

# Independent

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Administrative officers must improve service delivery:

## GoB determined to provide basic amenities of life in remote areas of Balochistan: caretaker CM

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

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that we are determined to provide basic amenities of life including source of communications, education, health and clean drinking water in the far flung areas of the province.

He said that it is our endeavour to take such steps in the available limited time which may benefit the people of province at large.

This and similar other

views were expressed by the caretaker Chief Minister while speaking at public gathering in native area Lehri on Friday.

A large number of people present at the gathering who also informed the Chief Minister about their issues.

They also presented the applications about their issues to the Chief Minister.

Also accompanied with the caretaker provincial Ministers Asifur Rehman Durrani and Mir Danish Langove while Secretary Communication and Works,

Akbar Baloch, Commissioner Sibi, Bashir Ahmed Bangulzai and other concerned high ups were also present.

Addressing the public, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that he is well aware of the public issues, and added that it is quite difficult to resolve the longstanding issues but it is not impossible.

He said that these issues can be resolved gradually, if the steps are taken with sincerity and dedication.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to the concerned authorities to

start work on the projects which have been suspended due to non-release of funds but approved under the PSDP. The provincial government would ensure release of necessary funds for the projects, adding he assured.

He also directed all the administrative officers to improve public service delivery, and in this regard, no negligence would be tolerated at all, Chief Minister maintained.



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

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

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan is committed to addressing issue of illegal immigration in the province. An extensive meeting was held here aimed at enhancing coordination among various agencies involved in implementing the action points of the National Action Plan, as directed by the Apex Committee.

The official sources informed that the meeting focused on reviewing progress towards meeting the national deadline and emphasized the repatriation of illegal immigrants. These individuals, who have entered the country unlawfully, will

be detained under the Foreign Act and subsequently deported.

Furthermore, the meeting addressed the need for a unified document regime at the border. It is important to note that this campaign is directed against illegal aliens and not targeted at any specific nation. It was mentioned in the meeting that with only 24 days remaining, we have a limited timeframe for the voluntary repatriation of all non-documented immigrants. This deadline presents a crucial opportunity for individuals to comply with the necessary procedures and ensure a smooth transition.

## 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.



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

## President for expanding bilateral trade volume with Bahrain

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

Talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain Saqib Rauf who called on him at the Governor House, the president said demand for skilled labour force in different socio-economic related fields, especially information technology and artificial intelligence, was increasing in the international market. Therefore, he said

the ambassador-designate should be fully focused on capturing the market demand by exporting the required skilled workforce from Pakistan.

President Alvi said Pakistan attached special importance to the brotherly relations with Bahrain. He stressed that economic, educational and cultural ties with Bahrain, should be strengthened. He said the Pakistan embassies abroad should play their due role in exporting skilled labour force from Pakistan and increasing foreign remittances for the country.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Arrangements have been made for third hearing of practice and procedure case. There will be live hearing of the case on Monday and a bench has also been constituted in this regard.

A full court bench under Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will hear the case.

The decision is likely to be announced on Monday.

The CJP has already said he will give decision after hearing 3 lawyers. He has asked the lawyers to come prepared. It is pertinent to mention here the hearing of petitions against Practice and procedure act 2023 was adjourned till Monday. The Court had said decision would be given after hearing the case on Monday.

## 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.



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

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

### LAHORE (INP):

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday played down any chances of a legal barrier to party 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.

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

### QUETTA: The caretaker

Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Zubair Jamali has stressed the need to conduct joint operation for prevention of the crimes on Notal, Bhag national highway.

In this regard, joint patrolling of the levies and police on the highway.

This was stressed at a meeting held on the law and order situation with the caretaker provincial Minister Home in the chair here on Friday.

## 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.

## Jan condemns attack on Saeed Ali in Chaman

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai strongly condemned the attack on journalist associated with a private TV channel, Saeed Ali Achakzai.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, Jan Achakzai expressed sympathy with the journalist and assured him of his every possible cooperation.

## Pakistani mountaineer Shehroze sets another record

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistani mountaineer Shehroze Kashif has set another record.

He is the youngest mountaineer to climb 13 peaks above 8000 meters.

Shehroze Kashif has crossed this milestone by summiting Chu Yu in China, 8188 meters high Chu Yu is the sixth highest peak in the world.

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

### ISLAMABAD (INP):

Special Representative for Afghanistan Asif Ali Durrani said that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been carrying out terrorist attacks on Pakistan from Afghanistan and stated Kabul interim government must stop this process.

Asif Durrani said that "the peace [the Taliban] brought to Afg must also be brought to our border-

lands." He says TTP fighters in Afg, who he noted are using US weapons, should be "returned to Pakistan or neutralized."

He also strongly denied the Afghan accusation of interference in Pakistan. Addressing a function in Islamabad, Asif Ali Durrani said that the Soviet Union was not invited to Afghanistan by Pakistan, nor was the Afghan refugees invited by Pakistan itself.



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

## 94 illegal Afghan immigrants arrested: SSP Operations

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The crackdown has been started against the illegal Afghan and other national immigrants in the provincial metropolises.

The SSP Operations Jawad Tariq informed the media that as many as 94 illegal Afghan immigrants were arrested under the Foreign Act.

Cases have been registered against the illegal Afghan inhabitants in different

ent police stations, informed SSP Operations.

Moreover, data of the Afghan refugees is also being collected in different police stations of Quetta. The data of some 22,000 Afghan inhabitants have been collected so far, Jawad Tariq added.

In addition to this, the information about the properties, business and jobs is also being collected SSP Operations further told.



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

## Unregistered Afghan families start leaving Pakistan after ultimatum

KHYBER (INP): The undocumented Afghans have started to leave Pakistan following the warning issued by the government.

The government has set a deadline for the undocumented immigrants to leave Pakistan till Oct 30. Following the ultimatum, as many as 30 Afghan families returned to their hometown through the Torkham border crossing during last few days.

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

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Wada Mitsuhiro has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the suicide blast of Mastung.

In a condolence letter written to the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, the Japanese ambassador expressed deep sympathy and solidarity with the aggrieved families of the Mastung carnage and

people of Balochistan on behalf of the people and government of Japan.

He said that the government and people of Japan are deeply grieved over the loss of precious lives in the Mastung carnage. He said that the incidents of terrorism like Mastung blast are very condemnable, and as such we hope that the government of Pakistan would improve further the security arrangements for prevention of such acts of terrorism in future.



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

**REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

DAYS REMAINING

# 24

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# Pakistan begin World Cup campaign with 81-run victory over Netherlands

Sports Desk

HYDERABAD: Pakistan began their campaign at the World Cup 2023 with a bang as they claimed a 81-run victory over Netherlands at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, India on Friday.

Pakistan were completely back in the game as the bowlers put on a stranglehold on the Dutch, claiming back-to-back wickets.

With this win, the Men in Green registered history by securing their first World Cup win on Indian soil.

Quick dismissals by the Green Shirts left the batters stumbling who were all-out for 205 runs, despite a steady start.

Left-handed opener Vikramjit Singh and all-rounder Bas de Leede topped scored for their side with 52 and 67 runs respectively.

Meanwhile, all of Pakistan's six bowlers picked up wickets with Hasan Ali and Harris Rauf taking two and Shaheen Afridi, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz and Iftikhar Ahmed grabbing one each.

Earlier, Pakistan posted a total of 286 after Babar Azam's men came with the burden of losing three wickets in the first 10 overs but produced quite a laudable comeback thereafter.

After winning the toss, Scott Edwards decided to bowl first in Hyderabad.

However, Skipper Babar Azam's dream to post a 300-run total was shattered as the Netherlands restricted the Green Shirts to 286 in 49 overs.

The middle-order batter Saud Shakeel hit a half-century in just 37 balls while Babar Azam walked out for five runs in 18 balls.

The middle-order duo of Mohammed Rizwan and Shakeel spearheaded their fight whereas Shadab Khan and Mohammed Nawaz played handy roles with the bat later on to take the Pakistani team to a potentially match-winning total.

Pakistani vice-captain Shadab Khan took charge of their first innings after the visitors were six wickets down after 37 overs.

Shadab Khan walked into the middle and took his time with a few deliveries and kept rotating the strike with some timely boundaries. He got to 22 off 21 deliveries with extreme ease. But it was his first six and second from Pakistan's innings that's worth appreciating.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Nawaz played a valuable knock of 39 off 43 balls. Asked to take the first strike, Pakistan rode on half-centuries from Mohammed Rizwan (68) and Saud Shakeel (68) to post a solid total on the board. Bas de Leede returned with four wickets for Netherlands, while Colin Ackermann snapped two dismissals.



