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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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'Enough is enough':

## Balochistan govt declares all-out war against terrorists

Jan Achakzai vows to take revenge of every martyr of Mastung carnage; We would go behind all those involved in the Mastung carnage including the masterminds, and would bring them to justice; Announces financial compensation of Rs. 1.5 for families of each martyr, Rs. 0.5 million for critical injured and Rs. 0.2 million for minor injured on behalf of interim provincial government

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically reiterated the government's pledge to take revenge of every martyr of the Mastung carnage.

He said that those involved in the planning, facilitation and masterminds of the Mastung suicide blast would not be spared anyway and as such they would be taken to task. "We would go behind all those involved in the



Mastung carnage including the masterminds, and would bring them to justice", asserted the caretaker Minister Information while addressing a crowded press

conference at the Sikandar Jamali Auditorium, Civil secretariat on Sunday afternoon.

Jan Achakzai said that the security plan is being

revisited by removing the shortcomings.

He said that it is resolve of the state to go to any extreme for elimination of the terrorism.

He asserted that we would carry out intelligence base operation in every nook and corner to apprehend and eliminate terrorists.

Referring the recent visit of Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir to the province, the caretaker Minister said that we welcome

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QUETTA: Business activities seen closed while markets gives deserted look during the shutter down strike called by Ittehad Ahle Sunnat Balochistan against Mastung bomb blast



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing the annual meeting of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC)

## 28th Annual Meeting of Pakistan Engineering Council: Solar energy producing country to have bright future: Governor

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar urges engineers to construct any international level engineering structure in order to attract tourists of world; seeks cooperation in overcoming electricity crisis and learning modern skills of IT and AI to 10,000 youth under IT Initiative program

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has urged the engineers of the country to build any international level engineering structure so as to attract the tourists of the world.

He said that the country which would increase the production of solar energy in the science and engineering sectors would only have the bright future.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while addressing the annual meeting of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) held at a local club on Sunday.

The annual meeting of PEC was attended by the Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai, Minister Education, Dr. Abdul Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, Senator Rukhsana Zubairi, Chairman PEC, Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, office bearers and members of the council besides other prominent from all over the country.

The personalities from different shades of life also participated in the PEC meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Governor also urged the engineers to guide us to overcome the prevailing crisis of energy in the country as how we can convert the

electricity on the solar energy system.

He said that the historic Eiffel tower structure in Paris to Burj Khalif in Dubai force us to recognize the great work and brilliant mental capabilities of the engineers as such it is necessary that our engineers may also build any international level engineering structure or building so as to attract the foreign tourists.

Referring the PEC meeting, Governor said that he is present among the experienced and keen engineers of the country who remain busy in development and construction of

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## Shutter down strike observed against Mastung tragedy in Quetta, other parts

Independent Report

QUETTA: The complete shutter down strike was observed against the Mastung's tragedy in Quetta and different other parts of Balochistan on Sunday.

Almost all the shops, business concerns and trading centers remained closed during the shutter down strike in the metropolis besides other parts of the province.

The petrol pumps also remained closed in some parts of the city.

The Ittehad Ahle

Sunnat Balochistan had given call for shutter down strike against the suicide blast in Mastung on eve of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW).

The traders organizations and different political parties had endorsed the shutter down strike.

During the strike, the flow of traffic remained below normal in the metropolis. The Ittehad Ahle Sunnat leaders demanded of the government to bring the terrorist elements involved in the Mastung carnage to justice immediately apprehending them.

## Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Ankara

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said that Pakistan strongly condemned the dastardly terrorist attack in Ankara and expressed solidarity with Turkiye.

On his X handle, the prime minister said "We stand in complete solidarity with our Turkish brothers and sisters in the fight against the scourge of terrorism. I have no doubt that under the dynamic leadership of my brother (President Recep Tayyip Erdogan), the resolute Turkish nation will emerge

ever stronger from this challenge."

Separately, in a press release shared by PM Office Media Wing, the prime minister extended sympathies of the Pakistani nation to the people of brotherly country Turkiye.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

According to Turkey's government officials, on Sunday, two terrorists carried out an attack in front of interior ministry buildings in Ankara, one died in the explosion and the other was neutralized.

## Vitamin "A" drops also to be administered Seven-day polio immunization campaign kicks off all over Balochistan today

Independent Report

QUETTA: The seven-day anti-polio campaign is scheduled to be kicked off in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan from today (Monday).

The Coordinator Emergency Operation Center (EOC), Syed Zahid Shah informed that necessary arrangements have been made for the immunization campaign.

According to him, over 2.44 million children below six years of age would be administered the anti-polio vaccine. However, the children would also be administered the Vitamin "A" drops, the EOC coordinator informed.

He said that around 10,000 polio teams including mobile, fixe sites and transit point teams would be taking part in the immunization campaign all over the province.

The EOC Coordinator mentioned that no fresh case of polio has been reported since January 27, 2021 in the province.

The last case of polio had been reported from Killa Abdullah district, Syed Zahid Shah informed.



LAHORE: Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer of PML (N) Maryam Nawaz presiding over meeting of youth volunteers.

## Maryam Nawaz says: Nawaz Sharif will restore the economy, end terrorism

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Chief Organizer and Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz has said that Nawaz Sharif will restore Pakistan's economy and end terrorism.

A meeting of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Youth Volunteers was held under the chairmanship of Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

On the arrival of Maryam Nawaz in the meeting, the youth volunteers welcomed her with enthusiastic slogans. In the meeting, consultations were held regarding the reception of former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on October 21.

Maryam Nawaz paid tribute to the enthusiasm of the youth volunteers.

Talking on this occasion, Maryam Nawaz said that Nawaz Sharif also loves you and the people very much. On October 21,

the people will prove that the leader is only Nawaz Sharif.

Nawaz Sharif is coming to take Pakistan out of crises, Nawaz Sharif is a savior for the wounds of Pakistan, Allah Almighty has always made Nawaz Sharif red and exalted.

The chief organizer of Muslim League-N said that the reformation of the system, the welfare of the people is the goal of Nawaz Sharif, I always said that if the development given by Nawaz Sharif is removed, only ruins will be left in Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif will save the people from inflation.

The leader of Muslim League-N will start a new era of employment, peace and development for the youth and workers, we have not wasted a single moment of service to the nation and will not do so in the future.

## PM felicitates new Maldives President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday felicitated Dr Mohamed Muizzu on his victory in the Maldives Presidential elections.

"Heartiest congratulations to Dr. Mohamed Muizzu on his victory in the presidential elections of Maldives. Look forward to working with him for further strengthening Pak-Maldives relations and regional cooperation," the prime minister said on X, formerly known as twitter.

## Two weeks long Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II concludes at Barotha

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Multinational Joint Special Forces Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II conducted among Special Forces of Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Turkiye and Uzbekistan in Counter Terrorism domain has concluded, the Military's media wing on Sunday said.



The two-week-long Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II commenced on September 17 in Barotha, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Corps Commander 11 Corps attended the Closing Ceremony as Chief Guest along with the Director General Military Training and General Officer Commanding Special Service Group.

## Chinese success example for developing countries: Caretaker CM pledges to complete ongoing and proposed projects of CPEC in Balochistan

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki asserts no power of the world can't stop speedy development and prosperity under CPEC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has reiterated his government's resolve to complete the ongoing and proposed projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the province.

This was stated by the Chief Minister in his message issued on eve of the na-

tional day of China on Sunday.

Mr. Domki said that the Chinese economic success is an example for the developing countries.

He said that the Pak-China friendship is time-tested, and it would strengthen further with passage of time.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the people of Pakistan give special importance to rela-

tions with China.

He said that the relations of Pakistan with China have promoted the strategic bonds between the two countries besides expanding the CPEC.

Referring his visit to Gwadar, the Chief Minister said that he directed the concerned authorities to expedite work on the ongoing projects under the CPEC.

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QUETTA: Business activities seen closed while markets gives deserted look during the shutter down strike called by Ittehad Ahle Sunnat Balochistan against Mastung bomb blast

## Provincial Apex committee scheduled to be held on October 10

QUETTA: The Provincial Apex committee is scheduled to be held on October 10.

The Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir and other concerned high ups of military and civilian institutions would also participate in the vital meeting.

This was informed by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while addressing the news conference held at the civil secretariat on Sunday.

According to the Information Minister, the overall situation of law and order would be reviewed and certain important decisions would be made in the meeting.

## Caretaker FM to fly to China on important visit today

ISLAMABAD (Online) Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani is leaving for China on Monday, where he is likely to meet his Afghan counterpart Mullah Amir Muttaqi.

According to sources, the next week is very important for Pakistan's foreign relations, as Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani is leaving tomorrow for an important visit to China, where he will participate in the third Himalaya Forum.

## Policeman martyred, two terrorists killed in attack on Mianwali patrolling post

MIANWALI (INP): A police constable was martyred after a group of terrorists attacked a Punjab Highway Patrolling Post in Mianwali.

A crossfire also left two terrorists dead and another severely injured. According to a Punjab Police spokesman, a group of more than 10 terrorists attacked Eisa Khel Kundal patrolling post in early hours.

An exchange of fire took place between the suspects and Punjab police officials who foiled an attempt of the suspects to enter the patrolling post's building.

The firing left two suspects dead and PHP head constable Haroon Khan martyred. Khan suffered bullet wound in his eye.

The spokesman further

said the gun battle ensued for about four hours and PHP officials repulsed the attack.

Punjab police chief Dr Usman Anwar said the deceased suspects were involved in terrorists activities across the country. He said a hunt had been launched to trace the runaway suspects.

He said Punjab police along other security forces were fighting the terrorists, adding CTD has so far conducted 130 intelligence-based operations.

The Punjab police were put on high alert to protect life and property of the masses, the Punjab IG said.

The IG left for Kundal in morning. He will attend the funeral of the martyred cop.

## Attackers set off bomb at Turkish government building, both die

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Two attackers detonated a bomb in front of Turkish government buildings in Ankara on Sunday in an assault that left both of them dead and two police officers wounded, in what authorities called the capital's first terrorist attack in years.

CCTV footage obtained by Reuters showed a vehicle pulling up to the Interior Ministry's main gate and one of its occupants quickly walking toward the building before being engulfed in an explosion, while the other remains on the street.

The blast killed one of the terrorists and authorities "neutralised", or killed, the other, the interior minister said of the incident that rattled a central district that is home to ministerial buildings and nearby parliament.

In a speech at the opening of a new parliamentary session hours later, President Tayyip Erdogan called the morning attack "the latest attempt" to inflict terror on Turks.

## 'Prison for Muslims': Indian father-son duo seek refuge in Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): An Indian Muslim and his son who fled their home country citing religious persecution and arrived in Pakistan earlier this month have appealed to the government to deport them and allow them to stay under "any restrictions," wrote Arab News, an English-language daily newspaper published in Saudi Arabia.

Arab News covered in detail the journey of the father and his son. Here is what the newspaper wrote: "Journalist Mohammad Hasnain, 65, and his son Ishaq Amir, 31, a technician at an Indian company, hail from Jamshepur, an industrial city located in the state of Jharkhand bordering West Bengal. Their journey to Pakistan involved flying from New Delhi to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on September 5, where they got visas for Afghanistan and then flew onwards to Kabul and subsequently to Kandahar. Finally, they paid a driver a little over \$200 dollars to drive them across the border to Chaman in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, where they arrived on Sept. 14."

The two are now living at a shelter in Karachi, and say they left their country out of "helplessness" over repeated attacks by Hindu extremists.

Rights groups allege mistreatment of Muslims, some 14 percent of India's 1.3 billion people, under Narendra Modi, who became prime minister in 2014. In reports on human rights and religious freedom, the US State Department has also raised concerns over treatment of Muslims, Hindu Dalits, Christians and other religious minorities in India while also listing a crackdown on journalists.

Activists point to a 2019 citizenship law described as "fundamentally discriminatory" by the United Nations human rights office for excluding Muslim migrants, an anti-conversion legislation challenging the constitutionally protected right to freedom of belief, and the 2019 revoking of Muslim-majority Kashmir's special status. There has also been demolition of Muslim properties in the name of removing illegal construction and a ban

on wearing the hijab in classrooms in Karnataka when Modi's BJP party was in power in that state. Attacks by cow vigilantes are also on the rise.

"You can consider that India is like a prison for Muslims, you can eat, drink, and dress up but you don't have freedom of any kind, you are considered a second-class citizen," Hasnain told Arab News from the Karachi shelter where he is staying. "If some injustice happens to you, there is no one to listen to you, the police won't listen, the courts won't listen."

Hasnain, who was the editor of an Indian weekly publication 'The Media Profile,' was also targeted for his journalism.

"It's common for journalists to provide commentary on government policies, every journalist does it," he said, holding up a copy of the publication he worked for. "Every journalist talks about the poor conditions in an area. I also used to write about the injustices faced by Muslims due to their religion. This used to rile them [Indian government] up."



QUETTA: President of National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Changez Hayee Baloch during his visit of Shaheed Dr. Abdul Hayee Baloch's residence

## Arms dealer among five held; illegal arms, stolen money recovered

TANK (APP): The Tank police on Sunday claimed to have arrested five outlaws including an arms dealer and a thief recovering illegal arms and stolen money from their possession during different actions.

According to police spokesman, District Police Officer Iftikhar Ali Shah has directed all the police stations to take indiscriminate actions for eradication of all type of crimes and ensuring supremacy of law in the district.

Following these directions, a police team of City Police Station led by DSP Headquarter Abdul Rasheed Khan along with SHO Mehtab Khan conducted a search and strike operation in different areas.

During the checking of shops, the police arrested one Imran Shah son of

Alamgir Shah from Azlan Shah Arms dealer shop situated at Sarwar Market for not having arms dealing license and stock sale record. The police also recovered one repeater gun, four other guns and 400 cartridges from the shop.

