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Two civilians martyred; one child injured by unprovoked firing of Afghan sentry at Friendship gate

Independent Report QUETTA: An Afghan sentry employed at Friend Ship Gate of Chaman Border Crossing along Paki- stan-Afghanistan Border in Balochistan, opened un- provoked and indiscrimi- nate firing at pedestrians moving from Pakistan to Afghanistan.

The incident occurred at the outbound gate located on the zero line. Resultantly, two innocent Pakistani citizens including a 12 years old child embraced shahadat, while an-

other child was injured. Own troops exercised extreme restraint and avoided any exchange of fire in presence of innocent passengers to avoid collateral damage.

Dead bodies of the deceased have been shifted to DHQ Hospital Chaman and the injured child, who was immediately evacuated by security forces, is under treatment.

Afghan authorities have been approached to inquire the reason of such irresponsible and reckless

act, apprehend and hand over the culprit to Pakistani authorities. IAG is also expected to exercise control over its troops and impart discipline to act responsibly in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

Pakistan remains committed to contribute towards peace, prosperity and development through positive and constructive bilateral relations, however such unpleasant occurrences have the potential to harm the sincere intent and purpose.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Provincial President PPP Balochistan Mir Changez Khan Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Usman Dar says PTI chief masterminded May 9 events to force army chief's resignation

Announces quitting PTI and politics; alleges "two mindsets" emerged within the party after its govt was ousted.

Monitoring Desk LAHORE: PTI leader Usman Dar, who had allegedly gone missing according to his party, resurfaced on Wednesday and opined that the May 9 attacks were aimed at "removing the army chief".

"Of course, the incident was orchestrated to thwart the appointment [of the army chief]. I believe that Imran also had information from within the institution suggesting that the long march could potentially influence either the appointment or the removal of Gen Asim Munir," he said.

Anti-State Youtuber Adil Raja's call with RAW-operative leaked

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: As per details, Youtuber Adil Raja can be heard in the alleged audio leak talking to RAW operative Rohit Sharma, asking him to malign Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

It was revealed that Adil Raja hired people connected with the Indian intelligence agency Raw for his legal and other matters



The YouTuber also asked Rohit Sharma for contact numbers of Raw agents Lord Remi Rangers in the UK for 2.5 Lac pounds to dismiss case against him. The audio call proves the anti-state Youtuber's contact with the Raw operatives.

Rohit is also instructing him to accuse that person who launched FIR against Raja, for propagating against India and spreading terrorism in India. If he'll be able to launch fir against him raw will make sure that person remains behind the bars.

Raja was also booked in several cases in Pakistan related to inciting Pakistanis to rebel against the state. In his anti-state acts PTI followers intentionally and unintentionally was helping him.

GoB orders to lodge cases against those not returning official vehicles

Independent Report QUETTA: The interim government of Balochistan has decided to take action and register cases against those not returning 50 official vehicles of different departments in the province.

This was informed by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai in an official

statement issued here on Tuesday. According to Jan Achakzai, the government has finally decided to register FIRs against those who have not returned the official vehicles to the government yet.

He told that the FIRs would be registered within a week against those who not yet returned the official vehicles.

The caretaker Minister Information asserted that those running these official vehicles would be arrested as well.

He said that the FIRs would be registered once against if they failed to return the vehicles on failure of the given deadline even.

He said that those not returning the official vehicles would be taken to task anyway.

Will take stern action against elements involved in terrorist activities: Achakzai

QUETTA (INP): Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai has said that stern action will be taken against the elements involved in terrorist activities.

Addressing a press conference in Quetta on Wednesday, he said that the provincial government will also deal the illegal foreign citizens according to the law to ensure implementation of decisions of apex committee.

Jan Achakzai further stated that no one would be allowed to cross our borders without passport.

The Information Minister said Afghan citizens have been involved in terrorist activities in the country.

Aleema Khan says: Imran disappointed with president as he could not play his constitutional role

LAHORE (Online): Aleema Khan sister of chairman PTI has said party chairman is disappointed with president Arif Alvi for his failure in playing his constitutional role.

She said this while talking to media men here Wednesday.

She stated weight of chairman PTI has reduced but his spirit is high. He has no place for exercise and walk. A petition in this regard has been filed.

Aleema Khan further told chairman PTI has said preparations are underway to award long punishment to him. No one has come to talk to him.

Aleema Khan remarked chairman PTI is disappointed with the president as he could not play his constitutional role. President was to hold election in 90 days but he did not exercise his powers.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar chairing 6th meeting of the Apex Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council

Commerce Minister terms GCC-Pakistan FTA as breakthrough for trade

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz here on Wednesday termed the recently signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as breakthrough for trade, making Pakistan the first country to secure such arrangement and providing it access to substantial market.

"This is very positive news for Pakistan exports towards gulf countries," the minister said while addressing a press conference. He was flanked by Federal Caretaker Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali and Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti.

He said, GCC, the six-country bloc comprising

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, was established in 2009 and it was after 14 long years that any country was having FTA with the council. The FTA was signed at 5th round of GCC meeting held last week.

The minister said that GCC was market of around \$1 trillion exports and \$550 billion imports, however Pakistan's share in imports from was it was \$19 billion dollar average as it was importing energy and petro-chemical products while the exports' share was just \$2.5 billion dollar.

The minister lauded Saudi Arabia for playing important role in materializing the agreement with six gulf countries, adding that all members of all countries

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LAHORE: PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif addressing a political gathering.

Nawaz Sharif returning to take Pakistan on path of prosperity: Shehbaz

LAHORE (INP): Former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday asserted that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif was returning to take Pakistan towards the path of prosperity once again.

Addressing a workers' convention in Lahore, the PML-N president said that Nawaz Sharif's ouster halted the country's growth.

During Nawaz's tenure, Shehbaz said, there

was nothing known as inflation as the rate of flour and sugar was Rs35 and Rs52. "He [Nawaz] took the country out of the darkness by addressing the problems in line with the power outage and unemployment," he added.

"His only crime was that he worked tirelessly for the country's development, made Pakistan a nuclear power, and established schools and colleges for the youth," he added.

Balochistan police force becomes active against illegal Afghan refugees & drugs menace

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan police force has become active against the Afghan refugees living illegally besides eradicating the menace of narcotics in the province.

The stern action would be taken against the illegal Afghan refugees in the province. The action to be taken against them is included arrest of the illegal refugees as well as confiscation of the properties and

their business. This and similar other decisions were made in an important meeting held regarding implementation on the decisions of Apex committee here on Wednesday.

The Inspector General of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presided over the meeting. It was informed that the concrete steps have been started by the police for ensuring implementation on certain decisions of the Apex committee.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presiding over a meeting through video link regarding implementation of decision of Apex Committee

SIFC Apex Committee reviews major macro-economic issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The apex committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Wednesday reviewed major macro-economic issues affecting the investment climate including inordinate delays in restructuring/ privatisation of cash bleeding state owned enterprises (SOEs).

The committee also resolved with consensus on fast-tracking the privatisation process and hence, in the larger interest of the country, reduce recurring losses to the national exchequer.

The SIFC convened 6th meeting of its apex committee to review various initiatives being spearheaded through the SIFC forum.

The meeting was chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, members of the cabinet, provincial chief ministers

and the high level government officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The ministries apprised the forum about the practical steps undertaken during the last one month to improve business and investment environment in the country.

The committee expressed overall satisfaction regarding the ongoing negotiations with foreign and domestic investors for timely realisation of various investment prospects.

The prime minister appreciated the good work put forth by various ministries and departments and directed to continue with the 'Whole of the Government' approach to overcome economic challenges being faced by Pakistan.

The chief of army staff assured unflinching resolve of Pakistan army to support the government's endeavours for a sustainable path towards economic recovery.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan inaugurating federal sehat sahalat programme's mobile App. Caretaker Health Minister of Balochistan Dr. Ameer Muhammad Jozezai is also present

World Teachers' Day message: Heavy responsibilities rest with teachers to increase literacy rate in Balochistan: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the present government is determined to materialize the dream of educated Balochistan.

In this regard, the role and guidance of our teachers can be helpful.

He stressed that heavy responsibilities rest with the shoulders of teachers along with the government to increase the literacy rate and decorate the poor children of remote districts of the province.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor in a message issued marking World Teachers Day on Wednesday.

He said that the very objective behind observance of World Teachers

Day is to highlight the high character and dignity of the teachers.

He said that while the teachers are valued and held in high esteem in the civilized society but our religion set a new example by giving teachers the status of spiritual father.

He said that the teachers play important role in spreading light of knowledge and consciousness.

He stressed that we need help and guidance of the national and international institutions for building capacity of teachers in the educational institutions.

The Governor also appreciated the role of female teachers in the province and said that they are performing well despite the lack of necessary facilities and economic hardships.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

Some 200 illegal Afghan refugees arrested under Foreign Act, says Commissioner Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat has stated that the areas where Afghan refugees are living illegally have been identified.

He informed that some 200 Afghan refugees have also been arrested under the Foreign Act and cases registered against them duly.

This was informed by the Commissioner Quetta while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at his office here on Wednesday.

He said that due action has been started against the refugees living illegally in Quetta on directives of the

government.

He also said that it has been decided to shift the terminals of passenger coaches. The initiative would help reduce the traffic pressure in the city, he added.

Moreover, 11 crush plants have been closed in Quetta.

Similarly, 310 illegal petrol pumps have also been closed in the city, Commissioner maintained.

While on the other hand, action is also continued against the hoarding of sugar and urea fertilizer.

In this regard, 2900 tons of sugar and 2700 tons of urea have been recovered and impounded, he added.



## Sports events, rallies held to address deprivation, bring Balochistan youth into mainstream

ISLAMABAD (APP): The scores of extracurricular activities including football and cricket tournaments and speech contests were held across Balochistan to help address the deprivation of the youth and bring them into the mainstream.

Different rallies were also held in various Balochistan districts in which the youths of the province participated overwhelmingly to condemn Indian extremism and terrorism.

The football matches were held in Hub, Bolan, Kech, Kalat and Naserabad in which thousands of the youths turned up and enjoyed the activities.

Similarly, cricket matches were held in Sibbi, Chagai, Surab, Hub, Panjgur, Barkhan and Kech districts.

The career counselling sessions were held in Kech districts and hundreds of the youth joined the events to seek guidance about their future career.

The celebrations of Pashtun Culture Day were held in Quetta and Kech districts and thousands of people participated in the event and enjoyed the colors of the Pashtun culture.

Seminars were held in the Kech and Harnai districts in which the speakers addressed on the issue of corruption and highlighted the ways to do away with the menace.

Besides a photo exhibition held in Kech district, the rallies were held in Jafferabad, Kohlu, Usta Muhammad, Sohbatpur, Naseerabad and Sui districts against Indian extremism and terrorism.

Two speech contests

were held to applaud the role of armed forces in the development of Balochistan in which a large number of students participated.

Meanwhile, rallies and other relevant events were held in connection with Eid Miladun Nabi (PBUH) across Lasbella, Zhob, Kech, Qila Saifullah, Panjgur, Sherani, Khuzdar, Mastung, Gwadar, Hub and Awaran districts. Over 23,000 people participated in the events.

Such healthy and productive activities being held across Balochistan are helping to address the sense of deprivation among the people of the province.

Through such events, the youth of Balochistan are coming into the mainstream and proving themselves to the productive citizens of the country.



Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE and Population Welfare Sardar Ejaz Jaffar inspecting development work during visit of Mangi Dam

## OIC strongly condemns storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque, closure of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque

ISLAMABAD (APP): The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Wednesday strongly condemned the storming of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli occupation forces and the blatant assault on worshippers as well as the arrest of a number of them.

The Muslim world body, in a statement, also condemned the closure of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the city of Al-Khalil (Hebron).

"The OIC General Secretariat considers this an extension of the repeated violations of Israel, the occupying power, of the sanctity of the holy places and freedom of worship, and a

blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions and international law," the statement added.

It said that the OIC held the Israeli occupation government fully responsible for the consequences of the continuation of these crimes and systematic attacks that fuel violence, tension, and instability in the region.

The OIC called upon the international community to assume its responsibilities to put an end to these serious violations, stressing the necessity of preserving the historical and legal status of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in the occupied city of Al-Quds.

## Accident & Emergency Dept in Civil Hospital Quetta launched

Quetta (APP): Chairperson Executive Council (CEC), Principal Bolan Medical College (BMC) Bolan Professor Dr. Raz Muhammad Kakar along with MS Civil Hospital Quetta Dr. Ishaq Panizi inaugurated Accident and Emergency Department in Civil Hospital Quetta.

Dr. Ishaq Panizi of MS Civil Hospital Quetta said that in the first phase post graduate students of medicine and surgery department, medical officers and house officers started working in accident and emergency department.

Professor Dr. Raz Muhammad Kakar and MS Civil Hospital Quetta Dr. Ishaq Panizi were briefed by Director Accident and Emergency Department Dr. Hafeezur Rahman about the department.

Principal Bolan Medical College Professor Dr. Raz Muhammad Kakar met the PGs who performed surgery and medicine in Accident and Emergency Department.

Dr. Raz Muhammad Kakar said that soon post

graduate students of other departments, medical officers would start working in Emergency Services, Accident and Emergency Department.

In starting the Accident and Emergency Department, Director Accident and Emergency Department Dr. Hafeezur Rahman, Head of Departments Medicine, Surgery, Young Doctors Association and paramedical staff played an important role, he said.

He said that the doctors working in the Accident and Emergency Department would perform their duties according to the duty roster saying that Post graduate students working in Accident and Emergency Department, Medical Officers could service their duties under rotation.