Mohammad Rizwan runs out Netherlands' Roelof van der Merwe during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match between Pakistan and Netherlands at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad



LEHRI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki visiting Government High School Lehri

## 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 made it clear 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 with others to take any decision contrary to its intent regarding holding of the elections.

PTI spokesperson underlined that the constitution was very clear about the five-year term of the elected assemblies and about conduct of elections in the wake of the timely or premature dissolution of these assemblies.

He stated that in case of premature dissolution of the assemblies, the constitution mandated the conduct of elections within timeframe of 90 days, which was interpreted by the top court and approved by the President.



SKARDU: Force Commander Gilgit-Baltistan Kashif Khalil giving away shield and certificate to participant during the opening of Sarfaranga Cold Desert Rally 5th Edition 2023.

## Dollar expected to fall below Rs. 250 in December if strict action continue

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Shabar Zaidi, has made a bold prediction that the value of the US dollar will dip below the Rs. 250 mark in December and January if the current stringent economic policies persist. While talking with a private television channel, Zaidi expressed his concerns about the economic challenges facing Pakistan. He highlighted the distressing fact that out of Pakistan's population of 240 million, a staggering 90 million individuals have fallen below the poverty line.

Zaidi further drew attention to the dire state of education in the country, revealing that approximately 20.10 million children are not attending school despite the severe economic conditions. He lamented the lack of urgency in addressing this issue and cautioned against placing undue reliance on a single individual to resolve the nation's economic woes. Zaidi argued that the economic downturn witnessed during the previous 18 months was a collective responsibility, with politicians bearing a significant share of the blame.

## Murtaza Solangi grieves over death of former PTV director MZ Sohail

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of former PTV director MZ Sohail.

In his message, the minister expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family of the deceased PTV officer.

Murtaza Solangi said he was saddened to hear the news of MZ Sohail's death who was an asset of the PTV.

Murtaza Solangi said that late MZ Sohail was associated with the news department of Pakistan Television for over four decades and his services for PTV were unforgettable.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

## Joining BRICS to strengthen Ethiopian economic ties with emerging markets

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula has said that his country's joining BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) will strengthen its economic cooperation with the emerging markets of the world.

While addressing a round table discussion on "Expanding BRICS and the New Alignments", he 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.

Ambassador Jemal Beker said that 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.

## Aneeq stresses importance of virtuous social behavior alongside worship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Friday emphasized that the effects of our worship should extend beyond the confines of religious rituals and manifest in social interactions.

In a compelling address during the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference held at Faisal Mosque, he said, "Alongside our devotion, the beauty of our social conduct is equally imperative."

He highlighted that the seal of Prophethood had been affirmed, and the responsibility of propagating its message now fell upon every individual within the Muslim community.

"Every member of our society is a guiding star of the nation," Minister Aneeq proclaimed stressing the teachings of Seerat should serve as a guiding

light in every facet of life.

Furthermore, he called upon scholars to play an active role in uplifting the spirits of the nation and steering them away from despondency. He expressed optimism, stating that each new day brings with it an opportunity for the state to progress beyond its past achievements.

Minister Aneeq urged scholars to delve into new subjects and bring them to the forefront of intellectual discourse. He emphasized the significance of the connection between contemporary discussions and historical context, asserting that the touch of tradition was vital in scholarly conversations.

In conclusion, he stressed that the conversations among scholars should be enriched by the essence of the era in which they live.

## WCL2024 set to bring back Pak-India rivalry of yesteryear stars

DUBAI (INP): Some of the world's biggest cricketing names will descend on Edgbaston stadium in 2024 for the launch of the World Champion's League (WCL), a new global T20 tournament developed by Zabawa Entertainment, a Bollywood film and music media production company based across India and Dubai.

WCL will consist of retired and non-contracted players from the six major powerhouses of world cricket - England, India, Pakistan, Australia, West Indies and South Africa. England has always been the home of cricket, and when it comes to Birmingham, it is home to many Pakistanis and Indians as well. We are looking forward to deliver ten days of Cricketainment to Fans Globally."

Added Stuart Cain, Chief Executive at Edgbaston: "We've staged some of the biggest games in world cricket and it will be great to see some of the heroes involved in those games back at Edgbaston."

The tournament is set to be played in Summer of 2024, subject to ECB approval and the announcement of the English domestic schedule (November 2023). The bigger group games, semi-finals and final will be played at Edgbaston with some group games at other grounds around Warwickshire.

## Let us find out Tendulkar's semi-finalists

AHMADABAD (INP): Tendulkar tipped the four semi-finalists while speaking to the ICC at the start of the World Cup 2023 after carrying the trophy out onto the pitch to signal the start of the event in India.

"It was a surreal experience to carry that trophy out on the field," Tendulkar said. About the four teams which could make it to the semi-final of the coveted tournament, Tendulkar said, "India without any doubt. We have a very, very good, balanced team."

Talking to Tanvi Shah, ICC's Digital Insider, Tendulkar said, "So is the case with Australia, I feel they have a balanced team." "The third one I would say would be England. England again are a very strong team, a combination of experience and some new faces."

"My fourth team

India rivalry of yesteryear stars and bring the greats from England, Australia, South Africa & West Indies. England has always been the home of cricket, and when it comes to Birmingham, it is home to many Pakistanis and Indians as well. We are looking forward to deliver ten days of Cricketainment to Fans Globally."

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They have played the finals in 2015 and 2019. If you look at their track record, New Zealand in world championships have always done well and I see them getting to the semis."

The Black Caps started their tournament well, supporting Tendulkar's assertion that they perform well in World Cups by hammering England by nine wickets in the opening match of the World Cup.

Tendulkar's third pick, England, have work to do, although they did qualify for the final four in 2019 despite losing three matches, and went on to win the tournament. "We ended up playing here, a quarter-final against Australia, and that night was a special night for us. To come back here, same stadium, 12 years down the line."

## Govt developing uniform structure to provide equal health facility to people: Jan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Friday said that Caretaker government was developing a uniform structure to provide equal health facilities to people across the country.

Besides, health card facility and health insurance scheme would also be ensured to people of Balochistan, he said while talking to a private television channel. "We are discussing transfer of technol-

ogy system with different countries to provide affordable medicine to our people," he said.

In reply to a question about emergence of polio cases in some parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, he said a strict security system has been made to check families coming through borders.

He said a special program had also been launched to create awareness among masses about significance of polio vaccine and drops

for children.

To a question about polio free Pakistan, he said, the government was determined to achieve success in that regard within two years.

To another question regarding a summit being called by Pakistan in the federal capital, he said health experts from various countries would participate in the upcoming health summit for seeking input and suggestions for countering pandemic.

## AJK PM, federal minister discuss Dev. Projects, liberal financial assistance to State

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq called on the federal minister for Development, Planning and special initiatives Sami Saeed in the federal metropolis and discussed, in length, the issues related to ongoing development projects and release of development funds to the government of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

Secretary Ministry of Planning Owais Manzoor Samra, Principal Secretary Fayaz Ali Abbasi and other officials of the Ministry

were present on this occasion.

The participants of the meeting also reviewed the progress of the development projects going on in different areas of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the AJK premier Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq sought swift action for the timely completion of the much-delayed Rathoa Hariyam Bridge and other development projects.

"Release of development funds be ensured so that the development projects can be completed

within the stipulated time frame," he said.

Highlighting the importance of the CTD project, the PM said that the federal government should provide funds for the establishment of a counter-terrorism department in the region. Speaking on the occasion, the Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Sami Saeed assured the PM that the federal government would ensure the provision of required funds for the development projects of Azad Kashmir on a priority basis.



QUETTA: Former Caretaker Provincial Minister Mir Tariq Khetran meet with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Bangladesh eye 'realistic' World Cup semi-final spot, says Hathurusingha

DHARAMSALA (INP): Bangladesh head into their World Cup opener against Afghanistan with coach Chandika Hathurusingha saying a place in the semi-finals is a "realistic" goal for his side.

Hathurusingha was criticised by former captain Tamim Iqbal for a lack of ambition when he said in a recent interview that those who talked about Bangladesh winning the World Cup should "wake up."

But he told reporters at a pre-match press conference on Friday: "We all want to win the World Cup but as you rightly asked me realistically is that if we win four to five games, we give ourselves a chance to get into the semi-final of the knockout stage—that's our first aim."

Questioned about his "dream" remarks, Hathurusingha said he was trying to reduce the stress on his squad. "My job is to take the pressure off the players," he explained.

Bangladesh have yet to reach the last four in their six World Cup appearances. But a couple more wins at the 2019 edition in England could have seen them into the knockout phase.

And with this year's World Cup using the same format—where all 10 teams play each other to decide the semi-finalists—Hathurusingha believes his

side, playing in familiar conditions, can go where no Tigers side has gone before.