Meanwhile, the same police arrested three other accused under Loudspeaker act during the operation.

Likewise, another police team of Malazai police station led by DSP Rural Chan Shah along with SHO Sami Ullah Khan successfully traced a theft case took place on September 09, 2023 adopting modern scientific techniques. The police arrested accused thief Muhammad Ali son of Syed Ali and recovered one pistol along with two cartridges and stolen money Rs 220,000 cash.

## Solar energy producing country...

Continued from page 1

the country round the clock.

He also said that the engineering sector has special importance in development and construction of the country and nation.

He said that we can ensure bright future by utilizing the hidden potential of the engineers. He regretfully pointed out that we could not succeed in ridding of the lengthy power load shedding even in the present developed era.

Governor on the occasion also sought help and guidance of the engineers regarding building code. He said that they (engineers) should guide us about the new concept of building code in the science and engineering.

## Balochistan govt declares...

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the resolve of COAS for elimination of terrorism in the country including province.

He said that the Army chief condoled with the bereaved families of the martyrs and inquired about health of injured of Mastung carnage during his visit.

He said that the Army Chief also expressed the resolve to take revenge of every martyr of Mastung carnage.

He on the occasion announced on behalf of the interim government the financial compensation of Rs. 1.5 for families of each martyr, Rs. 0.5 million for critical injured and Rs. 0.2

need to computerize our all institutions, and for the purpose, we have to pay focus on increasing capacity instead of quality in all professional sectors.

The Governor also urged the engineers to cooperate and support in learning modern skills of artificial intelligence and information technology to some 10,000 youth of the province under IT Initiative Programme. In the end, Governor appreciated the organizers of the meeting of PEC in Quetta. He also distributed commemorative shields among the distinguished guests, organizers and experts.

Earlier, the Information Minister Jan Achakzai, Chairman PEC, Najeeb Haroon and others also addressed the gathering.

## Balochistan govt declares...

million for minor injured of the Mastung carnage. He said that the federal government would be approached for improving the economic compensation package for the martyrs and injured persons.

Jan Achakzai also said that the provincial government is active under leadership of Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Domki and the province would be made hub of peace by taking stern action against those involved in terrorism or other law and order situation.

The Minister Information also paid homage to the martyrs of security forces and other law enforcement agencies on their sacrifices for the sake of country.

## Crackdown against electricity thieves, 10,000 arrested

ISLAMABAD (Online) The Ministry of Energy has arrested 10,000 electricity thieves and recovered 14.3 billion rupees while conducting nationwide action against electricity thieves.

Nationwide crackdown is underway against those who steal electricity, Secretary of the Ministry of Energy.

He further said that during the ongoing operations, ten thousand electricity thieves were arrested across the country, 23,152 FIRs have been registered against electricity thieves across the country, 14.3 billion rupees have been recovered from the electricity thieves.

3.85 billion rupees were recovered in LESCO, 2 thousand 961 people were arrested in LESCO, 2.42 billion 42 billion rupees were recovered in PESCO.



QUETTA: Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Najeeb Haroon presenting a shield to Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar during annual meeting of PEC. Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai is also present

## Elections are not necessary at meantime but economy's improvement: Maulana Fazl

SAHIWAL (Online): Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of Jamiat Ulema Islam (F) (JUIF) has said that elections are not necessary at this time, but the economy of the country should improve, but we are always ready for elections.

It will be difficult to hold elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in January, said Fazl Ur Rehman.

Maulana Fazl Ur Rehman while talking to the media at Jamia Uloomia Shariah in Sahiwal said that the Election Commission has asked to hold elections at the end of January, but it will be difficult to hold elections in KPK during that time, as a large population will not go to vote in the elections.

Maulana Fazl Ur Rehman said that PTI's problems are still in the court, whatever is the situation in the country, PTI is

responsible for it. PTI is also the one who is dragging the country into the swamp.

In one and a half years, our PDM government has increased the foreign exchange reserves to 11 billion. Chairman PTI has proved by his actions that he is incompetent.

He said that we are sticking to our ideological goal, we are always ready for the election, we had campaigned for the election for 3 and a half years.

The JUI chief said that the country's economy should improve not elections at this time.

He said that whenever Nawaz Sharif's friends were asked, they said that they would come, the PDM alliance is inactive now, so the PML-N will make arrangements for Nawaz Sharif's welcome.

## Hangu attacker's prints not in Nadra database: police

PESHAWAR (INP): The fingerprints of a suicide bomber, who left five people dead when he blew himself up at a mosque in Hangu on Friday, do not match any available in the Nadra database, suggesting that he may be an unknown man or a foreigner.

According to police, "initial probe suggests that the suicide attack on the police station was carried out by Islamic State Khorasani (IS-K)."

Five lives were lost and nine people were injured in the bombing of the mosque, located inside a compound along with the living quarters and police barracks, officials said.

Police posted at the Doaba police station and owners of nearby shops usually attended prayers there.

On Friday, two assailants on a motorcycle tried to enter the compound. However, when confronted by policemen at the entrance of the compound, one of the men was shot dead.

According to an initial assessment report, an explosion took place after the man was shot, which was attributed to a grenade. In the smoke and confusion, the other attacker managed to enter the mosque and blew himself up.

The report also said that while fingerprint samples were obtained, no match for them could be found in the database.

"It means that the suicide bomber, whose fingerprints were acquired, was an unknown. Further probe will unearth the bomber's whereabouts," the initial assessment report read.

A case has been registered with the counterterrorism department in Kohat and an investigation is underway, the assessment report read.

Peshawar Corps Commander Hassan Azhar Hayat, who visited the site, lauded the bravery of the police personnel guarding the compound. KP Police Chief Akhtar Hayat Gandapur said that the damages could have been greater had the suicide bombers not been neutralised.

When told that there was no CCTV footage of the incident due to power loadshedding and the absence of a solar-powered backup, KP Chief Secretary Aslam Chaudhry asked the district administration to share details so that a solar backup could be provided.

## First Pakistani woman astronaut Namira reached America for space travel

KARACHI (Online) Namira Saleem, the first female astronaut from Pakistan, South Asia and the Commonwealth of Nations, has arrived in the US to travel in space aboard the Virgin Galactic commercial space liner.

Pakistan's first woman astronaut Namira Saleem arrived in Dallas, Texas from Karachi, from where she will travel to space on October 5.

On this occasion Namira Salim said that I am very grateful that my country has supported me so much, I will carry the flag of Pakistan in space with great pride.

Galactic 04 mission of Galactic Commercial Space Liner will depart from Spaceport America in New Mexico on October 5.

Dubai-based Namira Saleem is the first Pakistani woman to hoist the Pakistani flag at the North Pole in 2007 and at the South

Pole in 2008.

It should be noted that Virgin Galactic succeeded in taking the first commercial flight to space in late June 2023, but this flight carried experts from Italy instead of ordinary tourists. Later in August and in September, the company launched the first space flight for tourists.

Namira Salim will also be present in the upcoming mission of this company. On this mission, 3 tourists will travel along with Namira Salim who will be present in the cabin of the company's VSS Unity spacecraft. Namira Salim is among the first 100 people to buy tickets for the space tourism of this American company.

It should be noted that the Government of Pakistan declared Namira Saleem as the first Pakistani astronaut in 2006 and in 2011, she was awarded the Medal of Distinction.

## Pakistan to face strong Iran in Asian Games Kabaddi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Kabaddi team will start their journey against the defending champion Iran on Monday in the first match of the ongoing 19th Asian Games Kabaddi event at Hangzhou, China.

The Pakistan Kabaddi team, who won the bronze medal in the last edition of Asian games, already reached Hangzhou to participate in the mega event.

Pakistan Kabaddi team includes Muhammad Imran (Captain), Waqar Ali, Akhlaq Ahmed, Sajid Shaukat, Adil Hussain, Muzammil Zafar, Mudassar Ali, Tahseen Ullah, Muhammad Sufian, Usman Ahmad, Umair Khan and Afaq Khan while

Nabeel Ahmed Rana, Badshah Gul, Muhammad Kamran will be act as coach and manager with team.

The Asian Games Kabaddi competitions will start on October 2 and will run till October 7 at the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre in Hangzhou. The Pakistan team staged in Group B of their respective event along with defending champion Iran, Korea and Malaysia while India, Japan, Bangladesh, Thailand and Chinese Taipei placed in Group -A in a round-robin format. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals to be held on October 6 and final will be played on October 7.

## Facebook under Indian pressure, failed to stop anti-Pakistan propaganda

WASHINGTON (Online): The American newspaper claimed that Facebook helped the propaganda and hate speech flourish under Indian pressure.

A new report by The Washington Post analyzed the Indian military's social media disinformation campaign, revealing the secrets of Indian fabrication operations and fake Facebook accounts created to praise them.

The Indian Army has created a vast network of fake accounts on Facebook through which propaganda is spread against Pakistan, China and especially against Muslims.

According to the Washington Post, India uses fake accounts on Facebook to show Kashmir as peaceful, while in fact Kashmir is drowned in blood by the Indian army.

The network is operated by the Indian Army's Chinnar Corps based in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley. Fake Facebook accounts support Indian Army's atrocities against Kashmiris.

The Washington Post confirmed that several workers of the Facebook company were also involved in Indian propaganda. Several Facebook workers also admitted that under pressure from Modi, company officials ignored India's fake propaganda.

According to the Washington Post, current and former employees admitted that Facebook executives were reluctant to punish the BJP for spreading false propaganda.

## Australia's Smith and Starc star in rain-hit World Cup warm-up game

NEW DELHI (INP): Australia batsman Steve Smith scored a half-century before pacer Mitchell Starc bagged a hat-trick to rip through the Netherlands top order in a rain-affected warm-up game here on Saturday ahead of the 50-overs World Cup.

In a clash delayed due to a wet outfield and reduced to 23 overs per side, five-times champions Australia rode on opener Smith's 55 and Cameron Green's 34 lower down to post 166-7. But rain returned with the Netherlands in trouble at 84-6 from 14.2 overs and the game was eventually called off.

The Dutch, who are set to appear at a fifth World Cup and their first since 2011, were rattled as Starc (3-18) removed Max O'Dowd and Wesley Barresi in the final two de-

liveries of the opening over and castled Bas de Leede in his next. All three batsmen fell for first-ball ducks as Starc showed no signs of rust having recently returned to the starting eleven following a groin injury.

Earlier, the match between hosts India and defending World Cup champions England in Guwahati was abandoned without a ball being bowled. India skipper Rohit Sharma won the toss and opted to bat but rain came down shortly after and prevented play at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in northeastern India.

With the cut-off time for play set at 7.30 p.m. local time (1400 GMT), match officials waited until almost 6 p.m. before pulling the plug on the contest. England may well not mind, however, after spending nearly 38 hours travelling

from London to Guwahati with lengthy layovers in between.

"We're a little bit stiff, it was a long journey," England pacer Mark Wood said on Star Sports shortly after the toss. "But this is the start of the World Cup, so we're all excited." England will get a chance to fine-tune their skills with a clash against Bangladesh on Monday, ahead of their tournament opener on Thursday when Jos Buttler's side will meet 2019 runners-up New Zealand in Ahmedabad.

"These games are just about building up to the opening game, and we need to be ready for that one," Wood said. India take on the Netherlands on Tuesday before heading into the showpiece event, where they are targeting their third title.



QUETTA: Senior Vice President PML (N) Balochistan Nawab Salman Khilji, Naeem Sikandar Khokhar and others lighting candles in memory of martyrs of Mastung bomb blast

## Youth must play role for responsible tourism: MD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is a country blessed with great tourism potential and it is the role of youth that can bring a sense of responsible tourism among the masses as young content creators must provide positive guidance about Pakistani tourist spots to the world.

Aftab Ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) said that during last few years, Pakistan witnessed an increase in number of both domestic and interna-

tional tourists due to which the growing tourism industry is getting boost day by day while the private sector is also playing an important role in this regard besides the efforts of government.

Over one million international arrivals of tourists were recorded till June 2023 and it will reach by two million by the end of this year after a 3 years span of crisis time in the tourism industry due to Covid-19 pandemic, MD PTDC said while talking to APP.

The number of over-

seas Pakistanis in Northern Areas has also witnessed an increase during this year which is creating a positive impact on the economic health of the country and shows the growth trend of the tourism industry in Pakistan encouraging private sector and investment opportunities.

He said that PTDC has recently launched the National Tourism Portal to guide the tourists about the tourist spots and support them from booking to travel information and facilities. In recent years, the

young vloggers and adventure lovers have recorded much about Pakistan's beauty, natural environment, sustainable tourism, eco tourism and adventure tourism which has increased the movement of domestic tourists for recreational purposes but besides that the young generation in their tourist guide material must create sense of responsibility to save environment, discourage pollution and attract international audience to this piece of land, he suggested.



ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Law and Justice organized a 6-day Accredited Civil/Commercial Mediation Training Course.



ISLAMABAD: Faculty Members National University of Science and Technology are meeting with Chief Secretary of Gilgit Baltistan.

## Senior puisne judge highlights importance of training justice advancement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior puisne judge of the Islamabad High Court, Mohsen Akhtar Kayani on Sunday lauded the joint efforts of stakeholders in advancing the arbitration system in Pakistan and emphasized the importance of holding frequent training initiatives to advance the cause of justice in Pakistan.

Justice Kayani made these remarks during the concluding session of a six-day mediation training course, which was organized by the Ministry of Law and Justice. He pointed out that traditional litigation procedures often led to delays and higher ex-

penses, which ultimately hindered the access to justice.

The mediation training course drew participants from various sectors, including judges from Balochistan, distinguished lawyers from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and professionals from institutions such as the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), all specializing in the field of law.

