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## Massive earthquake claims over 157 lives in Nepal, dozens injured

Caretaker PM expresses sorrow over damage caused by earthquake in Nepal

### Monitoring Desk

KATHMANDU: At least 157 people were killed in an overnight earthquake that struck a remote pocket of Nepal, officials said on Saturday, as security forces rushed to assist with rescue efforts.

The 5.6-magnitude quake hit isolated western districts of the Himalayan Republic late on Friday and was measured by the US Geological Survey (USGS) at just 18 kilometres deep.

The force of the

tremor jolted households awake and flattened mud houses in communities across the impact site.

Rescue workers in Nepal began digging through the rubble of collapsed houses with their bare hands on Saturday, searching for survivors after the country's worst earthquake in eight years killed 157 people and shook buildings as far away as New Delhi.

The quake struck the Jajarkot region in the west

of the Himalayan nation at 11:47 p.m. (1802 GMT) on Friday with a 6.4 magnitude, Nepal's National Seismological Centre said. The German Research Centre for Geosciences measured it at 5.7 and the US Geological Survey at 5.6.

Officials fear the death toll could rise as first responders had reached the hilly area near the epicentre, some 500 km (300 miles) west of the capital Kathmandu, only early on Saturday and began search-

ing for survivors.

"The number of injured could be in the hundreds and the deaths could go up as well," Jajarkot district official Harish Chandra Sharma told Reuters by phone.

Although the quake's magnitude was not severe, the damage and the death toll are high due to the poor quality of construction in the area and because it struck while people slept,

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A view of damaged houses lie in ruins, in the aftermath of an earthquake in Nepal.



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmad, addressing the Seerat Nabvi Conference.

## Peoples' cooperation must to overcome terrorism in Balochistan, says IGP

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police, Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh has stated that the cooperation of general public is very necessary to overcome terrorism in the province.

However, the police force has to serve them (general public) to gain their cooperation.

The IGP was speaking on occasion of his visit to Loralai on Saturday.

Upon his arrival, the IGP was welcomed by the DIG police Loralai Range, Nazeer Ahmed Kurd, SSP Muhammad Zafar and other officers.

The IGP got inaugurated the new Sadar police station from the son of martyr ATF personnel, Ashraf Tareen.

He also inspected the new police station.

Later, the IGP visited Allah Nawaz Shaheed Police Line Loralai.



LORALAI: Inspector General Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh offering Dua after inaugurating Police Station Saddar Loralai.

## Serious patients being shifted to Karachi: Isolation ward set up for Congo virus patients in Sandeman Hospital

Unnecessary movement of doctors of Sandeman Hospital & entry of attendants of patients banned in Trauma Center

### Independent Report

QUETTA: An isolation ward has been established for the Congo virus patients in the Sandeman provincial headquarter hospital here.

The isolation ward has been set up in view of the increasing number of patients and after some medical staff including doctors got infected from the virus.

According to the spokesman of Sandeman Hospital, the Secretary Health Abdullah Khan is personally supervising the situation of Congo virus and treatment facilities for the patients.

He has directed the concerned authorities to ensure implementation on the SOPs for prevention of

the Congo virus. He informed that the hospital has been included in the safety framework for prevention of the infectious diseases.

He also claimed to prepare a strategy for prevention of the Congo virus.

The Secretary Health said that the serious patients of the Congo virus including doctors and other medical staff are being shifted to Karachi by air ambulances.

It may be mentioned here that some doctors and paramedics had been infected from the Congo virus and other infections the other day. As a result, their condition was deteriorated and admitted in the hospital.

## Solangi says: Caretaker govt to assist ECP for conducting free, fair polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said the caretaker government is committed to hold free, fair and transparent elections in the country.

Speaking during a program of a private news channel on Friday, he said the government will provide all out support to the Election Commission in the conduct of elections.

The Minister said it is gratifying that we are moving towards a constitutional process that will result in the people electing a political government.

SC issues detailed order of NAB amend. case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan Saturday issued a detailed order of the NAB amendments case hearing held on Oct 31.

It is said in the written order that the apex court has provided opportunity to the PTI chief to present himself before the court.

The court ordered that a copy of the order be sent to the PTI chief in Adiala

BAP's central general council meeting to be held today

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The general council meeting of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) is scheduled to be held in Quetta today (Sunday). According to the provincial president of BAP, Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhotani, important decisions and consultation about the party affairs would be made in the meeting. The meeting of general council of BAP would be held at 03:00 PM at Boy Scouts association, located on Hali road. It is expected that the senior leaders of BAP would be participating in the important meeting.

During a meeting with party workers in Nawabshah, Zardari emphasised his party's unwavering belief in the power of the people and their decisions, asserting that the party would lead an effective election campaign accordingly. The PPP co-chairman pointed out that when the general populace elected their representatives, problems were resolved at the grassroots level. Zardari expressed optimism that his party, which has a history of steering the country out of crises, would return to power due to its outstanding public service.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai and others addressing the concluding ceremony of US-Pakistan University Partnership grant program.

## Any attempt to undermine Pak security to meet with unwavering resistance: PM

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar says any attempt to undermine the country's security will meet with unwavering resistance.

In a tweet on Saturday, he said the valiant Pakistan Air Force has once again proven its mettle by thwarting a cowardly terrorist attack in Mianwali.

The Prime Minister said the nation stands with the armed forces and salutes their courage and resolve.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has directed to encourage participation of minorities in competitive examinations.

Chairing a meeting regarding the appointment of civil officers and special quota in Islamabad Saturday, he said awareness

campaigns should also be conducted in this regard.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said the government is working to provide equal development opportunities to every citizen of the country.

He said the country's constitution and laws assign equal rights and development opportunities to minorities and those belonging to backward areas.

The Prime Minister also directed to form a clear policy for the deployment of competent officers in remote areas of the country including Balochistan.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed to restore the rotation policy of civil officers according to its original spirit and ensure its strict implementation. The meeting was briefed about the recently held Special CSS examination.

## Nine terrorists killed during combing, clearance operation at PAF Airbase Mianwali: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security forces have foiled a terrorist attack on a training air base of Pakistan Air Force in Mianwali.

According to the ISPR, the swift and efficient response of the troops ensured the safety of personnel and assets.

Three terrorists were neutralised while entering the base, while the remaining three terrorists were cornered/isolated due to timely and effective response by the troops.

However, during the attack, some damage to three already grounded aircraft and a fuel bowser also occurred.

A comprehensive joint clearance and combing operation is in the final stages to completely clear the area.

"Alhumdillillah, due to the swift and effective response by the troops, (the

attack) has been foiled and thwarted, ensuring the safety and security of personnel and assets," the press release added.

Demonstrating exceptional courage and timely response, three terrorists were neutralised while entering the base, whereas the remaining three terrorists have been cornered/isolated due to timely and effective response by the troops. However, during the attack, some damage to three already grounded aircraft and a fuel bowser also occurred, the ISPR added. "A comprehensive joint clearance and combing operation is in the final stages to completely clear the area.

Pakistan Armed Forces remain committed to eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country at all costs," the press release maintained.

President Dr Arif Alvi has strongly condemned the attack on the convoy of Pakistan Army in Gwadar.

In a statement, he said terrorists are enemies of Pakistan and efforts will continue for their complete elimination. He said we stand by the armed forces to completely eliminate the scourge of terrorism. He paid tributes to the martyrs. Arif Alvi also denounced the attack on the training air base in Mianwali. He expressed satisfaction on the foiling of the terrorist attack. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar says any attempt to undermine the country's security will meet with unwavering resistance. In a tweet on Saturday, he said the valiant Pakistan Air Force has once again proven its mettle by thwarting a cowardly terrorist attack.

