

# Independent

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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 Baboo, Senator Rukhsana Zubairi, Chairman PEC, Muhammad Najeed 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 Turkey.

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 Turkey.

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 five 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, Turkey 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-

Chinese success example for developing countries:

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.

He said that the

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-

tional day of China on Sunday.

He said that the

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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

Independent Report

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.



## 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 Zarda (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.



# 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 Nazeer 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.

# 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.

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.

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



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.

"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."

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, 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.

"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.



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.

Inspector General (IG) 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.

# 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

# SIMS revamping begins on Oct 9

LAHORE (APP): The revamping of the Services Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS) will start from Oct 9, 2023, and for the purpose all necessary work has been completed.

GRCP, 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.

Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) sources told APP that equipment shortages were also a serious issue, which would be addressed on the direction of caretaker chief minister Punjab. Earlier, on July 25, 2023, Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi visited the Services Hospital and took strict notice of poor state of affairs there.

During the event, the historical significance of Taxila Railway Station was highlighted, shedding light on its pivotal role in trade, economy, serving as a key transportation hub for both civilian and military purposes.

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

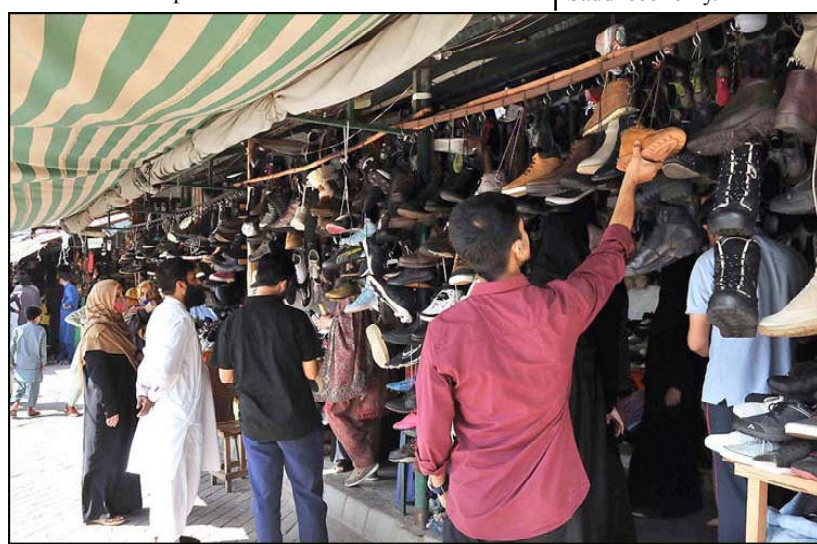
LAHORE (APP): A large number of people thronged the WEXNET 23 exhibition of women entrepreneurs on the second day of a three-day show.

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.

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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCL) 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 RCCL 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 RCCL Saqib Rafiq on assuming the post of Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) and presented bouquets.

In a delegation-level meeting held at RCCL, President of ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari congratulated Saqib Rafiq, President of RCCL 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 "a m a c t i n , c y p e r m e t h r i n , t e p h o b e n z e" to minimize the attack of the worms.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif Sunday said that the government is focusing on Hi-Tech skills to empower youth and introducing several incentives to boost the adoption of high-technologies (high-tech) in the local industries.

"Government was taking a significant step towards achieving the mission of creating a digitally literate society in Pakistan," he said while talking to a Private news channel.

"We will provide all required infrastructure and now with more focus on high-tech skills will increase demand in area of IT", he added.

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

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.

## 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. Maheem, 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.

## 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

kitty.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said most of the stone cutters and polishers do stone faceting on conventional archaic machines and their precious time was wasted to bring inherent luster besides desired symmetry to gemstones.

The local residents and unprofessional hands mostly mine these jewels in a hazardous traditional way in the mountainous regions mostly bordering with Afghanistan that caused irreparable damage to hidden treasure.

He said that a person with technical know-how can easily earn Rs15,000 per carat from Emerald and Sapphire and upto Rs 100,000/- profit from Rubby after making about

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 Rubby, 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 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 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.