This six-day training program focused on Civil/Commercial Arbitration and earned praise from senior stakeholders.

## Death anniversary of renowned filmmaker Riaz observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned filmmaker, film writer, and journalist Riaz Shahid was remembered on Sunday on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Born in 1927 in Quetta, he belonged to a Kashmiri family. He was educated at Islamia College, Lahore, and he started his career as a journalist for the newspaper Chaitan and later joined Faiz Ahmed Faiz's Lail-o-Nihar.

He also wrote a novel named Hazar Dastan.

Riaz Shahid was introduced as a story and dialogue writer to the Pakistani film industry by his friend, actor Allauddin, in the film Bharosa (1958). In 1962, Riaz started his film career as a director for the film Susrail. Collaborating with the noted progressive poet, Habib Jalib, he went on to write or direct several films like Zarka (1969), Shaheed (1962), Far-angi (1964), Khamosh Raho (1964) and Yeh Aman (1971).

Riaz Shahid was married to the famous actress Neelo. He was the father of a famous Pakistani film star Shaan Shahid who was only one year old, when his father died.

Riaz Shahid died of leukemia on October 1, 1972 in Lahore.

## SC to hear alleged illegal detention case of Parvez on October 5

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Supreme Court (SC) on October 05 (Thursday) will hear the petition filed by his wife Qaisara Elahi against the alleged illegal detention of former Punjab Chief Minister Pervez Elahi.

Three member bench of SC headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, will hear the petition.

Notices have been issued to the parties in this regard.

It should be noted that in the Supreme Court, a three-member bench headed by Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan had heard Parvez Elahi's bail application and during

the hearing, Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan remarked that how can the court go against the constitution?

The petitioner did not make any illegal demand. The Supreme Court while issuing the orders to Lahore High Court (LHC) to decide on Pervez Elahi's petitions on August 21 adjourned the hearing of the case for an indefinite period, which has now been fixed for re-hearing. It is to be remembered that the Lahore High Court had rejected Parvez Elahi's bail in an interim order, while the former chief minister had requested the SC to annul the decision.

## Dolphin Squad (ERU) personnel briefed for effective policing measure

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City holds a briefing session for officers and personnel of Dolphin Squad (Emergency Response Unit), a public relations officer said.

He said that, during the briefing, the SSP Safe City emphasized the importance of responding promptly to calls made on the Pucar-15 helpline regarding any incidents and taking appropriate action as per the nature of the situation.

He said that strict patrolling measures should be ensured in the city in order to protect the lives and property of the citizens. He asked the officials to behave politely with citizens and ensure prompt assistance to people in case of any emergency.

He directed the officers and officials to maintain a vigilant eye on suspicious individuals during the duty, ensuring thorough proper checking and taking strict action against criminal elements.

He further stressed the significance of maintaining a courteous attitude towards the public and adopting a professional approach rather than a traditional one. He also highlighted that combating crime and ensuring the safety of citizens are among the top priorities of Islamabad Capital Police.

No leniency will be allowed against any elements causing disturbances to public safety. While officers implement comprehensive strategies against criminal elements, they must ensure the effectiveness of their measures. Any form of negligence in this regard will not be tolerated, he maintained.



ISLAMABAD: SSP Saif briefs the officials of Dolphin Squad emergency response unit.

## SC to hear case related to addition of taxes in electricity bills today

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Supreme Court (SC) will hear the case related to adding the amount of fuel price adjustment and quarterly tariff adjustment in the electricity bills today (Monday).

Questions will be asked from the companies.

A three-member bench under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa will hear the case and the special bench will hear the case related to electricity as well as civil, criminal, tax, NAB, service and other general cases.

Information notices have been issued in the case regarding electricity bills.

The lawyers of the federal government and other distribution companies will appear in the court. The Attorney General of Pakistan will also appear.

1090 petitions were filed in the Supreme Court by various electric supply companies.

It should be noted that the price of electricity was increased by 1 rupee 46 paise a few days ago due to fuel adjustment.

## Admin introduces online application, verification for Int'l driving permits

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration of Islamabad has introduced a new online procedure for applying and verifying International Driving Permits (IDPs) through online App to ensure provision of civic facilities with convenience.

This move is aimed at making the process more convenient and efficient for residents of Islamabad.

In a statement the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, said that residents can now apply for IDPs from the comfort of their homes using the City App.

Furthermore, they simply need to send their documents through the City App and wait for a message from the District Administration. Once they receive the message, they can visit the facilitation center to collect their IDP within 10-15 minutes.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that residents can verify the authenticity of their IDPs using the City App. In order to verify the IDPs, they simply need to enter the number of their National Identity Card and the Driving Permit Registration Number on the app.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 165,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 102,000 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tabela Dam was 1540.43 feet and was 142.43 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 54,500 cusecs and 90,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1225.65 feet, which was 175.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 12,100 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively.

## NA Speaker condemns attack outside Turkiye's Parliament

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Pervez Ashraf on Sunday strongly condemned the attack outside the Turkish Parliament and expressed solidarity with Turkey's Parliament and its people.

"Pakistan's Parliament and citizens stand in solidarity with Turkey's Parliament and its people during this difficult time", said Raja Pervez Ashraf in a statement. The attack outside Turkiye's Parliament is essentially an assault on freedom and democracy, and Pakistan's Parliament strongly condemns it, added the Speaker. He said that Turkiye's Parliament and its people have shown resilience against these extremist elements. He added that the attack outside Turkiye's Parliament was a heinous attempt to sabotage peace in the region.

The speaker said, Pakistan's citizens and security forces have been at the forefront in the fight

against terrorism and its sacrifices in the battle against terrorism are unforgettable. He said Pakistan is one of the most affected countries in the region by terrorism and said Islam stands firmly against all forms of terrorism. The Speaker National Assembly stressed the importance of adopting a collective approach to eradicate terrorism. He extended his prayers for the swift recovery of those injured in the attack outside Turkiye's Parliament.

## IRSA releases 165,400 cusecs water

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## Farewell ceremony held in honour of outgoing official

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: A farewell ceremony was held in honour of Constable Naseer Khan at admin block

service as the one who joins the service has to retire one day. He asked the serving police officials to do their best to earn respect for the

Security Division, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, SSP security division Masood Ahmad graced the ceremony as chief guest. While other police officials were also present on the occasion. The ceremony was held in recognition of the services of the retiring Constable.

Speaking at the occasion, the chief guest said that retirement is part of the

## APHC concerned over unrelenting HR abuses by Indian forces in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed serious concern over the terror and fear situation created by more than one million Indian forces' personnel in uniform and civic constantly engaged in the worst kind of gross human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the illegally detained APHC Chairman, Masarrat Aalam Butt in a message from New Delhi's notorious Tihar jail urged the UN to impress upon New Delhi to stop widespread grave human rights abuses in IIOJK.

He demanded a high-level probe by the Interna-

tional Criminal Court into the heinous war crimes being perpetrated by Indian forces' personnel in the occupied territory.

He also asked India to take steps for holding a free and impartial plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of the UN to enable the Kashmiris to decide their political future by exercising their right to self-determination recognized by the World Body through its several resolutions. Meanwhile, APHC leaders Syed Bashir Andrabi, Khawaja Firdous, Muhammad Yusuf Naqash, Muhammad Shafi Lone, and Desvinder Singh Behl, in their statements warned India to desist from testing the patience of the freedom-loving people of Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Central Nazim Ala Jamaat-e-Ahle-Sunat Pakistan, Peer Muhammad Khalid Sulaiman Alqadiri along with others addressing a press conference in the National Press Club.

## Doctor terms pink eye curable disease

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adenoviral conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye, is a viral infection of the eye that often resolves on its own within one or two weeks without medication.

Talking to APP here on Sunday, Consultant Eye Surgeon at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Dr. Inam Ul Haq Khan said that the public need not panic about pink eye, as it is not a pandemic and occurs periodically throughout the year.

He said that in most

cases, patients recover fully without any specific treatment as the immune system fights off the infection.

Elaborating on the early symptoms, Dr. Inam said that pink eye involves itching, watery discharge, redness, and pain in the affected eye.

He said that sometimes only one eye is infected initially, while the other eye later becomes involved as the virus spreads.

He explained that the viral infection can also cause systemic symptoms like

cough, fever, diarrhea, and swollen lymph nodes in the neck or around the ears which reflects the body's overall immune response.

To aid recovery, Dr. Inam recommended building up one's natural immunity through proper nutrition including soup, boiled eggs, and adequate hydration. "Gentle eye rinsing with clean water and artificial tears can provide symptomatic relief, but home remedies should be avoided as they may worsen the condition", he added.

## Blood Donations: A ray of hope for Thalassemia patients

ISLAMABAD (APP): The welfare of orphan kids, a blood donor who not only donate blood but also help Jamila sultana foundation in setting up blood donation camps country wide said that he had visited several educational institutes to educate students to donate blood if it is not possible for you that's ok but go through blood screening test at least to monitor overall health which is also helpful in diagnosing medical condition.

He had observed that all stakeholders should come forward and play their vital role to prevent thalassemia. The only treatment of this disease is bone marrow transplant which is very expensive. A poor cannot afford the expenses of this treatment. Thalassemia treatment should also be included in Sehat card to provide financial assistance to such patients.

Punjab Assembly had passed the legislation that before marriage thalassemia test is important because when two minor thalassemia prey opposite gen-

der marries, their child will be born with major thalassemia. The disease is spreading at large due to cousin marriages. The disease is transferring through genetics. There is dire need to implement the legislation to curb the disease.

He said that there are more than thousand thalassemia children registered with Jamila founder who is working specifically for the welfare of such children. They are daily provided blood and medicines.

Mahnoor Qureshi, a well-known anchor, Programming Manager at FM 100 and a health reporter said that blood donors are ray of hope for thalassemia patient because they survive through blood donors.

She said the disease is not only affecting the person who is suffering, it is also affecting his family, generation and community. She urges people to go through this very important blood screen test before marriage for knowing their overall health. She said people shouldn't allow for

marriage until they submit their positive medical report.

Aftab Hussain, Air Vice Marshal @ and Director of Sunsh Foundation Thalassemia center, Islamabad said the center was established in June 2018 in the capital. It is currently providing free treatment to more than 555 thalassemic and 110 Hemophilia patients belonging to Islamabad Rawalpindi, KP, Swat, AJK and t Jhelum.

The treatment includes on the average 3 blood transfusions per month along with iron chelating therapy to keep the iron level within acceptable limits.

He said, "The purpose of establishing the center was to offer totally free of cost treatment to thalassemic patients who belonged to underprivileged families in Islamabad and suburbs with safe blood transfusions and uninterrupted medicines and testing."

Aftab Hussain said, "The foundation has also set the tradition of volunteer blood donations.

Around 600-800 blood bags are transfused per month." "The main source of donors is students of colleges and universities. This center also collects blood donations from Pakistan Air Force bases, Punjab police, Islamabad police and many other community-based organizations," he informed.

Aftab Hussain said that before collecting blood from donor, a complete medical check is undertaken by qualified doctor after blood donation. The donor is awarded with blood donation certificate and feedback regarding some chronic diseases like HIV Hepatitis B and C Siphilus and Malaria."

"The media can play a major role in creating awareness about thalassemia disease and also to pass legislation for a compulsory thalassemia test before marriage for all," he urged. The blood donors are the unsung heroes in the fight against thalassemia. Their selfless act of kindness provides patients the hope and vigor.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Monday October 02, 2023

**Massacre again**

A day of celebration turned into a bloodbath in Mastung and Hangu, as terrorists attacked an Eid Miladun Nabi event in the Balochistan town and Friday prayers in the KP city. At the time these lines were being written, no group had claimed responsibility, while the interim interior minister had claimed that Indian intelligence was involved. Over 55 victims perished as a suicide bomber struck the Milad event in Mastung, while five victims were reported dead in the Hangu incident, also believed to be a suicide attack.

Up till a decade ago, Balochistan, specifically Quetta and Mastung, was in the grip of intense sectarian militancy carried out by Lashkar-i-Jhangvi. Mass casualty attacks occurred in the provincial capital, while buses carrying Shia pilgrims were raided by LJ terrorists in Mastung on multiple occasions. Earlier, in 2006, LJ militants had bombed a Milad gathering in Karachi's Nishtar Park, wiping out much of the Sunni Tehreek leadership. However, where Balochistan is concerned, LJ's activities have come down considerably, and there's a strong possibility of other militant groups, such as the IS-K, being involved.

In fact, many experts believe that many of LJ's cadres have been absorbed by IS-K, which is active across the region. It was only last month that the authorities had claimed they had gunned down an IS-K 'commander' in Mastung.

This individual had reportedly been involved in several terrorist acts in Balochistan. As for Hangu, while the area has also witnessed sectarian bloodshed in the past, this time the mosque that was attacked was inside a police station. Other parts of KP have also been experiencing militant violence carried out by the TTP — which has distanced itself from the latest attacks — and its offshoots, as well as IS-K. Balochistan's security situation over the past few decades has ignited apprehension, with the presence of both separatist and religiously inspired militancy.

A return to the bloodletting of old, despite the massive security footprint in the province, should be a matter of great concern. The state needs to deploy all the resources at its disposal to neutralise terrorists in Balochistan and, indeed, the rest of the country.

If this monster is not vanquished at this stage, it will create a security nightmare of significant proportions. KP and the former tribal districts also need to be protected from the blood-soaked assaults of the TTP and like-minded terrorist groups. Instead of indulging in extracurricular activities, the security establishment must focus on an effective counterterrorism strategy to uproot militant networks in the country.

Peace is essential for free and fair elections, and militant actors will try to derail a smooth transition from a caretaker setup to an elected government. Therefore, the caretaker administration must devote all its energies to ensuring peaceful polls, and checking the militant menace.

**Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**

Strong exception was taken by civil society, the media and at least one large political party to what the caretaker prime minister appears to have said in response to a question.

The essence of his reply was that free and fair elections would be possible in Pakistan even if former prime minister Imran Khan and some of his party colleagues remained behind bars.

He subsequently said that his words were taken out of context. Although he may not be technically wrong — provided the imprisonment is the result of a fair judicial process and not political victimisation — the reaction to his statement was not without rea-

son. Pakistan has a long history of excluding popular political leaders and political parties from the electoral process. In December 1970, when the country held its first direct general election to the National Assembly, there was no bar on any political leader or party from participating in the electoral process.

The election led to a landslide victory for the Awami League and its head Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He won an absolute majority by securing 53 per cent of the seats of the Assembly, drawing 39pc of the popular vote.

This 'mistake' of not excluding him from the electoral process was 'rectified' when he, despite winning an outright majority, was not allowed to form the government, and, instead, was arrested, imprisoned and prosecuted in West Pakistan.

A death sentence could have been executed, but events forced the transfer of power in a truncated Pakistan to West Pakistan's most popular leader, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who not only released Sheikh Mujib but also ensured his

safe passage to London.

In the subsequent election, the experience gained in the first one was contemplated, and 'mistakes' were not repeated. By most independent accounts, the second general election in 1977 was blatantly rigged and its results could not produce a legitimate government. Intensified street agitation encouraged a military takeover and prime minister Bhutto was deposed. Bhutto's tarnished popularity was resurrected after he was removed by army chief Gen Ziaul Haq, leading to indefinite postponement of general elections, which were promised by him in 90 days. The martial law government made all the arrangements to ensure that Bhutto and his PPP would not return to power. Bhutto was tried in a murder case and executed. The next general election was held after eight long years, and that too on a non-party basis so that there was absolutely no possibility of the PPP claiming victory.

The PPP boycotted the election. The party and its popular leader, Benazir Bhutto, were, therefore, successfully blocked from

the electoral process. The PPP and Benazir Bhutto were allowed to return to politics and elections only in 1988, after Gen Zia died in a plane crash, but the victory was diluted to a point where the PPP government remained ineffective.

Her government was prematurely sacked and not allowed to return in the subsequent election.

When Nawaz Sharif emerged as a popular leader after his confrontation with president Ghulam Ishaq Khan in 1993, he was sacked as elected prime minister and not allowed to return to power in the subsequent election in 1993. A number of cases were instituted against him and his party colleagues to ensure that he remained entangled in them.

The same treatment was meted out to Benazir Bhutto, who was sacked as prime minister in 1996. Not only was she not allowed to return to power in the 1997 general election, her party could barely win 18 seats in the National Assembly as opposed to the 86 it had won some three years earlier. Benazir Bhutto and her husband were booked in several

cases of corruption.

Nawaz Sharif, who returned as prime minister for the second time in 1997 with a two-thirds majority, was sacked after the 1999 military coup, and prosecuted in the case involving a conspiracy to hijack a plane in which Gen Pervez Musharraf was travelling. He was sentenced to life imprisonment by a special court but the military government appealed for enhancing the sentence to death. Ultimately, he and his family were exiled to Saudi Arabia and he could only return to Pakistan close to the general election in 2008. His party could not win the elections in 2002 or 2008. It was ensured that the breakaway PML-Q, patronised by the military chief-cum-president, 'won' the election in 2002.

Nawaz Sharif became prime minister for the third time in the 2013 election, 14 years after his removal, and after Gen Musharraf had resigned as president, and, more importantly, as army chief. He was forced out of office once again in 2017 after he had developed differences with the military leadership and was convicted in a case of not

disclosing the salary received from the company owned by his son.

This account of change in governments shows that a popular leader has never been able to return to power in the election immediately following his or her removal. Popular political parties have faced fragmentation in the past. For instance, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, a close associate of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, formed the National People's Party and supported the military government.

Two political parties, including Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party, led by former PTI secretary general Jehangir Tareen, and the PTI-Parliamentarians, formed by Pervez Khattak, the former chief minister of KP under the PTI government, have emerged. The lesson is that popular political parties and their leaders who fall from favour have to face pressures, desertions, fragmentation, imprisonment and exclusion from the electoral process in one way or the other.

History seems to be constantly repeating itself in Pakistan with almost predictable uniformity. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Excluding party leaders****The other time bomb****Sherry Rehman**

Pakistan is a nation focused on the crisis du jour. Crises like 'climate change, environment and population' are only mentioned occasionally in the newspapers or soft news morning shows, because structural issues are not hot, live topics anywhere in today's clickbait media. Although as disasters advance with relentless intensity and scale, climate news has made a ratings-breakthrough in international headlines this is not the case in Pakistan. Yet as time bombs go, climate and population are live ammunition in countries with low economic growth rates, agricultural economies and spiraling head counts. Pakistan's population growth rate is now 2.55 per cent, overtaking all in South Asia. The numbers as computed in the 2023 digital census are highly contested, but even the base numbers show 241.49 million, a surge of 35 million in six years. In contrast, India, China and Bangladesh have lowered population graphs because there is a consensus that high population growth rates dramatically enhance vulnerability, espe-

cially in land use, agriculture and water resourcing. Pakistan's reluctance to prioritize population dynamics with climate advocacy has obscured a vital connection that erodes the capacity of both urban and agricultural communities to cope with growing stress, with not enough coordinated planning or public education built into the debate. Despite the risks environmental and climate stress can place on vulnerable communities, dependent on shrinking water sources and agriculture as their principal source of livelihoods, in Pakistan the scientific connections made between climate change and population are thin. The data is spectacularly weak, especially given the sensitivities to family planning and contraception, yet a growing body of evidence suggests that the connection is profound as well as simple.

The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (2022), has unequivocally identified rapid population growth as "a key impediment" to achieving climate goals. Countries like Pakistan have a low carbon footprint globally, so high populations have not resulted in high emissions per capita. The problem is not demographics itself or a supply-side argument in which high population is linked to high emissions. Quite the opposite. In general and of course on historic time-scales, wealthy populations have very high GHG emissions. So the issue for de-

veloping countries is that unchecked population growth exposes higher numbers of people to vulnerability if the state does not have the resources to adapt costs, or to mobilize assistance or factor in high-expense resilience infrastructure. Lack of access to technology, soft skills, and high heat and weather volatility in agri-based economies exposes livelihoods to overall fragility.

In developing countries, when populations explode, inequality and its deprivations sharpen their demographics at the bottom of the social pyramid. In fact, climate change, conflict, and pandemics are all crises that impact the poor first, with 828 million going hungry all over the world in zones of vulnerability. Pakistan's food insecurity is only growing as its water and food resources don't meet the nutritional requirements of its underprivileged, who have become trapped in cycles of high food inflation and low resilience to extreme weather impacts. The erosion of soil, wetlands, forests, and rangelands clearly impacts rural livelihoods in life-changing disruptions. Yet agriculture is not the only intersection with climate and population where impacts are multiplied.

The pace of unchecked urbanization, where migrations to cities enhances the pressures on under-performing, under-resourced and contested municipal services also impacts dangerously with

population density factors. Cities are now home to over 38 per cent of Pakistan's population, with 40 per cent of the urban population now living in informal, often unhygienic squatter settlements known as katchi abadis. Most of these settlements become the epicentre for disease in high heat or flooding, because there is little drainage or solid waste management functional institutionally across these areas, leaving hundreds of thousands impacted by urban heat island effects or urban flooding.

Water-borne diseases flourish in both rural swamplands and urban stagnant pools of foetid water, as local governments struggle to manage clean water-supply and drainage of settlements in the absence of working toilets and basic sanitary services. It is here that the term 'urban underclass' applies the most poignantly. Families living in cramped quarters with little cooling or safe cooking or washing options become frontline examples of climate-impacted urban fragility and health risk.

This is rarely the case in Pakistan, where in a high number of cases, women are not given the choice to marry or pace pregnancies with the basic information they need to make best choices. At the heart of the problem is of course power, nestled in the dark heart of patriarchy, which at its worst iteration sees women as fungible breeders,

stripped of choice or agency. Despite parliamentary pressure, and legislation by one province, Sindh, where adulthood, and therefore a minimum age for marriage, is now defined at age 18, there is a crisis of forced marriages and unprepared young mothers being pushed into health and psychological trauma not of their own choice or making.

The links between malnourishment of children under-five are not difficult to make. Households where mothers are given no access to reproductive health options or family planning choices and knowledge are the ones where children are under-nourished and often stunted in their growth. The Global Hunger Index says that almost 50 per cent of Pakistan's women and children face high nutrition deficits, which triggers deficiencies and long-term serious health impacts.

Many population taskforce conclaves later, including one created by the Supreme Court in 2018, the same recommendations resonate in policy papers, yet are not reflected as a surge in either federal or provincial government priorities. No rocket science is needed. Currently, our Contraceptive Prevalence Rate stagnates at 30-35 per cent. An enhancement of the CPR can be brought to 50 per cent, which will lower the fertility rate to 2.8 children per woman by 2025,

and a push to 60 per cent by 2030 will bring that to 2.2 children per mother. This would lower our population growth rate to 1.5 per cent by 2024 and to 1.1 per cent by 2030.

The good news is that typically, families have demonstrated a need for both contraceptive knowledge and materials, in almost all surveys. That demand was most effectively met by the federal government's huge public push for instituting the Lady Health Workers programme in 1994 by prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who ensured a winning combination of political consensus, high-level messaging and programmatic resourcing. Family planning was not just demystified but also projected as a women's health issue, with LHWs fanning into unreachable homes and communities to impart both knowledge and free contraception.

Given that today many of these same 125,000 LHWs also double as polio vaccinators, the programme needs a public push and resourced scaling up. In bigger numbers, enhanced by social media outlets for FP materials, they will meet the needs of the targeted population if they are actually recognized as the real backbone of Pakistan's primary healthcare system. This would be a big leap forward, again. -- Courtesy TheNews

**China's remarkable 74-year economic odyssey: from inception to innovation***China's economic transformation is from a humble beginning to 'Global Leadership.'***By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani**

As the People's Republic of China embarks on its 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, it pledges an unwavering commitment to ushering in a new era of economic openness. Focused on achieving high-quality, innovative, coordinated, and environmentally conscious development, China's vision for 2023 marks a pivotal milestone in its economic journey.

In the words of President Xi Jinping, the fifth-generation leader, this year symbolizes the unlocking of China's market for further modernization. This strategic endeavor seeks to align domestic and international imperatives while seamlessly integrating development with security considerations. Over the past seven decades, especially during the four transformative decades of reform under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the nation has achieved remarkable social stability and economic growth. Actually the China's economic transformation is from a humble beginning to 'Global Leadership.'

At the heart of this extraordinary progress, as President Xi underscores, lies the shared management of the intricate relationship between reform, development, and stability. In 2022, China's invest-

ment in research and development soared to an impressive R7.7 trillion, marking a remarkable 10.1% increase from the previous year. The growth in high-tech industry investments, which surged by 12.5% year-on-year in the first half of this year, and the substantial increase in the added value of critical sectors such as aerospace, equipment, and lithium batteries, exceeding 20% year-on-year, vividly illustrate China's unwavering commitment to coordinated development.

The urbanization rate has skyrocketed from 53% in 2012 to 65% in 2022, significantly reducing the gap in per capita disposable income between urban and rural residents from 2.88 to 2.5. Recent years have also witnessed China's intensified efforts to establish a unified national market, resulting in accelerated development in key regions such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, yielding substantial benefits.

Moreover, China's steadfast dedication to green development resonates with global concerns. In addressing humanity's shared challenges, the nation has witnessed significant growth in new energy vehicles, wind power capacity, and charging stations. Additionally,

China's installed renewable energy capacity has now surpassed that of coal, with wind power ranking as the world's leading source for 13 consecutive years and solar PV power maintaining its lead for eight consecutive years.

Foreign investment in China continues to surge, with 24,000 new foreign-invested companies established in the first half of this year, reflecting a notable 35.7% year-on-year increase. Notably, Tesla's Shanghai Super Factory played a pivotal role in the company's global deliveries, producing an electric car every 40 seconds.

It is worth noting China's commitment to BRICS' cooperation, emphasizing its readiness to collaborate with fellow BRICS partners in line with the principles of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation. This new phase of China's economic journey signifies a pivotal moment, not just for the nation but for the global economic landscape.

**A GLANCE AT CHINA'S REMARKABLE 74-YEAR JOURNEY**

On October 1, 1949, the establishment of the People's Republic of China marked a historic moment. The Chinese people, who had endured war and suffering, finally stood tall again, astonishing the world.

Reflecting on these 74

years, we witness China's evolution from the early days of independence when it grappled with severe economic backwardness and societal desolation to the prosperity achieved after 44 years of reform and development. Progress has been profound in science, technology, economy, culture, social development, stability, national unity, and border defense.

Today, the Chinese people enjoy peace and prosperity, and neighboring nations appreciate the unity and progress exhibited by China. The government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a close partner, especially welcome China's development, recognizing the shared history of struggle.

Pakistan is deeply impressed by China's determination and unity in building a prosperous, democratic, civilized, harmonious, and modern socialist country. As China celebrates its 74<sup>th</sup> birthday, Pakistan joins in extending its warmest wishes.

**CHINA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT**

China spearheads monumental projects like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), aimed at benefiting the entire world. The BRI aims to connect Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America through a vast network of roads and

sea lanes, representing a significant portion of the world's growth and population.

China's commitment to cooperation in the BRI includes policy alignment, infrastructure development, and open trade, with extensive investments from both public and private Chinese institutions. Despite opposition from some Western countries, China remains steadfast in its vision to unite the world through economic competition rather than conflict.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a cornerstone of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), represents a colossal endeavor that stretches across 2,442 kilometers. It spans from the bustling Gwadar port on the coast of Pakistan to the resource-rich region of Xinjiang in China. This ambitious corridor is a testament to China's unwavering commitment to modern development and global economic integration.

