

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on the matters related to the Federal Board of Revenue.

## Senate passes resolution urging SC to reconsider its decision about military courts

**Invalidation of jurisdiction of army courts likely to facilitate abettors of terrorism, reads resolution; Resolution says decision is legally flawed, shouldn't be implemented; Military courts played a pivotal role in delivering justice: Senators**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday passed a resolution, urging the Supreme Court (SC) to reconsider its decision about military court trials. The resolution, which was moved by Senator Dilawar Khan in the House, said: "The Senate of Pakistan calls upon the apex court to reconsider its decision, urging alignment with the national security paradigm and sacrifices of the martyrs in order to address the concerns raised regarding the ramifications of the judgment on the security and stability of the nation. "The invalidation of the jurisdiction of army courts is likely to facilitate vandals and abettors of terrorism and anti-state activities. Military courts have played a pivotal role in delivering justice, particularly concerning acts of terrorism, often instigated by neighbouring adversaries within Pakistan's borders," it added. The resolution further said, "Resonating the concerns and sentiments expressed by various stakeholders in particular and public in general, regarding the recent judgment of the Supreme Court that declared Section 2(D)(1) & 59 (4) of the Army Act unconstitutional; "Taking exception to overriding an Act of Parliament, which was well within the previous and existing scheme of constitutional and legislative framework and duly enacted under the legislative competence of the Parliament. Prima facie an attempt has been made to rewrite the law by impinging upon the legislative authority of the Parliament."

## CM Domki lauds efforts of WHO for supporting to Balochistan Health Dept

QUETTA (APP): A delegation led by World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala called on Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Monday. On this occasion, Dr. Palitha Mahipala handed over the keys to an ambulance to the caretaker chief minister of Balochistan. Addressing the handover ceremony on this occasion, the CM said that he appreciated the support and cooperation of the World Health Organization for the provision of health facilities in Balochistan.

He said that collaborative initiatives to enable and strengthen the healthcare system, including the provision of mobile health clinics, vaccine vans, ambulances, medicines, medical equipment and logistics support, would significantly improve the health sector, from the coronavirus pandemic to the flood disasters. He said that the WHO's role has been crucial for the improvement of the health sector. The CM said that the caretaker provincial government was committed to providing all kinds of support to the World Health Organization (WHO), which was assisting in the health sector, services were remarkable and WHO was an important working partner of the provincial government. Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogaizai Principal Secretary Rashid Razaq, Special Secretary Asfandyar Baloch, Secretary Health Abdullah Khan, Director General Health Services Dr. Noor Qazi, WHO Balochistan Head Dr. Asfandyar Shirani were also present in the ceremony.

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## PM directs formulation of inclusive, comprehensive strategy to uplift FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to formulate and present a comprehensive strategy, based on input from all the stakeholders, with a view to improve the performance of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The prime minister, chairing a meeting to mull over the measures for improving the FBR's performance, said the utilisation of the modern technology was inevitable to improve the taxation system. The meeting was briefed on the measures to widen the tax net and digitisation of the taxation system. The participants also deliberated over different proposals aimed at restructuring the FBR. The prime minister said that the revenue collection was just like a backbone for the national economy. He told the meeting that various effective measures had been taken recently to curb smuggling, though it required more hard work to achieve the desired results. Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamsah Akhtar, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, FBR chairman, federal finance secretary and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing a ceremony on eve of handing over of ambulances to Health Department from WHO

## Over 100,000 illegal foreigners repatriated from Balochistan via Chaman border: Jan

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has informed that over 100,000 the illegal and undocumented Afghan nationals have so far been repatriated to their homeland from Balochistan via Chaman border. He said that in view of the winter weather conditions, it is our endeavour to expedite the process of repatriation further. The Minister Information was addressing press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Monday. Jan Achakzai shared the data and details of the process of repatriation of illegal immigrants besides other related matters. The Minister Information asserted that terrorism is being done from across border, and said that the befitting response would be given to those keeping an evil eye on the country. He also asked the Afghan government to hand over those involved in the terrorism using their land against Pakistan. Referring the ongoing

repatriation process, Jan Achakzai maintained that the process of repatriation is continued, and there's no relaxation to those living illegally in Pakistan. Sindh and Punjab are also being facilitated in their repatriation. He said that some 30,000 immigrants have gone to Afghanistan from Sindh province.

Jan Achakzai appreciated the NADRA, FIA and local administration who are engaged in the process of repatriation and the facilitation to the immigrants. He said that the action is being taken against those got prepared the fake CNICs or those facilitated them in preparation of the same. He said that some 50,000 suspected CNICs have been blocked in the province.



He said that while over 100,000 illegal immigrants have been repatriated to their country via Balochistan, the process is being expedited further in view of the weather condition. However, we are providing the warm clothes and other necessary goods to those repatriating, Jan Achakzai maintained. The Minister Information also said that the illegal immigrants coming from



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Achakzai underscores significance of upholding constitutional principles

Independent Report LORALAI: Mahmood Khan Achakzai underscores the significance of upholding constitutional principles, stressing that the Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party will align with Nawaz Sharif as long as he adheres to the supremacy of the constitution, parliamentary sovereignty, and federation with autonomous units. During his addresses in Loralai as part of a people

in the hands of a few, which is called elites capture, but also in the imbalanced allocation across regions. He points out the double challenge faced by Pakhtuns, who, despite being endowed with natural resources, lack control and autonomy to exploit them for their well-being. Consequently, they are compelled to seek employment in other parts of the country.

## Solangi, CM KP discuss elections, cooperation in media sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday called Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah and discussed with him the upcoming elections, cooperation in the media sector and other important issues including the problems of the journalists. During a telephonic talk, he congratulated Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on assuming the charge of caretaker chief minister KP. Both the federal minister and the caretaker CM KP expressed their determination to provide all possible support to the Election Commission to make the electioneering process fair, transparent and impartial.

