

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Gwadar

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QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan and Chairman Gwadar Development Authority Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over meeting of 27th Governor Body of GDA.

## Interim Govt wants to see Gwadar deep seaport fully operational: Caretaker CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki pledges to make Gwadar exemplary city of Balochistan, says decision of review on Gwadar Master Plan to be made in light of outcome of multidimensional consultation with all concerned stakeholders

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim provincial government wants to see the Gwadar deep seaport fully functional. He said that it is our utmost endeavour to make Gwadar exemplary city of the province. The Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki, who also

happens to be the Chairman of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), was chairing meeting of the GDA's governing body here on Monday. The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development, Abdul Saboor Kakar, Director General GDA, Dawood Khan Khilji, Additional Secretary Finance, Shujat Hussain Khosa besides

other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting. The meeting was briefed about the GDA's projects and other initiatives being taken for development of the port city. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that GDA is an important institution regarding construction and development of Gwadar. He directed to the concerned to share the proposal of GDA regarding review of the Gwadar Master Plan. He also said that there is a key role of GDA in development of Gwadar. He said that we have to provide facilities to the masses of Gwadar. He directed to the concerned to share the proposal of GDA regarding review of the Gwadar Master Plan.

## Dr. Shakrullah died of Congo virus declared martyr: Govt. imposes Health Emergency in Balochistan following Congo virus outbreak in SPHHQ

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has imposed Health Emergency in the province after outbreak of Congo virus in a medical ward of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta (SPHHQ).

The decision to this effect was made in a high level meeting held with the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in the chair here at the CM's secretariat on Monday. The caretaker Minister Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezeai, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan, besides other concerned high

ups were in attendance. The meeting reviewed the situation of Congo virus besides the measures being taken for its prevention and further spread in Quetta and other parts of the province. It was decided to declare the medical officer, Dr. Shakrullah Jan died of Congo virus have been reported in the province so far.

He said that two more health workers are being airlifted to Karachi for treatment. He said that we are in contact with the Sindh government, and the necessary arrangements have been made for treatment of the patients at Agha Khan and other private hospitals of Karachi.

While there would be ban on the private slaughter house for two weeks in Quetta, the animals may be slaughtered at the slaughter houses located far away

from the city, it was decided further.

The meeting approved the funds required for Regional Blood Center (RBC) and extension in service of contract employees of the public health laboratories.

Speaking on the occasion, caretaker Chief Minister said that 44 cases of Congo virus have been reported in the province so far.

He said that two more health workers are being airlifted to Karachi for treatment.

He said that we are in contact with the Sindh government, and the necessary arrangements have been made for treatment of the patients at Agha Khan and other private hospitals of Karachi.

## Lt Colonel among four martyred, three terrorists killed in Khyber operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Lieutenant Colonel was among four soldiers of Pakistan Army, who embraced martyrdom on Monday while eliminating three terrorists and injuring as many during an intense exchange of fire amid an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in the general area Tirah of Khyber District on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, the troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan

Haider, effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell, while three terrorists got injured, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The martyrs, brave sons of soil, were identified as Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider, Naik Khushdil Khan, Naik Rafique Khan and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir having fought gallantly embraced, Shahadat, during intense exchange of fire.

### Nawaz Sharif says

## Those talking about deal living in fool's paradise

MANANWALA (Online): PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has said those talking about deal living in fools paradise.

Future of PML-N is bright. Decision about party tickets will be made on merit. I salute those who stood with party in hard time. There is no room for opportunists in the party, he said this possible candidate of PML-N Khan Jahanzeb Khan from PPP 143 Sheikhpura who met Nawaz Sharif at his resi-

dence. He held country is passing through a critical phase in the prevailing situation.

We will have to work for integrity and restoration of national economy so that country could regain its lost stature. "I salute to tigers of PP-143, he added.

INP adds: PML-N supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif arrived at party's secretariat in Model Town on Monday morning after more than four years.



LAHORE: PML (N) supremo Nawaz Sharif addressing former parliamentarians and ticket holders of Sialkot

## Mehmood Achakzai says Legitimate demands of Pashtuns must be accepted

By Sardar Khondai

CHAMAN: If the passport decision is not revoked, then it will not be a barbed wire. This was stated by Chairman Pakhtoonkhwya Milli Awami Party Mehmood Khan Achakzai while addressing the 17th day protest sit-in in Chaman on Monday.

He said that Pashtun Afghans are a united nation and they settled on their own land, it has not been given to us as a charity, but the dream of occupying a land rich in the blessings of the Lord of the World will not be fulfilled by any powerful person, nor has anyone been fulfilled in this land for the past centuries. They will not hesitate to make any sacrifice, he added that today, once again, the nefarious efforts are being made to make millions of people of Chaman unemployed, which will not accept at any cost. Now if this alliance remains, no one has the courage not to withdraw this passport visa policy.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai said that we are not terrorists and demanded for withdrawal of the decisions of oppression, do not force the people of Aman to start a strong protest and remove this fence. He said that the legitimate demands and rights of Pashtuns must be recognized to make this country Pakistan and Afghanistan peaceful. I pay my respects and InShaAllah the time is not far that we will own our rights.

Earlier Mahmood Khan Achakzai was given a grand welcome on arrival at the meeting hall.



CHAMAN: Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) Chairman Mehmood Khan Achakzai addresses a public gathering



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnesses a ceremony of the signing of letters of understanding between WHO and the Government of Pakistan on Universal Healthcare

## Interior Minister vows wipe out terrorism from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Lt. Col. Muhammad Hasan Haider and other soldiers in the operation against terrorists in Tirah Valley on Monday.

Sharing grief with the families of the martyrs, the minister prayed for the martyred Lt. Col. and other martyrs.

In his message, the minister said that the security forces fought bravely and brought the three terrorists to their logical end.

Martyrs are the real heroes of the nation and the glory of the beloved country, said Sarfraz Bugti.

The whole nation salutes the martyrs, the minister said adding that the eternal sacrifices of the security forces are unforgettable and the entire nation stands with them in the fight against terrorism.

## Court to hear cipher case today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Court established under official secret act will hear Cipher case today (Tuesday). The list of the lawyers who will appear on behalf of chairman PTI has been filed in the court.

The list was filed by Suleman Safdar counsel for PTI chairman through advocate Khalid Yousuf.

## NADRA cancels over 18,000 illegal identity cards

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has canceled over 18,000 illegal identity cards through a robust system, coordinating with other stakeholders, says in media reports.

