

# Independent

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## Caretaker setup to remain impartial, ensure free & fair elections: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday, reiterating the government's resolve to fulfill its duty of ensuring free, fair and transparent elections, said the caretaker setup would remain fully impartial.

Dispelling the impression that a certain political party was being favoured by the caretakers, he said the political parties normally tried to attract their voters in different ways and such allegations might be their tactics.

"We are fully focused on holding the elections in a free, fair and transparent manner and are fully supporting the Election Commission for the purpose," he added.

PM Kakar, in an interview with a private news channel (Sun News), also denied the impression that his cabinet member Fawad Hassan Fawad, had affiliation with a certain political party. "He is one of the best cabinet members and an able former bureaucrat. Due to his talent and abilities, he used to become a favorite choice of every ruling party during his service."

He said Fawad was fully justifying his appointment as Minister for Privatization.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Pak-China joint naval drill Sea Guardian ends

KARACHI (APP): The closing ceremony of bilateral exercise Sea Guardian - 2023 between the Pakistan Navy and the Peoples Liberation Army (Navy) of China was held at the Pakistan Navy Dockyard on Friday.

The exercise was conducted at Karachi and North Arabian Sea, in which six Chinese Navy units, including Destroyer, Frigates, Submarine, Oil Tanker and Rescue Ship along with a detachment of marines participated, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The exercise included a wide range of operational manoeuvres encompassing major facets of Anti-Surface, Anti-Air, Mine Warfare and Special Operations in simulated multi-threat environment to provide optimum training value.

The aim of exercise was to further enhance maritime cooperation and defence relations through mutual exchange of maritime experience and interoperability between the two navies.

Concurrent to the Chinese PLA (Navy) ships' visit, Commander Qingdao Naval Base Rear Admiral Liang Yang also visited Pakistan. Besides attending the closing ceremony, the Flag Officer called on Commander Coast, Commander Pakistan Fleet and other senior PN officials. During interaction matters of bilateral naval collaboration and regional maritime security were discussed.

Exercise Sea Guardian - 23 proved mutually rewarding to hone professional skills of the two navies and a forum to learn from each other's experiences.

Regular conduct of bilateral naval exercise is a manifestation of mutual resolve to further enhance bilateral cooperation between the two navies.



MARDAN: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to workers convention, in City.

## JUI chief for collective efforts to form new future for country

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Moulana Fazl-ur-Rehman Friday said that the moth-

erland was created by matchless sacrifices of our forefathers and we should work collectively to give it a new future and identity in Islamic countries.



Addressing a public gathering in Wazir Bagh to welcome new entrants, he said that our country was carved out by the sacrifices of our elders and we should work for its progress and prosperity.

He said that the country was facing numerous problems including financial disorder, adding all the mess was the result of a conspiracy and ill planning of previous rulers.

He said that institutions are being targeted for their efforts to bring improvements and added that countries that were behind were now far ahead.

He said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had faced worst during last nine years while merger of FATA had not given anything tangible to tribal people.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), addressing the leading Islamic Scholars (Ulema o Mashaikh) of all schools of thought, interacted at GHQ.

## COAS signifies role of Ulema in harnessing youth towards understanding of Quran and Sunnah

Says no space for intolerance, extreme behaviour against anyone

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Friday said there was no space for intolerance and extreme behaviour by against anyone, particularly against minorities and vulnerable segments of the society.

He made these remarks in an interaction with leading Islamic scholars (Ulema and Mashaikh) of all schools of thought here at the General Headquarters, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Ulema and Mashaikh unanimously condemned extremism, terrorism and sectarianism, and pledged their continued support for the untiring efforts being made by the State and security forces for bringing tolerance, peace and stability in the country.

They underscored that "Islam is a religion of peace and harmony, and its any skewed and distorted interpretations by certain entities is for their vested interests only and has nothing to do with Islamic teachings".

The COAS, while lauding the 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' decree by religious scholars to nullify misleading propaganda disseminated by extremists and terrorists, called upon the Ulema and Mashaikh for its propagation and implementation in letter and spirit, and shun internal schisms.

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## EC decides to issue election schedule in first week of December

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has decided to issue election schedule in the first week of December.

The DROs and ROs are likely to be appointed by the end of this month. However the lists for taking DROs and ROs from judiciary have not been received so far from registrar.

According to EC sources the service record of administrative officers has been reviewed. The final lists of DROs and ROs are likely to be approved by summoning the meeting soon.

There is likelihood of taking DROs and ROs from administration.

EC has prepared elementary list of DROs and ROs. The proposed schedule for their training has also been worked out.

## Solangi lauds 'gracious welcome & hospitality' in Maldives visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday appreciated the "gracious welcome and hospitality" extended to him during his Maldives visit to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Dr Mohammad Muizzu.

Responding to a post of Maldivian Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer on the social media platform 'X', Solangi wrote, "Excellency, truly appreciate the warm welcome and great hospitality by the state and the proud people of Maldives."

Pakistan and Maldives had bright future of cooperation in front of them.

## Court seeks details of cases against Sheikh

RAWALPINDI (Online): Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz of Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench has sought details of cases against former interior minister Sheikh Rashid.

The court while issuing notices to the respondents directed that court should be told on next hearing Sheikh Rashid was nominated where and in what cases after May 9 incident.

The court issued these orders during preliminary hearing of Sheikh Rashid's petition on the fears expressed by him through his supplementary statements that he will be involved in May 9 cases.

## Pakistan, Russia agree to collaborate on counter-terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia have agreed to strengthen collaborative efforts to effectively combat terrorism, underscoring the mutual benefits of such cooperation, the Foreign Office said on Friday.

The two sides discussed various forms of radicalization, the spread of terrorist ideologies, and the misuse of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes, as stated by the FO in a press release.

Syed Haider Shah, Additional Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and Sergey Vershinin, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation co-chaired the 10th meeting of the Pakistan-Russia Joint Working Group on 'Combating International Terrorism and Other Challenges'.



KARACHI: Group photo of Pakistan and Chinese Navy Senior Officials after closing ceremony of Bilateral Exercise Sea Guardian 2023 in Karachi.

## PPP to address unemployment, price hike: Bilawal

MARDAN (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here Friday said the welfare of the people was the cornerstone of the PPP election manifesto and his party would address all problems including unemployment, inflation and price-hike after coming into power in the general election.

Addressing a big party workers convention here attended by people from all section of society, Bilawal Bhutto said that the youth of Pakistan would be provided jobs while the menace of poverty as well as unemployment would be eradicated through the promotion of investment and economic-friendly policies and projects.