## Crackdown underway against illegal immigrants, not Afghan nationals: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, informed the Senate on Monday that the government was carrying out a crackdown against all illegal immigrants in the country and not Afghan nationals only. Winding up discussion on a motion to discuss the Federal Government's decision to expel the immigrants, including Afghan refugees from Pakistan in a short time, he rejected the notion that the crackdown had been launched against Afghan nationals. The operation was underway against illegal immigrants who had been residing in Pakistan without any travel documents, the minister added. Bugti said no country allowed any foreigner to live, do business, or buy properties without legal documents. "Whether does any country, including Afghanistan, permit Pakistani people to cross their borders without legal documents?" he questioned. He said that even in Afghanistan, Pakistani businessmen are required to produce guarantors before establishing businesses. He said foreigners with valid visas and legal documents would be welcomed in Pakistan and even allowed to do business.

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Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Rear Admiral Sajer Bin Rafeed Al-Enazi Eastern Fleet Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces at Naval Headquarters Islamabad.

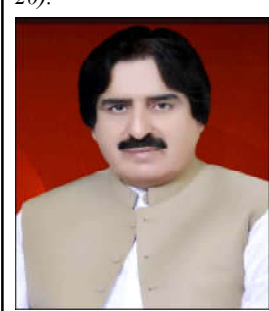
## Govt. endeavouring to provide healthcare facilities in remote areas, says Minister Health

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezi has stated that the government is endeavouring to provide healthcare facilities to the masses in remote areas of the province with cooperation of World Health Organisation (WHO). He said that the coordinated efforts are also continued for providing the quality medical services to the common men as it is our priority too. He thanked the WHO and other international partners for assisting the provincial government in provision of the necessary health facilities. The Minister Health was speaking on occasion of the handing over of vehicle, motorbikes, medicines and medical equipment here at the EPI head-

quarter on Monday. The head of WHO in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala, also present on the occasion, handed over the items to the Minister Health Dr Jogezi and Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan. The WHO representative appreciated the timely response of the government to the outbreak of Congo virus in the province. He also paid tributes to the healthcare providers who served the patients and provided necessary services to them.

## Noor Muhammad Khetran promoted as DGPR in BPS-20

Independent Report QUETTA: The Director Public Relations, Noor Muhammad Khetran (BPS-19) has been promoted on the post of Director General Public Relations (BPS-20). According to an official notification issued by the Information Department, Government of Balochistan here on Monday, Noor Muhammad Khetran has been promoted on recommendation of the Provincial Selection Board-I and with approval of the Chief Minister Balochistan with effect from March 27, 2023.



## 15 students to be sent to China for professional education: Pakistan's first ship construction technical education being started in Balochistan: caretaker CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the Pakistan's first ship construction technical education is being started in the province. In addition to this, the higher professional education of civil and bridge construction is also being commenced in the province. The Chief Minister announced this while speaking during his visit to the Government College of Technology Girls and Boys Section here on Monday. He inspected different parts of the Government College of Technology. Also present on the occasion were the Secretary Higher Education, Zafar Buledi and other concerned high ups besides the senior management of the Government College.

The Chief Minister also announced that in all 15 students of the province would be sent to China for obtaining higher professional education in the technical field. The students would proceed for China in March next year, Mir Ali Mardan Domki maintained. He said that the language classes are continued for the students proceeding to China for the professional education. He also noted with contentment and pleasure that Level-V BS Tech has been launched in the Government College of Technology. He on the occasion directed the concerned high ups to produce the trained human resource of the national and international level meeting the requirements of country and international level.



contact campaign. Achakzai critiques the global imbalance in resource distribution and highlights a similar issue within Pakistan. Achakzai expresses regret over the unequal distribution of resources among different regions in Pakistan, asserting that the challenge lies not only in a concentration of resources

## Sardar Ayaz Sadiq meets Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited the Sarawan House here on Monday. During the visit, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and discussed the

political and other matters. During the meeting, also present were Provincial President of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail and others. It may be mentioned here Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reached Quetta on Monday ahead of the visit of PML-N central leader, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.



QUETTA: Chairman NADRA Lt. General Muhammad Munir Afsar meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**OIC inaction**

Not much was expected from the joint OIC/Arab League summit held in Riyadh on Saturday to discuss the blood-soaked tragedy underway in Gaza. And sure enough, the presidents, princes and potentates that hold sway over the Muslim world lived up to expectations, with no clear action plan emerging to stop the massacre.

As the Muslim world's rulers discussed the matter in a luxurious conference centre, the hungry, destitute and bloodied people of Gaza — dazed after burying their loved ones and neighbours day after day — waited for the next Israeli missile to strike. In Riyadh, there were calls for a ceasefire and condemnation of Israeli violence, but beyond that little of substance, as the Palestinian president demanded an end to this "genocidal war", while urging the US to use its good offices to ask Tel Aviv to stop the Gaza slaughter.

It is unlikely that those who matter in Washington or Tel Aviv will heed this request. Algeria, on the other hand, wanted Muslim and Arab states to suspend ties with Israel, while Iran recommended a boycott of Israel and the designation of the Israeli military as a "terrorist group".

There were few takers for these proposals. It is indeed tragic that despite the murder of over 11,000 Palestinians in the Israeli onslaught, the high and mighty of the Muslim world — with their standing armies, tens of billions of dollars and vast economic clout — could not even agree to a common framework that would clearly communicate to Israel and its powerful backers that the massacre of Palestinians must stop.

If Israel were to be convinced by strongly worded statements and impressive conferences, the Palestine question would have been solved decades ago.

Meanwhile, the extermination of the Palestinian people continues, as the world looks on, as if tuned in to some grisly reality show — the livestreaming of a virtual genocide. Israel has upped its attacks on Gaza's hospitals, all in the name of getting Hamas.

In the eyes of the Jewish state and its staunch defenders, slaughtered Palestinian babies appear to be a fair price to pay to avenge Israel's wounded pride in the aftermath of Oct 7. Yet even some of those who had rushed to be by Israel's side after the Hamas attack are beginning to have second thoughts; the French president has said Tel Aviv must stop killing "babies and women".

