

# Independent

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Australia's Pat Cummins celebrates with the trophy and teammates after winning the ICC Cricket World Cup.

## PM Kakar congratulates team Australia on winning WC Travis Head shattered billion dreams as Australia wins 6th World Cup title

**Sports Desk**  
AHMEDABAD: Opener Travis Head hit a sparkling 137 to power Australia to a record-extending sixth World Cup title with a convincing six-wicket win over India in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Chasing a tricky 241 for victory in the final, Australia slipped to 47-3 before the left-handed Head hit his second century of the tournament to steer the team home with seven overs to spare.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated

the Indian team despite their loss.

"Dear Team India, your talent and determination through the World Cup was noteworthy. You've played with great spirit and brought immense pride to the nation," he said.

"We stand with you today and always," he added.

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Head's knock and his marathon stand of 192 with Marnus Labuschagne, unbeaten on 58, ended India's dominant run of 10 unbeaten matches at the event.

Head fell after his 120-ball knock laced with 15 fours and four sixes before Glenn Maxwell hit the winning runs to trigger wild celebrations in the Aussie camp.

"Just thrilled to be a part of it," man-of-the-match Head told Star Sports.

"It's a lot better than seeing the World Cup on the couch at home (on his injury). I was a little bit nervous but Marnus played exceptionally well and soaked all the pressure."

India's chances of ending a global trophy drought since their 2013 Champions Trophy win went up in smoke once Head got going with Labuschagne.

## Universal Children's Day being observed today: Govt.'s utmost endeavour is to get every child in schools, says caretaker Chief Minister

**Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki says we have to provide our children bright and safe future**

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it is our government's utmost endeavour to get every child in the schools all over province.

He said that the government is paying special attention on health of children besides ensuring education for all.

The caretaker Chief Minister stated so in an official hand out issued here on the eve of Universal Children's Day being observed today (Monday) all over the globe including

Pakistan.

The theme of Children's Day is "for Every child, every right." It may be mentioned here that World Children's Day is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, by children, marking the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Chief Minister said that the children happen to be the builders of future, and their best upbringing is essential for formation of the healthy society.

He said that we have to provide our children a bright and safe future. This

is why, the government is paying special attention on the health and education of the children, Mr. Domki maintained.

He said that the children below five years of age are being administered the anti-polio vaccine besides implementing the routine immunization programme to save them from various diseases. He said that it is our endeavour to get every child in school. The government has also taken wholehearted measures for recreation and sports activities for the children in the educational institutions and otherwise.

## Zardari says: PPP to emerge as majority party in upcoming polls

KARACHI (INP): Co-Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former president Asif Ali Zardari has said that the general elections in the country should be held on time.

In his statement, former president Asif Ali Zardari said that the country is moving towards transparent elections and the People's Party is fully prepared for it. He was of the view as the conditions in the country are conducive, elections should be held on time. He said that we have confidence in the Election Commission that it would conduct a transparent election.

The former president said that the People's Party is the only party which is capable of contesting elections in any environment

and will emerge as the majority party of the country on February 8. A day earlier, UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott called on PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House in Karachi. A party post uploaded on social media website X, formerly twitter, the former president was upbeat about the prospects of the PPP in the February 8 general elections. However, he expressed his party's concerns about level playing field in the run-up to elections. They said Mr Zardari told Ms Marriott that one party [PML-N] was being given priority treatment which belied claims of the caretaker government of giving level playing field in the elections.



JEDDAH: Minister Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab Malik meets with Pakistani Community, Saudi Employers and HRM Exec.

## Govt of Balochistan decides to start crackdown against social media indulged in anti-state propaganda

**Interim Minister for Information Jan Achakzai confirms reports about crackdown, reveals social media accounts and pages spreading baseless propaganda about expulsion of illegal immigrants identified too**

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has decided to start crackdown against the social media indulged in the anti-state propaganda about expulsion of the illegal foreign immigrants from the country.

According to the official sources, the social media accounts and pages spreading baseless and false propaganda about expulsion of the illegal immigrants have also been identified and the same are being contacted through PTA so as to block them.

It has also been decided to take action against those running such pages and accounts under the Cyber Crime Act of the FIA, the sources informed. Meanwhile, the caretaker

Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai also confirmed the crackdown against the social media indulged in the anti-state propaganda after making pages and accounts on the social media.

The fresh example of which is the propaganda being made against repatriation of the illegal immigrants and posts against the Balochistan Health Card Project, he added. Jan Achakzai asserted that it is the state's firm decision to repatriate all the illegal immigrants completely at every cost. Under the given situation, some people are defaming the country and becoming instrument of foreign elements by using social media accounts, he said adding that all such accounts and pages would not only be blocked.

The Minister Information said that some groups were busy in the anti-state and anti-government propaganda after making pages and accounts on the social media.

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## Two real brothers among three killed in Kech roadside explosion

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: Three persons including two real brothers were killed in a roadside bomb explosion took place in Hosharp area of Kech district on Sunday.

According to the reports reaching here, a vehicle was on its way carrying three persons in Hosharp in Kech district when it was hit by a roadside bomb explosive device.

As the explosive device went off after the vehicle struck it, three persons died on the spot, the reports suggested adding

those dead were included two real brothers.

The bodies of deceased were removed to their native area Balgitar.

The area levies and administration reached the spot after the roadside blast and started investigations.

Meanwhile, as per the initial reports, the deceased were carrying the explosive material themselves when it went off.

However, further investigations were in progress till ours going to the press.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq addressing the Gaza March in front of Punjab University.

## 235,821 Afghans return to homeland

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 235,821 Afghans have so far been repatriated to their homeland, according to Radio Pakistan.

The repatriation of illegal foreign nationals, including Afghans, to their homeland is continuing. Thousands of Afghans are returning to their homeland on a daily basis through the Chaman and Torkham borders, thanking Pakistan for its generosity. Apart from other measures for the dignified return of Afghans to their country, transit camps equipped with all facilities.

## Malik paves way for enhanced collaboration in Saudi's job market

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, focused on developing the Pakistani workforce in KSA during his interactions with Saudi employers and human resource executives on his visit to the kingdom.

In Saudi Arabia, he concentrates on solidifying connections and optimizing opportunities for the Pakistani community.

Jawad Sohrab Malik engaged in in-depth discussions with Saudi employers and human resource

management executives in Jeddah. During the meetings, SAPM emphasized the crucial role of human resource development aligned with the requirements of the Saudi market and economy.

He highlighted that the paramount value lies in close coordination and a strong exchange of ideas among stakeholders in overseas employment to effectively leverage opportunities for Pakistani manpower in the Saudi Arabian market. The SAPM also engaged with the Pakistani community at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah.

## Pakistan budget insufficient to tackle climate change: IMF

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Sunday Pakistan had limited budget to tackle the aggravated climate condition in the country.

An IMF report on public investment indicated, Pakistani economy might be affected by 9 percent by the natural disruptions.

The report said Pakistan was among the coun-

tries more likely to be affected by the climate change and earlier 30 million people were affected by the floods in 2022.

