

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff Pakistan Air Force witnessing the flypast at the graduation ceremony held at PAF Academy Asghar Khan.

Interim cabinet of Balochistan meets, makes important decisions:

## Annual grant of Thalassemia Unit in THG Gwadar increased from Rs 1m to Rs 10m: CM

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim government is endeavouring hard to dispose off the important urgent matters and resolve the issues being faced by the common men in the province. He said that it is our utmost endeavour to bring improvement in the governance and performance by making service delivery system effective in the public and private institutions. This is just for saving the general public from day to day issues. This was stated by the caretaker Chief Minister while chairing the provincial cabinet meeting here on Tuesday. The caretaker provincial

ministers, Mir Zubair Jamali, Jan Achakzai, Dr Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, Prince Ahmed Ali, Dr Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezeai, Amanullah Kanrani, Sheikh Mehmood Ul Hasan Mandokhail, advisors to CM, Mir Umair Muhammad Hassani and Mir Danish Langove, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan and administrative secretaries of the provincial government departments were in attendance. The cabinet discussed different important matters and made decisions on them. The cabinet approved to increase the annual grant of Thalassemia unit in Teaching Hospital Gwadar from existing Rs. 1 million to Rs. 10 million.

Moreover, the cabinet also approved payment of the prescribed relief amounts to the Zakat deserving persons through digital system transparently, demanding of particulars of experts of the relevant sectors for selection on two honorary seats of legal wing of advisory council of Balochistan Revenue Authority, Balochistan Heirs certificate Rules 2022 besides other matters. The cabinet also endorsed to dispose of the pending matters of different departments. Meanwhile, the cabinet constituted a fact finding committee to review the motives behind the dispute and scuffle took place in the Lasbela University few days back.

## COAS says Only realistic, mission-oriented training in peacetime can guarantee excellence on battlefield

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday while interacting with the troops participating in the exercise said only realistic, mission-oriented training in peacetime could guarantee excellence on the battlefield should the need arise. The Army Chief visited Corps Level Collective Training exercise of Strike Corp aimed at validating offensive operational concepts, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. He witnessed an impressive display of complex manoeuvres under-

taken, led by Armoured formation equipped with state of the art V-4 tanks. The COAS met the troops participating in the exercise and commended their verve, operational efficiency and professionalism. The Army Chief highlighted the importance of combat readiness and mental agility to respond to multi-spectral threat paradigm. He dilated upon the significance of achieving synergy among various arms in view of rapidly changing threat environment. He also appreciated the proficiency gained in night operations.

## Interim Govt determined to hold free & fair elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Tuesday called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf. In the meeting, the upcoming general elections and other important issues were discussed, said a press release issued here. They emphasized the need for a free, fair and

transparent election process in the country. The caretaker government was committed to conduct free and fair elections, Solangi added. He said the government would provide all necessary resources and support to the Election Commission of Pakistan. The minister reiterated the commitment that elections would be ensured in a transparent and credible manner.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir interacting with the troops participating in Corps Level Collective Training exercise of Strike Corp aimed at validating offensive operational concepts

## IHC declares notification for Imran Khan's jail trial in cipher case illegal

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday declared the notification for conducting former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's jail trial in the cipher case illegal. The ruling came as a division bench comprising Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Riffat Intiaz announced the verdict it reserved earlier in the day on the intra-court appeal filed by the PTI chief against his jail trial. The Ministry of Law issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) for the jail trial of former prime as requested by the Interior Ministry and special court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain on August 29. A short order has been issued by the IHC, while the de-

tailed verdict will be issued later. In the verdict, an IHC division bench, comprising Justice Mian-gul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Intiaz, declared Imran's intra-court appeal maintainable. The court also upheld the appointment of Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who is conducting Imran's trial under the Official Secrets Act in the cipher case. Earlier, the Islamabad High Court reserved its verdict on the intra-court appeal filed by former premier and PTI Chairman Imran Khan against the jail trial and appointment of the judge in the cipher case. At the outset of the hearing, the PTI chairman's lawyer Salman Akram Raja argued that a judge should pass a clear order based on reasons for the jail

## Senate told FIA busted 2-3 gangs of beggars trying to travel to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs Jalil Abbas Jilani on Tuesday informed the Senate that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has busted two-three gangs of beggars who were trying to travel to Saudi Arabia under the garb of Ummrah. Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that around 2.5 million Pakistanis were working in Saudi Arabia. Round the clock helpline has been established in the Pakistani Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate General in Jeddah to address their complaints, he added. He said hundred of thousands telephone calls received which were not only noted but also making all out efforts to address it. He said some 500,000 visas were issued to Pakistani last year for employment. The Saudi authorities have also given the assurances to provide jobs to those facing employment related problems at alternative companies, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf.

## Pakistan advocates two-state solution for Palestinian issue: Foreign Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jalil Abbas Jilani Tuesday affirmed Pakistan's support for a two-state solution to address the Palestine issue, emphasizing the importance of resolving it in alignment with the wishes of the Palestinian people. He made these remarks in response to concerns raised by PPP Senator Mian Raza Rabbani during Senate session regarding a press statement issued by the President Secretariat on the Palestine issue, which was subsequently contradicted. The minister clarified that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had no input in the initial statement issued by the President Secre-

tariat. He acknowledged being unaware of the context in which the statement was made but reiterated Pakistan's stance in favor of a two-state resolution for the Palestinian issue. He emphasized the need for Israel's withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders and the resolution of the matter in accordance with UN Resolution 242 and OIC resolutions. Highlighting that a clarification was issued after this statement, the minister mentioned that it was sent to the OIC Secretariat and UN institutions. He further noted that the clarification was also disseminated through both domestic and international media.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman welcoming PML-N quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif on their arrival at his residence

## Court grants bail to Sheikh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Additional District and Session Court here on Tuesday granted bail of former federal minister Sheikh Rasheed in a case filed in Kohsar police station. The former minister appeared before the court of Judge Tahir Abbas with his legal team. Subsequently, the court confirmed the bail of Sheikh Rasheed on deposit of five thousand rupees and adjourned the case till November 25.

## Nawaz, Shehbaz meet Fazlur Rehman to discuss current political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Nawaz Sharif, along with former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday held discussions on current political scenario with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the chief of Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F).

Arriving at Rehman's residence in Islamabad, the ex-prime minister extended condolences to Rehman for the loss of his mother-in-law. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Hydari, Ishaq Dar, Maulana Asad Mehmood, and Engineer Ziaur Rahman attended the meeting.