## IMF demands tax collection plan from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded tax collection plan of Rs 6670 billion till June 2024 from Pakistan, reported on Saturday. An IMF review mission reached Pakistan on Wednesday night to review the country's economic performance during the first three months of the current fiscal year—from July to September. The lender has demanded tax collection report of all sectors in its projection report.

The talks for the next installment of \$700 million tranche began on Thursday. Sources said that the IMF team has stressed that "The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) will avoid shortfall in tax collection revenue targets."

The IMF team has also summoned report on Monday from the FBR over progress in tax cases pending in courts, sources said. The FBR has shared details of one million new taxpayers in the tax net with the IMF team. The IMF has demanded details of tax the FBR collecting from each sector. The taxation officials also discussed increasing number of taxpayers to 10 million from 4.9 mln. The IMF has shown no leniency in its revenue collection targets and urged for generating revenues by increasing the number of taxpayers.



FAISALABAD: Pak Army Officials presenting Pakistan flag during funeral prayer of Martyr Soldier of Pak Army at Akbarabad Morr graveyard as 14 soldiers martyred in militants attacks in Gwadar.

## Shehbaz says: Helplessness of world organisations on Gaza massacre is shameful

LAHORE (APP): Former Prime Minister and President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Shehbaz Sharif said on Saturday that the helplessness of international organisations over the massacre in Gaza is shameful.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, he strongly condemned the attack on the office of the International News Agency in Gaza and said that the attack on the media is a criminal attempt to prevent the truth and facts of the massacre of innocent Palestinians from reaching the world. The oppressive and

occupying Zionist state is not only the enemy of Muslims, but also of the truth and dissent, he said.

The PML-N president said that the illegitimate state could not hide its crimes by illegal actions. "If the oppression of the Zionist state is not stopped, the 'Noah's storm' appearing from the blood and tears of the oppressed will sweep away everything." The former premier said that bombing the civilian population, ambulances, schools, hospitals, patients, children and women is cowardice of the highest order.



**KARACHI:** Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar Presides over a joint meeting of Chief Ministers Inspection Team and Anti-Corruption Establishment at CM House.

## Pakistan's Shahzaib bags gold medal in Asian Taekwondo Open C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Shahzaib Khan displayed top-notch performance against Saudi Arabia's Riad Hamdi and won a gold medal on the second day of the Koryuqi event of the 5th Asian Taekwondo Open Championship here at the Pakistan Sports Complex on Saturday.

Six different weight category competitions were held on the day. In the men's -54 kg final, Pakistan's Shahzaib Khan showed a brilliant performance against Saudi Arabia's Riad Hamdi to win the Gold medal.

While Pakistan's Tanzeel Hasnat won the bronze, compatriot Abubakar Siddique got the 4th bronze.

In the men's -63 kg final, Afghanistan's Mohsin Raza won 2-0 against Saudi Arabia's Muhammad Zakariya.

Pakistan's Haroon Khan won the bronze while Pakistan's Nouman Khan won the fourth bronze.

In the men's +87 kg final, Afghanistan's Ali Akber Amiri defeated Pakistan's Hamza Umar Saeed 2-1 after an exciting and thrilling contest.

Egypt's Muhammad Ali won the bronze and Kuwait's Ali Hameed Hassan won the fourth bronze.

In the women's -46 kg category final, Kazakhstan's Nargiza Koishybekova won the gold medal by defeating her compatriot Aidana Yedilbayeva 2-0.

In the women's -53kg final, Iran's Nahid Kiyani won the gold medal by winning 2-0 against her compatriot Mobina Nimatzadeh.

Pakistan's Rafia Abdul Samad won the bronze and Dunia Ali Abutalib of the Saudi Arab won the fourth bronze.

In the women's -67 kg category final, Kazakhstan's Nuray Khussainova won 2-1 against Britain's Erin Shaw, Pakistan's Maleeha Ali won the bronze, while Kazakhstan's Zhadyra Khairullina won the fourth bronze medal.

## 2 new cancer hospitals to be established in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Dr. Jamal Nasir announced on Saturday that two state-of-the-art cancer hospitals were set to open in Lahore within the next two months.

Speaking as the chief guest at the 56th annual convocation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (CPSP), Dr. Nasir revealed that the hospitals were a result of special efforts by Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

One of the hospitals will be established in Manawan area of Lahore, while the other would be situated at the Punjab Kidney and Liver Transplant Institute. These hospitals mark a significant step in improving healthcare facilities in the region, with Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi personally overseeing their development.

In addition to these hospitals, Dr. Jamal Nasir announced the launch of post-graduate classes for doctors at four district headquarters hospitals in Punjab, a first of its kind initiative in Pakistan. These classes will commence in districts Attock, Bhakkar, Mandi Bahauddin, and

## NA Speaker flays terrorist attack on PAF training air base

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has condemned the terrorist attack on a training air base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in Mianwali. The NA Speaker, in a statement issued here on Saturday, paid tribute to the security forces for thwarting the terrorist attack on the PAF training air base.

Jhang, thanks to the support of the CPSP and approval from Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi. Specialist doctor positions will also be increased in Punjab hospitals to further enhance healthcare services.

Dr. Jamal Nasir emphasised collaboration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan, finalising formalities and issuing orders to start post-graduate classes at DHQ hospitals in the aforementioned districts. He also highlighted CPSP's international reach, with regional centers in England, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Nepal, showcasing the organization's global impact.

The CPSP, with its renowned medical education and training, has produced doctors serving not only in Pakistan but also in various foreign countries. The convocation ceremony concluded with the distribution of shields to CPSP officials and the awarding of degrees to graduating students. Distinguished guests, including President of the World Federation of Medical Education Ricardo Leon and President of CPSP Professor Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal.

## CM inspects Defence Mor flyover project

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Ghora Chowk Defence Mor flyover project and reviewed progress on the project, besides inspecting ongoing construction work.

The CM monitored the steel-fixing process on the flyover and talked to labourers. Expressing his satisfaction, he said work on the project was going on day and night and he was happy at pace of work on the project. He said that no compromise should be made on the quality of construction work. Effective traffic management should be ensured during construction work on the project, he added.

The caretaker chief minister said citizens would be provided facilitation and ease in their transportation with the completion of the project. A signal-free corridor would be completed from the Centre Point Gulberg up to Ghora Chowk Defence Mor, he added.

Central Business District (CBD) Chief Executive Officer Imran Amin informed the CM that Ghora Chowk flyover comprised three lanes and the project would cost approximately Rs 1.9 billion.

## Post offices to get NADRA like facilities

ISLAMABAD (INP): NADRA like facilities will be provided at post offices in Islamabad, starting with seven post offices. Citizens will be able to get their identity cards modified, renewed, and reissued for loss at these post offices.

According to media reports, Postmaster General Mustafa Kamal said that the decision was taken in view of the large crowds outside NADRA offices. He added that the facility will be expanded to other cities in the near future.

On the other hand, media reports revealed that a dozen NADRA employees have been accused of issuing fake Pakistani ID cards and passports to hundreds of Iranian citizens. A charge sheet has been received by NADRA headquarters against these employees. Media report revealed that the security of Pakistan was compromised by the issuance of these cards. Hundreds of fake cards were processed in different NADRA centers in Balochistan with the alleged connivance of NADRA employees.

After obtaining Pakistani passports, these Iranian citizens reportedly moved to Saudi Arabia.



**KARACHI:** Pakistani election commission officials carry the election material to be used for by-election union council seats in Provincial Capital.

## Massive earthquake..

*Continued from page 1*

officials said. Rescue work was expected to be slow as emergency teams must first clear roads blocked by landslides in many places, they said, adding that helicopters and small planes have been asked to be ready to join the effort. The quake is the deadliest since 2015 when about 9,000 people were killed in two earthquakes. Whole towns, centuries-old temples and other historic sites were reduced to rubble then, with more than a million houses destroyed, at a cost to the economy of \$6 billion. The death toll included 105 people killed in Jajarkot and 52 in neighbouring Rukum West district, both in Karnali province, Rama Acharya, an official in the disaster department of the federal home (interior) ministry, told Reuters.

