

# Independent

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## CM grieved over death of Dr. Shakrullah: GoB issues red alert to tackle dangerous situation of Congo virus in Quetta

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has issued red alert to tackle the dangerous of the Congo virus in Quetta.  
 The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has issued standing directives to the provincial departments of Health and Livestock to take steps on emergent basis for stopping spread of the new variant of Congo virus in Quetta and other parts of the province.  
 He directed the concerned authorities to create awareness about the Congo virus among general public especially those associated with the sale and purchase

of animals. He also directed to make arrangements for spray in the grazing fields and dairy farms for prevention of the deadly virus.  
 In addition to this, the affected persons should be provided immediate medical assistance in case of symptoms as it can be fatal, adding the Chief Minister directed further.  
 Moreover, the Chief Minister also directed to the district administrative officers and authorities of Livestock and Health departments to visit the dairy farms and cattle markets and provide awareness to the masses there.  
 Meanwhile, the caretaker Chief Minister

Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed deep grief, sorrow and condolence over death of Dr. Shakrullah due to Congo virus.  
 In an official statement issued here, the Chief Minister said that Dr. Shakrullah paid tributes to the late doctor and said that he was admitted in Agha Khan Hospital Karachi.  
 He also mentioned that three doctors, one consultant, a staff nurse and two paramedical staff members had been shifted to Karachi by air ambulance.  
 He said that the treatment of Congo virus patients is continued on expense of the provincial government. The Chief Minister said that a special ward has been established for the Congo virus patients and suspects in the Sandeman Hospital. He also mentioned that necessary SOPs had been issued soon after reporting of the Congo virus cases in the Sandeman Hospital. Meanwhile, the caretaker Chief Minister summoned a high level meeting on the present situation of Congo virus in Quetta today (Monday).  
 According to an official hand out issued here, the situation of Congo virus as well as the steps taken for its prevention and other related issues would be discussed in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) hold placards and Philistine national flags during Al-Aqsa Million March to express their solidarity with Palestinians in Federal Capital. (Inset) Chief of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) Saad Hussain Rizvi lead by Al-Aqsa Million March.



DOHA: Chairman JUI-F Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman in a group photo with the Leader of Hamas Ismail Haniyeh and others.

## 'Muslims must unite against Israel's atrocities', Hamas chief tells Fazl

ISLAMABAD (INP): ISLAMABAD: With Israel continuing its relentless bombing of the Gaza Strip, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman met Palestinian resistance group Hamas's leader Ismail Haniyeh and former chief Khaled Mashal in Qatar on Sunday.  
 The JUI-F chief is in Qatar where he is expected

to reach out to the Arab world leadership to find a way to provide aid to Gaza which has been facing a dire humanitarian crisis due to the ongoing Israeli bombing of the strip following the October 7 attack by Hamas.  
 Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has urged all the Muslim countries to give all kinds of support to the Palestinians.  
 Addressing a gathering of JUI-F workers in Qatar, he said that he was doing all out efforts to highlight the Palestine issue in Pakistan, said a press release issued here Sunday.  
 In this regard, meetings were held in each province, which was also participated by the representative of Hamas in Pakistan.

## Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo removed: Nawabzada Khalid Magsi elected unopposed as BAP's President

Newly elected President nominates Senator Kohda Babar as BAP's secretary Information and spokesman; vows to remain connected with same spirit playing role in Pak politics in future

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: The senior leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and former Member National Assembly, Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi was elected as central President of the party (BAP) unopposed.  
 The election of Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi was made as President of BAP during the meeting of central council of the party held at Balochistan Boy Scouts Association Headquarters here on Sunday evening.  
 The founding leaders

of BAP including Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhotani, Senator Prince Agha Umar Ahmedzai, Ms. Rubina Irfan, Ms. Zubaida Jalal, Sardar Israr Fareen and others participated in the central council meeting.  
 The outgoing President and former Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo didn't turn up to attend the meeting.  
 Meanwhile, address-

ing the closing session of central council, the newly elected President of BAP Nawabzada Khalid Magsi said that the party was formed to represent the province at the federal level.  
 He said that BAP experienced very hard for five years besides witnessing certain infatuations during that period.  
 However, the party played historic role during the political crisis confronted the country in past, Mr. Magsi maintained.  
 He said that we would remain connected with the same spirit in future.

## Congo virus outbreak in Quetta: Governor calls for paying focus on safety of doctors, other medical staff

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to pay much focus on safety of the doctors and other medical staff serving at the forefront against Congo virus in the hospitals.  
 He said that the Congo virus is a fatal virus and at present, there is a dire need to take it serious and follow the precautionary measures for its prevention and further spread.  
 In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Governor said that all the concerned departments including Health and Livestock should play effective role for prevention of the virus

besides stopping its further spread in Quetta and other areas.  
 He said that by taking timely steps, the spread of Congo virus can be stopped. In this regard, the Governor also stressed the need to launch mass awareness campaign in view of the risk of its spread.  
 In addition to this, spray should be carried out for prevention of the virus at dairy farms and cattle markets, he maintained.  
 He urged the media persons to play effective role for prevention of the virus. The Governor prayed for the departed soul of Dr. Shakrullah who died of Congo virus in Karachi.

## Govt firmly believes in freedom of press & expression: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): He appreciated the role of the Independent Urdu in promoting digital Urdu journalism in Pakistan, besides providing quality contents to its audience through different means.  
 "The platform has contributed significantly to the progress of digital Urdu journalism in the country," he remarked on the occasion while expressing best wishes for the media outlet.  
 Addressing the 5th anniversary of Independent Urdu, the minister congratulated the management and staff of the media outlet on achieving a milestone in its five-year journey.



HYDERABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi talking to media persons during the PM Youth Skill Development Program held at Sindh Museum.

## Young doctor shifted to Karachi from Qta dies of Congo virus

7 doctors & medical staff shifted to Karachi

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: A young doctor died of Congo virus in a private hospital of Karachi on Sunday morning.  
 The spokesman of Health Department, Dr. Waseem Baig confirmed that Dr. Shakrullah was shifted to Karachi by air ambulance for treatment of the Congo virus from Quetta on Saturday.  
 Besides him, seven others including four doctors, two paramedics and a staff nurse contracted the virus were also shifted to Karachi in view of their serious condition.  
 All of them were admitted in Agha Khan Hospital for the advance treatment.

## Govt decides to increase strategic reserves of petroleum

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker federal government has decided to increase the strategic reserves of petroleum.  
 According to media reports, the caretaker government has decided to increase the strategic petroleum reserves due to the situation in the Middle East, the strategic petroleum reserves will be kept by PSO.  
 Report quoted petroleum division sources as saying that there is an urgent need to increase fuel storage capacity. According to the sources, petroleum companies have to store petroleum products for 21 days, the government wants the strategic petroleum reserves to be for a period of at least three months, however, the final reserves and the period can be determined only after a careful assessment of the country's needs.