## No peace without settlement of Jammu & Kashmir issue: PM

*Pakistan is a peace-loving nation and wished to maintain friendly relations with all countries, especially its neighbours but country's desire for peace must not be understood as weakness; We would not indulge in any arm race but would continue to enhance its capability in line with evolving technology to deter any aggression*

RISALPUR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said peace in the region could not be guaranteed till the resolution of the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir between Pakistan and India. "Let me make it clear that there can be no peace without the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue," he said in his address at the graduation ceremony of the officers here at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy Asghar Khan. PM Kakar said Pakistan was a peace-loving nation and wished to maintain friendly relations with all countries, especially its neighbours. He, however, categorically stated that the country's desire for peace

"must not be understood as weakness". The prime minister strongly condemned the ongoing grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan, he said, would not indulge in any arm race but would continue to enhance its capability in line with evolving technology to deter any aggression. The prime minister highlighted that the rapidly changing geo-strategic environment had a profound impact on Pakistan and rest of the region. "Therefore, the situation demands advancements in space networks, cyber technology, nano technology and artificial intelligence,"

he said. He expressed satisfaction that the PAF modernized itself though smart induction of cutting-edge niche technology and achieved great progress in cyber space and non-contact warfare through indigenous means. PM Kakar termed the armed forces of Pakistan as professionally competent and well-trained to cope with all internal and external challenges. "The nation holds our armed forces in high esteem for the sacrifices they rendered for national defence and for their contribution towards nation-building," he said. He mentioned that the country's brave armed forces always showed great courage during testing times to keep the national flag high.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over meeting of Provincial Cabinet

## Governor reaches Khuzdar on two-day visit

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar reached Khuzdar on Tuesday. Upon arrival, the Vice Chancellor of Engineering University Khuzdar, Professor Dr. Maqsood Ahmed, Deputy Inspector General of police, Munir Sheikh, Deputy Commissioner, Muhammad Arif Khan Zarkoon, DPO, Mir Hussain Lehri and pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Sohrab Bizejo welcomed the Governor. During his visit, the Governor would be meeting with political leaders, tribal elders and other elites. Moreover, the Governor would also be attending a ceremony at the Khuzdar Engineering University.

## PN, local industry to together attain aim of self-reliance: Naval Chief

KARACHI (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Tuesday emphasized that technology is continuously evolving and the armed forces also need to keep pace with the evolving technology. Pakistan Navy Industrial Seminar was held at Bahria Auditorium where Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as Chief Guest here on Tuesday. While addressing the participants of seminar, Naval Chief lauded the valuable participation of academia and representatives of various industries from private sector, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

He emphasised, "This necessitates close cooperation of the defence sector with local industry and educational institutions. This industrial seminar will provide significant opportunity for local industries to showcase their potential to support Pakistan Navy which is a technologically intensive armed force of Pakistan," he said. Appreciating the response of private sector in a technologically challenging environment, Chief of the Naval Staff said that Pakistan Navy and local industries will together attain our aim of self-reliance. Speakers from different organizations also highlighted the importance of indigenization and self-reliance.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf addresses during the 5th Pakistan Navy (PN) Industrial Seminar and Exhibition 2023 held at Bahria Auditorium in Karachi.

## Bilawal to address Founding day of PPP to be observed in Quetta

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The founding day of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) would be observed in Quetta on November 30. The Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would address the public gathering to be held marking the founding day of the party. This was announced by the provincial General Secretary of PPP, Sarbuland Khan Jogezeai while addressing press conference here at Quetta press club on Tuesday. Sarbuland Khan said that the party Chairman would announce launch of the party's election campaign on the founding day of party.

## Bilawal says PPP wages fight against unemployment, poverty

*Benazir Labour Card to be extended to all provinces*  
DIR UPPER (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here Tuesday said that his party has no rivalry with any political party, and its struggle was against unemployment, poverty, and price hikes. Addressing a mammoth gathering of people here, the PPP leader said that his party strongly believed in the power of people, and after winning the 2024 General Election would serve the masses without any discrimination. Like Sindh province, he said Benazir Mazdoor (la-

bor) Card would be provided to poor laborers of all provinces of Pakistan enabling them to get free treatment and education services for their families. The assistance and scope of the Benazir Income Support program would be enhanced and the houses constructed for flood victims would be provided on an ownership basis like those of Sindh province. He said that two million houses were being constructed for those affected people of last year's devastating floods in Sindh province.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Innocence robbed**

As countries marked Children's Day yesterday to renew their pledge to safeguard the rights of little ones, Pakistan had little to show for its own progress in the area. We continue to fail our most vulnerable citizens year after year. In yet another shameful incident, it was found last week that two teachers at a Chakwal seminary had been torturing and sexually abusing 15 children for weeks. The matter came to light when one of the victims recounted the horrors he endured to his father. This encouraged other victims to speak up. The children were left not only physically, but also emotionally scarred. Punjab's chief minister has promised swift justice but plugging one hole when half the ship has sunk will do little to redress matters. In the first half of this year alone, 2,227 cases of child abuse were reported. Although, there is no information on how many of these tragedies unfolded at madrasahs, history shows us such events have sadly become all too common. In 2021, a Lahore cleric was found to have sexually abused a student for three years. In 2019, a 13-year-old disabled girl was sexually assaulted by a cleric in Multan.

The state needs to take a long, hard look at the madrasah as an institution. Why is it that a place whose stated aim is imparting religious education is often viewed through a dark lens? While they must not all be tarred with the same brush, the state should realise that it needs to dig deeper and unearth why such incidents continue to surface year after year. It should realise that the power dynamic between a teacher and a student is a contributing factor. Predators target children because their claims are unfortunately less likely to be believed. Some also use political clout to cover up their crimes. Compounding the problem is the unwillingness of society to pursue the matter, such as in the Chakwal case, with parents of nine victims refusing medical examination of the children. These factors further embolden the perpetrators, allowing such crimes to continue.

The government recently earmarked Rs1.2bn for the registration and regulation of religious schools. While this is a necessary step, it should also institute other changes. The state must enforce strict regulations — and follow through — against any form of abuse, and ensure the mental and physical well-being of students. This includes regular monitoring, a framework for reporting and addressing grievances, and ensuring that madrasahs are safe spaces for learning and personal growth. Additionally, understanding and addressing the socioeconomic factors that lead families to opt for madrasah education, such as poverty and lack of access to conventional schools, are equally important. There are an estimated 3m students enrolled in madrasahs. We must not let them down.

**Beyond Handshakes: Business, Backlash, and the Bottom Line**

*Xi's successful trip to the USA not only set off an exciting boost in the stock market, especially for tech, finance, and renewable energy, but also marked a special moment when China made a strong comeback on the world business scene with a fresh start in diplomacy.*

**Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani**

In the picturesque landscape of California, where sun-kissed shores meet towering skyscrapers, a diplomatic spectacle unfolded as Chinese leader Xi Jinping descended upon the Golden State. Ostensibly, the purpose was a tête-à-tête with President Biden, yet the true stage was set for an enthralling dance between political priorities and profit motives.

