Ethiopia to deepen economic cooperation with emerging markets: Envoy

#### ISLAMABAD (APP):

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula has said that joining of his country to BRICS would deepen its economic cooperation with the emerging markets of the world. Addressing a round table discussion on "Expanding BRICS and the New Alignments", the ambassador underscored that the BRICS expansion would be instrumental in Ethiopia's ten-year development plan, aligning

with the economic reforms initiated by Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed. He said Ethiopia with the second largest population in Africa, had become one of the fastest-growing economies globally, maintaining an impressive average growth rate for last several years even during the pandemic critical time.

Ambassador Jemal Beker emphasized that Ethiopia's entry into BRICS would open new avenues for increased trade, foreign direct investment, and opportunities for technology transfer, knowledge sharing,

and infrastructural development. He highlighted Ethiopia's commitment to diversify its exports in key sectors such as agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and information and communication technology (ICT).

"With the addition of new members like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and others, BRICS now represents nearly half of the global population and a quarter of the global GDP," he said, adding this actually positioned BRICS as an economic powerhouse that could not be ignored.

### Need to encourage solar energy to avoid expensive electricity: Mian Zahid

#### KARACHI (INP):

Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has called for encouraging solar energy to avoid expensive electricity.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that due to line losses, capacity payments, and thefts, electricity was becoming more expensive.

Forcing people to avoid alternatives and use expensive electricity was a violation of their fundamental rights, so this practice must be

stopped, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that it was important to attract consumers towards solar energy, make its equipment cheaper, and provide long-term interest-free loans to people, enabling them to use the solar energy.

He said that Pakistan was among the top countries in the world in terms of solar power potential. According to international experts, Pakistan can get 40% of its electricity requirement through solar energy, but instead of using this sector for public welfare, it is being used as a source of profiteering.



LAHORE: Chairman Ali Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran Naeem Mir addressing press conference at press club in Provincial Capital.

### Pakistan's exports to China increase by 5.16%

#### ISLAMABAD (INP):

Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 5.16 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$350.297 million during July-August (2023-24) against exports of US \$333.077 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 5.16 per cent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 25.09 per

cent from \$159.021 million in August 2022, against the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 31.42 per cent during August 2023 as compared to the exports of \$151.365 million in July 2023, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a decrease of 8.26 per cent in the first two months, from US \$ 4.951 billion to US \$ 4.541 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$ 1861.702 million.

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

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

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

He emphasized that the use of modern technology would assist in controlling crimes and quickly identifying suspects. The Command and Control Center is a project of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, and the IGP mentioned that a similar system has been initiated in D.I. Khan, Haripur, Kohat, and Nowshera.

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



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

## Chinese ambassador scholarships awarded to 282 students

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LWMC deploys additional staff for night shift

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## International News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Friday urged the Afghan interim government to prioritize addressing legitimate concerns raised by Pakistan instead of engaging in a blame game.

In a conversation with Arab and national media representatives, he underscored the importance of maintaining stability and peace in the region.

Ashrafi stated that Pakistan's intentions were clear: it had no desire for instability or lawlessness in Afghanistan, and it expected the same commitment from its Afghan counterparts.

He emphasized the historic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan, rooted in social, cultural, and religious bonds, making their peace and prosperity interdependent.

Regarding the repatriation of illegal Afghan immigrants from Pakistan, Ashrafi encouraged the Afghan government to engage in open dialogue with Pakistan rather than resorting to hostile rhetoric.

He acknowledged Pakistan's four-decade history of hosting Afghan refugees and reassured that this support would continue. However, he stressed that respecting the laws of both countries was crucial for harmonious coexistence.

Ashrafi also highlighted the issue of Afghan extremists potentially funding accomplices in recent blasts in Pakistan.

He urged both nations to resolve this matter amicably and collaboratively to ensure regional security and stability.

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

He also highlighted the need for international awareness of the plight of Kashmiris, emphasizing that Kashmir remained incarcerated. He urged the international community to

take note of these concerns.

Furthermore, Ashrafi who is also the President of the International Interfaith Council, reaffirmed the rights of minorities in Pakistan, emphasizing that their protection was the responsibility of the state.

Strongly denouncing the recent terrorist incidents that occurred on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, he labeled them as acts of barbarism that were in direct opposition to Islam and humanity.

He noted a recent surge in such attacks over the past two months emphasizing that those who perpetrated such violence had no affiliation with true Islam and were clearly acting against its teachings.



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



JAMSHORO: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi addressing during National Endowment Scholarship for Talent (NEST) cheque distribution ceremony at University of Sindh Jamshoro.

## Pakistan needs charter of economy to overcome problems: Atif Akram

KARACHI (INP): Presidential Candidate of Federal of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Akram has said that Pakistan needs a charter of economy so that all political forces can focus on economic recovery.

Speaking to business community on Friday, he said that economic matters should be in capable hands to improve the economy which will also provide relief to the masses and the business community.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA and President ICCI said in a statement issued here today that continuity of policies should be ensured so that investors can breathe a sigh of relief and stop withdrawing capital from Pakistan to safe destinations.