"I think we have a good enough team to do that - our first aim is to get to the semi-final stage," he said. The 55-year-old former Sri Lanka batsman added: "People can dream, people can aim, people can have goals. Whatever the word you use, it is the same thing."

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Counter Terrorism Department Balochistan Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items.

**Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. TSE-232409351621 Tender Fee Rs.1000/-**

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
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Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 1,000,000 in Previous 3. Turn over of at least 1,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by **24 October, 2023** till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** college road link ispani road quetta **Phone no:** 0819213464 **Email:** ctdbalochistanquetta@gmail.com

**Senior Superintendent of police Counter Terrorism Department Balochistan Quetta**

**PRQ No.734/06-10-2023**

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- (2) The College administration reserves the right to cancel the selection process at any stage/level without assigning any reason(s). The college administration also reserves the right not to fill the vacant post mentioned in the advertisement.

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**ADMIN OFFICER FOR PRINCIPAL CADET COLLEGE MASTUNG**

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**HUB: Students of Balochistan University are blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Mondra Chowkin Hub.**

**ADMIN OFFICER FOR PRINCIPAL CADET COLLEGE MASTUNG**

**PRQ No.733/06-10-2023**

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## Modi regime using cheap tactics to muzzle Kashmiris' voice

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government is resorting to cheap tactics to muzzle the voice of the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for their UN-acknowledged right to self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, in its latest nefarious move, the Modi regime has banned the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, headed by illegally detained senior Hurriyat leader, Shabbir Ahmed Shah. The

DFP has been advocating the settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Kashmiris' aspirations and relevant UN resolutions ever since its inception in 1998. The DFP leadership, particularly Chairman Shabbir Ahmed Shah, has to face India's wrath for opposing its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. He has spent half of his life in Indian jails for championing the Kashmir cause and is presently lodged in New Delhi's Tihar jail.

## Cuba Ambassador calls on Federal Minister of Health Dr Nadeem Jan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan said that it

is my mission to ensure massive reforms in Health Sector. I am ensuring strong practical steps to complete the agenda.



is my mission to ensure massive reforms in Health Sector. I am ensuring strong practical steps to complete the agenda.

Ambassador of Cuba has met with Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan. In the meeting, it was agreed to boost cooperation in health sector. Dr. Nadeem Jan also presented the invitation to the Global Health Security Summit to be held in Pakistan.

On this occasion, the Health Minister said that Pakistan should play its

prominent role to fulfill the agenda of global health security, in case of any sudden epidemic, it is necessary to ensure the supply of vaccines in poor countries on an equal basis.

Pakistan is developing a long-term strategy for drug supply. They want to make molecules in Pakistan through transfer of technology.

He said that positive progress is ongoing from friendly countries. Cuba Ambassador said that holding Global Health Security Summit is a good initiative of Pakistan. We will fully support and cooperate with the Global Health Security Summit.

### Law Minister says:

## Young lawyers need to be trained for high professional standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam on Friday said young lawyers need to be educated and trained in order to raise professional standards.

He stated this during a meeting with Vice-Chairman of Pakistan Bar Council, Haroon-ur-Rashid to discuss specific issues that hindered smooth functioning of the body.



The Law Minister said that the welfare of lawyers was a priority for Caretaker Government and it would be ensured that no development work was de-

accelerated. He reiterated that young lawyers need to be educated and trained in order to raise professional standards, further higher.

He expressed the hope that the construction and refurbishment of bar rooms and technical facilities would improve the working environment for lawyers.

He said Pakistan Bar

Council had been assured of sufficient funds for carrying out the development works, ultimately enhancing the efficiency of this body.

## Police ask all seminaries vis-a-vis not to allow strangers to stay night in mosques

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the federal capital, Anti-Extremism Unit of Islamabad Police has completed contacts with all seminaries vis-a-vis not allowing strangers to stay or spend the night in mosques and madrasas.

Islamabad Police has already issued instructions in this regard.

Islamabad Police and District Administration have expressed gratitude to the law-abiding scholars.

According to spokesperson of Islamabad police, the permission of the authorized bodies is necessary to open an educational institution or madrasah.

## Efforts underway for registration of household workers and tenants

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have launched the "Knock the Door" campaign to facilitate the registration of domestic employees and bolster law and order in the federal capital.

During the ongoing campaign, dedicated teams from the Islamabad Capital Police are taking to the streets and visiting residences to ensure the registration of both tenants and domestic workers. Additionally, they are addressing any concerns and issues raised by the citizens.

Within the framework of this operation, the

Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has already compiled data on 201 domestic employees working in 492 houses within the jurisdiction of Sumbal Police Station during the last 24 hours.

The primary objective of this campaign is to bolster law and order in the federal capital, thereby minimizing the risk of any untoward incidents.

Registering tenants and domestic workers not only enables authorities to closely monitor any suspicious activities but also serves as a deterrent against potential wrongdoers.



ISLAMABAD: Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

## Central corporate governance portal to be launched by PICG, CDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute and Corporate Governance (PICG) and Central Depository Company (CDC) are launching a corporate governance portal, e-Go, to protect the rights of minority shareholders and to educate and engage shareholders in governance related issues.

The platform will be implemented as a joint venture of PICG and CDC, leveraging the domain expertise of PICG in the realm of corporate governance, the technical, operational expertise of CDC in implementing and operating state of the art national level digital platforms.

In this regard Pakistan Institute and Corporate Governance (PICG) and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCPL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding

for the development and implementation of e-Go platform, a groundbreaking digital initiative aimed to empower and facilitate investors/shareholders with the necessary knowledge of their shareholder rights and corporate governance practices, said a news release issued here on Friday.

e-Go platform initiative is in line with SECP's vision to have more informed and involved shareholders and to protect the rights of minority shareholders.

This Corporate Governance digital platform has been envisioned to equip shareholders of corporates and businesses with the necessary information, learning modules, and training resources to promote sound corporate governance practices.

At the occasion, of the

upcoming platform, CEO-CDC Badiuddin Akber said that "This platform aims to enrich the corporate governance practices in Pakistan by effecting their implementation in true letter and spirit while leveraging the power of technology to provide a convenient, informative and interactive medium for shareholders to learn about and engage effectively in sound corporate governance practices.

The system is envisioned to affect the protection of rights of minority shareholders along with active involvement of shareholders in corporate governance decisions.

CDC remains committed in its vision for market development and stakeholder facilitation by spearheading the digitization drive." Memosh Khawaja, President CEO PICG, applauded the efforts of CDC

in its vision towards stakeholder facilitation and said that this joint initiative will pave the way for the much-needed active engagement of shareholders towards corporate governance decisions.

Memosh Khawaja, while addressing the occasion, commented that, "Currently, there is a general lack of awareness and limited understanding among shareholders, especially minority shareholders, regarding their rights in the corporate governance practices, resulting in their reduced participation in decision making, vulnerability to manipulation and exploitation of shareholder rights."

The proposed portal aims to foster increased shareholder engagement in governance matters by facilitating greater awareness and knowledge."

## Islamabad DC leads efforts to combat dengue threat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday chaired a meeting to devise a comprehensive strategy to combat the looming dengue threat.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners, the District Health Officer, Assistant Commissioners, Magistrates, and key stakeholders, marked a concerted effort to safeguard the capital's residents from the menace of dengue.

DC Irfan Nawaz emphasized the importance of preventative measures, asserting that while dengue may not be inherently dangerous, strict precautions must be adhered to.

## Iqra University holds faculty professional development workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): Iqra University's H-9 Campus in Islamabad proudly organized a comprehensive four-day training workshop aimed at Faculty Professional Development. Engaging faculty members from all six prominent departments - Business, Computer Sciences, Social Sciences, Art and Fashion Design, Media Studies, and Pharmacy - the workshop offered invaluable insights into teaching.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah presenting a book to British MP Afzal Khan.

## Pakistan-UK cultural relations in focus as MP meets Minister Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (Online): British Member of Parliament (MP) Afzal Khan met with Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Friday to discuss mutual interests, with a particular focus on cultural relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture, Humaira Ahmed, along with Adviser and Culture expert Muhammad Kashif Irshad, also attended the meeting.

During their discussions, the minister emphasized the opportunities for cooperation across diverse artistic domains to enhance and fortify the strong people-to-people connections between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. He expressed that Art and Culture serve as the true representation and introduction of any nation. He further emphasized that

great nations consistently recognize, appreciate, preserve, promote, and enhance their art and culture.

The minister informed the British MP about ongoing initiatives, which involve the construction of a dedicated building for the Islamabad Museum and the creation of a National Heritage Channel. These efforts aim to promote regional folk literature and preserve the national heritage.