The step has been taken to address the issue of counterfeit identity cards and fake documents, which pose a threat to national security. New measures include biometric verification of parents and relatives during the processing, SMS alerts to family heads, and two-stage verification for data access. Disciplinary actions are also taken against facilitators of forgery.

NADRA has also strengthened its accountability and inquiry system, leading to penalties and dismissal of those involved in illegal practices.

## WHO, health ministry join hands to upgrade 464 hospitals for Universal Health Coverage

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and the World Health Organisation on Monday joined hands to refurbish 464 health facilities across the country as a step forward to achieving the government's "top agenda" of Universal Health Coverage. In this connection, a ceremony for the signing of Letter of Understanding between the health ministry and the world health body was held at the PM House which also marked the handing over of health equipment worth over Rs 2 billion including mobile health clinics, ambulances, and mobile vaccination vans.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan witnessed the ceremony as Secretary Health Iftikhar Ali Shallwani and WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala signed the document.

Being executed with the WHO's support, the project will have zero financial implication for the Government of Pakistan.

Under the project, WHO would support Pakistan in renovation of 464 health facilities across the country including 41 in AJK and Gilgit Baltistan, 131 in Balochistan, 64 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 26 in Punjab and 202 in Sindh.

The WHO would support the upgradation of 21 health facilities, 14 labour rooms and six EPI training centers in AJK and GB; 99 health facilities, 26 labour rooms, and six EPI training centers in Balochistan; and 36 health facilities 21 labour rooms and seven EPI training centers in KP.

The project also consists of refurbishing 15 labour rooms, nine EPI training centers and two nutrition stabilisation centers in Punjab; and 150 health facilities, 46 labour rooms and six EPI training centers in Sindh.

The WHO support for upgradation of the health facilities throughout the country will contribute to meeting the objective of Universal Health Coverage

Being executed with the WHO's support, the project will have zero financial



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons

## Feb 8 sun will rise with PPP's victory: Zardari and Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): The PPP chairman and co-chairman have extended congratulations to the party candidates who won the local body by-elections in different cities of Sindh.

In a post uploaded on X platform on Monday, PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari expressed his gratitude to the people for party's victory in the LB by-elections in Karachi and other parts of the province.

The heart of Sindh also raised the slogan of Jeay Bhutto, Zardari said, adding the success of Muratza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad is a special message for PPP's

rivals in Karachi. Asif Zardari paid rich tributes to party workers for victory in by-elections, saying "Every PPP worker should start the election campaign by becoming the ambassador of Ms Benazir Bhutto Shaheed." Zardari said the sun of February 8 will rise with the message of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's victory. "There are few days left and PPP will end people's problems," he added.

In his tweet, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also extended congratulations to the successful candidates in the LB by-elections, showering praise on Karachi Mayor.

## Grieved over medical staff contracted Congo virus: We couldn't succeed in ensuring modern scientific health system, regrets Governor

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar declares wearing of face masks for officers and staff of Governor House and Secretariat as essential

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has regretfully pointed out that we couldn't succeed in ensuring a modern scientific healthcare system and providing all basic facilities of health to the poor patients at their doorstep.

The Governor expressed deep grief over the news about doctors and medical staff getting infected from the Congo virus in Quetta.

He directed to the concerned high ups to provide all necessary facilities to the doctors and nurses who are making the life of patients and ridding them of pain and illness.

The Governor also

stressed the need to ensure anti-Congo virus spray at the cattle markets and dairy farms besides establishing separate wards for the virus affected patients.

He noted with concern that Balochistan is the only province the thousands of patients of which are compelled to go to Sindh of Punjab for medical treatment.

He also urged media persons to play wholehearted role in creating awareness about prevention of Congo virus and implementation on all safety measures.

He also declared wearing of face masks essential for all officers and employees of the Governor House and Secretariat from today.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai inaugurating Balochistan Health Card

## Jamali directs PDMA, other concerned to remain alert during rainy season

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has directed the concerned authorities of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), police and other department to remain alert during rains in Quetta and other parts of the province.

According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, the Minister Home directed to the PDMA and other concerned

high ups to take wholehearted part in the relief activities in the rain affected areas.

He also directed to the authorities to personally visit the areas and review the situation there. In addition to this, the flow of traffic should also be ensured in the rain hit areas, the Minister Home directed further.

The Minister mentioned that PDMA is in coordination with the district administration and rescue agencies regarding rescue and relief activities.

## Treatment of Congo affectees in Karachi: Jogezeai calls Sindh counterpart; seeks cooperation

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezeai has sought cooperation of Sindh government for medical treatment of the doctors and paramedics contracted Congo virus in Karachi.

He called to the caretaker Sindh Minister for Health, Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz in this regard and informed him about the details of spread of the Congo virus in Civil Hospital Quetta.

Dr. Jogezeai informed his Sindh counterpart that the Congo infected doctors and paramedics have been sent to Karachi for treatment.

Therefore, we need co-operation of the Sindh government for provision of better medical treatment facilities for the affected doctors and paramedics in Karachi.

On this, Minister Health Sindh assured Dr Jogezeai of the wholehearted cooperation for treatment of the Congo virus patients in Karachi.

## Zhob-DI Khan national highway blocked due to landslide

QUETTA (INP): The Zhob-DI Khan national highway has been closed at Dhana Sar point in Sherani district, Balochistan, since last night due to a landslide on Monday.

People have been facing a great deal of inconvenience due to the closure of the road. They have been waiting for the road to be cleared in vehicles lined up in long queues. All the people in Sherani district have been advised to avoid travel on the national highway till it is opened.

The National Highways Authority (NHA) and the district administration have been busy clearing the road.

According to the district administration, the road can be opened by this evening.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Election season**

The promise that democracy will be restored soon is a breath of fresh air in this current atmosphere of doom and gloom. After a rough start, the election machinery has started to click into gear. The chief justice's stern warning to the media, telling it to desist from airing any further speculation on the timing of elections, has signalled to other stakeholders that there may be a finality to the Feb 8, 2024 date that can be banked on.

It is encouraging to note that the PTI, PML-N and PPP — the three largest political parties in the country — have all welcomed the announcement and seem eager to begin the contest. Right now, their attention should be focused on the upcoming electoral exercise rather than anything else. There is not a lot of time for them to regroup and launch effective campaigns. Now that the country is in election mode, the ECP should expect increased scrutiny of its actions. The immense task of ensuring that the upcoming elections are free, fair, impartial and inclusive rests on its shoulders, and it needs to do much better if it wishes to be remembered for discharging its duty responsibly.