Local media footage showed crumbled facades of multi-storied brick houses, with large pieces of furniture scattered. Videos on X showed people running into the street as some buildings were evacuated.

"Houses have collapsed. People rushed out of their homes. I am out in the crowd of terrified residents. We are trying to find details of damage," police official Santosh Rokka said by phone.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has expressed over the loss of life and property caused by earthquake in Nepal. According to details, caretaker PM wrote in a message on social networking website X, our sympathies are with victims of earthquake that occurred in Nepal last night.

Precious lives and property were lost as a result of earthquake. Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said that Pakistan stands with Nepal in this difficult time. Pakistan is ready to provide all possible help to Nepal.

## Sugarcane price surged before crushing season

ISLAMABAD (INP): The sugarcane price has surged before the crushing season and the sugar rate is also likely to go up in the new season after the raise in sugarcane price.

Sources said that the food department is considering to increase the price of sugarcane by Rs125 to Rs150 per maund.

Sources said that Cane Commissioner's office proposes new price of sugarcane at Rs425 to Rs450. Agriculture department's proposal to raise sugarcane price to Rs 440 per maund, sources said. The current price of sugarcane is Rs 300 per maund and it is expected that the production cost of sugarcane is likely to increase in new season.

## Pak-Afghan Red Crescent Societies delegation visits China

BEIJING (APP): A delegation of twenty members from the Red Crescent Societies of Pakistan and Afghanistan visited Hainan, China for training programs. The delegation engaged in fruitful discussions and exchanges with the Red Cross Societies of Hainan Province, focusing on topics related to disaster management and humanitarian aid. During the visit to Haikou City, the delegation members and local Red Cross Society held in-depth discussions on disaster preparedness and response at the local branch level, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

They also conducted field visits in Sanya City to observe emergency medical training, community disaster prevention and mitigation campaigns, disaster preparedness projects, and the storage and management of disaster relief materials. "This visit can serve as a link between us and our peers from Pakistan and Afghanistan. We will strengthen cooperation and exchange in the field of humanitarian aid and assistance in the future," said the head of the Sanya City Red Cross Rescue Team. At the conclusion of the visit, the delegation conveyed their admiration for the collaborative and effective work carried out by various departments.

## Mirpur police moving to Interpol to arrest Britain-based accused Israr Sikander

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Mirpur police have arrested the principal accused in the murder of Waqar Altaf, a renowned lawyer in Dadayal town of Mirpur district, and are seeking Interpol's help to nab the accused's brother, Israr Sikander, who is based in the United Kingdom.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police Raja Irfan Saleem, the accused, Umer Farooq, had gunned down Waqar Altaf on September 10, 2022, at the behest of Israr Sikander. Farooq had broken into

## Mirpur police moving to Interpol to arrest Britain-based accused Israr Sikander

Waqar Altaf's house, along with an armed accomplice, posing as policemen.

The SSP said that Mirpur police had succeeded in arresting three other accused involved in the murder within a week of the crime. However, Farooq had escaped and was declared a proclaimed offender.

On October 31, 2023, Farooq allegedly dispatched three armed men to attack the house of Waqar Altaf's widow in Dadayal. The attackers sprayed a volley of Kalashnikov bullets at the house, creating terror and harassment.

The police immediately registered a case under the Prevention of Terrorism Act against the absconding accused. They cordoned off the entire Dadayal sub-division and succeeded in arresting all three accused at the Dhan Galli police checkpoint at the AJK-Pakistan entry-exit point.

On interrogation, the three accused identified Farooq as the person who had sent them to attack the widow's house.

## Fakhar Zaman scores fastest century in WC history for Pak Pak beat New Zealand by 21 runs in rain-hit Cricket World Cup clash

BENGALURU (Online): In the ICC World Cup Thanks to Fakhar Zaman's brilliant century, Pakistan defeated New Zealand by 21 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis method in a rain-affected match.

Having achieved the fourth victory in the World Cup, the chances of reaching the semi-finals have brightened.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam won the toss and elected to bat first in the 35th match of the World Cup played at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in

Bengaluru. Kiwi opener Dion Conway and Richan Ravindra got off to a positive start, initially playing cautiously. Fast bowler Hasan Ali bowled Dion Conway for an individual score of 35. Along with this, he also completed his 100 wickets in ODIs.

Kiwi captain Kane Williamson then joined Richan Ravindra and finished off the Pakistani bowling in the next 24 overs.

Richan Ravindra did not miss another opportunity to make this World Cup memorable by scoring

his third century of the event and adding 180 runs for the second wicket with Williamson.

National team opener Fakhar Zaman made the record of making the fastest century in the history of World Cup by Pakistan.

According to the details, Fakhar Zaman managed to score a century in just 63 balls.

Fakhar Zaman's 63-ball century not only set a new record for Pakistan but also broke Imran Nazir's previous record.

Imran Nazir scored a

95-ball century against Zimbabwe in Kingston in 2007. Fakhr Zaman's brilliant innings included 9 sixes and 7 fours. The partnership ended when New Zealand captain Kane Williamson succumbed to a nervous nineties and returned to the pavilion after a 79-ball 95, studded with 2 sixes and 10 fours.

The Ravindra could not bear to part with captain from the second end and after playing a good innings of 108 runs, he gave the wicket to Muhammad Wasim.



**KARACHI:** Commander Karachi, Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem awarding shield to winning team of Pakistan Naval Academy at the Closing ceremony of 4th PN International Nautical Competition (INC) 2023.

## Kia announces significant price reductions on vehicles

ISLAMABAD (INP): The renowned car manufacturer Kia has once again announced a substantial reduction in the prices of its vehicles in response to the recent depreciation of the dollar against the Pakistani currency.

Kia had already implemented price reductions on its vehicles last month, resulting in an enthusiastic response from their customer base. The latest round of price cuts primarily affects the Kia Sorento and Carnival models, making these vehicles more accessible to the Pakistani market.

The Kia Carnival, which previously carried a price tag of Rs17.15 million has now been reduced to Rs16 million. This impressive reduction of approximately Rs1.15 million has made the Carnival an even more attractive choice for car buyers. Moreover, the Sorento series has also seen substantial price adjustments.

## Sadia's career-best figures, Nida's all-round heroics lead Pak to win over BD

DHAKA (INP): Spinners Nida Dar, Sadia Iqbal and Umm-e-Hani shared 10 wickets among them as Pakistan women beat Bangladesh women by five wickets in the first ODI at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Saturday.

Today's victory marked Pakistan women's seventh win in the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 from 13 matches. Wicketkeeper-batter Najha Alvi made her ODI debut today, becoming the 91st women cricketer to represent Pakistan.

The second ODI of the three-match series will be played at the same venue on 7 November.

After opting to bat first, Bangladesh struggled early on as right-arm fast Diana Baig kept the Bangladesh batters in check from one end, while left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal clinched the first four wickets to fall from the other end, leaving the hosts reeling at 25 for four in 13.3 overs.

At that stage, captain Nigar Sultana and Fahima Khatun (18, 37b, 1x4) got together and added 22 runs for the fifth wicket. Nigar was the next batter to return back to the hut as op-

posing captain Nida bowled her out in the 21st over for a 32-ball 13. Nida, with her off-spin bowling went on to pick another two wickets, finishing with figures of three for 10 in six overs. Nida is now three wickets shy of her 100 ODI wickets.

Fellow off-spinner Umm-e-Hani, grabbed three wickets for 20 in 5.5 overs. Sadia, who recorded her best ODI figures in today's match, ended up with match figures of 9-2-13-4.