The report said Pakistan's developmental budget was 14 time more than the climate budget and every year since 2000, Pakistan was facing over \$2 billion losses due to the climate change.

## Award ceremony organized to recognize invaluable services of women in different sectors

**Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information emphasizes women leadership have to play role to cope with challenges of modern era; announces women summit to be held in Qta**

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The award ceremony was held to recognize the invaluable services of women in different sectors here at the Government Post-graduate Girls College, Quetta cantonment on Sunday.

The ceremony was organized by the Quetta Citizen Rights Movement where the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai was the chief guest.

The Minister Information gave away awards to the women who served extra ordinarily in different sectors including education,

literature, social work, health, sports and others.

Addressing the ceremony, Jan Achakzai highly appreciated the organizers for holding the award ceremony for the women.

He said that it is really commendable to recognize the services of women in different fields and award them.

The Minister said that the interim government is doing its best to shine in different sectors just to provide maximum relief to the masses.

He also spoke at length about the issues faced by the women in the

society. He stressed the need to provide conducive safe environment for the working women at their workplaces.

The Minister Information said they the women and children didn't get opportunities of working in government and private sectors.

However, we wouldn't make allegations on anyone, but would take practical measures, he added.

He stressed that the women leadership would have to play its role to cope with the challenges of modern era.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai and others addressing the ceremony of Emerging Women Award.

## Thousands attend JI's Gaza Solidary March in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Thousands of citizens have attended Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Gaza March in Lahore to show solidarity with Palestinians in besieged densely populated strip and occupied West Bank suffering from the aggression of the Israeli occupation forces.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) organized the Gaza Solidarity March at Lahore's Punjab University (PU) Campus Bridge today which was attended by thousands of citizens including women and children. The massive public event was addressed by JI Pakistan Ameer Sirajul Haq, politicians and clerics.

Protestors chanted pro-Palestinian slogans and demanded an end to Israeli aggression in Gaza.

While addressing the Gaza March, JI Pakistan Ameer Sirajul Haq said that the innocent children of Gaza were waiting for the

help of Muslim countries amid Israeli bombardment.

He slammed rulers of the Muslim countries for doing nothing for the relief of Palestinians except making tall claims. He also criticized that the rulers of the Muslim countries did nothing in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit except for consolation.

"A dead resolution was passed in the OIC summit, ineffective to provide any relief to the Palestinians and stop inhumane actions of the Israeli occupation forces."

He lauded the Western nations including the United Kingdom (UK), France, Australia, Ireland, United States (US) and Canada for showing solidarity with the Palestinians.

Haq said that the French people forced their government to change its narrative through a powerful campaign.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Rupee's recovery against dollar**

The rupee is expected to maintain its upward trend in the coming week, helped by dollar sales by exporters and optimism about the country's economy following its deal with the International Monetary Fund for the next loan tranche what the dealers and analysts believe. The rupee recovered 0.36 percent against the dollar over the week, breaking a 17-day losing streak in the interbank market and rising from 287.55 on Monday to 286.50 on Friday. The local unit has recently appreciated due to the optimism sparked by the IMF review and its positive response, which boosted investors' confidence in the economy, according to dealers. According to a currency dealer, we expect the rupee's rally will continue as the market's inflows have started to improve. Exporters are returning to the market to sell dollars in anticipation that the rupee will appreciate further in the coming days. Improved supplies and a positive outlook support the rupee.

Worthwhile to mention here is that IMF staff and the Pakistani authorities recently reached a staff-level agreement on the first review under Pakistan's standby arrangement (SBA), subject to approval by the IMF's executive board. Upon approval, the country is set to get approximately \$700 million, bringing the total disbursements under the SBA to nearly \$1.9 billion.

The Tresmark, a financial technology firm, in a weekly client noted that "As soon as the staff-level agreement was announced with the IMF, the top machinery, including the caretaker prime minister, the interim finance minister, and the governor of the State Bank of Pakistan came out with guns blazing and spoke all positives to reinforce the sentiment." It further said that the verbal intervention was accompanied by market tactics to bring down the local currency. Allegedly, import payments were postponed, and new letters of credit issuance were restricted and oversight in market trading was intense.

The reversal in currency's trend has reintroduced exporters to sell forwards, even though forward premiums were down by 30 percent (one and three months ended the week at 190 and 430 paisa). According to Tresmark, the market now estimates that the Rupee will strengthen to around 282/5, whereupon the SBP will restart its dollar buying. Positive news flows like lending from multilaterals and the IMF's executive board approvals will keep Rupee buoyant. As of November 10, Pakistan has \$12.5 billion in foreign exchange reserves, up from \$8.5 billion in May.

The remittances and exports are improving. The current account deficit for October is expected to shrink to \$100 million. It is projected that Pakistan will get approximately \$1.2 billion in financing from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank before the end of the year. The government also expects more inflows from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to support the country's economy. Over the last 20 days, the global oil prices (Brent) have decreased by 17 percent, from \$97 to \$80 per barrel. Treasury bills and bonds' cut-off yields are trending downward. Due to the base effect and tight monetary policy and base effect, inflation is predicted to decline significantly starting in January; interest rates are positive on a forward-looking basis.

**Being seen & heard**



**Muna Khan**

Going to graduate school in the US as a mature student meant I felt a disconnect with younger students, especially around language and identity issues. It took some time for me to understand words like 'woke' and 'gaslighting' but it provided much humour in the classroom.

I was studying journalism having practised it for about 20 years and had more in common with my professors than students who complained they did not feel seen or heard. I took 'seen and heard' to mean as sources in reporting whereas they meant the opposite — 'truly understood'. Who has time to sit and truly understand sources, people, communities when you're racing against the clock, I'd argue. They blamed the media for not accurately representing communities, or even trying to, which is why the news media was losing audiences who feel invisible. I warned them that talks about feelings will not sit well in a newsroom.

Donald Trump won the election a few months into these discussions. His unexpected victory was blamed on Russian hackers, Facebook ads, Hillary Clinton; but a Harvard study blamed it on the press "specifically the overwhelmingly negative tone of news coverage".

The very classmates I ridiculed had the answer to why the media got it wrong: the liberal elite coastal media did not attempt to understand or fairly report on Trump supporters. It was a big

teaching moment for me and I said I would always try to understand the other perspective in my work but it's been a struggle especially when those others use abusive language.

David Brooks' new book *How to Know a Person* offers insight on how to better see, hear and also be heard in an age where digital connectivity has caused isolation. That sense of being understood can only come from genuine human connections, he writes, and he offers practical steps on how to engage with people or reconnect with old friends.

This may sound like self-help territory but unlike other guides, Brooks' book is meticulously researched. He references neuroscience, psychology, history, education, and the arts to present an understanding of human connections. His concern is to understand the 'decline' of morals in America and offers interesting tidbits, like how words in books have reduced in the 20th century. Using a software tool, he learned how 'bravery' was down 66 percent in books, 'humbleness' by 52pc and 'gratitude' by 49pc. Parents aren't teaching their children about character, instead it's about winning.