The Minister announced plans for the second phase of the CPEC Cultural Caravan, during which special invitations will be extended to all Central Asian states to participate. British MP Afzal Khan expressed his commitment to furthering cooperation in cultural exchanges and continuing efforts to bolster cultural ties. He commended Pakistan's archaeological sites and likened civilizations to interconnected rivers.

## Student succumbs to bullet injuries in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The critically injured 10th-class student succumbed to his injuries in a hospital in Srinagar in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the student, Sahil Bashir, was shot at and injured by unknown gunmen in the Wanihama area of the south Kashmir Islamabad district on Wednesday.

He had received bullets in the neck and his spinal cord was damaged," a senior doctor at Soura Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar told media men.

## Islamabad Police launch innovative ICT-15 App for public safety

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have unveiled an App aimed at enhancing public safety and crime prevention.

The newly introduced ICT-15 app launched following the directions of Minister for Interior Sarfraz Akbar Bugti, promises to empower the general public in the capital city by enabling them to actively participate in the fight against crime and ensure the well-being of their communities.

## Italian Envoy calls on Sadiq Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Parliament House on Friday.

The focus of the meeting encompassed mutual interests, notably the prevailing regional dynamics and energy matters.

Chairman Senate emphasized the amicable relations between the two nations and called for further cementing bilateral ties.

He advocated for diversifying energy sources beyond conventional means, accentuating the untapped potential in solar and wind energy within Pakistan.

Sadiq Sanjrani also highlighted the expertise of energy professionals in

Italy, offering collaboration to explore alternative electricity generation in Pakistan.

In light of the escalating impacts of climate change, the Chairman stressed the global imperative to shift towards clean energy generation. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to bolster trade and economic ties between Italy and Pakistan.

Furthermore, Sanjrani extended an invitation to Italian enterprises to capitalize on the investment prospects available in Pakistan.

He specifically pointed out opportunities within the mineral sector, especially in Balochistan, which could prove favourable for Italian investors.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister A.J.K. Anwar ul Haq had a meeting with Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Sami Saeed.

## PTA takes action against illegal internet service providers in Sargodha

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in coordination with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) conducted two successful raids in Sargodha against illegal internet service providers.

The first raid took place in RB Block, Rose Valley Society, while the second was conducted at Burj-e-Umar Plaza, Mian Khan Road said a news release issued here on Friday.

One person was arrested. Additionally, vari-

ous equipment of illegal ISPs, including switches, routers, laptops, antennas, etc. was confiscated. These entities were providing ISP services without a valid license from PTA in Sargodha and surrounding areas.

The successful raids against illegal ISPs were made possible because of continuous monitoring, commitment, and persistent efforts by the PTA to curb the menace of illegal internet services, thus curtailing the loss to the national exchequer in terms of tax evasion and misreporting of revenues.

## Wafaqi Mohtasib inspection team visits AIOU

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: On receipt of large number of complaints against AIOU, the Wafaqi Mohtasib Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi deputed Wafaqi Mohtasib Inspection Team comprising of Senior Advisor Mr. Ahmad

with the university students and ascertained issues faced by them. Later the team went around different departments of the AIO University to see for themselves the root causes of persistent complaints.

It was revealed that



Farooq, Advisor Dr. Inam ul Haq Javed Deputy Advisor Mr. Pervez Haleem Rajpoot and Senior Investigation Officer Mr. Adnan Ahmad to visit the main campus of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) located in Islamabad which is imparting education to 1.1 million students with 54 Regional Campuses all over Pakistan, AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan.

The visiting team held meeting with the Vice Chancellor and other faculty members to learn about the issues being confronted by the University. The team members also had interac-

tion with the university students and ascertained issues faced by them. Later the team went around different departments of the AIO University to see for themselves the root causes of persistent complaints. It was revealed that the students were facing with delayed receipt of results, denial of admission despite fulfilling required qualification, late or non delivery of semester assignments and delay in checking of the assignments, registering incorrect particulars of the students, delayed reimbursement of admission fee in case of refusal to admission and other such like complaints. The team members proposed to the Vice Chancellor AIOU for the optimal use of vast piece of land held by the University for enhancing the scope of educational activities.

## Gas theft attempt foiled in Bama town: illegal pipeline removed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has successfully foiled a gas theft attempt in Bama Town by dismantling an illegal pipeline.

According to a spokesperson of SNGPL, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Task Force in Islamabad had conducted a successful raid in Bama Town, preventing the unlawful network from being established.

The underground illegal pipeline, stretching over 300 meters, was discovered and removed before it could connect to the distribution network, saving the depart-

ment from irreparable damage. The action had been initiated on the gas theft in the area of federal and its adjoining areas on the directives of the General Manager of SNGPL Azhar Rashid Sheikh.

During the operation, Task Force personnel disconnected illegal gas meters and initiated legal proceedings against residential consumers engaged in commercial usage of gas connections.

The operations were carried out in various localities, including Tarlai, Dhok Paracha, Tarnol, and New Town Attock.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mrs. Rubina Khalid, Convener Sub-Committee of the Senate Standing COMMITTEE on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination presiding over a meeting of the sub-committee at Parliament House.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
 Saturday October 07, 2023

## 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.



**Ashraf Jehangir Qazi**

Explanations of human behaviour — whether individual, group or collective — necessarily involve simplification because of their inherent complexity.

This allows the 'common man' to claim the right to his individual if not always correct opinions on social, political and economic matters which have a palpable personal impact on him in a way he would not presume to claim with regard to complex physical processes which do not appear to have any such immediate impact on his well-being.

In physics, any thesis that is 'testable' by rigorous observations and mathematical equations that are internally consistent is considered valid until further observation and theoretical

and mathematical advances confirm or challenge its validity.

The James Webb Space Telescope is doing just this with regard to the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe. No such rigour is available for the social sciences. If it were, the basis for democratic governance would cease to exist because science or, alternately, religion and ideology, in alliance with state power would decide all social issues.

This alliance (based far more on religion and ideology than science) has provided the woof and warp of political history in general and Pakistan's history in particular. That is why democracies, whether young or old, unless constantly nourished and renewed through the rational questioning of established authority and dogma, degenerate into tyrannies.

The precondition for such nourishment and renewal is, of course, human development which is premised on culture, science and technology, an education of public opinion which provides uncensored and non-manufactured information, an ability to think rationally,

and a spirit of community, accommodation and tolerance — all of which are essential to democratic governance.

All of the above has been consistently denied to the people of Pakistan culminating in today's state of the nation in which usurpers, in one form or another and on one pretext or another, seek to permanently prevail over the people, the Constitution and the rule of law.

Everyone knows this, but everyone is coerced into believing they can do nothing about it. History will not absolve those responsible for this betrayal of the nation. Those responsible include not just the ruling elites and the purchased middle class intelligentsia and professional classes, but also the people who instead of standing up for the survival of their children confine themselves to unorganised, sporadic, and unavailing protests. Their 'leaders' easily betray them.

There are several hundreds of statistics, ratios, measures, etc. to gauge the health of a nation. The extent and quality of education is a prime measure. Sports is a vital component of education. It teaches an individual

to reach for his or her potential. It teaches competition, fair play, how to take triumph and defeat and, above all, playing for the team and passing the torch onto the next generation.

Pakistan is sports-crazy. But its sportsmen and sportswomen are betrayed by bosses who see sports as a personal opportunity rather than a nation builder. Accordingly, it has marginal social priority and its development is neglected. When I was in Beijing in 1996, I wrote a report on China's fine performance in the Atlanta Olympics as one indicator of its emergence as a great power.

Much the same could be said about India's performance at the recent Asian Games in Hangzhou although Modi's India has downsides that more than counterbalance its sporting prowess. India's best-ever performance of 81 medals including 18 gold contrasted with Pakistan's worst-ever performance of two medals and zero gold.

This pathetic performance reflects the low priority of sports and education in the governance of the country. The same neglect

is apparent in current human rights, judicial, economic, social, political, health, institutional, corruption, inequality, poverty, and other statistics that collectively define multidimensional state failure in Pakistan. I might add that selling the family silver through the SIFC is not a legitimate caretaker responsibility.

None of this should instil despair. But it does define an unprecedented existential challenge the people have to take up in an organised and sustained manner. This is the meaning of jihad — a collective and unrelenting effort and struggle for survival, truth and justice. Such a jihad must provide the social and political core of our faith. Should we avoid taking up this challenge we shall forfeit the right to survive.