Xi Jinping's visit had a dual agenda — engaging with President Biden on diplomatic fronts and captivating the attention of America's financial titans. CEOs of major tech and financial companies, including luminaries like Tim Cook, Elon Musk, Larry Fink, and Stephen Schwarzman, were the coveted audience.

While the Biden-Xi meeting yielded a vague climate deal, a reopening of military channels, and pledges on fentanyl reduction, the narrative swiftly pivoted towards economic interests. The grand gestures of diplomacy took a backseat to the pragmatic pursuit of financial gains.

In a curious spectacle, CEOs inked deals to extend their businesses into China, seemingly indifferent to Xi Jinping's geopolitical agenda. The allure of profits trumped concerns about China's political trajectory.

Xi Jinping emerged as the true victor in this Californian saga. The global business elite, in defiance of governmental caution, flocked to

secure deals, emphasizing a stark contrast in priorities between financial magnates and political leaders. The episode underscored the divergence in priorities — while financial leaders globe-trot for profit, political leaders are tasked with upholding democratic standards. The question arises: can these conflicting motives coexist harmoniously?

Xi's visit to the Bay Area was a spectacle of competing intentions. CEOs willingly shelled out up to \$40,000 for the chance to dine with him, signaling an eagerness for Chinese investment, a stark contrast to the cautious governmental approach. Despite an extensive four-hour tête-à-tête, President Biden achieved only a temporary reprieve in the escalating tensions. Protesters, critical of China's human rights record and other grievances, were left on the fringes, overshadowed by the allure of business deals.

The success of Xi's visit resonated in the stock market, witnessing a powerful rally, especially in tech, financial, and renewable energy sectors. The symbolism went beyond financial gains, representing a diplomatic reset and China's reemergence on the global business stage.

China's leadership in renewable energy, despite environmental concerns, played a role in the positive market response. The intersection of economic gains and environmental stewardship added complexity to the unfolding narrative. CEOs, undeterred by concerns over China's actions, saw the visit as

a lucrative opportunity. In the dynamic junction of politics and profits, Xi Jinping's journey through California unfolded as a nuanced performance, prompting contemplation on the intricate equilibrium between economic aspirations and worldwide governance. As we witness the sunset on this chapter, the repercussions—whether in the political sphere or financial landscape—are bound to reverberate well beyond the shores of California, shaping the broader narrative of global interactions.

China is at the forefront of a green revolution, taking the lead in renewable energy initiatives. In a recent groundbreaking move, China and the U.S. have united to champion a global effort to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030. This collaboration comes as a beacon of hope on the eve of the COP28 climate conference, demonstrating a shared commitment to a cleaner, greener future.

China, often under scrutiny as the globe's largest coal consumer, impressively demonstrates a ten-year commitment to leading the way in renewable power generation. Their noteworthy initiatives include the rapid establishment of a substantial amount of new solar capacity in just one year, surpassing the entire installed capacity in the United States. This commendable effort highlights China's dedication to environmental protection and sustainable energy practices.

Looking ahead, China is not only poised

to exceed its 2020 renewable capacity commitment but also aims to achieve this goal five years ahead of schedule. Industry experts predict a remarkable milestone — a whopping 1,000 GW of solar power by the end of 2026, an endeavor that aligns with global targets outlined in the Paris Agreement.

A pivotal moment in China's green journey was marked in 2020 when the country pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. This announcement triggered substantial investments in renewable energy, underscoring China's unwavering political support for a sustainable and eco-friendly future. Fueling this green revolution is a strategic shift in investments, including down on excessive real estate lending since 2020, has redirected financial resources into the manufacturing of renewables, particularly in the high-tech and green sectors.

Despite being a global leader in renewables, approximately 70% of China's electricity still originates from fossil fuels, predominantly coal. Technical challenges and integration issues pose hurdles to fully harnessing the potential of solar and wind power, but ongoing efforts aim to overcome these obstacles. China's dominance extends beyond its borders as it controls over 80% of the world's solar manufacturing capacity. This comprehensive control of the solar panel supply chain has resulted in

surplus production that is driving solar component prices to record lows. While this benefits the global push for affordable renewable energy, concerns linger regarding potential global price wars and industry consolidation. A positive shift is anticipated in China's greenhouse gas emissions, potentially entering a "structural decline" as early as next year. Analysts attribute this optimistic outlook to the rise in renewable installations, an increase in hydropower generation, and a moderate economic recovery. To further enhance the renewable utilization rates, China is tightening its emissions trading systems and planning reforms in the power sector. Challenges persist, including capacity payments to coal generators, but China remains at the forefront of the global effort to combat climate change through sustainable and innovative solutions. China's remarkable strides in renewable energy underscore its commitment to a cleaner future, influencing global initiatives and shaping the land-

scape of sustainable energy production. China is making significant efforts to contribute to a safer and cleaner world, and their commitment to becoming carbon neutral, smart investments, and leadership in solar panel production are commendable. By taking on a crucial role in the global push for an eco-friendly and cleaner future, China is paving the way for a better world. Their actions, which involve a careful balance between politics and economic interests, are not only impacting California but are set to inspire positive changes worldwide. This underscores the hope for a more interconnected world where nations can live in peace, emphasizing the importance of giving diplomacy and co-operation a chance.

*[The writer, serves as Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. With a passion for fostering international bonds, he also lends his expertise as a Senior Media Consultant based in Peshawar. He can be contacted through t h r o u g h s y e e l . g i l a n i @ g m a i l . c o m ]*

**LETTER TO EDITOR**

**Independence of FATF from political influence: delusion or reality?**

The FATF, global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, politically independent entity. The concern which drives attention here is that; is it actually free from political influence? Keeping an eye on the recent facts, FATF raised 27 questions for Pakistan from which 4 remained unsettled. Therefore, Pakistan was dragged to the grey list. Whereas, India having 350 questions in its court hosted G-20. Which element is making India diplomatically strong? Either its relations with the US or its controlled media projection. In a nutshell, the point which would clarify the status of FATF as a politically independent entity would be its justful decision about India in its money laundering case.

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**Commerce News**

**Finance minister reviews projects funded by ADB, WB**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, on Tuesday reviewed the Federal Portfolio of projects funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB).

The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, convened a meeting at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad, said a press release issued here.

In her opening remarks, the Minister underscored the critical role these projects play in socio-economic development, offering access to job markets and fostering economic mobility to lift people out of poverty.

During the meeting, the minister outlined the purpose of the portfolio review, emphasizing its objective to address implementation bottlenecks and meet disbursement targets

for the current fiscal year.