He said the Pakistan People's Party has an experienced political leadership with abilities to take the country out of all existing challenges.

Bilawal urged the people of KP to exercise the right of franchise wisely in the election as the political leaders of opposition parties, who were tested before on several occasions could not address the country's issues.

He said that former President Asif Ali Zardari has restored the 1973 Constitution in its original form and granted identity to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through a constitutional amendment. He said the PPP Government had restored peace in Swat and resettled all TDPs in a record short time.



HUNZA: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan inaugurating the 1MW Solar Plant & 600KwP BESS at Duikar.

## CJP reconstitutes NJAC to improve efficiency of judiciary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Mr. Justice Qazi Faiz Esa has reconstituted the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) to improve the efficiency of the judiciary in Pakistan.

The Committee will be led by Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, another judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, will also be a member. Judges from the High Courts and the Federal Shariat Court will also be part of the committee.



ISLAMABAD: Care-taker Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture Division Jamal Shah along with the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam taking interest in posters during "Poster Exhibition".

## Defence ministry challenges decision for stopping trial of civilians in military courts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Defence ministry has challenged the court decision for stopping the trial of civilians in military courts.

The defence ministry has prayed the court to nullify the decision on stopping the trial of civilians in military courts.

The defence ministry has requested the court to restore the clauses of official secret act which have been nullified.

The petition said section 59(4) of army act which has been declared null and void be also restored.

## Pak inks agreement to export manpower to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Overseas Employment Corporation (POEC) and NESMA & Partners, a leading contracting company in Saudi Arabia, signed an agreement for the export of Pakistani manpower to the Kingdom. The agreement was signed at the Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The POEC is a government agency responsible for the recruitment and deployment of Pakistani workers abroad. NESMA & Partners is a leading Saudi Arabian construction company with a portfolio of mega-projects in the kingdom.

The agreement marks a pivotal collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, paving the way for the export of a substantial Pakistani manpower to contribute to Saudi Arabia's ambitious infrastructure and development goals.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, addressing the joint meeting of the Interprovincial Bar Council at Punjab Bar Council.

## FBR establishes District Tax Offices across country to broaden tax base

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a major restructuring effort, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has established 145 District Tax Offices across the country to bring 1.5 to 2 million new taxpayers into the tax net by June 2024. This initiative is aimed at broadening the tax base and ultimately raising the tax-to-GDP ratio to a desired level.

The FBR, acting upon the directions of the Prime Minister regarding to increase the existing number of tax filers, has notified the establishment of these offices, a new initiative that will help in broadening the tax base and ultimately raising the tax-to-GDP ratio to a desired level. These offices would be headed by District Tax Officers entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing In-

come Tax Returns from non-filers and stop-filers. The establishment of these offices heralds a new chapter that would expand the tax net to fill a critical tax gap on the path to bringing all potential taxpayers into the tax net, the statement said.

These new offices would be headed by dedicated Inland Revenue Officers in BS-17/18 who would obtain and utilize third-party data acquired from multiple departments and agencies that hold critical information regarding investment in assets and incurring of huge expenditures by potential taxpayers who till now have managed to escape and stayed away from the taxation system including registration and filing of tax returns.

## SC to hear bail petition of Imran on Nov 22

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three-member bench of the Supreme Court would take up the bail petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman in the cipher case on November 22, for hearing. The bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and comprising Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Ayesha Malik, will hear the petition, according to the cause list issued by the Registrar Office for the next week.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Decision of one document regime

Finally, Pakistan has started implementing single document regime i.e., passport at the international border with Afghanistan. What's important to mention is that the implementation of one document regime at the international border for across the border movement has been started despite lot of pressure exerted on the government by certain groups from within the country. In this regard, protest is also being lodged by different politico-nationalist groups and parties in the border town Chaman.

Still, the government remained firm and stick to its decision about enforcement of the single document regime that was taken at the Apex Committee chaired by the prime minister last month. As far as the facilitation of the people especially the Afghan immigrants proceeding for their homeland or the across the movement, the passport offices have been made fully functional in the two border districts of Balochistan including Killa Abdullah and Chaman.

This was mentioned by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai at a presser couple of days back and added that over 1000 tokens had been issued for passports under the new single document regime at the Chaman Passport Office, and approximately 200 of them delivered to the applicants.

Similarly, Killa Abdullah Passport Office is also issuing passports to the local people and around 150 passports were issued from there too. Jan Achakzai said despite all pressure the government ensured the implementation of one document regime. He expressed the government's resolve that no one would be allowed to cross the border of Pakistan without fulfilling international formalities for entering any country.

Undoubtedly, the credit for implementation of the single document regime went to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and Caretaker Balochistan Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki, as mentioned by Jan Achakzai at the presser.

Now it is crystal clear that Afghan illegal immigrants, who were being repatriated to the country, would be allowed to enter Pakistan after showing their passports. As per the decision, the cross-border movement between Pakistan and Afghanistan would be through legal procedures adopted internationally on borders.

While on the other hand, the process of repatriation of undocumented foreign immigrants is also continued uninterrupted.

Matter of fact remains that the government is continuing its zero-tolerance policy against the illegal immigrants, which speaks high about its firm commitment to deport all those staying in the country without valid legal documents including the Proof of Registration (POR) and Afghan Citizenship cards.



Zubeida Mustafa

Birthdays are heart-warming occasions for the newborn's family. But when this child's life journey spans over 100 years, the day becomes a landmark event, especially if this person has rendered yeoman's service to society. That is the case with Mrs Zubeida Dossal who celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct 15.

As is customary in Canada where Mrs Dossal has lived with her daughter Ismet since 2012, the 'birthday girl' received greeting cards from five high-ranking dignitaries, starting with the governor general. The governor general fulsomely acknowledged her contributions to wherever she lived. But the real testimony to the countless lives she has touched came in the form of crowds of her former students who flocked to her home to pay homage to their beloved teacher.

I feel privileged to have known her, for she was an inspiration given her succinct knowledge and versatile personality. Whenever we have met — in Karachi or in Canada — her unassuming demeanour and affectionate behaviour have overwhelmed me. She is also a 'fun person' entertaining her friends with her interesting conversation, her delightful Scrabble parties and the delicious eats she served.

I have conversed with her for hours on education and the books she has written for children that reflect her love for nature and the environment.