In the accident and emergency department, patients will get first aid, burn dressing, laboratory tests, X-ray and ECG facilities, he said that with the start of emergency services in Civil Hospital Quetta, immediate health facilities would be available to the patients.

## PTI chief masterminded...

Chairman Imran Khan.

"I have always praised the army, our martyrs and I always appreciated them. On May 6 I had left to visit my family. I believe that the May 9 incident did not occur in a day," Dar responded.

He claimed that after the PTI was ousted through a no-confidence vote last year, "two mindsets" emerged in the party.

"One mindset included Azam Swati, Hammad Azhar, Murad Saeed and Farrukh Habib. Although my friends, they were supporting the politics of confrontation," he alleged.

"Then there was a mindset which had people like Asad Umar, Omar Ayub, Ali Muhammad Ali, Shafiq Mehmood and I, who were talking about reconciliation with the army."

Dar clarified that while May 9 might appear to be a specific date, the circumstances leading to the riots had been brewing and could have erupted at any time.

During PTI meetings, discussions revolved around the potential targeting of state institutions, with Dar asserting that Imran endorsed this stance.

He stated, "There were talks about the possibility of attacking state institutions in the event of Imran's arrest, and we foresaw Imran's detention, which ultimately occurred on May 9."

When questioned about his willingness to testify against Imran in court, he responded, "I am prepared to appear in court and evaluate the situation."

He observed that the lives of PTI workers underwent significant changes following the May 9 incident.



ISLAMABAD: WHO Pakistan Mission Head is receiving shield from Federal Minister of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination on the occasion of "Mera Sehat Card" App launching Ceremony. Minister Health Balochistan is also present.

## Commerce Minister terms...

Continued from page 1

The minister said that the caretaker government was committed to boost exports upto \$32 billion this year. He said, the export oriented would provide energy on priority basis in winter to help boost exports.

He also mentioned bumper cotton crop as 5 million bales were harvested till September and the figures would grow further and also highlighted boosting of rice exports by \$1 billion as good developments for economy.

Meanwhile speaking on the occasion Caretaker Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali said an amount of Rs 16 billion has been collected from electricity defaulters so far during ongoing crackdown against the power pilferers and defaulters.

He said the government has launched crackdown against the power pilferers that would continue adding the government has also decided to change Board of Directors (BoDs) of all power distribution companies (DISCOs).

It was also decided to hand over the management of DISCOs to private sector on long term concession, he added.

The minister said despite various constraints, all out efforts were being made to ensure availability of gas to domestic, industrial and fertilizer sectors and carrying out minimum gas load management in the coming winter season.

"We have only two LNG terminals and limited natural gas but today we have finalized two LNG cargoes for December," he said. He said the two LNG cargoes would help address gas supply issue in December for the industry. Gas supply was also being improved for the fertilizer sector, he added.

He said, money came back to interbank market and the situation has changed now adding the currency would further stabilize.

## Terror attack at Kulachi police station foiled

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Dera police foiled a terror attack at the Kulachi police station on Wednesday, forcing terrorists to flee.

According to police officials, 8 to 10 armed assailants attacked the Kulachi police station around 11:00 a.m. The terrorists fired two rocket launchers and then opened indiscriminate fire at the police station. However, the police were on high alert and retaliated forcefully.

Immediately after the attack, a heavy contingent of police and security forces reached the site and cordoned off the area. No police loss was reported in the attack. The police also started a search and strike operation in the area to arrest the terrorists.

## ECP, political parties' consultative meeting on next Wed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The consultative meeting between the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and several political parties, initially scheduled for today, (Wednesday, October 4), has already been rescheduled to the upcoming Wednesday due to the unavailability of specific members, said an ECP spokesperson.

Contradicting a news report currently being aired on various TV channels, the ECP spokesperson in a statement clarified that the meeting is set for the next Wednesday, October 11th, at 2 PM, at the same location, the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad.



QUETTA: Eye specialist busy examine the patients at Helpers Hospital.

## ECP issues Code of Conduct for international observers, media

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan has issued a concise 30-point Code of Conduct for international observers and media during elections, emphasizing impartiality, respect for local laws and culture, responsible reporting, and security and violations may lead to accreditation withdrawal by the Commission.

The code of conduct instructs international observers to rigorously adhere to local laws, and show respect for Pakistan's sovereignty and cultural norms.

It forbids actions that might sway voters, acceptance of gifts from political entities, and making personal remarks about the election. Additionally, it provides guidelines for responsible reporting and underscores the significance of security measures.

Any individual or member of a local group or international election observation mission, who is observing and reporting on the electoral process must thoroughly read and comprehend this Code of Conduct. They are also required to sign a pledge that is attached to this Code.

International observers and media personnel visiting Pakistan are required to follow the visa application procedures outlined by the government and must not exceed the authorized visa duration. Their conduct should respect Pakistan's sovereignty and the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people.

International observers

and media representatives in Pakistan must comply with the nation's constitution and laws, as well as respect the authority of the Election Commission and its officials. They are obligated to maintain impartial, objective, and highly accurate observations and reporting.

Observers must heed instructions from the Election Commission and state authorities, maintaining a respectful demeanor toward them. Additionally, they should adhere to government and security agency advisories aimed at ensuring their safety during their stay in Pakistan.

Observers must demonstrate professionalism and cultural respect while displaying their official identification badges or accreditation cards issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, complying with requests from electoral officials and relevant authorities.

Observers must maintain complete political impartiality throughout the election process, refraining from any bias or preference toward political parties or candidates.

They should adhere to photography rules and restrictions, while retaining the right to ask questions and seek clarification without obstructing any pre-election, election, or post-election procedures. Observers are also expected to collaborate harmoniously with fellow observers, media personnel, and polling staff.

Observers must consult with the Election Commission of Pakistan to select areas for election observation while prioritizing their security. Nevertheless, they should aim for balanced observation and reporting in their area choices. If needed, observers may employ Pakistani interpreters, but they must furnish all necessary information about these interpreters during the accreditation card application process.

Interpreters hired by observers should remain impartial and unprejudiced. They have the freedom to observe and report all aspects of election management, including the actual polling day, without interfering in the proceedings at polling stations.

Furthermore, observers must avoid personal and professional relationships that might create conflicts of interest with their roles as observers and reporters.

Observers must refrain from accepting gifts or favors from any individuals, organizations, or political parties involved in the electoral process. They are prohibited from wearing, carrying, or displaying partisan symbols or colors. Furthermore, observers should avoid making personal comments about their observations or conclusions to the media and should not engage in activities that could give the impression of favoring or opposing any political party or candidate.



KARACHI: Relatives of Shabir Baloch are holding protest demonstration against enforced disappearance, at Karachi press club

## 'Navigating Peace & Security in Region & Beyond' moot today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), is holding an International Conference on "Navigating Peace & Security in the Region & Beyond: Pakistan's Role" on 5-6 October 2023.

The Conference is aimed at undertaking a strategic scan of the developments at the international level and in the adjoining regions of Pakistan. Today's world situation, as is quite evident, continues to be marked by extreme fluidity and even volatility in many places, a news release said.

Major power competition, war, active and simmering military conflicts, transnational terrorism, the aftermath of a pandemic, economic downturn, unresolved disputes, the existential threat of climate change, and a looming population explosion are but a few illustrations of what countries across the globe are faced with. A visibly evolving global order, with its attendant consequences, is throwing up new challenges and making the quest for stability a strategic imperative. Regardless of their size or stature, nations recognize the compelling necessity and desirability of adhering to established international norms and fostering cooperative frameworks. Pakistan is no exception.

## POA honours Asian Games silver medalist squash team

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) on Wednesday hosted a reception to honour the Pakistan squash team who won the silver medal in the team event in on-going 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou, China.

President Pakistan Olympic Association Lt. Gen. © Syed Arif Hasan also encouraged the players and said that despite the limited resources, reaching the Asian Games final with good game shown excellent skills of the players.

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## Education in nation-building is as essential as foundation stone: Mushaal Mullick

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mushaal Hussain Mullick Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment on Wednesday made it clear that the role of education in nation-building is as essential as the foundation stone and our young generation through education can play a significant role in the uplift and development of the country.

"We can create awareness about human rights only through education," she added. The SAPM made these remarks while speaking as a chief guest at a ceremony titled the Millennium Education One World Campus, E-11/4 Islamabad hosted by Student Council Investiture Ceremony and High Achievers Awards 2023 aimed at encouraging young individuals to regularise the student body and become responsible citizens. She said that it was next to impossible to enslave educated people; hence the Indian notorious fascist government was making all-out efforts to deprive

the people of education through various coercive tactics.

Mushaal stated that the occupation authorities were well aware of the power of education that a war-like situation was created and a curfew was placed in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) under a well-conceived plan so that parents could not send their children to educational institutions because of fear of their detention and torture at the hands of brutal Indian forces.

Enlightening the Millennials about progressive education, she said education is not only the name of getting marks but also the name of improving the different abilities of the students. Mushaal encouraged the learners to work hard and put their best efforts towards their respective clubs and societies. Highlighting the role of education in breaking the shackles of slavery, the SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment said that

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan laid the foundation stone of the Aligarh College which became the focal point of the Muslim activities during the Pakistan movement that eventually led to creation of Pakistan.

Similarly, Mushaal shed light on the role played by Allama Muhammad Iqbal's poetry in awakening the youth, who, she said offered immense hope to the young because his imagery of the dawn to come is emphatic, adding that Iqbal emphasized the youth, "See your present in the light of the past."

"Iqbal's message was very clear: he meant that the 'New Dawn' could only come from the modern youth who are capable of overthrowing the shackles of external materialism and reawakening their inner fire," she added. Therefore, Mushaal underlined that it was high time to focus on education for the progress and prosperity of the country. The SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment said: "We are proud of our children who have made Pakistan famous in 'OA' levels.



ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Siisala Naqshbandia Owaisia and head of Tanzeem ul Akhwan Ameer Abdul Qadeer Awan addressing on "Rahmat-e-Alam Conference" organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President (ICCI) and other also present.

## Chairman urges to follow teachings of Holy Prophet to attain success in every sphere of life

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman of Rahmatul Lil Alameen Authority, Khurshid Nadeem Wednesday urged that the nation to follow teaching of holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to attain success in every sphere of life and advise Imams to devise a code of conduct for Friday sermons to bring unity in society.

Talking to PTV news channel, he said that keeping in view the sectarian divide, the Rahmatul Lil Alameen was playing an active role to aspire and bring all religious scholars on one

page, adding, the religious scholars need to spread message of unity among Muslims.

He further said that we will introduce a uniform policy for all the schools of thoughts and will promote awareness drives for importance of character-building of the younger generation.

Chairman explained that the reason to establish the RAA was to guide the young generation about the glowing teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for real success in this world and the hereafter.

The scholars should

play their role in educating society about the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he added.

Replying a question, he said we would take religious leaders into confidence and take strict action against those promoting sectarian intolerance.

RAA will monitor the use of loudspeakers installed at places of worship to curb verbal attacks on sects, hate speech and prevent the sentiments of other religions and sects from being hurt, he mentioned.

## IIOJK to hold demo against BJP in Jammu on Oct 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): Various political parties in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir have decided to hold a peaceful protest demonstration in Jammu against the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party next week (Oct 10).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the decision was taken at a meeting of the leaders of these political parties in Jammu, today, chaired by National Conference President Feroz Khan Noon.

Farooq Abdullah. Talking to reporters, Farooq Abdullah said the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are under attack.

"We all have decided to stage a peaceful protest on October 10 and are seeking necessary permission from the divisional commissioner," he said.

## AIOU commences final exams on October 16

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is conducting examinations of Associate Degree (Arts, Commerce, Education) BBA, BS, and B.Ed programs offered in the spring 2023 semester from October 16, 2023, to December 15, 2023, throughout the country.

The date sheet is available on the university website ([www.aiou.edu.pk](http://www.aiou.edu.pk)). Roll number slips are being uploaded to students' CMS portal, according to a press release on Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Geir Thomas Tonstol, Country Director International Labour Organization (ILO), calls on the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik.

## 114 INGOs officially registered with Ministry of Interior, Senate body told

ISLAMABAD (Online): Government has introduced "INGO Policy, 2015" to oversee operations of INGOs in Pakistan, overall 114 INGOs officially registered with the Ministry of Interior. This was told by ministry of interior to the Senate Standing Committee on Economic Affairs. The meeting of the committee was convened on Wednesday at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman.

The committee meeting commenced with a comprehensive briefing from the Ministry of Interior, Economic Affairs Division and

Ministry of Foreign Affairs on foreign-funded International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) operating in Pakistan, encompassing thematic areas and geographical coverage.

Ministry officials briefed that "INGO Policy, 2015" was introduced to oversee the operations of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in Pakistan. According to this policy, all international NGOs operating in Pakistan are required to undergo registration with the Ministry of Interior, designated as the regulatory authority for INGOs.

This registration pro-

cess involves consultation with various key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the Security & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), and the Intelligence Bureau (IB). Currently, there are a total of 114 INGOs officially registered with the Ministry of Interior. MOFA officials highlighted that, following extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders, the NGO policy was approved by the Federal Cabinet in November 2022.

## CDA planning to initiate residential scheme for Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is planning to launch a new state-of-the-art residential scheme only for overseas Pakistanis at Mauza Kuri in the federal capital.

The new scheme, sprawled across 14,000 kanal of land along Kuri Road, adjacent to Park Road, will be reserved exclusively for overseas Pakistanis," an official in the CDA told APP.

The official said that

the plots within the scheme would be marketed and sold to overseas Pakistanis in US dollars, contributing to the country's foreign exchange reserves.