The minister provided insights into the background and purpose of the meeting, shedding light on both successful and problematic projects.

She highlighted initiatives such as infrastructure restoration post the 2022 floods, border crossing point improvements, digital payments accessibility, housing finance, tax base broadening, adaptive social protection, and higher education sector enhancement.

Expressing concern over project delays, particularly those critically delayed, the minister pledged to bring these issues to the attention of the Prime Minister's Office and Provincial Governments for their support in expediting project completion.

She also appealed to donors for expertise and technical assistance to ensure timely implementation for the benefit of Pakistan's socio-economic development.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the Portfolio Review Meeting of Foreign Funded (Federal) Projects at Ministry of Economic Affairs.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz meeting with representatives from Khyber Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**Algeria keen to promote trade, economic ties with Pakistan: Ambassador**

SIALKOT (APP): The ambassador of Algeria in Pakistan Dr. Brahim Romani has said that his country was keen to promote trade and economic ties with Pakistan as Pakistan was a huge market for business relations. He stated this during an important meeting with the Sialkot business community at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here today.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, SVP Wahub Jahangir, VP Amer Majeed Sheikh and business people were also

present on the occasion. The ambassador urged Sialkot exporters to come forward and tap and explore the untapped international trade markets of Algeria to promote bilateral trade between Algeria and Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize Algeria and both countries enjoyed good relations. He said that the ties between Algeria and Pakistan spanned over several decades as they had flourished with the passage of time.

**SECP takes notice of surrogate ads by cryptocurrency exchanges**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), taking notice of the increasing trend of surrogate advertisements on certain internet-based cryptocurrency exchanges and betting platforms, has directed all companies, including limited liability partnerships (LLPs), not to enter into any type of advertisement or sponsorship agreements with entities involved in surrogate advertising.

**Pakistan secures 2-year extension in MMPA exemption period**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan attained a remarkable global milestone as the Department of Commerce and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) grant a prestigious two-year extension to the exemption period, distinguishing the nation among a select few out of 130 countries.

This significant extension, as outlined in a Federal Register Notice,

extended the deadline for comparability findings for commercial fishing operations exporting fish and fish products to the U.S. to December 31, 2025, said a news release issued here on Tuesday. This extension represents a notable revision to the regulations implementing the import provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), initially introduced in 2016.

**DIG Motorways meets businessmen, goods transport owners at LCCI**

LAHORE (APP): National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) Deputy Inspector General Syed Fared Ali has said that the rules and regulations have been made more stringent after the Kaler Kahar accident while violation of the rules by public service vehicles is being strictly prevented.

He expressed these views during a meeting with business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) where the Chamber's President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice

President Zafar Mehmood Chaudhary and representatives of Pakistan Goods Transport were also present. Problems of transporters, overloading, warehousing and other issues came under discussion.

Syed Fared Ali said that the objective of Highways and Motorway Police is to ensure the implementation of the rules. He said that the warehouses would be built on the Motorway soon, adding that at present the vehicles take exit in the next city and unload their goods.

**Pakistan to host DCO's Digital Investment summit next year: Minister**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif Tuesday said that Pakistan will host the Digital Cooperation Organization's (DCO) first-ever summit on Digital Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) early next year.

This announcement was made during a virtual meeting with the Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization, where strategic initiatives for the expansion of Pakistani IT companies in DCO member states were also discussed.

Dr. Umar Saif talked about Pakistan's robust relations with all DCO member countries and unveiled an innovative approach to facilitate digital businesses through the introduction of the DCO digital passport.

This passport, he described as a one-stop-shop, aims to streamline the process for Pakistani companies looking to expand into markets, starting with Saudi Arabia.

The minister underscored the pivotal role of DCO in enhancing the investor network for

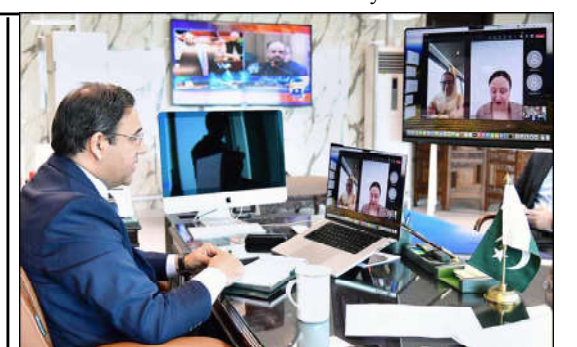
the upcoming Pakistan Startup Fund, a move set to elevate the startup ecosystem in the country.

DCO member states included Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Nigeria, Oman, and Jordan.

Meanwhile, Dr. Umar Saif chaired a crucial meeting to finalize a strategic plan with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) aimed at elevating the quality of Computer Science students in universities and ensuring their seamless placement in the IT industry.

**Rupee gains 18 paise against Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 18 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.78 against the previous day's closing at Rs 285.96. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.2 and Rs 288 respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a virtual meeting with Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Ms. Deemah Al-Yahya.



**GUJRANWALA:** Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the Punjab cabinet meeting first time held in Gujranwala.

## KP Governor says: Caretaker setups responsible for conducting elections

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Ghulam Ali on Tuesday said that after the announcement of the elections' date by the Election Commissions of Pakistan (ECP) the caretaker governments are responsible for making arrangements for conducting the general elections for the continuation and strengthening of the democratic process in the country.

Addressing the business community at Nowshera Chamber of Commerce in district Nowshera, he said that it was the responsibility of provincial governments and law enforcement agencies to ensure the maintenance of law and order for peaceful and transparent

conduct of the elections. Referring to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's address to the workers, the Governor said that every political party has their own agenda and ideology, adding that being chairman of a leading political party, Bilawal has full authority to give his opinion and stance, however, he requested that rumors should not be spread related to holding of the general elections.

Regarding repatriation of the Afghan refugees, the Governor said that it was the decision of the state must be accepted by everyone, adding that Pakistan and Afghanistan are two Islamic brotherhood countries and Pakistan has hosted Afghan refugees for more than forty years.



**A view of Grand Jirga for the maintenance of regional law and order and negotiations between the parties in Sada, Lower Tehsil Headquarters of the tribal district of Kurram.**

## Feroze pays tribute to late CMAzam Khan

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Caretaker Provincial Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Tuesday visited Charsadda to offer prayers and recite Fatiha at the grave of the former caretaker chief minister late Azam Khan.