As the CPEC and other BRI projects inch closer to completion, China's ascent on the world stage becomes increasingly apparent. Unlike traditional superpowers that have relied on military might to assert dominance, China is charting a different course—one characterized by economic prowess and cooperation. The

completion of these grand projects signifies a significant shift in the global power landscape, with China poised to lead not through force, but through its ability to foster economic growth, innovation, and connectivity.

Crucially, China's journey toward this future is not a solitary one. It is marked by partnerships with nations that share its vision for inclusive development. Pakistan stands as one of the most significant allies in this endeavor. The collaborative spirit between China and Pakistan has been instrumental in overcoming challenges and advancing these transformative projects.

Amidst opposition from certain quarters, often driven by competing interests and outdated paradigms, China remains steadfast in its pursuit of these humanitarian goals. The world is witnessing a paradigm shift in global affairs as China takes bold strides towards a brighter future for all nations involved in the BRI and beyond. The emphasis on economic cooperation and development resonates as a beacon of hope in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world.

(The writer of the article is Secretary General of Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, and a Senior Media Consultant) [syed.gilani@gmail.com](mailto:syed.gilani@gmail.com)

# CM Naqvi inaugurate Ibn-e-Sina reading room, cafeteria of KEMU

Caretaker CM praises police for foiling terrorist attack on check-post

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated Ibn-e-Sina reading room and cafeteria of King Edward Medical College University (KEMU) after up-gradation, on Sunday. Accompanied by the Punjab cabinet members, he visited the upgraded reading room and the cafeteria. They reviewed

the facilities being provided in the reading room and cafeteria and checked the quality of edible items at cafeteria. CM Naqvi went to the kitchen of the cafeteria and inspected food preparation process. The CM and ministers met doctors present in the reading room and cafeteria and asked them about the facilities being provided

there. Talking to doctors after the inaugural ceremony, the CM congratulated students on getting a reading room and a new cafeteria. "Few months earlier, I witnessed during my visit that the condition of the cafeteria was in bad shape, the air-conditioners of the reading room were out of order; dust was all around and it was in a pathetic

condition." He said now the reading room had become of an international standard. He hoped that the Mayo Hospital would be upgraded by January 31 next year. The hospital administration would take over ownership of the up-gradation work and the work would be completed soon, he added. "I visit every floor and review the pace of ongoing work.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi addressing a Press conference.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori in a group photo with Consul General France and diplomats of other countries during Piano Concert at French Culture Centre.

## SHC orders police to hand over internal security to Isra university's Chancellor

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh High Court here on Friday ordered the Hyderabad police to vacate the campus of Isra University and to hand over the varsity's security arrangements to the Chancellor, acting Vice Chancellor and the acting Registrar. However, the division bench comprising Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui and justice Arshad Hussain Khan asked the police to keep their presence at the institution's outer cordon outside the premises. The court allowed the university's administration led by Chancellor Prof Dr Ghulam Qadir Kazi to

deploy private security guards inside the campus for internal security. The bench also directed the officials to ensure that the faculty members were not deprived of performing their duties as required under the law. Advocate Ali Almani, counsel of the varsity's officials, apprised the court that in compliance with the September 15 order of the SHC Karachi the Chancellor has appointed Dr Ahmed Waliullah Kazi as the acting VC until a permanent VC could be appointed. He added that the court had given 4 months

to the varsity for the said appointment. He said the police took control of the campus security in order to wrest the security control from the private guards of the former VC Dr Nazee Ashraf Laghari. The district police in its report informed the court that the disputed VC Dr Laghari had been evicted from the campus and that the charge had been given to the acting VC. DSP Ghulam Nabi Khoso stated that as far as security in the inner cordon of the campus was concerned, it appeared that the police deployment was no longer required.

## 13 dead, 1,177 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 13 people were killed and 1,177 others injured in 1,177 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 625 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 657 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 635 drivers, 54 underage drivers, 146 pedestrians, and 514 passengers were among the victims of the road traffic

accidents. The statistics showed that 279 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 306 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 76 in Faisalabad with 88 victims, and at third Gujranwala with 66 accidents and 72 victims. According to the data, 1,082 motorbikes, 83 auto-rickshaws, 113 motorcars, 28 vans, 15 passenger buses, 19 trucks and 107 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road traffic accidents.

## Eye infection wanes but still 1,134 new cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): A decrease in conjunctivitis cases was observed in Punjab, but still 1,134 new cases were reported on Sunday. The Primary and Secondary Health Department of Punjab released a report, revealing a decrease in the number of patients affected by conjunctivitis, commonly known as "pink eye," during the last 24 hours. However, 1,134 new cases have been reported during the period, highlighting the ongoing challenge.

The year 2023 has seen a total of 395,929 reported cases of eye infections across 36 districts in Punjab. Lahore, the provincial capital, accounts for 23,633 cases this year, with an additional 236 new cases in the last 24 hours. Bahawalpur has experienced the highest concentration of conjunctivitis cases in 2023, with a staggering 77,672 cases recorded. Shockingly, 34 new eye infection cases were reported within the last 24 hours.



LAHORE: Members of various Sunni organizations are holding protest demonstration against the bomb attack on religious procession of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Eid Milad-un-Nabi in Mastung District, held at Lahore press club.

## Special counters set up to deal with Conjunctivitis patients: Dr Jamal Nasir

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir on Sunday said that special counters had been set up in all the government hospitals of Punjab for the treatment of Conjunctivitis patients. During a visit to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) to inspect the Conjunctivitis and dengue wards of the hospital, he directed the hospital management to deal with the cataract patients at these counters and keep them separate from other patients. "Conjunctivitis patients should not be sent to OPD unnecessarily so that other patients can be

safe", he added. Dr Jamal said that as a result of Punjab's government strategy to close schools during the Eid Milad un Nabi (SAWW) holidays, the number of conjunctivitis-affected people had decreased significantly. The health minister asked the BBH administration to not vacant beds and other resources available in dengue wards for no reason and to use these beds and resources for the treatment of other patients in case of fewer dengue patients. He also urged the residents to adopt precautionary measures to avoid cataracts.



LAHORE: Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) listening to the problems of women at Saddar Center during his visit to (BISP) Center.

## More than 74.78 million children across KP to be vaccinated against Polio

PESHAWAR (APP): All preparations have been completed for the national anti-polio campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa starting from Monday (October 2) and during the two-phased five-day campaign, more than 74.78 million children across the province will be vaccinated against polio. According to the Emergency Operation Center, "In the first phase of the anti-polio campaign in Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Malakand and Hazara divisions, all children under five years of age will be administered polio drops." "In the second phase of the campaign, which will continue from October 9-13, all children up to five years of age in Bannu and DI Khan divisions will be vaccinated against Polio," an official of the EOC said.

"During this anti-polio campaign, vitamin A will also be given to children to increase their immunity," the official disclosed. In the first phase of the campaign, he said, "Around 63,628,95 children will be vaccinated against polio in all districts of Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Malakand and Hazara divisions." In the second phase of the campaign, he said, "Around 1,1681 children in Bannu and DI Khan divisions will be vaccinated against polio," the official informed. During the campaign, he said, polio drops would be given to all children up to the age of five living in all Afghan refugee camps in the province. He said a total of 34,551 teams of trained polio workers have been formed for this Anti-Polio Campaign.



PESHAWAR: Patients are being examined by doctor and providing free medicines during the free medical camp held at Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Model Institute for State Children Zamung Kor in Peshawar.

## Health services be provided to people of Rashid Ghari: Zubair

PESHAWAR (APP): Haji Zubair Ali on Sunday, being a public representative, vowed to provide modern health facilities and services to the people. The serious problem of law and order in Rashid Ghari will be solved and there will be no street criminals, the people of Rashid Ghari will continue their activities without any fear while a team has been formed for stray dogs, he said. "No compromise will be made so that the people can get rid of these stray dogs," he said, adding, "Solarization will be done

in the masjids of the area so that facilities can be provided to the worshippers in the masjids and electricity will continue to be supplied to the children during the recitation of the Holy Quran," he said. He said SDO of the area would be contacted to take action against the Kunda mafia as soon as possible. On this occasion, the President of Etihad Ulema Rashid Ghari said that in our Etihad Ulama group, there are Imams of the schools of thought of Rashid Ghari in front of every masjid.

## Governor KP stresses for tireless work to ensure prosperity in country

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali has vowed to work tirelessly for the progress and prosperity of the province in general and for country in particular. He stated this in an exclusive Podcast interview with state-run Radio Pakistan on Sunday. The KP Governor highlighted the steps being taken for the betterment of education sector in the province. He said a plan is being devised to impart practical knowledge to students along with the theory. The Governor said

linkage is being established between universities and industries of the province in order to equip the students with practical knowledge. Elaborating the importance of research and development in universities, he emphasized on adopting modern techniques in education to better compete with the world community. Commenting on the abundant mineral deposits in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali expressed desire to bring investment in this sector. He appreciated the role of

Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir in this regard. The KP Governor said natural gas discovered in Lakki Marwat and Waziristan is reaching to large parts of country. Haji Ghulam Ali termed public private partnership as an effective tool to bolster the scope of tourism sector. He said private tourist companies have been asked to provide helicopter services to tourists to promote tourism. He pointed out that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa offers copious scenic and splendid sights in the form of meadows, mountains, valleys and water bodies.

## ANP leader in Swabi died of heart attack

SWABI (APP): Former Chairman of District Council Swabi and District Leader of Awami National Party Hasan Khan died of heart attack last Saturday night. The deceased was elected as the Interim Nazim General of District Council Swabi in 2018 when an FIR of murder was registered against ANP District President and Nazim District Council Swabi Ameerur Rehman. After the interim period of ANP leader Haji Muhammad Zahid Khan, Hasan Khan was formally elected as District Nazim. Hasan Khan was attending a jirga last Saturday night when he suffered a heart attack which proved fatal.

## IG Punjab awards cash prizes to cops on foiling terrorist attack in Mianwali

MIANWALI (INP): Inspector General (IG) Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar awarded cash prizes to four policemen deputed for foiling the terrorist attack during his visit to the Kundal check post in Mianwali on Sunday. As per details IG Punjab awarded cash prizes of half a million rupees to CTD cops who launched the operation, while Rs3 million to all the cops deputed at the patrolling post. The Punjab Police, along with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the armed forces, will take full action against the terrorists in the difficult

hilly areas, IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said. Earlier, two militants were killed while one was seriously wounded after the police foiled a terror attack on its patrolling post at Kundal in Mianwali on Saturday night. However, a cop named Haroon Khan was martyred in firing by the assailants. According to Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, who left for Kundal today to review the post-attack situation, said around 10 to 12 militants attacked the post, which led to an exchange of fire between the two sides which lasted for four hours.



KARACHI: Workers of Sunni Tehreek Pakistan shouting slogans against terrorists, who were involved in the Mastung bomb blast during a protest rally outside press club, in Provincial Capital.

## Police arrest two suspects

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Dhorkot police have arrested two suspects and recovered weapons and liquor from their possession. According to a police spokesman, acting on a tip-off, the police team took two suspects into custody. The police also recovered a pistol and 20 liters of liquor from the possession of the accused. Police have lodged a case against the suspects. Further investigation was underway.

## GRC celebrates historic Taxila Railway Station to declare it heritage site

TAXILA (APP): The Gandhara Resource Center Pakistan (GRC) on Sunday proudly hosted the Taxila Chaupal, a community congregation, at the Taxila Railway Station and demanded the government to declare it a unique heritage site of the country. The event, aimed at fostering community engagement and celebrating Taxila's illustrious heritage, brought together esteemed speakers, community members, and guests who shared a deep appreciation for the region's history. GRC, a dedicated community-based initiative in Taxila, has been tirelessly working to revive and preserve the local heritage, especially its rich Buddhist legacy. The Taxila Chaupal serves as a valuable platform to mobilize local communities, encouraging them to take ownership of their heritage and actively participate in its preservation. During the event, the historical significance of Taxila Railway Station was highlighted, shedding light on its pivotal role in trade,

commerce, and industry within the region. The former Station Master, Ghazanfar Ali, shared valuable insights into the station's history, emphasizing its transformation and contributions to the local economy. According to Ali, situated strategically between Peshawar and Rawalpindi, Taxila Railway Station traces its origins to 1883 when it was established as Siaray Kala Railway Station by the North Western Railways (NWR). This railway junction quickly became a vital transportation hub, facilitating the movement of goods and people across the Indian subcontinent. Over the years, it played a crucial role in supporting economic growth and development in the region. In 1924, the station was renamed the Taxila Railways Junction, marking its growing importance in the local area. It continued to play a central role in the local economy, serving as a key transportation hub for both civilian and military purposes.

## China fosters new-generation nuclear power reactors

BEIJING (APP): China's home-grown nuclear power facilities with safer technology have rolled off the production line, with over 20 third-generation nuclear power reactors currently in the pipeline, set to generate more clean energy to power the country's growth.

At present, China boasts over 50 operational nuclear reactor units, and among them is the "Hualong One" generator set, installed in the eastern city of Fuqing. This domestically designed

third-generation nuclear reactor has not only increased on-grid electricity generation but has also revitalized both upstream and downstream industry chains.

The newly-developed nukes are designed with a safer core-cooling technology, compared with the second-generation nukes. In addition to utilizing externally powered circulating cooling water, China's Hualong One reactors are equipped with a dual security system and

a two-layer containment structure. The No 5 unit in Fuqing, the first Hualong One unit to enter commercial operation in January 2021, has three super-large water towers mounted on its top. In the event of an emergency where the circulating water system fails, thousands of tonnes of water stored in these tanks will flow automatically without requiring a power supply.