There are several things that need immediate attention. For instance, the caretaker government is reportedly attempting to undertake a large-scale reshuffle of officers at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting despite the announcement of an election date.

All such tinkering with the executive branch must be stopped forthwith. The state must be oriented towards one thing alone: assisting the ECP in delivering a credible election. Everything else is unnecessary at this point in time. Secondly, the ECP must start utilising its considerable powers to ensure that the contest will be fair. The arrest of former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser on corruption charges the day after elections were announced is not a good omen.

The public perception is that the PTI and its people will continue to be harassed with arbitrary detentions and arrests on trumped-up charges for as long as they refuse to toe the establishment's line. There is little justification, legal or moral, for a political party to be treated in this manner, and it is up to the ECP to put a stop to the victimisation.

Other parties have also been complaining about being denied a level playing field. They have accused the caretaker governments and other powerful forces of manipulating the state machinery to favour the PML-N.

There is no point in asking the electorate to vote if a handful of people are going to overrule their choices anyway. The Pakistani people must not be denied the right to choose their future themselves. The ECP should be wary of these sentiments and demonstrate it is working to counter them.

**War, hypocrisy and tragedy**



Maleeha Lodhi

How has the world responded to Israel's continuing war on Gaza and the humanitarian catastrophe there? Clearly, the UN Security Council failed in its duty to stop hostilities. This from a world body whose primary responsibility is to maintain international peace and security.

Its inability to pass resolutions calling for a truce or humanitarian pause exposed the polarisation among its members which paralysed the Council. The US was the principal stumbling block in efforts to achieve a ceasefire. Its unconditional support for Israel handed Tel Aviv carte blanche to continue its barbaric military campaign in utter disregard for world opinion.

The Security Council's inaction led to an emergency session of the General Assembly, which approved, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution calling for a truce. Only the US and a handful of countries voted 'no'. While this resolution has moral and political weight and aimed to mount diplomatic pressure on Israel and its backers, it is non-binding. Therefore, it could do nothing to end Israel's war on Gaza.

These developments demonstrated America's increasing diplomatic isolation as several of its Western allies joined most of the international community to back an immediate ceasefire. While some European countries shifted their position to voice concern for the humanitarian crisis and loss of Palestinian lives, Washington refused to ask Israel to cease its bombardments or lift the siege of

Gaza, showing indifference to the devastating humanitarian consequences of Israeli actions. UN officials repeatedly declared that Israeli violence directed at over two million Palestinians trapped in Gaza was collective punishment and violated international humanitarian law. But the US and its Western partners only called out Hamas for the attack on Israel and accepted Israel's carpet bombing of an entire population as Israel's 'right to defend itself'.

They showed no compassion for thousands of Palestinian casualties, who were portrayed as human shields for Hamas — an egregious example of dehumanising Palestinians. President Joe Biden even questioned Palestinian casualty figures saying he had 'no confidence in the numbers the Palestinians are using'. When Washington began to voice concern for civilian deaths it was too little, too late especially as it continued to oppose a ceasefire.

These developments laid bare the US-led West's hypocrisy. While Western leaders denounced Russian military actions and targeting of civilians in Ukraine, they refused to apply the same principle to Gaza.

The EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen once characterised Russia's 'attacks on civilian infrastructure' that aimed to deprive people of water and electricity as 'acts of pure terror'. But neither she nor any Western leader chose to describe Israel's action of cutting off electricity, water, food and fuel supplies to Gaza in a similar way. Nor did Israel's use of white phosphorous in indiscriminate artillery attacks urge Western governments to denounce this violation of international humanitarian law.

There was no Western condemnation of Israel's attacks on Jabalia refugee camp in which scores of people were killed and for which Tel Aviv claimed responsibility, justifying civilian

deaths as a 'tragedy of war'.

Western countries who claim to be standard bearers of human rights and constantly lecture other countries on this adopted a deafening silence on Israeli atrocities and genocidal actions. This display of double standards was not new. Western concern for human rights has always been selective, its criticism usually directed at adversaries and opponents, while friendly countries have been shielded from censure.

Germany and France imposed a ban on pro-Palestinian rallies in a bid to criminalise expressions of sympathy for Palestinians. This made a mockery of their democratic credentials and showed the shallowness of their commitment to freedom of expression. In the US, donors threatened to cut off funding to universities where students rallied in solidarity with Palestinians.

The Guardian reported that prominent American figures from magazine editors to Hollywood agents faced sackings or rebuke for supporting Palestinians. Elsewhere in Europe, pro-Palestinian activists were hounded on the pretext of being antisemitic. In the UK, Home Secretary Suella Braverman branded pro-Palestinian demonstrations as 'hate marches', called for curbs on protests and urged criminalising waving the Palestinian flag. All this in so-called democracies who claim civilisational superiority over countries of the Global South.

The Western media's role has been as one-sided as that of their governments and blind to the suffering of the Palestinian people. Major networks echoed Israeli propaganda and mostly covered the war from the prism of 'Israel's right to defend itself'. Western TV anchors seemed to read from the same script and disregarding massacres carried out by Israel, kept asking interviewees if they condemned Hamas.

The most flagrant example of disinformation spread by Western channels was of Israeli babies beheaded by Hamas, which had no basis in fact. Only when the scale of killings in Gaza could not be ignored and criticism of their bias mounted did networks such as BBC change course to cover these. Meanwhile, Western social media companies censored Palestinian content, as confirmed by international human rights organisations including Amnesty.

The response from Muslim countries neither matched the catastrophic situation on the ground nor met the expectations of their own people. Other than diplomatic activism at the UN to secure a General Assembly resolution, it did not go beyond issuing denunciations of Israel. While several South American countries cut ties with Israel only Jordan and Bahrain did so from among Arab states who had established diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv.

Does all this mean the Palestinians have been abandoned? Yes and no. Yes, because the international community failed to stop the carnage in Gaza. No, because across the world, from west to east, people came out in unprecedentedly large numbers to show solidarity with the Palestinians and demand a ceasefire. Public outrage over the humanitarian disaster expressed in protest rallies was in sharp contrast to the pusillanimous position adopted by their governments. Public opinion in the US was also sharp variance with the Biden administration's stance. A Data for Progress poll found 66 per cent of American voters supported a ceasefire.