## Rallies held in I'abad in solidarity with Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (INP): Protest rallies to express solidarity with oppressed Palestinians were taken out in Islamabad Sunday. Hundreds of people took part in the rallies and chanted slogans against Israeli continued aggression and atrocities being perpetrated in Gaza.  
 They also called on international community to play its role and stop genocide of Palestinians.  
 At the United Nations, Pakistan has advocated the right of Palestinians to establish an independent and viable state within the borders of pre-1967, with Al-Aqsa as its capital.  
 Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York Munir Akram during General Assembly's Fourth Committee meeting said first and foremost a ceasefire is required in Gaza.  
 He said despite the UN General Assembly's overwhelming call for a sustained humanitarian ceasefire, Israel is continuing its brutal air strikes and ground invasion in Gaza. Ambassador Akram said war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed by Israel with complete impunity.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

## Need to increase trade with Afghanistan instead of confrontation Treatment being meted out with Afghan refugees to cast negative impact on Pak, Afghan relations: Chairman PkMAP

Mehmood Khan Achakzai alleges Pashto speaking people being disturbed under garb of operation against refugees; calls for preparing joint strategy with Afghan authorities for prevention of smuggling

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: The Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has alleged that Pashto speaking people are being bothered under the garb of operation against Afghan refugees all over the country, and added that the treatment being meted out with them (refugees) would cast negative impact on the Pak-Afghan relations. The Chairman PkMAP underlined the need to prepare a joint strategy with Afghan authorities for prevention of smuggling in the country.  
 He was addressing a crowded press conference



at the Quetta Press club on Sunday afternoon. He was flanked by the PkMAPs senior leaders including Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Abdul Qahar Wadhan, Syed Liaquat Agha and others.  
 Mehmood Khan Achakzai referred to the crackdown against the illegal immigrants, and said that arrests of refugees were never made in such a large number in history of the world.

## Forces nab 620 in operation against illegal immigrants

QUETTA (INP): Law enforcers have arrested 620 illegal immigrants in an operation launched in different areas of the capital of Balochistan province, according to figures released by police on Sunday. It said 116 illegal immigrants were arrested from City Division, 62 from Quaidabad Division, 323 from Saddar and 119 from Saryab.

## General Election to be held on time in a free, fair, transparent manner

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister of Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi, has said that the general election will be held on time in a free, fair, and transparent manner, as announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan.  
 He expressed these views while talking to the media after the inauguration of the Government College of Technology Hyderabad as the assessment center for

the Skill Verification Program (Takamol) here on Sunday. The Federal Minister said that Takamol was that institution in Saudi Arabia that was conducting vocational tests on students who were desirous of making a career in the vocational field and going to Karachi for such tests. However, with the efforts of the caretaker government, Takamol Center had been established in Hyderabad, and now Takamol would take tests on students.

## Govt committed to provide all facilities to protect people from Congo outbreak

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: Caretaker Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Jogezi, has said that the incumbent caretaker government was committed to providing all necessary facilities to protect the people from the outbreak of Congo.  
 These views were expressed by him while chairing a meeting held here on Sunday to review the situation about the Congo outbreak in Sandeman Provincial Hospital, Quetta here on Sunday. Meeting was attended by Secretary, Health Department, Government of Balochistan, Abdullah Khan, Director General, Health Services, Balochistan, Dr. Nur Qazi, Representatives of Livestock and Dairy Development

Department, Medical Superintendents of all Tertiary Hospitals of Quetta, WHO, Public Health Specialists, Disease Surveillance experts, and UNICEF representatives. The precautionary measures adopted by Health Department were thoroughly reviewed in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Khan, Secretary, Health Department said that the Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki, Caretaker Minister for Health, Dr. Nur Muhammad Jogezi and Chief Secretary Balochistan, Dr. Shakeel Qadir Khan have been watching the situation from the day first and the government has committed to providing all necessary facilities.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Ongoing threat

Pakistan continues to pay a heavy price in the fight against terrorism. Three attacks were witnessed in different parts of KP and Balochistan within hours of each other on Friday, and then a fourth in Punjab in the early hours the next day.

A police convoy came under an IED attack in KP's Dera Ismail Khan, leading to the deaths of five passers-by and injury to 24 others. In another bomb attack in a border town between Tank and D.I. Khan, which targeted a convoy of police and security forces, one soldier was martyred.

In Balochistan's Gwadar, an ambush on two security vehicles martyred 14 army soldiers — the year's deadliest attack on the military. Separately, two soldiers were martyred in a military operation in Lakki Marwat. While the country was still reeling from these incidents, a training air force base in Mianwali came under attack before dawn. The military said the incursion was successfully thwarted, that nine terrorists were killed and the only damage was to a fuel tanker and three grounded aircraft. In all, 17 soldiers were lost to this most recent spate of violence.

The Mianwali airbase attack has been claimed by the TTP-linked Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan, which was responsible for the last high-profile attack on the military in Zhob this July. The banned TTP is most likely the culprit in D.I. Khan, having stepped up its operations against security forces since a ceasefire agreement came to an end last November.

Fears abound of the insurgents fully regrouping, emboldened by the Afghan Taliban's takeover of Kabul in 2021. Unverified photos circulating after the airbase attack show American weapons were seized, which likely fell into the TTP's hands after the US troops' Afghanistan withdrawal. Although the Taliban deny it, most official and independent assessments indicate the TTP uses Afghan soil and has the new government's backing. The Gwadar ambush was claimed by the banned Balochistan Liberation Front.

The attacks have occurred as Pakistan carries out its repatriation plan for Afghans, which has been met with anger in Kabul. Our security apparatus will need to remain extra vigilant and flush out not just the militants but also their facilitators. We must comprehensively implement the National Action Plan against militants of all stripes, and identify and cut off financial streams that support terrorists. Border security must be strengthened.

In the case of the TTP, our efforts would need to take into account the complex dynamics of the regions where it operates, as well as the broader geopolitical implications, including ties with Kabul. The state must invest in the socioeconomic development of areas that are breeding grounds for such militant groups. Until we address the root causes, militants will continue to maintain the recently witnessed momentum of their nefarious activities.

## Two struggles



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

The year 1947 witnessed the emergence of two disputes — Palestine and Kashmir. Both remain unresolved. At the heart of both disputes is the unfulfilled right of two peoples to self-determination. Both are protracted cases of resistance to foreign occupation. And in the genesis of both conflicts, the underlying common factor is the British geopolitics of the time.