Some of his self-help suggestions — how to start conversations — while trite, even silly, speak to a larger issue, not just in the US. Our screen time has upended our social skills. It was possible to have friends with opposing views on a host of issues but that seems impossible now. We — myself included — use emojis to communicate feelings. If you cut yourself off from emotions you risk cutting yourself off from intimacy and life itself.

Along with social media, he holds the widening inequality, populism, bigotry and a decline in religion and community participation responsible for

an absence of values born of kindness.

Here, I disagree with him slightly based on my time as a student in the US where I saw an emergence of a new moral code and I believe that doesn't sit right with Brooks, a white conservative who supported the Iraq war and is pro-Israel. The US has made a great deal of strides in diverse political representation, gender and LGBTQ rights and is fighting back against racist and anti-climate policies. It represents a rejection of a world order that has seen a rise of centi-millionaires (people with investable assets greater than \$100 million) whose number has doubled in the last 20 years according to a wealth advisory firm.

I believe the pushback to Israel's propaganda is also proof that young people are calling out the lies because they now can 'see, hear' Palestinians, who have been denied space in the press. Go to TikTok to see the videos of users reading a 20-year-old letter by Osama bin Laden to the Americans and agreeing with him. There is a genuine interest in wanting to know, to understand 'others' and ourselves in the process. This is the purpose of journalism and I hope the press can find its way back to representing communities fairly.

Of course, societies need more empathy and human connections are vital for us to thrive. It's why I support ease of travel restrictions between India and Pakistan especially for families and artists, sports people, students on exchange program-mes. Let us connect, talk, listen and have a respectful exchange of ideas so we can ease some of the social pain Brooks says we are all in. These small steps — versus grand PR-driven gestures — can help us become a better friend, neighbour, partner, values I hope we can all support.

— Courtesy Dawn

**Issue of refugees**



**Aizzah Ahmad Chaudhry**

Hundreds of thousands of undocumented Afghan refugees are returning to their country. In principle, it makes perfect sense. No country allows illegal foreign nationals to stay on its land. Pakistan, too, has that right. Notably, at this stage, only undocumented refugees are being obliged to return home. The caretaker interior minister said in a Senate hearing that the government would want the return of refugees to proceed without any manhandling, and with immediate redressal of complaints.

However, since this forced return has coincided with the steep rise of terrorism in Pakistan, a correlation has developed in the public consciousness that the expulsion of Afghan refugees is Pakistan's answer to the Taliban government's non-cooperation on the issue of the TTP, which is carrying out terrorist acts against Pakistan. This perception needs to be addressed.

There is a view that Afghan refugees were victims of foreign aggression and oppression. Some would even suggest that Afghan refugees have lived in Pakistan long enough to be deemed economic migrants. As it is, many of those returning now might come back to Pakistan in the near future because there is no real economic pull for them to settle in Afghanistan. Hence the need to talk to Kabul for creating pull factors, such as offering land.

Amidst this diversity of views, the debate has begun to affect the over-

all trajectory of Pak-Afghan ties. Pakistanis wonder why the Taliban government is not sensitive to Pakistan's high concern about TTP-sponsored terrorism. The answer lies in recognising the fact that the Taliban of Afghanistan and the Taliban of Pakistan are two sides of the same ideological coin. Both derive their inspiration from the founder of the Taliban movement. The TTP helped the Afghan Taliban during the latter's fight with Americans. The Afghan Taliban are returning the favour.

Further, the TTP wants to do what the Afghan Taliban would welcome: establish an Islamic emirate in the tribal belt straddling the Pak-Afghan border. It is clear that the Afghan Taliban are unlikely to take any kinetic action against the TTP on their soil. It is worth recalling how their first government defended the Al Qaeda leader's right to stay in Afghanistan despite intense US pressure.

Given these realities, our government needs to adopt a two-pronged approach. Politically, Islamabad should sustain its efforts to persuade Kabul to not allow the TTP to plan attacks against Pakistan using Afghan soil. Kinetically, this is a fight that Pakistan will have to win on its own, as it did in Swat and Waziristan. The perception of the forced return of refugees being tit-for-tat action could have serious implications and cause an open rift with Kabul.

Let us also address a related question that is being asked, ie, why the Afghans are not grateful to Pakistan for all that was done for them in the past four decades. Indeed, Pakistan had helped Afghans push out the Soviet forces and also gave them humanitarian access during the US-led 'war on terror'. Despite US pressure, Pakistan never took kinetic

action against the Afghan Taliban leadership that often visited Pakistan to meet their families and receive medical treatment. Consequently, Washington accused us of playing 'good Taliban (Afghan), bad Taliban (Pakistani)', meaning a double game.

In hindsight, when the US started a dialogue with the Taliban and managed to obtain some written commitments from them in return for withdrawing its troops in 2021, should Pakistan not have opened its own dialogue with the Taliban on how they should deal with the issues of TTP, border management, and the return of refugees, if and when they returned to power? They were under immense pressure and would have been more amenable to talks then rather than now when they are in power and unchallenged by any internal faction.

Yet, we must stay engaged with them on the diplomatic and political tracks for candid discussions on the bilateral issues mentioned. If we are to learn from history, all such matters should be discussed in Pakistan's parliament. A diversity of views enriches debate and helps generate sound and consensual policy decisions.

The Afghans tend to view their country as the 'economic roundabout' that could connect West and Central Asia with South Asia. They cite a verse of Allama Iqbal, which characterised Afghanistan as the 'heart of Asia'. This provides an enormous win-win foundation for both countries to work together on regional energy projects and transit trade. This will help make mutually beneficial economic projects the centrepiece of Islamabad's relations with Kabul, in tandem with Pakistan's pivot to geo-economics espoused in our first National Security Policy 2022. — Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Mudassar Iqbal says: UN FAO's 40 ambitious projects to revolutionize agriculture in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) on Sunday unveiled a dynamic portfolio of 40 diverse projects strategically dispersed across various regions of Pakistan. These initiatives, with varying scopes, financial parameters, and target audiences, underscore the FAO's commitment to fortifying the agriculture and food security sectors in the country.

In an exclusive panel interview with the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Country Representative Florence

Rolle and Assistant FAOR (Programs) Dr. Aamer Irshad highlighted the proactive role of the FAO in numerous initiatives and programs aimed at strengthening Pakistan's agriculture and food security sectors. These initiatives span a spectrum, including enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability, supporting livestock and fisheries development, and implementing food security programs to alleviate hunger and malnutrition.

The FAO's involvement extends beyond traditional

agricultural support. The organization actively engages in sustainable natural resource management, providing humanitarian assistance during emergencies, and collaborating closely with the Pakistani government on policy development. Additionally, the FAO supports research and innovation while helping Pakistan adapt to the challenges posed by climate change. Rolle outlined FAO's 2023-2027 priorities with Pakistan: enhancing food availability, strengthening climate-responsive planning, and improving agricultural value chains.