Sadly, those who have the power to stop this butchery are either aiding Israel's bloodthirsty campaign, or making weak entreaties for the massacre to be toned down.

However, hundreds of thousands of common people, with no political power but with great moral clarity in Sana'a, New York, London and other cities, are demanding an end to the massacre. Will the callous global elite listen to their voices?

**Climate adaptation**



Huma Yusuf

World War III will get us before climate change. This is an increasingly common refrain, an understandable response to tragic and terrifying world events. As the Israel-Gaza war dominates headlines, it's not surprising that developments in the lead-up to the annual UN climate change conference, COP28, have been sidelined. But one disaster does not negate another, and we will equally have to contend with conflict and the consequences of climate change. For most Pakistanis, the latter is arguably more immediately existential.

The World Meteorological Society in May this year reported that the world would by 2027 breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate threshold agreed at the 2015 Paris climate summit, meaning that average global temperatures are likely to rise by more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. That's three years away. How old will you be? Your children?

Facing failure in the face of this key target, global climate leaders are seeking success elsewhere. Attention is turning to climate adaptation — the need to adjust social, economic and ecological systems to adapt to the reality of climate change and its impacts. Climate efforts so far have coalesced around mitigation (reduction of GHG emissions), but there is growing recognition that as we seem incapable of giving up our addiction to fossil fuels, we must learn to adapt to the consequences of burning them. According to a recent UN report, developing countries need \$387 billion a year to adapt

to climate change, an amount that has increased by \$47bn since the last count. The UN report found that the adaptation financing need was 10 to 18 times more than current international public finance flows, which have dwindled in recent years. According to former climate minister Sherry Rehman, Pakistan alone needs \$348bn by 2030 to build climate resilience. But as of November 2022, the country had only received \$86.2 million since 2016 in bilateral grants with a climate adaptation focus. The numbers are stark enough that the president-designate of COP28 last week conceded that adaptation doesn't get adequate finance.

Pakistan has already recognised the need to prioritise adaptation (floods that put over one-third of your land mass under water would do that). The climate change ministry in July published Pakistan's first-ever National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The plan was 11 years too late as per the country's own climate strategy, but timely in the run-up to COP28.

Covering the seven-year period to 2030, NAP aligns with UN's best practice approaches and climate adaptation frameworks. Its recommendations also align with key findings of a recent McKinsey report that advocates for a systemic approach to climate adaptation. That approach highlights the importance of "a climate risk management mindset; technological and behavioural adaptation levers; economic and societal adjustments; and governance, institutional support, and commitment".

McKinsey's economic and societal adjustment bucket calls for "compensating mechanisms for vulnerable communities and institutions" and under its governance category it pushes for community awareness and engagement. Pakistan's NAP echoes these principles

with recommendations for evidence-based decision-making, the need to act locally, and a major emphasis on inclusion and equity (particularly for women, youth and marginalised communities), and with clear language promoting social justice and insisting that no one be left behind.

Here's the elephant in the room. These principles are not the reality of our society. Inclusion and equity are an afterthought when it comes to other areas such as access to healthcare, justice, rule of law, education or public finances. Adaptation strategies will indeed work best when developed and implemented locally, but how will that work in a country that shuns and disempowers local governments? And women and marginalised communities are no doubt most at risk from climate impacts, but given how we violate their rights in normal circumstances, why would we behave differently when faced with heat, floods or fire?

Critiques of climate adaptation approaches are still too high level. McKinsey celebrates that 84 per cent of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have adaptation plans, but points out these are not grounded in the physical risks they ameliorate, do not articulate financing needs, and are yet to be executed. Even critiques of NAP focused on the lack of details around financing mechanisms and the scant specifics on implementation. But there is little mention of the disconnect between adaptation planning and societal attitudes more broadly. Without meaningfully changing ourselves and our society, we will not successfully adapt to a climate change-affected world. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Afghan refugees**



Arif Hasan

The manner in which Afghan refugees are being repatriated from Pakistan is unfortunate. Under the Citizens' Act, anyone born in Pakistan is a Pakistani citizen. If you apply this law, relatively few Afghans will be repatriated. According to international law, only those who are not registered as refugees can be deported, and that too under specified conditions (which are not being followed), one of which emphasises safeguarding their dignity.

Disturbing news is emerging from the Afghan detention centres and from thanas that are involved in "rounding them up". There are cases where minor children have been sent to locations in Afghanistan while their parents have been left behind. There have been cases where women and their babies have forcibly been put on a bus to Afghanistan without a male relative.

Meanwhile, corruption is rampant. I personally know of cases where Rs20,000 per month is paid to a middleman who guarantees that repatriation will not take place. In addition, the staff of state agencies do not allow persons at the detention centre to meet their family or lawyers, and there have also been cases where the deportees, both old and young, have been beaten up by police and Rangers for no obvious reason.

The majority of the deportees have been born in Pakistan, and they have never seen Afghanistan in their lives. Also, they have no families left in Afghanistan. They are especially concerned about

their women, who will not be able to work or study in Afghanistan and will be discriminated against in other ways after they have enjoyed a more liberal society in this country. A number of musicians, singers, and artists are equally afraid for their lives and punishment from the Taliban regime.

Karachiites have many complaints against the Afghans, and they seldom differentiate between Afghans and KP's Pakhtuns. They claim that Afghans introduced the culture of guns and drugs in the city and that other groups had to resort to the same tactics to protect themselves. They also claim they have become big shareholders in Karachi's businesses. They finance construction companies, real estate purchases, and even small entrepreneurs in setting up roadside businesses. They claim that much of the finances for all this have come from the Afghan transit trade and from supplying Nato troops in Afghanistan.

With these enormous earnings, the Afghans have purchased textile, electronic goods, used clothes and shoes and a number of other markets in the city. They also charge for arranging protection for roadside Pashto-speaking rehri. All this has made them major players in Karachi's economy. They also work as building site labour and as coolies at Karachi's wholesale markets which is their main occupation.