The Palestine dispute arose when, following the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, Britain, which had been given the mandate to govern Palestine, announced in 1917 its intent to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This announcement — the Balfour Declaration — stated that the new state would not prejudice the civil and religious rights of the non-Jewish communities living in Palestine. In 1947, Britain took the matter to the UN, where the General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, which decided to partition Palestine into the independent states of Israel and Palestine with Jerusalem placed under an international regime. Israel has consistently refused to honour the commitments given under the Balfour Declaration as well as the decision of the UN resolution, and has never allowed the Palestinians to form an independent and viable state of their own.

The dispute over Jammu and Kashmir arose because the people of this state were denied an opportunity to express their desire to join Pakistan or India on the eve of partition. Under the terms of

the Partition Plan of 1947, Jammu and Kashmir, being a Muslim-majority state and with borders contiguous with Pakistan, should have joined the latter. When the Hindu maharaja of Kashmir dalled, the tribals from Pakistan's frontier region rose up and liberated a segment of the state. At the maharaja's request, India landed its forces in the state on Oct 27, 1947. Lord Mountbatten, then governor general of independent India, persuaded the Indian government to refer the case to the UN, which decided that the matter would be resolved via a UN-supervised plebiscite. But the dispute remains unresolved because India has consistently refused to abide by the UN resolutions, and is not ready to accept third-party mediation or to resolve the conflict bilaterally.

The similarities between the two cases are striking because both disputes have territorial as well as religious dimensions. In both cases, the occupying powers have consistently defied the will of the international community expressed through UN resolutions. The two occupying powers also seem to learn how to sustain their illegal occupation of these territories from each other. Both enjoy firm US support. Naturally, there are also some differences. Palestine is one land which is claimed by two communities, the Palestinians and Jews. Around the creation of Israel in 1948, Jews from Europe were pulled into Palestine, and Palestinians who had lived in these lands for millennia were displaced from their homes. As for Kashmir, it was and remains a Muslim-majority Kashmiri population. However, since Aug 5, 2019, the Indian government has embarked on a project of changing the occupied territory's demographics by pulling in

non-Kashmiris from different parts of India and offering them domiciles and voting rights.

Pakistanis have always stood for the rights of Palestinians to have an independent and viable state of their own. To this date, Pakistan has not recognised Israel because of its illegal occupation of Palestine.

There have been voices in Pakistan, which believe that by not recognising Israel, we have become a target of Jewish lobbies in the US. Another argument is that the Indo-Israel nexus is working against the interests of Pakistan and Kashmiris. However, no government in Pakistan has accepted the call for recognition of Israel, and remains firmly committed to the two-state solution and the right of Palestinians to self-determination. There is, however, an expectation in Pakistan that our strong support for the Palestinian cause should be reciprocated by Arab support to the Kashmiris, because both are cases of the struggle for the right of self-determination and both are suffering brutalities and atrocities of occupying powers. As to how the future would unfold, it is self-evident that victims of oppression cannot be subjugated forever. In both cases, wars have been fought and several peace attempts made. Both peoples have shown remarkable resolve, courage, patience and perseverance to pursue their respective cause. However, it is important for both Palestinians and Kashmiris to pursue well-considered strategies that lead to freedom and victory over oppressors. Both can take heart from countless examples in human history, where sacrifices and dreams of freedom of some valiant leaders became a reality for future generations. — Courtesy Dawn

## Voices of Compassion: Advocating for Human Rights in Pakistan

By Ayesha Rafiq

In the tapestry of our world, each thread represents a unique culture, a distinct identity, and a shared dream of a better life.

The concept of human rights is the needle that weaves these threads into a harmonious whole, ensuring that the fabric of humanity remains unbroken and unblemished.

However, in Pakistan, a nation of remarkable diversity and rich history, the tapestry of human rights often bears the stains of suffering, reminding us of the urgent need for compassion and change.

Pakistan, like many nations, has faced a myriad of challenges throughout its history, from political strife to economic disparities.

Yet, amidst its struggle for stability and prosperity, the human rights of its people have often been neglected.

It is crucial that we, as global citizens, take a moment to reflect on the plight of those who suffer and advocate for a more inclusive and compassionate world.

One of the most pressing concerns in Pakistan is the widespread issue of gender inequality.

Women and girls often face discrimination, violence, and limited access to education and healthcare.

By neglecting their rights, we not only undermine their potential but also hinder the progress of the entire nation. Pakistan has incredible

women who have achieved greatness in various fields, but they are often the exception rather than the rule.

It is time to break free from the chains of gender bias and empower every Pakistani woman to realize her full potential.

The plight of religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan is another area that calls for our attention and compassion.

Despite being a nation known for its religious diversity, there are instances of persecution and discrimination against religious minorities.

Respect for the rights and beliefs of all citizens, regardless of their faith, is a fundamental pillar of human rights.

Tolerance and acceptance of diversity are the true hallmarks of a progressive society.

Furthermore, the education system in Pakistan faces serious challenges, leaving many children without access to quality education.

A lack of educational opportunities perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality, depriving the nation of the talents and skills of its youth. The right to education is a cornerstone of human rights, and its realization can pave the way for a brighter future for all Pakistanis.

In addressing these issues and advocating for human rights in Pakistan, it is essential to emphasize that we do so out of a

deep sense of compassion, not criticism.

Every nation faces its unique challenges and struggles, and Pakistan is no exception.

The people of Pakistan have shown remarkable resilience and strength in the face of adversity.

As citizens, we have the responsibility to stand with those who suffer and call for positive change.

Our collective voice can be a force for transformation, a catalyst for progress, and a beacon of hope for those who have been marginalized.

Let us work hand in hand with the people of Pakistan to build a society where human rights are respected, suffering is alleviated, and compassion is the guiding principle.

In conclusion, the suffering of people in Pakistan serves as a reminder that the struggle for human rights is ongoing and universal. Let us extend our hands in compassion, support, and advocacy, so that the people in Pakistan can experience a brighter, more equitable future.

Together, we can mend the tapestry of human rights and ensure that every thread, regardless of its color or texture, is cherished and celebrated in the global fabric of humanity. — *Writer is student of National Defense University (NDU), Pursuing a Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, Islamabad.*

## Commerce News



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing the ceremony organized by Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries.

### PIAF chairman stress structural reforms for sustainable eco. growth

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Faheemur Rehman Saigol has said the real answer to country's problems lies in the structural reforms, as there are a number of inefficiencies in tax collection, which must be removed. In a statement issued on Sunday, he observed that the tax compliance should be improved and tax base should be enhanced, which cannot be achieved with a single policy change, but through a systemic approach.

Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that businesses are already in a complicated

state-of-affairs, while anti-business actions against business community will not only add to the miseries of the business community but also promote trust deficit between the government and the business community.