The consequences of the biggest disaster to befall the Palestinian people since 1948 will be far-reaching for the region and for the world. I will take that up in another column. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Significance of Gadani ship breaking yard**

By Mohsin Naseer

One of the biggest ship-breaking yards in the world is located in Balochistan, near the seaside town of Gadani. The Gadani ship breaking yard has 132 ship-breaking plots spread on a seashore that is 10 km (6.2 miles) long. After Aliaga of Turkey and Alang of India and Chittagong of Bangladesh, Gadani of Pakistan is the third-largest shipbreaking yard globally.

The ship breaking industry is a major source of income and employment in Balochistan. International Labor Organization (ILO) states that the Gadani ship breaking yard directly employs about 6,000 people and indirectly supports another 30,000.

The Gadani ship breaking yard supplies raw materials to several enterprises that produce steel, iron, copper, brass, aluminum, and wood, which bolsters our national economy. Local steel mills and rerolling mills use the steel scrap from Gadani to make steel bars, rods, pipes, and sheets. Foundries and engineering workshops use iron scrap to create castings and machine components. The electrical and metal industries use the scrap copper, brass, and aluminum to manufacture wires, cables, cutlery, and ornamental objects. Carpenters and furniture makers use the leftover wood to create tables, cabinets, windows and doors.

The Gadani ship breaking yard also recycles various items from the ships, such as generators, engines, boilers, compressors, pumps, valves, pipes, fittings, cables, switches, lights, fans, air conditioners, refrigerators, furniture, mattresses, carpets, curtains, utensils, crockery, books, magazines, paintings, and souvenirs. These items

are sold in local markets or exported to other countries.

The Gadani ship breaking yard has a history of more than four decades. It was established in the 1960s and reached its peak in the 1980s when it was the largest ship-breaking yard in the world with more than 30,000 direct employees. However, it faced a decline in the 1990s and 2000s due to increased competition from newer facilities and higher import duties for decommissioned vessels in Pakistan.

In 2001, the Government of Pakistan reduced the ship-breaking duties including taxes and tariffs from 15% to 10% and aimed to offer further incentives if industry activity improves. As a result, the Gadani Ship breaking yard witnessed a revival in the 2010s and achieved a record output of 107 ships with a combined Light Displacement Tonnage (LDT) of 852,022 tons in the fiscal year 2009-2010.

The Gadani ship breaking yard is also known for its efficiency and speed in dismantling ships. It can break up to 125 ships of all sizes per year with a combined light displacement tonnage of 1 million tons. It takes only 30 to 45 days to break a ship with 5,000 LDT at Gadani compared to more than six months at Alang or Chittagong.

The Gadani ship breaking yard is a vital source of income and employment for Balochistan and a significant contributor to the local and national economy. It is also a place where old ships are given a new life by being recycled into useful materials and items. The Gadani ship breaking yard is a testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of the people of Balochistan who have turned a barren beach into a bustling industrial hub.

**Commerce News**

**Governance issues must be solved for achieving desired results: Minister**

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik said on Monday the country was well aware of all challenges related to food security and governance issues needed to be managed to achieve desired results.

He said this while addressing a round table conference at Forman Christian College here.

He said, "The country has gone through two crucial phases one is Covid and the other floods and both changed the scenario." He said that country was self-sufficient

in all commodities. The minister said that food security was governed by three 'As' that were availability, affordability and accessibility, adding that more debate was held on availability of commodities but there was also a need to understand the significance of other two areas.

He further said that no doubt climate change was a fact and could not be denied, adding that to address the issue of climate change adoption of technology was necessary. He said that he was happy that our scientists and researchers were well

aware of issues of climate change and climate resistant varieties were also being developed.

He said, "We are focusing on streamlining the regulatory issues."

Dr Kausar said that soyabean import issue had been solved up to 80 to 90 percent which was a big issue for the poultry industry and added that only few hitches were left which would be solved as well.

The minister said that one thing should be kept in mind that in agriculture import and export were not indication of any food scarcity.



PESHAWAR: A delegation led by Founder / President Bajaur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Haji Lali Shah meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

**LESCO detects 68 power pilferers on 59th day of anti-power theft campaign**

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 68 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts: Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara, on the 59th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

A LESCO spokesman told the media on Monday that the company had also submitted the FIR applications against 68 electricity thieves, out of

which 38 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 10 accused have been arrested.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations. The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft.

**RCCI delegation calls on Charge D Affairs of Romania**

RAWALPINDI (APP): A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) headed by President Saqib Rafiq called on H.E Mr Eduard-Robert PREDA Charge D Affairs/ Minister Plenipotentiary at the Romania Embassy here on Monday.

According to RCCI spokesman, Charge D Affairs of the Romanian Embassy appreciated RCCI's efforts in promoting trade and diplomatic ties.

**NARC distributes over 300 tons of 7 high-yielding wheat seeds varieties**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (NARC) has provided over 300 metric tons of certified wheat seeds to farmers in order to enhance per-acre crop output in the country and increase farm profitability for achieving sustainable agriculture growth and economic development.

The council had distributed 07 wheat seed varieties among farmers and different seed companies including Punjab Seed Corporation which will cement the efforts of the government to ensure the availability of certified seeds during the current, Wheat Program

Coordinator in the National Agriculture Research Center Maqsood Qamar. Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that the distributed seed varieties were comprised of heat and stem rest-tolerant, which would help the local farmers enhance their crop output during the season and maximize their farm income.

Out of the total 07 seed varieties, four varieties were for rain-fed areas and three were for irrigated areas and would help to enhance local output of both irrigated and rain-fed areas, he said adding that NARC was taking other measures to assist local wheat growers.

**Pakistan's exports to China increase by 26.42% in 3 months**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 26.42 per cent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$633.374 million during July-September (2023-24) against exports of US \$501.000 million during July- September (2022-

23), showing growth of 26.42 per cent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 68.57 per cent from \$167.923 million in September 2022, against the exports of \$283.077 million in September 2023. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 42.29 per cent during September 2023 as compared to the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023, the SBP data revealed.

**New law for resolution of trade disputes to define time frame**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Trade Disputes Resolution Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Abdul Salam Shah on Monday said a new law for the resolution of trade disputes was coming in the cabinet to define a time frame to resolve the different disputes of international trade through 'The Trade Dispute Act 2022.'

Under the new law, trade disputes would be decided in a time frame for providing 'Ease of Doing Business' to the Import and export business, he told APP here. President of

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Khuram Tariq, told APP that trade agreements must be strictly implemented.

Earlier, the joint sitting of the parliament passed 'The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023' to establish a commission attached with the Ministry of Commerce to settle the dispute between trading parties and 'The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2023'. The House passed the bill with a majority incorporating minor amendments.