He prayed for the eternal reward and elevated status of the late, placing a floral wreath on Azam Khan's grave. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Charsadda Adnan Farid, the minister expressed admiration for Azam Khan's five decades of selfless service to Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Dr Yasmin, Ijaz indicted in case of torching police vehicles

**LAHORE (Online):** Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has indicted PTI leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid and Ijaz Chaudhry in the case of setting ablaze police vehicles on May 9. The court has summoned prosecution witnesses on next hearing. The case came up for hearing before Adm judge of ATC Amber Gul Khan on Tuesday. The jail authorities presented the accused persons before the court. During the hearing of the case the court indicted Dr Yasmin Rashid, Ijaz Chaudhry and Robina Jamil.

## LHC directs to continue crackdown against driving vehicles without license

**LAHORE (Online):** Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed to continue crackdown against those driving vehicles without license.

The court has directed if underage driver now becomes cause of traffic incident on roads then the respective SHO and sector in-charge will be responsible. The petition regarding protection of the accused Afhan came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Ali

Zia Bajwa. CTO Lahore and other police officers appeared in the court during hearing of case.

The state counsel told the court operation is underway against those running the vehicles without driving licenses. 2986 cases have been registered within three days.

The court while moving to SSP remarked why your policemen are not conducting operations.

## Bangash emphasizes development, teamwork

**Independent Report PESHAWAR:** In an oath-taking ceremony held at the Civil Secretariat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday, Caretaker Minister for Finance, Goods, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Ahmed Rasool Bangash underscored the importance of development and economic stability for the province.

The participation of prominent figures including Minister for Planning and Development Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah, Minister for Local Government Engineer Aamir Durrani, President of the Driver Association Sher Zaman Mehsud, General Secretary Sardar Ali, and Chairman Muhammad Iftihar. Addressing the

gathering, Minister Ahmed Rasool Bangash highlighted the collective responsibility of steering the province towards progress.

He emphasized the need for unity and collaboration to achieve common goals, stating that every individual, regardless of their role, plays a significant part in the development of society and the state.

During the ceremony, the Caretaker Finance Minister administered the oath to the officials of the Civil Secretariat Drivers Association. He expressed his commitment to ensuring that the rights of officials and drivers from all departments are duly recognized and protected.

## In first cabinet meeting in Gujranwala CM announces several public welfare projects

*Naqvi also unveils healthcare improvements in Gujranwala*

### Independent Report

**LAHORE:** The Punjab cabinet, led by Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, convened its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Gujranwala on Tuesday.

Presiding over the meeting at the Commissioner's Office in Gujranwala, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi announced four pivotal projects for the city, said a handout issued here.

The projects include the establishment of a vegetable market and Guwala Colony in Gujranwala, along with the construction of 24 new classrooms for DPS Gujranwala. Additionally, approval was granted for the creation of two model graveyards in Gujranwala

and the establishment of a Punjab University campus in Daska.

During the meeting, Commissioner Gujranwala Division Naveed Haider Shirazi provided a briefing on the ongoing public welfare projects in the Gujranwala Division. The Punjab cabinet approved setting the minimum support price of wheat at Rs 4,000 per maund, a decision aimed at providing relief to farmers.

Further decisions included an increase in the financial assistance package for the family members of government employees who died during service. The cabinet also greenlit the provision of funds for the establishment of an

endowment fund for the welfare of artists, designed to support deserving artists.

In the meeting, it was announced that another heart hospital would be built in Lahore, replacing the Emergency and Trauma Center of Jinnah Hospital with the Jinnah Institute of Cardiology.

The cabinet also approved the release of funds to operationalize the seven-year-old CT scan machine at Mayo Hospital.

Other approvals included the revision of inspection fees for transport vehicles and additional funds from the Punjab government's resources for the construction and

## DC cracks down on fruit, vegetable price gougers

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** In a stern move to curb rampant price gouging in the fruit and vegetable market, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz on Tuesday ordered a crackdown on errant shopkeepers.

Magistrate Sadar Sub-Division, accompanied by a team of officials, conducted surprise inspections of various markets including Tarnol, G-15 and GT Road areas.

During the inspection, the magistrate identified several shops that were blatantly overcharging customers. In one instance, a shopkeeper was caught charging an exorbitant price for tomatoes. He immediately ordered the shopkeeper's arrest and transfer to the Tarnol police station. The magistrate also said that any violator would not be spared either.



**LAHORE:** Grace Bible Fellowship Church Pastor Tariq Rehmat meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman at Governor House.

## PMLN to win polls with thumping majority: Abid

**FAISALABAD (APP):** Former State Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) leader Abid Sher Ali said that the PML-N would win the next election with a thumping majority.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, he said the PMLN was a prope party which always preferred public welfare. He said that the party had not only overcome the menace of

loadshedding and terrorism but also put the country on the road to progress and prosperity during its previous tenure but unfortunately, Mian Nawaz Sharif's government was terminated under a calculated move.

He said that after the PMLN government, the country plunged into multifaceted crises and the people had to face severe poverty and economic instability.

## International News

## Dozen killed as Israel hits Gaza's last major hospital

**Monitoring Desk GAZA:** Israeli tanks surrounded the Indonesian Hospital in Gaza as ground forces fired into the complex, killing at least 12 people, including patients, on Monday.

Dozens more were wounded and around 700 people trapped inside the "besieged" medical centre.

The hospital, set up in 2016 with funding from Indonesian organisations, is located near the Jabalia refugee camp. Like all other health facilities in the northern half of Gaza, the hospital has largely ceased operations but is still sheltering patients,

staff and displaced residents. Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on Monday condemned Israel's "attack" on the Indonesian Hospital in Gaza.

The head of the World Health Organisation also said he was "appalled" by the attack on the Indonesian Hospital in Gaza that he said had killed 12 people, including patients, citing unspecified reports.

Also on Monday, the Gaza administration updated its death toll from the invasion of Israel to 13,300. The death toll includes 5,600 children and 3,550 women, the statement said,

adding that at least 6,500 people have been reported as missing, 4,400 of whom are women and children. At the other end of the Gaza Strip, health officials said at least 14 Palestinians were killed in two Israeli air strikes on houses in the town of Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

In Deir al-Balah south of Gaza City, rescuers searched through the debris for survivors and bodies, using the lights of their mobile phones in the rain.

"There are only children and women in the house and no one else," exclaimed one resident.



**Ambulances carrying the bodies of the two journalists of Lebanon-based Al Mayadeen TV channel, who it says were killed by an Israeli strike, are parked outside the channel's building, in Beirut, Lebanon.**

## North Korea launches suspected spy satellite

**Monitoring Desk TOKYO:** North Korea conducted a rocket launch believed to be carrying a satellite on Tuesday, South Korea and Japan said, in what would be Pyongyang's third attempt to place a spy satellite in orbit this year.

North Korea had earlier notified Japan it planned to send up a satellite between Wednesday and Dec. 1, after two failed attempts to launch spy satellites earlier this year. The Japanese government issued an emergency warning for residents in the south to take cover from the possible threat of a North Korean missile.