Born in Bombay in 1923, she received her school and college educa-

tion there and then went on to teach in her alma mater. It was in 1952 that she migrated to Karachi to marry her childhood sweetheart, Ali Hus-sein Dossal. Since teaching has been her pas-sion, she remained in the profession, teaching at the Marie Colaco and the SMB Fatima Jinnah schools to move on to become the founder principal of the Habib Girls' School in 1964 where she made her mark.

I was curious about her professional secrets that made Habib Girls' School one of the top-grade educational institutions in the city. That is how I came to contact Mrs Nargis Alavi, who was also the principal of the same school from 2005 to 2018. She describes Mrs Dossal as her 'mentor, guru and a good friend'. Mrs Alavi is herself an excellent educationist. She tells me that Mohammad Ali Habib, the scion of the Habib family, sent a message to Mrs Dossal inviting her to help him establish a school for girls. She turned down the offer, saying she would not like to work for a seth's school. Friends persuaded her to at least talk to Habib sahib. She finally accepted his offer on the condition that the owners would not interfere with the academics while she would stay off the finances. The arrangement worked. Thereafter, there was no looking back. She retired in 1987.

Mrs Dossal's first priority was the child, who received a lot of encouragement from her. That is why the system of recruiting teachers was so crucial to her. More than their qualifications what mattered to her were their values. She interviewed each teacher herself and judged her aptitude and temperament. The interview rather than the CV determined the fate of the teacher. Once recruited, the teachers adopted the school's values — mainly, respect for all members of the school, whether a child or an

adult, a guard or a teacher. To ensure that this rule was observed she instituted a strong support system for the staff so that they could work well, without stress affecting their performance. Similarly, she engaged regularly with the parents to smooth the way for the students.

Her firm belief in equity (not equality) for all human beings ensured that no one's dignity was hurt. Thus the children of the lower staff were also admitted and treated at par with the offspring of the rich. She would explain that in this way the children who had failed to pick up cultured man-nerisms at home learnt elegant be-haviour at school from their better-endowed classmates. At the same time, the children of the affluent learnt to understand the hardship of their class fellows who were victims of poverty.

This is possible only if the rules that are drawn up are not cast in stone. They should serve as guidelines and should be flexible so that no principles are sacrificed.

Mrs Dossal was way ahead of her time. She did not allow any ranking of children as that has a negative impact on the child, especially those on the lower rung of the ladder. Besides, ranking encourages competitiveness that is destroying our society today. Class sizes and the number of sections were limited in order to ensure that the teachers recognised their students. She herself knew all the students in the school by name.

Small wonder she has such a vast following of former students ready to run errands for her. Mrs Alavi is right when she says that the dignitaries who sent her cards on Oct 15 themselves did not change so many lives personally as Mrs Dossal did. — Courtesy Dawn

### The other partition



Danyal Adam Khan

The Partition lives strong in public imagination. It triggered mass migrations; millions died and even more were displaced. Generations of South Asian writers have since revisited its horrors, allowing us, in so many small ways, to grieve for what was lost. What there is far less recognition for is the other partition; the one that took place along the western border of our country exactly 130 years ago this week.

The formation of the Durand Line was not nearly as violent, but it did formalise a boundary, which permanently split a group of people into two in order to create a buffer zone between the British and Russians. Like most things irredeemably wrecked by imperial interference, the Durand Line was a colonial quagmire inherited by modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan. And its anniversary could not have come at a more grievous time for relations between the two countries.

This kneejerk policy of expulsion has been adopted by a caretaker setup that lacks the mandate for decisions of such consequence. Afghan refugees have been asked to pack up entire lifetimes in a matter of days as the state resorts to seemingly deliberate obfuscation on who is to be expelled and who is deemed legal. A door-to-door witch hunt has ensued against all Afghans being rounded up like cattle, herded into holding centres and pushed across a border — the other side of which some of them have never even

seen. Public opinion, meanwhile, has been rife with hate. The levels of empathy and nuance extended to conflicts farther away disappear when the bigotry is closer to home. Some attribute it to security, others to the economy. 'Pakistan is for Pakistanis,' say the people most furious about Western countries exhibiting xenophobia. More gratitude is demanded of Afghans, with no thought given to why their country was rendered unlivable in the first place.

We would like to think of our hospitality, not of discriminatory state policies or awkward truths such as the fact that the third generation of a family born in Pakistan is still foreign. For every Afghan who has prospered (and why should they not?), there are countless others living in squalid conditions as permanent residents of refugee camps. Sending them to an uncertain future with the Taliban does not reduce our economic burden, only our moral standing.

But what happens when Afghans are indistinguishable from us? It enables the state to, once again, extend xenophobia towards unprivileged Pakhtuns. They will be harassed, intimidated, and forced to carry documentation for fear of deportation — all with legal cover and carried out in our collective name. What happens when the state treats a certain segment of Pakhtuns as the 'other', but does not appreciate expressions of solidarity with their Afghan counterparts over the mutual devastation they have endured for decades? For the past few years, we have been too sensitive about expressions of unity; they are often seen as something more, something treasonous. Any cross-border display of familiar-

ity or critique of our own policies seems to trigger a deep-rooted insecurity. This is precisely why questions of language and identity cut to the heart of state formation. Can the Pakistani state only exist in negation of all other identities? Or is it possible for Pakhtuns to share a nationality with other Pakistanis and with ethnicity with other Afghans? Is there a mutually exclusive hierarchy of identities?

The 130th anniversary of the Durand Line is an apt moment to introspect on all these questions. The answers may very well be the missing pieces in Pakistan's existential puzzle. Acknowledging this country's reality of being a state comprising a few nations sets us at ease. It reminds us that the imposition of a homogenous identity on one of the most diverse populations in the world has already cost us half the country.

Expressions of empathy and shared culture and heritage between people on both sides of the border bring us closer. But blanket denial of the existence of these sentiments with threats of sedition charges only makes them resurface with a vengeance. Targeting the most vulnerable segments of society deepens wounds, whereas recognition of the impacts of this other partition will pave the way for a healing process necessary to establish lasting peace.

To achieve such a reconciliation, we must seek comfort in our discomf. When a country contains multitudes, it is impossible to segregate the populace into black and white. Such a move is entirely antagonistic to its own parts. Therefore, when things don't fall into neatly packaged categories, all rage against the grey is futile. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### ADB to help strengthen power transmission in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lahore city in Punjab by replacing old transmission lines. "Reliable power supply is essential to deliver reliable electricity in Pakistan by expanding and improving the power transmission network in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. "ADB's Power Transmission Strengthening Project will help reinforce the stability of the national grid by increasing its transmission capacity," according to ADB press statement received here Friday.