Resolution Bill, 2023 provides for the establishment of a comprehensive regime in Pakistan for the swift and effective resolution of disputes relating to the export and import of goods and services including through E-Commerce.

Clause 61 of the bill described as "All law enforcement agencies and authorities in the federal and the provinces shall be under an obligation to provide and render full and complete assistance to the Commission as and when the secretariat thereof may require such assistance."

**Rupee sheds 89 paise against Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed an 89-paise devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.28 against the previous day's closing at Rs 284.31.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285 and Rs 287.5 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 4.51 to close at Rs 306.59 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.08, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen increased by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.90; whereas an increase of Rs 7.01 paise.

**Kunwar highlights hope amid economic challenges in real estate projects**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), leaders from the business community, and government officials engaged in a comprehensive discussion on Monday concerning the opportunities and critical challenges faced by the real estate industry. During an exclusive business networking meeting, they expressed their commitment to working collaboratively to maximize its potential.

Kunwar Muhammad Dilshad, remarked that in the face of economic challenges and political uncertainties, the projects in accordance with high standards offered a ray of hope to the investors, showcasing the nation's potential to thrive despite adverse circumstances. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari encouraged the real estate developers and business delegates to actively participate in the journey toward a brighter future for Pakistan. Kunwar's Associates Chairman.



# Israel committing unimaginable atrocities in Gaza, say politicians

LAHORE (APP): Lawmakers called upon the international community on Monday to intensify its efforts in securing an immediate ceasefire to halt the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Palestine. In this dire situation, Palestinians are desperately searching for their loved-ones amidst the widespread destruction of their homes.

Over the past two-and-a-half weeks, the world has borne witness to an unfolding tragedy of unprecedented proportions in the occupied Palestinian

territories. Lawmakers characterise this conflict as a systematic attempt at the genocide of the Palestinian people, underscoring the urgent need for global intervention to address Israel's aggressive actions.

Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence Mushahid Hussain Syed emphasised the longstanding historical ties between Pakistan and Palestine, spanning centuries rather than mere years. He pointed out that leaders throughout Pakistan's history, including its founding father, Quaid-e-Azam, have consistently lent their

political, diplomatic and economic support to the Palestinian cause.

Senator Mushahid stressed that the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza represent the gravest genocide in human history, calling on the Pakistani nation to raise its voices in support of the oppressed. Referring to Israel's recent bombing of hospitals in Gaza, he condemned these actions as war crimes and urged an immediate cessation of such heinous acts.

Former senator Sehar Kamran told APP that more than two million people in the Gaza Strip

are struggling to survive amidst a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and the level of civilian casualties has been manifold and unprecedented. She strongly condemned the dangerous and insane remarks made by the Israeli Minister Amichai Eliyahu about dropping of a nuclear bomb on Gaza.

Such comments and threats of violence reflect the irresponsible cruel attitude and criminal mindset, she said, adding it is not only morally reprehensible but also counterproductive to achieving lasting peace in the region.



MUZAFFERABAD: Speaker Lagestaltive Assembly of AJK Chaudhry Latif Akbar participate in the rally of Pashan-e-Hurriyat to mark the "Yoom-e-Suhada" in the Capital of AJK.



RAWALPINDI: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi in a group photo with medical professionals and survivors of breast cancer during an awareness seminar, at Behbud Association of Pakistan.

## Punjab Governor says: Promotion of technical education fosters employment opportunities for the youth

LAHORE: Chairman TEVTA Brigadier (Retd) Muhammad Sajid Khokhar called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. Promotion of technical and vocational education was discussed in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the promotion of technical education fosters employment opportunities for the youth. He said that skilled youth play a positive role in the economic development of the country. Governor Punjab said that

technical courses provide employment opportunities to the students, which makes many families economically self-sufficient and prosperous. He said that it is commendable that Tevta is making them economically independent by providing technical and professional education to the young generation.

## KP caretaker govt ready for elections, says Aamir

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Engineering (PHE), Engineer Aamir Durrani on Monday said that the caretaker provincial government is ready for the elections and is in contact with various departments in this regard.

Expressing satisfaction over preparations regarding elections by various departments, he said that the caretaker provincial

government will play its full role in holding transparent elections, saying the preparations of all departments are complete in this regard. He expressed these views while addressing a meeting regarding election preparation here. Besides, Secretary Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Daud Khan, Special Secretary Muhammad Masood, Coordinator Local Governments Sajid Gul and other relevant officials also attended the meeting.

## Women urged to practice 5-min self-examination every month to detect breast cancer

RAWALPINDI (APP): Begum Samina Alvi, wife of the president of Pakistan on Monday said a five-minute self-examination every month could help detect breast cancer at an early stage, thus saving thousands of the lives of women in the country. She said 44,000 deaths due to breast cancer in Pakistan was an alarming situation that needed raising constant awareness about early diagnosis of the disease. Speaking at an

awareness seminar on breast cancer here at a late stage. She said women of all ages including teenage girls of 12-14 years were also being diagnosed with breast cancer. She urged the women and girls to learn the five-minute routine of self-examination and spread the word among at least 20 other women folks in their circle. For the Behbud Mother and Child Hospital, Samina Alvi announced a donation of Rs 500,000 on behalf of her family.

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## CS Punjab inaugurates Rescue Services centres in Lala Musa, Dinga

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman visited Gujranwala and Gujrat on Monday and inaugurated the newly established Rescue Services stations at Lala Musa and Dinga. He also inspected the Punjab government's flagship project Motorway Link in Gujranwala and reviewed the construction work of 15.2 km-long dual

carriageway that would link Gujranwala to Lahore-Sialkot Motorway.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the chief secretary said that emergency services are being improved across Punjab and Rescue stations are being equipped with modern equipment. He said that Rescue stations have been provided with modern gadgets, ambulances and motorcycles.

## Five involved in different crimes in riverine areas arrested

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh arrested five suspects allegedly involved in different crimes in the riverine areas and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession.

The accused were apprehended from a village in Obaro, district Ghotki, according to a spokesman for Sindh Rangers on Monday.

## Fawad Chaudhry files petition against anti corruption Punjab

RAWALPINDI (Online): Former minister Fawad Chaudhry has filed petition against Anti Corruption Punjab in Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench.

Punjab government and DG Anti corruption have been made respondents in the petition of Fawad Chaudhry.

Advocate Faisal Chaudhry brother of Fawad Chaudhry filed the

petition on behalf of his brother.

The petitioner has taken the plea the allegations from anti corruption are false and baseless.