He said that in the past instead of focusing on controlling under-invoicing, curbing smuggling and expanding the tax net, the FBR seems to be inclined to pressurize registered taxpayers, who are already suffering due to a high rate of sales tax, income tax, and custom duties by creating fictitious cases for recovery

of outstanding dues to meet revenue target.

The PIAF Chairman also called for building a structure in the country, which is in accordance with the requirements of time, as it is easy to weaken institutions but it takes a long time to rebuild them. Whatever appointments government makes to the heads of the institutions should be based on transparency and merit, he said. He said that the economy has just come out of the dark shadows but it is still facing the aftershocks and the businessmen are doing their best to make up the losses incurred during that period.

### Poppy growth down 95% in Afghanistan since Taliban ban: UN

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Poppy cultivation and opium production have plunged 95 percent in Afghanistan since Taliban authorities banned the crop, according to a UN report published Sunday.

Since returning to power in 2021, Taliban authorities have vowed to end illegal drug production in Afghanistan and in April 2022 banned the cultivation of the poppy plant, from which opium and heroin are made.

The report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) found that poppy cultivation has collapsed by an estimated 95 percent—from 233,000

hectares (575,755 acres) at the end of 2022 to 10,800 in 2023.

Opium production has followed suit, plummeting from 6,200 tons to 333 tons in 2023.

This year's estimated harvest amounts to 24-38 tons of exportable heroin, compared with 350-580 tons last year.

The UNODC warned of potential humanitarian consequences for many vulnerable rural communities due to the sudden contraction of Afghanistan's opium economy, as growers have had to turn to far less lucrative alternative crops.

### LESCO recovers over Rs 8.6m from 341 defaulters

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery), has recovered Rs 8.6 million from 341 chronic defaulters in all five districts — Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara — on the 53<sup>rd</sup> day of its recovery campaign.

LESCO spokesman told media the here Sunday that on the 53<sup>rd</sup> day, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun recovered outstanding

dues of Rs 1.23 million from 44 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 2.17 million from 48 defaulters in Eastern Circle respectively. Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Arsal and Tehsildar Cant. Sajjad Qureshi recovered Rs 0.96 million from 27 defaulters in Central Circle and Rs 0.03 million from 02 defaulters in South Circle, while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq.

### State Bank briefed on carpet sector's issues

LAHORE (APP): Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has arranged a meeting between State Bank and Pakistan (SBP) and Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) to discuss the difficulties faced by the exporters of handmade carpets and their concerns.

Chairman Naeem Khokhar and Vice Chairman Zafar Idris Soleja represented PCMEA, while its Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf, Senior Central Leader

Abdul Latif Malik, Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ijazur Rehman and others attended the meeting through video link.

PCMEA spokesman said here Sunday that Association's office-bearers conveyed their reservation to the SBP officials such as provisions on penalties and deductions for payments made after 60 days to the state bank, and demanded restoration of special status of 270-day credit condition for handloom carpets as well as increasing the time limit for delivery of CAD.

### Stable monetary policy leads to sustainable growth, attracting foreign investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said stability in monetary policy is a cornerstone of sustainable economic growth and an indispensable factor in attracting foreign direct investment.

Speaking at a conference on "Stability in Monetary Policy Pays Dividends" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said by maintaining a consistent and transparent monetary policy framework, nations can

create a robust economic foundation, stimulate investment, and foster innovation, ultimately leading to shared prosperity for their people, said a news release here.

He emphasized the critical role that stability in monetary policy plays in fostering economic growth and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

In today's interconnected global economy, maintaining a stable monetary policy framework is essential for promoting sustainable development and creating a favorable environment for both domestic and international investors, he

added. He said stability characterized by consistent interest rates, controlled inflation, and prudent fiscal management, provides a solid foundation for economic growth.

He said when foreign and local investors anticipate stable economic conditions, they are more likely to make long-term investments, expand their operations, and create job opportunities.

He said this confidence in the economic environment stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation, leading to increased productivity and overall economic prosperity.

### SCCI fundraiser for Palestine on 6<sup>th</sup>

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik has said that 2.2 million refugees in Gaza are suffering from severe humanitarian crisis due to the worst siege by Israel.

In a statement, Abdul Ghafoor Malik said that homeless and destitute Palestinian brothers and sisters are in a life and death struggle due to lack of basic necessities like food, water, medical aid and medicines.

### 82 power pilferers netted across the MEPCO region

MULTAN (APP): Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) teams have raided and caught 82 power pilferers during ongoing operations across the region. The task force teams have raided at various places and registered cases against 50 power pilferers, while nine power pilferers were arrested while stealing electricity. A Rs 5.6 million fine was imposed, and over Rs 1 million was also recovered from the power pilferers.



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing traditional items from stalls setup during Ten-Days 'Folk Festival Lok Virsa' at Lok Virsa.

### Amidst global challenges Chairman PHSA highlights urgent need for agricultural sector diversification

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday said in emerging global challenges, it has become increasingly evident that the diversification of our agricultural sector is the need of the hour to meet ever increasing food staple needs in the wake climate change.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said, "The world around us is

changing rapidly and climate change, population growth, and shifting people demands are reshaping the landscape of agriculture," said a news release issued here. "As agriculturalists, we are well aware of the challenges we face, from unpredictable weather patterns to the depletion of natural resources." "Embracing diversification in our agricultural practices is not just a choice; it is a necessity," he added.

## Ulema, Mushayekh express solidarity with Pak forces

LAHORE (APP): In a significant declaration, the Pakistan Ulema Council gathered over two hundred members of its Executive and Consultative Body to express solidarity with Pakistani forces in their fight against terrorism. The declaration, led by Central Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, highlighted the involvement of hostile powers, including India and its allies, in terrorist

incidents within Pakistan. The declaration called upon the international community to take immediate steps against India's continued support for terrorism and commended the Pakistani nation, army, and security agencies for their commendable response to recent terrorist incidents. Ulema, Mashayekh, and religious scholars from across the country voiced their support for Pakistan's Army and security agencies in the

battle against extremism and terrorism. The successful thwarting of a terrorist attack on the Mianwali PAF Airbase was observed as a point of pride. Furthermore, the Pakistan Ulema Council affirmed its endorsement of the Paigham-e-Pakistan narrative and decrees, and plans to hold Paigham-e-Pakistan Conventions nationwide. The declaration also emphasised that attacks on Pakistan's armed forces,

security institutions, government, and non-government installations are not permissible under any circumstances. Armed struggle by any individual, party, or group is not legally permissible in Pakistan, and the government reserves the right to take legal action against those who engage in such activities. Turning their attention to the dire situation in Palestine, the declaration expressed concern over Israel's siege of Gaza.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi presides over the meeting to review on window operation for facilitation of Investors and Industrialists.