In his seminal 1967 article on 'The responsibility of intellectuals', Noam Chomsky makes clear that intellectuals have a choice: either, as Norman Finkelstein puts it, they devote themselves to the service of truth and justice or they seek power and privilege. They cannot do both. Serving truth and jus-

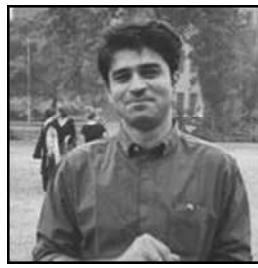
tice entails a price, often a very heavy price. Very few intellectuals are willing to make the choice in favour of this calling. They choose to compromise pretending to speak truth to power while preserving their jobs and perks, the security of their families, their social status and their personal freedoms. They end up betraying their professed commitments.

According to Chomsky, this applies even more to those countless nameless persons who organise protests and movements on behalf of millions, nay billions, of their compatriots and fellow humans around the world who shall never know them. Pakistan is fortunate to have many such selfless and priceless souls. Their courage and sacrifices are a standing rebuke to the cynicism and complacency that hides under many disguises.

The power and political elites of Pakistan are confident they can always overwhelm and defeat such valiant people. But the people of Pakistan have begun to demonstrate they never will. AllHammudillah! -- Courtesy Dawn

## Never despair

## Can Lahore's air be saved?



**Usama Asghar**

If you live in Lahore, there is one thing that you will find common among other city dwellers: it is a constant headache. How many times have you wondered about the unusual headaches that you get repeatedly in a week despite being in good health? Presumably many times, but we take a Panadol for it and ignore the question of where it's coming from.

So, my dear city folks, it is coming from the continuous honking you hear every day while traveling to your destination. It is coming from the smoke that automobiles are emitting daily on the roads of Lahore. Finally, the relentless surge in traffic on Lahore's streets has transformed into a constant source of pounding headaches. It has become a regular occurrence for us to find

ourselves ensnared in the most aggravating traffic snarls.

As winter is around the corner, the looming prospect of severe smog and fog enveloping our skies becomes a growing concern, ultimately leading to visibility plummeting to near-zero levels. People look forward to early winter as it is some kind of blessing, but it is a grave concern that every year we are witnessing an early start and longer stay of the winter. This is not a blessing but an effect of the dreadful climate change that should be taken seriously. It is a matter of national security.

National security is not limited to protecting citizens from foreign incursions but also involves protecting the wellbeing and interests of people within the geographical boundary of the country. Therefore, national security includes food, water, health, and environmental security.

In his book 'Pakistan: A Hard Country', Anatol Lieven has argued that 'climate change' is one of the massive challenges that Pakistan faces. Every two years, massive floods hit Pakistan, crippling the

country. While it takes almost a decade to recover from the consequences of one flood, Pakistan has to deal with almost five floods per decade.

Ecological disasters like floods have a tendency and potential to collapse the country's economy in a blink. In the case of the 2010 floods, approximately one-fifth of the entire land area was submerged, leading to the displacement of around 20 million individuals and an estimated \$43 billion in damage to infrastructure.

Similarly, between June and October 2022, Pakistan faced devastating floods that resulted in the tragic loss of 1,739 lives and inflicted a staggering Rs3.2 trillion (\$14.9 billion) worth of damage, coupled with Rs3.3 trillion (\$15.2 billion) in economic losses. These calamities were precipitated by abnormal monsoon rainfall and the accelerated melting of glaciers, both of which have direct connections to the overarching issue of climate change.

Anatol Lieven further states, "what is certainly true is that if floods and other ecological disasters on this scale become regular events as a result of cli-

mate change, then Pakistan will be destroyed as a state and an organized society." Thus, climate change can collapse Pakistan and compromise its economic dimension of national security.

One thing that contributes to the deterioration of climate in Pakistan is mismanaged city planning. For instance, let's take the example of Lahore which is considered the most polluted city in the world. The current population of Lahore is 13,979,000 which is increasing annually at an average of 3.5 per cent.

According to the census data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Lahore's population in 2050 will be 37.71 million. Lahore's air quality worsened to 97.4 micrograms of PM2.5 particles per cubic meter from 86.5 in 2021, making it the most polluted city globally. How are we going to manage the population and reduce the pollution in 2050 without taking climate change seriously?

When inquiring about the deteriorating air quality in Lahore, government officials responsible for addressing climate change often engage in a blame-shifting dynamic. They fre-

quently attribute the city's poor air quality to neighbouring farmers, engaging in a tit-for-tat exchange of accusations. This deflects attention from the root cause, which is the need for comprehensive policy reform in both nations to effectively manage and mitigate air quality issues.

The population boom in Lahore has led to a vehicle surge in the city as well. Lahore has become a precarious city for pedestrians, who make up 40 per cent of the population. According to the collected data, there are approximately 6.2 million vehicles and 4.2 million motorcycles in Lahore alone, which amounts to nearly one-third of all vehicles registered in Punjab. This underscores that people tend to shun public transport for their commute. Despite Lahore boasting sufficient public transport options such as Metro buses, the Orange train, and the Speedo bus service, they still fall short of meeting people's demands.

Given the choice, I will unquestionably prefer a private commute to arrive on time and without feeling fatigued. The preference for private

transportation in Lahore is not a fault of people but rather a consequence of inadequate policymaking. Instead of addressing the growing need for sustainable transportation options, policymakers are exacerbating the problem with their new city planning policies, such as constructing flyovers and eliminating city traffic inter-sections.

Investing in flyovers alone is a short-sighted approach, as they will not accommodate the impending 35 per cent population increase. A far more effective strategy would have been to prioritize public transportation, making it accessible to all Lahoris. Although developing a comprehensive public transport system is a costly endeavour, it represents the only viable solution for Lahore's future.

The current situation is dire, with traffic congestion causing daily headaches and deteriorating air quality poised to lead to severe health issues. Soon, residents may find themselves reliant on asthma pumps just to breathe clean air. -- Courtesy TheNews

## 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 creat-

ing 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 quizzes. 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 power, 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 imparting 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

# 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.



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



HYDERABAD: Federal Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi, Vice Chancellor Dr Arbella Bhutto and others pray after un-veil the foundation stone of Performing Art and Interior Design Departments of SABS University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro.

## Mayor inaugurates various development projects

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday inaugurated various development projects including Jam Ikramullah Dharijo 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

## 4 accused arrested; weapons seized

KOHAT (APP): Four accused were arrested and weapons were recovered from their possession in the Shakardara area here during a grand search operation against anti-social elements.

A spokesman for Kohat police said on Friday that weapons seized during the operation included 2 repeaters, 3 pistols, 13 chargers and dozens of cartridges. The search operation was carried out under the supervision of DSP Lachi, Shaukat Hayat and SHO Shakardara Irfan Khan.

During the operation, raids were also conducted at the possible abodes of wanted suspects and their facilitators. A heavy contingent of police and elite force participated in the search operation at the targeted places.

Cases have been registered in Shakardara police station against the accused. Police were interrogating the suspects.

## Woman who opens fire on a lawyer killed in retaliatory firing by guard

FAISALABAD (Online): A woman opened fire on an advocate in district court Faisalabad and was killed in retaliatory firing by guard of lawyer.

During firing by woman, lawyer and his clerk were injured.

Faisalabad police said the injured lawyer and clerk have been shifted to hospital for medical aid.

Police have taken body of woman into its custody which is being sent to hospital for postmortem.

Police are investigating the matter.

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

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

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

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 598 drivers, 38 underage drivers, 207 pedestrians, and 519 passengers were

among the victims of road traffic crashes.

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

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



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

## NAB KP arranges seminar on Seerat ul Nabi (SWA), country's economic stability

PESHAWAR (APP): National Accountability Bureau Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (NAB KP) on Friday arranged a seminar on "Strategy for the country's economic stability, in the light of the Seerat ul Nabi (SWA) in connection with the Islamic month of Rabi ul Awwal."

The Seminar was attended by Vice Chancellors, Deans, Officers of various public and private sectors universities including Islamiya College University Peshawar, Engineering University Peshawar, Khyber Medical College, Ghadhara Medical College, Institute of Management Sciences, Sarhad University Peshawar, Qurtaba University, Rehman Medical College. Ghazi Rehman, Senior Director NAB KP in his welcome address emphasized on following the preaching of Quran and Sunnah for the betterment of society and economy of Pakistan. Chief Guest Prof Dr Qibla Ayaz, Chairman, Islamic Ideology Council Pakistan while sharing his wisdom and thoughts, highlighted the importance of peace and climate change in the development and economic activity of Pakistan.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek hold "Azmat-e-Sahaba and Shan-e-Ahle Bait rally in City.

## Auqaf deptt organizes Seerat-ul-Nabi (SAW) conference

PESHAWAR (APP): Under the patronage of the Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department, a Seerat-ul-Nabi (SAW) conference was organized here in collaboration with the Muttahida Ulama Board. The conference was attended by several dignitaries, including the Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law and

Human Rights, Hajj, Auqaf, and Religious Affairs, retired Justice Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, Dr. Asad Ali, Secretary of Auqaf and Religious Affairs, and Provincial Chief Khatib Maulana Tayyab Qureshi, along with scholars from various religious schools of thought and other high-ranking officials.