Furthermore, the nuclear island has been encapsulated in two robust concrete shells, measuring

1.3 meters and 1.8 meters in thickness, securely locking the radioactive materials within.

The Hualong One is capable of withstanding the onslaughts of typhoons of all degrees, earthquakes with the highest intensity, and the impact of jetliners.

With over 60,000 components, more than 88 percent of which are domestically developed, China is the fourth country globally, after the United States, France and Russia, to possess the core technology.



RAWALPINDI: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in a group photo with President RCCI Saqib Rafiq and others during his visit to Rawalpindi Chamber.



GILGIT: Skilled women are embroidering bed sheets and pillows for sale at the Women's Market.

## Shahzad highlights new approaches potential to boost output, reduce emissions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik on Sunday emphasized that adopting new approaches to governance, business regulation, and trade has the potential to increase output by 4 percent within two years while also aiding in emissions reduction efforts.

Speaking at a discussion on "What Reforms badly needed for Pakistan" arranged by Mian Affan Elahi Arain Director Marvel Cables Limited, he said several emerging market and developing economies face threats to economic growth and limited policy space

due to high inflation, rising debt, and balance of payments pressures, said a news release here.

These challenges mounted during the pandemic and were further intensified by Russia-Ukraine conflict.

He said slower growth and constrained capacity to support their most vulnerable people expose some of these countries to substantial social instability risks and the same time, these economies face the conundrum of participating in global efforts to reduce their carbon emissions and help combat climate change without sacrificing growth and jobs.



ISLAMABAD: A Labourer is busy in packing sacks of charcoal at his workplace at Khanna Pull area in Federal Capital.

## Minister, diplomats, business leaders visit WEXNET-23 exhibition on 2<sup>nd</sup> day

LAHORE (APP): A large number of people thronged the WEXNET 23 exhibition of women entrepreneurs on the second day of a three-day show.

Businesswomen are participating from all over the country to see their skills and diverse products, which is being showcased successfully at the Expo Centre here. The largest-ever women entrepreneurs' exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Executive Zubair Motiwala in a colourful ceremony on Sept 30.

Minister Industries Punjab SM Tanveer was also present. The event was attended by various diplomats, government officials, members of trade and women entrepreneurs.

Dignitaries included Deputy Head & Mission UAE Ms Ayesha Ali Naqbi, Commercial Counsellor Saudi Arabia Mubasher Alshehri and Commercial Counsellor, Uzbekistan Behram Yusuf.

In connection with the exhibition, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Secretary Dr. Fared Iqbal told APP that more than 300 women entrepreneurs were participating and displaying their unique products and services from all across Pakistan. This year, a number of sideline activities have also been planned besides exhibition, there will be culinary show and cooking competitions, he added.

"In this connection,



ISLAMABAD: People busy in selecting and purchasing second hand shoes from vendors at weekly Sunday Bazaar, Peshawar Morr.

## FBR extends for filing of income tax returns by October 31<sup>st</sup>

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to extend the date of filing of income tax returns by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, for tax year 2023.

This decision for the person who is required to file their returns by September 30, 2023, is extended to October 31, 2023, in view of the request from various trade bodies and the Tax Bar Association, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

In the exercise of powers conferred under Section 214A of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, the Federal Board of Revenue is pleased to communicate the date of filing of the Income Tax return for Tax Year 2023.

## Saudi Arabia projects 2024 budget deficit at 1.9 pct of GDP

RIYADH (Xinhua/APP): Saudi Arabia announced Saturday its preliminary budget statement for 2024 with an expected 1.9 percent deficit of the GDP.

The Saudi finance ministry projected total expenditures for fiscal 2024, which is identical to a calendar year in the kingdom, at 1,251 billion Saudi Riyals (about 333.5 billion U.S. dollars), and 1,172 billion riyals in revenues.

The projection is based on the government's fiscal objectives to expand strategic spending at the sectoral and regional levels, broaden and diversify the economic base, as well as improve public services, among others, the ministry said in the pre-budget statement.

The kingdom is estimated to have a 2-percent deficit of its GDP, totaling 82 billion riyals, for 2023, according to the statement.

Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan said that the government will continue implementing fiscal and economic structural reforms to help develop and diversify the Saudi economy.

## RCCI, ICCI agree for resolving issues of twin's cities businesses

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) have agreed to join hands for resolving the issues of the business community of twin cities.

The RCCI and ICCI have made joint efforts to solve the problems of the business community and for their welfare, it has been agreed to form a committee

consisting of 6 members including presidents to promote relations and consult on important issues between the two business organizations and also to play a friendly cricket match, said a press release issued by ICCI here on Sunday.

The ICCI delegation led by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari visited Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries

and congratulated President RCCI Saqib Rafiq on assuming the post of Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) and presented bouquets.

In a delegation-level meeting held at RCCI, President of ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari congratulated Saqib Rafiq, President of RCCI on his election as the chairman of RWMC and said that the trust of the government on the business community.



HYDERABAD: A worker busy in packing flour in bags at flour mill.

## MCCI demands long, short term policies for textile sector revival

MULTAN (APP): President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Mian Rashid Iqbal, said that the textile sector was very important for the country's exports and demanded long and short-term policies in consultation with the stakeholders associated with the industry for its revival and increase in exports.

He expressed these views while presenting annual report on the eve of the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mian Rashid Iqbal presented the performance report for the year 2022-

23 and demanded of the government to control increasing electricity, gas, and petroleum prices.

Mr Rashid said that work should be made to promote local industry and products prepared at a local level should be encouraged.

He said that there was a need to take serious steps to resolve food security issues in the future and research should be done on value addition seeds for better production and cotton should be given top priority in this regard.

The government should take special measures for alternate sources of energy and State Bank of Pakistan.

## 3-day Int'l Carpet Exhibition to begin in Lahore from Oct 4

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf has said that preparations have been finalized for the three-day 39<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of Handmade Carpets being started here from October 4.

Usman Ashraf said that it was very encouraging, the buyers from 25 countries including China, USA, UK, Hungary and Turkey have registered to participate in the

exhibition. He expressed these views while addressing the PCMEA review meeting to finalize the exhibition here at the Association's office on Sunday. Senior central leader Abdul Latif Malik, Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejazur Rehman, Major (Retd.) Akhtar Nazir, and Saeed Khan also attended the meeting. Usman Ashraf said that international exhibition would be inaugurated by Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP).

## Farmers express concern over worms attack on maize crop

BUREWALA (APP): Farmers expressed concern over the attack of fall armyworms on maize crops and demanded the government to take immediate steps for saving the crop.

Maize crops have been cultivated thousands of acres in district Vehari as it is considered as highly profitable from farmer's prosperity for the last few years.

The crop underwent attack by worms which affected leaves, resulting in low production.

Farmers Nadeem Anjum Sindhu resident of 313/EB, and Lala Ghulam Murtaza resident of 251/EB talking to APP expressed concern and stated that they had spent a huge amount on inputs. However, the recent attack of the worms caused immense panic as it would lead to low production, they feared.

They stated that pesticides were not eliminating the worms.

When contacted agriculture department, Plant Protection Officer Naveed stated that spray could not be done on the crop that had become mature. However, he suggested farmers spray of "amamactin, cypermethrin, tephlobenze" to minimize the attack of the worms.



KARACHI: A view of vendors displayed scrap for selling purpose alongside a road at U,p Moor, in Provincial Capital.

## Gemstones: a valuable asset for revenue generation

PESHAWAR (APP): Busy like a honeybee in cutting and polishing of raw gemstones in his shop at Namak Mandi, Zahid Ahmad (38), a progressive gemstone exporter of Peshawar is often seen asking his brother Ali Akbar and fellow laborers to hurry up to meet the placed orders of domestic jewelers and foreign investors.

Enjoying the famous Pashto song "larsha Pekhwar thamees tor mala rawora," (go to Peshawar and bring black shirt for me) playing on his cell phone while cutting and polishing precious gemstones with archaic machines at Namak Mandi, a hub of gemstones trade in Peshawar City, the motivated exporter Zahid

Ahmad said the demands of KP's gemstones have been increased in domestic and international market due to its brilliance clarity and glittering designs.

Inherited the painstaking business from his father 15 years ago, the Peshawar's born gemstone trader said "Pakistan's rare-earth mineral such as Ruby, Emerald, Sapphire, Topaz, Aquamarine, Quartz, Garnet, Lapis Lazuli, Opal, Agate, Moonstone, Feldspar, Kunzite and Zircon mostly found in abundance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Kashmir and southeast of Balochistan attract domestic and foreign investors."

Zahid said the demands of Swat's emerald,

Mardan's topaz, Kohistan's peridot, tourmaline of Chitral and Azad Kashmir's ruby were increased in UAE, Gulf, SAARC, CARs, Europe and US. A visitor would be astonished to see plenty of shops of gemstones while passing through Namak Mandi bazaar where a gemstones market was set up in 1970, providing direct and indirect jobs to around three lakh people.

Ali Akbar, who was assisting his elder brother in gemstones business, told APP that precious gemstones were being wasted due to un-mechanized mining, lack of technology and laboratories in the province, resulting in huge economic and financial losses to the government

## Minister says: Govt aims to boost hi-tech skills for youth, adoption of tech. in local industries

ISLAMABAD (APP): optimum utilization of human resources, he said, adding that, a skilled workforce is an asset and also a prerequisite for sustainable economic development.

Replying to a question, the minister said the IT industry has a vital role in the country's economic growth, adding, that the present government was taking steps to bring the technology ecosystem forward and achieve the goal of the country.

He said the government is keen to expand the IT industry in order to increase its contribution to the economic development of Pakistan.

He further assured that the government would provide all kinds of support required by the local industries in order to expand its business and investment in the country.

Our aim is to empower the youth of the country in various fields related to technologies as skills play a pivotal role in

## Meher urges govt to privatize SOEs, citing Rs 500bn annual losses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator Meher Kashif Younis urged the government to privatize state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in a foolproof and transparent manner incurring heavy losses of Rs 500 billion annually for decades, impacting the national kitty.

Talking to a delegation of women entrepreneurs led by Ms. Maheen, he said that the manifestos of almost all the mainstream political parties throughout the country always advocated investment of government stakes in SOEs to curtail losses and reduce government footprint in business but actual implementation has been delayed for over half a century, said a news release here.

He said fresh official facts and figures revealed that due to mismanagement, the

deficient SOEs inflicted overall huge losses of around Rs500 billion to the national exchequer during last year (2022).

He said however privatization of the banking industry was one of the biggest success stories in Pakistan which transformed from loss-making to profitable entity.

The overall performance of SOEs was not very healthy what is called "contrary to the expectations" adding that some of these were marred by gross bad governance.

He said other targeted companies in the pipeline for sale in the next phase between 2023-24 must also be placed on top priority for transparent privatization. He said it's an established fact worldwide that business activities are always carried out by the private sector.



KARACHI: A view of vendors displayed scrap for selling purpose alongside a road at U,p Moor, in Provincial Capital.

Rs 0.6 million investment. Mamoor Khan, pattern-in-chief, All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA) told the news agency that Pakistan's economy could be improved by giving status of industry to the gemstones sector.

"Pakistan is a home to diverse and rare varieties of gemstones deposits with a potential to export 800,000 carats of Ruby, 87,000 carats of Emerald and 5 million carats peridot per year. During July 2021 to June 30, 2022, he said that 6.77 million experts had been made from gemstones while 193,132.85 USD exports were made in August and 422,004.6 USD in July last year by APECA.

## Iran slams normalisation with Israel as 'reactionary'

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday denounced any attempts by regional countries to normalise relations with its arch-enemy Israel as "reactionary and regressive".

The remarks came amid ongoing US-brokered negotiations between Israel and Saudi Arabia to establish formal ties, with the United States saying on Friday that the two countries are moving towards the outline of a deal.

"Normalising relations with the Zionist regime is a reactionary and regressive move by any government in the Islamic world," Raisi said during an international Islamic conference held in Tehran.

An Israeli delegation is

expected in Saudi Arabia on Sunday, days after the first official visit by an Israeli minister to the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia also sent a delegation to the occupied West Bank on Wednesday for the first time in three decades in a bid to reassure the Palestinians ahead of the prospective deal.

Raisi on Sunday further labelled any normalisation attempt as the "foreigners' desire", while stating that "surrender and compromise" regarding Israel were not on the table.

"The only option for all the fighters in the occupied land and the Islamic world is to resist and stand against the enemies," he said, reiterating Iran's position that Jerusalem must be "liberated".

In 1967 Israel occu-

pied and then annexed east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians see as the future capital of their proposed state.

An agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia would follow the US-brokered Abraham Accords which saw Israel establish diplomatic relations in 2020 with three Arab countries.

Last month, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, Raisi said any "relationships between regional countries and the Zionist regime would be a stab in the back of the Palestinians."

Iran and Saudi Arabia, two regional powers, resumed relations, severed since 2016, under a China-brokered deal announced in March.



MALE: Officials count votes at a polling station during the second round of Maldives' presidential election.

## Pro-China frontrunner closes in on Maldives presidency

**Monitoring Desk**  
MALE: Pro-China frontrunner Mohamed Muizzu was set to win Saturday's presidential vote in the Maldives, according to local media tallies, after a campaign dominated by the archipelago's relationship with traditional benefactor India.

Muizzu was ahead of incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih with 53.92 per cent of the vote and a lead of more than 17,000 ballots.

The frontrunner's supporters were seen dancing in the streets as local broadcaster TVM and news website Dhauru called the election in his favour. "He has won, he has won," a crowd chanted outside the campaign office of Muizzu's party in the capital Male.