The strongest support for Afghan repatriation understandably comes from Sindh nationalists. Migration to the province (especially to its urban centres) has changed its demography, and if it continues, the Sindh-speaking population might well become a minority. The migrants have occupied land in the urban areas and are also becoming middlemen to service agricultural pro-

duction. However, it must be remembered that almost all of these 'crimes' against the original population of Sindh were the result of government policies that were designed with the approval of powerful Sindh politicians and implemented by senior Sindh bureaucrats. Three remarkable books (The Case of Sindh by G.M. Sayed; The Case of Karachi and Sindh Under One Unit both by Prof Aijaz Ahmed Qureshi) tell us the whole story. Unlike the 1947 migrants, the Afghan migrants had no hand in developing these policies.

The Afghan re-patriation has divided the progressives of Sindh into pro- and anti-repatriation groups. This is unfortunate and needs to be reconciled. There can be a case made for Afghan repatriation, but on humanitarian and legal grounds, it needs to be revisited. Persons who have been born and grown up in this country should not be deported. The same applies to women who have been born in Pakistan and who face a bleak future in an anti-women country. Similarly, artists and entertainers should not be sent back for they will not only lose the opportunity of performing but also fear for their lives.

However, more important than anything else is that the repatriation process should respect the human rights of the deportees and with proper documentation. Given the brutal nature of our state and the strong anti-poor bias of our elite policymakers, this is difficult but should be attempted. Also in dealing with the repatriation process it should be remembered that it is more than possible that Pakistan will require the support of the Afghan nation in the not-too-distant future to stabilise itself. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**SAPM explores opportunities for Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (SAPM on OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik, initiated a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia aiming to foster collaboration and explore employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The visit is aimed at initiating several groundbreaking projects that are expected to significantly impact the labour market. Among the key projects that will be part of the discussion, for seeking employment opportunities for Pakistan migrant workers, during the visit are: Red Sea Project, Development Plan of Extension of the Holy

City of Makkah, Jabal Omar, Recreational Tourism Projects, New Taif City, The NEOM Project, Qiddiya Project - The Capital of Entertainment Sports, Diriyah Gates, AIUla - UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hammya Program, King Salman Park and Green Riyadh.

These projects offer extensive employment opportunities, especially in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, media policy, strategy and research, health and safety specialists, project coordination & managerial strategy, financial modelling, eco-system-based management specialists, senior water scientists, climate action directors, managers of geothermal energy, solar generation specialists, and more.

During the visit, the discussions will also revolve around the evolving labor market trends in Saudi Arabia. The SAPM, during his meetings with Saudi Arabia's Minister for Labor,

integrating climate considerations into the planning and execution of all development projects. This approach aligns with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), signifying Pakistan's dedication to climate-smart policies and practices.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chaired a meeting on Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) and Climate-PIMA.

**Minister briefed on PIMA, Climate-PIMA**

ISLAMABAD (Online): The caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed was briefed on Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) and Climate-PIMA, and the suggested action plan by the International Monetary Fund IMF.

The briefing was given during a meeting chaired by the Planning Minister attended by Secretary Planning Ministry, Member Climate Change & Food Security, Chief Growth &

Employment at Planning Commission, Joint Chief Economist (Ops), Joint Chief Economist for Macroeconomics at Planning Commission and other relevant stakeholders. During the meeting, Chief Growth & Employment gave a detailed briefing highlighting the various aspects of PIMA and Climate-PIMA and its action plan. The action plan underscores the importance of a Climate Responsive Public Investment Framework,

integrating climate considerations into the planning and execution of all development projects. This approach aligns with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), signifying Pakistan's dedication to climate-smart policies and practices.

**Mobilink Bank carries the day at Veon's Ignite Awards held in Istanbul**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, outperformed at Veon's

people's lives by creating opportunities for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are



Ignite Awards held in Istanbul by winning in three of the most highly contested categories, including 'Double-Digit Growth', 'Financial Services', and 'Diversity and Inclusion'. The Bank's recognition at the group level and enviable accomplishments across various categories mirror its steadfast commitment to excellence. Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming

home to more than 8% of the world's population. Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO Mobilink Bank, received the awards on behalf of the institution and delightfully dedicated it to his team for sustaining the Bank's upward growth trajectory. "This goes out to my team for its remarkable professionalism, commitment to excellence and penchant for innovation," shared Ghazanfar Azzam. "Mobilink Bank's robust financial performance, affordable, and accessible financial services and a strong workplace culture are the outcomes of years of our hard work."



Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hassan Fawad chairs a meeting with management of HBFCCL.

**CDNS secures Rs 35 bln in Islamic finance bonds**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has secured Rs 35 billion in Islamic finance bonds in the mid of second quarter of the Current Fiscal Year 2023-24. The National Savings has issued Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country, a senior official of the Directorate of National Savings told APP here on Monday.

Replying to another question, he said the CDNS had collected an investment of Rs 16 billion in July 2023-24 through Islamic investment bonds. He added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds. Replying to another question, he said the CDNS aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. He informed that CDNS had achieved the set target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market.

**SNGPL disconnects another 87 connection**

LAHORE (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) in its ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, disconnected another 87 connections besides imposing a fine of Rs 4.9 million in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

According to a spokesman for the company, in Lahore, the regional team disconnected 18 connections on illegal use of gas while two in Bahawalpur.

**SBP Dy Governor says: SBP to facilitate business community**

FAISALABAD (APP): International Director State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will make best efforts to facilitate the business community in stabilizing the national economy on a solid and sustained basis. This was stated by SBP Deputy Governor Saleemullah while addressing a reception hosted by Mian Muhammad Adrees, former FPCCI President FPCCI, FCCI and former

International Director Lions Club in his honour. The function was also attended by leading businessmen and bankers in addition to the members of FCCI. Speaking on the occasion, Mian Muhammad Adrees appreciated the services of Saleemullah said that he had already served Faisalabad and his prudent decision making was being still remembered.