Important decisions should not be delayed; otherwise, they would severely affect the masses and

## Pakistani women can perform Hajj 'sans mehram'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony said on Friday that Hajj policy 2024 would be announced in the next two weeks under which women can perform Hajj without a mehram (a close male relative).

The ministry further said that the federal cabinet will approve the Hajj policy within 10 days and the Hajj application process for the next year will get following cabinet's nod.

Furthermore, the ministry has also prepared strict rules regarding the sighting of the crescent moon.

## Rangers seized large quantity of smuggled items in various operations

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh seized 6050 litres of Iranian oil, cigarettes, non-customs-paid food items 2 vehicles, a container, 3 buses, 8 Mazdas, 2 trucks and an oil tanker used in smuggling were seized while 15 suspects were also arrested during an operation at the Hub check post on the Karachi, Sindh - Balochistan border and Abdul Jabbar check post in Jacobabad. The Rangers during more than 70 operations in total seized 225317 litres of Iranian oil, several pumps, motors, generators, 49 vehicles, 530 kg of Indian Gutka, imported items, cigarettes, betel nut, household items, tobacco, cloth, electronics items and arrested 113 accused, according to a spokesman for Rangers on Friday.

The Pakistan Rangers Sindh will continue indiscriminate operations with Customs and other agencies to eradicate smuggling. The arrested accused along with the confiscated goods have been handed over to the Customs authorities for further legal action.

## Hot, dry weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Friday predicted hot and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

The minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded in Karachi 33-35 degrees Centigrade, Hyderabad 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Sukkur 38-40 degrees Centigrade, Thatta 33-35 degrees Centigrade, Mohenjodaro 38-40 degrees Centigrade, Dadu 38-40 degrees Centigrade, Mithi 36-38 degrees Centigrade and in Nawabshah 38-40 degrees Centigrade.

Mainly, hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.

## Madad Ali Sindhi visits SABS University

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi Friday paid a visit to Shaheed Allah Bukhsh Soomro University of Art, Design and Heritages, Jamshoro.

According to university spokesman, the minister was warmly received by Vice Chancellor SABS, Prof Dr Arabella Bhutto.

Madad Ali Sindhi laid foundation stone of Performing Art and Interior Design Departments.

The VC briefed the minister about the construction work, design, cost and time of completion of the project and also briefed about the achievements, performance and future plans of the university.

The minister also visited A. R. Nagori Art Gallery where he witnessed the exhibition displayed by students of Fine Art, Textile Design, Communication Design, Architecture and Ceramics. He was impressed by the art work and abilities of students.

Madad Ali Sindhi appreciated the efforts of the administration for quality education of the university at higher level.

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has initiated a vital project aimed at distributing 50,000 shelter NFIs (Non-Food Items) and 25,000 winter kits across Pakistan.

The project is planned to be implemented in four phases providing help to individuals who have been affected by recent floods and need assistance. This collaborative effort is being conducted in partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed thanked the Saudi Ambassador for providing 25,000 Shelter NFIs (Non-Food Items) and 25,000 winter kits across Pakistan and said that both countries enjoy strong bilateral relations.



ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed in a meeting with the Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Yu Bo.

## Weather disasters caused by climate change displaced 43 million children: UNICEF

NEW YORK (INP): Weather disasters fueled by climate change from floods to droughts, storms to wildfires sparked 43.1 million child displacements from 2016 to 2021, the UN Children's Fund warned Thursday, slamming the lack of attention paid to victims.

But UNICEF worked with the non-governmental Internal Displacement Monitoring Center to unpick the data and reveal the hidden toll on children. From 2016 to 2021, four types of climate disasters (floods, storms, droughts and wildfires) — the frequency of which has increased due to global warming—led to 43.1 million child displacements in 44 countries, the report says. Ninety-five percent of those displacements were caused by floods and storms.

"It's the equivalent of about 20,000 child displacements every day," Healy told, underscoring how the children affected are then at risk of suffering other traumas, such as being separated.

"We moved our belongings to the highway, where we lived for weeks," recounts Sudanese child Khalid Abdul Azim, whose flooded village was only accessible by boat.

In 2017, sisters Mia and Maia Bravo watched flames engulf their trailer in California from the back of the family minivan. "I was afraid, in shock," Maia says



HYDERABAD: Former MQM MPA and leader of the opposition, Rana Ansar speaking at a commemorative meeting for her late husband and senior journalist Syed Ansar Ali Naqvi organised by a welfare association in Latifabad.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to fast-tracking the ongoing projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He made these remarks during a meeting with China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman Yu Bo, a news release said.

Sami Saeed said Gwadar was the heart of CPEC and a gateway to prosperity for Pakistan and the entire region. He said Gwadar was being developed as a world-class port and logistics hub, adding "This will create new jobs and opportunities for the people of Pakistan and boost the economy."

He also reiterated that Pakistan was committed to resolving all outstanding issues related to CPEC on a priority basis.

China and Pakistan have established a high-level mechanism to address concerns, if any, he added.

Chairman Yu Bo briefed the minister about the progress of Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar Free Port.