The hosts were bundled out for 81 in 31.5 overs. This was Bangladesh's lowest ODI total against Pakistan and their fifth overall in One-Day Internationals.

Chasing a modest 82-run target to win, Pakistan lost four wickets for 42 runs in 14 overs before Nida was joined by Aliya Riaz and the experienced pair knitted a 28-run partnership, taking them within touching distance of victory.

Nida remained undefeated on 35 off 59 deliveries with the help of three boundaries, playing a captain's innings to ace a tricky chase. She was declared player of the match for her splendid all-round display in the match.

## 160,638 illegal foreigners deported to Afghanistan

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Interior Department released data on the evacuation of foreigners until November 3, and the process of returning illegally residing foreigners to the Turkham border is going on.

According to details shared by the Interior Department KP, a total of 160,638 illegal foreigners have gone to Afghanistan, with as many as 1089 families returning till November 3, including 3675 men, 3307 women, and 5558 children.

Along with those who left voluntarily, 178 foreign deportees were also included, and 88 foreigners have been deported from Punjab while 67 people have been deported from Peshawar, the officials of the Interior Department, KP said.

A total of 12689 people have returned to Afghanistan through the Turkham border, and from September 17 to November 3, 9737 foreign families were able to return from the Turkham border, including 44718 men, 33699 women, and 82221 children, the official of the Interior Department, KP, said.

## QWP for strategy to tackle worsening law and order situation

PESHAWAR (APP): Quami Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday condemned the terrorist attack on the Mianwali airbase and said the federal and provincial governments should sit together to come up with a strategy to tackle the worsening law and order situation and to curb terrorist incidents.

Addressing a gathering at Kangra union council in Shabqadar tehsil in Charsadda, he said terrorism was again rearing its ugly head therefore prompt and timely action should be taken to nip this evil in the bud.

Expressing concern over the fresh wave of terrorism across the country, he condemned the attacks on the police and army soldiers in Dera Ismail Khan and Gwadar respectively.

On this occasion Mian Usman Shah announced joining the QWP along with his family and supporters.

Welcoming the announcement of the date for the next general election, he said that government should create an environment conducive to the holding of the election.

"The announcement of the election date has ended the uncertainty surrounding the polls," he remarked.

"Our party had suggested at the time of making the 18th Amendment to do away with the caretaker setup," adding that under the original 1973 Constitution, there was no concept of installing the caretaker setup. He said that the ECP should be strengthened to conduct the polls.

Aftab Sherpao said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) ruled Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for straight nine years, but left the province in dire financial straits.



**ISLAMABAD:** Female players of Taekwondo from Pakistan and Kazakhstan are competing each others during 5th Asian Open Taekwondo Championship 2023 at Sports Complex in Federal Capital.

## Peace will elude South Asia without resolving Kashmir dispute: Munir

ISLAMABAD (APP): With challenges to world peace and security multiplying, the United Nations needs to work out modalities to deal with those threats, facilitating resolution of conflicts, including Kashmir, and easing tensions by building consensus, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram has said.

Despite the United Nations' inadequacies and failures, especially in resolving the conflicts involving the right to self-determination, he told a delegation of US Army War College that a push for the implementation of UN Charter's principles "in letter and spirit" could help stabilize the world order, secure peace and stability and fight the shared economic and development challenges.

Pakistan, he added, remains committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

The delegation, composed of US officers and from other nations, visited

the Permanent Mission of Pakistan on Friday in connection with their study tour.

Speaking to the delegates, Ambassador Akram said that the UN's vital role as a facilitator of dialogue, engagement and coordinated global action against threats such as Covid-19 pandemic was often overlooked. He said that different UN agencies, such as World Trade Organization, World Health Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization, were doing good work to make the world a better place for all.

The ambassador also praised the UN Secretary-General's proposed 'Our Common Agenda' designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral agreements — particularly the 2030 Agenda — and make a tangible difference in people's lives. "This initiative will help the UN system adjust to the new, complex realities of contemporary times," he added.

Ambassador Akram gave an overview of the

Kashmir dispute and said that India was keeping the people of the internationally recognized disputed territory deprived of their fundamental right to self-determination. He also slammed the illegal and immoral actions India had taken after August 5, 2019, to unilaterally alter the status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Durable peace in South Asia will continue to be elusive as long as the Jammu and Kashmir issue is not resolved in line with the UN resolutions and the aspirations of Kashmiris," he added.

Ambassador Akram said that the peacekeeping missions were central to the UN system, saying Pakistan was among the largest troop-contributing countries, having provided about 230,000 troops since 1960. Pakistan, he said, was working closely with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to propose additional measures to make the UN's flagship activity more robust and effective.



ISLAMABAD: Famous Poet Iftikhar Hussain Arif is talking about the collection of the unpublished poems on the 2nd day of the 9th Islamabad Literature Festival at Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park in Federal Capital.

## Mushaal appeals world to save Yasin Malik's life

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mallick has appealed to the world to protect the life of her incarcerated husband Yasin Malik, who was facing real threats in notorious Tihar jail because he was not ready to budge an inch from his principled stance of the Kashmiris right to self-determination.

Speaking at a seminar on HR situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in Oslo, Mushaal said: "We are the worst victims of

human rights violation, as we are divided family peacefully struggling for the right to self-determination of IIOJK.

The seminar was co-hosted by Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Standing Committee Member Dag-Inge Ulestein and President Foundation Dialogue for Peace Aamir Javed Sheikh, according to a press release received here on Saturday.

"We just spent one birth day together back 2014 and during 14-year-long marriage life, we just spent 60 days together. I spoke to my husband last time back in February 2019,

thereby my life is just like a movie," she added.

Speaking as a chief guest at the event, the SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment said that Yasin Malik was one of the most powerful voice of Kashmir freedom movement at present; hence the notorious Narendra Modi-led government kept in unlawful detained by falsely implicating him in fabricated and politically motivated case to break his resolve.

She revealed that Yasin Malik was not only deprived him of his legal and fundamental rights of free trials.

## Media urged to utilize social media for promotion of Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD (APP): Founding President of World Kashmir Freedom Movement (WKFM) and Chairman of Kashmir Campaign, Nazir Ahmed Qureshi here on Saturday highlighted the importance of utilizing social media platforms to promote the Kashmir cause and expose Indian state terrorism in the occupied state.

Talking to a delegation of the Occupied Kashmir Journalists Association (OKJA), Qureshi said that media could play an important role in the freedom of Kashmir and urged Kashmiri journalists to do

their best for their cause of freedom, said a press release issued here.

He said, journalists could utilize social media platforms in a better manner to expose India at a global level and highlight the gross human rights violations it has been committing for decades now.

The WKFM President paid glowing tributes to November 6 Jammu martyrs, who had laid down their lives back in November 1947. He also paid rich tribute to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the future of Kashmir.

## Motorway M-4 closed due to dense fog

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Motorway M-4, Sector-1, Beat-18, has been closed to all kinds of traffic due to dense fog prevailing at locations 222 to 182.

According to public relations office, the diversions have been placed at 180 NB (Gogra interchange) and 238 SB (Faisalabad interchange). All precautionary measures have been adopted and the travel advisory has been updated accordingly. Motorists are advised to avoid traveling on Motorway M-4, Sector-1, Beat-18 until the fog clears. They can take alternate routes such as the National Highway N-5.



ISLAMABAD: A view of Islamabad Police stall during 2nd day of the 9th Islamabad Literature Festival at Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park.

## WFME appreciates PMDC's efforts to meet Int'l standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): President World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Prof. Ricardo León-Bórquez has appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) to mark international standards.

The President WFME said this while talking to Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan and PMDC President Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj here Saturday. He was pleased to learn about the system in practice by the PMDC and the medical profession.