LAHORE: A group photo of President Press Club Azam Chaudhry with Mayor of London Borough of Hounslow Afzal Kayani after the meeting at Press Club.

## Physiotherapy centre at Dolphin Police HQs becomes operational

LAHORE (APP): A Physiotherapy centre became operational at Dolphin Police headquarters, Walton, here on Sunday.

It would provide facilitation to Dolphin personnel, a spokesperson told APP here.

Centre head Physiotherapist Muhammad Abbas said that qualified physiotherapists would be present at the centre round-the-clock. He said physiotherapy would help patients get relief from pain of osteoporosis and

other body parts, and it would be possible to get rid of frozen shoulder and headache. It would provide help release tension.

He said that physiotherapy treatment to Dolphin personnel would help relieve pain, including soft tissues massage and stretching to relieve tension and spasm, joint mobilisations, corrective exercise, posture awareness, and advice on how to manage or overcome pain while performing Dolphins daily duties and activities.

## Crackdown on vehicles with tampered, fake number-plates

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has launched a crackdown on vehicles with fake number-plates in the provincial metropolis, authority's spokesperson told APP on Sunday.

He said that an auto-rickshaw with a fake number-plate was caught standing at Expo Chowk, with the help of Safe City cameras.

He said a team issued instructions to the Nawab Town police station to impound rickshaw and arrest the driver.

## Kidneys transplanted at Jinnah Hospital by using latest procedures

LAHORE (APP): Two cases of kidney transplant were successfully completed by using the latest procedures at Jinnah Hospital.

A team headed by Professor Dr Naveed Iqbal, Assistant Professor Dr Shabbir Chaudhry and Assistant Professor Dr Salman Arshad performed the task. After one-month stay at the hospital, both patients were discharged in a special ceremony here on Sunday.

Punjab Human Organ Transplantation Authority (PHOTA) Director General Dr. Shehzad Anwar attended the ceremony as the guest of honour. He congratulated the doctors and paramedical staff for

opting for new procedures and said that modern innovations have made it possible to provide best treatment to patients.

He said, "We are proud of our doctors and staff who work day and night to extend the latest treatment to patients. The operations will earn good name to Jinnah Hospital in medical history of the country." He stressed creating awareness among people about donating organs in the larger interest of humanity. "Transplant is a costly procedure which only rich people could afford, but now Jinnah Hospital has extended and opened the doors to the poor too, who could avail the facility at low rates.

## CM Naqvi reviews proposals regarding 'One roof one stop'

**Independent Report**

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday presided over a special meeting at the CM Office for establishing 'One Window Operation' in which proposals regarding 'One Roof, One Stop' solution for the investors and industrialists in Lahore were reviewed.

The participants in the meeting were informed that Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC), Punjab Industrial Estate

Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) and Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) would provide services in 'One Window Operation' Centre. The empowered officials of Local government, Environment, Housing and other departments would be present at the One Window Centre.

LESCO and Sui Gas counters would also be set up in the One Window Centre. Facility to obtain NOCs of land transfer,

map approval and environment would be available at the One Window Centre. The officials of One Window Centre would themselves fill up the form of applicants and the operation would be completed in five phases at the One Window Centre. A red mark would appear on the dashboard of the relevant Secretary in case of noncompletion of an action within 10 days. An Operational Review Committee and Steering Committee has been constituted for the One Window Centre.

## Safety of life, property top priority: SP

SARGODHA (APP): Superintendent of Punjab Highway Patrol Police Sargodha Region Akhtar Hussain Joyia said that the safety of people's life and property is the first priority of the force.

Talking to APP here on Sunday, he said that the main objective of Punjab Highway Patrol was to secure all the major highways of Punjab and provide all kinds of assistance to commuters.

He said that now the responsibilities of PHP include the arrest of outlaws, operations against illegal weapons and drugs.

## KP Govt unearths misappropriations in payments to PTI U-Tubers

PESHAWAR (APP): The internet users in Pakistan has swelled to a record 87.35 million in January this year, helping them to get all types of information on varieties of subjects including geopolitical development,

economic, social, sports and culture besides other day-to-day happenings in and around the globe on a single click on mobile phones.

In the wake of 4.4 million increases in the internet users during the last two years in the country, the number of active cellular mobile connections had

swelled to a record 191.8 million, which is equivalent to 80.5 percent of the total population of the country. Resultantly, the number of social media users' had registered an upward increase to record 71.50 million.

The data of social media platforms have revealed that 37.30 million people were using facebook, 71.70 million YouTube, 12.95 million Instagram, 16.51 million TikTok, 9.30 million LinkedIn, 4.65 million twitter and 25.70 million snapchat in the country.

## Preparations for General Elections in KP begins

PESHAWAR (APP): The preparation for the general election got under way all across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with a list of more than 5000 women teachers ready to give duty.

In this connection, a letter was issued by the Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to all the education officers to prepare the staff for the forthcoming general election to be held soon.

General elections will be held soon, the letter says. The list of teachers of the schools in the four towns of the city is ready, the letter said.

The list of teachers does not include IBN and email addresses; check the list of concerned education officers and add more information, as the letter issued on November 3 says, without mentioning the date of the election.

## International News

## Palestinian president presses US to secure Gaza ceasefire

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas demanded an immediate Israeli ceasefire at a meeting with top US diplomat Antony Blinken on Sunday, as Gaza's health ministry said dozens died in a strike on a refugee camp overnight.

Blinken, who has repeatedly dismissed the idea of a ceasefire by Israel for fear it would benefit Hamas, was making an unannounced visit to the occupied West Bank, as part of effort to try and ensure the Israel-Hamas war does not spread in the region. His visit to Ramallah took place as people sifted through rubble for victims or survivors at the Maghazi refugee camp in Gaza. "All night I and the

other men were trying to pick the dead from the rubble. We got children, dismembered, torn apart flesh," said Saeed al-Nejma, 53, adding that he had been asleep with his family in their single-storey house when the blast hit his neighbourhood.

A spokesman for the health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip said earlier on Sunday that the Israeli military had struck the camp overnight, killing at least 47 people.

In a separate attack, 21 Palestinians from one family, including women and children, were killed in Israeli strikes targeting Gaza overnight, the health ministry said. Reuters could not independently verify these accounts.

"We demand that you stop them from committing these crimes immediately," Abbas told Blinken, demanding an "immediate ceasefire" from Israel.

"There are no words to describe the war of genocide and destruction to which our Palestinian people are being subjected in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli war machine, without regard to the rules of international law," Palestinian news agency Wafa quoted Abbas as telling Blinken.