**PESHAWAR:** Visitors take keen interest in antique vehicles during Annual Vintage and Classic Car Show 2023 held at Services Club Pakistan in Peshawar.

**Use of certified seeds crucial for achieving agriculture growth**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Hybrid Seed Association (PHSA), Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday said that the use of certified seeds, particularly hybrid seeds, is indispensable for achieving sustainable agricultural production in Pakistan.

Speaking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said, "By promoting their adoption, we can contribute to increased food production,

economic growth, and environmental resilience."

He urged stakeholders, including government bodies, agricultural extension services, and seed producers, to collaborate in fostering an environment that encouraged the widespread adoption of certified seeds. He said, "Certified seeds serve as the foundation for robust and sustainable crop yields. Hybrid seeds, in particular, offer numerous advantages, such as increased productivity,

**US transition to electric vehicles faces delays**

NEW YORK (APP/APP): The US transition to electric cars has hit a speed bump, with concerns about vehicle range and limited charging capacity adding to core affordability issues.

Automakers in recent weeks have pushed back EV sales targets and delayed capital projects as they seek to reduce inventories of unsold EVs at dealerships.

"The slowdown in EV sales is much more pronounced than it is for other categories of vehicles and that isn't related to the economy," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData.

"The EV has a problem attached to it," he said. "It's a much more difficult and complex purchase because of the range of the vehicles and the charging infrastructure."



**HYDERABAD:** Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) President, Adeel Siddiqui take keen interest at stalls during Furniture Expo held in Hyderabad.

**Govt's move of establishing Industrial Advisory Council commendable: Atif Akram**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Presidential candidate of FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh has commended the government's move of setting up the Industrial Advisory Council and assured the full cooperation of the business community. He said that the council headed by the Federal Minister of Industry and Production Gohar Ejaz, comprises reputable personalities who will advise the government to boost industrial production in the country and tackle issues

confronting industrialisation proactively.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Atif Ikram Sheikh, who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA and President ICCI said that Muhammad Ali Tibba, Fawad Ahmed Mukhtar, Raza Mansha, Aamir Fayyaz Sheikh, Waqar Ahmed Malik, Abdul Samad Dawood, Shehbaz Yasin Malik, Shahzad Asghar Ali, Syed Haider Ali, Farooq Naseem, Ahsan Bashir and Sameer Chinoy

have been included in the council.

Moreover, the council members include all the provincial chief secretaries, including the chief secretaries of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, the finance secretary, the commerce secretary, the industry and production secretary and the chairman of FBR. He said the council would meet every week and submit a report in 10 weeks, adding that the business community is pinning high hopes on them.

**Grand Souq Lahore to foster business growth, say experts**

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has announced the launch of Grand Souq Lahore (GSL), to foster local and national business growth.

It will be constructed at an expansive 68-kanal area at the Rescue 1122 Academy at LOS bus stop, Ferozpur Road, here. A spokesperson for the CBD told APP that the project aims at facilitating and empowering the local business community, adding the project construction would be

drawing inspiration from international architectural marvels in Dubai and Turkey, adding it will be meticulously crafted to meet global standards.

To further ease business operations, CBD Punjab has introduced an accessible installment plan for interested stakeholders, he said. The GSL will boast an outstanding sophisticated infrastructure in local history, including three floors with versatile retail spaces ranging from 350 to 550 square feet and underground parking, he added. CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, while expressing his plans for the

construction of mega project told APP on Sunday that the local business community and investors serve as the backbone of our economy.

Grand Souq Lahore is an anticipated hope marking a significant milestone in empowering these enterprises while fostering economic growth. To a query he said that the strategic location of GSL at LOS here ensures accessibility for visitors from key areas such as Ferozpur Road, Shadman, Ichhra, and Samnabad, adding the project is poised to transform the business landscape, providing a platform for local

**CDA needs to focus on development works in markets: Trade Associations**

ISLAMABAD (INP): The presidents of trade associations of the markets of the federal capital Islamabad have urged the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to focus on development works in all major markets to facilitate the growth of trade activities.

They were speaking during a meeting at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Sunday.

Addressing the office bearers of market associations, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that traders were paying various taxes to the CDA and were making significant contributions to its revenue, therefore, it was the responsibility of the civic body to develop

markets on modern lines for smooth growth of trade activities.

He said that with the efforts of ICCI, CDA has allocated spaces in various markets for the installation of filtration plants and assured that ICCI would keep pushing CDA for the uplift of markets. He said that ICCI in collaboration with market associations was planning to organize a winter festival in Islamabad and hoped that all markets would fully cooperate in making the festival successful.

Vice President ICCI Engineer Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that unity among traders is the key requirement to get their issues resolved and assured that the ICCI would keep fighting for their cause.



**KARACHI:** People are busy buying used items in a Sunday weekly bazaar at North Karachi area.

businesses, thriving and meet to diverse consumer needs.

Exploring the immense potential of GSL, business industry experts anticipate it to be a game-changer, elevating the local economy and setting new benchmarks in business development.

The project would further help promote environment-friendly urban regeneration projects on vertical principles. Preliminary feasibility has been determined based on development as economic advancement and shall generate employment in various formations of the project, Amin said. Imran

Amin further expressed that development shall also enhance vertical activity in surrounding areas, especially within the main markets including Anarkali, Gulberg, Mall Road, and other commercial activity areas with a boost in major business activity. Imran Amin further said the GSL project would be associated with CBD directly and that development has been categorized into five districts — namely, Commercial Zone, Digital District, Residential District, Entertainment and Government Zone, each district having unique characteristics and dynamics.

## KP govt decides to make universities self-sufficient

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: A high level meeting chaired by Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Sunday decided to develop financial plans to make all public sector universities financially self-dependent. The meeting also decided to activate search committee for appointment of Vice Chancellors. The committee would submit its report within a week to the provincial minister. The CM emphasized to improve the administrative affairs and

governance of the universities to solve the problems being faced by the universities. The chief minister asked to promote high standard of higher education based on the demand of market adding that priorities should also be given to quality of research work. He said the secondary and higher secondary education system should be aligned with the priorities of higher education institutions. For this purpose, the CM asked to hold consultation with the stakeholders.



**KARACHI:** Member of the Trans community take part in Sindh Moorat March.

## Dadocha dam to supply 35 mln gallons water per day to Rwp City

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** The Dadocha Dam would help overcome water shortage in Rawalpindi as after construction of the dam, it would supply 35 million gallons of water per day to Rawalpindi city, said Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chhatta. He said that water scarcity has become a global problem and different countries are considering different ways to meet the shortage. Pakistan is also one of the countries suffering from a water crisis, the Commissioner said. Due to the non-construction of dams, per

capita availability of water here has decreased four times during the last 50 years, Liaquat Ali Chhatta said. Due to the shortage of dams, millions of cuases rainwater is wasted every year or causing floods, he added. The government of Punjab is giving priority to the problem of water scarcity and is paying special attention to the construction of small dams, he said and informed that the approved cost of the dam being built in Dadocha village near Rawat Industrial Estate was Rs 6492 million, which would now be estimated again.