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): The shipping activity reported at the port where four ships namely, Clipper Fair, Silver Eleanor, Sea Bulk and Nikitis, scheduled to load/offload Rice, Steel coil, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Grain Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Abyand Alberta also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during last 24 hours.



## CM seeks carbon credits plan to accelerate tree plantation

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has sought a comprehensive carbon credit plan for afforestation and valuable carbon exchange.

During the meeting, attended by provincial ministers Amir Mir, Ibrahim Hasan Murad, secretaries of forests, finance & industries departments and others, a consensus was reached to enlist the expertise of a consultancy firm for the strategic acquisition of carbon credits. The briefing illuminated the diverse sectors, numbering ten in total, from which carbon

credits can be obtained. These sectors include waste management, transportation, renewable energy, industry and land use, among others. It was underscored

that the acquisition of carbon credits is intricately tied to activities such as the preservation of forests and the proactive management of environmental pollution. An important

aspect highlighted in the meeting was the practice of countries with higher carbon emissions channelling investments into afforestation and environmental.

## CM Punjab reviews health reforms

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting focusing on health reforms here on Monday.

During the meeting, the Secretary Health provided a comprehensive overview of initiatives aimed at enhancing emergency facilities. The meeting affirmed the principled decision to implement a Ventilator Management Information System, enabling the tracking of ventilators as required. The Punjab Information Technology Board's assistance will facilitate real-time identification of both in-use and available ventilators through a dedicated app, ensuring prompt allocation during high-demand situations in hospitals. Furthermore, it was agreed to establish a linkage between DHQ Hospital Kasur and General Hospital Lahore. As part of the stroke management campaign, capacity building for 1122 rescuers will be a priority.

Dr. Qasim Bashir, Head of Neurology at Services Institute of Medical Sciences, presented a detailed plan on stroke management.



LEEPA VALLEY: Younger girls students are attending class at open air school during the extreme cold weather due to unavailability of school building of Government Girls Primary School Moji Chitya area of the Kashmir.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali takes oath from caretaker Provincial Ministers.

## LHC orders to immediately change DG environment

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to immediately change DG Environment for not making better arrangement for eradication of smog.

The court also expressed displeasure over performance of care taker government Punjab.

The court ordered to close the private and government schools and colleges on Saturday.

The court remarked is there only this solution with government to announce holidays in Punjab for eradication of smog.

A single bench of LHC led by Justice Shahid Karim heard the petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others in eradication of smog case Monday.

Commissioner Lahore and other officers appeared in the court.

## Three killed over land dispute

SARGODHA (APP): A man killed his mother, sister and brother-in-law over land dispute here at Chinni mohalla under the jurisdiction of city Bhakkar police station.

Police said that Muhammad Akram (32) s/o Yaseen had a land dispute with his family. On the day of incident, he strangled his mother Zaitoon bibi (70) to death, clubbed his sister Amina (34) to death and killed his brother-in-law Asim (33).

## Five development schemes worth Rs 7.073b approved

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) Punjab approved five developmental schemes of Roads, Urban Development, and Local Government sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 7073.47 million in its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of current financial year 2023-24 chaired by P&D Board Chairman Ifkhar Ali Sahoo here on Monday. The approved schemes are: Construction of ByPass from Royal

Hotel (N-5) to Sarwar Chowk via Adda Mai Wali Masjid, Length=13.70 Km, District Sahiwal at the cost of Rs 1667.762 million; Repair/Rehabilitation of road from Sohawa Chakwal Road to Kholi Hameed Incl Link from Mohra Kalayat to Mohra Jariyan, Length 9.50 km, Tehsil Gujjar Khan, District Rawalpindi at the cost of Rs 530.763 million; Repair/Rehabilitation of Road from Gujjar Khan to Pir Phulal Road.

## Home dept identifies 22347 illegal foreigners in major cities of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Home and Tribal Affairs Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has compiled data of illegal foreigners residing in major cities of the province and sent it to the Ministry of Interior. According to the report of the Home Department, as many as 22347 Afghans were still

residing illegally in 32 districts of the province including 17832 in Peshawar, 1523 in Khyber, 1228 in Kohat, 607 in Lower Waziristan and others in Batagram, Tank, Torghar, Kohistan Swabi and Manshehra. The Home Department said that so far 206,018 people of 16,530 Afghan families have voluntarily.

## Religious leaders unite in urgent appeal for peace in Gaza

LAHORE (APP): Religious leaders from across the nation, representing diverse faiths and beliefs, on Monday joined forces to make a global appeal for an immediate end to Israel's aggression and brutality in Gaza. Addressing a unified audience at the Palestine Conference here at Cathedral Church, they urged the world powers to immediately play their role

in ending the persecution of the oppressed Palestinian people.

Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, and Archbishop Dr. Sebastian Francis Shaw were among the prominent figures who emphasized that the ongoing situation in Gaza was not a matter confined to followers of any specific religion but a violation

against humanity itself. Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, stated that Saudi Arabia and the Muslim world were actively playing their role against Israeli aggression, urging the global community to step forward to end Israeli oppression.

## Hanif Abbasi acquitted in riots case

RAWALPINDI (Online): PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi has been acquitted in riots case.

The court announced the decision after five years of the registration of case in police station city against Hanif Abbasi.

The other accused in the case were Chaudhry Tanvir, Daniyal Chaudhry, Sarfraz Afzal and Chaudhry Ibrar. All other accused except Hanif Abbasi were acquitted from this case. Hanif Abbasi was charged with staging rallies against the arrest of Capt (Retd) Saifdar.

## ANF recovers 225 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations managed to recover 225 kg of drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that in an operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 59 hashish-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger, leaving for Bahrain on flight number GF-768.

81 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger at Multan

Airport. The accused, a resident of Lahore, was leaving for Sharjah by flight number PA-812.

105 kg hashish was recovered from an accused resident of Quetta in an operation conducted on Hazarganji Road Quetta.