The allegations on occupying state land are false. It was said in the petition lands were purchased from private persons. Affidavits of private persons are available.

# International News

## UN leaders say Gaza war must 'stop now', as dozens more die

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: U.N. agency leaders saying "enough is enough" demanded a humanitarian ceasefire on Monday nearly a month into Gaza's war, as the enclave's health authorities said dozens more people were killed in overnight attacks by Israeli fighter jets and troops.

Israel has rebuffed mounting international pressure for a ceasefire, saying hostages taken by Hamas militants during their rampage in southern Israel on Oct. 7 should be released first.

"An entire population is besieged and under attack, denied access to the essentials for survival, bombed in their homes, shelters, hospitals and

places of worship. This is unacceptable," the U.N. chiefs said in a joint statement.

"We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It's been 30 days. Enough is enough. This must stop now."

The 18 signatories include the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, the head of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths. A Reuters journalist in the Gaza Strip described the overnight bombardment from the air, ground and sea as one of the most intense since Israel launched its offensive.

Health officials in Hamas-controlled Gaza

said more than 9,770 Palestinians have been killed in the war since Hamas killed 1,400 people and seized more than 240 hostages on Oct. 7.

Israel, which says its forces have encircled Gaza City, faces mounting pressure over civilian casualties. A U.S. diplomatic blitz in the region is intended to reduce risks of the conflict escalating.

The health ministry in Gaza said dozens of people were killed by the Israeli air strikes in Gaza City and further south in Gaza neighbourhoods such as Zawaida and Deir Al-Balah. Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa TV quoted medical sources as saying at least 75 Palestinians were killed and 106 hurt in the attacks.



Meera Alul (C), a Palestinian-American, holds up a sign during a rally in support of Palestinians at the Colorado State Capital in Denver, Colorado.

## Xi says China, Australia can become 'trusting partners'

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday their two countries stood to become "trusting partners" and were on the "correct path of improving and developing relations", state broadcaster CCTV said.

The two leaders met in Beijing during a four-day state visit by Albanese to China, a high-water mark in their nations' ties following years of tensions that cut billions of dollars in trade.

China and Australia, Xi said on Monday, "have no historical

grievances or disputes and no fundamental conflict of interests, and can totally become mutually trusting and mutually successful partners".

Xi told Albanese that Beijing hoped to "fully develop the potential of the China-Australia free trade agreement and open up cooperation in new fields including climate change and the green economy".

"Through both sides' efforts, China and Australia have resumed exchanges in various fields and returned to the correct path of improving and developing relations," Xi said, according to CCTV.

"Where there are efforts to cause disturbances in the Asia Pacific region, we must firstly stay vigilant, and secondly oppose them," the Chinese leader said.

China, Xi said, is keen to "develop more trilateral and multilateral cooperation" with Australia.

Beijing also seeks to "support the strengthening of development resilience for south Pacific nations, tackle challenges including climate change, and protect the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific region with openness and tolerance", Xi said.

## More than 20 killed in Sudan after shell hits market: NGO

**Monitoring Desk**  
WAD MADANI: More than 20 people were killed Sunday after shells hit a market in a suburb of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, a committee of pro-democracy lawyers said in a statement.

It was the latest bloodshed in the fighting since April between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

A statement from the committee for pro-democracy lawyers said the shells hit the market in Omdurman during an intense exchange of fire between the two sides.

"More than 20 civilians have been killed and others have been wounded," said the statement, which was sent to AFP. The committee keeps track of rights violations during the conflict and its civilian victims.

On Saturday, a medical source said shells that hit houses in Khartoum had killed 15 civilians.

Omdurman has repeatedly been the site of fierce battles between the two sides. Though most of the fighting was previously contained to the capital and the western region of Darfur, it has also spread to areas south of Khartoum according to witnesses.

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U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara, Turkey.

## Ukrainian officers investigated for holding awards ceremony struck by Russia, killing 19 soldiers

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine on Monday launched a criminal investigation into military officers who organized a troop-honoring ceremony that was hit by a Russian missile strike, killing 19 soldiers in one of the deadliest single attacks reported by Ukrainian forces.

The State Bureau of Investigation said it aims to hold military officials accountable for the Rocket Forces and Artillery Day

event held Friday near the front line in Zaporizhzhia, where Russian reconnaissance drones could easily spot the crowded gathering.

The carnage sparked a wave of criticism among Ukrainians who questioned on social media the planning of an event so close to the battlefield. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lamented the deaths of the men of the 128<sup>th</sup> Separate Mountain-Assault Brigade.

## Russia's Putin to stay in power past 2024, sources say

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin has decided to run in the March presidential election, a move that will keep him in power until at least 2030, as the Kremlin chief feels he must steer Russia through the most perilous period in decades, six sources told Reuters.

After defusing an armed mutiny by the leader of the Wagner mercenary group in June, Putin has moved to shore up support among his core base in the security forces, the armed forces and with regional voters outside Moscow, while Wagner has been brought firmly to heel.

Russian defence, weapons and overall budget spending has soared while Putin has made numerous public appearances, including the regions, over recent months. "The decision has been made - he will run," said one of the sources who has knowledge of the planning. Another source, also acquainted with the Kremlin's thinking.

## Hamis leader Haniyeh briefs Iran's Khamenei over Gaza situation

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has met the leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran, state media reported on Sunday, a day after a Hamas official said they held a meeting in recent days.

Iranian state media said Haniyeh, who has resided between Qatar and Turkey since 2019, "briefed Khamenei on the latest de-

## Polish president to announce new PM on Monday

**Monitoring Desk**  
WARSAW: Poland's president will tell the nation on Monday evening whom he will appoint as prime minister, an aide said, drawing a line under weeks of uncertainty after the ruling nationalists lost their parliamentary majority in an Oct. 15 election. President Andrzej Duda, an ally of PiS, said before the election he would give the first shot at forming a government to the largest single party.

## France to give armoured vehicles to Lebanese army defence minister

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: France will send dozens of armoured vehicles to the Lebanese army so it can properly carry out patrol missions in the country, France's defence minister said in remarks published on Monday.

Speaking to Lebanon's L'Orient Le Jour newspaper after a trip to the country, Sebastien Lecornu said it was vital to beef up the Lebanese national army so that it could coordinate

well with the United Nations peacekeeping force as tensions mount between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

"We will pursue our partnership with military equipment, notably for the transport of troops protected by armour, which is key to maintain patrols," he said, adding that several dozen armoured vehicles would be given to the Lebanese army soon.





ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting to review Visa process and facilities given to Sikh Pilgrims.

## APCEA in collaboration with PCI launch "Thousands of Miles with CPEC"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA), in collaboration with the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), launched "Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations" here at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS). The essence of the "One Belt, One Road" vision, transcends the barriers of time, borders, and cultures.

It has spread across the world, creating in its wake the hallmark projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) is the greatest milestone of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations. When Chinese President, Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in 2015, he formally determined the "1+4" cooperation formula and layout centered upon the construction of CPEC, and key focus on four areas that are; the Gwadar Port, Energy Sector, Infrastructure, and Industrial Cooperation.

From the large-scale industries to the young learners at school, CPEC has made an impact wherever it went since its inception in 2013. "Thousands of Miles with CPEC" is rooted in the social aspect

of this mega project, and takes the perspectives of those who have first handedly experienced the transformative power exerted by a decade of CPEC.

While hailing the macro-economic contributions of CPEC via the Power, Infrastructure, IT, and Agricultural sectors, etc., the cultural role it has played in building a Pak-China community of shared interest cannot be overlooked.

This unique project explores the very role of CPEC from the perspective of people belonging to various walks of life; ranging from common citizens,

and talented local employees to government functionaries and diplomats. The launch ceremony was in attendance by dignitaries representing both Chinese and Pakistani leadership including Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Murtaza Solangi, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Li Yong, Counselor for Commercial Affairs, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of Senate Defense Committee. It also had significant participation from Chinese enterprises and companies as well as from both local

## PUC calls for national unity, action against extremism, terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Executive and Consultative Body of Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC), under the leadership of Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Monday convened with more than 200 members representing various religious scholars and leaders from across the nation.

The gathering aimed to address the current situation in the country and make vital decisions for the betterment of Pakistan.

The council, while acknowledging the urgent need for national unity and action against terrorism and extremism, highlighted that hostile elements were actively undermining Pakistan's economic and social well-being, as evidenced by recent acts of terrorism in the country.

Keeping in view the sensitivity of the situation, the PUC announced nationwide conventions of religious scholars and leaders, under the umbrella of "Paigham-e-Pakistan" and urged to fully implement the 'National Action Plan' to combat extremism and terrorism effectively. It called upon all sects and schools of thought within Pakistan to unite against terrorism and extend full support to Pakistan's security forces and other relevant authorities.

The council emphasized that all scholars from different schools of thought in Islam had endorsed a Fatwa (religious decree) against unjust killings, and they vehemently opposed all armed groups operating against the state, which were not only in violation

of Islamic teachings but also a threat to national unity.

The council strongly condemned sectarianism, armed clashes based on sectarian differences, and attempts to impose one's ideology on others through force. It declared such actions as contrary to Islamic principles and against the laws of Pakistan.

Regarding the recent apex court decision to abolish the military courts, the PUC expressed its reservations and requested to reconsider it, especially in the current circumstances. It also urged the government to file an appeal against it in the larger interest of the country and nation.

The council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the government in addressing the issue of illegal Afghan refugees.

## PM directs maximum facilitation, swift visa issuance to Sikh Yatrees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to extend maximum facilities to the Sikh Yatrees intending to attend their religious festivals in Pakistan.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the visa facilities being provided to the Sikh Yatrees by the Government of Pakistan, said the Sikh pilgrims coming to the country to visit their holy places were the guests in Pakistan.

He was briefed on the Sikh festivals being held throughout the year, and the facilities for issuance of visas provided to the pilgrims.

He instructed the relevant authorities to extend all-out facilities to the Sikh Yatrees for carrying out their religious rituals and visiting their holy places.

The prime minister also directed to accelerate the visa issuance process while ensuring the transparency in the system.

He said the Sikh Yatrees coming to Pakistan via Kartarpur Corridor must be provided with the facilities of international standards.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ahmed Bin Salem Al Amri, President of the Riyadh's Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malkiy, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan and President Intl Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi met with the Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi.

## Dy Speaker New York State Assembly calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): A sixteen-member delegation of the American Pakistan Public Affairs Committee led by Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly Phil Ramos met Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan. The meeting discussed in detail the promotion of mutual cooperation in the health sector.

Dr. Nadeem Jan welcomed the delegation and expressed the desire to forge close collaboration with American Pakistan Public Affairs.

He said Pakistani diaspora is making excellent contribution in the U.S. and across the world and we look at their role with utmost admiration. A detailed discussion was held on providing trained nurses, pharmacists, technicians and physiotherapists from Pakistan to the New York State.

## Fertilizers interests to be protected: Smuggling of fertilizers not to be allowed to anyone, asserts CT Home Minister

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The interim Balochistan government would not allow anyone smuggling of the fertilizers in the province.

This was stated by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali while speaking to the delegation of All Balochistan Fertilizers Association Naseerabad who called on him here at his office on Monday.

Speaking to the members of delegation, Minister Home stressed the need to ensure sale of fertilizer at the government rate.

He assured that we would protect the interests of fertilizers.

He also said that smuggling of fertilizers would not be allowed anyway.

He said that the action would remain continued against the smugglers as per law.

He also exhorted the fertilizers to join hands with the district administration to stop smuggling of the fertilizers.

He on the occasion also assured that proper mechanism of supply and distribution of the fertilizer would be adopted with consultation.

Earlier, the members of Fertilizers Association presented their problems to the Minister Home and sought his cooperation to resolve them.

The members of delegation assured their cooperation to the Minister for preventing smuggling of the fertilizers. In addition to this, the government directives about movement of the fertilizers would also be fully implemented, they maintained.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr. Ameer Muhammad Jozegai and Jan Achakzai exchanging views during a meeting.

## Saudi delegation meets Education Minister to enhance cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the Riyadh's Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr. Ahmed Bin Salem Al Amri Monday met with the Minister for Caretaker Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi to enhance mutual cooperation in education.

Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malkiy and President International Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi present on the occasion.

Madad Ali Sindhi said Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University had a

rich history and prestige, adding that he had prioritized the quality of education, reduction of out of school children and research on Seerat Nabi (PBUH) since taking over charge as minister.

The minister offered 15 research fellowships to KSA at QAU.

He said that the work and efforts of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi had been exemplary.

The minister appreciated the upgradation of the systems in IUI and said the standard of education at IUI had been consistently on the rise under the leadership of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi.

## PM, Sindh CM discuss action against smuggling, power theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir on Monday called on Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar wherein they discussed the ongoing action against smuggling and power theft in the province. In the meeting, they deliberated over the administrative matters as well as law and order situation.