Muizzu helms a party that presided over an influx of Chinese loans when it last held power in the atoll nation, better known for its luxury beach resorts and

celebrity tourists. He has signalled a return to Beijing's fold if he wins.

Solih, 61, had worked to revert the country's diplomatic posture back towards New Delhi since taking office five years ago. He was expected to make a statement later on Saturday.

If Solih concedes defeat, he will remain president until the inauguration scheduled for November 17. Turnout was expected to top the 80 per cent recorded during a first-round vote held earlier this month. "Queues formed long before polling opened," one official said.

Watchdog group Transparency Maldives said there had been some incidents of "electoral violence," without specifying further details.

Officials said one voter broke open a plastic ballot box, but the ballots were saved and there was no interruption to the count.

## EU's Borrell, in Kyiv, says bloc is preparing long-term security pledges

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said during a visit to Kyiv on Sunday that Ukraine needed more military aid and he promised ongoing EU support. "Ukraine needs more capabilities & needs them faster," he said in a statement posted on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. He said he had discussed "continuous EU military assistance" during his first in-person meeting with Defence Minister Rustem Umerov.

"We are preparing long-term security commitments for Ukraine," Borrell added. This week the European Defence Agency said in response to questions from Reuters that seven EU countries had ordered ammunition under a procurement scheme to get urgently needed artillery shells to Ukraine.

## Malaysia blames Indonesian fires for poor air quality

**Monitoring Desk**  
KUALA LUMPUR: Hundreds of forest fires in Indonesia have caused haze that has worsened air quality in parts of Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur's top environment official has said, a claim Jakarta denied on Saturday.

Outbreaks of smog-belching forest fires in 2019 caused Malaysia to say it would pressure Indonesia to combat the annual problem, which is often caused by blazes lit to clear agricultural land.

Malaysia's Department of Environment director-general Wan Abdul Latiff Wan Jaffar said the fires were worsening air pollution on the country's west coast and in Sarawak on the Malaysian part of Borneo island. "Overall air quality in the country shows deterioration," he said in a statement issued on Friday. "Forest fires that occur in the southern part of Sumatra and the central and southern parts of Kalimantan (Borneo)



An ethnic Armenian woman from Nagorno-Karabakh carries her suitcase to a tent camp after arriving to Armenia's Goris in Syunik region, Armenia.



Members of Turkish Police Special Forces secure an area following an explosion near the Interior Ministry in Ankara, Turkey.

## UN mission arrives in Karabakh, first visit in 30 years

**Monitoring Desk**  
KARABAKH: A United Nations mission arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday, Azerbaijan said, after almost the entire ethnic-Armenian population fled since Baku recaptured the breakaway enclave.

An Azerbaijani presidency spokesman told AFP that a "UN mission arrived in Karabakh on Sunday morning" — mainly to assess humanitarian needs.

It marks the first time in about 30 years that the international body has gained access to the region.

Armenian separatists, who had controlled the region for three decades, agreed to disarm, dissolve

their government and reintegrate with Baku following a one-day Azerbaijani offensive last week.

France has lashed out at Azerbaijan for only allowing the UN mission in after most residents had already fled.

The end of Karabakh's separatist bid dealt a heavy blow to a centuries-old dream by Armenians of reuniting what they say are their ancestral lands, divided among regional powers since the Middle Ages.

Nearly all of Karabakh's estimated 120,000 residents fled the territory over the following days, sparking a refugee crisis.

An AFP journalist at a border crossing along the Lachin corridor that links Karabakh with Armenia, saw only one car arrive from the now deserted enclave.

Sergei Astsaryan, 40, said he was among the last Armenians to leave the region. "I have no idea of where to go, maybe Europe," he told AFP, adding however that he hoped many of the refugees would return if Azerbaijan "gives guarantees, provides help."

"I've talked to Azerbaijani police and they said there would be no problems if we want to return, that we can live in our homes."

## Afghan embassy in India suspends operations

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: Afghanistan's embassy in India suspended operations on Sunday, more than two years after the Taliban's return to power in Kabul following the collapse of the Western-backed government.

Most foreign nations — including India — do not officially recognise Afghanistan's Taliban government, but acknowledge them as the de facto ruling authority.

This has left many Afghan embassies and consulates in limbo, with diplomats appointed by the former government refusing to cede control of embassy buildings and property to

representatives chosen by the Taliban authorities.

"It is with profound sadness, regret, and disappointment that the Embassy of Afghanistan in New Delhi announces this decision to cease its operations," said an embassy statement posted on the social media platform X.

It said India will take control of the embassy in a caretaker capacity.

The unsigned statement said it had been "increasingly challenging" to continue operations due to cuts in staff and resources, including a "lack of timely and sufficient support from visa renewal for diplomats".

## Russia intercepts five HIMARS, JDAM bomb, 37 drones over Ukraine in last 24 hours

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia's defence ministry on Sunday said Russian air defences had intercepted five U.S.-made HIMARS shells, an air-launched JDAM bomb and 37 Ukrainian drones over Ukrainian territory in last 24 hours. The ministry said those interceptions had occurred on the territory where Russia is fighting what it calls a "special military operation". Separately, the ministry reported that its air defences had shot down six Ukrainian drones over Russian regions.



Cyprus' president Nikos Christodoulides and European Parliament President Roberta Metsola take their positions before a military parade marking the 63th anniversary of Cyprus' independence from British colonial rule, in divided capital Nicosia, Cyprus.

## Germany welcomes China's support for G20 debt restructuring framework

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: Germany has welcomed a show of support from China for the G20 debt restructuring framework for poorer countries in a joint statement after their financial dialogue in Frankfurt over the weekend.

"We welcome the fact that the Chinese side is also committed to this in our Joint Statement because solutions are inconceivable without China as such an important player in world politics," German Finance Minister Christian Lindner said on Sunday after he meets with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng.

Neither provided further details on the rules for the restructuring plans and the joint statement did not give specifics.

A source told Reuters in April that China had been expected to drop its demand for multilateral development banks to share losses alongside other creditors in sovereign debt restructurings for poor nations.

It was not immediately clear on Sunday whether that had happened.

## Migrants rescued after fire on Italy ferry

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Over 100 passengers, including migrants, were rescued from a ferry sailing from Italy's Lampedusa to Sicily early on Saturday, after a fire broke out in the engine room, authorities said. The ferry from Lampedusa to Porto Empedocle in southern Sicily was carrying 177 people, including 27 crew members and 83 migrants, who were being transferred from the small island, the Coast Guard said. Many migrants land on Lampedusa after making the dangerous Mediterranean crossing by boat.

## Thousands gather in Warsaw for opposition rally ahead of tight election

**Monitoring Desk**  
WARSAW: Tens of thousands of people gathered for an opposition rally in Warsaw on Sunday, two weeks ahead of an election that the liberal Civic Platform (PO) says may decide Poland's future in the European Union and its democratic standing.

Opinion polls suggest the nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) government could win the vote but may struggle to form a majority amid discontent among some over rising living costs and concern over an erosion of democratic checks and balances.

The opposition is hoping Sunday's march becomes the biggest in decades and galvanises voters to participate in the election.

"Big change is coming. This is a sign of Poland's rebirth," PO leader Donald Tusk told crowds gathered in a central Warsaw square, many people waving Polish and EU flags.

Tusk, a former European Council president, has said PiS could aim to take Poland out of the EU, something the party denies, and has framed the election as crucial for minority and women's rights.

## Former gang leader charged with rapper Tupac's 1996 murder

**Monitoring Desk**  
LOS ANGELES: A quarter of a century after Tupac Shakur was gunned down in a gang feud in Las Vegas, a man was charged on Friday with his murder, a killing that came to symbolise the violence of gangsta rap as it surged into the mainstream.

Duane "Keffe D" Davis, 60, had long acknowledged his involvement in the slaying, boasting he was the "on-site commander" in the effort to kill Shakur and Death Row Records boss Marion "Suge" Knight in revenge for his nephew's assault.

## At least 13 dead in Spanish nightclub fire

**Monitoring Desk**  
MURCIA: At least 13 people were killed in a fire in a Spanish nightclub on Sunday morning, authorities said, with fears the toll could still rise as rescue workers sift through the debris.

The fire broke out in the two-storey "Teatre" nightclub, also called "Fonda Milagros", in the city of Murcia in southeastern Spain in early hours of the morning.

Emergency services said on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, that firefighters were continuing to work at the scene and had not ruled out "the possibility of finding more victims."

Jose Ballesta, mayor of Murcia, said the fire had broken out at around 6:00 am local time (0400 GMT) and was "extremely serious".

Ballesta told press at the scene that "there are still bodies to be pulled out" from the rubble, which he said was a complicated task given the "risk of collapse".

Firefighters dispatched to the scene at 7am were able to extinguish the fire by 8am, he said.

Photos released by the emergency services show water hoses from fire trucks spraying the blackened facade of the club. Thick smoke could be seen billowing from the roof of the building.

Authorities said four people were injured, two women aged 22 and 25 years old and two men in their forties, all suffering with smoke inhalation.

A police spokesperson said that a birthday party was being held at the club on Saturday night.

## Trudeau says 'denialism' rising as nation marks holiday for indigenous reconciliation

**Monitoring Desk**  
TORONTO: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Saturday warned about the rise of "denialism" and said uncovering the truth was more important than ever as the nation gathered to honor the lost children and survivors of indigenous schools.

Trudeau's statement was made on National Truth and Reconciliation Day, which recognizes the legacy of the residential schools, which operated between 1831 and 1996 and removed about 150,000 indigenous children from their families. Some were subjected to abuse, rape and malnutrition at schools in what the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015 called "cultural geno-

cide." "We must never forget the past and the injustices committed against Indigenous Peoples at residential schools, as well as the intergenerational trauma that remains today," Trudeau said in a statement. "Right now, with denialism sadly on the rise, uncovering the whole truth is more important than ever."

Canada's indigenous peoples suffer from higher levels of poverty and violence, and shorter life expectancies.

Trudeau had drawn criticism on the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in 2021 for flying to the west coast with his family shortly after his own government designated the day as a federal holiday.

## European Parliament president backs UN naming an envoy to help restart Cyprus peace talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
NICOSIA: The president of the European Parliament said Sunday she has conveyed the legislative body's support for the appointment of a United Nations envoy to evaluate the chances of resuming stalemated talks to reunify ethnically divided Cyprus.

Roberta Metsola said she personally communicated the position of the European Union's legislature to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York last month. Metsola said she told Guterres that Europe "would never be complete as long as Cyprus remains divided."

"This is not just a Cyprus question, but it is a European question," she said after talks with the island nation's President Nikos Christodoulides.

Metsola also attended a military parade Sunday to mark the 63rd anniversary of Cyprus' independence from British colonial rule.

Christodoulides told reporters Sunday that consultations continue on the appointment of a U.N. envoy. He has made resuming reunification talks with breakaway Turkish Cypriots a focal point of his

Greek Cypriot administration.

The talks have been in a deep freeze since the last attempt at a peace deal ended in the summer of 2017.

Prior to that, numerous rounds of U.N.-facilitated negotiations also had ended in failure. Reunification efforts began in the years immediately following a 1974 Turkish invasion that was precipitated by a coup aiming at union with Greece.

U.N. peacekeepers maintain a buffer zone between the Turkish Cypriot northern third of the island and the Greek Cypriot south. Turkey, the only nation that recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence, keeps more than 35,000 troops in northern Cyprus.

Cyprus joined the EU in 2004, but only the southern part, where the internationally recognized government is seated, enjoys full membership benefits.

The island's division has been a regular source of tensions in the eastern Mediterranean, particularly over Turkey's claim to much of Cyprus' offshore economic zone, where sizeable gas deposits have been discovered.

## India's devastating monsoon season is a sign of things to come, as climate and poor planning combine

**Monitoring Desk**  
BENGALURU: Sanjay Chauhan witnessed monsoon rains lash down over his home and farm in the Indian Himalayas this year with a magnitude and intensity he's never experienced before.

"Buildings have collapsed, roads are broken, there were so many landslides including one that has destroyed a large part of my orchard," said the 56-year-old farmer, who lives in the town of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. "I have not seen anything like this."

The devastation of this year's monsoon season in India, which runs from June to September, has been significant: Local government estimates say that 428 people have died and Himachal Pradesh suffered over \$1.42 billion worth in property damage since June. Human-caused climate change is making rain more extreme in the region and scientists warn Himalayan states should expect more unpredictable and heavy seasons like this one.

But the damage is also exacerbated by developers paying little mind to environmental regulations and building codes when building on flood- and earthquake-prone land, local experts and environmentalists say.

Damages to property in Himachal Pradesh this year were more than the last five years combined. Other regions also suffered heavy losses in terms of lives, property and farmland — including the neighboring state of Uttarakhand, Delhi and most northern and western Indian states.

In the second week of July, 224.1 millimeters (8.82 inches) of rainfall descended on the state instead of the usual 42.2 millimeters (1.66 inches) for this time of the year — a 431% increase — according to the Indian Meteorological Department. Then for five days in August, 111.9 millimeters (4.41 inches) poured down on Himachal Pradesh, 168% more than the 41.7 millimeters.

## Religious scholars, leaders propose solutions for economic prosperity at Seerat-un-Nabi Conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed said the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) stood as a timeless wisdom. Addressing the annual Seerat-un-Nabi Conference themed - Practical Wisdom for Economic Prosperity in the light of Sunnah - here at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre, he emphasized that the true success was not measured by wealth, fame, or power instead, the strength of one's character, integrity of actions, and impact on the well-being of others.

In today's rapidly changing world, where success is often measured by material achievements, Minister Aneeq encouraged believers to reflect on their own conduct, saying, "To truly embody the values of faith, we must strive to align our ethics and actions with the radiant example of the Prophet's life." He further praised the Prophet's noble character, stating that the Prophet was known for his impeccable manners and even prayed for his enemies, demonstrating the highest moral standards.

