

# Independent

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## Baqar calls for adhering to quality standards to export seafood

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice M. Maqbool Baqar on Tuesday said that seafood products, ranging from fish and shrimp to crabs and squid, including frozen and fresh seafood, canned goods, and value-added items like breaded fish fillets, can find their way to international markets if we ensure our adherence to quality standards, and the integration of technology is ensured.

This he said while speaking at a seminar organized by the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) to commemorate World Fisheries Day 2023, marked by the theme "Conservation through Collaboration: Developing Fishing Communities." Today, I am privileged to share this moment with you, a gathering that highlights the heartbeat of our celebration—the vibrant and resilient fishing

communities along the Pakistan coast.

The CM said that the fishermen's communities were not merely guardians of the sea; they embody the essence of our cultural heritage, preserving traditions that have been cherished and passed down through generations. "As we come together to observe World Fisheries Day, it is only fitting that we shine a spotlight on these communities, placing them at the forefront of our discussions," he said.

Baqar said that Pakistan was blessed with a coastline stretching over 1,000 km and an expansive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covering 290,000 sq. km, including the extended continental shelf. "This endowment positions Pakistan with significant potential for the development of the Blue Economy," he said and added our marine fishing activities were concentrated along the coasts of Sindh and Balochistan, constituting 30 per cent and 70 per cent of Pakistan's total coastal area, respectively.

He said that he was happy for the professionals and policymakers on this significant occasion of World Fisheries Day 2023, marked by the theme "Conservation through Collaboration: Developing Fishing Communities." Today, I am privileged to share this moment with you, a gathering that highlights the heartbeat of our celebration—the vibrant and resilient fishing



KARACHI: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amir Moghaddam calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

## Pakistan's Phytosanitary certification won global acknowledgment: Kausar

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, Tuesday, said that effective and diligent Phytosanitary certification process of Pakistan had won global acknowledgment and over 130 countries were honouring our clearance certificates.

He presiding over a meeting at Department of Plant Protection (DPP), said that DPP was playing an important role in the economy of the country by properly regulating imports and exports of agricultural commodities particularly implementation of phytosanitary requirements of Pakistan and other countries where agricultural commodities

and products were being exported or imported from.

The minister expressed satisfaction over the digitization process which had enabled 100% efficiency of the quarantine facility for agricultural commodities and products at import and export stages and stated "DPP is shielding the plantation of the country through its quarantine facility so that no harmful insect or pest enters the country."

He also informed the meeting that DPP had reached to an arrangement with the government regarding single window operations that would further reduce bottlenecks in the entire process and would significantly benefit trade in the country.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik addressing the meeting at Department of Plant Protection Office.

## Education minister reaffirms commitment to quality education

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Rana Hussain Tuesday reaffirmed her unwavering commitment to quality education during the annual review conference on the Quality Assurance Framework of the People's School Program (PSP).

The conference was organized by the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) held at the Futurum, Professional Development Center here.

The minister shared the Sindh Textbook Board

Jamshoro is set to hand over books to SEP on November 24.

The PSP, an initiative of the Sindh Education Foundation, has successfully operationalized purposefully built, state-of-the-art school buildings across various districts of the Sindh province under the Sindh Education Foundation's Public-Private Partnership modality. Presently, 34 PSP schools are functional in diverse districts.

In line with the completion of an academic year for these schools.



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.

## 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 technol-

ogy and artificial intelligence," he said.

He expressed satisfaction that the PAF modernized itself through 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.

## Solangi, Pervez discuss upcoming general elections

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.

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

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 undertaken, 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.



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.

## President pays tribute to martyred troops of Pasni, NW militant attacks

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday paid tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives in the militant attacks in Pasni, Balochistan, and Mir Ali, North Waziristan on November 3 and 12, respectively.

The president talked to the families of Subedar Ubaidullah, Naik Muhammad Sajjad, Shahzad Qamar, and Sepoys Shahbaz, Faizur Rehman, and Zahid Hussain. "The sacrifices of martyrs will not go in vain and terrorism will come to an end," he said. Dr Alvi also paid tribute to the martyr of the North Waziristan incident, Sepoy Abdullah.

The president extended condolences to the family of the martyred troops and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant an elevated place for their souls.

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

KARACHI (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf participated as chief guest of Pakistan Navy Industrial Seminar held at Bahria Auditorium, Karachi on Tuesday.

Addressing the participants of seminar, the Naval Chief lauded the valuable participation of academia and representatives of various industries from private sector.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf emphasised that technology was continuously evolving and the armed forces also need to keep pace with the evolving technology.