**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inspecting the various stalls during culture day at Edwards College Peshawar.

## Naqvi visits Chakwal, assures madrasa students of justice

**CM also visits Bagh-e-Jinnah, seeks its upgradation**

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi reached Chakwal on Sunday and met madrasa students who were subjected to molestation and torture by some teachers and assured them and their parents of complete justice. According to a handout issued here, the CM acquired information about the incident and remarked that those responsible would not be able to go Scot-free.

"Children are our future and it is our responsibility to provide them justice," he said and promised that harsh punishment would be given to the culprits. The CM was informed that both the accused had been arrested after their identification through CCTV cameras. Talking to the media later on, the CM said, "We feel a lot of sorrow and shame over the incident. Every madrasa is not bad and few people had committed an evil and immoral act." He

said the inspector general of police (IGP) had been assigned the task of investigating the case and secretary prosecution would perform his duty diligently during the court proceedings. The CM ordered for taking care of privacy of the affected children. "We honour the decision of not holding a medical. I request the local media not to make public the names and pictures of the affected children," he requested. "The affected children need to be brought

out of trauma and their normal life needs to be restored. We will restore studies of the children and will also get them out of trauma," promised Mohsin Naqvi. The CM directed the commissioner and deputy commissioner for undertaking measures for education and rehabilitation of the affected children. The IG Police, Doctor Usman Anwar, RPO Rawalpindi, Commissioner Rawalpindi, DPO Chakwal and Deputy Commissioner Chakwal were also present.

## KP CM directs completion of digital record of patwar system

**PESHAWAR (APP):** An important step to ensure public services delivery in a more efficient and transparent manner in various service delivery outlets of the provincial government, the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has directed the concerned authorities for taking necessary steps on urgent basis to install live Internet Protocol Cameras (IPCs) at patwar kahanas, police stations and offices of DCs, ACS, DPOs, DSPs and Tehsilidars across the province. He further directed to complete installation of IPCs at all aforementioned public service outlets/offices by the end of this month.

He also directed the concerned high ups to set up a Centralized Monitoring Cell for the surveillance of those cameras and to put in place a mechanism for direct access of the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police offices to those cameras via IP network. He underlined the need to initiate implementation of this project without any delay and directed the quarter concerned to immediately issue proper directives in written regarding installation of IPCs at all aforementioned offices. He was presiding over a meeting of the Board of Revenue held here at Chief Minister's House.



**KARACHI:** Parents of students waiting outside Expo Centre as the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2023-24 is being held.

## Ex-ministers quit PTI, join IPP

**LAHORE (APP):** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister Ali Nawaz Awan parted ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and announced joining Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP). According to party sources, Ali Nawaz met IPP Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen and President Aleem Khan in Lahore and announced joining their party. Aoun Chaudhry and other IPP leaders were also present. Jahangir Tareen and Abdul Aleem welcomed Ali Nawaz in the party folds.

## Stemming out domestic violence still a far cry

**LAHORE (APP):** Despite essential legislation and repeated efforts to control this menace, domestic violence still persists in societies worldwide – thanks to ignorance of people to religious and legal obligations and their deep entrenchment in primitive socio-cultural norms. It persisted as an insidious issue in our society for decades that transcends geographical, economic, racial, and cultural boundaries, inflicting its impact on women through verbal abuse, physical assault,

beatings, and tragically sometimes even murder. The repercussions extend far beyond mere physical injuries, reaching into the realms of compromised health, weakened psychological well-being and profound emotional distress. Unfortunately, our country is also not immune to this pervasive problem. The roots of domestic violence are deeply embedded and multifaceted with factors like women's low education, poverty, lack of awareness, misinterpretations of

Islamic teachings and adherence to customary and prevalent cultural customs contributing to this menace. Significantly, this issue disproportionately affects families in the lower socio-economic strata as men with higher education usually exhibiting a lower propensity to abuse their family women. "Besides other factors, domestic violence against women is a case of failure of respective institutions in effective implementation of relevant laws," remarked Sabahat

Rizvi, Secretary Lahore High Court Bar Association. "Being a law practitioner, I can validly attribute the increasing cases of domestic violence to a general tendency of overall lethargy by such institutions and a spirit of male dominance in society," she added. At the same time Sabahat argued that women's welfare is not a government responsibility alone as she also pointed out a growing societal conservatism contributing to the rise in such incidents.

"Men, in their personal capacity, perceiving themselves as more powerful, engage in acts of violence against women," she explained. "Therefore, the remedy lies in proper awareness of women and rigorously enforcing relevant legislation to curtail men." The Punjab government has taken several measures to counter this negativity on part of men folk and its detrimental consequences by establishing Punjab Women's Helpline 1043 and Women Safety Mobile Application.

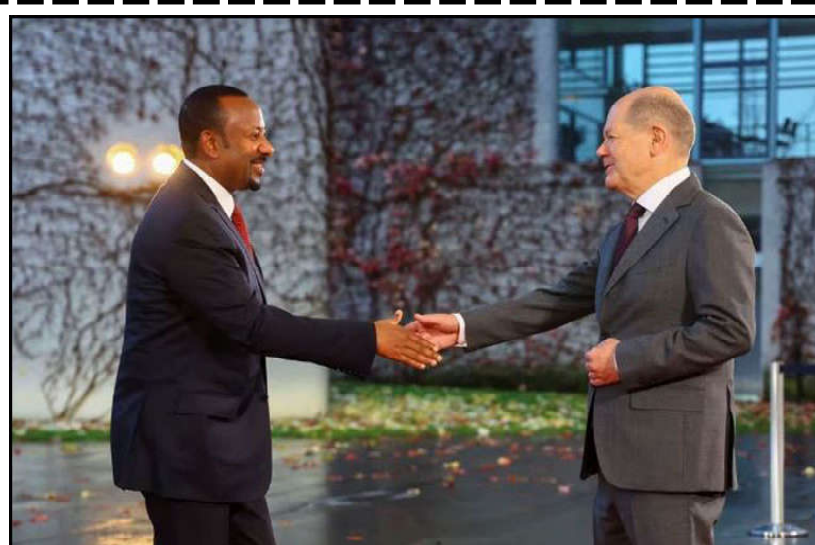
## International News

## Heavy fighting in north Gaza after hostage deal report denied

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Fighting raged on Sunday between Hamas militants and Israeli forces in parts of north Gaza and Israeli air strikes killed dozens of Palestinians in the enclave's centre, witnesses said, as a report of a tentative hostage release deal was denied. The Washington Post reported that Israel and Hamas had reached a tentative US-brokered agreement to free dozens of women and children held hostage in Gaza in exchange for a five-day pause in their war, citing people familiar with the matter. It said the hostage release could begin within the

next several days, barring last-minute hitches. All parties would freeze combat operations for at least five days while 50 or more hostages are released in groups every 24 hours, the Post reported. Hamas took about 240 hostages during its deadly cross-border rampage into Israeli communities on Oct. 7. The pause is also intended to allow a significant amount of humanitarian aid in, the newspaper reported, adding that the outline of the deal was put together during weeks of talks in Qatar. But both Israel's prime minister and US officials said no agreement

had been hammered out yet, with a White House spokesperson saying efforts were continuing to clinch a deal. The Post's report came as Israel appeared to be preparing to expand its offensive against Hamas militants to densely populated Gaza's southern half after air strikes killed dozens of Palestinians, including civilians reportedly sheltering at two schools. Israeli forces invaded late last month after a devastating aerial blitz in response to Hamas's attack, and say they have wrested control of large areas of the north and northwest around Gaza City.



**Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali is welcomed by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz before the "Compact with Africa" summit in Berlin, Germany.**

## Japanese troops drill on island seen as vulnerable to China

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAPAN: Japanese marines in amphibious assault vehicles stormed an island beach at the edge of the East China Sea on Sunday in a simulated attack to dislodge invaders from territory that Tokyo worries is vulnerable to attack from China. As tensions run high with neighbours China, Russia and North Korea, the drill on the southwest island of Tokunoshima capped an 11-day series of exercises nationwide dubbed 05JX, meant to show the readiness of

ground, sea and air forces to defend Japan's territory and infrastructure, including nuclear power plants. "The goal of JX is to show that if there is an emergency situation resulting from an attack, that we are able to respond in a joint way," General Yoshihide Yoshida, chief of staff of the Self-Defence Forces' Joint Staff, said after observing the drill on Tokunoshima. Ground Self-Defence Force amphibious assault vehicles launched from two Maritime Self-Defence Force landing ships anchored off-

shore. Other troops arrived in semi-inflatable rubber boats, with heavy equipment carried to shore on military hovercraft. Unlike many of the beaches along Japan's southwest island chain stretching toward Taiwan, the one on Tokunoshima does not have a coral reef that would make military operations more difficult. The scope and pace of military exercises in Japan are likely to increase over the next few years, including with US forces, after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in December.

## APEC divided on wars in Gaza, Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAN FRANCISCO: Pacific Rim leaders showed divisions over the wars in Ukraine and Gaza after a two-day summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on Friday. Days of meetings involving ministers and leaders were dominated by a summit on Wednesday between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at cooling tensions between the world's two largest economies, which have alarmed the region. The 21 APEC members, which include Russia and Muslim-majority Indonesia and Malaysia, went into the meetings divided over Russia's war in Ukraine and the Israeli war on Gaza, and that is how

they left. A statement issued by the US echoed last year's APEC leaders' declaration in saying that "most" APEC members "strongly condemn aggression against Ukraine." It said the leaders exchanged views on the Gaza crisis, with some objecting to language of the chair's statement in an accompanying "Golden Gate Declaration" covering economic issues "on the basis that they do not believe that APEC is a forum to discuss geopolitical issues." Some APEC leaders shared the united messages of the Nov. 11 joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh, the chair's statement said. Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia in a joint statement said they were among those who supported the messages of the Riyadh summit.

## Argentina readies to vote in likely presidential election thriller

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUENOS AIRES: Argentines head to the polls on Sunday in a delicately poised presidential runoff, with voters seeking a solution to triple-digit inflation and rising poverty and two clashing visions for the country's future on offer. The election sees Peronist Economy Minister Sergio Massa go head-to-head with outsider libertarian Javier Milei. Massa offers continuity but has been at the helm during the worst economic crisis in two decades. Milei pledges economic shock therapy, from shutting the central bank to ditching the peso. With many voters unconvinced by either, some have characterized the vote as a choice of the "lesser evil": fear of Milei's painful economic medicine or anger at Massa over the economic crisis. Many Argentines say they won't vote at all. Whoever wins, it will shake up Argentina's political landscape, its economic roadmap, trade in

grains, lithium and hydrocarbons, and its global ties with partners including China, the United States and Brazil. "The election will mark a profound rupture in the system of political representation in Argentina," said Julio Burdman, director of the consultancy Observatorio Electoral. "I think all the political forces as we have known them are going to be transformed." The story of the election race has been the shock rise of 53-year-old economist and former TV pundit Milei, driven by the disenchantment of Argentines with the traditional political parties on both the left and right. Milei has a slight edge in opinion polls, but most show a tight and uncertain race. Massa, 51, an experienced political chameleon, has been clawing back votes with tax cuts and campaigns highlighting Milei's radical plans to slash state spending.



**Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) soldiers take part in a marine landing drill as a part of the country's nationwide 05JX military exercises at Tokunoshima island, Kagoshima prefecture, southwestern Japan.**

## Iran's Khamenei urges Muslim states to cut political ties with Israel for 'limited period'

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appealed to Muslim states with political ties with Israel to at least cut them for "a limited time". State media reported on Sunday, weeks after he called for an Islamic oil and food embargo on Israel. "Some Islamic governments have condemned Israeli crimes in assemblies while some have not. This is unacceptable," Khamenei said before reiterating that

the main task of Islamic governments should be to cut off Israel from energy and goods. "Islamic governments should at least cut off political ties to Israel for a limited time," Khamenei added. During a joint summit between members of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League in Saudi Arabia's capital on Nov. 11, Muslim states did not agree to impose wide-ranging sanctions on Israel.

## Musk's X dumped by blue chip firms after White House rebuke

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of Tesla, SpaceX and social platform X, came under fire from all sides this week after endorsing an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory and then — in an ostensible attempt at damage control — terming phrases associated with the Palestinian cause "euphemisms that imply genocide". On Wednesday, the world's richest man sparked outrage by endorsing an antisemitic post on X that falsely claimed that members of the Jewish community were stoking hatred against white people. The original post was perceived as a reference to a longtime conspiracy theory among White supremacists that Jews have a secret plan to bring in illegal immigrants to weaken white majorities. Most notoriously, the idea was promoted by the man who carried out a mass shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018.

## Azerbaijan, Armenia agree on principles of peace treaty

**Monitoring Desk**  
YEREVAN: Armenia and Azerbaijan have been able to agree on the basic principles for a peace treaty but are still "speaking different diplomatic languages", Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Saturday, according to Russia's TASS news agency. The two countries have been at odds for decades, most notably over the breakaway Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which Baku's

forces recaptured in September, prompting a mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from it. But Pashinyan said there had been some progress in talks over a peace treaty even though he was cited as saying that the two countries still often struggled to agree on some things. "We have good and bad news about the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process," TASS quoted Pashinyan as saying in Yerevan.

## US sees 'significant pause' if prisoners are released

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANAMA: US President Joe Biden's main adviser on the Middle East said on Saturday there would be a "significant pause" in fighting if Hamas agrees to release prisoners. "The surge in humanitarian relief, the surge in fuel, the pause... will come when hostages are released," Brett McGurk told a security conference in Bahrain. Release of a large number of prisoners would result in "a significant pause... and a massive surge of humanitarian relief," he said.

## Nawaz to be next PM, claims Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that her party's Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif would be the next prime minister after February 8 elections.