He said that in the initial phase, the CDA has given the go head to the relevant authorities for the appointment of a design consultant, adding that the decision was made during a meeting chaired by CDA Chairman, Captain @ Anwar ul Haque.



ISLAMABAD: French pianist Maxime Zecchini performing during ceremony entitled "Melodies De Piano" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

## Court adjourns hearing of cipher case against Imran, Qureshi without proceeding

RAWALPINDI (Online): Special court set up under official secret act has adjourned the hearing of cipher case against chairman PTI and co-accused former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi till October 9 without proceeding.

The case came up for hearing before special court led by judge Abul Hasan Zulqarnain Wednesday.

The case came up for hearing before special court led by Judge Abul Hasan Zulqarnain Wednesday.

During the hearing of the case in Adiala jail chairman PTI and co-accused Shah Mehmood Qureshi were present in the court.

Special prosecutor, FIA team, barrister Suleman Safdar counsel for chairman PTI, Naem Punjutha and other legal team appeared in the court.

3 hearings of the case have taken place in Attock jail. On the occasion of 4th hearing the court was to distribute copies of challan. The lawyers of the accused persons while refusing to receive copies of challan took the plea petition has been filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC) against in-

camera hearing of cipher case and it has yet to be decided.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till October 09.

Talking to media men outside Adiala jail, barrister Suleman Safdar, counsel for chairman PTI said "we have regretted to receive copies of challan because we have challenged in-camera hearing of the case in IHC. The IHC has reserved judgment on our petition. Therefore, we have requested the court there is no justification of in-camera hearing of the case till the decision of IHC."

As open court hearing is running in Supreme Court (SC), therefore, providing the opportunity of open court hearing to chairman PTI is his right. He said our debate on petition has completed. High court will decide with reference to it that either the hearing will take place in camera or will it take place closed door beyond the hearing of the people. They want such things should not reach the people. The court has dismissed the plea for keeping people out of this case.

## Work started on Pakistan's first "Tourism App": Wasi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah on Wednesday said that the Ministry has started

work on the launch of a "Tourism App" to provide one-click information about tourist destinations, this app includes all the information regarding restaurants, hotels, transport, travel facilities, culture, entertainment and historical places.

Talking to journalists, he said it will be ensured that the app is updated on a regular basis. He specifically said that through this app tourists will be provided with all the information they need to know.

He said that as the Minister of State for Tourism, he is taking practical steps to promote tourism and make Pakistan a paradise for tourists, the fruits of which will reach the tourists soon.

The minister said that tourists visiting Pakistan will soon get an official application that will provide authentic information and access to the state tourism department.

## BPC reaffirm to further strengthen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 12th Round of Pakistan-Norway Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) were held here on Wednesday in which the two sides reaffirmed to further strengthen cooperation in areas including investment, shipping, climate change, renewable energy and higher education.

Pakistan delegation was led by Ambassador Muhammad Saleem, AS (Europe) while the Norwegian delegation was led by Vebjorn Dvysvik, Director General, Department for Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on X.

The BPC also reviewed progress made since last BPC held in 2021. In a related post, the spokesperson further said that Norwegian side, being a key investment partner of Pakistan, was also briefed on the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), recently established by the Government of Pakistan.

## ILO Country Director meets SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis, HRD

ISLAMABAD (Online): Manpower Export and Skill Development in Focus as ILO Country Director Meets with SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

The Country Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Mr. Geir Thomas Tonstol, paid a courtesy visit to the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Mr. Jawad Sohrab Malik.

During the meeting, a fruitful discussion took place on matters of mutual interest. Malik warmly welcomed the esteemed Country Director to his office and conveyed Pakistan's enduring commitment as a vital member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and a longstanding member of its

Governing Body for the past three decades. Mr. Geir T.

Tonstol provided a comprehensive briefing to Malik on the ILO's mandate and activities within Pakistan. He also emphasized the key priorities outlined in the recently signed fourth Decent Work Country Program in May 2023.

During the meeting, Malik expressed his desire for the ILO to concentrate on manpower export through skill development, aligning with the latest criteria adopted by major host countries.

Moreover, he requested the ILO to formulate an action plan and implementation framework with well-defined goals and objectives, especially aimed at enhancing the well-being of workers and facilitating manpower export.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Founder Akhuvat Foundation during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

## ICCPO visits Safe City Islamabad Command and Control Center

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, visited the Safe City command and control center, a public relations officer said.

He said that, during the visit he commended the officials for a major decrease in crime rates due to the vigilant monitoring of Safe City cameras. He appreciated the performance of officers for their dedication in ensuring the safety and security of Islamabad's residents.

ICCPO also highlighted the significance of Safe City cameras and issued directives for officers to remain vigilant and proactive in keeping an eye on criminal elements. He stressed the importance of continuous monitoring to maintain law and order.

He also reviewed various departments' operations, including Safe City Monitoring, Traffic management, and the Pucar-15 helpline.

CPO Safe City/Traffic was also present on the occasion.

## 'Free, fair' polls to bring political, economic stability: Sharmila

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 'free and fair' elections in the country would eventually bring political and economic stability to the country, said Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sharmila Farooqi on Wednesday, urging the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), to announce the final date for the next polls at the earliest.

"People are facing multiple issues due to price hikes of essential products. A democratic and political government could address the genuine grievances of the common man," said

Sharmila while talking to the state news channel.

Commenting on the political role of the last coalition government, she said coalition partners had made the best decisions in a short period of time and saved the country from falling into the category of economic default line.

In reply to a question about the election drive, she said, it is the responsibility of ECP to announce the exact schedule for general elections so that workers could start the campaign in a proper manner.

## Rank Pinning ceremony of four SP's held

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan on Wednesday pinned the badges to Islamabad Capital Police four Superintendent of Police (SP) after the completion of their eight years services, a public relations officer said.

He said that, a ceremony was held at the Central Police Office in which ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and Capital Police Officer Headquarters formally pinned badges to the Superintendent of Police (SP) including Nowsherwan Ali, Hassan Jahangir, Khanzeb and Hamza Humayun.

The ICCPO congratulated the officers on their promotion and wished them all the best for their future endeavors. He said that departmental promotion and increase in rank in the police service actually reflects an increase in responsibilities therefore, the promoted officers should make equal implementation of law, observance of merit and best service delivery and protection to citizens their motto and goal.

He further said that the role of supervisory officers is of paramount importance in maintaining the writ of state, eradication of crime and ensuring timely measures for the service of the citizens adding that the promoted officers should play the role of best team leader in order to make full use of abilities of their subordinates so that the problems of the citizens could be solved on priority basis.

## FIA says: Rs 3.86 bln recovered during raids this year

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of more than Rs 3.86 billion worth of domestic and foreign currency was recovered during the raids this year including 650334 US dollars in currency exported, and other foreign currency worth more than 309 million rupees included.

This was informed to the Director General Federal Investigation Agency in a briefing here on Wednesday and added that more than 3 billion and 35 million Pakistani rupees are included in the exported currency.

It was informed in the meeting that more than 28 plazas/markets/shops were also sealed during nationwide raids.

The meeting was chaired by Director General FIA Mohsin Hasan Butt, Additional Director Generals, Zonal Directors and other senior officers also participated in the meeting, said a press release here.

Briefing, Director General Mohsin Hasan

Butt on the ongoing crackdown regarding Hundi reference and currency smuggling nationwide crackdown continues against elements involved in illegal currency exchange.

During this year, 390 raids were conducted against elements involved in the illegal exchange of money and currency and this year, 382 cases were registered and 557 accused were arrested whereas an investigation of 51 inquiries was also completed.

During this year, 250 accused were arrested by KP zone, 68 by Lahore zone, 24 by Gujranwala zone, 48 by Faisalabad zone, 43 by Multan zone.

Islamabad zone arrested 20, Karachi zone 64, Hyderabad zone 23 and Balochistan zone arrested 17 accused, all the arrested accused were involved in currency exchange without license. The assistance of law enforcement agencies were also obtained for the arrest of the accused.



Senator Syed Ali Zafar, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice Presiding over a Meeting of the Committee at Parliament Lodges Islamabad.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

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## Anti-smuggling drive

That caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti openly admitted on Monday that security personnel are involved in large-scale smuggling of currency, oil, and other commodities across Pakistan's borders with Iran and Afghanistan should be appreciated.

Mr Bugti not only acknowledged that security officials played a role in the illegal cross-border movement of currency and commodities but also indicated that the army chief had warned his men that those involved in the practice would face court-martial and jail. The clampdown on smugglers and hoarders was launched last month after the army chief's back-to-back meetings with the business community in Lahore and Karachi where he pledged to crack down on illegal activities "to rid Pakistan of the substantial losses it continues to suffer due to pilferage".

The next several weeks will be a test of the civil and military authorities' resolve to expose and punish the elements involved in this illicit cross-border trade as the government intensifies a nationwide crackdown to curb the smuggling out of dollars and commodities such as wheat and sugar, and the influx of cheap petroleum and other items from Iran and Afghanistan. However, our porous borders along Balochistan and KP are not the only routes being used by smugglers to conduct their illegal trade. Indeed, these routes are used to 'import' and 'export' commodities such as sugar, oil, tyres, urea and even vehicles in big numbers.

But high-value products such as branded perfumes, expensive watches and designer purses are mostly being brought from Dubai and other Gulf nations into the country by khepiyaas through major airports and seaports in connivance with Customs officials and personnel of other agencies. These items are mostly smuggled in without the payment of taxes or are hugely under-invoiced.

Similarly, it is easier to take dollars out of the country via an airport than any other way. No wonder Peshawar's proverbial Bara bazaar, which used to be the only source of smuggled foreign goods for affluent middle-class families until the late 1980s, has spread across the length and breadth of the country.

The shelves of most shops are stacked with such products because no one asks the powerful trader community to provide documentary proof that taxes were paid on the 'import' of such items.

No anti-smuggling drive can deliver complete success without making it difficult for the traders to display and sell smuggled and under-invoiced goods, in addition to dismantling the nexus between traders and civil and security officials posted along the borders and ports.

Smuggling is eating into the economy, weakening it and imposing enormous costs on the manufacturing industry, jobs and public well-being. We can only hope that the current mobilisation against illegal cross-border trade will not be called off midway as has been the case in the past.



Zahid Hussain

The bloodbath in Mastung last week was yet another grim reminder of the relentless rise of militant violence that is threatening national security.

The suicide attack on a Rabiul Awwal congregation in the Balochistan town left almost 60 people dead. At least five people were killed in a targeted attack in KP on the same day, swelling the number of fatalities.

It was one of the bloodiest days of the current year that has already recorded the highest number of casualties among security forces in the past eight years. Terrorist attacks have become almost a daily affair. The return of terrorism presents a most serious challenge to a nation mired in multiple crises.

The spate of killings across the country demonstrates the expanding capacity of militant groups to carry out increasingly audacious operations.

While the administration silently watches the situation drift toward anarchy, armed marauders carry out their deadly attacks with impunity. The pattern and scale of violence indicate that the militants are better armed than before and well organised.

A report recently released by the Islamabad-based Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) reveals a staggering 57 per cent escalation in militant violence nationwide over the last quarter.

It's an extremely alarming situation, raising questions regarding our counterterrorism strategy that appears to be faltering as militants of all stripes continue to operate. The latest wave of violence highlights the inability of the security agencies to deal with the rising militant threat.

Almost 1,100 people, including 386 security personnel, lost their lives to militant violence in the first nine months of the year,

according to the CRSS report. The report notes that the number of fatalities from terrorist attacks this year has increased, with KP and Balochistan having suffered 92pc of all fatalities since the beginning of the year.

While a reinvigorated Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has reportedly been involved in most of the terrorist attacks, more worrisome is the growing presence and activities of the Islamic State-Khorasan group. Several recent militant raids have been traced to the group. Although no one has claimed responsibility, the suicide attack in Mastung last Friday bears all the hallmarks of an IS-K attack.

It is not for the first time that Mastung, which houses madressahs known for their association with outlawed extremist sectarian outfits, as well as transnational militant groups, has been drenched in blood. There has been a marked escalation in sectarian violence, with the town becoming the hub of religious radicalism.

One of the most radical madressahs was established by the family of

Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, an Al Qaeda leader and mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The connection was revealed after a suicide attack on a Muharram procession in Quetta in 2004 was traced to the family.

The investigations showed that the mastermind of the attack were Mosaib al Baluchi and Dawood Badani, close relatives of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who were later arrested and taken to Guantanamo by American forces. It was the first time that an Ashura procession was attacked by militants here, lending a new and dangerous dimension to sectarian terror in the province.

Over the years, Mastung, located some 50 kilometres from Quetta, has become the main centre of extremist sectarian groups. The latest attack also marked an escalation in attacks on rival Sunni groups. In 2017, a suicide bomber struck the convoy of a JUI-F leader Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, who was then deputy chairman Senate, killing several people.

Many madressahs in the region have become the focus of the outlawed Lashkar-i-Jhangvi which

has now reportedly taken up the banner of IS-K. The latest attack on the Rabiul Awwal procession indicates the growing influence of the hard-line Salafi version of Islam, that has its origins in the Middle East.

There has also been a marked rise in IS-K activities in KP. In the past three months, the terror group has claimed several attacks in the province. It had claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed at least 54 people at a political rally held by the JUI-F in July this year in Bajaur district that borders Afghanistan. The former tribal region has long been a sanctuary for Islamist extremists, including TTP and IS-K.

The recent clashes in Bajaur are believed to be a spillover of the conflict between IS-K and the Afghan Taliban in Afghanistan. A large number of local JUI members, who fought alongside the Afghan Taliban, have returned home after the end of the war. The conflict has now spread to other areas in KP and Balochistan, giving a new twist to the ongoing militant violence.