Five kg of hashish hidden for smuggling was recovered in an uninhabited area of Zakhkhal Khyber.

Over 42 kg of Ice drug was recovered from the trolley bag of a foreigner at Jinnah International Airport. The accused was leaving for Bangladesh by flight number FZ-336.

## International News

## Biden, Qatari emir discuss Gaza, agree all hostages must be released

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden spoke on Sunday with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani about developments in Gaza and "urgent ongoing efforts" to secure the release of hostages being held by the Hamas militant group, the White House said.

Biden "unequivocally" condemned the holding of hostages by Hamas, including many young children, one of whom is a 3-year old American citizen whose parents were killed by the group on October 7<sup>th</sup>, the White House said in a statement. "The two leaders agreed that all hostages must be released without further

delay," the statement said. Hamas fighters surged across the border from Gaza into Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking more than 200 hostages, according to Israeli officials. Only four hostages have been released to date. The Israeli bombardment of Gaza has since killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, around 40% of them children, according to counts by health officials in the Hamas-ruled territory.

Reuters last week reported that Qatar, where several political leaders of Hamas are based, has been leading mediation efforts between Hamas and Israeli officials over the hostages.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told CNN's "State of the Union" earlier on Sunday that "active, intensive negotiations" were underway involving Israel, Qatar, Egypt and the United States on securing the release of more hostages, but it was not clear if all were alive.

"The goal here is to do what is necessary at the negotiating table to ensure that we get the safe return of all of the hostages, including the Americans," Sullivan told CNN, noting that nine Americans were missing, along with one person with permanent resident status in the United States.



A Woman cries as she stands by the rubble of a destroyed building following Israeli bombardment in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza hospitals suspend prisoner swap talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA STRIP: Amid Israeli bombardment, two major hospitals in northern Gaza — Al Shifa and Al Quds — closed to new patients on Sunday, with staff saying that a lack of fuel and medicine meant those already being treated could die.

Hospitals in the north of the besieged Palestinian enclave are blockaded by Israeli forces and barely able to care for those inside, medical staff said.

Intense fighting raged around Al Shifa hospital where doctors said thousands of Palestinians were trapped in dire conditions.

Soon after the strike, Hamas said it is suspending negotiations for exchange of prisoners because of Israel's handling of the Al Shifa Hospital, a Palestinian official told Reuters.

Fears have intensified for patients and people taking refuge in Al-Shifa

and other healthcare facilities in Gaza, and medical aid group Doctors Without Borders warned that without a ceasefire or evacuation the hospital "will become a morgue".

Other buildings serving as shelters have also been hit, including a strike on a UN compound in Gaza City that the United Nations Development Programme said caused "a significant number of deaths and injuries."

## US and South Korea sharpen deterrence plans over North Korean nuclear threat

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: The United States and South Korea on Monday updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing three-way defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Seoul for annual security talks with South Korean

military officials, including Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, which were focused on boosting nuclear deterrence against North Korea. They also talked about how the allies could coordinate over broader geopolitical issues, including Russia's war on Ukraine and China's regional assertiveness, Austin said.

Tensions between the Koreans are at their highest point in years as the pace of both North Korea's weapons tests and South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a cycle of tit-for-tat.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, right, and his South Korean counterpart Shin Won-sik shake hands for a photo during a signing ceremony of the 55th Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) at the defense ministry, in Seoul, South Korea.



People try to douse a fire inside a bus allegedly torched by protesters during a nationwide transport blockade called by an opposition party, in Dhaka.

## Bangladesh unrest leaves another garment worker dead

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Hundreds of Bangladeshi garment workers rallied on Sunday, demanding fair wages after dismissing a pay offer as too small, as the death toll from the violent protests rose to four.

Jalaluddin, 42, a garment worker who was injured in clashes with officers earlier this month in Gazipur, north of the capital Dhaka, died from his injuries. His death takes the number killed in the protests to four, according to police officials. "He died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was injured during a protest several days ago," said police inspector Bacchu Mia. Jalal's brother-in-law Rezaul Karim told reporters he had been shot in the stomach by a shotgun, and had been brought to Dhaka for treatment.

## UK PM Sunak sacks interior minister Suella Braverman over comments on pro-Palestine protests

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sacked his interior minister Suella Braverman on Monday after her criticism of the police's handling of a pro-Palestinian march divided his party and threatened his authority.

Following her dismissal, Braverman said "it

has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as home secretary."

"I will have more to say in due course," she added. Last week, Braverman defied Sunak by publishing an article accusing the police of adopting "double standards" in its treatment of protests — an argument opposition Labour said inflamed tensions at a pro-Palestinian demonstration on Saturday.

Then more than 140 people were arrested after far-right counter protesters skirmished with police, who tried to keep them away from the 300,000 pro-Palestinian marchers.

## US conducts airstrikes against Iran-backed groups in Syria, retaliating for attacks on US troops

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The U.S. military conducted airstrikes on two locations in eastern Syria involving Iranian-backed groups, hitting a training location and a weapons facility, according to the Pentagon and U.S. officials.

It marks the third time in a bit more than two weeks that the U.S. has retaliated against the militants for what has been a growing number of attacks on bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

## Argentina's presidential rivals clash in key voter battlegrounds

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUENOS AIRES: As Argentines prepare to elect a new president, the two hopefuls vying for the keys to the Casa Rosada palace are focusing on undecided voters in key battlegrounds, with campaign pushes around capital Buenos Aires and central Cordoba province that could tip the balance in a tight race.

Center-left Peronist economy chief Sergio Massa faces libertarian outsider Javier Milei in the Nov 19 vote, with polls suggesting a likely photo finish. Two widely different visions for South

America's no 2 economy are on offer.

Milei offers potentially painful shock therapy for the embattled country that has run out of foreign currency reserves, has inflation over 100% and is set for a recession. Pragmatist Massa is pledging a unity government and more gradual change to solve the crisis that has worsened in his watch.