Over its emergency broadcasting system, the Japanese government told residents in Okinawa to take cover inside buildings or underground. Public broadcaster NHK cited a Japanese defence ministry source as saying the missile was likely to be a satellite. It later said the missile appeared to have flown past towards the Pacific Ocean around 10:55 p.m., and it lifted its emergency warning.

South Korea's military said the rocket was believed to be carrying a reconnaissance satellite and was launched toward the south. Japan's Coast Guard

said on Tuesday the North gave notice of the launch in the direction of the Yellow Sea and East China Sea. South Korea's state maritime safety agency issued a warning to vessels of the planned launch for the same areas as previous launches.

North Korea had tried to launch what it called spy satellites twice earlier this year but failed. State media KCNA reported on Tuesday that it was North Korea's "sovereign right" to strengthen its military power against the U.S.-led space surveillance system, and it defended Pyongyang's military satellite development.

## Putin, Xi and UN Secretary General Guterres to attend virtual meeting on Israel-Hamas war

**Monitoring Desk CAPE TOWN:** Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders from the BRICS bloc of developing countries will hold a virtual meeting on the Israel-Hamas war on Tuesday, with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also participating.

The leaders of fellow BRICS members Brazil, India and South Africa, as well as of Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, which are set to join the bloc in January, will also

take part, according to the office of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa will chair the "extraordinary meeting" because of South Africa's position as current chair of BRICS, his office said. It said the leaders are expected to deliver statements on the "humanitarian crisis" in Gaza and will likely adopt a joint statement. The meeting comes a day after China's top diplomat hosted the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Indonesia in Beijing.



**Ukraine's Defence Minister Rustem Umerov and German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius attend a joint news conference, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.**

## Russian drones target Kyiv as UK Defense Ministry says little chance of front-line change

**Monitoring Desk KYIV:** Russian drones targeted Kyiv on Sunday as the British Defense Ministry said there were "few immediate prospects" for major change along the Ukrainian front line as the war enters its second winter. Russia launched 20 Iranian-made Shahed drones overnight, targeting the Ukrainian capital and the Cherkasy and Poltava regions, according to a military statement. Ukrainian anti-aircraft systems shot down 15 of the drones.

The overnight strike on Kyiv is the second attack on the Ukrainian capital in 48 hours, said the city's Military Administration spokesperson, Serhii

Popko. He said that the drones attacked Kyiv from different directions in waves that were "constantly changing vectors." Preliminary reports indicated no casualties or critical damage, he said.

The U.K. Defense Ministry said Sunday that there were "few immediate prospects of major changes in the front line," with neither Russia nor Ukraine having made meaningful progress on the battlefield. In a statement, it said that intense fighting was concentrated near Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region, Avdiivka in the Donetsk region, and on the left bank of the Dnieper River.

## Germany arrests suspected antisemite who threatened killings - police

**Monitoring Desk BERLIN:** German police have arrested an 18-year-old man on suspicion of planning violence endangering the state after he threatened to kill people in online posts and posted right-wing extremist and antisemitic content, officials said on Monday. Police in the western state of Hesse searched the apartment of the suspect last Wednesday and seized computers, arms and ammunition, the State Office of Criminal Investigation.

## Russia puts Ukrainian winner of Eurovision Song Contest on wanted list

**Monitoring Desk MOSCOW:** Russia has placed a Ukrainian singer who won the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest on its wanted list, state news agencies reported Monday.

The reports said an Interior Ministry database listed singer Susana Jamaladinova as being sought for violating a criminal law.

## Philippines launches joint sea and air patrols with US military

**Monitoring Desk MANILA:** Joint maritime and air patrols in the South China Sea between the Philippines and the United States military were launched on Tuesday, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said, describing it as a "significant initiative".

The Philippine leader's announcement comes amid a rapid strengthening of ties this year between the two defence treaty allies, including a decision to almost

double the number of Philippine bases accessible to the US military, including some facing Taiwan.

"This significant initiative is a testament to our commitment to bolster the interoperability of our military forces in conducting maritime and air patrols," Marcos said on social media platform X.

The patrol would take place off of the island of Mavulis, according to Eugene Cabasao of the Northern Luzon command.

## US to announce global nuclear fusion strategy at COP28

**Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON:** The US will lay out the first international strategy to commercialize nuclear fusion power at the upcoming UN climate summit in Dubai, US Special Envoy on Climate Change John Kerry will say on Monday, two sources familiar with the announcement said.

Fusion could have an important advantage over today's nuclear fission plants that split atoms, as it does not produce long-lasting radioactive waste.

## Argentina elects libertarian Javier Milei as president

**Monitoring Desk BUENOS AIRES:** Libertarian outsider Javier Milei pulled off a massive upset on Sunday with a resounding win in Argentina's presidential election, a stinging rebuke of the traditional parties that have overseen decades of economic decline. The political newcomer surged from obscurity to oust the long-dominant Peronist coalition and its candidate Sergio Massa, who as economy minister has overseen inflation of 143 per cent and record poverty levels. Massa conceded defeat as provision

results showed Milei had won with 56pc of the vote to his 44pc, with almost 90pc of votes counted. "Obviously the results are not what we had hoped for, and I have spoken to Javier Milei to congratulate him and wish him well, because he is the president that the majority of Argentines have elected for the next four years." Celebrations erupted in Milei's campaign headquarters. The 53-year-old economist with wild hair and thick sideburns has drawn comparisons with former US president Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro.

## DCC renews commitment from international development partners

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Donor Coordination Committee (DCC) meeting on Tuesday witnessed renewed commitment from international development partners to foster Pakistan's economic growth.

The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar convened a meeting of the Donor Coordination Committee (DCC) at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, in Islamabad, according to a press release issued here.

The Federal Minister highlighted the steadfast and critical support of development partners in supporting Pakistan. Despite external factors impacting Pakistan's economy, including tightening global financial conditions and rising commodity prices, the successful review of the IMF staff-level agreement was a significant achievement. She emphasized the government's commitment to macroeconomic adjustment and welcomed ongoing support from development partners.

The Minister reported positive signs of economic recovery, expecting GDP growth between 2 to 2.5% in fiscal year 2024, up from 0.5% in fiscal year 2023. She stated that the government is actively pursuing reforms in fiscal consolidation, monetary policy, currency market sustainability, energy, business environment, and social safety nets.

She acknowledged the challenges faced by vulnerable households due to fiscal belt-tightening and highlighted the government's

commitment to addressing poverty and improving economic conditions.