Foreign ministers from Qatar, Saudi, Egypt, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates met Blinken in Amman on Saturday and also pushed for Washington to convince Israel to agree to a ceasefire.



Demonstrators take part in a protest inside Charing Cross station following the 'London Rally For Palestine'.

## Gaza situation worsens as Israeli strike hits school

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA CITY: Israeli troops launched an operation in Gaza early on Saturday, including a strike on a UN school in which 15 people were killed, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

The strike on school was carried out by Israel even as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken faced a rising tide of anger in meetings with Arab foreign ministers.

Blinken reaffirmed US support for "humanitarian pauses" in the Palestinian territory to ensure desperate civilians get help, a day after Israel's hawkish Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the idea short shrift.

Blinken began the day

in Amman by holding talks with Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani of Qatar, a mediator between Tel Aviv and the Palestinians.

The talks come amid mounting Arab anger over the civilian death toll in Gaza, and increasing fears that other states would get involved.

In London, Berlin and other cities around the globe, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered to call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Speaking at a news conference in Amman about sparing civilians and speeding up aid deliveries, the top US diplomat said: "The United States believes that all of these efforts will be

facilitated by humanitarian pauses." Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi called for all sides to work together to "stop a catastrophe that will haunt the region for generations".

Washington has deployed a powerful fleet to the eastern Mediterranean and hopes that it has deterred Hezbollah from a full-scale attack on Israel, but border clashes continue.

A key focus of Blinken's visit to Israel on Friday was to persuade Netanyahu to enact "humanitarian pauses". Netanyahu said later, however, that he would not agree to a "temporary truce" with Hamas until it releases more than 240 prisoners in its custody since Oct 7.

## Russia says it test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile from a new nuclear submarine

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: The Russian military on Sunday reported a successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile designed to carry nuclear warheads from a new nuclear submarine.

The report comes as tensions are soaring between Russia and the West over the fighting in Ukraine. Adding to those tensions, President Vladimir Putin last week signed a bill re-

voking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban in a move that Moscow said was needed to establish parity with the United States.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that the Emperor Alexander III strategic missile cruiser fired the Bulava missile from an underwater position in Russia's northern White Sea, and hit a target in the far-eastern region of Kamchatka.

## 4.4m people stateless worldwide, says UN

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: The UN said on Saturday that 4.4 million people worldwide were known to be stateless, though the true figure would be significantly higher due to their relative "invisibility".

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, said statelessness had a "devastating impact" on those left without a nationality, as it called for more to be done to combat such exclusion.

## Shelling kills 15 civilians in Sudan, RSF claims gains in Darfur

**Monitoring Desk**

WAD MADANI: At least 15 civilians in Khartoum were killed on Saturday "when shells fell on their homes", a medical source said, as paramilitary fighters battling Sudan's army claimed gains in Darfur. The victims' bodies were taken to Al-Nau hospital in Omdurman, a district of greater Khartoum, the medical source told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Fighting since April between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah el-Burhan and his former

deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has raged in heavily populated areas.

The struggle between the rival generals has crippled essential services in Sudan and razed entire neighbourhoods of the capital and the vast western region of Darfur.

In nearly seven months of war, more than 10,400 people have been killed, according to a conservative estimate from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.



Debris of houses collapsed during an earthquake are pictured in Jajarkot, Nepal.

## Qatar says Gaza hostage releases need 'period of calm'

**Monitoring Desk**

DOHA: Qatar's foreign ministry said on Sunday that without a "period of calm" in Gaza its mediators would not be able to secure the release of Israeli hostages held there. "Any hostage release has to be linked to a period of calm that allows for the hostage release to work, which is something we have not seen for a while," Majed Al Ansari, Qatar's foreign ministry spokesperson told reporters.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday rejected U.S. calls for a temporary stop to Israel's offensive against Hamas to facilitate work to free more than 240 hostages seized by the Palestinian Islamist group. Israel would not pause its attacks unless the hostages held by the mili-

tants are freed first, Netanyahu said. The Gulf state of Qatar has, in coordination with the U.S., led mediation talks with Hamas and Israeli officials over the release of hostages since the militant group led a rampage into Israel on Oct 7, killing 1,400 people and bundling more than 240 others into Gaza. Since then, Israel has steadily escalated its assault on Gaza and its 2.3 million residents and overnight on Saturday struck by air, sea, and ground. Gaza health officials said on Sunday that more than 9,700 Palestinians, including 4,800 children have been killed in the war. Qatar's Prime Minister said on Sunday that the negotiations were at risk of failing because of Israel's attacks and misinformation circulating about the talks.

## Turkey's main opposition elects Ozel as new leader in local elections run-up

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) on Sunday elected Ozgur Ozel as its new leader, ending a 13-year term for incumbent Kemal Kilicdaroglu, as the country gears up for local elections next March.

Ozel, 49, has been serving as the CHP's deputy parliamentary group chairman since 2015 and has been a lawmaker since 2011. He announced his candidacy in September, after Kilicdaroglu and the CHP's painful defeat to President Tayyip Erdogan and his ruling political alliance in May presidential and general elections.

Ozel, a pharmacist by trade, received 812 of 1,366 possible votes at a tense, hours-long party congress in Ankara that took two rounds. "This is the greatest honour of my life," Ozel said after the results were announced, while thanking Kilicdaroglu for his work at

the party. "We are embarking on the road for local election victory," he added. "We have believed in turning hopelessness into hope, we are hopeful," Ozel said, surrounded by applauding party members and standing alongside Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu. Imamoglu supported Ozel in a push for change at the CHP that has long been bogged down by in-fighting.

After winning the 2019 municipal elections in Istanbul and ending Erdogan's years-long hold over the city, Imamoglu was seen as a potential new leader for the party and challenger for the presidency.

However, Kilicdaroglu chose to run himself against Erdogan in the May elections, despite several previous losses. After the vote, he came under fire for refusing to step down as the leader of the CHP, established by modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

## Netanyahu suspends Israeli minister over Gaza nuclear comment

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday disciplined a junior member of his cabinet who appeared to voice openness to the idea of Israel carrying out a nuclear strike on Gaza, where the war with Hamas is inflicting a spiralling Palestinian civilian toll.

Netanyahu's office issued a statement saying that the minister concerned - Heritage Minister Amihay Eliyahu, from a far-right party in the coalition government - had been suspended from cabinet meetings "until further notice".

Asked in a radio interview about a hypothetical nuclear option, Eliyahu had replied: "That's one way."

His remark drew swift condemnation from around the Arab world, scandalised mainstream Israeli broadcasters and was deemed "objectionable" by a U.S. official.



CHAMAN: Illegal Afghan immigrant crossing Pak-Afghan border to return to Afghanistan.