"The project will expand the high-voltage transmission network to close 500 kilovolt (kV) and 220 kV transmission lines loops and reduce transmission losses in

capacity to deploy sufficient, reliable, clean, and cost-effective energy. Improving the management of the national transmission system of Pakistan is another key objective.

Aside from strengthening power transmission, ADB's project will also enhance the project and financial management of NTDC, as well as its capacity to incorporate climate resilience in planning and operations. "To promote gender equality and women's involvement in the energy sector, ADB will develop guidelines for mentorships, conduct awareness campaigns, establish childcare centers, and provide technical training to female staff in the NTDC."



MULTAN: Women workers sorting potatoes at Vegetable Market.

### JazzCash, Fatima Gobi Ventures team join hands to boost startups in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): JazzCash, Pakistan's leading Fin-Tech platform, and Pakistan's most active venture capital (VC) company, Fatima Gobi Ventures (FGV) have announced a strategic partnership that is poised to have a massive impact on advancing the growth of start-ups and budding businesses in the country. Formerly known as MobiCash, JazzCash is a mobile wallet, mobile

payments, and branch-less banking services provider. As of October 2023, the firm has a market share of 54% said a news release. FGV combines Fatima Group's on-the-ground knowledge of Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem and Asia-focused VC firm, Gobi Partners' 21 years of success in building sustainable and community-uplifting companies across Asia.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson NCSW Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar chairing planning meeting on National Women Trade Fair.

### Planning Minister chairs BoD meeting of P3A

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saheed here on Friday chaired the 32nd meeting of the Board of Directors of the Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A).

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Ministry of Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra, Additional Secretary Finance Division, Amjad Mahmood and private members of the board.

The meeting agenda, meticulously curated to address crucial matters

concerning sustainable Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives, was deliberated upon with precision and dedication.

The discussions encompassed a wide range of topics, reflecting the comprehensive approach adopted by the P3A in fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors for national development.

Key discussions centered on fortifying the sustainable PPP regime for driving economic growth. The board further focused on refining project preparation, appraisal, and development guidelines to align with international standards, emphasizing transparency and efficiency.

The Environmental and Social Management Systems were highlighted as integral to PPP projects for upholding sustainability and social responsibility. A thorough examination of qualified project criteria and regulations was aimed to enhance project selection processes. The meeting addressed the internal organizational matters to streamline processes, optimizing P3A's functioning and reinforcing its role in promoting public-private collaboration.

The Planning Minister appreciated the CEO of P3A Malik Ahmad Khan and his team for working with devotion.

### China to become world's largest automobile exporter in 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): China is certain to become the world's largest automobile exporter this year, as its auto exports in the first 10 months hit 3.9 million units, an official with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade said. Wang Xia, head of the Council's automotive sub-council, made the remarks at the 21st Guangzhou International Automobile Exhibition that opened on Friday. China's automobile industry has taken a solid step toward internationalization, despite

a complex and grave international environment, Wang said.

In the first quarter, China exported 1.07 million vehicles, surpassing Japan for the first time to become the world's largest automobile exporter. In the first 10 months, the export volume registered a year-on-year growth of 59.7 percent to 3.92 million units, Xinhua reported.

The per vehicle export price has also grown to 137,000 yuan (about 19,100 U.S. dollars) in the first three quarters of 2023.

### BOI emphasis on Special Economic Zones to enhance FDI

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Board of Investment (BOI) on Friday said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan, with 27 zones currently notified to enhance the foreign direct investment in the country.

These zones offer lucrative incentives, including one-time customs duties exemption on the import of Capital Goods and a 10-year Income Tax exemption, making them attractive for both Zone enterprises and Zone Developers, the senior official of BOI told APP here.

In addition to these initiatives, the BOI has conducted Comprehensive Sector Studies of Priority

Sectors such as Food Processing, Automotive, IT, Textiles, Logistics, and Housing and Construction. These studies provide valuable insights into opportunities, policies, and incentives offered by the Government of Pakistan, encouraging companies to explore investment prospects in these sectors, he said.

The BOI has also established an online database featuring 120+ projects, enabling international investors to target investment areas and projects. To foster international relations, Honorary Investment Counselors (HICs) have been appointed in different countries, aiming to encourage foreign investors to invest in Pakistan, he said.

### Governor SBP unveils 5 year strategic plan 'SBP Vision 2028'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 333.87 points, a negative change of 0.58 percent, closing at 57,063.16 points against 57,397.03 points the previous trading day.

A total of 901,596,869 shares valuing Rs23.428 billion were traded during the day as compared to 1,056,714,813 shares valuing Rs28.861 billion the previous day. As many as 377 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 189 of them recorded gains.

Independent Report KARACHI: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad, Friday, launched the central bank's 5-year strategic plan, SBP Vision 2028, that consisted vision, mission, and key goals of the banking regulator to be pursued over the next five years from 2023 to 2028.

SBP Vision 2028 was launched in a ceremony held here at SBP Karachi, said a statement issued here adding that the strategic plan has been developed through a consultative and inclusive process with key stakeholders. It is the first plan after revision in the SBP Act last year and thus takes into account the significantly enhanced mandate, autonomy, and accountability introduced through the changes in the Act.

The Governor SBP, speaking on the occasion, highlighted that SBP Vision 2028 represents SBP's commitment to foster price and financial stability and to contribute to the sustainable economic development of the country.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor is displayed motorcycle helmets on his pushcart along a Murree road in the city.



## Sufferings of Palestinians heart-wrenching: Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Country Head of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Ann Masterson, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore here. Executive Director of a non governmental organization, Sabiha, working for the empowerment of youth, was also present on this occasion. During the meeting, the country head of (NCA) Ann Masterson told the Punjab Governor about humanitarian assistance to people in different parts of the world, especially in Palestine. Anne Masterson, Country Head of Norwegian Church Aid

(NCA) said that her organization is working to provide medical aid to the wounded and shelter to the displaced people in Palestine. Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the sufferings of Palestinians, especially innocent children in Palestine, are heart-wrenching. He said that service to humanity is a noble spirit, and the way NCA is serving the suffering humanity in Palestine is admirable. He also appreciated Norwegian Church Aid's services for women empowerment, protection of minority rights, and

poverty alleviation. Meanwhile, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman dispatched a truck of relief goods under the auspices of Quaid-e-Azam Trust (UK) to the flood-affected people in suburban areas of Bahawalpur Division at Governor House Lahore. Blankets and water Proof tents were included in the relief goods for the flood affected. Chairman of Quaid-e-Azam Trust (UK) Raja Muhammad Ishtiaq, members of the trust, Raja Arsalan, Rana Bakhtiar Ali, Sameer Ahmed and Chaudhry Iftikhar Ahmed were also present on this occasion.