The emerging nexus

between some TTP factions and IS-K is most alarming. There have been a few reports of a tactical alliance between some Baloch separatist groups and IS-K, too. If correct, the coalition of various militant groups will render the situation more complex and challenging for the security agencies.

As political instability and uncertainty grow in the country, and as the economy declines, the terrorists are poised to benefit from a situation that is on the cusp of anarchy. The most recent wave of terrorism has once again exposed the lack of a cohesive policy as security forces struggle against the audacious militant attacks that have taken the lives of scores of security personnel and ordinary people in the last few months.

The need of the hour is an effective and sustainable counterterrorism strategy that can eliminate the terrorist elements who are threatening the country's security. Pakistan must immediately review its national security policy to correct the lapses that have led us to this pass. -- Courtesy Dawn

## IFIs at a crossroads



Zafar Masud

In October, as the world's attention turns toward Morocco for the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it is an historic moment to contemplate the legacy of these two leading global lending institutions. Over the decades, they have played a significant role in shaping the economic destiny of underdeveloped and developing nations. This review embarks on a journey to evaluate their achievements, successes, failures, and most importantly, their contributions to Pakistan and South Asia. We delve into areas such as infrastructure development, poverty alleviation, disaster management, and ponder on persistent questions about wealth distribution and the fundamental mission of

these institutions: to uplift struggling economies and their institutions.

One of the most palpable contributions of the World Bank in Pakistan and South Asia has been in the realm of infrastructure development whilst the macro-economic stability and relief was ensured by the Fund.

Poverty alleviation is at the heart of the mission of the two institutions. In regions like South Asia, where a substantial portion of the population lives below the poverty line, the impact of the World Bank's initiatives cannot be understated.

Microfinance projects, vocational training programmes and social safety nets have provided a lifeline for countless families, pulling them out of the abyss of poverty. Yet, the task is far from complete, and the roots of poverty run deep. Comprehensive strategies are needed to address the multifaceted nature of poverty in the region.

In a world where natural disasters wreak havoc, the IMF and the World Bank have played a pivotal role in disaster management. South Asia, with its vulner-

ability to earthquakes, floods, and cyclones, has been a beneficiary of the institution's support in disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and post-disaster recovery efforts, and extended special financial financing facilities. These initiatives have saved lives and helped communities rebuild.

However, one pressing concern casts a shadow over these achievements — wealth distribution. Critics argue that, in some instances, the benefits of development projects have disproportionately favoured the privileged few or multinational corporations, rather than reaching the intended beneficiaries — the downtrodden communities.

A total of \$42 trillion in new wealth has been created since 2020, with \$26 trillion, or 63 per cent, of that being amassed by the top 1.0 per cent of the ultra-rich globally, according to an Oxfam report. The remaining 99 per cent of the global population collected just \$16 trillion of new wealth. It suggests that the pace at which wealth is being created has sped up, and so has its concentration; as the world's richest 1.0 per

cent amassed around half of all new wealth over the past 10 years. This is a very alarming development.

South Asia is no different than the rest of the world. For it, the ratio of the average income of the poorest 10 per cent of the population to the richest 10 per cent is 6.5 per cent. In other words, the average income for the richest is more than 16 times the average for the poorest. The ratio is 7.5 per cent for Bangladesh, 8.6 per cent for India and 11.1 per cent for Sri Lanka. The ratio of the average incomes of the poorest 20 per cent of the population to the richest 20 per cent is 4.8 per cent for Pakistan and Bangladesh, 5.5 per cent for India and 6.8 per cent for Sri Lanka. The Gini coefficient — a measure frequently used to indicate the extent of inequality — is the worst for Pakistan: 29.6 as against 32.4 for Bangladesh, 35.7 for India and 38 for the world as a whole.

This raises questions about the effectiveness of monitoring mechanisms and the necessity for stricter regulations to ensure that the fruits of development are equitably shared amongst all segments of the

society. This also emanates from the fact that the belief in the policies of the two institutions hovering around trickle-down effects on the economy as gospel perhaps needs a rethink. There certainly is a question mark on this approach and case studies like India where a bottom-up approach seems to have been working better than the traditional approach for growth must be considered in future policymaking.

As we convene in Morocco to celebrate the accomplishments of the IMF and the World Bank and consider their future, it is clear that the path forward is fraught with challenges. The wealth gap remains a critical issue, and these institutions must redouble their efforts to ensure that development benefits reach the marginalized communities that need them the most. Stronger regulations, transparent governance, and rigorous monitoring mechanisms are essential to this endeavour. Better engagement with new emerging players, like China, post the Ukraine war is the need of the hour for the Bretton Woods Institutions. At least 65 countries owe

China more than 10 per cent of their external debt. This is the extent of Chinese integration into the global financial system which can't move on without a collaborative and open-minded approach and dialogue for which the upcoming congregation in Morocco is an ideal opportunity.

The annual meetings in Morocco provide an invaluable opportunity for reflection and introspection. The challenges of poverty, inequality, environmental sustainability, and equitable wealth distribution demand a renewed commitment to the core mission of these institutions — to foster growth that is inclusive, sustainable and transformative — at the back of digitization and formalizing economies.

As the world watches Morocco, we must collectively aspire to a future where economic growth is not an end in itself but a means to uplift humanity, leaving no one behind, with new thinking, new perspective, new templates for fixing the complex landscape of emerging economies including those in South Asia. -- Courtesy TheNews

## De-risking climate



Aisha Khan

The UNGA of the recently concluded SDG Summit marks the midpoint of the goals set for 2030. The mismatch between actions and transformative shifts needed to avert the climate crisis and absence of some of the big emitters does not lend hope of any momentum in the accelerator agenda. The SDG theme of peace and security for the year has failed to reignite optimism, deepening misgivings about multilateral processes and fair outcomes.

The recently published first global stocktake synthesis report, which is a culmination of two years of data collection from scientists, technocrats and business people, recognises the role of the Paris Agreement in driving near-universal climate actions, but falls short of projecting the grim reality. It urges the need for prioritising the phasing out of fossil fuels and working with all levels of government to scale up tried and tested solutions while investing in new, innovative technologies.

All eyes will now be on Dubai to see how the presidency leverages the stocktake to course correct and transition to a safer trajectory with a rapid response plan. As always, finance will dominate the negotiations, and the issues of drastic cuts in emission, doubling adaptation finance and operationalising the loss and damage fund alongside the need for reform in the global financial architecture will be key determinants in setting the future agenda.

So far, all the climate reports have one thing in common. All serve as a wake-up call for moving past statements, advisories and prose that use climate as a glossary to list the threats that are already being experienced by people, but fail to provide timely solutions.

The pivot shift from

Paris to Dubai comes at a time when much has changed since the 2015 Paris Agreement. The need for keeping temperatures below 1.5°C, capping peak emissions by 2025, reducing GHGs by 2030 to stay within the safe threshold of planetary boundaries, higher costs for mitigation and adaptation, the war in Ukraine and the changing geopolitical landscape are all new elements that have added greater urgency to finding solutions.

While the cost of making transformative changes may be high, the price of inaction will come with a greater cost to human life, plunging millions into poverty and deepening inequality.

The stocktake 2023 is not merely about assessing where countries stand on Nat-io-nally Determined Contributions, it is also about using current trends to anticipate threats to human security and making a call on how we see humanity. If all lives matter, then negotiators need to redefine the battle lines and engage with the intent of de-risking climate security. This will require all countries to engage on climate at the international and regional level, putting other differences and disputes aside and working together with a single-point agenda that pivots around human security. It is time to move beyond power, politics, policy and profit to look at the human angle of the unfolding tragedy and remember the moral compact that served as the backbone of the Paris Agreement to bring parties together. With the clock ticking, it is time to cut to the chase and decide if all lives are equal or other considerations play a role in the human security calculus. The bar on expectation is diminishing fast, pushing some nations closer to the edge. It is time for an honest reset. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Open-ended conflict



Mahir Ali

Early last month, Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg offered an extraordinary revelation at a meeting with European parliamentary committees. "The background," he said, "was that President Putin declared in the autumn of 2021, and actually sent a draft treaty that they wanted Nato to sign, to promise no more Nato enlargement."

"That was what he sent us. And [it] was a precondition for not [invading] Ukraine. Of course, we didn't sign that."

Until then, any Western politician who hinted at any kind of provocation behind Russia's military overreach risked being labelled an apologist for Vladimir Putin. The unreasonably hawkish Stoltenberg obviously does not fall in that category, and he went on to remind his audience about how Moscow's venture had backfired, with Nato spreading its wings to Finland and, potentially, Sweden, apart from fast-tracking eventual Ukrainian membership.

Western diplomats, including the more enlightened minds at the US State Department, have been aware since at least the 1990s that Nato's eastward expansion was a red line for Moscow. Mikhail Gorbachev was verbally promised it wouldn't occur, and regretted not insisting on a written assurance. Even Boris Yeltsin, effectively a US puppet, bristled at Nato's ambitions. By the time Putin replaced him in 1999-2000, key Eastern

European states had already switched their satellite status from ex-Soviet to American via Nato membership, and the Baltic republics followed.

Putin seemed willing to accept this as a fait accompli, but Nato's membership offers to Georgia and Ukraine seemed like overkill. From Moscow's vantage point this wasn't all that different to how Washington would feel — or react — if any future Sino-Russian military alliance sought to woo Canada or Mexico.

In his discourse, Stoltenberg proudly framed Nato's rejection of Putin's overture as a suitable riposte to a belligerent dictator. The idea of a more diplomatic response that might have averted a bloody war appears not to have troubled his conscience.

None of this detracts from the fact that Russia was the aggressor in February 2022, and Ukraine the victim. The provocation that Stoltenberg has belatedly acknowledged by no means adds up to any justification for Putin's "special military oppression", which has consumed tens of thousands of lives and heaped untold misery on Ukrainians in the regions bordering Russia. Nor should anyone ignore Putin's contentious and often ridiculous excuses for pretending that the mediaeval origins of the Russian empire in the Kyiv region somehow sanctify his ambitions. However, it's not altogether absurd to perceive Ukraine as simultaneously a victim of Nato's unreconstructed preoccupations. Once its raison d'être disappeared with the demise of the Soviet Union and its hegemonic arena of influence, a new enemy had to be found. Al Qaeda and its offshoots offered a convenient distraction for a few years, but once that petered out, Russia and a changing China under Xi Jinping conveniently resurfaced as the leading adversaries.

Pakistan played a co-

starring role in the so-called war on terror (arguably as a sidekick to both the hero and the villain), and it is even said to have had a cameo in the latest conflict. It has lately been claimed (though denied by the FO) that it has been supplying weapons to Ukraine since last year, and that this was crucial for its access to the latest tranche of IMF funds, apart from the usual 'structural adjustment'.

That is by no means implausible, given Pakistan's pre-existing defence trade ties with Ukraine — it has even been suggested that many of the weapons sent back originated from Ukraine. What sounds dodgier is the claim that the notorious 'cipher' was part of a US plan to oust Imran Khan just so that Pakistani shells and missiles could be delivered to Ukraine. The diplomatic missive was received well after the no-confidence motion was in train. The de-thronement was manipulated as much as the enthronement, but most probably not at Uncle Sam's behest. It was just another failed military experiment, and the future is unwritten. The only potential solution — a decisive army exit from politics — is unlikely to be on the cards anytime soon.

Anyhow, the Western alliance is likely to be more bothered about the emerging signs from Poland, which has pulled back from its crucial support for Ukraine's war effort over a spat about grain imports, and Slovakia, where a pro-Russian politician is in pole position to form the next government. Add to that the US congressional fiasco whereby aid for Ukraine was stripped of the deal that averted a government shutdown.

Facilitating some kind of peace rather than egging on the dogs of war would be the best bet for all concerned parties, but don't expect Stoltenberg to acknowledge that until it's too late. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Naqvi lays foundation stone of RCCI's women entrepreneurs display centre

**Independent Report**  
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and cabinet members conducted a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and laid the foundation stone of the business women, small and medium enterprises and cottage industries display centre by digging the soil with a shovel at the project site.

In his address, the chief minister proposed to take charge of a government hospital and manage it independently.

Describing the cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi as a distinctive honour, the CM underscored the collaborative efforts of the government to bring relief to the people.

Emphasizing the importance of teamwork, CM stated, "Positive results can only be

achieved when the team works together. We are dedicated to providing relief to the public by making full use of the time available."

On the occasion, he announced the expansion of the Central Business District Authority from Lahore to Rawalpindi.

Naqvi also highlighted the inclusion of business communities in various boards on merit and assured that this inclusion would extend to other boards as well.

The CM anticipated a boost in economic activities in Rawalpindi with the initiation of the Central Business District within a month, addressing several concerns of the business community.

Calling on the businessmen to contribute to the improvement of hospitals, the chief minister mentioned the transformation of the

Urology Hospital into a PKLI, significantly enhancing its standards.

He commended the Provincial Minister for Industries SM Tanveer and the Chief Secretary Punjab for their dedicated work on the one-window operation. Highlighting the study of the one-window operation model in China, the CM announced its implementation by establishing a one-window operation facility in alignment with the recommendations of the six major chambers of commerce and industries in Punjab.

"The finalization of this operation is expected in the coming days, facilitating seamless interaction between the business community and 36 departments."

He also pledged to issue NOCs to the business community within 15 days.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and others offering Dua after laying foundation stone of the business women, small and medium enterprises and cottage industries display centre.

## BISP chairman emphasis equipping beneficiaries with technical education

NEWSHERA (APP): Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Chairman of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) here Wednesday said that equipping children of the beneficiaries with technical education and vocational training was imperative for their economic empowerment, poverty alleviation and social change in society.