Underscoring the significance of Gwadar within the CPEC framework, he said the first stage of Gwadar port and city development, along with the Gwadar Free Zone, had been completed, marking a substantial achievement.

He also highlighted how COPHC's decade-long stewardship had remarkably transformed Gwadar from a modest village into a thriving modern city, replete with cutting-edge technology.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation in this area.

## ECP establishes facilitation desk at Islamabad Secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established facilitation desk at its Islamabad Secretariat to receive objections on delimitations by 27th of this month.

The facilitation desk will also receive objections on Saturday and Sunday. Meanwhile, registration for new voters also continues till 25th of this month.

## Care taker cabinet extended

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker federal cabinet has been extended.

President Arif Alvi has given approval to addition of Shahzada Ahsan Ashraf in federal cabinet.

President has accorded approval on the advice of caretaker Prime Minister under article 224 of the constitution. Shahzada Ahsan Ashraf has remained minister in care taker cabinet in the past.

## PCG seizes huge quantity of drugs from Balochistan

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) on Friday seized a large quantity of drugs worth millions from Balochistan.

According to a spokesman for the PCG, a patrolling team of the PCG spotted a suspicious vehicle in Bandari, area of Gwadar. The team chased the said vehicle upon which the driver and his accomplices left the vehicle and escaped from the spot.

During a search of the vehicle, the PCG officials recovered 743kg hashish and 57kg methamphetamine (Ice).

## Walk held to observe Intl day for older persons

SUKKUR (APP): The Inter Global Human Development Society (IGHDS) in collaboration with Fatima Foundation Sukkur on Friday held a walk to observe the International Day of Older Persons in three districts Sukkur, Shikarpur, and Jacobabad.

Hundreds of older people participated in the walks led by Dr Jamil Hussain Shakil.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that this walk was aimed at encouraging a healthy lifestyle among the elderly and stressed the need for the implementation bill from the Sindh Assembly for older people to provide them with proper facilities and protect their rights.

With the changing trend of modern social norms, he said that the old concept of the combined family system was vanishing gradually, leaving no space for the elders of a family to get a respectable place to spend the rest of their lives.

He said that unemployment, the increasing number of people living poverty line, and victims of natural tragedy are the older people facing this issue as it is hard for families to meet both ends of life in their limited resources.

Dr Jamil said that not a single old age home is established in northern Sindh to give shelter to these respectable senior citizens who are not able to earn to bear the expenses of their livelihood.

He said with the support of notable old homes and accommodation places for older people are being set up so that they could spend their remaining lives in a peaceful atmosphere.

In Shikarpur, participants of the rally said that Pakistan was the sixth most populous country in the world; it is amongst those 15 countries where a population of people over the age of sixty is more than 10 million.

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

BEIJING (APP): China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad brothers, senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi said on Thursday, adding that bilateral relations have withstood the test of time and continued to maintain a sound momentum of development.

Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, made the remarks when he met with Foreign Minister, Jilali Abbas Jilani at the third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation held in Nyingchi, southwest China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, CGTN reported.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said Wang, noting the CPEC has brought tangible benefits to the economic development of Pakistan and to local people.

Wang said that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote high-quality development of the CPEC.

For his part, Jilani spoke highly of the fruitful results of bilateral cooperation and the CPEC, stressing that the Pakistan-China relationship has always been the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

The CPEC has helped Pakistan transform its economic landscape and brought tangible benefits to the country, the foreign minister added.

He also extended congratulations on the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

According to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, at the invitation of the Chinese government, Foreign Minister, Jilali Abbas Jilani attended 3rd China Tibet Trans-Himalayan Forum in Tibet, China.

In his speech, he emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for green development, ecological preservation and connectivity for inclusive and sustainable development. Ambassador Haque posted on the social media platform 'X'.



LARKANA: Employees of District Accounts Office Larkana are holding protest demonstration for demanding to give protection to Altaf Hussain Mangi, District Accounts Officer Thatta, outside their office in Larkana

## DC urges parents to vaccinate their children to prevent measles

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khairpur, Syed Ahmed Fawad on Friday has urged the parents they should get vaccinated of their children of the age of 9 months to 5 years to prevent measles and other complications.

He expressed these views while addressing a seminar at Darbar hall Khairpur in connection of prevention of measles and added that they were striving hard to achieve the assignment and task and make the campaign successful.

The seminar was participated by large number of citizens, journalists, and representatives of NGOs, civil society and local bodies and officials of different departments.

DC urged the citizens, civil society and media personnel to collaborate with health department to gain better results.



KARACHI: Members of Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, at Shah Faisal Colony in Karachi.

## Three gamblers among four held with stake money, arms

KARACHI (INP): Three gamblers among four outlaws were held with stake money, arms and ammunition during separate actions in Garden and Kalari areas on Friday.

During intelligence based targeted operations and patrolling, police arrested three gamblers Nadeem Ali, Ranji Khan and Sajid Naeem and a street criminal Danish Akhtar besides recovering thousands of rupees stake money, gambling tools, arms and ammunition from their possession.

Separate cases against the detainees were registered against nabbed accused at respective police stations and investigations were underway.