Representatives from the World Bank, EU, ADB, USAID, UNDP, Germany, Japan, WFP, IsDB, IFAD, and others expressed congratulations on the successful IMF review. The development partners pledged continued support to the Government of Pakistan and acknowledged the importance of transparency, alignment with government priorities, and the need for timely disbursement of committed support.



Donor Coordination Committee (DCC) Meeting Witnesses Renewed Commitment from International Development Partners to Foster Pakistan's Economic Growth. The meeting was chaired by the Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at Ministry of Economic Affairs, Islamabad



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed during meeting regarding Quetta Metropolitan Corporation

## Strong political will exists to tackle malnutrition in Pakistan: Dr Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan has said that there exists highest level of resolve and a strong political will to address the challenge posed by malnutrition in Pakistan. Addressing the global Food Security Summit in London on Tuesday, the minister said that on the whole equation of malnutrition, Pakistan offers a clear vision, firm political will, reasonable capacities, a trained community-level workforce and a whole governance approach to address this issue.

"The Government of Pakistan welcomes the initiative for enhanced global partnership on tackling

global under-nutrition issues and finding new ways of working to deliver results." He expressed gratitude to the British government, Somalian government, UAE government, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation and other partners for organizing the Global Food Security Summit.

Dr. Nadeem said that despite some significant progress that Pakistan made in several social sectors, the country was still battling with very high levels of under-nutrition. He added, that one in five children in Pakistan was wasted, while one in ten children was severely

wasted, a condition that increases a child's risk of death by over 10%.

Pakistan was also among the countries with the highest burdens of low birth weight babies, with a national average of 22.7%. The high population growth, rapid urbanization, market price inflation, global crises, and socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, compounded by suboptimal feeding and caring practices were driving child wasting in Pakistan. The health minister said, "We have deficiencies in supply inflows for turning the tide of this malnutrition in Pakistan 150 million USD per year minimum is required to meet the challenge."

## Govt taking serious steps to provide better healthcare facilities, says Secretary

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan has stated that the provincial government is taking serious steps to provide better healthcare facilities to the masses in interior province.

He exhorted the doctors to give priority to the local hospitals operating in their native areas while performing duties.

The Secretary was speaking on occasion of the visit to district headquarter hospital Sibi and Rural Health Center Lehri on Tuesday.

He was accompanied by Additional Director DHS Dr Shokat Baloch,

Divisional Director Sibi, Dr Sarwar Shah, provincial coordinator MNCH, Dr Gul Sabin Azam, DHO Sibi, Dr Imran, Medical Superintendent District Headquarter Hospital, Dr Babar and others.

The Secretary Health checked attendance of the medical staff in the hospital and RHC besides inspecting the record and availability of medicines there.

He also inquired about the facilities made available there and expressed satisfaction over the same.

The secretary on the occasion directed to complete ongoing work in the dialysis unit at the earliest.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad and Tandoor Association offering Dua after successful dialogue

## Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan in high gear

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan (2019-2025) has picked momentum with a flurry of high-quality development activities in 13 areas to shape up the old-fishing town into a modern city. The activities include the progression of the central business district, rehabilitation of old towns, remodeling of roads, establishment of parks, fostering of green growth, designing of ecological corridors, mapping out of tourism spots, digitalization, and development of skill-based economy, aiming to lay down the foundation of social and civic amenities, trail-blaze new business avenues and making available state-of-the-art health as well educational facilities.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, 75-page master plan document was prepared by China Communications Construction Company in conjunction with Pakistan's Minister of Planning, Development & Reform and Gwadar Development Authority.

Work has been completed on various water

supply projects in Gwadar. In this regard, two dams, Shadi Kaur and Sowd, have been completed and connected to the city through pipelines.

Meanwhile, a sewage water treatment plant has been set up so that the sewage water of Gwadar could be used for irrigation and agriculture, instead of polluting the coastline.

Gwadar Indus Hospital also called Pak-China Friendship Hospital for \$30.5 million has been completed. It will provide the best medical facilities to the people of Gwadar district.

In the initial phase, Gwadar Port has gone digital as the state of the fiber optic cable network is operationalized in true letter and spirit, unveiling modernization of E-Custom at the Port for easier and simpler trans-shipment and containerized trade on commercialized modules.

With the laying down of fiber optic cable, paperless custom procedures have become fully functional, transforming Gwadar into a bustling hub of regional and international trade to Afghanistan.

## 30 NHA employees to proceed for Hajj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Shahid Ashraf Tarar executed Hajj Balloting 2024 for employees of National Highway Authority here at National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters on Tuesday.

As per balloting, 30 employees of the Authority would proceed for Hajj this year.

Chairman NHA Arshad Majeed Mohmand and senior officers from Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority and NHA employees were also present.

In Category A, 17 employees working in Scale 01-16 would perform Hajj. In Category B, 07 employees of Grade 17 and above would proceed for Hajj. Likewise in Category C, 02 employees having age between 55 to 60 years will perform Hajj.

From Women Quota, 04 employees would perform Hajj.

On this occasion, Federal Minister for Communications Shahid Ashraf Tarar congratulated the successful NHA employees who would proceed for Hajj next year.

## Caretaker CM vows to work for beautification of Quetta city in short span of time

Meeting decides to impose complete ban on use of plastic bags, make revenue collection more effective, outsource solid waste and make solid waste management system efficient

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has said that it is our endeavour to work for cleanliness and beautification of Quetta city and provide maximum facilities to the masses in short span of time.

He said that Quetta Metropolitan Corporation is an important institution for improving beauty of the city and making the cleanliness system effective.

He said that there would be remarkable change in performance of the Corporation with improvement of financial and administrative affairs.

The Chief Minister

was presiding over the meeting regarding issues of the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation and their solution, here on Tuesday.

The meeting decided to impose complete ban on use of plastic bags, make revenue collection more effective, outsourcing of solid waste generated in Quetta, and make the solid waste management system effective.

The meeting also decided to do homework on the collection and management of the solid waste and submit it in next meeting of the cabinet with detailed suggestions.

The meeting was attended by the caretaker

Provincial Minister for local government, Sheikh Mehmood ul Hasan, Secretary, Noor Ahmed Pirani, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiq and other concerned high ups.

The Administrator Corporation, Abdul Jabbar Baloch briefed the meeting about the financial and administrative matters of the QMC, available resources, machinery, fire brigade system besides the issues being faced by it.

The meeting was informed that the regional welfare committees have been formed with cooperation of civil society in some areas of the city.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti witnessing the Pakistan vs Tajikistan FIFA World Cup Qualifier match as Chief Guest.

## Solangi says: Govt fully committed to promote vibrant and responsible media landscape

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that the government was fully committed to promoting a vibrant, diverse and responsible media landscape in the country.