"People want to know who is the least bad of the two," said 31-year-old psychologist Fatima Gonzalez from the populous Buenos Aires province around the capital of the same name.



## Bid of trophy hunting of Markhor done in Rs. 24.5m: US\$ 0.1 million outstanding against foreign hunters in Balochistan, CM told

**Mardan Domki directs to ensure early recovery of dues from foreign hunters; strictly implement ban imposed on issuance of new license of hunting**

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: A hefty amount of US\$ 0.1 million of Balochistan is outstanding against the foreign hunters on account of the hunting fees and other dues. This was informed to the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki during a briefing conducted about the protection of forests, wildlife and environment here on Monday. The high level meeting was chaired by the Chief Minister Domki and attended by senior high ups of the concerned departments including Asfandyar Kakar, besides others. He was briefed about the situation of wildlife, forests and other related issues besides the measures

being adopted for their protection in the province. The Chief Minister took serious notice of the arrears outstanding against the foreign hunters and directed the concerned high ups to ensure early recovery of the dues from them. He also directed them to ensure implementation of the ban imposed on issuance of the new licenses for hunting in the province. He also directed to ensure protection of the Persian Leopards as well as the animal and birds species and other precious herbarals and natural habitat in the province. He underlined the need to carry out research regarding the forests and wildlife in the public sector universities and directed to sign

MoUs with them in this regard. In addition to this, the Chief Minister also directed to start planning for launching the Ph.D and M.Phil programmes on the protection of forests, wildlife and environment in the universities. The Chief Minister also called for protection of the migratory birds who migrate from Siberia due to the harsh weather conditions there. Earlier, it was informed that the bid of trophy hunting for hunting of Suleman Markhor was done at Rs. 2 crore 45 lakh in the province. It was also informed that the hunting license fees for 10 days is Rs. 10 million in the province.



QUETTA: Members of Zamindar Action Committee are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and non-availability of water, held in Quetta.

## PPP has best program to overcome financial crunch, claims Gilani

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, claimed that no political party other than the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has a better programme to overcome the economic crisis of the country. Addressing a gathering in UC Muhammadpur Ghota in Qasim Bela, he stated that if the PPP voted to power with a two-third majority in the upcoming general election, it would bring great news for a better future of the next generations. He reminisced that his party always served the people of the constituency in the true sense. Haji Owais Bhupla, Malik Farooq Bhupla,

Malik Zahid Bhupla, Malik Khizr Bhupla, Malik Fayaz Bhupla, Malik Shafiq Bhupla, Malik Zubair and others were present. The PPP made Pakistan nuclear power, sensitized people of their rights and ensured the priority-based measures for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation, a PPP Senator recalled. He hoped that the people have the best opportunity to give the PPP a heavy mandate in the elections to bring it into power. Gilani said that the people of UC Muhammadpur Ghota will make the candidates of PPP successful with a huge mandate in the general elections.



QUETTA: Senior journalist Saleem Shahid meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

## ECP adjourns hearing of contempt of EC case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has adjourned hearing of contempt of EC case against PTI chairman Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar till December 6. Interior secretary presented written report for not presenting Imran Khan before EC. A four members bench of EC presided over by Member Nisar Durrani heard the contempt of EC case against Imran Khan, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry on Monday. Interior secretary Aftab Durrani appeared in EC. Junior lawyer of chair-

man PTI also appeared in EC. He told EC counsel for chairman PTI is engaged in Supreme Court. We request for adjournment of the case or hearing be adjourned for some time. Member commission said if counsel has to come then all right because we have to hear delimitation of constituencies. Member commission said if there are security concerns then we can notify hearing in jail. Interior secretary said if you want to go to jail then you can notify. We allow that hearing be held in jail.

## Huge quantity of smuggled fabrics recovered by Customs in Notal

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Pakistan Customs seized huge quantity of smuggle fabrics from the containers in Notal area near Dera Murad Jamali on Monday morning. The sources informed that the Customs mobile squad on the tip intercepted seven containers in Notal area. During the search, huge quantity of smuggled fabrics including different variety of cloths were re-

covered from the vehicles, the sources informed. The smuggled fabrics were seized and the containers impounded for further necessary action. The sources said that the value of seized items is stated to be in millions of rupees. However, the exact worth of the fabrics is being determined. Some arrests have also been made during the seizure, the sources of Customs informed.

## Senate told Govt blacklisted 111 social media-apps offering online interest based loans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Monday informed the Senate that the government had not only blacklisted 111 social media-apps offering online interest based loans but also the Cyber Wing of Federal Investigation Agency confiscated Rs 1.8 billion amount of interest. Winding up discussion on a motion moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed about mushrooming of the social media-apps offering online interest based loans in the country, he said that FIA had also registered cases against those who were running such mobile apps. Their cases were pending before courts of law, he added.

He said that soon after the emergence of the issue, the government had started actions against the apps which were not registered with Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan. However, he said FIA's capacity regarding cyber-crimes was very limited, adding there were also some law related issues. Earlier, Mushtaq Ahmed said many students and educated peoples had been trapped in the clutches of these social media-apps offering online interest based loans. Initially the apps offered loans to the students and unemployment people on nominal interest but later, they were forced to pay hefty interest.

## Uzbekistan's Deputy PM for Trade arrives in Pakistan on 2-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Investment Dr Jamshid Khodjaev on Monday arrived in Pakistan on a two-day visit. The visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral trade and investment between the two countries, said a press release. During the visit, Dr Khodjaev will meet senior government officials to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in a range of sectors, including trade and investment. He will also lead a delegation of Uzbekistan's business leaders for meetings with their Pakistani counterparts to explore new opportunities for investment and collaboration. "Pakistan and Uzbekistan have enjoyed

close economic ties for many years. The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan has grown substantially in the last three years, from \$ 27 million in 2019-20 to \$ 126 million in 2022-23. However, this is much below the full potential of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan," the press release added. The visit of Dr Khodjaev was expected to provide further impetus to bilateral trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, it added. "The two countries have a number of complementary strengths and opportunities, and there is significant potential for increased cooperation in a range of sectors," the press release said.