During the meeting, they discussed several aspects of medical education including standards, availability of all required faculty, high quality sources of medical teaching facilities and the equipments for undergraduate students.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that in the light of swift and prompt response from Pakistan regarding WFME recognition, the PMDC had indeed timely fulfilled all the requirements. "We are hopeful for further achievements ahead."

He added that PMDC had gained a comprehensive overview of various colleges and institutions and was focusing on new trends in medical education and the importance of providing quality education to medical students. He added, "We are confident that, with the right strategies and guidance of WFME, we can achieve great things in the field of medical education in Pakistan."

He apprised that keeping in mind the increasing number of female staff, it had been directed that daycare facilities should be available in every office to ensure a good working atmosphere for female medical professionals.

This will not only enhance their productivity but also improve their overall well-being. We are also dedicated to further improve the patient doctor relationship, he expressed.

President PMDC Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj said that the WFME recognition of the PMDC and its accreditation programme would enable all graduates of colleges licensed by the PMDC to have the ability to train and work in the USA and internationally without any restriction.

He added that the WFME was a well-recognized international organization that was dedicated to enhancing the quality of medical education across the world.

Ultimately, our focus should remain on providing proper and good care for our patients, he added.

He said, "By ensuring that our medical professionals are well-trained and equipped with the necessary skills, we can deliver high-quality healthcare services to our patients."

He added that in pursuit of goals, the PMDC required some direction and long-term relationship with global organizations such as the World Federation for Medical Education. Their guidance and support would immensely contribute to improving medical education standards in our country, he added.

## Asad to be handed over to anti corruption department Swabi

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader and former speaker National Assembly (NA) Asad Qaisar will be handed over to Anti Corruption department district Swabi.

Copy of FIR lodged against Asad Qaisar in anti corruption has come to fore.

Asad Qaisar and 4 officers of health department are charged with committing embezzlement in Gajju Khan medical college.

FIR has been lodged on the report of Hidayat Shah former investigation officer of anti corruption department.

Three clauses including 406 PPC are included in FIR.

## Sanjrani grieved over loss of lives, property in Nepal quake

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives and property damages in Nepal earthquake. In a statement on Saturday, he expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families, stating that he stands with the people of Nepal in the hour of difficulty. Sanjrani further said that the people of Pakistan and the government shared grief with the families of the deceased and the injured.

The chairman Senate prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured in the earthquake.



ISLAMABAD: Foreigners are enjoying at the Baluchistan Pavilion during the 10 days annual Lok Mela at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.

## Nazir Qureshi says: Key role of Kashmiri leaders in exile, diaspora, base camp in Kashmir freedom movement

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior leader of the Kashmiri Freedom Movement from London, Nazir Ahmad Qureshi has said that Kashmiri leaders in exile, diaspora and base camp have key role post 5th August 2019, since abrogation of article 370, for Kashmir freedom movement.

Nazir Qureshi expressed these views during dinner hosted in his honour by Kashmiri political and social leader Altaf Ahmed Bhat.

Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference Mahmood Ahmed Sagar,

Kashmiri leaders Tanveer ul Islam, Altaf Hussain Wani, Muhammad Hussain Khatib, Ijaz Rahmani, Malik Hassan, Abdul Mateen, Professor Yaqoob Wani, Khurshid Mir, Sanaullah Dar, Rasheed Qureshi and Malik Aslam also participated.

During the occasion, discussions were held concerning the current situations in Kashmir and Palestine, with attendees expressing their deep concerns over the ongoing challenges faced by these regions. The exchange of ideas and perspectives high-

lighted the pressing need for global attention and support to address the issues at hand.

Convener APHC Mahmood Ahmed Sagar appreciated Altaf Ahmed Bhat for this exclusive and important gathering held in honor of Nazir Ahmed Qureshi at Bhat's residence.

He also commended the dedication and commitment of Nazir Ahmed Qureshi, and said that through APHC Platform Kashmiri freedom movement will be stronger and garner support throughout the world.

## Non Shariah nikkah case: Court orders respondents to give arguments at a time

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad district court has ordered the respondents to give arguments simultaneously during the hearing of Non Shariah nikkah case against chairman PTI and Bushra Bibi.

The court adjourned hearing of the case till November 13.

Civil judge Qudratullah of local court of Islamabad took up case of Non Shariah Nikkah case for hearing Saturday.

Junior lawyer of Sher Afzal Marwat, counsel for chairman PTI and his wife

Bushra Bibi appeared in the court.

Special prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi raised objection over absence of Sher Afzal Marwat.

The junior lawyer of PTI told Sher Afzal Marwat is outside the country who will appear on next hearing.

The junior lawyer requested the court to adjourn the hearing without proceedings. The court while accepting their plea adjourned the hearing of non-shariah nikkah case till November 13.

## IRSA releases 108,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 108,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 52,100 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1521.19 feet and was 123.19 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 27,700 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1199.60 feet, which was 149.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

## Lok Mela's cultural legacies pull big crowds

ISLAMABAD (APP): Carrying the legacies of the folk culture of Pakistan for 43 years, the annual Lok Mela pulled huge crowds of people, including families, youth, and content creators, here late Friday Lok Versa on its first day.

The stall of Palestine was set up at the entrance of all cultural pavilions, where enthusiasts gathered and chanted slogans of Free Palestine, holding Palestinian flags in their hands and wearing the colours of the Palestine flag.

"It is after a long time that I witnessed such a rush of people on this festival on the first day, and it seems that this will be a most successful event for the Federal Minister for Culture and Heritage, Jamal Shah, who called people from all walks of life to this festival and dedicated this event to the people of Palestine," said Director General, Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Muhammad Ayub Jamali, talking to APP.

Lok Versa's newly appointed Executive Director, Uzair Khan, who also holds experience in theater, said that the management of Lok Versa and the Heritage Division planned this festival to provide recreational activities and cultural glimpses of Pakistan to

people of different ages and fields and invited maximum tiktokers, YouTubers, and social media experts to highlight Pakistan's true soft image through the artistic expressions.

Jamal Shah, the Minister for National Heritage and Culture, said when there was no extremism, people used to enjoy such traditional 'Melas' in their areas, bringing together their cultural attire, traditional foods, and folk art from the past, while this culture faded with time and needs to be revived to engage people in healthy activities. "This annual mela is meant to keep our heritage, values, and traditions alive, and it can only be possible if more people visit it and promote the cultural legacies of Pakistan," he said about the festival.

Saira Peter, the first Sufi opera singer in Pakistan, gave a mesmerizing performance at the opening ceremony. She told APP that she came from the UK to perform at this festival for the people of Pakistan to give them a unique experience among other folk performances and celebrate the diversity of Pakistan's musical heritage.

Those artisans, sitting on stalls, prepared much trendy and in-demand work for the people.



ISLAMABAD: Palestinian artists performing traditional dance at the opening ceremony of Annual Ten-Day Folk Festival Lok Mela at Lok Versa.

## Kashmiris to observe Jammu Martyrs' Day on Monday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the world will observe the Jammu Martyrs' Day on November 6 (Monday) to reiterate the resolve to continue the mission of their martyrs till they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination.

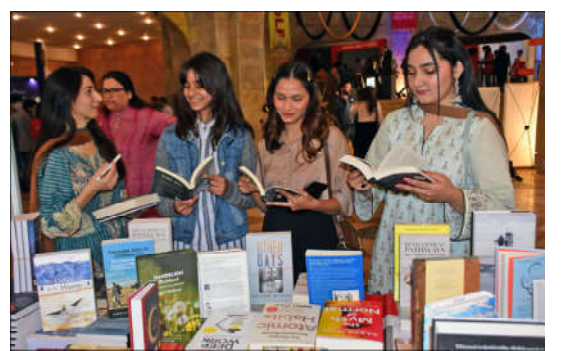
According to Kashmir Media Service, hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris were martyred by the forces of Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh, Indian Army and Hindu fanatics in different parts of Jammu region while they were migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November in 1947. Every year, Kashmiris mark November 06 as the Jammu Martyrs' Day to pay tribute to the victims of the Jammu massacre.