## Flood-affected areas Pakistan successfully secures approximately \$3b, approves 21 development projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Since the launch of Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (4RF) framework launched by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) successfully approved 21 development projects worth \$3 billion for flood-affected areas of Pakistan while securing maximum pledges committed in Geneva for flood 2022.

devastation due to torrential rains and flooding in most parts of the country, particularly in Balochistan and Sindh affecting 33 million people resulting in economic losses worth \$30 billion, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

In response, the government had devised a comprehensive 4RF framework, which proposed effective coordination and participation arrangements among federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, interna-

tional and national NGOs and academic and private sectors. In January this year, Pakistan successfully secured pledges of \$10 billion from donors during the International Conference on "Climate Resilient Pakistan", jointly hosted by Pakistan and the UN in Geneva. While making concerted efforts to implement the 4RF framework the CWDP successfully approved 21 development projects which include Emergency Flood Assistance Project (EFAP) on Farm Water Management component worth \$475.00 million, Access to Clean Energy worth \$47.00 million, DRR project for Rehabilitation/Reconstruction worth \$31.28 million, Emergency Flood Assistance Project worth \$8.00 million, Post-Flood 2022 Reconstruction Program: Resilience Enhancement and Livelihood worth \$400.00 million, Sindh irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project worth \$ 8.30 million, Competitive & Livable City of Karachi worth \$27.00 million.

## LG by-polls in 16 districts of Sindh: PPP's Murtaza Wahab secures decisive victory

KARACHI (INP): In the aftermath of a peaceful polling process on Sunday, the local government by-elections in 16 districts of Sindh saw Pakistan People's Party (PPP) candidate, Murtaza Wahab from Karachi, clinch a substantial victory.

Wahab garnered a total of 3,976 votes from his Union Council, while his competitor, Noor Islam of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), trailed behind with 1,566 votes.

In Khairpur, PPP candidates are leading most of the constituencies while in 4 constituencies, a victory of the PPP has been confirmed.

Counting of votes has

started in all 16 districts of Sindh including five districts of Karachi after closing of polling process at 5.00 pm sharp.

To observe the transparency and law and order on the polling day, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has set up a control room in Karachi.

Today morning, the polling started at sharp 8.00 am and continued until 5.00 pm without any break.

At least 121 polling stations have been set up in the metropolis for the purpose.

The polling was being held for 10 seats of chairmen and vice chairmen, including ward members.

People voted for seats of chairmen in District South, Malir and Kemari of the provincial capital.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab and Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Obaidullah Shah Noorul Islam are facing each other in UC-13 Saddar Town.

Extremely tough competition is expected between Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Ramzan Mazari and Sindh United Party's (SUP) Allah Dino Kalwar in Union Council (UC) Masowala of district Kashmore.

Total number of voters in the constituency are 13, 184, of whom 6, 249 are females.



MULTAN: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing the Solidarity Palestine Conference at Masjid Shohda Al Khair.

## DoH, Balochistan, taken prompt action to address the outbreak of CCHF

QUETTA: The Department of Health (DoH), Balochistan, has taken prompt action to address the outbreak of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) at the Medicine ICU of Sandeman Provincial Hospital, Quetta.

Following the directives of the Honourable Chief Minister of Balochistan, the DoH has referred eleven (11) doctors and medical staff who tested positive for CCHF to Agha Khan University Hospital (AKUH) Karachi for specialized treatment. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, one critically ill patient, Dr. Hasil, was immediately evacuated to AKUH via air ambulance with some delay of one day due bad weather.

The timely transfer of

these patients to AKUH ensures that they receive the necessary medical attention and care. The DoH is committed to providing all necessary support to the affected individuals and their families. Regrettably, we inform you that Dr. Shakar Ullah, a Post Graduate resident (FCPS-II Trainee), passed away upon arrival at AKUH Karachi. The DoH extends its deepest condolences to Dr. Shakar Ullah's family during this difficult time. The DoH continues to monitor the situation closely and is working with healthcare providers to implement preventive measures to contain the CCHF outbreak. The department urges the public to maintain strict hygiene practices and seek immediate medical attention if they experience any symptoms of CCHF.



LAHORE: Mayor of London Borough of Hounslow Afzal Kayani is addressing press conference at the Press Club.

## Firdous says: IPP will take practical steps for public welfare

SIALKOT (APP): Former Federal Minister and Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan has said Allama Iqbal's Shaheen has taken flight from Sialkot with the message of practical public development and prosperity.

Addressing a consultative meeting with political associates at her Dera Kubey Chak, she said that her party was ready for general elections and it would enter the field with full preparation and the symbol of Shaheen.

"Our party will make only those promises that can be fulfilled. The Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) will ensure the mini-

mum wage of Rs. 50,000 per month; We will provide free solar systems to farmers of 12.5 acres of land for tube wells, while the government will pay the electricity bill of up to 300 units of citizens," she added.

Firdous Ashiq Awan said that the country could be made prosperous by making farmers prosperous. "Similarly, the youth is our tomorrow; we will provide interest-free loans to the educated youth for their business and empower women economically."

The IPP spokesperson said that Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) would provide relief to poor by collecting money from the rich.

## PUC stands united against terrorism, calls for ceasefire in Gaza

LAHORE (APP): The Central Executive and Consultative Body of Pakistan Ulema Council on Sunday convened a significant meeting, addressing the current situation in Pakistan, Palestine, and the Islamic world.

More than two hundred members of the PUC executive and consultative body participated in this gathering, presided over by Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi.

In a comprehensive declaration, the meeting emphasized that hostile

forces, including India and its allies, are allegedly involved in acts of terrorism within Pakistan. It called on the international community to take immediate action against India's alleged involvement in terrorism.

The meeting commended the Pakistani nation, army, and security agencies for their response to recent terrorist incidents. It highlighted the united stance of Ulema and Mashaykh and religious scholars from across the country, supporting Pakistan's efforts to combat extremism and terrorism.

## First phase of Raiwand Ijtimaa concludes with prayers for Pak, Muslims

LAHORE (APP): The first phase of the three-day Tableeghi Ijtimaa concluded in Raiwand on Sunday with special prayers led by Maulana Muhammad Ibrahim for the prosperity and solidarity of the country and unity of the Muslim world.

Hundreds of thousands of people from across Pakistan and other countries attended the annual congregation in Raiwand, about 36 kilometers from Lahore.

Thousands of people from across the city reached

the venue in the morning to attend the special prayer that started at 8:45am and concluded at 9:05am.

Before Ijtemai-dua, Maulana Muhammad Khurshid briefed the participants about proper manners for offering dua.

Maulana Khurshid gave instructions to the delegates sitting in the pandal before the prayer, the closing prayer was given by Maulana Ibrahim of India and every eye was full of tears during the prayer.