## Sea Guardian 2023 to deepen Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan-China Joint Naval Exercise Sea Guardian 2023 will enhance bilateral security cooperation to develop a Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership and also open new avenues for future maritime cooperation against common threats in the region. It was stated by Pakistan Navy's Commodore Asim Sohail Malik and Chinese People's Liberation Army (Navy)'s Senior Captain Qi Jian in a joint

unique and strong relationships and this exercise will further strengthen the decades-old and time-tested friendship of both countries. "The exercise will also open new avenues for future maritime cooperation between two friendly navies against common threats in the region," he added. Senior Captain Qi Jian, while addressing the press conference, said that the main purpose of the exercise was to enhance bi-



## Zaidong highlights far-reaching impact of Chinese organizational practices on developing nations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Monday highlighted the far-reaching impact of Chinese organizational practices on developing nations, catalyzing their robust development. Addressing an event in the framework of the "Dosti Park Club" with the theme of Chinese modernization and diplomacy, the ambassador highlighted the significance of the practices in instilling hope and confidence, especially among countries aspiring to a shared future. Reflecting on President Xi Jinping's eight major steps unveiled during the Belt and Road Forum,

Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador highlighted its early harvest, citing impressive figures such as \$25.4 billion in direct investment and jobs creation for 236,000 individuals. Highlighting CPEC's impact on infrastructure development, he noted the completion of 510 kilometers of highways, and build 886 kilometers of national core transmission grid, and 8,020 megawatts of electricity projects. CPEC would further improve the lives of Pakistan's people and the new international airport at Gwadar would also be functional soon, he added. "We are also bringing benefits for people in Balochistan including 10,000 solar panels."



QUETTA: Country representative of UNHCR Ms. Philippa Candler meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a high level meeting regarding environmental change and protection of forests and wildlife.

## 1 in 3 children exposed to severe water scarcity: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (APP): The climate-changed world with dwindling water supply and inadequate water services is also changing children, altering their mental and physical health. One in three children or 739 million worldwide already live in areas exposed to high or very high water scarcity, with climate change threatening to make this worse, according to a new UNICEF report. Further, the double burden of dwindling water availability and inadequate drinking water and sanitation services is compounding the challenge, putting children at even greater risk. The report, a supplement to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk (2021), also outlines the myriad of other ways in which children bear the brunt of the impacts of the climate crisis - including disease, air pollution, and

extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. From the moment of conception until they grow into adulthood, the health and development of children's brains, lungs, immune systems and other critical functions are affected by the environment they grow up in. For example, children are more likely to suffer from air pollution than adults. Generally, they breathe faster than adults and their brains, lungs and other organs are still developing. "The consequences of climate change are devastating for children," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Their bodies and minds are uniquely vulnerable to polluted air, poor nutrition and extreme heat. Not only is their world-changing - with water sources drying up and terrifying weather events becoming stronger and more frequent - so too

is their well-being as climate change affects their mental and physical health. Children are demanding change, but their needs are far too often relegated to the sidelines." According to the report findings, the greatest share of children are exposed in the Middle East and North Africa and South Asia regions - meaning they live in places with limited water resources and high levels of seasonal and interannual variability, groundwater table decline or drought risk. Far too many children - 436 million - are facing the double burden of high or very high water scarcity and low or very low drinking water service levels - known as extreme water vulnerability - leaving their lives, health, and well-being at risk. It is one of the key drivers of deaths among children under 5 from preventable diseases.

## Pakistani filmmaker Mumtaz wins US award for distinguished artists

NEW YORK (APP): A Pakistani-American author and filmmaker Mumtaz Hussain has been decorated with the Global Leadership 2023 Award for his "outstanding contributions" in the fields of art, films, and literature. The New York-based writer was chosen by Lion Club and James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation for the prestigious award. Mumtaz Hussain, a graduate of the National College of Arts, Lahore, has enhanced his skills with exposure to European and America art scenes.



CHARSADDA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offering Fatiha at the residence of late caretaker Chief Minister KP Azam Khan.

## Court declares Moonis PO

LAHORE (Online): Accountability Court (AC) Lahore has declared Chaudhry Moonis Elahi proclaimed offender in Gujarat corruption case. Judge Nasim Ahmad Virk took up for hearing petition filed by NAB Monday. NAB took the plea Chaudhry Moonis Elahi has neither been arrested nor has he joined investigation. The court has issued non bailable arrest warrants of Chaudhry Moonis Elahi. The court should order to declare him proclaimed offender. The court declared Chaudhry Moonis Elahi proclaimed offender besides summoning record of his properties.

## Four private members' bills introduced in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Monday witnessed the introduction of four private members' bills and deferred six bills due to the absence of relevant lawmakers. Four bills introduced in the House included the Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Pakistan Names and Emblems (Prevention of Unauthorised Use) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2023. These bills were referred to the relevant committee for further consider-

ation as the relevant ministers did not oppose discussing them in detail in a committee meeting. Six other bills were deferred by the House due to the absence of relevant lawmakers. These bills were the Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Substitution of section 289 of PPC and subsequent amendment in schedule II of Cr. PC); the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2023.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Babar Khan meeting with Caretaker Provincial Finance Minister Amjad Rasheed.

## Minority community enjoys equal rights in Balochistan: DC Lasbela

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Noor Ahmed Mandokhail on Monday said that minority community, including Hindu communities, enjoyed equal rights and religious freedom in Balochistan. He made these remarks while addressing a get-together party organized at community Hall Othal in regard to Diwali, a religious festival of the Hindu community. The representative of Hindu Community Dr Tola

Ram Lasi, Chairman Municipal Community Uthal Syed Sumar Shah Qazmi were prominent others who attended the event. DC Lasbela acknowledged that minorities played an important role in the economic uplift of the country. "Foolproof security measures were in place during Diwali festival," he said and added that local administration is firm to ensure security to each member of the minority community.