The day will be marked by anti-India demonstrations, seminars and symposiums in Azad Jammu and Kashmir as well

as in various parts of Pakistan and major cities of the world to pay rich tribute to the Jammu martyrs.

Special prayer meetings will be held under the auspices of various social, political, religious and other organizations to pay homage to the Kashmiri martyrs. The day will dawn with special prayers at Fajr in all mosques for the early liberation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir from the Indian yoke and the progress, prosperity and stability of Pakistan and AJK.

Meanwhile, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders have paid glowing tributes to the Jammu martyrs. They said on the Jammu Martyrs' Day, the Kashmiri people will renew their pledge to continue the freedom struggle. They said the Kashmiris have been rendering sacrifices for a sacred cause for the last several decades and the day is not far when they will achieve their cherished goal.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking interest in the books on stall on the 2nd day of the 9th Islamabad Literature Festival at Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park.

## Chronic skin diseases can raise heart disease risk

ISLAMABAD (APP): Patients with psoriasis, a chronic systemic immune-mediated inflammatory disease, could be at higher risk for cardiovascular disease, a new study has found.

While psoriasis affects 1-3 percent of the global population, cardiovascular diseases like heart attack and stroke are the leading cause of death globally.

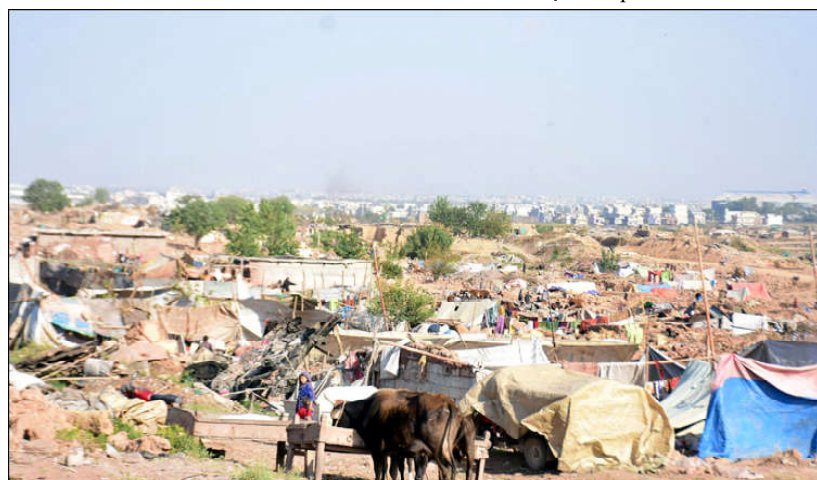
Researchers from the University of Padova in Italy conducted a study on 503 psoriasis patients without clinical cardiovascular disease, who underwent transthoracic doppler echocardiography to evaluate coronary microcirculation, Medical Daily reported. They found a high prevalence of coronary microvascular dysfunction in more than 30 percent of asymptomatic patients.

"Previous studies have shown that patients with severe psoriasis have

an increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. However, there has been limited research on the specific mechanisms underlying this increased risk, particularly regarding coronary microvascular dysfunction," said lead investigator of the study, Stefano Piaserico, Dermatology Unit, Department of Medicine, at the university.

The results have been published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.

The study also revealed that psoriasis severity, assessed by the Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI) score and the duration of the disease are independently associated with lower coronary flow reserve (CFR), along with the presence of psoriatic arthritis. Furthermore, conventional cardiovascular risk factors, such as tobacco use, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes mellitus,



ISLAMABAD: A view of the tent houses of homeless people at the destructive site of the illegal afghan basti in the Sector 1-11 of the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Sunday November 05, 2023

**Climate funding**

Pakistan is in need of a staggering \$340bn over the next seven years to tackle climate change and development challenges. This grim revelation came during an address by caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar at the second Pakistan Climate Conference. Dr Akhtar laid bare a critical conundrum — an intricate trade-off between raising climate finance and propelling development. The sum is equivalent to 10pc of Pakistan's cumulative GDP during the same period. This is despite our relatively modest contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions (less than 1pc). At the heart of Pakistan's climate aspirations are its commitments under the Paris Agreement, embodied in its Nationally Determined Contributions. These commitments are accompanied by an imposing price tag, with estimates soaring to nearly \$200bn by 2030. However, the current financial landscape falls significantly short of these requirements, with a mere \$39bn designated from public finance and an additional \$9bn from public-private partnerships earmarked over the next 10 years. Bridging this substantial financial gap is imperative to fulfil Pakistan's climate obligations.

To navigate this financial challenge, Pakistan has embarked on green finance initiatives, including the issuance of dollar-denominated green Eurobonds by Wapda. However, concerns over the high cost of international bond issuance and issues with the sovereign, have prompted a strategic shift. Dr Akhtar has championed an alternative route, favouring the Pakistan Stock Exchange as the platform for raising the necessary funds. Legal amendments have already paved the way, with government securities and diverse financial instruments, including Islamic and green finance, poised to take centre stage. Notably, an upcoming Sukuk issue will bear a 'green element', further aligning financial objectives with environmental goals. As Pakistan prepares for the forthcoming COP28 in the UAE, the nation is poised not only to emphasise the urgency of climate action but also to demand the realisation of the \$100bn annual climate pledge. This commitment carries immense importance in Pakistan's pursuit of sustainable development. Additionally, Pakistan will vigorously advocate for the establishment of a 'loss and damage' fund. This call recognises the unique climate challenges the country confronts — from the ominous spectre of glacial melting and frequent natural disasters to the relentless onslaught of heatwaves and the encroaching menace of sea-level rise.

Dr Akhtar's sobering assessment calls for innovative solutions, unwavering international cooperation, and an indomitable commitment to securing the funds necessary to confront climate and development challenges in unison. In the words of UN Secretary General António Guterres, "As the glaciers retreat, we cannot. We must move forward with climate action". The world must heed this urgent call, recognising that the challenges facing Pakistan are not isolated but emblematic of the shared responsibility to combat climate change and foster a sustainable future for all.

**Ashraf Jehangir Qazi**

The Jabalia Camp massacre changes everything. We are dealing with a criminally insane entity called Israel backed by a criminally hypocritical superpower. Some people ask whether the genocide in Gaza is unique and unprecedented or par for the course of human history. Others feel the question diminishes the evil perpetrated against the Palestinians which we witness unbearably and helplessly every day.

What will we do? That is the question we must insistently ask as we look at ourselves and at each other. There are always things that can be done. So, can we live in self-contempt by accepting we can do nothing? We may be poor and weak, and we have to survive. But we are answerable to Allah. Otherwise, we are less than

human.

'Chutzpah' is a Yiddish word meaning audacity or unmitigated nerve like when a man murders his own parents and asks the court to have mercy on an orphan! The most evil version is when victims resisting systematic genocide, planned over a century, and implemented over half a century, are themselves accused of genocide, and mercilessly subjected to it.

This is a product of settler colonialism. In the case of the US and Israel, it has involved the effective elimination of the native population, the enslavement of kidnapped and transported populations, perpetual war at home and abroad, the establishment of a garrison state on faraway land stolen from its inhabitants in pursuit of global hegemony, the construction of national narratives inventing and inverting history, and elevating predator corporate capitalism into a national and civilisational ideology that has taken organised human existence to the brink of extinction, ie, mega-genocide.