## Minister Population Welfare told by DG Draft of new family planning policy prepared

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The draft of new family planning policy has been prepared and it would be sent to the higher authorities for approval.

This was informed to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Population Welfare, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar by the Director General Population Welfare, Ghulam Mustafa and Director Population Welfare, Abdul Sattar Shahwani who called on him here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the DG Population Welfare informed about

new family planning policy the draft of which has been prepared.

He also informed that tenders for purchase of the anti-pregnancy medicines. In this regard, the strength of procurement committee would be increased.

Speaking on the occasion, caretaker Minister directed to ensure transparency in purchase of medicines for family planning.

He also directed to send the new policy for family planning for approval after its early completion.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan and Chairman Gwadar Development Authority Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over meeting of 27th Governor Body of GDA.

## ANF seizes large haul of drugs in Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in a raid in Gwadar seized large consignments of drugs hidden at different spots, reported on Monday. A key member of a drug smuggling gang had buried narcotics at various places in the area.

A spokesperson of the ANF has stated that overall, 1788 kilograms of drugs have been seized, including 1740KG hashish, 28 kilo ice and 20KG morphine.

"Seized drugs were made in Afghanistan," ANF stated. "A part of the seized drugs was found beneath a hut made of twigs and leaves of trees," ANF said. "Other drugs were recovered from the tunnels excavated in hills," according to the statement.

## 16 private member bills landed in Senate, one rejected

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 16 private member bills on Monday were introduced in the Senate while a motion to introduce the bill to provide for establishment of the Pakistan Future Council was rejected by the House with 25 votes against and 16 votes in its favour. Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti did not oppose the motion to introduce the Pakistan Future Council Bill, 2023 by Senator Sania Nishtar.

However, majority of senators termed it creation of supra-body over the already existing bodies like Planning and Development Commission.

The chairman put the motion for vote on the request of Sania Nishtar. Some 25 senators voted against it while 16 senators supported it. Earlier, moving the motion, Sania Nishtar said it was not a supra body over any other institution rather the council has only advisory and consultative role. She was of the views that all developed countries had such council and Pakistan had not such body.

However, Saadia Abbasi, Sherry Rehman, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Irfan Sadiqui and Mushahid Hussain Syed opposed it and said that in parliamentary system, the opposition and parliamentary committees played role of watch dog. The other 16 introduced bills were included, the Imports and Exports (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Cutting of Trees (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Pakistan Ehsaas Targeted Subsidies (Riayat) Programme Bill, 2023, the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Pakistan Emergency Treatment Coverage Programme Bill.

## PIA flight operations fully normalised

KARACHI (INP): After weeks of fuel issues, the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) spokesperson on Monday said that the national flag carrier's flight schedule is fully restored after restoration of fuel supply from Pakistan State Oil (PSO).

The spokesperson said in a statement that not a single flight of PIA from Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, or any other airport is canceled today. All flights are on time and as per schedule, the statement added.

## On matters of bilateral interest Pak to continue work closely with France: Hyder

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Defence, Lieutenant General Anwar Ali Hyder on Monday said Pakistan would continue to work closely with France on all matters of bilateral interest.

He made these remarks during a call on paid by Ambassador of the France, Nicolas GALEY at him here at the Ministry of Defence, a news release said.

The Defence Minister

highlighted that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with France both bilaterally and in the context of European Union. He emphasized on enhanced collaboration between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

The Minister stressed that Pakistan was committed to stability and peace in the region with particular focus on its relations with Afghanistan and India.

## Court rejects acquittal plea of Shahab, Gillani in ephedrine case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rejected the acquittal plea of 3 accused persons including former minister Makhdoom Shahab ud Din and Ali Musa Gilani in ephedrine case. The court while imposing penalty of Rs one lac each on the three accused ordered them to deposit fine amount within 30 days. Makhdoom Shahab ud Din, Ali Musa Gilani and Ansar Farooq had filed acquittal pleas in ephedrine quota allotment and alleged smuggling case in IHC on Monday.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem presenting shield to Federal Secretary for National Food Security Muhammad Mehmood.

## Ch Shujaat Hussain for providing ample role to women in politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has said that the role of women in the development of country is important and they should be given ample opportunities in politics to move forward.

While talking to APP, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said that women's passion is valuable and they need to provide active role in society building.

"There are important tasks that need attention, including education, the second skills development, and the third is the mainstreaming of women" he added. Muslim League

women should play their full role in the upcoming elections, he urged.

He said that Muslim League women are determined for the development of country and will play a full-fledged role in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Farrukh Khan told APP that more than half of the country's population consists of women, they hold an important position in every respect, so as long as we support our women.

The dream of national development will not be fulfilled until we do not carry it, she added. Pakistani women are showing their talent in every field.



QUETTA: Afghan migrants standing outside afghan consulate.

## Mushaal pays glowing tributes to martyrs of Jammu carnage of 1947

ISLAMABAD (APP): Paying glowing tribute to martyrs of Jammu carnage of 1947, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mallick said that the fascist India had been committing the genocidal acts and massacre of Kashmiri people for the last seven decades to break their resolve for breaking the shackles of Indian slavery but of no avail.

Mushaal said this in her message on the "Jammu Martyrs' Day" observed on November 6 on both sides of Kashmir and across the world to pay tribute to the victims of the Jammu massacre, said a statement.

She stated that the Jammu massacre of 1947 was the worst example of genocide and ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Indian illegally occupied Jammu

and Kashmir (HIOJK); however, despite lapse over seven decades, no action was taken against India for the war crime that further emboldened the rogue state to accelerate its reign of terror in the occupied territory.

Mushaal recalled that the Jammu massacre was the most horrible incident of the history of HIOJK that continued to haunt the people of Kashmir like nightmare despite lapse of seventy-six years.

The SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment contended that the notorious Indian state was committing genocide and massacre of Kashmiri people under its nefarious strategy to change demography of the blood-soaked region by converting the Muslim majority into minority, who constituted over 60 percent of the population.

## Court grants Sheikh interim bail in May 9 incident case

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Monday granted interim bail to Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rasheed in the May 9 incidents case.

At the outset of the hearing, AML chief lawyer, Sardar Abdul Raziq argued that Sheikh Rasheed had no connection with the May 9 incidents and was not involved in the happenings.

After the arguments, ATC Judge Ejaz Asif, accepted the interim bail plea and directed the former federal minister to submit a Rs 50,000 surety bond.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Shaina Khan and Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh being briefed by senior officers regarding prevention of narcotics.