**PESHAWAR: Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali and VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed in a group photo with other officials after meeting here at Governor House.**

## CM orders crackdown on underage drivers

### Naqvi inspects work at Bedian Road underpass project

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has issued a directive to launch a crackdown on underage drivers operating vehicles and motorcycles without a licence throughout Punjab. Emphasising the need for swift action, he said that measures should be taken against such drivers to resolve the issue once and for all.

The Inspector General of Police, CCPO Lahore, and all RPOs were given explicit instructions

by CM Mohsin Naqvi to carry out the crackdown. He specified that vehicles and motorcycles driven by underage drivers should be intercepted, with a daily report of actions taken to be submitted from all regions, including Lahore. Naqvi underscored the inherent dangers posed by young drivers not only to themselves but also to others on the road. He appealed to parents, urging them not to allow young children to drive vehicles or motorcycles.

## Hearing of cipher case in Adiala jail adjourned till Nov 21

**RAWALPINDI (Online):** The hearing of cipher case in Adiala jail has been adjourned till November 21 without proceedings.

The hearing of cipher case against PTI chairman Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was adjourned in the light of stay order issued by Islamabad High Court (IHC). Judge Abul Hasnani of Special court established under official secret act heard the missing cipher case against chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi in Adiala jail Friday.

## Detention order for 30 days issued in respect of Khadija

**LAHORE (Online):** Detention order for 30 days has been issued in respect of renowned fashion designer Khadija Shah. Khadija Shah was detained on the recommendation of SP Cantt and district intelligence branch.

It has been said in detention notification Khadija Shah remained involved in violent activities on May 9.

## Governor urges students to enter research based education, emerging tech

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Friday urged women to venture into emerging fields of new technologies and said that it would help enable our young generation to meet the challenges of existing scenarios.

He was talking to faculty members of Shaheed Banzair Bhutto Women's University (SBBWU) and organizers of the Women Literary Festival here at Governor House. Vice Chancellor SBBWU, Dr Safia Ahmad and Organizer Women Literary Festival, Dr Hamida was also present. The governor congratulated faculty members for holding the festival and underscored the need to provide opportunities of co-curricular activities to students. The governor stresses upon faculty members to divert the attention of students towards research and innovation to improve their capabilities. He said that students should be more practical in their lives and focus their energies on achieving their goals and life objectives. Highlighting the significance of education, he said that the promotion of education is necessary to reduce social differences in society and to lead the country on the course of progress and development.



**LAHORE: Country Head of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Ann Masterson, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.**

## Latif Khosa says: If you want to make Nawaz king and remove Imran then script will be worked out

**LAHORE (Online):** Senior Lawyer Latif Khosa said that if you want to make Nawaz Sharif king and expel Chairman PTI then script will continue to be worked out.

We have not learned from history. We should learn.

While talking to media outside Islamabad High Court, Latif Khosa said that we expect justice from court. Constitution should be followed. People should be given

fundamental rights. He said that statement of Alimah Khan can be explained by her. I have no interest. When chaos is created in our country then there is an external intervention. Look at whole Islamic world, same things happened in them. Chaos was created in Libya, Afghanistan, Egypt and Iraq and foreign in and foreign intervention destroyed the country. A jail trial is not a trial, it is secret.



**KARACHI: Police personnel knock at the door of Afghan refugees during a search operation to identify alleged illegal immigrants, on the outskirts of Karachi.**

## LHC orders to arrest those driving vehicles without license

**LAHORE (Online):** Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to arrest those driving vehicles without license.

"Petition against inclusion of murder clauses in the incident of death of 6 persons came up for hearing in LHC Friday.

Chief Traffic Officer and Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Operations appeared in the court. Additional Advocate General Punjab Ghulam Sarwar also appeared in the court on behalf of the Punjab government.

The underage accused Afnan who is nominated in

the case of death of 6 persons in Lahore had resorted to LHC.

The petitioner had made care taker chief minister Punjab and CCPO Lahore respondents in the petition.

The accused challenged the inclusion of murder clause in the case in LHC.

The accused Afnan took the plea he has no personal enmity with the victims and including murder clauses is violation of human rights. The accused is underage, therefore imposing murder clauses is illegal.

## CCPO orders swift action on pending cases

**LAHORE (APP):** Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana chaired a meeting of the Investigation Wing's top officers at his office on Friday.

A comprehensive review of performance was held, focusing on pending road certificates, ongoing investigations, and elusive suspects.

The CCPO expressed strong disapproval of sub-divisional police officers over their failure to submit pending road certificates, instructing them to enhance their performance and promptly resolve these matters. Directives were issued to the officers concerned to apprehend thieves, bandits, proclaimed offenders, and drug dealers, emphasizing the need for improved recovery. The CCPO stressed the urgency of addressing cases that have been pending for over a month and tightening the grip on individuals engaged in electricity theft.

Bilal Siddique Kamyana underscored the importance of avoiding wrongful arrests and urged immediate action against guilty parties to ensure their swift apprehension.

Inspector General of Police, CCPO Lahore, and all RPOs were given explicit instructions

## Caretaker CM visits BKMCH, Police Control Room

**SWABI (APP):** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister, Justice (Retd), Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Friday visited Bacha Khan Medical Complex Hospital (BKMCH), Shah Mansoor Swabi and Command and Control Room Swabi Police Station.

Caretaker CM visited various sections of the hospital including the outpatient department,

emergency, intensive care unit, laboratory and wards. He also met with patients and inquired about their problems and issues.

He attended a briefing about the provision of facilities and ongoing development work in the hospital. He also directed hospital administration to further improve healthcare service delivery for enhanced facilitation of people.

## International News

## Israel resumes action at Shifa hospital despite lack of proof

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Fear grows for patients inside after Israel renewed its military operation at Gaza's largest hospital, targeting what it claimed was a Hamas command centre - hidden beneath thousands of patients, medics and displaced people - an allegation rejected by both Palestinian authorities and directors at the hospital.

Israeli forces raided the Shifa medical complex "for the second time in 24 hours" using bulldozers and military vehicles, reported Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency.