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

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

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

North Waziristan districts. With the new constituencies, 6 seats of the National Assembly and 8 seats of the Senate of the merged districts have been eliminated, the delegation said. The National Assembly Constituencies of Orakzai and South Waziristan have been abolished by the new constituencies, the delegation informed.

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

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

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

## Man killed, wife injured in accident

FAISALABAD (APP): A man was killed and his wife was injured in a road accident near here on Friday.

According to Rescue 1122, 70-year-old Hamid was riding a motorcycle along with his 60-year old wife Balqees of Chak No 33GB, Satiara Road. When they reached near Khanoana bypass, a car hit them. As a result, Hamid died on-the-spot, while Balqees suffered injuries.

The body was removed to mortuary while the injured was rushed to the civil hospital for medical treatment.

## 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.



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

## 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, Wapda Town roundabout and adjacent areas while the cleaning of commercial markets.

## Chinese ambassador scholarships awarded to 282 students

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

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

In a statement, the Chinese ambassador expressed his gratitude to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas and emphasized that China-Pakistan friendship has a rich history, solid foundation fruitful outcomes, and promising prospects. He also stressed that the youth are the hope

of the nation and the scholarship aimed to support students in realizing their dreams and contributing to the strong bond between China and Pakistan. Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor expressed his profound gratitude towards the Chinese embassy for its unwavering support of the University of Sargodha. He stated, "Education is a powerful tool for building bridges and strengthening the bonds of friendship between nations. The Chinese ambassador scholarship not only enhances educational opportunities for Pakistani students but also promotes people-to-people connections and cultural understanding between China and Pakistan."



KARACHI: Members of Tehreek-e-Ahlesunnat are holding protest demonstration against Mastung tragedy, at Karachi press club.

## Financial crisis hampers education, research studies in majority of universities in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Higher education is a rich cultural and scientific asset that prepares students for future challenges besides promoting economic, technological, and social change in society. Primarily, it is the public sector universities and higher educational institutes (HEI's) that encourage exchange of knowledge, research and innovation. It also equips students with skills and expertise required to meet the ever changing demands of labor markets, and

overseas employment and expedite engine of economic growth in Pakistan.

Despite enormous significance of higher education in the country's socio economic development, majority of public sector universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were currently facing financial crisis, which are adversely affecting the process of learning and research studies besides negatively impacting on students' enrollment in MS, M.Phil and PhD

programs in the province. Out of total 34 public sector universities including 24 general and 10 specialized in engineering, technology, agriculture, medical, animal husbandry and management sciences for 40,856,097 population with 1,298,278 persons per university, seven public sector universities including UET Peshawar, Gomal University DI Khan, Agriculture University Peshawar, University of Science and Technology Bannu, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

University Peshawar and University of Shangla were facing significant financial crunch due to pension liabilities and depleting budgets balances.

The KP Universities 2021-24 Report has revealed that the initial balances of budgets of 34 public sector universities and HEI's, which was Rs 6,560 million in 2021-22 has been decreased to Rs 5,316 million in 2022-23 and was further slashed to Rs 4,740 million in 2023-24. A significant concern is predominant allocation of

expenditures towards current operations, with no provision for capital expenses of funds creation due to substantial weight of establishment charges.

The decrease of opening of balance budgets of these universities has not only created serious financial challenges but also encompassed financial fluctuations as well as economic stagnation for research studies, salaries and pensions.

During the last three-years, the provincial grant to public sector

universities which was Rs 3,962 million in 2022-23 was slashed to Rs 3,276.125 million during 2023-24 and only Rs 1,231.897 million were recorded during 2021-22.

The financial crisis in most universities has been further deepened after nonpayment of the promised annual provincial grants of Rs 3,000 million, impacting negatively on the universities' abilities to maintain infrastructure, support academic programs, research studies and ensure quality in

education disciplines.

However, the federal grants to KP universities had witnessed a substantial growth i.e. Rs 10,133.214 million in 2021-22, Rs 10,909.202 million in 2022-23 and Rs 10,954.014 million in 2023-24. But 18 universities of KP have faced decrease in federal grants including University of Agriculture Peshawar, University of Laki Marwat, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar,

University of Haripur, Bacha Khan University Charsadda, Fata University Kohat, University of Science and Technology Bannu, Hazara University, University of Swabi, Khushal Khattak University Karak, Women University Swabi, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Dir Upper, Gomal University DI Khan, KMU, Institute of Management Sciences, Islamiya College Peshawar University and University of Malakand during 2022-23 and 2023-24.

## 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 added 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 masses would decide who should be the winner in the

election.

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.



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



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).

## 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. He further said that substantial funds were allocated for the promotion of vocational and technical education in previous tenures of PML (N). He said that the efforts of Auto Air Conditioning Association in providing skills training to the employees are commendable.

## Govt to increase gas tariff for fertilizer plants during ongoing month

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government to meet the demand of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) of ending circular debt, has decided to increase the gas tariff for fertilizer plants from ongoing month. A private news channel quoting the sources said that the ministries of finance, petroleum, and industries have started working on increasing gas prices for fertilizer manufacturers.

According to the decision, the factories will be supplied gas at the rate

of Rs580 per MMBtu against the prevailing rate of Rs302 per MMBtu. Meanwhile, the fertilizer manufacturers for feedstock will get gas at Rs1,580 per MMBtu as the price of the commodity has been increased by Rs556 per MMBtu for them.

The increase will come into effect before the first review of the IMF under the \$3 billion Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) loan which would start at the end of the current month, it added.

## DRAP urged to ensure stock availability with distributors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Bakhtawari on Friday urged the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to ensure at least three months of stock with distributors for regular supply of medicines at pharmacies.

Bakhtawari was addressing an award distribution ceremony held to honour the services of medicine distributors.

Muhammad Mehtab Hussain, General Manager, Premier Sales (Pvt.) Limited has conferred the Best Distributor Award in recognition of his outstanding services and ensuring the availability of needed medicines at pharmacies, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Muhammad Mehtab Hussain thanked ICCI for giving him the Best Distributor Award, which is a great honour for him and his organization. He said that speed and response level matter a lot in the distribution business for customer satisfaction and retail spread is his prime focus to serve the ailing humanity.

Sardar Shabbir Ahmed, Senior Inspector of Drugs, Islamabad congratulated Muhammad Mehtab Hussain and Premier Sales (Pvt.) Ltd for receiving the Best Distributor Award, which is a due recognition of their professional and positive approach to business.

The ICCI president stressed that every distributor of pharma products should focus on expanding its network.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Khalida Ateeb, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

## 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 Rs 44,175.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 19 (37.26%) items increased, 16 (31.37%) items decreased and 16 (31.37%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included diesel (3.33%),

## 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 Jamal 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 Jamal 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 infrastructure 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.

He also underlined Ethiopia's vital role in the African Union, stating that Ethiopia brings not only economic strength but also a deep understanding of regional dynamics to the group with its addition.

"As the headquarters of the African Union, Ethiopia holds significant influence over regional affairs and aims to become a hub of connectivity.

## 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.

## 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. The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 41,323,524 shares at Rs.1.34 per share.



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

## Authorities advises jewelers association to take benefit from extended date

PESHAWAR (APP): The authorities asked the Jewelers Association Nowshera to take advantage of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)'s extension date of income tax returns and submit it by October 31, 2023 as it would not be extended further. In this connection, an important meeting between Assistant Commissioner Income Tax Nowshera, Tufail Jaber and Jeweler Association was held at Nowshera district. The Income Tax authorities appraised the office bearers of the association about significance of filing of income tax returns and its utility in the country's development process.

He asked the office bearers of the association to take full advantage of the extended date and file their income tax returns upto October 31, 2023.

Tufail Jaber said holding of the meeting with jewelers was a part of the awareness campaign launched in Nowshera under the directives of Zaffar Iqbal Khan Chief Commissioner Regional Tax Office Peshawar, Shaheed Mehboob Commissioner IR Mardan Zone Mardan and Muhammad Alam Additional Commissioner IR Mardan Zone Mardan to sensitize people especially well-off families about significance of filing of income tax returns.

He said the filers of income tax returns would get enormous financial benefits in taxes while purchasing properties, vehicles and others business. "Taxes are considered to be very crucial for the economy of any country to finance its social projects besides minimum dependency.



MULTAN: Citizens are holding protest demonstration against price hike of electricity bills, in Multan

## 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 Akram 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 the currency and lead to a sharp rise in inflation, he added.

The business leader said that agreements with the IMF and other institutions should be honored, as breaching promises will result in displeasure with international institutions, which the country cannot afford at this critical juncture.