He said all initiatives of BISP were aimed at providing much-needed financial support to disadvantaged people and enabled them to make easy access to essential resources and opportunities for socioeconomic and education development

besides nourishment of their children.

He said BISP's Kafalat, Taleemi Wazaif, children Naushuma and other programs were launched by the government to alleviate poverty and ensure the dignity and self-respect of the downtrodden.

Chairman BISP expressed these views while talking to beneficiaries and media during his visit to BISP centres at Risalpur and Nowshera here. Director General BISP KP, Zohra Aslam and other senior officials briefed him about various initiatives, the process of registration, institutional reforms and

the disbursement of payment procedure.

Chairman Dr Amjad Saqib said that over 9.3 million families including 64,000 families in the Nowshera district were benefiting from the program continued in all districts of KP.

He said Taleemi Wazaif program was an important initiative started to help students of beneficiaries to get a quality education without financial constraint and contribute to the country's development process.

He directed BISP authorities to select students of FA/F.Sc of the beneficiaries for online training courses.

## PTI chief imprisoned due to his own misdeeds: Sharjeel

PESHAWAR (APP): Former Information Minister Sindh and Head of PPP Social Media Sherjeel Inam Memon has said that the chairman of PTI Imran Khan is imprisoned due to his own misdeeds.

Talking to media here at the residence of the Secretary Information PPP KP, Amjad Khan Afridi on Wednesday, he said that Imran Khan has sold gifts received from international dignitaries and orchestrated attacks on national institutions and public properties on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Former provincial presidents of PPP KP, Hamayun Khan, Amjad Khan Afridi, Haji

Farzand Ali and Gohar Afridi flanked him on the occasion. He Sindh-based PPP leader called for an investigation into the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Peshawar and Billion Tree Tsunami projects.

He said that the track record of PPP shows that it had always faced challenges with bravery and was capable of steering the country out of all crises. He said that in the current situation, PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has once again emerged as the only leader capable of taking all institutions and stakeholders on board to stake the country on track for progress and development.

## CM Punjab announces financial aid for injured police worker

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi announced financial assistance for the injured police worker who was shot accidentally during duty in Khushab. The CM stated that the Punjab government would provide Rs 2 million in financial aid to the injured police worker, Shahnaz Abdul Hameed. The decision was made during the 28<sup>th</sup> cabinet meeting held in Rawalpindi. Shahnaz Abdul Hameed, who was severely injured when shots were fired accidentally during her duty in Khushab, is now in stable condition after a successful operation at Jinnah Hospital Lahore.

## Learning about China's socio-economic growth is need of hour: Minister

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Pakistan has prioritized enhancing cooperation in Energy, Mining, Information Technology, and Agriculture, as emphasized by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of IT Dr. Najeeb Ullah during the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event organized by the Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) & China Study Centre (CSC) at the University of Peshawar on Wednesday.

Dr. Najeeb Ullah, Minister for Science and Technology, IT, Sports, and Youth Affairs, thanked the PCFA & CSC for organizing the event and bringing both countries close to each other.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Najeeb Ullah congratulated the Chinese people on their national day and advised students to pay attention to understanding Chinese culture, history, and civilization. He also said

that we have to learn a lot of things from China's expertise.

He highlighted different aspects where Pakistan needs to improve and can learn from China.

Science and technology are one of the sectors where we need a lot of improvements.

He also stated that economic growth has different factors. One is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) the second is Skilled Labor and Higher Education.

He also mentioned that China has become a global leader in various industries and sectors by strategically using foreign direct investment.

By welcoming multinational corporations into its market and establishing favorable policies to attract foreign investors, China has benefited from vital capital and expertise that has fueled its economic growth and development.



LAHORE: Former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur-Rehman at Governor House.

## Meeting emphasize transparency in mineral lease matters

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Advisor for Minerals, Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah here Wednesday emphasized the need for greater transparency and improvements in lease-related issues of the mineral sector.

He was addressing a meeting in the committee room of the Department of Minerals and Mineral Development in Peshawar. He underscored the importance of ensuring educational scholarships and healthcare facilities for children of miners and Chief Inspector of Mines, Chief Commissioner of Mines and Director of Training, Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah.

CM's aide was also briefed about mineral conservation, lease procedures and the welfare of mine labourers. The meeting also discussed significant legislative acts like the Mines Safety Inspection and Regulation Act 2019, Coal Mines Rules 2021, Consolidated Mines Rules 1952, Labor Welfare Act 2021 and Mines Labour Welfare in KP. The meeting was also attended by the Secretary Mineral Development Department, Additional Secretary Admin, Chief Inspector of Mines, Chief Commissioner of Mines and Director of Training, Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah.

## Petition for contempt of court filed against Chief Secretary Punjab

LAHORE (Online): A contempt of court petition was filed against Chief Secretary Punjab for not taking a decision on the formation of a judicial commission to investigate Jarawal tragedy within the prescribed period of law despite order of Lahore High Court (LHC). Citizen Asher Sarfaraz filed a petition for contempt of court against Chief Secretary Punjab in which Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman was made a respondent in petition. He took stance that he filed a

petition for the formation of judicial commission to investigate Jarawal tragedy. Lahore High Court ordered the Chief Secretary to take a decision on pending petition in accordance with law.

Despite the court order, Chief Secretary did not make decision within 15 days. Chief Secretary committed contempt of court by not following the court order therefore court should initiate contempt of court proceedings against Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman.



KARACHI: Teacher busy in work in class room as world celebrates International Teachers' Day on 5 Oct 2023. World Teacher Day is an annual event that pays tribute to the educators who play a pivotal role in shaping our future.

## Various co-curricular activities held at Sadiq Public School

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Various co-curricular events were held at Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur including a Quiz, an Inter-house Bilingual

House. The participants from Abbas House were Muhammad Hamza, Zain ul Ebad, and Muhammad Ismail Arif.

In the grand assembly held at the amphitheater, certificates, and prizes were distributed to the students who achieved significant success in various co-curricular activities organized across the country. Certificates were also given to the students who achieved significant success in Matriculation, O Level, and AS Level.



NEWSHERA: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib visited Point of Sale (POS) retailers in Risalpur. He also interacted with women beneficiaries.

## Nation-wide polio eradication drive continues in AJK

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): The nationwide 5-day polio-eradication drive continued for the third successive day across Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

A total of 720172 Children under 05 years of being targeted to be immunized during the 5-day national polio-eradication drive throughout AJK launched on Monday, State health authorities told APP here on Wednesday.

The State Health Services Department set the target of immunizing over 7.20 lakh children under five years of age with the Polio vaccine and vitamin 'A' drops in all 10 districts in the liberated territory.

The sources said only in AJK's capital district of

Muzaffarabad, over 1.17 lakh children would be administered Polio vaccines and vitamin 'A' drops during the drive till Oct 6 without any pause.

At least 3995 mobile teams of paramedical staff have been constituted to visit door to door to administer the polio vaccine and vitamin 'A' drops during the campaign where a total of 448 fixed centers at local government hospitals and subordinate health facilities in 309 Union Councils, have been set up by the State Polio Eradication Committee of the AJK State Health Services Department with the coordination of the World Health Organization (WHO), the sources said.

The fixed centers have been set up at the state-run hospitals.

## SFA, SSWMB to start project for recycling of left over food items

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Food Authority (SFA) in collaboration with Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) will start collection of leftover food items from Burns Road Food Street for their recycling into fertilizers.

Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain informed during a visit to Burns Road Food Street on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Managing Director Solid Waste Management Board Imtiaz Shah and other officials of SFA and SSWMB, said a statement issued here.

Heads of SFA and SSWMB discussed in detail the matters relating

to collection of waste material including leftover food items from the food street and their recycling with office bearers of Burns Road Food Street Association. Speaking on the occasion Agha Fakhar Hussain said that Sindh Food Authority intended to make Burns Road Food Street a model food street and for achieving the objectives two types of green bins would be placed at Burns Road Food Street. Leftover food items would be disposed of in the specific type of green bins while non-edible items would be disposed of in the other bin, he added that waste collecting vehicles of the Solid Waste Management Board.

## Dera police seize NCP goods worth over Rs 1.76 m

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police on Wednesday claimed to have seized non custom paid (NCP) goods worth over Rs 1.76 million during checking of several vehicles here in the limits of Dera Town and Daraban police stations.

According to the Police spokesman, a police team of Dera Town police station led by SDPO Saddar Circle Muhammad Saleem Balcooh along with SHO Faheem Abbas and special task team inspected several vehicles. During checking, the police recovered 40 sewing machines, 24 sacks of plastic bags and eight cartons of blades. The estimated worth of the recovered goods was around Rs 1.43 million.

Similarly, Daraban police team led by SDPO Daraban Circle Malik Aneesul Hassan along with SHO Atta Ullah Khan recovered 272 bundles of cigarettes from a vehicle at Daraban Check post.

## BISE to organize Qirat, Naat & Speech competitions

FAISALABAD (APP): Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (BISE) Faisalabad has decided to organize Qirat, Naat and Speech competitions in connection with Rabi-ul-Awal to highlight Seerat-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him).

Secretary BISE Dr Habib-ur-Rehman said here on Wednesday that separate competitions would be arranged while male and female students studying in the schools and colleges affiliated with BISE Faisalabad.

## LDA auctions 9 plots for Rs 103.9484 mln

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority on Wednesday held grand public auction of various plots at LDA Community Center were auctioned for Rs 8,800,000 per annum; A one kanal area residential plot No. 5 Block B in Jubilee Town was auctioned for Rs 42,770,400; Three Marla 44 Sq.Ft Commercial Plot No. 179-A/11 (Corner) Block F in Sabzar was auctioned for Rs 9,425,600.

Rs 13,500,000 per annum; Lease rights of 11 kanal five marla parking site located in Gulshan Ravi Civic Center were auctioned for Rs 8,800,000 per annum; A one kanal area residential plot No. 5 Block B in Jubilee Town was auctioned for Rs 42,770,400; Three Marla 44 Sq.Ft Commercial Plot No. 179-A/11 (Corner) Block F in Sabzar was auctioned for Rs 9,425,600.

## DC reviews polio eradication campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, Afzal Wazir on Wednesday supervised the polio eradication teams in various areas while convincing reluctant parents to administer polio drops to their children.

Under the supervision of the provincial government, a seven-day polio eradication campaign is underway in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Afzal Wazir on the third day of the vaccination campaign visited Naseer

Bagh Road, Regi, Hayatabad, Peshatkara, and other areas to oversee the polio eradication campaign. After meeting with hesitant parents and persuading them, he administered polio drops to children. Administrative officers in their respective areas also supervised polio eradication teams and convinced reluctant parents to administer polio drops to their children.

During the polio eradication campaign in Peshawar, a total of 901,985 children will be administered polio drops.



LAHORE: Nazim-e-Aala of Jamia Naecmia, Allama Dr. Raghیب Hussain Naecmi addresses during the All Parties Conference on Mastung Tragedy, in Lahore.



## Minister spells out govt strategy to meet energy needs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali has spelled out the government strategy to meet the future oil and gas needs in an efficient manner by stepping up hydrocarbon exploration activities in potential areas across the country.

"We are coming up with a policy for tight gas, policy for shale gas, we have already announced bids for onshore exploration and in December for offshore exploration," he said in an interview with the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on sidelines of the ADIPEC Conference at Abu Dhabi.

He said Pakistan has

a strong presence at ADIPEC this year, with around 10 companies from the exploration, oil marketing, and related sectors. "Indeed, it's a promising start, and on the very first day, we have seen a remarkable response. All our companies are actively engaged, and there's substantial interest in their offerings. The presence here is off to an excellent beginning," he said.

Muhammad Ali laid emphasis on decarbonisation and electrification, saying that they were critical components of Pakistan's energy strategy for the future. "While these aspects may not have received sufficient

attention in the past, there is now a strong focus on them.

Initiatives include energy conservation, electrification efforts, and the re-purposing of natural gas for power generation to electrify appliances and vehicles," he said. He said that on the decarbonisation front, the Climate Ministry was actively engaged in setting up carbon fund while the Energy Ministry was developing a comprehensive carbon policy.

"The ultimate goal is to unite all stakeholders and maximize the potential of these initiatives," he added.

He outlined three key priorities for the energy sector.



**PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali cutting ribbon to inaugurate Mega International Livestock & Fisheries Expo organized by the provincial livestock department.**

## Cao Ke for knowledge sharing, technology transfer between China and LCCI

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday celebrated the 74<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

The ceremony was attended by Acting Consul General of China Cao Ke and LCCI President Kashif Anwar spoke on the occasion while Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President Pakistan (China) Shandong Chamber of Commerce Chen Qianjiang, Vice President Pakistan Chinese Federation He

Yubing, Vice President Pakistan Chinese Chamber of Commerce Chen Qianjiang, President Pakistan Tax Bar Association Rana Munir Hussain and LCCI Executive Committee members were also present.

Acting Consul General of China, Cao Ke, emphasized the significance of Lahore as a pivotal city and lauded the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its commendable efforts in promoting trade and industry. He expressed a strong desire for knowledge sharing and

technology transfer between China and LCCI, highlighting the importance of mutual learning. Furthermore, Cao Ke noted that this year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative, along with the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He underscored CPEC's transformative impact on Pakistan's economy, with a substantial \$24.4 billion investment, and said that the ML1 Project will be launched soon.

## Stage-II of Kurram Tangi dam project to generate 65 MW

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kurram Tangi Dam Project will generate low-cast 65 megawatt (MW) electricity besides storing 1.2 million acre feet (MAF) water for agriculture purpose.

The proposed project would be constructed on Kurram River in North Waziristan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, about 14 Km upstream of Kurram Garhi Headworks and 32 Km North of Bannu City, sources told APP here Wednesday.