Noam Chomsky says in 1948 the "Jewish State of Israel" was founded excluding more than half its

original population, who were Palestinians, from citizenship in a state forcibly established on their homeland. Regarding the Law of Return of Israel, he sarcastically observes that he can claim Israel as his state although he is a citizen of the US, not Israel. Israel defines itself as a racist state.

The Israeli scholar, Ilan Pappé, notes that ever since 1967 the Palestinians of Gaza have faced "occupation, colonisation, ethnic cleansing, imprisonment in a concentration camp, ghettoisation", and the Israeli contrived ideology of "revenge as a strategy" which is "solidarity translated into genocide" that Western countries accept and support, while pretending not to.

The Palestinians of the West Bank suffered a 'Nakba' (catastrophe) in 1948 in which, according to Pappé, half the Palestinian population were expelled in 25 military operations of 'Plan Dalet' by Haganah, the Zionist terrorist organisation which was the forerunner of today's Israeli military, well before the 1948 war began. Within six months, 531 Palestinian villages and 11 Palestinian ur-

ban neighbourhoods were destroyed — an outright crime against humanity.

Israeli policy has graduated to incremental and now accelerated genocide. Ever since Hamas won the elections in Gaza in 2006, Israel fully supported by the US, has implemented a 'leave or die' policy through regular murderous invasions, daily assaults, and a near starvation siege. It is now implementing an even greater Nakba on the Palestinians of Gaza. Distinguishing between Hamas and the Gazans under siege is as false as it is futile.

Norman Finkelstein compares the Hamas attack with the US slave revolts of the 18th and 19th centuries and, accordingly, refuses to condemn the actions of a people deliberately "driven mad" by never-ending and indescribable suffering, trauma and hopelessness.

In 1970, Bertrand Russell spoke about Israel in words that apply to Gaza today: "The latest phase of the undeclared war in the Middle East is based upon a profound miscalculation. The bombing raids deep into Egyptian territory [the Gaza Strip] will not persuade the civilian popula-

tion to surrender, but will stiffen their resolve to resist.

The Vietnamese who have endured years of heavy American bombing have responded not by capitulation but by shooting down more enemy aircraft.

In 1940 my own fellow countrymen resisted Hitler's bombing raids with unprecedented unity and determination. For this reason, the present Israeli raids will fail in their essential purpose, but at the same time they must be condemned vigorously throughout the world."

No wonder, the UN secretary general, observed "the Hamas attacks did not happen in a vacuum". Israel called for his resignation. The US cynically understands and sympathises with Israel's demand. It equates protests against Israeli acts of genocide with anti-Semitism! To his credit, Guterres reiterated his remarks. He will have to do more — much more — to set an example for the world. A senior lawyer of the UN Human Rights Commission resigned describing Israel's actions as a "text-book case of genocide". And now Israel is "wiping out" Jabalia! Why

not? The US veto ensures it against any accountability.

But outrage alone delivers nothing except further frustration. Many scholars and experts have articulated the prerequisites for outrage to be translated into empowering policies and successful outcomes. However, ruling elites fear and oppose such empowerment and outcomes.

Pakistan and the world are at a critical crossroads. The great powers are involved in a global zero-sum game instead of coming together to save human civilisation from imminent extinction, possibly within the current century. Countries like Pakistan have to make a choice. Michael Kugelman, a sympathetic American scholar, warns Pakistan that on Gaza it "risks upsetting" the US at a time of vulnerability. Indeed, Pakistan has to make a critical choice. But never in favour of indefensible US policy. Unfortunately, Pakistan's 'responsible classes' find it smarter to be comfortably irresponsible. They are willing to do the right thing provided it costs them nothing. Such 'chutzpah' will cost us everything. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Within an electoral cycle****Dr Khaqan Hassan Najeeb**

Dear friends, in the year 2029, as we reflect on the past five years, it is highly satisfying to note how much has been possible within an electoral cycle.

We were well aware of the complex economic challenges we faced back in 2024. Short-term issues of debt and non-debt creating external inflows cast a dark shadow. Perennial high fiscal and quasi-fiscal deficits with sticky inflation, and long-term structural deficiencies mired the economy.

Deeper symptoms of weak productivity, declining investments, and over-regulation constrained the economy's true potential. A slow pace of divestment to address inefficiencies in State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) had led to permanent bleeding of fiscal resources. A sluggish pace of

reform was at the heart of all our follies. Understandably, 240 million Pakistanis and many pundits were less hopeful of a worthwhile recovery.

Pakistan needed a meaningful reform agenda that could materially alter the way the economy had gotten wired. Administrative measures in 2023 provided some tailwind for this effort. Border controls were improved, domestic hoarding was curbed, illegal FX market was tamed, and repair of Afghan Transit Trade somewhat controlled the informal market. The government pushed ahead with a prudent set of macroeconomic policy measures supported by a new Extended Fund Facility signed with the IMF in 2024. These efforts permeated macro stabilization as the economy moved through FY2025.

Emphasis was placed on pro-market economic policies and a market-based exchange rate regime. Policies of constraining expenditures, reducing the budget deficit for FY25 compared to the previous year, and pass-through of cost of service on the energy side were pursued. Inflation eased in FY25 with im-

proved domestic supplies, a high base effect, and moderate non-energy global commodity prices. A moderate current account deficit helped the country's reserves reach a more comfortable level. Adjustments in the economy continued till FY27.

We had learned from decades of experience that macroeconomic stabilization and fiscal adjustment alone would not be enough. We needed to complement the adjustment process with policy and structural reforms to induce a new aspect of dynamism to growth processes in the country. The core focus of reform was on ensuring external sector sustainability, putting public finances on a sound footing, improving agriculture and industrial efficiency, and creating export competitiveness. This work ensured that the economy didn't yet again fall into a balance of payments (BOP) crisis with an acceleration in growth.

Pakistan's debt reprofiling in early FY25 signalled to the world that external payments were now manageable. Debt reprofiling transactions modified the schedule of sovereign debt repayments

to a later date without making any changes to interest payments. This was a necessary exercise with our bilateral and commercial partners. It included both public and IPP debts.

Improved debt sustainability and the gradual removal of external sector constraints paved the way for Pakistan's access to non-debt-creating instruments. Foreign Portfolio Investment and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) were drawn in brownfield projects as well as in the agriculture, information technology, petroleum and mines and mineral sectors.

Divestment of SOEs has been a hallmark of our structural agenda. It is great to see PIA flying in the private sector with many new aircraft, additional routes and expanded human resources. Divestment of two R.LNG power plants, Guddu and Nandipur, management contracting of DISCOs' retail business, and a number of stock market offerings put Pakistan on the map as a serious investment destination. Pakistan has finally settled its dispute with Etisalat of the \$800 million pending payment. Work on divestment of Sui companies, HBFC,

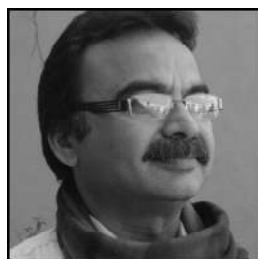
and the Utility Stores Corporation is in the advanced stages.

We have pursued a policy of zero leniencies for SOEs to work in a competitive environment, maximizing shareholders' (the people of Pakistan) returns. We have gone much beyond the mantra of a better board of directors. We ensured that our relationship with SOEs was as commercial as possible with limited or no interference from line ministries. The country has moved beyond Reko Diq, with foreign and local interest in new mining projects. The creation of one-window facilitation has helped push investment; the harmonization of the investment regime complemented it. FDI has averaged \$5 billion over five years — Alhamdulillah.

The government of two mindful of its high fiscal deficits were reflected in an increase in inflationary pressure and a widening BOP deficit. As a responsible government, we undertook public-sector reengineering before asking for new monies through taxation reforms. We pushed credible reforms, better integrated with annual budgets, and anchored on spending targets.