The Shehab news agency reported early on Thursday that Israeli tanks raided Al Shifa from the complex's southern side and that gunfire was heard in the area. The Israeli military, which had previously accused Hamas of building a network of tunnels under the hospital, made no mention of finding any tunnel entrances in Al Shifa.

In addition, Human Rights Watch also noted on Thursday that Tel Aviv had shown no evidence thus far that would justify stripping Shifa hospital of its protected status. While US President Joe Biden said Hamas had

committed a war crime by housing "their headquarters, their military hidden under a hospital", he warned Israel to be "incredibly careful" of harming civilians during the operation. Israel's army claimed an initial raid in Al-Shifa had uncovered military equipment, weapons and what spokesman Daniel Hagari described as "an operational headquarters with comms equipment".

A video narrated by another Israeli army spokesman showed rifles, ammunition and ammo magazines inside an area he identified as Al-Shifa's MRI scanner building.



**Palestinians wounded in Israeli strikes lie on the floor at the Indonesian hospital after Al Shifa hospital went out of service.**

## UN stops delivery of food and supplies to Gaza as communications blackout hinders aid coordination

**Monitoring Desk**  
RAFAH: The United Nations was forced to stop deliveries of food and other necessities to Gaza on Friday and warned of the growing possibility of widespread starvation after internet and telephone services collapsed in the besieged enclave because of a lack of fuel.

Israel announced that it will allow for the first time "very minimal" daily shipments of fuel into Gaza for use by the U.N. and communications system. It ap-

peared the amount would be far less than what the U.N. has said is needed to fuel water systems, hospitals and trucks to deliver aid - not counting the communications network.

Israel has barred entry to fuel since the start of the war, saying it would be diverted by Hamas for military means.

It has also barred food, water and other supplies except for a trickle of aid from Egypt that aid workers say falls far short of what's needed.

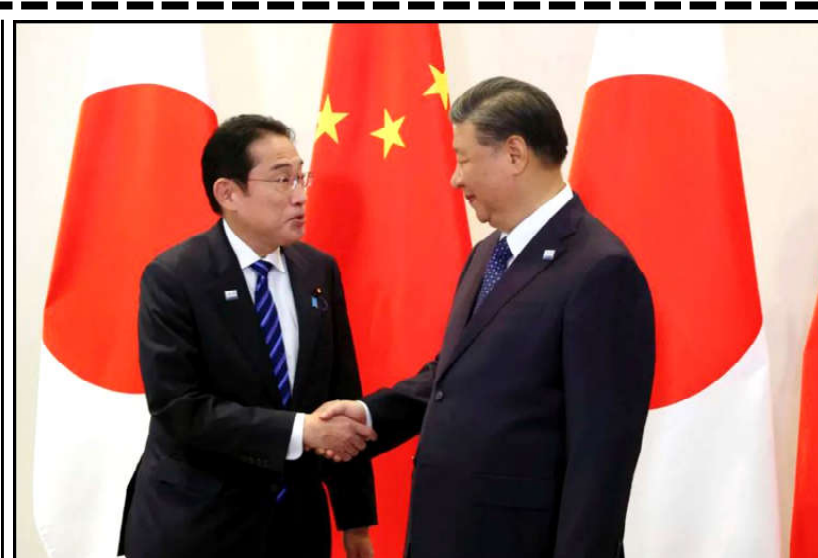
## Italy PM says deal with Albania on migrants could serve as blueprint

**Monitoring Desk**  
ZAGREB: A deal reached this month by Italy with Albania to build centres for migrants coming ashore by sea could serve as a blueprint for other EU countries, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Friday.

"I think this can be an example that other countries may follow, particularly if it functions well," Meloni said through interpreter during a visit to Croatia.

Earlier this month, Meloni and Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama announced a new scheme for Italy to try to bring down migrant numbers by building two centres that would initially host some 3,000 people when they are due to open in spring 2024.

The plan was immediately criticized by experts and human rights activists as being legally complicated and entailing lengthy procedures that could place unjustified burden of migrants. On Wednesday, the European Union migration Commissioner Ylva Johansson said the Italian-Albanian agreement on the reception camps did not breach EU law which was not applicable.



**Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands prior to their bilateral talk on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, in San Francisco.**

## Japan, China agree on a constructive relationship, but reach only vague promises in seafood dispute

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Friday to build a stable and constructive relationship but achieved only a vague agreement on easing a dispute over a Chinese ban on Japanese seafood, officials said.

Kishida had demanded that China immediately lift its ban on Japanese seafood, in place since the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant began discharging treated radioactive wastewater into the sea on Aug. 24. The ban has badly hurt Japanese exporters of scallops and other seafood.

"find ways to resolve the dispute through meetings and dialogue in a constructive manner" and would convene a meeting of scientific experts. He gave no details.

Kishida had demanded that China immediately lift its ban on Japanese seafood, in place since the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant began discharging treated radioactive wastewater into the sea on Aug. 24. The ban has badly hurt Japanese exporters of scallops and other seafood.

Japan says the wastewater is much safer than international standards and that the International Atomic Energy Agency has concluded the environmental and health impact of its release is negligible. China calls the discharge "nuclear-contaminated water." Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said China and Japan agreed to find a way to resolve the Fukushima water issue through consultations and negotiations in a constructive manner.

## Biden to wrap up four-day diplomatic summit by meeting Mexican president

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAN FRANCISCO: U.S. President Joe Biden concludes a four-day diplomatic push with China as well as other Pacific nations on Friday in a final meeting with world leaders and a visit with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Biden, who met with President Xi Jinping on Wednesday and used Thursday to highlight strong economic ties between the U.S. and the other Pacific nations, will have one final large gathering of leaders on

Friday where he will formally transfer the chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to Peru President Dina Boluarte. He will also participate in a bilateral meeting with Obrador, where the two leaders are expected to discuss migration and ways to crack down on fentanyl trafficking. The bilateral meeting comes as the two countries are at odds over several significant trade issues, including Mexico's efforts to phase out use of genetically modified corn - a move that hurts U.S.

## New Maldives president is sworn in and vows to remove Indian troops

**Monitoring Desk**  
MALE: Mohamed Muizzu was sworn in Friday as the Maldives' fifth democratically elected president and said he will ensure there is no foreign military presence in the archipelago.