This necessitates close cooperation of the defence sector with local industry and educational institutions. This industrial seminar will provide sig-

nificant opportunity for local industries to showcase their potential to support Pakistan Navy which was a technology intensive armed force of Pakistan, he added.

While 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. The seminar was attended by a large number of officers of Pakistan Navy, dignitaries, representatives of local industry and prominent members of academia.

## 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.

## IGP visits injured constable at hospital

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Tuesday visited Aga Khan Hospital to inquire about the health of constable Mir Dost Jakhri of Kashmir Police.

According to spokesman for Sindh Police, the IGP consoled the injured constable's nephew and family. He also talked to the doctors of Aga Khan Hospital about the constable's treatment.

## 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

(labor) 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.



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

## 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 PPPP 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 Secretariat.

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.

## 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.



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

## Three terrorists killed in separate IBOs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Three terrorists have been killed during two separate Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) conducted to eliminate inimical elements in the areas of Dera Ismail Khan and South Waziristan

whereas a soldier of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom after an improvised explosive device went off in the area of North Waziristan.

Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday that an IBO was conducted in general area Kulachi of Dera Ismail Khan District on November 20 and after intense exchange of fire, two terrorists were sent

to hell. In a separate operation conducted in general area Kot Azam, South Waziristan District, one more terrorist was killed.

The forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from all three killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as the innocent civilians. In another incident that occurred in general area Gharayoum, North Waziristan District, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded and resultantly, Sepoy Shahzeb, 26, resident of Rawalpindi district embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).



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.



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. China, cracking 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 at hr o u g h syeed.gilani@gmail.com.]*

**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).

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

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.

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 socioeconomic 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): Ambassador of Algeria in Pakistan Dr. Ibrahim 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.

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 stated this during an important meeting with the Sialkot business community at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here today.

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 Fareed 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 Fareed 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.

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 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.

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.

## 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 Panjab 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

## 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 Afnan 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 Ifthar. 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.

## 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 pro-people 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.





ISLAMABAD: 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.

## 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 ini-

tiative 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, 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.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori expressing his condolences to Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Convener Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) during funeral prayer of his mother held in Karachi.

## Trial of civilians in military courts: Punjab govt files appeal against SC decision

ISLAMABAD (Online): Punjab government has filed appeal against Supreme Court (SC) decision for nullifying trial of civilians in military courts.

It has been prayed in the appeal that SC decision about military courts be declared null and void.

The petitioner has taken plea in the petition military courts matters should have gone to high court under article 199. SC exercised its constitutional powers under 184/3.

As per constitution if other forms are there then jurisdiction of 184-3 cannot be used. SC decision is against law and constitution.

Different courts are working in the country on the pattern of army act. Military courts and general courts are working since 1947. Trial of accused is conducted in military courts as per rule.

The appeal has been filed by Advocate General (AG) Punjab.

## Provincial Ombudsman institution setup to help common people

LARKANA (APP): Regional Director of Sindh Ombudsman, Larkana Ali Akbar Jagirani Tuesday said the institution of provincial ombudsman has been established to help common people. In his press briefing held at his office, he said that the people who were worried about the mismanagement and wrong behavior of provincial department officials.

Director office of Sindh Ombudsman also organized an open courts in District Accounts Office Larkana and Kamber, where sufficient relief has been provided to the complaints of common people, retired employees and their families on the spot. Apart from this, several seminars and rallies have been organized on the issue of girl child education and out-of-school children.



HYDERABAD: Anti encroachment operation in progress removed illegal encroachment during anti encroachment drive, at Alamdar road in Hyderabad.

## 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, in-

cluding 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.

## Education sector totally ignored in past: Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Siddiqi on Tuesday apprised the Senate that the education sector was ignored in the past and many private universities were allowed to operate in various parts of the country.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, he said that even some universities were set up in few rooms. The chairman Higher Education Commission has been tasked to improve the standard and quality of education, he said.

To a question, the minister said Ms Lubna Said, an officer of the Pakistan Administrative Services serving in BPS-19 was appointed on the vacant post of Deputy Permanent Delegate of Pakistan to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris.

## Govt decides to elect new PHF president through elections: Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday informed the Senate that the government had decided to elect a new person for slot of president Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) through elections.

Replying during Question Hour, he said that under the National Sports Policy, the tenure of president PHF was four year and a person could not remain in the office for more than two terms.