We want economic managers with good economic understanding, experience.

## Gold falls on better than expected jobless claims data

CHICAGO (Xinhua/APP): Gold futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange fell on Thursday as U.S. jobless claims data were better than expected.

The most active gold contract for December delivery fell 3.00 U.S. dollars, or 0.16 percent, to close at 1,831.80 dollars per ounce.

The U.S. Labor Department reported Thursday that U.S. initial jobless claims ticked up slightly to 207,000 in the week ending Sept. 30. The median estimate by economists called for an increase to 210,000.

In remarks prepared for an event hosted by The Economic Club of New York on Thursday, San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly said U.S. policymakers can hold interest rates steady if the labor market and inflation continue to cool or financial conditions remain tight. "If we continue to see a cooling labor market and inflation heading back to our target, we can hold interest rates steady and let the effects of policy.



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

## Farmers facing difficulties to access certified, quality seed: Dr Iqar

FAISALABAD (APP): Farmers are facing difficulties to access certified and quality seed which is one of the major obstacles to increase per acre production.

This was stated by Vice Chancellor (VC) University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Prof Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan while addressing at the concluding session of 16<sup>th</sup> training on "Finance, Administration, Management and E-Governance" organized by

the Professional Training and Skill Development Center (PTSDC) UAF for the officers of Punjab Agriculture Department.

Dr Iqar said that food insecurity had become a challenge across the globe. "In view of issues like changing climates and water scarcity, we need to develop and promote the varieties that are resistant to the climate changes," he added.

He said that Pakistan was importing edible oil pulses.

## 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 quick 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. "It's up to the State Duma members."

Putin said that while some experts have talked about the need to conduct nuclear tests, he hasn't yet formed an opinion on the issue.

"I'm not ready to say yet whether it's necessary for us to conduct tests or not," 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 Kosovo 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.

## 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 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," which the White House says are borrowers who made 20 years or more of payments "but never got the relief they were entitled to."

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

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

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



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.

## 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.

The U.S. Navy's Mid-east-based 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet and its allies have intercepted numerous ships believed to be transporting weapons and ammunition from Iran to Yemen in support of the Iranian-backed Houthis. This is the first time that the seized weaponry has been handed over to Ukraine, Central Command spokeswoman Capt. Abigail Hammock said.

This shipment was seized by Central Command naval forces in December off of a vessel the command described as a "stateless dhow," a traditional wooden sailing ship, that was being used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to arm the Houthis.

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

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

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.

## Indonesia's agriculture minister resigns amid a corruption investigation

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia's agriculture minister resigned Thursday as the country's anti-graft commission ramped up an investigation into alleged corruption at his ministry.

The Corruption Eradication Commission, known as KPK, has alleged that there has been bribery linked to job promotions at the Agriculture Ministry as well as fraudulent projects involving private vendors, but it has not disclosed details.

"Don't judge me first. Let the legal process proceed, and I'm ready to face it," Limpo told a news conference in Jakarta.

Limpo was on working visit to Italy and Spain when the KPK searched his official residence in Jakarta last week.



A Philippine supply boat sails near a Chinese Coast Guard ship during a resupply mission for Filipino troops stationed at a grounded warship in the South China Sea.

## Uganda opposition leader forced into car at airport and driven home

**Monitoring Desk**  
KAMPALA: Uganda's main opposition leader Bobi Wine was forced into a car by security agents and driven home on Thursday after disembarking from a plane following a trip abroad, his party said.

Wine, the strongest political challenger to veteran President Yoweri Museveni, was led away from the plane in Entebbe as an associate yelled, "Where are you taking him?", according to a video posted on social media by his party.

The action appeared intended to avoid a public spectacle after the police said on Wednesday that anyone on the streets to welcome Wine would be arrested, following calls by his party for a million-strong march. Police spokesperson Patrick Onyango said security agencies accompanied Wine to his residence in the town of Kasangati, some 50 km (30 miles) north of Entebbe and near the capital Kampala.

## Death toll in India glacial lake flood hits 40

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: At least 40 people have died in flash floods inundating India's northeast, officials said on Friday, as army teams plotted helicopter rescues for more of the thousands stranded in the deluge.

Violent torrents struck the remote state of Sikkim on Wednesday after the sudden bursting of a high-altitude glacial lake in neighbouring Nepal.

Climate scientists warn that similar disasters will become an increasing danger across the Himalayas as global temperatures rise and ice melts.

## US regulators seek to compel Elon Musk to testify in their investigation of his Twitter acquisition

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: The Securities and Exchange Commission said Thursday it is seeking a court order that would compel Elon Musk to testify as part of an investigation into his purchase of Twitter, now called X.

The SEC said in a filing in a San Francisco federal court that Musk failed to appear for testimony on Sept. 15 despite an investigative subpoena served by the SEC and having raised no objections at the time it was served.

But "two days before his scheduled testimony,

Musk abruptly notified the SEC staff that he would not appear," said the agency's filing. "Musk attempted to justify his refusal to comply with the subpoena by raising, for the first time, several spurious objections, including an objection to San Francisco as an appropriate testimony location."

The SEC said that starting in April 2022, it authorized an investigation into whether any securities laws were broken in connection with Musk's purchases of Twitter stock and his statements and SEC filings related to the company.

## Defendant in rapper Tupac Shakur killing appears in court

**Monitoring Desk**  
LOS ANGELES: The man accused of murder in connection with the gang-feud slaying of rapper Tupac Shakur a quarter of a century ago appeared in a US court Wednesday. Duane "Keefe D" Davis, 60, was charged last week over the killing, despite not being the man wielding the weapon in Las Vegas in 1996. Davis was brought into court in handcuffs and wearing blue detention center clothes, the Las Vegas Review Journal reported. The formal arraignment was delayed and Davis did not enter a plea to the charge of murder with a deadly weapon.

## 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."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday warned European leaders at an informal meeting in Granada, Spain that Russia could attack other countries within five years if Europe were to waver in its support.

## 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 north-west 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," the foreign ministry said in a statement. In Turkey, two Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants were "neutralised" in eastern Agri province in a clash with commandos during an operation with combat drone and attack helicopter support.

## Poland election campaign polarised by anxiety over migration

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBICZE CERKIEWNE: In Dubicze Cerkiewne, a Polish village next to one of Europe's last primeval forests, few tourists come any more and soldiers based in the school gym help intercept migrants squeezing through the nearby fenced border from Belarus.

Just a few km (miles) away from the razor-tipped fence lining the frontier, Dubicze faces a renewed surge in illegal migration that has stirred anxiety and dominated public debate ahead of a closely-fought election in Poland on Oct. 15. The populist nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) government has cast the ballot as a choice between security it says requires keeping migration at bay and an existential threat the country would face if the liberal opposition wins the vote. "Do we want news headlines to be warning us soon about drug gangs, or about another shooting in Bialystok, Siedlce, Krosno, Sanok, Kolobrzeg, Jelenia Gora or Warsaw?" Prime Minister Morawiecki said on Thursday, listing cities across Poland.

"Do we want this? Because today these are exactly the headlines in Sweden, in Paris, Marseille, in Italy," he told reporters in Warsaw before departing for a European Union summit in Granada, Spain where migration was a fraught topic on Friday.

The message from Morawiecki, who in Granada accused the EU trying to force Poland to accept illegal migrants or face fines, resonates with some Dubicze residents, although PiS faces an uphill battle for votes in the village. It and its main rival, the liberal Civic Platform (PO), each won about 30% there in the 2019 parliamentary election.

This time, polls show PiS is likely to re-emerge as the largest vote-getter across Poland but may lose its majority, amid discontent over soaring costs of living and what critics call the party's subversion of democratic standards.

Helena Mojsiewicz, a shopkeeper in Dubicze, lauds the border fence and presence of troops. Thousands have deployed to the border area since the summer against potential "hybrid threats" - illegal migration - from Belarus, the government says.

## UN, Red Cross call for restrictions on 'killer robots' to protect humanity

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations (UN) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have called on political leaders to urgently establish new international rules on autonomous weapon systems, also known as killer robots, to protect humanity.

"We call on world leaders to launch negotiations of a new legally binding instrument to set clear prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapon systems and to conclude such negotiations by 2026," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric said in a joint appeal.