Muizzu, who is seen as pro-China, campaigned on a promise to evict Indian military personnel and balance trade, which he said was heavily in favor of India under his predecessor, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

## US and Philippines sign a nuclear cooperation pact allowing US investment and technologies

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The United States and the Philippines have signed a nuclear cooperation pact under which U.S. investment and technologies are to help the Southeast Asian nation transition to cleaner energy and bolster its power supply.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. witnessed the signing of the deal by his energy secretary and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco. "We see nuclear energy becoming a part of the Philippines' energy mix by 2032 and we are more than happy to pursue this path with the United States as one of our partners,"

Marcos said at the signing ceremony.

He said the pact, known as a Section 123 agreement, would support the development of reliable, affordable and sustainable power in the Philippines. It will also open doors for U.S. companies to invest and participate in nuclear power projects, he said.

Blinken said negotiations with the Philippines were completed within a year, the fastest for a Section 123 agreement, which is required under the U.S. Atomic Energy Act to allow the transfer of nuclear equipment and material for peaceful uses.

He noted that the Philippines has set an ambitious target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030.

## The top UN court has ordered Syria to do all it can to prevent torture

**Monitoring Desk**  
THE HAGUE: The United Nations' top court on Thursday ordered the Syrian government to "take all measures within its powers" to prevent torture, in a case in which the Netherlands and Canada accuse Damascus of a years-long campaign of torturing its own citizens.

The interim order is intended to protect potential victims while the case accusing Syria of breaching the torture convention proceeds through the International Court of Justice, a process likely to take years.

The court's President Joan E. Donoghue said the panel was ordering Damascus to "take all measures within its power to prevent acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

The court also called on Syria to "ensure that its officials, as well as any organizations or persons, may be subject to its control, direction or influence do not commit any acts of

torture or other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

The court further ordered Damascus to "take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of any evidence related to the allegations of acts within the scope" of the convention against torture, O'Donoghue said.

Canada and the Netherlands last month called on the court to order the torture ban. Syria boycotted the hearing in October and it remains unclear how it will respond to the world court's orders.

Syria's conflict started with peaceful protests against Assad's government in March 2011 but quickly morphed into a full-blown civil war after the government's brutal crackdown on protesters. The tide turned in Assad's favor against rebel groups in 2015, when Russia provided key military backing to Syria, as well as Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.



## Dietary, lifestyle changes crucial to prevent cardiovascular diseases: Alvi

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed preventive rather curative approach to prevent cardiovascular diseases and said that dietary and lifestyle changes hold key importance in this regard.

In his video-link address to the 12th biennial conference of the Pakistan Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons held in Peshawar on Friday, he said preventive measures not only decreased the risk of disease but also reduced the burden on the national healthcare system.

Dr Arif Alvi said cardiovascular diseases were also being diagnosed in young people and mentioned that the lengthy treatment and surgery of cardiac diseases became unaffordable for the patients. Therefore, he said,

consuming a healthy diet and quitting a sedentary lifestyle and smoking had positive effects on the control of cardiac diseases.

He recalled that the country made relentless and coordinated efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic extremely well. He emphasized adopting similar passion and targeted action to prioritize the prevention of CVDs.

The president stressed investment in the training and professional development of healthcare practitioners specialized in cardiovascular and thoracic care. He highlighted the importance of telemedicine and technology to facilitate remote consultations, diagnostics, and monitoring. This, he said, would be especially crucial for patients in remote and rural areas of

the country who faced challenges in reaching out to healthcare facilities.

He said cases of malnutrition and obesity were being reported in the country side by side and termed it the responsibility of the State to raise awareness about the intake of healthy diet instead of junk food.

Besides practicing their curative medicine, Dr Alvi urged the doctors and medical practitioners to make a service to society by encouraging preventive care and convincing the general public to adopt the routine of walk and specific exercises. The president also spoke about mental stress in society and said an overall 24 percent population suffers from it and around 60-80 percent of students of higher studies deal with it.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kenya in Pakistan, called on Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

## Pak, Kenya resolve to strengthen health sector cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Kenya on Friday agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the health sector.

This was decided in a meeting held between the Ambassador of Kenya and the Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Both sides agreed to ensure signing of MoU for cooperation in health sector between the two countries on a speedy basis.

The MoU will include the promotion of laboratory medical tourism in the pharma sector, health systems integration and emergency response.

The minister said that the Global Health Security Summit is being held in January. He presented an invitation to the Ambassador for his participation in

the Summit.

He said that the aim of the conference was to prepare low-income countries to face the next global pandemic.

The minister said that health was the basic right of every human being. We have to create such a system that no one is deprived of this right, he expressed.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the access to fair distribution of vaccines should be made possible.

He said that developing countries would have to work together so that vaccines are not manipulated, adding that Pakistan had shown excellent performance in the Corona epidemic.

The international organizations should benefit from our experiences, he added.

## SC moved for fixation of senior Journalist Arshid suo motu case for hearing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition has been filed in Supreme Court (SC) seeking fixation of senior journalist Arshid Sharif suo motu case for early hearing.

The petition has been filed by mother of Arshid Sharif.

The petition said the investigation stands suspended being the matter pending in SC.

The way the matters are running have fomented despair in the family. The case was heard in SC on June 13 last time. The case be fixed for hearing in the week starting from November 27.

It is pertinent to mention that when during the suo motu notice in regard to investigation regarding murder of Arshid Sharif, Shaikat Siddiqui counsel for mother of Arshid Sharif had requested SC to give directives to include five persons including Imran Khan in investigation, the then chief justice of Pakistan had remarked how can we issue directives directly. This is job of investigation team.

If any petition from mother of Arshid Sharif comes for including some

one in the investigation then investigation officer can see it as per law.

Shaikat Siddiqui requested mother of Arshid Sharif has filed petition in this case.

He said Imran Khan, Faisal Vawda, Murad Saeed and Imran Riaz have claimed in social media and while sitting in TV that they know who has killed Arshid Sharif and they know about the entire conspiracy regarding murder of Arshid Sharif.

They have made so emphatic claims in this sensitive case then they should be included in investigation and their statement be recorded under 161.

He further said the day mother of Arshid Sharif nominated these five persons, the written statement of Murad Saeed given to special JIT was leaked on social media. Therefore, investigation is must.

Shaikat Siddiqui said he refuted fact finding report was leaked by any member of Arshid Sharif family.

He requested the court if court is not giving order then it should observe this thing in its order.

## IRSA releases 90,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 90,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 47,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1509.15 feet and was 109.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 25,000 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1187.95 feet, which was 137.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

## Ombudsman to take action against delay of Passports

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, has taken notice of thousands of complaints being lodged against the Passport Office, for undue delay in printing of their passports.