Sighting a decision of

Federal Shariat Court to abrogate interest-based system from the financial institutions in a period of five years, he opined that if the state machinery made 20 percent efforts annually, the job would be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Reciting a verse of the Holy Quran, he alarmed that how a country could flourish in the comity of nations after making anti-Islam policies. Meanwhile, Caretaker Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, highlighted the significance of Islamic values and the need for anti-corruption measures. He underlined the corruption's detrimental impact on the country's foundations and announced plans to establish trade regulations in line with Islamic traditions.

Minister Bugti reiterated that adhering to the principles laid out by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) would lead to prosperity and development. He also emphasized the crucial role of scholars in the present era and assured that Pakistan, as a nuclear power, would not allow any weakening of its stance. In a call for unity, he affirmed that all Paki-

stanis, regardless of their backgrounds, were united under the banner of Islam.

Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz emphasized the need to reconsider term 'minority' and instead highlight the religious identity of individuals in the light of changing global demographics and increased migration of religious practitioners.

He highlighted a remarkable event of the era of Hazrat Umar Razi Allah Ta'ala Anho that a non-Muslim who was old and financially broken, was begging in a street. On inquiring, he replied that he had to pay tax to an Islamic state. On this, Hazrat Umar Razi Allah Ta'ala Anho introduce the 'pension system' for the wellbeing of people in their old age.

He also mentioned a personal experience of awarding scholarships to non-Muslim students when he used to serve at University of Peshawar which brought a constructive change in their lives.

Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi underscored the significance of peace as a catalyst for attracting foreign investment to the country.



LAHORE: Chairman Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi addressing the Seerat Rahmatul-Lil-Alameen (SAW) Conference organized by Pakistan Ulama Council at Al Hamra Hall.

## Pak, Azerbaijan join hands for resilient, sustainable urban planning

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan join hands for a climate resilient and sustainable urban planning keeping in view the real challenges faced by the region.

Both the countries have joined hands during a meeting between Caretaker Planning Minister for Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed and Chairman State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture, Azerbaijan Anar Guliyev, said a press release issued here on Sunday. The minister is on an

official visit to the Second Azerbaijan National Urban Forum and Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2023, themed "Resilient cities as a driving force of economic development and fighting inequalities," organized by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Zangilan as part of the Azerbaijan Urban Week. During the sidelines meeting with his counter-

part, the minister appreciated the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts undertaken by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture in conflict affected areas of Azerbaijan.

"It was mutually acknowledged that Urban Planning is a real challenge and forums like Azerbaijan National Urban are much needed to find out solutions, while learning from the international experiences and for chalking out a collective way forward, remarked, the Planning Minister, while meeting with his counterpart.

## Health minister launches national polio vaccination drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Sunday launched the anti-polio campaign by administering polio drops to children. Addressing the occasion, he said that the second national anti-polio campaign of the year 2023 is being started across the country from October 2.

The minister said that around 43 million children will be vaccinated in the national anti-polio campaign. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that there is no cure for polio and that only the polio vaccine can save children from permanent disability.

He urged parents, civil society, teachers, scholars and religious scholars to play their roles in the eradication of polio.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that eradication of polio is essential for our national honor and respect. He said at one stage it was not possible to eliminate polio from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Now we are close to eradicating polio," He said, "The fight to eradicate polio cannot be won without the help of parents."

He appealed to citizens to cooperate with polio volunteers when they were at their doorstep. The minister said that work is being done under a comprehensive strategy for the eradication of polio. He said that the ministry has appointed top officers in Southern KP to stop the spread of the virus.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan inaugurating 2nd anti polio campaign of 2023 by administering drop to a child

## Domki urges all segments of society to take wholehearted part in anti-polio drive

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki urged the parents to complete the course of immunization for their children along with the polio vaccination so that they may be saved from different diseases.

there so that no child is left from vaccination. Mir Ali Mardan Domki urged the parents to complete the course of immunization for their children along with the polio vaccination so that they may be saved from different diseases.

The caretaker Chief Minister also urged the parents, religious leaders, political circles and media to play effective role for making the polio immunization campaign a success.

It may be mentioned here that the seven-day polio immunization campaign is scheduled to begin from today (Monday) in the province.

## Jan Achakzai applauds role of PEC in development & prosperity of Pakistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has applauded the role of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for development and prosperity of the country.

What they need proper guidance and ample opportunities to excel in different sectors, adding he stressed.

He was addressing the annual meeting of PEC held here at a local club on Sunday morning.

The Minister Information on the occasion also referred to the incidents of terrorism in the country including the Mastung carnage and asserted that the terrorism would not be tolerated at any cost and those involved in it would be eliminated.

The Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar was the chief guest on the occasion. The office bearers and members of PEC from all over the country participated in the annual meeting.

Jan Achakzai said that no one would be allowed to create law and order and spoil the peaceful environment of the country and so Balochistan.

The Minister Information said that the future of country is linked with the province of Balochistan and there's no dearth of talent in our youth.

He particularly said that the terrorists involved in the Mastung carnage and their facilitators would not be spared at all and would be taken to task.

## 5 lakh tons of silt scooped out at Gwadar Port

GWADAR (INP): Since the project's inception in March 2023, nearly 0.5 million (5 Lakh) tons of silt have been excavated from the bed of the navigational channel and anchorage area at Gwadar Port.

desilting process began in March. This desilting process aims to restore the original depth of the navigational channel at Gwadar Port, allowing heavyweight ships to navigate efficiently.

The project is set to be completed in 12 months. Dawood Baloch, the Gwadar Port Dredging Plan Project Director told Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) stated that the plan is to reclaim the natural and original operational depth of 14.5 metres at Gwadar.

This restoration will ensure the seamless movement of various types of vessels, facilitating easy docking without interruptions. Another official from Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) stated that the plan is to reclaim the natural and original operational depth of 14.5 metres at Gwadar.

## Indian troops martyr 13 Kashmiris in September

SRINAGAR (INP): Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred thirteen (13) Kashmiris in the last month of September in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those martyred nine (09) Kashmiris were killed in different fake encounters.

During the month, eight youth were critically injured due to use of brute force by Indian paramilitary and police personnel in the territory. At least 157 civilians and political activists were arrested and most of them were booked under black laws, Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

## PM, Info Minister extend warmest felicitations to China on National Day

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has extended warmest felicitations to China on its 74th National Day.

He said the people of Pakistan share the spirit of the festivities of the 74th National Day of the Peoples' Republic of China.

In a statement on social media platform X today, he congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chinese nation and said Pakistan takes great pride in the achievements of our Iron Brother.

The Minister expressed hope this year and many years ahead of us will reinforce our all-weather relationship and promote peace and progress for us and the world at large.

The Prime Minister termed China as an anchor of peace and stability as well as engine of development and progress in today's world.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani also extended his heartfelt felicitations to Foreign Minister Wang Yi and people of China on their National Day.

In his post at X, he said we pay tribute to the rich history, culture, and achievements of this great nation and reiterate the resolve to take China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship to greater heights.

He said we pay tribute to the rich history, culture, and achievements of this great nation and reiterate the resolve to take China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship to greater heights.



LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq addressing Workers Convention and Youth Talent Award ceremony

## Govt hikes LPG by Rs20/kg before decreasing petrol by Rs8/ltr: Siraj

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan, Sirajul Haq has said that the government increased Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by Rs20 per kilogram before announcing a meager decrease of Rs8 per litre in petrol prices.

there was disappointment, terror, devastation everywhere and countrymen were in incessant panic.

Addressing a ceremony in Lahore on Sunday, he said that everyone was talking of worsening situation of the country but no one was ready to admit the responsibility of the situation. Sirajul Haq said that

It was matter of grave concern that a single roti (flatbread) was being sold for Rs25 and single electricity unit was being charged Rs52, he added.

## Germany announces €2m aid for Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): German Consul General in Karachi Dr Rudiger Lotz said that Germany will provide €2 million in aid to Pakistan till 2027 under the World Food Program.

He said that assets of all who come into power grow and condition of common man worsens.

He said this during a book launch event organised by German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GPCCI) here in Karachi. The book launch event titled, "Landmarks of Pakistan" contained pen and ink drawings of historical places of Pakistan by a German Painter, Ms. Ute Elpers. German Consul General in Karachi Dr Rudiger Lotz said, "Tonight it is an event where we do not talk [about] politics or business but about culture. The book has landmarks covering the country, all four provinces of Pakistan. We have in the book the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad and the Quaid-i-Azam Mausoleum in Karachi... and so on. What I found particu-

larly charming is the old who loved this country, its people and culture and started to take her ink and pen to draw these buildings and the love of the country which she had never seen."

Speaking at the event, caretaker Tourism Minister Arshad Wali Mohammad said, "Today we have gathered to celebrate a remarkable fusion of art, culture and international cooperation exemplified by this coffee table book, an initiative of the German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI). This project underscores the enduring ties between Germany and Pakistan highlighting cultural exchange and fostering mutual understanding".

Ute Elpers (1935-2019) was a highly gifted artist trained as a porcelain and ceramic painter who worked as a technical drafter in road and bridge construction.

## 15-member full court bench to hear Practice & Procedure case tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Supreme Court of Pakistan's (SCP) full court bench led by chief justice Qazi Faiz Isa will hear various constitutional petitions to file a jurisdiction on the Court Practice End tomorrow (Tuesday) on October 3rd, 2023 on at 9:30 AM.

Notices has been sent to parties in advance of testing. In the case, a citizen of Swat challenged Supreme Court practices and procedure act 2023.

New application has also been filed in Court and pleaded Supreme court to declare practice and procedure act 2023 null and void.

Speaker National Assembly, Chairman Senate and federal government were made party in an application. Application said that Practices and Procedure act 2023 is unconstitutional and unlawful and contrary to the basic rights.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President, Rahim Agha along with others addresses to media persons during press conference.



HUB: View of business activities seen closed while markets gives desert look during the shutter down strike called by religious parties against the bomb blast during procession of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Eid Milad-un-Nabi in Mastung.

## Elections are not necessary at meantime but economy's improvement: Maulana Fazl

SAHIWAL (Online): Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of Jamiat Ulama Islam (F)(JUIF) has said that elections are not necessary at this time, but the economy of the country should improve, but we are always ready for elections.

increased the foreign exchange reserves to 11 billion. Chairman PTI has proved by his actions that he is incompetent.

It will be difficult to hold elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in January, said Fazl Ur Rehman.

He said that we are sticking to our ideological goal, we are always ready for the election, we had campaigned for the election for 3 and a half years.

Maulana Fazl Ur Rehman while talking to the media at Jamia Uloomia Shariah in Sahiwal said that the Election Commission has asked to hold elections at the end of January, but it will be difficult to hold elections in KPK during that time, as a large population will not go to vote in the elections.

The JUI chief said that the country's economy should improve not elections at this time.

He said that whenever Nawaz Sharif's friends were asked, they said that they would come, the PDM alliance is inactive now, so the PML-N will make arrangements for Nawaz Sharif's welcome.

He said that whenever Nawaz Sharif's friends were asked, they said that they would come, the PDM alliance is inactive now, so the PML-N will make arrangements for Nawaz Sharif's welcome.

In one and a half years, our PDM government has

He further said that I think the philosophy of caretaker government is wrong. He further said that friendly countries will not help until there is talk of PTT's arrival, the current terrorism will send a message to the world that Pakistan is not a peaceful country.



NASEERABAD: Members of various Sunni organizations are holding protest demonstration against the bomb attack on religious procession of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Eid Milad-un-Nabi in Mastung District, held at Dera Murad Jamali.

## People declares reduction in petroleum prices as insufficient

ISLAMABAD (Online) The reduction in the prices of petroleum products by the government has been described as insufficient by the people.

Citizens said that there is a huge increase in petrol prices and when there is a shortage, the people are given relief of a few rupees, which is negligible.

A citizen said that 8 rupees relief after increasing Rs 26 is of no use, it will not reduce inflation.

Citizens have demanded from the government to provide adequate relief to the people in the prices of petroleum products.

It should be remembered that the price of petrol per liter has been reduced by 8 rupees by the government, the new price of petrol has been set at 323 rupees 38 paise per liter while the price of diesel has also been reduced by 11 rupees per liter, the new price is 318 rupees. 18 paise per liter.

## Election Focus: Shehbaz spotlights Nawaz's relief commitment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, discussing priorities for the upcoming general elections, emphasized Mian Nawaz Sharif's commitment to alleviating people's suffering, making it a central election focus and their vision for the country.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, Shehbaz outlined the core priorities, which encompass aiding the underprivileged, rejuvenating the nation's economy, and eliminating terrorism. As the PML-N president, he reaffirmed his party's steadfast dedication to tackling the issues affecting ordinary citizens.

## FIA intercepted, offloaded another 'beggar gang' at Multan airport

MULTAN (INP): A group of beggars bound to Saudi Arabia under the guise of Umrah pilgrims were intercepted and offloaded on Sunday. FIA officials said that eight people were going to Saudi Arabia on Umrah visa to peruse begging.

As per the agreement, half of the money obtained from begging was supposed to be divided with the travel agent. "After the expiry of the Umrah visa, the passengers had to return to Pakistan," FIA told media persons in a statement issued. Earlier, FIA offloaded 16-member family including an infant who were going to Saudi Arabia for begging.

## CTD foils attack, kills 2 terrorists at Esa Khel

SARGODHA (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) foiled a terrorist attack in Esa Khel and killed two terrorists, on Sunday. A police spokesman said that a group of armed terrorists attacked a Punjab Highway Patrol Police Chowki in Esa Khel. However, the CTD personnel and the Chowki police foiled the attack. Two terrorists were killed and one was injured, while one police head constable, Haroon Khan, was also martyred in the attack.