They said the project would irrigate 38,000 acres of new land in addition to supplementing 278,000 acres of existing land.

Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has already signed an agreement worth Rs.776.3 million to a joint venture for consultancy services for Stage-II of

Kurram Tangi Dam Project. The joint venture is comprised of four firms – one from Turkey and three from Pakistan – with DOL SAR as the lead firm. The contract comprises of consultancy services for detailed engineering design, preparation of updated PC-I, PC-I for land acquisition and resettlement plan, and tender documents of the project. They said the Asian Development Bank was providing financial assistance for the consultancy services of the Stage-II which would complete in 22 months period. It is worth mentioning that WAPDA has already been implementing Stage-I of Kurram Tangi Dam Project. The Stage-I will irrigate 16,380 acres of land and generate about 18.4 MW of electricity.



**MULTAN: A large number of women standing in a queue waiting their turn outside Utility Store to purchase grocery items at Rasheedabad.**



**LAHORE: Zubair Motiwala Chief Executive Officer TDAP addressing the 39th Pakistan International Handloom Carpet Exhibition 2023 seminar at PC Hotel.**

## Carpet industry needs innovation to boost exports: Motiwala

LAHORE (APP): Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP) Chief Executive Officer Zubair Motiwala said on Wednesday that handmade carpets had a unique identity as a culture of Pakistan in the world and there was dire need to bring innovation in this sector to boost exports.

He was talking to the media after inaugurating the three-day 39<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of Handmade Carpets organized by the Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) at a local hotel. As many as 65 stalls have been set up in the exhibition while a large number of foreign buyers hailing from 25 countries are participating in the exhibition. TDAP Chief Zubair Motiwala along with PCMEA Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf and others made a detailed visit to the stalls in the exhibition and appreciated quality and beautiful designs of handmade carpets.

Zubair Motiwala said

that last year, the export volume of this industry was US \$ 72 million which needed to be increased and "For this, we are offering our financial and technical support."

He added that those who had kept alive this industry which was considered to be the hallmark of Pakistan deserved appreciation and it was a highly specialized sector and this industry was known in the world as the culture of Pakistan. He said, "It is not that this art will die but we have to move towards innovation with the changing times. Manufacturers should be aware of new trends, choose colours and materials according to the demand in the world and through this the exports can be increased manifold." Carpet Association's SVC Usman Ashraf said that foreign buyers from 25 countries were participating in the exhibition and hoped that there will be large-scale export deals in this three-day exhibition, which will strengthen our industry.

## Rupee gains Rs 1.04 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs1.04 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 284.68 against the previous day's closing of Rs 285.72.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.25 and Rs 285 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased Rs 1.23 to close at Rs 298.33 against the last day's closing of Rs 299.56, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paisa to close at Rs1.91, whereas a decrease of Rs1.25 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs343.97 as compared to the last closing of Rs345.42.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 28 paisa each to close at Rs77.50 and Rs 75.89 respectively.

## PSX stays bullish, gains 323 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Wednesday and gained 323.03 points, showing positive change of 0.69 per cent, closing at 47,079.83 points against 46,756.80 points the previous day.

A total of 330,249,094 shares valuing Rs.7,304 billion were traded during the day as compared to 213,188,395 shares valuing Rs. 6,094 billion the previous day.

As many as 342 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 172 of them recorded gains and 134 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 36 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 150,526,082 shares at Rs.1.39 per share, Pak Refinery with 12,978,337 shares at Rs.15.89 per share and Bankislami Pak with 11,208,643 shares at Rs.17.59 per share.

## Governor inaugurates Mega International Livestock Expo

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Wednesday inaugurated Mega International Livestock Expo that was organized by the provincial livestock department.

The event attracted a significant turnout of farmers, landowners, stakeholders and representatives from various government and non-government organizations besides private companies.

The two-day International Livestock Expo featured over 60 diverse stalls showcasing agricultural machinery, fertilizers, seeds, dairy

equipment, livestock and crop disease prevention solutions, vaccines, modern farming technologies, dairy products, livestock aqua feed, medicines, seeds and more. The primary objective of the expo is to raise awareness among farmers about livestock and agriculture production and its relationship to climate change. It also aims to promote crop production and make the province self-sufficient in meat, milk and egg production.

The expo was also aimed to provide valuable information and guidance to farmers, investors, and entrepreneurs looking to expand or start new ventures.

## 125 pc more cotton bales expected this year: ACS

MULTAN (APP): Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab Saqib Zafar said the government hoped to get 125 per cent more bales of cotton this year as compared to last year.

He said, that in view of the food security, the target of wheat production in Punjab has been set at 50 million tons this year. He was talking to farmers after inspecting the cotton crop in Samina Sadat village in DG Khan.

The ACS informed that strict instructions have been issued to stop smuggling of fertilizer through DG Khan and the government officials who facilitate smuggling will be dismissed from their jobs.

## SCCI says: Traders' role is vital in economic progress and prosperity of the country

PESHAWAR (Online): President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fuad Ishaq said businessmen are the backbone of the economy and a leading contributor to the economic progress and prosperity of the country.

The SCCI chief recalled the business community of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had rendered incalculable sacrifices in war against terrorism, which are exemplary and their no precedence in any part of the world.

He said the business community required proper patronage of the government and relief to mitigate hardships of the crisis and war-hit traders' in KP province and to continue their share in economic prosperity and development.

Fuad Ishaq was speaking to a traders delegation led by SCCI's former president and Anjuman E Tajaran Khyber Pakhtunkhwa president Haji Muhammad Afzal here at the chamber's house on Wednesday.

The SCCI's vice president Ijaz Khan Afridi also present in the meeting.

The delegation consisted of presidents and office bearers of different bazaars and markets traders union and associations.



**Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Economic Affairs presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.**

## SNGPL conducts raids against gas theft, other violation cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Task Force of Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) on Wednesday conducted raids against gas theft and other violation cases in various localities of the federal capital including Murree, Fateh Jang, Attock, and Wah Cantt. During the ongoing campaign FIRs against number of individuals involved in tampering with commercial meters were registered besides the imposition of heavy fines on the violators, said a press release.

The Official Spokesman of SNGPL said that a fine of over Rs 0.5 million was imposed on commercial consumers in a single raid.

The spokesman revealed that under the Gas Theft Control and Recovery Act 2016, stringent penalties are being enforced against

those causing damage to Sui Gas pipelines or related installations and those involved in gas theft.

Under this Act, individuals involved in damaging gas pipelines can face up to 14 years in prison and a fine of Rs 10 million. Similarly, individuals involved in damaging commercial or industrial meters can be sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined Rs 5 million, while those involved in maliciously wasting gas can face 7 years in prison and a fine of Rs 5 million.

Individuals involved in damaging the gas distribution network through sabotage can be sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined Rs 3 million, and those involved in damaging gas transmission lines through sabotage can be sentenced to 14 years in prison and fined Rs 1 million.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where three ships namely, Maersk Kinloss, MSC Elaine and Zoe Schulte carrying Containers and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Ocean Bright, Hyde Park and Mirela carrying Steel Coil, Chemicals and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

A total of seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Elaine, Maersk Kinloss and Spottalare expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo throughput of 128,804 tonnes, comprising 98,748 tonnes imports cargo and 30,056 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 4,904 Containers (3,136 TEUs Imports and 1,768 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are eleven ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them four ships, Sky Blue, Al Soor-II, Mirela and Hyde Park & another ship MSC Jemima carrying Palm oil, Gas oil, Coal, Chemicals and Containers are expected to take berths at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Oil Terminal, Bulk Terminal.

## Railways charge officials to recover outstanding dues from federal, provincial depts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has charged its officials concerned to initiate the procedure to recover outstanding dues from the federal and provincial departments.

The Ministry of Railways has asked the federal and provincial departments to pay their outstanding dues worth billion of rupees on account of using its land and other services, within the least possible time as the department was facing economic issues, an official in the ministry told APP.

About the amount payable against the official said that over Rs 8,375 million (over 8 billion) are payable by different departments on account of using its land and various services.

He said the federal departments had to pay an amount of Rs 709.084 million, provincial departments Rs1980.217 million and autonomous and private bodies Rs 5685.736 million.

To a question, he said Pakistan Railways has upgraded as many as 167 vulnerable un-manned level crossings to manned level crossings, out of 550 which are identified by the department over the entire railway network.

"The relevant provincial government provided the finances to



**QUETTA: A delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajiran Balochistan led by its Raheem Agha meeting with Caretaker Provincial Home Minister Capt (retd) Zubair Jamali.**



## Turkiye says Ankara attack assailants trained in Syria

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkiye said on Wednesday that two suspected Kurdish militants who died while staging a weekend attack in Ankara had been trained in Syria.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Turkiye now reserved the right to strike a broader range of Kurdish targets in both Syria and Iraq in retaliation for Sunday's attack.

Turkish police shot dead one of the assailants while the other died in an apparent suicide blast outside Turkiye's interior ministry. Two policemen were injured in the incident.

"As a result of the work of our security

forces, it has become clear that the two terrorists came from Syria and were trained there," Fidan said in televised comments.

"From now on, all infrastructure, large facilities and energy facilities belonging to (armed Kurdish groups) in Iraq and Syria are legitimate targets for our security forces."

A branch of the Kurdish PKK militia — listed as a terror group by Turkiye and its Western allies — claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack, the first in Ankara since 2016. Turkiye conducted air raids against PKK targets in Iraq hours later. Fidan's comments suggest that

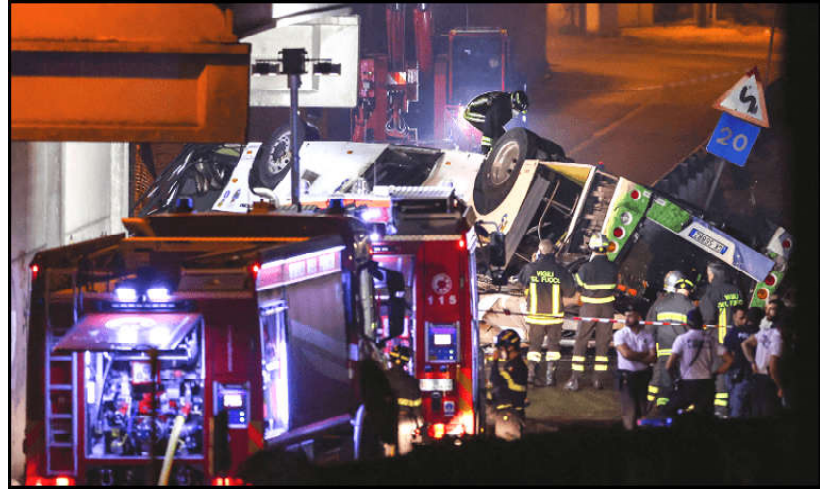
Turkiye could expand its air strikes to include war-torn Syria.

Syria's Kurds have carved out a semi-autonomous area in the country's north and east.

US-supported Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) — the Kurds' de facto army in the area — led the battle that dislodged Islamic State group fighters from the last scraps of their Syrian territory in 2019.

But Turkiye views the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) that dominate the SDF as an offshoot of the PKK.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly threatened to expand attacks against the YPG.



Firefighters and rescue personnel work near a coach after it crashed off an overpass near Venice, in Mestre, Italy.

## US House ousts Speaker Kevin McCarthy in historic first

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives voted on Tuesday to oust Speaker Kevin McCarthy from his job, as infighting among his fellow Republicans plunged Congress into further chaos just days after it narrowly averted a government shutdown.

The 216 to 210 vote marked the first time in history that the House removed its leader, driven by a relatively small group of right-wing Republicans. No clear successor has emerged.

The rebellion was led by Representative Matt Gaetz, a far-right Republican from Florida and McCarthy antagonist who accused the party leader of not doing enough to cut federal spending.

It was the latest moment of high drama in a year that has seen the Republican-controlled House bring Washington to the brink of default and the edge of a partial government shut-

down.

McCarthy's party controls the chamber by a narrow 221-212 majority, meaning that it could afford to lose no more than five votes if Democrats united in opposition.

That happened on Tuesday, as eight Republicans voted with 208 Democrats to remove McCarthy from his post.

In debate on the House floor, Gaetz and a handful of allies criticized McCarthy for relying on Democratic votes to pass temporary funding that headed off a partial government shutdown.

"We need a speaker who will fight for something — anything — other than staying on as speaker," said Republican Representative Bob Good.

McCarthy's supporters, including some of the chamber's most vocal conservatives, said he had successfully limited spending and advanced other conservative

## US moves to reunite Afghan children

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States assured Afghans on Tuesday that the reunification of Afghan children who remain separated from their parents abroad remained a top priority for the Biden administration.

On Sept 25, the US Department of State released an updated version of the Family Reunification Form, which allows Afghan parolees under the age of 18, who entered the United States without their parents, to apply for relocation of their parents and eligible siblings still living overseas.

"The United States has an enduring commitment to the people of Afghanistan," US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said. The United States, he said, would also continue its efforts to provide information and tools to those individuals seeking to reunite with their family members.

"Family reunification remains an extremely high priority for Afghans themselves and for the communities who care about them," the US official added.

## EU takes step towards overhauling migration system

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: European Union countries on Wednesday sealed a deal on how to handle irregular migration at times of exceptionally high arrivals, taking a step towards overhauling the bloc's asylum and migration rules before a pan-European election next year.