"Today we face many challenges in the media sector, the rapid development of technology has changed the methods used in the media," Murtaza Solangi said during a meeting with Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid and former Information Secretary Zahoor Ahmed who met him here.

The minister opined that in this challenging en-

vironment, the main focus should be on strengthening the Pakistani media industry. "We should project the positive image of Pakistan, our rich cultural heritage and socio-economic achievements to the world," Murtaza Solangi added.

The minister affirmed that the freedom of media and protection of the rights of journalists was a firm commitment of the present government. The information and broadcasting sector, he said, played a key role in shaping the future of Pakistan. In the meeting, the performance of the Ministry of Information, challenges and opportunities faced by the media industry, role of the ministry in promoting the positive image of Pakistan.



RIYADH: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis, Muhammad Jawad Sohrab Malik meets with Minister and Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## EU recognizes Pakistan's legislative progress in GSP Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): European Union's Fourth GSP Report released here on Tuesday acknowledged Pakistan's significant progress on the legislative front.

The European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) published a joint report on GSP on Tuesday.

The report assesses the progress of eight GSP+ beneficiary countries, including Pakistan, in the effective implementation of the 27 international core conventions underlying the GSP+ scheme, which is required for beneficiary countries in order to continue benefiting from GSP+ status. The 27 conventions cover the four areas of human rights, labour rights, environmental standards, and good governance for the period 2020 to 2022, said a news release. The report further highlights areas where more progress is needed. So far, four biennial reviews have been concluded under the current GSP scheme. The report acknowledged Pakistan's progress on the legislative front while emphasising the need to improve the practical application in both letter.

## Planning minister, Chinese envoy discuss progress on CPEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed here on Tuesday and discussed progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the meeting, the minister felicitated the Chinese leadership for the successful holding of the 3rd Belt and Road (BRI) Forum-2023 last month and appreciated the Vision of President Xi Jinping who identified eight areas of co-operation, a news release said.

The Secretary Ministry of Planning and the CPEC Project Director also attended the meeting, which "discussed progress on the ongoing CPEC projects and future outlook".

The meeting was

The two sides reiterated the resolve to further strengthen relations between the two countries.

The Planning Minister said President Xi's Vision would have a strong impact on the implementation of phase-II of the CPEC and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to accelerate the implementation of the projects. It is noted that the second Phase of CPEC has already started as both countries have been celebrating the decade of CPEC.

Highlighting the ongoing development projects under CPEC, particularly after the successful BRI forum, the minister informed the envoy that the Planning Ministry frequently reviewed the progress in order to ensure their timely completion.

## Pak-KSA focus on immediate delivery to enhance export of human resource from Pakistan

RIYADH (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Jawad Sohrab Malik met with Minister HE Dr. Abdullah Nasser Abu Thnain, and Deputy Minister HE Adnan Abdullah Al-Nuaim, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, in Riyadh on Tuesday. The leaders highlighted the longstanding and brotherly relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

SAPM expressed his appreciation to the leadership of the Kingdom for providing job opportunities to around 3 million Pakistani workers. Both leaders discussed ways to enhance the export of skilled manpower from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, said a press release. SAPM informed that the Government of Pakistan has prioritized the skill development of Pakistani workers.



QUETTA: US Consul General Conrad Tribble being briefed by museum guide Manzoor Baloch and Zahir Hussain during his visit to Sariab Mehrgharh Museum

## PRCS distributes relief goods for flood affectees, deserving persons of Ziarat

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has distributed different relief goods for the flood affectees and other deserving persons of Ziarat district.

According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, the relief goods were distributed on directives of Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Khan Leghari.

The Chairman PRCS told that some 5,000 deserving families would benefit from the relief goods provided in different areas of Ziarat.

The areas where relief goods were distributed were

included: Sardar Shahbaz Khan, Wach Goshi, Sargai, Koski, Sardar Kach, besides others.

The relief items were included blankets, carpets, hygiene kits, jackets, warm clothes, etc.

According to Sardar Shahid Leghari, the relief activities are continued in the province after the devastating floods and rains last year. In addition to this, solarized water filtration plants have also been installed in Kot Magsi and other areas.

Similarly, the shelter homes are also being built in different flood hit areas of the province, Chairman PRCS.

## No compromise made on standard of constant dev. projects in Quetta: Bazai

QUETTA (APP) Provincial Secretary Minority Affairs Dawood Khan Bazai on Tuesday said that corruption and interference in development projects of works would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

He said that the development projects approved in PSDP would be completed in due time, no one would allow the use of sub-standard material.

He expressed these views while reviewing of the Old Age and other development projects located in Nawan Kili and the development projects located in Isa Nagri. And the concerned authorities gave a briefing in this regard.

Secretary Minority

Affairs Dawood Khan Bazai said that there would be full cooperation with the Christian and Hindu communities and any inappropriate behavior towards them could not be tolerated, rather, he would play his full role in solving their problems.

He said that time and circumstances require that the ongoing development process would be completed on time as the Caretaker Chief Minister and Chief Secretary have clear orders to complete the projects that are currently underway.

He said that no compromise would be made on timely completion of projects and standard of them.

## HEC announces under-graduate scholarships for students of Balochistan/erstwhile FATA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced Undergraduate Scholarships for students of Balochistan and erstwhile FATA and invited applications from outstanding students who intend to pursue undergraduate studies in HEC-recognized Public/Private sector Universities/Degree Awarding Institutions of Pakistan.

According to the official sources from HEC, the scholarships are being offered for the academic year 2023-24 in all areas of stud-

ies/disciplines under the project entitled "Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for Students of Balochistan & Erstwhile FATA (Phase-III), Batch-II.

As per eligible criteria, the candidate's age must be less than or equal to 22 years on the closing date of advertisement for the Scholarship Programme.

The candidate must have his / her own and father's valid domicile or local certificate of Balochistan / erstwhile FATA duly signed by district administration.

The candidate must have completed 12 years of education with at least 60% marks in FA / F.Sc. / I.COM / ICS / DAE and equivalent for the scholarship programme.

The candidates already availing of any other HEC / Government scholarship are not eligible to apply. They must have acquired the requisite academic qualifications on or before the closing date of the advertisement. However, the students awaiting results are not eligible to apply.

It is worth mentioning here that scholarships will be awarded on a Merit and District Quota basis. Applicants will be short-listed based on Aptitude Test scores (conducted by HEC) and Academic Credentials. Applicants must secure at least 50% marks in the Aptitude test.

The scholarship and reserve seats distribution ratio for the applicants of Balochistan & Erstwhile FATA is 50:50. Placements on reserved seats will be on open merit within the selected scholars only.



QUETTA: Secretary Colleges Zafar Buledi and former Provincial Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education Prof. Dr. Qadir Baloch