Federal Ombudsman has constituted an inspection team led by Senior Advisor to visit the office of the Directorate General of Passport, to identify the causes underlying these complaints and recommend remedial measures.

In addition, the inspection team members will

also provide a hearing to the complainants on the spot and will meet with the Administration of the Directorate General of Passport to ascertain steps being taken to address the public grievances, said in a Press Release issued here on Friday. The complainants while lodging the complaints in the Federal Ombudsman Office stated that they were experiencing serious difficulties even in the renewal and urgent fee Passports. Sources have revealed that around 4 lac Passports are pending with the Directorate.

## AC Pothohar crackdown on overpricing, illegal LPG refilling

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a stern crackdown on overpricing and illegal refilling of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), the Assistant Commissioner of Pothohar subdivision Nahel Hafiz, has arrested two individuals and imposed a fine of Rs 13,000 on violators. Acting on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, the Assistant Commissioner, along with a team of officials, conducted surprise inspections of various LPG filling stations in the Pothohar area.

## Chairman PMIC directs depts for swift completion of PSDP projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Prime Minister's Inspection Commission (PMIC) Brig. (Retd) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha has taken cognizance of the concerns of the prime minister over the unwarranted delays in the completion of PSDP projects.

The PMIC chairman, along with Director PMIC Muhammad Saleh Narejo visited Punjab and Sindh this month and took briefings from the respective departments pertaining to hill torrance and the clearance of natural routes of Kachhi Canal Project at Dera Ghazi Khan, said a press release issued on Friday.

The Chief Secretary and Irrigation Secretary of Government of Punjab assured removing the impediments involved.

The necessary briefings were also given by WAPDA and Irrigation Department, Punjab at D.G. Khan.

The command area of the project lies in Balochistan province and to irrigate 72,000 acres land of Dera Bugti and monetary benefits of Rs. 3.6 Billion accrued upto June, 2022.

The PMIC chairman



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters are busy in fishing along the Rawal Dam, during sunny weather in Federal Capital.

## SC dismisses petitions against holding MDCAT exam in KP, Sindh again

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed the petitions against holding MDCAT tests again in KP and Sindh.

The court has upheld the decision of high court for holding MDCAT tests in KP and Sindh.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Yahya Afridi took up the case for hearing Friday.

Peshawar High Court (PHC) had declared its mandate of provincial government to hold MDCAT test again due to matter of cheating.

Several lawyers including Habib Ullah Qureshi appeared in SC and gave arguments.

However the court said the system has deteriorated due to cheating by the students who have appeared in the examination therefore, it is must that the examination be held again.

The court further remarked secondly it is policy matter wherein court cannot interfere.

The lawyers said



ISLAMABAD: A staffer of Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI) receipts weekly Bazaar Parking Fees from the commuters newly launched by District Municipal Administration in the Federal Capital.

## Business areas' traffic issues to be resolved on priority basis: SSP Traffic

Independent Report  
ISLAMABAD: SSP Traffic Police Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk along with SP Chaudhry Abid and DSP Tariq Mehmood visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) on Friday and discussed with the business community various options to resolve the traffic issues in the Capital.

Speaking on the occasion, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that traffic incidents were increasing, so a police-citizen committee should be formed to work together to address this issue.

He said that appropriate measures should be taken to tackle the issues of over speeding and violation of traffic rules. Minor children should be banned from driving, seat belts should be strictly en-



ISLAMABAD: A group of students from Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi addressing a Breast Cancer Awareness Session, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## GCWU delegation visits Parliament House

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation comprising 83 members, accompanied by faculty members from the Government College Women University (GCWU) Faisalabad, visited the Parliament House on Friday.

The delegation also toured the Senate Museum, where they were shown a documentary showcasing the historical significance of the Upper House.

During the visit, Senate authorities provided the delegation with detailed briefings on the functioning, legislative processes, functions, and proceedings of the Senate.

The delegation expressed keen interest in the statues of distinguished political figures and historical images displayed in the Senate Museum.

The visit aimed to familiarize the members of the Women's University delegation with the workings of the Upper House.

## Several Minister, Advisors remained absent from house: Senate session

ISLAMABAD (Online): During the Senate session, none of the Ministers or Advisors including leader of the house and leader of opposition were not present.

During the Senate meeting on Friday, no Federal Minister was present in the meeting.

Chairman Senate said that Federal Ministers should come to house. However, none of the Federal Ministers could reach the House. During this time, the noise of the members

continued in the House.

Military courts have been disapproved. Protest of the members in the House. The agenda should be suspended and allowed to speak on this issue.

Senator Kamran Murtaza, Senator Sadia Abbasi and Senator Mohsin Aziz demanded.

Chairman Senate has postponed the proceeding of the meeting till Monday.

The senate session was held under Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani on Friday.

## President appoints Dr Shahzad as VC Health Services Academy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday appointed Dr Shahzad Ali Khan as the Vice Chancellor of Health Services Academy Islamabad.

The president made the said appointment in exercise of the powers under section 12 (1) of Health Services Academy Act 2018, a President House press release said.

## ISSI signs MoU on cooperation with South Africa's Institute for Security Studies

ISLAMABAD (APP): A virtual ceremony took place on Friday to sign a MoU on cooperation between the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), South Africa, which was facilitated by the Centre for Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Africa (CAMEA).

The ISSI was represented by its Director General, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, and Amina Khan, Director, CAMEA. The ISS was represented by its Executive Director, Dr. Fonteh Akum, and Dr. Piers Pigou, Head of the Southern African Program at the ISS, a news release said.

The MoU signing ceremony was also attended by Aftab Hassan Khan, High Commissioner of Pakistan to South Africa, and Mthuzuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan.

Director CAMEA Amina Khan, while giving introductory remarks, stated that the signing of the MoU was a reflection of warmth and a desire on both sides to expand the scope of bilateral interaction. She hoped that the MoU would help further the relationship between Pakistan and South Africa through institutional linkages for collaborative research and dialogue on issues of mutual interest.

Welcoming the conclusion of the MoU, DG

ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted that ISSI highly values its relationship with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), which has long focused on vital issues such as human security.

He added that the concept of comprehensive security with human security at its core had been embedded in Pakistan's national security policy. Amb. Sohail Mahmood emphasized that this MoU would not only strengthen institutional linkages between the two think tanks but also contribute to enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.