Addressing a press conference here at the party secretariat, she said only free and fair election was solution to the challenges being faced by the country. The former information minister said her party's political opponents knew it well that Nawaz Sharif would become the prime minister for the fourth time, adding that the PML-N's manifesto would be provision of relief to people. About her PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif's acquittal in the Ashiana Housing Scheme reference by a Lahore accountability court, she said the former prime minister was vindicated once again. Marriyum said Shehbaz showed loyalty with his brother and

faced various fake corruption cases.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was imposed on the country through deliberate failure of the result transmission system (RTS) in the 2018 elections. "Today's youth must know what kind of game was played and the people had to bear the brunt of it," said the PML-N leader. She added that a game was played with the opposition and the system of the country. Pakistan, after a tumultuous five years, was approaching one of the most crucial general elections of its history, which are set to take place on February 8 next year. To a question about the recent statement of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari on elections, the PML-N leader said his statement about transparent elections was encouraging.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi visiting the Palestinian stall and expressing her condolences for the martyrs of Gaza, at Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association's Annual Charity Bazar.

## Shujaat says: Electoral alliance to be based on PML-Q's political position

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) Central President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said on Sunday that he would decide on any kind of election alliance while maintaining his party's individual political position in polls.

PML-Q Lahore General Secretary Nadeem Pehlwan met Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and discussed with him election campaign activities, seat adjustments and related issues.

The party president said consultations were under way regarding election

matters, according to Nadeem Pehlwan. Ch Shujaat said political parties should understand well that rhetoric would not work now, adding that they would have to deliver for the country, as the PML-Q had been supporter of practical measures for the public from the beginning.

Chaudhry Shujaat said reconciliation should be promoted in the country, and all parties should play their role to nurture the tradition. He said that society was in dire need of tolerance and for the purpose, political leadership should play its role.

## Senate election likely to be held in March

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate elections are anticipated to take place in the first week of March.

Following the announcement of the general election, the relevant authorities initiated the preparations for the senate election as well.

It is highly anticipated that the schedule for the Senate election may be released immediately after the general elections.

A total of 50 senate members are expected to retire on March 11, meanwhile, the total number of senate members will remain

at 96 after four seats become vacant after the merger of FATA.

Following the general elections, the elections will be held for the 48 vacant seats in the Senate. Elected members from national and provincial assemblies will vote for senators.

Earlier in the day, the former president Asif Ali Zardari has said that the country has been moving towards transparent elections. Talking to media Zardari said that his People's Party has been fully prepared for the upcoming general elections.



QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri in a group photo with President Balochistan Civil Secretariat Staff Association Younas Zehri and others.

## Social media campaign by a political party to defame Pakistan exposed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Another social media campaign to defame Pakistan launched by a political party has been exposed as certain elements are involved in accusing Pakistan of providing arms to Israel.

This social media campaign was launched while keeping their interests in mind at the cost of the country as the political party's supporters levelled this allegation in connection with the ongoing atrocities committed by Israel targeting the Palestinians in Gaza Strip and West Bank.

And this baseless accusation was promoted by the Indian media by presenting it as a news—a practice followed by India

whenever an opportunity is provided by such elements. The fabricated story was created and spread on social media by claiming that an aircraft transported weapons from Pakistan to Israel. However, there is no truth in it. In fact, even the plane and the said flight had nothing to do with Pakistan.

Actually, the flight was a part of the British efforts to shift the Afghan refugees, again showing how propaganda works in the post-truth world with social media being the main tool for promoting lies and deception. Earlier, an old video of a dummy fighter jet set ablaze by supporters of the PTI chairman in May 2023 in Mianwali.



GWADAR: Women are participating in protest organized by Haq Do Theek.

## Media action sought to promote MHM in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at a workshop here on Sunday said that highlighting issues pertaining to Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) was an urgent need of the hour to ensure the well being of women and girls. They were sharing their views with the participants of recent groundbreaking media workshop on 'Communicating Menstrual Hygiene Management,' organized by the MHMWG Secretariat, Balochistan in collaboration with the Education Support Programme (ESP) funded by UNICEF Pakistan.

Additional Deputy

Commissioner Gwadar Tabish Baloch assured that the district government would lend its all-out support to efforts that are aimed to raise awareness on MHM in society. Chairperson of the Menstrual Hygiene Management Working Group (MHMWG) Balochistan, Dr. Tahira Kamal underscored the strong correlation between promoting MHM and education, commending ESP for its noteworthy initiative to collaborate with MHMWG for media engagement on MHM. She said this collaboration would contribute to advancing Sustainable

Development Goal 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 6.2 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The collaborative effort seeks to harness the power of local and national media to create a platform for constructive dialogue on MHM, she added. During the workshop, insights on crucial aspects of the MHM situation in Pakistan were shared by Shafiqat Aziz, a senior communication specialist and trainer. Stressing the vital role of media in societal awareness and policy influence, he highlighted the advocacy for MHM-friendly schools.

## Bugti condoles death of Tariq Jameel's son

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Ahmad Bugti condoled the death of his son Asim Jameel, at his home in Islamabad on Sunday.

The Interior Minister also prayed for forgiveness and offered Fateha for the deceased.

While condoling the minister said the death of the son at a young age is a great sorrow and shock for the entire family.

"May Allah grant all the bereaved the courage and fortitude to bear this shock", prayed the Interior Minister.

## Trauma Center to be setup in BMC Hospital soon, says Secretary Health

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan has announced that trauma center would be established in the Bolan Medical College (BMC) Hospital.

The decision has been made keeping in the view the increasing rush of patients, stated the Secretary Health during visit to the Trauma center in Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta on Sunday.

The Managing Director Trauma Center, Dr. Arbab Kamran, Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Hospital, Dr

Ishaq Panezai and other concerned officials were also present.

The Secretary Health was briefed about the performance of Trauma center. The Secretary Health inquired about the health of patients admitted in the Trauma center.

Speaking on the occasion, he directed the concerned authorities to make maximum efforts for provision of the quality medical services to the patients.

He assured that more modern medical machinery and equipment would be provided to the Trauma center.



QUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan visiting the Trauma Centre at Sandeman Provincial Hospital.

## Bilawal accuses PML-N of lying on PIA's privatization

KARACHI (INP): Completely throwing his weight behind the Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) employees protest against proposed privatization of the airline, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Sunday what he had discussed with the PML-N was not the airline's privatization, but its restructuring.

Sources in the Bilawal House stated that while talking to a delegation of the PIA employees, Bilawal Bhutto alleged, "Just like the PML-N lies to the nation in political matters, it is not stating the facts about the discussions we had on the subject."

## FIA arrests five human smugglers

GUJRANWALA (INP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested five accused for their involvement in human smuggling. The FIA has arrested Khizar Hayat, Farasat Ali, Shaikat Ali, Zain Ahmed and Hassan Tariq, accused of their involvement in human smuggling and keeping citizens in illegal captivity abroad and to extort money from their families.

Five human smuggling accused were arrested from various parts of Gujranwala and Gujrat districts, FIA officials said. Accused Khizar Hayat received 1.13 million rupees from a citizen for sending him to abroad, FIA said.