KARACHI: Convener MQM-P Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddique addressing the dinner hosted in honour of MQM-P Legal Aid Committee.

## NA Speaker flays Israeli Minister's statement of using nuclear weapons

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has strongly condemned the Israeli minister's statement about using nuclear weapons on the Gaza Strip.

The threat of using nuclear weapons on innocent Palestinians is a testament to Israeli brutality and warmongering, said the NA Speaker in a statement on Sunday.

Ashraf said Israel, in lust for power, was bombing Gaza indiscriminately, where millions of Palestinian citizens, especially children, women, and the elderly, have become victims of its aggression. He urged the world powers to take immediate steps to stop Israel's insanity and war frenzy.

## Nawaz to commence PML-N poll campaign next week

LAHORE (INP): With the official announcement of the election date, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is gearing up to campaign across Pakistan, starting next week.

The three-time prime minister returned to Islamabad in October after spending four years in self-imposed exile in London.

Upon his return, Nawaz addressed a massive crowd of PML-N workers and supporters in his hometown, Lahore, where he reaffirmed his deep affection for the Pakistani people.

## NADRA enhances vigilance against cyber security breaches

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Database and Registration Authority plays a crucial role in ensuring the stability and security of Pakistan.

Several external factors, such as the availability of fake documents and lax data verification procedures, contribute to the issuance of counterfeit identity cards.

Internal factors, like the corruption of some employees seeking financial gains, further exacerbate the problem.

In Pakistan, a robust system implemented by NADRA has identified and revoked more than 18,000 illegal identity cards.

## ECP summons list of private schools, teachers for General Election

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan has summoned the list of private schools for polling in general election, a spokesperson of the electoral body said.

The ECP will also setup polling stations in private schools' buildings for convenience of voters.

The election commission collecting details of private schools' teachers and buildings.

District election commissioner has written letter to the EDO Education and demanded details.

The services of private schools' teachers will be availed in case of shortage of the government servants.



QUETTA: Baloch Human Rights Activist, Mama Qadeer addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.



QUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan, Abdullah Khan, chairing a meeting about the Congo outbreak in Sandeman Provincial Hospital, Quetta.

## Health Department determined to defeat Cong virus with public cooperation, says Secretary

QUETTA: While paying rich tributes to Dr. Shakrullah Khan who died of Congo virus in Karachi, the Secretary Health Department, Abdullah Khan, said that the department is determined to defeat Congo virus with cooperation of general public.

He urged the public to keep trust on the doctors and paramedics who are at the forefront for their protection by rendering sacrifice of their lives.

In a statement issued here, the Secretary Health said that Dr. Shakrullah was

a senior and talented officer and with his death, the department is deprived of a capable and honest medical officer.

He expressed condolence and grief with the bereaved family of Dr. Shakrullah and said that he was under treatment at the Agha Khan Hospital Karachi after he had contracted the virus during duty in Quetta.

Dr. Shakrullah could not survive despite provision of all medical assistance, Secretary Health mentioned.

He prayed that may

Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

He also said that the doctors and other medical staff contracted the Congo virus were shifted to Karachi by air ambulances for better treatment, and he was in constant coordination with the administration of hospital.

He said that the medical staff set great example of public service by caring the patients in hospitals instead of their families.

## Customs sets up sasta bazaar for general public in Quetta

QUETTA: The Pakistan Customs set up a sasta bazaar for the general public here near Spinny road on Sunday.

The sasta bazaar set up in collaboration with the Quetta district administration offered different goods including sugar, dry milk, tea, blankets, chocolates, etc. on the subsidized rates.

The goods which were made available for sale at the bazaar were seized during different raids by the Customs in anti-smuggling drive.

The sugar was sold at Rs. 100 per kilogram, cooking oil at Rs. 350 per liter, tea at Rs. 700 per kilogram, blanket from Rs. 2000 to 3,500, chocolate Rs. 350 per packet.

The Customs high ups supervised the sasta bazaar where rush of people including women was witnessed.

Needless to mention here is that the initiative was taken by the Customs to provide relief to the masses by selling different goods on the subsidized rates.

## PTI's legal team advises Imran to appear in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Tehreek-e-Insaf's constitutional and legal team has advised Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan to appear in the apex court.

The final decision in this regard is likely to come out in the next 48 hours.

The head of the legal team Hamid Khan will go to meet Imran Khan in jail for final consultation in this regard.

Shoaib Shaheen Advocate Spokesperson PTI has also confirmed that Umar Khan should come to appear before the Supreme Court so that apart from being aware of the prison conditions, he will also be able to appease other people including the media.

It should be noted that the Supreme Court has issued a written order for the hearing of the NAB amendment case on October 31.

## PTDC planning to establish TIC at Gwadar airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) was planning to establish a modern Tourist Information Center (TIC) at New Gwadar International Airport to facilitate the foreign and local tourists about their destination.

Talking to APP, a PTDC official said the establishment of TIC would provide comprehensive information to tourists thronging to Pakistan from various countries to enjoy the beauty of recreational sites of Balochistan province.

An official said that TIC would not only play a pivotal role in promoting tourism globally but also emphasize the need for state-of-the-art facilities.

He highlighted the growing significance of Gwadar as a tourist destination, attracting visitors from across the country and around the world.

He said that Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah was committed to construct Tourist Information Center at Gwadar airport as soon as possible to provide all kinds of information and facilities to tourists.



QUETTA: Young Doctor Association (YDA) General Secretary, Dr. Amanullah, Dr. Yasir Achakzai and others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

## Lahore, with AQI 393, ranked as world's second most polluted city

LAHORE (INP): There is no respite from smog for the people of Lahore as the city, with the air quality index (AQI) recorded at 393, was ranked as the second most polluted city in the world on Sunday.

The AQI over Fida Hussain Road was recorded at 481.

Similarly, it was 462 over Phase-8 in DHA, 368 over Shimla Pahari and 464 over Syed Maratab Ali Road.

Doctors, on the other hand, advised people to take precautionary measures by avoiding travelling unnecessarily, and use facemasks if travelling was inevitable.

Weathermen, on the other hand, forecast dry weather for the provincial capital during the next few days, thus considerably minimizing chances of any relief for residents of the city as it will be due to rain that dust particles suspended in the air will settle down and the smog will be over. The Met Office predicted that maximum temperature in the city would reach 29 degrees Celsius later in the day while it would be 16 degrees Celsius on the minimum side in the early hours on Monday. On the other hand, smog in neighbouring India, especially over capital New Delhi, has become a threat for Pakistan. According to the images and report released by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), 740 per cent increase has been noticed in the incidents of burning of crops' residue, especially in parts bordering Pakistan.