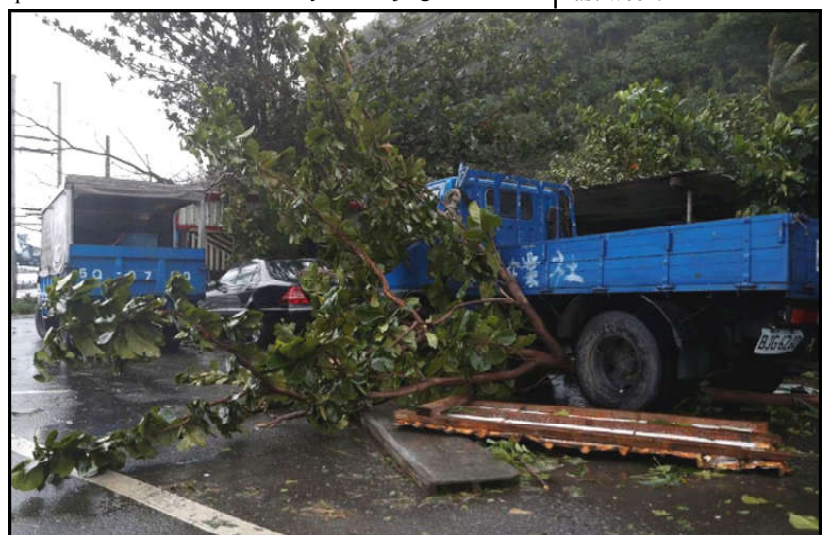
"In the current security landscape, setting clear international red lines will benefit all states," they added, highlighting that "autonomous weapon systems - generally understood as weapon systems that select targets and apply force without human intervention - pose serious humanitarian, legal, ethical and security concerns".

In addition, the two leaders said clear restrictions are needed for all other types of autonomous weapons, to ensure compliance with international law and ethical acceptability. These include limiting where, when and for how long they are used, the types of targets they strike and the scale of force used, as well as ensuring the ability for effective human supervision and timely intervention and deactivation.

The development and proliferation of weapon systems have the potential to significantly change the way wars are fought and contribute to global instability and heightened international tensions.

By creating a perception of reduced risk to military forces and to civilians, they may lower the threshold for engaging in conflicts, inadvertently escalating violence.

"We must act now to preserve human control over the use of force. Human control must be retained in life and death decisions," Guterres and Ms Spoljaric said.



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



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.

## 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 sig-

nificance 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.

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

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Caretaker

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

"He said that somebody said that we are like brothers. We are not like brothers. We are brothers", he added.

Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, speaking on the occasion said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is handing over fifty thousand kits as a gift to the brotherly country.



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

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

Mir Ali Mardan Domki directs to ensure release of allocated funds for education sector under PSDP

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed his anguish over the poor delapidated condition of the building of Government Boys High School Lehri.

He was on surprise visit of the Government Boys High School during which he inspected its building and other educational facilities available there, on Friday.

Mr. Domki reached his native town Lehri on Friday morning, where he was warmly welcomed by the people besides the concerned high ups.

He was also presented guard of honour by the contingent of police.

The Chief Minister

on the occasion directed to ensure release of funds allocated for education sector under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

He also directed to provide the necessary equipment in the science and computer laboratory of the Boys High School and make it fully functional.

In addition to this, the attendance of teachers should also be checked and ensured in the school, adding he stressed. He also directed the Deputy Commissioner Sibi to pay surprise visits to the educational institutions and ensure presence of teachers there.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister visited the Rural Health Center Lehri and inaugurated its building re-

cently repaired and renovated by the UNICEF.

He also met the patients being treated at the RHC. The Secretary Health, Asfandyar Kakar and Director General Health, Dr. Noor Qazi, who were also present on the occasion, briefed the Chief Minister about the healthcare facility in Lehri.

The DG Health informed that the necessary medicines and machinery have been provided in the RHC Lehri.

Mr. Domki directed the concerned authorities to ensure availability of the standard health services.

He on the occasion asserted that it is our priority to provide basic facilities of education, health and water to the people.



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

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

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai visited the office of Balochistan Rural Support Programme here on Friday.

During the visit, the Minister Information congratulated BRSP on winning the prestigious Azizul Haq Rural Development 2023 and expressed heartfelt pleasure over it.

It may be mentioned here that BRSP was conferred the award during a ceremony held at Laos by the center for Integrated Rural Development for Asia Pacific.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Jan Achakzai said that it is a very big honour for BRSP to get the award.

We are also proud on it that an NGO got this award.

It may be mentioned here that this award is given to the individuals or institutions on demonstrating exceptional performance.

BRSP is the first NGO in Pakistan to be conferred this award.

The Minister Information said that the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki would invite the BRSP head and honour him and appreciate performance of the institution jointly.

## Pak supports Saudi Arabia's bid to host FIFA World Cup 2034

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Pakistan on Friday reaffirmed its support to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after the country announced its intention to host the FIFA World Cup in 2034.

"Following the announcement by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of its intention to host the FIFA World Cup in 2034, Pakistan affirms its support for the Saudi bid to host the tournament," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said Pakistan wished its Saudi brothers all success in this endeavor and was certain that Saudi Arabia would host a most memorable FIFA World Cup.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He also extended congratulations on the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. According to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Mo'in ul Haque, at the invitation of the Chinese government, Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani attended 3rd China Tibet Trans-Himalayan Forum in Tibet, China.

In his speech, he emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for green development, ecological preservation and connectivity for inclusive and sustainable development.



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

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

QUETTA (APP): Police arrested six Afghan refugees without valid documents under foreign act at respective areas of Jinnah town area of Quetta on Friday.

SHO Jinnah Town Mitha Khan told APP that, on special directive of Inspector General (IG) Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and DIG Quetta Abdul Hai Baloch, police team led by Mitha Khan conducted successful raid at different places and apprehended six Afghan refugees under foreign act.

Meanwhile, a drug dealer namely Khan Muhammad has been ar-

rested and narcotics were recovered from his possession during raid.

The SHO said that arrested Afghan refugees would be handed over to FIA for further investigation. A drug dealer is being interrogated by police.

SHO Mitha Khan said that the protection of people's property and lives was the first priority in which deficiency and negligence would not be tolerated in any case.

He said that steps were being taken to improve law and order situation for maintaining peace in the area.

## Nawaz Sharif return to Pak not result of any guarantee: Dar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar has said Nawaz Sharif return to Pakistan is not result of any guarantee and bail process will be done on his return.

"Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan on October 21, he said this while talking to mediemen in parliament house Friday.

To a question from the journalist that have differences of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi been removed from party leadership, Ishaq Dar said Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is very close friend to you. Ask this from him.

He further said holding election is constitutional responsibility of EC. I had said in November 2022 that dollar rate should be below Rs 200.

## 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.

As per the new rules, only the Ruet-e-Hilal committee will announce the sighting of the crescent moon, no private committees will be allowed to do so, the ministry recommended.

Earlier, Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed said that the Saudi Arabia government would provide additional facilities and improved services to Pakistani pilgrims during the Hajj 2024.

He said accommodation, meals, and transportation for pilgrims would be improved with a more comfortable and convenient experience.

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

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai congratulated national cricket team on registering thumping victory in its first match of the World Cup cricket.

In a felicitation message issued here on Friday, the Minister Information said that it is great to watch Pakistan team winning its opening match in the World Cup.

He expressed the hope that the national team would continue to perform in the same manner and with similar spirit.

## Madad expresses concern over deteriorating primary level educational standard

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindh while expressing his grave concern over deteriorating primary level educational standard in the country particularly in Sindh province has informed that the caretaker federal government was making sincere efforts to address this issue and also resolve the issues of all higher learning institutions of Sindh on priority basis.

The minister said this while talking to media per-

sons after attending the ceremony of the scholarship cheque distribution under National Endowment Scholarship for Talent Scheme among the students at University of Sindh Jamshoro on Friday.

He informed that all out efforts are being made to provide scholarships to make male and female students of Sindh on priority basis adding that merit is being ensured while selecting the candidates for scholarships.



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

## 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.

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

QUETTA: The Pakistan Coast Guard recovered huge quantity of narcotics from a vehicle in Gwadar on Friday morning.

According to the spokesman of Coast Guard, a patrolling party of Coast Guard tried to intercept a vehicle in Bandri area of Gwadar. However, instead of stopping the vehicle, driver flee from the scene.

However, the Coast Guards team chase the vehicle. Driver left the vehicle behind and managed to escape.

Later, during the search, 743 kilogram of charas and 57 kilogram of Ice were recovered.

The Coast Guard sources informed that the value of seized narcotics is stated to be over 21.84 million US dollar in the international drugs market.

## IHC to announce verdict in few days on PTI Chairman's jail trial: CJ

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq on Friday remarked that the court had already reserved its verdict on a plea against the jail trial of PTI's chairman, which would likely to be announced in two or three days.

IHC chief justice heard the case, seeking early decision on the petition of chairman PTI on his case against jail trial in cypher case. Petitioner's lawyer Sher Afzal Marawat said that the court had initiated the trial of his client in jail but the decision in petition against jail trial, was still pending.



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