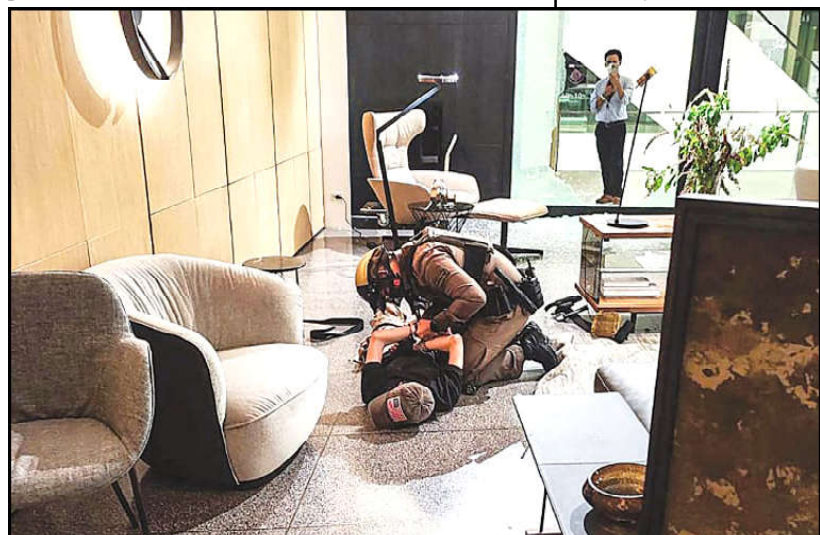
Envoys of the bloc's 27 member states reached the agreement on Wednesday after overcoming the latest spat between Italy and Germany over charity ships picking people up in the sea as refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa try to cross the Mediterranean for Europe.

The 27 countries will now negotiate further with the European Parliament. They hope to have a functioning migration system in place ahead of a 2024 Eu-

ropean Parliament election that takes place across the union of some 450 million people.

"Now we can move on with the negotiations," said Swedish Migration Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard. "It is important to get the pact in place, to ensure order at the EU's external borders and reduce flows."

Under the agreement, countries such as Italy that receive many Mediterranean arrivals could speed up asylum procedures and ask for swift help from EU peers, including financial aid and relocations. The EU has been seeking to reform its asylum system since more than a million people reached its shores in 2015, catching the bloc by surprise and overwhelming countries of first arrivals such as Greece and Italy.



BANGKOK: This handout photo from the Royal Thai Police shows the arrest of a 14-year-old shooting suspect at the Siam Paragon shopping centre.



This year's Nobel Prize is awarded in 2023 to Mounqi G. Bawendi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge USA, Louis E. Brus, Columbia University, New York USA and Alexei I. Ekimov, Nanocrystals Technology Inc., New York USA, for discovery and synthesis of quantum dots. On the left Professor Johan Aqvist and on the right Heiner Linke, Nobel Committee for Chemistry, Royal The Academy of Sciences.

## Nobel Chemistry prize awarded for discovery of quantum dots used in LED lights

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Scientists Mounqi Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for "the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots", which illuminate computer monitors and television screens and are used by doctors to map tumours.

"The Nobel Laureates... have succeeded in producing particles so small that their properties are determined by quantum

phenomena. The particles, which are called quantum dots, are now of great importance in nanotechnology," the Nobel Committee for Chemistry said in a statement.

"Researchers believe that in the future they could contribute to flexible electronics, tiny sensors, thinner solar cells and encrypted quantum communication." Nanoparticles and quantum dots are used

in LED lights and can also be used to guide surgeons while removing cancer tissue. The more than century-old prize is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and is worth 11 million Swedish crowns (\$997,959).

Earlier on Wednesday, the academy appeared to have inadvertently published the names of the three scientists it said had won this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry.

## At least 23 Indian soldiers missing in flash flood

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: The Indian army said on Wednesday that 23 soldiers were missing after a powerful flash flood caused by intense rainfall tore through a remote valley in the mountainous northeast Sikkim state.

"Due to sudden cloud burst over Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim, a flash flood occurred in the Teesta River... 23 personnel have been reported missing and some vehicles are reported submerged under the slush," the army said in a statement. "Search operations are underway."

The remote area lies close to India's border with Nepal, and Lhonak Lake sits

at the base of a glacier in the snowy peaks that surround Kangchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain. The army said water released upstream from the Chungthang dam meant the river was already more than 4.5 metres (15 feet) higher than usual. A video released by an Indian army spokesman showed a thick torrent of raging brown water sweeping down a thickly forested valley, with roads washed away and power lines ripped down.

Flash floods are common during the monsoon season, which begins in June and normally withdraws from the Indian sub-continent by the end of September.

## Foreign troops must leave Maldives, president-elect Muizzu says

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Foreign military forces cannot stay in the Maldives, president-elect Mohamed Muizzu told a rally celebrating his victory in closely watched weekend presidential elections that are expected to redraw ties with India and China.

Muizzu, who beat incumbent President Ibrahim Solih in a second-round runoff on Saturday, is backed by a coalition known to be close to China, and championed an "India Out" campaign a few years ago, against a small unit of Indian military. "All the countries which agree to our pro-Maldives policy will be our close friends and allies."



Flooded street in Lachen Valley, in India's Sikkim state following a flash flood caused by intense rainfall.

## Trump 'gagged' after tirade against court official

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: The judge overseeing Donald Trump's civil fraud trial on Tuesday imposed a gag order — promising sanctions for any violations — after the former US president used social media to lash out against the judge's top law clerk.

Justice Arthur Engoron of the New York state court in Manhattan told lawyers for Trump and New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought the fraud case, that attacks on his staff were "unacceptable, inappropriate and will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

Acting on the second

day of testimony in the trial, the judge forbade both sides from speaking about his staff, and threatened "serious sanctions" if anyone did. "Consider this statement a gag order," Judge Engoron added.

James has accused Trump, his two adult sons, the Trump Organisation and others of inflating asset values over a decade to secure favourable bank loans and insurance terms, and exaggerating Trump's own riches by more than \$2 billion. The trial could lead to the dismantling of Trump's business empire as he seeks to regain the presidency in 2024.

## Mexico's Sheinbaum handily leads 2024 presidential race, poll shows

**Monitoring Desk**  
MEXICO CITY: Mexico's Claudia Sheinbaum, the presidential candidate for the country's ruling leftist party and a close ally of the current president, is now expected to easily win the 2024 election, an opinion poll showed on Wednesday.

Sheinbaum, candidate for the National Regeneration Movement (MORENA) founded by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, nabbed 50% of support in a four-way race of top contenders.

## Iranian girl in critical condition after alleged encounter over hijab

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: An Iranian teenage girl is in critical condition in hospital, two prominent rights activists told Reuters on Wednesday, after falling into a coma following what they said was a confrontation with agents in the Tehran metro for violating the hijab law.

Armita Geravand's case is highly sensitive, raising concerns the 16-year-old might face the same fate as Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman whose death in a coma last year in the custody of morality police sparked months of nationwide protest. While authori-

ties have denied claims by rights groups that Geravand went into a coma on Sunday after a confrontation with officers enforcing the Islamic dress code, Iranian-Kurdish rights group Hengaw posted her picture unconscious at a Tehran hospital where she was taken after the incident.

There was no immediate response from Iran's interior ministry to a request for comment about the incident. "We are following her case closely. She is in a coma at the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital and her condition is critical."

## Ghana protesters want central bank governor resign

**Monitoring Desk**  
ACCRA: Thousands took to the streets of Ghana's capital Accra on Tuesday demanding the central bank governor be removed for what they say is the mismanagement of the economy during the worst debt crisis in a generation.

The demonstrations are the latest show of frustration with rising living costs, joblessness, and hardship in one of West Africa's largest economies. Similar multi-day protests gripped the capital last month. The crowd marched to the central bank's head office under the watch of riot police, blaring reggae from speakers and calling for bank governor Ernest Addison and his two deputies to resign.

## Venice mourns after 21 killed in bus accident

**Monitoring Desk**  
MESTRE: Flags flew at half-mast over Venice on Wednesday after 21 people including a toddler were killed when a bus careered off an overpass and caught fire.

"The bus flipped upside down. The impact was terrible because it fell from over 10 metres (32 feet) landing next to railway tracks below, said Mauro Luongo, Venice's fire brigade commander.

The dead are thought to be mostly tourists returned from Venice's historic centre to a camping site on Tuesday evening. Fifteen others were injured in what Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro described as "an apocalyptic scene".

Firefighters said the bus was electric, despite the Italian interior minister ear-

lier saying it ran on methanol.

They spent hours extracting bodies from the charred remains of the bus, which was finally removed from the site in the early hours of Wednesday.

"Among the difficulties was the fact that the bus was electric so it had batteries. Unfortunately, they caught fire on impact," said Luongo. "That's why operations took a little longer to remove the vehicle."

Luca Zaia, the governor of the Venice region, confirmed the official death toll was 21, "including a one-year-old child and a teenager".

Five Ukrainians were among the dead identified so far, alongside a German, a Croatian, a Frenchman and the Italian driver, he said.

## First Amendment protects Khalistan Referendum campaign, says US

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: The State Department on Tuesday said that the global Khalistan Referendum campaign run by pro-Khalistan Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) advocacy group is protected under the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

During a media briefing at the State Department, a spokesperson was asked to comment on the fact that there were tens of thousands of Sikhs living in US and there was a US-based advocacy group "Sikhs For Justice" managing the Khalistan Referendum in several Western democracies and what was Washington's stand on this as India has derided the campaign. The spokesperson

said he would not comment on the specifics but "broadly across the board" campaigns like Khalistan Referendum are protected under US laws.

He added: "Individuals have the right to freedom of speech, the right to peacefully assemble in the United States all of which are in line with our First Amendment protections and adherence, of course, to any appropriate federal and local regulations."

The spokesperson was also asked the question following the fallout from the assassination of pro-Khalistan Hardeep Singh Nijjar by the Indian government agents in Canada's biggest Gurdwara in British Columbia.

## Azerbaijan's Aliyev to skip EU talks with Armenia, angry with France - state media

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAKU: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has decided against attending an EU-brokered event in Spain where he could have held talks with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Azerbaijan state media reported on Wednesday.

Aliyev had been considering taking part in a five-way meeting in Granada, Spain, on Thursday with the leaders of France, Germany, Armenia and EU Council President Charles Michel.

The five were due to discuss the future of the Nagorno-Karabakh region after Baku took back full control in a 24-hour military operation launched on Sept. 19, and to review the progress of long-running but troubled peace talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Azerbaijan's state-run APA news agency, citing unnamed sources, said Aliyev had decided against attending however. There was no official confirmation that Aliyev would not go.

APA said Aliyev had wanted Turkey to be represented at the meeting, but that France and Germany

had objected, and said that Baku felt "an anti-Azerbaijani atmosphere" had developed among the meeting's potential participants.

In particular, APA cited what it said was discontent in Baku around a statement made by Michel and what it regarded as "pro-Armenian statements" by French officials and France's decision, announced on Tuesday, to supply Yerevan with military equipment.

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna held talks with Armenia's Pashinyan in Yerevan on Tuesday, the first trip there by a Western government minister since Azerbaijani forces retook Karabakh.

Azerbaijan's foreign ministry on Wednesday condemned what it said were unfounded comments by Colonna, who had voiced support for Armenia and its territorial integrity.

APA said that Azerbaijan would not attend any future talks that included France, but remained potentially open to possible three-way meetings with the EU and Armenia.

## Study finds more people are moving into high flood zones, increasing risk of water disasters

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Far more people are in harm's way as they move into high flood zones across the globe, adding to an increase in watery disasters from climate change, a new study said.

Since 1985, the number of the world's settlements in the riskiest flood zones has increased 122%, compared to 80% for the safest areas, according to a study in Wednesday's journal Nature by researchers at The World Bank. The authors looked at settlement extent and expansion using satellites instead of population, with the world's built-up regions growing 85% overall from 1985 to 2015.

"People are on a search for better lives and better jobs and then sort of get stuck in bad lands because that's what they can afford," said study co-author Stephane Hallegatte, a World Bank senior climate adviser and expert on disaster economics. He said they know it's dangerous when they arrive.

The problem is driven by middle- and low-income

countries, the study found. Richer countries like the United States and parts of Europe are seeing more growth in safer areas than flood-prone ones and the poorest nations haven't quite developed as heavily in flood-prone areas, it said.

China and Vietnam both saw their settlement extent more than tripling in the past 30 years, increasing far more than their dry land areas. Most countries, especially in East Asia, saw more settlements in regular flood zones and ultra high flood zones than in dry areas.

Libya, which suffered from devastating flooding last month, had an 83% increase in settlement extent in the worst flood zones. Pakistan, also the victim of catastrophic flooding both last year and this year, had an 89% increase.

What's happening is that as a nation grows a bit wealthier there's a change from rural to urban and people leave the country to go to cities, which are often near waterways that flood in places, said study lead author Jun Rentschler, a World Bank economist.





President Dr Arif Alvi addressing an event themed 'Rising Women 2023', organized by Women's Business Network (WBN), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad

## CJCS terms NASTP project of national, strategic importance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza on Tuesday, paid a momentous visit to the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), a strategic project led by Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The visit was aimed at highlighting the significance of this cutting-edge initiative and its potential to revolutionize the national landscape in the fields of aerospace, cyber and computing.

On his arrival at the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park, the distinguished guest was warmly received by Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Principal Staff Officers along with high level civil and military officials were also present at the occasion, a PAF news release said.

During his visit, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was given a firsthand glimpse of the state-of-the-art infrastructure, research & development centers, and innovation hubs dedicated to emerging & disruptive technologies.

The Air Chief elaborated on the park's vision to become one of the world's premier Aerospace, Cyber, and Computing clusters, fostering an environment of cutting-edge design, research and development.