## Ashrafi stresses Afghan cooperation in effort to restore order

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Sunday said Pakistan not only prioritizes peace in Afghanistan but also places equal importance on maintaining peace within its own borders.

He, in an exclusive talk with APP, highlighted the objective behind the removal of illegal Afghans to restore order to the homeland, expecting that registered Afghan refugees and the Afghan government would collaborate with the Pakistani government in this effort.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council mentioned that in a meeting with the Army Chief, the religious scholars of all schools of

thought emphasized the importance of complete cooperation on matters concerning Pakistan. They explicitly declared any armed struggle by groups other than state institutions as forbidden, reassuring the state of their unwavering support, he added.

He said Pakistan was actively engaging with friendly nations, including Saudi Arabia, to effectively manage the situation in Gaza adding that Pakistan had not only doubled its aid to Palestine but was also open to considering additional increases to provide further support.

Ashrafi emphatically refuted the propaganda, clarifying that there was not placement of security glass between both the Army Chief and the scholars.

He emphasized that such misleading information serves as an adversary to Pakistan, aiming to sow chaos within the nation.

## CPEC has transformational impact on socio-economic landscape in Pakistan: Ahsan

BEIJING (APP): The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has emerged as a transformative force reshaping the socio-economic transformational impact on the lives of people in Pakistan, former Minister for Planning and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal said.

"When we started CPEC in 2013, Pakistan was suffering from a major energy crisis. We were experiencing power shortages for 16 to 18 hours per day, and we had major infrastructural bottlenecks with very poor physical infrastructure," he said in an exclusive interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN).

And because of a lack of electricity, energy was not there, and industrial and agricultural production was suffering, which meant there was more unemployment, which was a major contributor to more poverty, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that through the CPEC, in three years, more than \$25 billion of investment came

into Pakistan that modernized infrastructure and created new roads to connect many regions. It provided more than 8,000 megawatts of new power, which helped the country overcome power shortages.

"As we had energy in the economy, our agriculture and industrial outputs improved, which brought more employment for thousands of young people and also helped them come out of poverty," he added.

About special economic zones, he said that nine special economic zones have been identified in different regions of Pakistan and added, "All regions are taking part and taking benefit from CPEC, which is another indicator that it is a very inclusive project and it does not leave anyone behind."

"We are now working with China to set up industries in these special economic zones, through which both Pakistan and China can work together and export goods to third countries," he added.

"Gwadar Economic Zone is developing very fast, but in addition to that, nine more economic zones

are being developed in Pakistan, in which we hope that investment that will come from China will help us in industrialization and that will be a major contributor towards structural transformation of the economy." He opined that it would create more jobs, and most importantly, Pakistan needs to improve its export performance, adding, "We hope that with Chinese technology and investment and their access to global supply chains, we will be able to improve our exports as well." Terming CPEC a game changer for Pakistan and the region, he said that the future of economic development lies in regional cooperation.

"We can create an economic market for a huge benefit for three billion people living in South Asia, China, Central Asia, and the Middle East through regional connectivity," he added. He said that therefore, programs like CPEC and BRI could help people eliminate poverty and unemployment and realize the dream of shared prosperity as well as people-to-people contact.



QUETTA: Former Speaker Balochistan Assembly Rahila Durrani and Allama Maqsood Ali Domki take part in a protest against Israeli aggression on Palestine organized by MWM at Quetta Press Club.

## ECP gets 2,000 laptops from HEC for ROs, DROs

ISLAMABAD (INP): In pursuance of the agreement, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had signed with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the former has received 2,000 laptops from the latter as the general elections, 2024 are approaching fast.

As per sources, the ECP had decided to give laptops to the returning officers (ROs) as well as district returning officers (DROs) so that they could perform their duties with ease. It was after feeling helpless in the face of coalition government's reluctance to hold elections despite its order, the Supreme Court (SC) finally on November 3, 2023 said that enough was enough and ordered the government to ensure the conduct of general elections on February 8, a day after President Arif Alvi and Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja unanimously agreed.

NA Speaker expressed these views on World Children's Day which is commemorated on November 20 (tomorrow) of each year. Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf expressed dismay over the poor state of welfare and

## NA Speaker says: Parliamentary Caucus on child rights to ensure well-being of children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf stressed on the significance of child rights and stated that the Parliament has always vigorously worked for the welfare and well-being of children.

He stated that the Parliament, especially the 15th National Assembly, has achieved many milestones as regards to effective legislation for child welfare and child safety. He further said, "There is a positive correlation between the socio-economic progress of a country and the state of well-being of its children."

NA Speaker expressed these views on World Children's Day which is commemorated on November 20 (tomorrow) of each year. Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf expressed dismay over the poor state of welfare and

well-being of children worldwide and the growing socio-economic problems.

The Speaker further elaborated on the effectiveness of the child-friendly and child welfare initiatives taken by the 15th National Assembly, namely the 1st ever Summer Democracy School, under 18 Internship Program, children's speech competition held on the floor of the National Assembly along with 1st ever Children's Parliament and the formation of 1st ever Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights.

He reiterated that the Parliament is completely committed to the mission of welfare and betterment of children. Speaker NA expressed deep resentment over the shameful violation of child rights and war crimes being committed against Palestinian and Kashmiri children.

## PCAA upgrades Turbat Intl Airport

TURBAT (INP): The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority has upgraded the Turbat International Airport.

The PCAA upgraded the Turbat Airport to the Aerodrome Reference Category C-3 where wide-bodied aircraft will be able to land.

After its upgradation, large planes like Airbus 320 and Boeing 737 could be able to land at the airport. Previously, only ATRs and other small planes used to land at the airport.

Sources said that it is expected that foreign airlines could also start their flights at the airport after its upgradation.



QUETTA: Director General Balochistan Levies Force Naseebullah Kakar enquiring about the health of injured Levies personnel at Trauma Centre.

## Hassan Zehri says: Conspiracies to wall the People's party will fail

Independent Report HUB: The time has come to bury the so-called theory of necessity and traditional selection politics in Pakistan. The country needs new thinking and new leadership at this time.

Those with stereotypical and corrupt thinking and who have been in power for more than 40 years are not leaving the country and whose failed and anti-people policies have destroyed the country has reached the brink.

These failed elements are once again trying to get power by consolidating. These views were expressed by senior leader of Pakistan People's Party and spokesperson of former President Asif Ali Zardari Mir Ali Hassan Zehri while addressing a

gathering in Hub. He said that the time has come for the zealous people of Pakistan to put the politicians with old thinking at home and give a chance to the young leadership with new thinking to take the reins of the country. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the only hope of Pakistan under whose leadership Pakistan can come out of backwardness, economic hardship and difficulties.

He said that during the tenure of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as Foreign Minister, a positive foreign policy was adopted and the positive image of Pakistan was brought before the world and to continue this process, it is necessary to make Bilawal Bhutto Zardari the Prime Minister.



QUETTA: Renowned Politician and former Senator Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani in a group photo with journalists of Balochistan.