The minister said issue of suspended PHF president Brig. (Retd) Muhammad Khalid Sajjad Khokhar had been settled last week adding that committee had been set up to hold election for the new president.

## Parvez Elahi accuses PML-N of 'pre-poll rigging' in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has accused PML-N of using police and administration in their favor ahead of general elections. In his information media talk outside the Judicial Complex, Parvez Elahi urged the Election Commission of Pakistan to take notice of "pre-poll" rigging by PML-N.

The former chief minister said PTI will move Supreme Court after the announcement of the election schedule. He claimed that no one will accept the election if PTI is barred from taking part in the process. "PTI candidates will come to the scene after the announcement of the schedule."

## Government fully committed to promote vibrant, responsible media landscape: Solangi

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 environment, 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 reaffirmed 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.

## 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 (BR) Forum-2023 last month and appreciated the Vision of President Xi Jinping who identified eight areas of cooperation, 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".

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

LARKANA: Members of Young Doctors Association (YDA) are holding protest demonstration for demanding immediate release of their five-month house job salaries, outside the Administration Block of Chandka Medical Hospital in Larkana.

# 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.



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

## 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 long-standing 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. He stated that the government wants to send a more skilled workforce to Saudi Arabia and invited Takamol, a Saudi initiative to develop human capital, to open more testing and training centres in Pakistan.

He also offered to extend full cooperation to Takamol to work as an independent Training and certification company in Pakistan. Further, TVTC can also collaborate for

training initiatives in Pakistan. It is noteworthy that NAVTEC and TVTC shall sign the MOU very soon.

The minister of Human Resources and Social Development appreciated the offer of SAPM and directed Takamol to find ways to implement the suggestions made by SAPM.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to enhancing the export of skilled manpower from Pakistan. SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik was accompanied by Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia Ahmad Farooq, Director General BEOE, Akram Khawaja, Muazzam Ali Dy head of Mission and Sohail Babar

## Haideri demands resignation of President

ISLAMABAD (Online): Secretary General of JUI Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has demanded resignation of President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi regarding his statement on Palestine.

JUI Secretary General Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri while reacting to the statement of President said that he condemns the statement given by the President on the one state formula of Palestine.

This statement is tantamount to rubbing salt in the wounds of Palestinian Muslims.

This statement also denies stance of Quaid-e-Azam and state of Pakistan. The President of the State is not qualified to be the head of a nuclear state.

## PTA intensifies crackdown on illegal issuance of SIMs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office Lahore, in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle, conducted a successful raid against a franchisee of a mobile phone company involved in the illegal issuance of SIMs.

During the raid, 04 BVS devices and 02 Laptops were seized as evidence, and three persons were also apprehended on the premises by the FIA team, said a news release.

FIA is currently investigating the matter further. PTA had filed a complaint with FIA earlier based on information regarding the illegal issuance of SIMs by the sale channel.

## 30 NHA employees to proceed for Hajj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Shahid Ashraf Tarar executed Hajj Ballotting 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.

## Court adjourns hearing of cipher case in the light of IHC decision

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special court established under official secret act has adjourned hearing of cipher case till November 23.

Cipher case came up for hearing before special secret act special court led by Justice Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain here Tuesday.

Chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi were present in the court.

The lawyers of chair-

man PTI too reached the court. Terrorism cases against chairman PTI will also be heard against chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Cases were registered against chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi in police stations of Bhara Kahu and khanna. Terrorism cases were registered against them in March this year.

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

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 alternate companies, he added.



KARACHI: Pakistani policeman checks the identify card of illegal immigrants in Provincial Capital as the UN health agency is warning that about 1.3 million Afghans are expected to return to Afghanistan from Pakistan where authorities earlier are expelling foreigners, mostly Afghans, living in the country illegally.

## Siraj urges Australian HC to use diplomatic influence to halt bloodshed in Gaza

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has urged the Australian High Commissioner to employ diplomatic influence to halt the bloodshed in Gaza, emphasizing the need for an urgent ceasefire in the war-torn area.

He was talking to Australian High Commissioner Mr. Neil Hawkins who called on him at Mansoorah on Tuesday. The two sides discussed Pak-Australian relations and matters of mutual interest. JI Foreign Af-

fairs director Asif Luqman Qazi was also present.

Sirajul Haq expressed confidence in Australia's capacity, as a nation that upholds justice and human rights, to play a pivotal role in putting an end to the violence in Gaza.

He handed over a letter to Mr. Hawkins addressed to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese, outlining the dire situation in Palestine and seeking Australia's intervention.