Speaking at the occasion, the Chief of the Air Staff highlighted that National Aerospace Science and Technology Park under the patronage and support of the Government of Pakistan has evolved in a very short span of time through comprehensive planning, focused efforts and mutual collaboration. He extended his appreciation to General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff, for their invaluable cooperation, collaboration, and personal commitment, which played a pivotal role in bringing the true essence of the NASTP concept to fruition.

The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee termed National Aerospace Science and Technology Park as a project of national and strategic significance that would reap multi-dimensional benefits for the country. He emphasized that the NASTP project is poised to catalyze technological progress and enhance our national self-reliance. General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza praised the efforts of Pakistan Air Force and its skilled personnel in the achievement of this unprecedented milestone in record time. He also admired the dynamic leadership of the Air Chief, whose firm resolve and relentless efforts paved the way for the project to be completed at an unprecedented pace.

The National Aerospace Science and Technology Park is all set to serve as a hub for collaboration between academia, industry, and the armed forces in the pursuit of technological advancements. By leveraging the expertise and resources of the Pakistan Air Force, the project aims to drive innovation, nurture talent, and facilitate the development of indigenous aerospace capabilities. The visit of the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee to the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's pursuit of excellence in the aerospace, cyber, and computing domains.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan and Caretaker Health of Balochistan Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezaei meeting with Ambassador of Cuba Zener J. Caro Gonzalez

## Balochistan govt implements green color medicine packing

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Health Department has implemented the system of green colour packing of medicines used in government hospitals to ensure transparency and to prevent their misuse.

"Delivery of medicines in green packing will eliminate the unethical practice of using medicines for vested interests," said a press release issued by the health department here on Wednesday.

The statement said that green packaging of medicines will help prevent misuse of medicines in government hospitals, besides discouraging the drug mafia from playing with the lives of the people.

Green packaging includes anti-venom injections, anti-tetanus injections, life-saving drugs and other medicines. Balochistan Health Department and MSD officials played an important role in the green packaging of medicines.

It said that the system of procurement of medicines has also been centralized and to make it more transparent, districts are authorized to make payment of procured medicines.

PPHI warehouses in the districts will assist in the storage of drugs and delivery of drugs through Merck while various monitoring committees have been formed to keep checks and balances for the procurement, delivery and distribution of medicines, it added.

QUETTA (APP): The Japanese women tourists reached Pasi area of Balochistan to examine the sand art of the Pasi Sand Art Circle.

The renowned Pasi Sand Art Circle (PSAC) created stunning 10,500 square feet beach pattern 3D art on the seashore of the Pasi.

The Japanese tourists, upon their arrival at coastal belt, were welcomed by the famous sand artists Hussain Zeib, Bihar Ali Gohar and Zubair Mukhtar.

The artists of Pasi surprised the Japanese tourist delegation by creating a 3D beach pattern covering 10,500 square feet.

After seeing the pattern art, the Japanese group expressed their surprise and said that they could not imagine that such a talent could exist in such an underprivileged backward area.

The Japanese tourists, consisting mostly of female vloggers, praised the artists' work and promised to make the pattern design viral internationally.

## Pasi artist's sand art amazes Japanese tourists

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QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiq at a meeting regarding issues of traffic and its solution

## Climate change hits Pak elderly population most: George

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George on Wednesday at a seminar on Older People Day Tuesday said the devastating climate change impacts massively affected the elderly population of the country which was unable to protect itself from natural disasters. He was addressing the HelpAge International Pakistan national seminar held in collaboration with the Ministries of Human Rights (MHR) and Climate Change here, focusing on the theme "Climate Change and its Impact on Older People." The International Day of Older People observed annually on October 1st, serves as a platform to highlight the challenges faced by older individuals globally while celebrating their invaluable contributions to society. This year's event aimed to draw attention of climate change and the well-being of older people. George said the country lost many of its senior citizens due to natural calamities due to climate change and COVID-19 pandemic which left the society deprived off its mentors and guiding forces.

He said love for elders is the proof of our success in the world and raising awareness among the youth to prevent elder abuse is an important task.

He added that the government had initiated many positive initiatives to ensure the rights of the elderly people which should be promoted and endorsed by the society.

QUETTA (APP): Executive Director Sheikh Zayed Hospital (SZH) Dr. Syed Yasir Shah on Wednesday said that with the assistance of UNDP, the installation of oxygen plant has been started in Sheikh Zayed Hospital Quetta.

He expressed these views while inspecting the ongoing work in the control room of the oxygen plant along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) delegation.

Executive Director Sheikh Zayed Hospital Dr. Syed Yasir Shah further said that oxygen supply would continue uninterrupted in all wards of the hospital with the installation of oxygen plant and there would be plenty of oxygen for patients.

## Oxygen plant installed in SZH with help of UNDP: Yasir

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## At UN, Pakistan pushes for defeating terrorism by settling Kashmir issue

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called for addressing the unresolved conflicts, foreign occupation and denial of right to self-determination, especially in Kashmir and Palestine, in order to completely wipe out terrorism that has spread across the world. "To comprehensively defeat terrorism, we must address not only its symptoms but also its root causes," Ambassador Munir Akram told the General Assembly Legal (sixth) Committee during a debate on "Measures to eliminate International Terrorism" on Tuesday.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy spoke about terrorism's emerging trends and underscored

both the importance of agreeing on a legal definition and developing a comprehensive convention on combating the menace.

"Any definition of terrorism in the comprehensive convention must also take into account and reflect the new and emerging threats, including violent acts by white supremacists; far right extreme right wing, violent nationalist, xenophobic, Islamophobic, anti-Muslim and Hindutva groups and ideologies in various parts of the world," he said. The new convention, the Pakistani envoy said, must clearly distinguish between acts of terrorism and a legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign and colonial occupation.

## Ashrafi praises 40-year Afghan hospitality, assures for ongoing support in compliance with laws

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Wednesday hailed the forty-year-long hospitality extended to Afghan brothers and assured a continued commitment to their well-being in line with Pakistan's laws.

Addressing a joint press conference of Ulema and Mashaykh regarding the issue of non-Pakistani residents in the country, he underscored that possessing information about them was essential but should not lead to unwarranted complaints.

Ashrafi said the issue of non-Pakistani residents in the country posed a challenge. As neighboring nations, it was incumbent upon the Pakistan and Afghanistan governments to collaboratively address and resolve these challenges, he added.

He categorically stated that stability in Pakistan equated to stability in Afghanistan, and vice versa. He said the decisions on such matters would be made by the state, with unity among all the stakeholders in this regard.

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

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## President says: Pakistan needs more women in entrepreneurship for sustainable economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed the need for gender-responsive policies to ensure women's empowerment and said integration of the country's fifty percent population into entrepreneurship was important for a sustainable economy.

"Women need to be given equal opportunities in education, employment, and political domains to help them secure adequate space in mainstream entrepreneurship," he said at an event themed 'Rising Women 2023', organized by Women's Business Network (WBN).

President Alvi called for devising demand-driven policies including a supportive institutional environment and a workplace free from harassment to encourage women to pursue their businesses.

The president highlighted making the information about entrepreneurship more accessible to women and pointed out that only five percent of women availed of the reserved quota of business loans from the State Bank due to a lack of guidance. He stressed the implementation of family-friendly policies for women, such as opportunities for doing business from home and providing them a welcoming environment when they rejoin work after maternity leave.

The president emphasized providing household women with contemporary skill sets such as the usage of internet to meet the current trends of the world. "We need to train these women to adopt innovative entrepreneurial modes through the use of information technology to help them earn from their homes," he said.

He mentioned that women could be turned into a productive workforce if provided with equal opportunities in all fields of life. He said the religion Islam and the country's constitution ensured equal rights for women and supported their progress. Despite this, he regretted that absurd cultural norms prevailed in the country where women were denied the right to inheritance.

Ambassador of Austria in Pakistan Andrea Wickie spoke about the need to end gender discrimination and under-valuation of women's work. She said equal pay, financial literacy, and legal protection were significant for women's economic empowerment.

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QUETTA: A delegation of BNP Noshki led by Nazeer Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Rs 69 bln money-laundering identified in 5 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The customs authorities Wednesday informed the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue that inspection teams had identified Rs 69.5 billion money-laundering committed by 63 individuals during last five years.

Member Customs, Zeba Hai Azhar briefed the committee in a meeting, chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwala, almost seven accused attached with the solar equipment import-business were among those who smuggled billions of rupees to different countries.

The senate body took up various reports on the massive money-laundering by solar panel/equipment importers was also apprised that two accused had deposited Rs 26 billion in cash for import of solar panels.

The customs official said First Information Reports (FIRs) had been registered against six accused for their alleged involvement in the money laundering for causing dent to the national exchequers.

She highlighted that around 59 percent imports were done through green channels and most of the transition cleared in the Post Clear Audit a Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) department.

While briefing on the Deposits Protection Corporation (DPC) Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Inayat Hussain said that the funds of depositors had legal protection worth Rs 500,000. Earlier its limit was Rs 250,000 and the said amount limit fully covers 94 percent of depositors under the SBP subsidiary Deposits Protection Corporation (DPC).

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## DHIS-11 activated in TB centers of Balochistan: Dr Asif

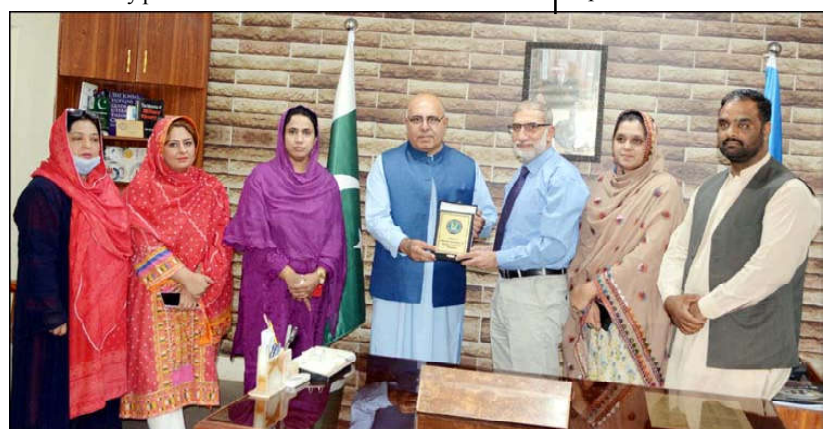
QUETTA (APP): Program Manager Provincial Tuberculosis (TB) Program Dr. Asif Shahwani on Wednesday said that District Health Information System (DHIS-11) has been fully activated in TB centers of all districts of Balochistan province. Now the TB data of the entire province has been digitized and simultaneously, the TB data at TB Headquarters and Islamabad can be viewed with the help of (DHIS-11) program, he said. He expressed these views while addressing on the occasion of District Health Information System (DHIS-11) training for the staff of TB centers of all districts of Balochistan here.

Dr. Asif Shahwani said that in the districts of

Balochistan, reporting and monitoring would be done through the use of District Health Information System (DHIS-11).

He said that DHIS provides a baseline data for implementation of district planning and monitoring of disease patterns, key indicators of preventive services, saying that responds to the information needs of the district TB program system performance monitoring function at both the district and provincial levels.

The overall objective of the feedback report from the DHIS program is to inform district managers and facility in-charges about performance and TB disease and treatment, to meet the critical health information needs.



QUETTA: Director NUML University Col (Retd) Nisar presenting shield to Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai during his visit

## NAB Balochistan organizes anti-corruption awareness event in Usta Muhammad

Independent Report QUETTA: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan Wednesday organized an anti-corruption awareness event at Government Boys High School, Usta Muhammad.

Special District Officer Education Sajid Hussain and District Education Female Asiya Khoso attended the event as guests, said a press release issued here.

The students and teachers of government and private institutions attended the program from different parts of the district.

In the Urdu speech competition, Beenish from Balochistan Public High School secured the first position, while Rimsha from Girls Irrigation Colony School clinched the second position.

In the English speech competition, Aliza from Government Girls High School Bhagya Khan Beladi clinched the first position, while Mahmood from Government Girls High School secured the second position.

Muhammad Irfan from Government Boys High School Usta Muhammad emerged as the first-place winner in the calligraphy competition.

QUETTA: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan Wednesday organized an anti-corruption awareness event at Government Boys High School, Usta Muhammad.

Special District Officer Education Sajid Hussain and District Education Female Asiya Khoso attended the event as guests, said a press release issued here.

The students and teachers of government and private institutions attended the program from different parts of the district.

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## Achakzai to address seminar "Valuable resources of Balochistan"

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan International Think Tank (BITT) and Friends of Universe Society Pakistan will hold a seminar titled "Valuable resources of Balochistan and solution to its economic problems" at Quetta Press Club on October 8, said Owas Jadoon Chairman of BITT. People from various walks of life will also be awarded for the best performances in their respective fields. Chairman of the PashunKhw Milli Awami Party, (PKMAP) Mahmood Khan Achakzai will grace the occasion as chief guest.

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QUETTA: Zamindar Action Committee Chairman, Malik Naseer Shahwani addresses to media persons during press conference.

## 16 transformers removed 327 more electricity connections of defaulters disconnected

Independent Report QUETTA: In all 327 more electricity connections of the defaulters were removed and 16 transformers removed during the crackdown continued against the defaulters and pilferers all over the province including Quetta.

The spokesman of QESCO informed that at least 5304 power connections have so been found involved in the power pilferage in the province while 1277 applications have been submitted against the pilferers in the police stations and Levies thanas.

Out of them, 380 FIRs have been registered against the power pilferers in the province as yet, the spokesman informed.

He said that aggregate Rs. 73 crore have so far been recovered on account of the pilfering and arrears of the electricity utility bills.

Over 64 crore rupees have been recovered from some 23,000 defaulters of the bills, he mentioned adding that over 9 crore have been recovered on account of the fine charged to the power pilferers.