Policy makers were well aware of channeling resources into productive and tradable sectors. Decentralization of monies in three unproductive sectors — real estate, gold, and dollarization — has been undertaken, along with some deepening of the stock market. However, we are far from solving the issues of a narrow manufacturing-cum-export base of the country, integration of our SMEs to the world, removing frictions, and market-shaping reforms through our regulatory agencies.

A structurally leaning agenda has sailed us to a point where growth in FY28 and FY29 has averaged at 6.0 per cent. This has not been a debt-funded or easy money recovery through fiscal largesse — but more endogenous in nature — and thus likely to be more sustainable. The work so far should lift the spirits of Pakistanis. Reasonable price stability has helped them with some control over their household budget. A growing economy has helped them find decent employment. May Allah help us touch every citizen's life in a positive manner (Ameen). -- Courtesy TheNews

**Backdoor delimitation****Tahir Mehdi**

General election 2013 was held in constituencies demarcated in 2002. For the 2018 elections, boundaries were defined afresh on the basis of Census 2017's provisional results. With a new census in 2023, the ECP is again redrawing constituencies for the 2024 polls. So we will have three consecutive general elections held in three differently demarcated constituencies.

This frequent moving of goal posts is problematic. Combine it with the delimitation methodology binding constituency limits with district boundaries and it becomes a board game where a right move can checkmate your opponent way before Election Day. The move is called the creation of a new district.

Lasbela district, Balochistan, illustrates how this works. Lasbela has had two provincial seats since 1977 and one national seat shared at times with Gwadar. The area is a stronghold of the Jam family, which has won one national and one provincial seat from here many times. But its other provincial constituency that is adjacent to Karachi and includes the rich industrial areas of Hub, Gaddani and Sonmiani is the Bhootani family's formidable fort. Saleh Bhootani won here in all elections held from 1977 to 2018, except 2002 and 2008 when his brother won.

Jam Kamal had won the Lasbela national seat in 2013 and also challenged the Bhootanis in their provincial constituency but failed. Jam served as federal min-

ister in the 2013-18 PML-N government. The 2018 delimitations divided the district into two provincial constituencies again but moved Sonmiani tehsil from the Bhootani constituency (PB 49) to the Jam constituency (PB 50).

The Bhootanis didn't like this and retorted in 2018 by not only retaining their traditional seat but also defeating the Jams on the national seat for the first time. Jam Kamal was reduced to his old provincial constituency, but being head of the Balochistan Awami Party, he became chief minister.

The Bhootanis waited, and as soon as the Jam government fell, they played the time-tested card of new district formation. Lasbela gave birth to the Hub district in September 2022 with the entire Sonmiani tehsil made part of it. In the 2023 delimitations, the new district of Hub has been given one seat in the Balochistan Assembly against its share of 1.31. So, thanks to the creation of new district, Sonmiani is back in the Bhootani constituency!

Balochistan has created 15 new districts in the last two decades, taking the total to 36. It only takes an executive order to form a new district. There are no laws or rules set for the purpose.

They are generally created to meet 'the long-standing popular demand of bringing governance closer to the people's doorsteps'. But the argument holds no water as it is applied selectively. Murree tehsil of Rawalpindi district has been recently made a district, but Gujjar Khan tehsil has not, though both are almost equidistant from the district headquarters and the population of the latter is double that of the former.

The politics of creating a new district is not always as straight as in Lasbela's case. In many

instances, it sets in motion such a complex chain of changes in constituencies that it becomes difficult to ascertain the exact intention behind the move. Muzaffargarh district had 12 seats in the Punjab Assembly before Kot Addu was separated from it, just months ahead of the current delimitation. The two districts have been awarded eight and three seats (total 11) after the rounding off of their respective shares of 8.21 and 3.46.

Had they stayed together their combined share of 11.67 would have been rounded off to 12 again. The splitting of Muzaffargarh's fractional share has made it possible to round off Kasur's share of 9.50 upwards to 10 seats. If Kot Addu wasn't separated, Kasur would not have got another seat. So, one seat from south Punjab has moved right next door to (takht-i-) Lahore.

The end beneficiary of this complex interplay, however, is Shanga whose share of 2.51 has won it another seat, raising its tally to three. Redrawing Shanga into three constituencies will upset past political equations. In 2018, the PML-N lost Shanga-1 to PTI by just 1,706 votes and ANP edged out PTI on the second seat by just 365, while PML-N had stood third by polling 76 less votes. However, the PML-N had defeated PTI by a thin margin of 1,528 on the district's national seat.

Creating new districts may not be a bad idea from the governance angle, but in practice, these decisions are dictated solely by political interests. This makes a case for a legal framework for the creation of new districts and bringing in executive authority in this matter under elected Houses. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Criminalised rights****Khurram Khan**

To be a member of a political party and taking part in politics is a fundamental right the Constitution confers on all citizens. However, there are legal restrictions on the exercise of these rights for those employed in the service of Pakistan. The Conduct Rules explicitly prohibit civil servants from taking part in political activity, while the oath of commissioned officers of the armed forces forbids them from indulging in political pursuits. The objective is to deter serving civil servants and military personnel from exerting influence on political and electoral processes by virtue of the powers they enjoy within the state.

The prohibition on politicising extends to recently retired civil servants and members of the armed forces. The retirees are forbidden from engaging in politics for two years after superannuation, and for up to five if they have served on 'sensitive duties' in the forces. The purpose seems to be to limit the influence which recent retirees may continue to exercise on institutions beyond their service period. But while civil servants who violate the two-year rule can expect the forfeiture of their post retirement compensation (pension) and other perks, the consequences for armed forces retirees are now far more severe. The newly inserted Section 26B in the Army Act has made violation of the prohibition on political activities for retired army personnel punishable with rigorous imprisonment of up to two years. The offender is to be tried in a court set-up under the Army Act, ie, face court martial.

Article 8 of the Constitution, which voids all laws in derogation of fun-

damental rights, is not applicable to "any law relating to members of the armed forces, or of the police, or of such other forces as are charged with the maintenance of public order, for the purpose of ensuring the proper discharge of their duties or the maintenance of discipline among them".

However, while placing restrictions on the participation of serving armed forces personnel in political activities has a sound rationale — it keeps them out of political wrangling, maintains discipline, and ensures they carry out their duties appropriately — the amended Army Act seems to take violations of this prohibition by ex-servicemen far more seriously than the violations committed by serving ones. It is perplexing why the law has been made more stringent in its application for those who have left service when the actions of serving military personnel, who are supposed to be the principal subject of the prohibition, continue to be exempt from similar scrutiny.

The lack of explanation for this contradiction is why the recent amendments to the Army Act seem to go beyond the spirit of the Constitution. More concerning is the fact that a fundamental right has been criminalised for a particular category of citizens.

As briefly discussed earlier, the limit on public servants' and armed forces personnel's right to participate in political activities was introduced only so that other citizens could exercise their political rights more freely.

It would seem unreasonable that a violation of this restriction ought to be seen as a criminal act instead of simple misconduct, especially if the individual committing the said vio-

lation is no longer in active service.

Indeed, criminalising what is a fundamental right for someone no longer in service of the state seems akin to challenging the wisdom of the Constitution itself. Even extending the period of proscription for retired civil servants and members of the armed forces to five years or even for life can be justified, but making its violation a cognisable offence is going too far.

It is worrying to contemplate that the fundamental rights and civil liberties of some citizens have quietly been taken away without challenge.

The complete silence of human rights organisations and civil society against such arbitrary law-making is regrettable. It would seem from their apparent lack of concern that even more vocal organisations, like the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, have tacitly accepted this circumscription of civilians' rights as fait accompli.

A new jurisprudence is taking root whereby martial law edicts are being implemented with a parliamentary nod.

If their silence is based on the premise that criminalising political activity for retired armed forces personnel affects just a few, or that some specific personalities need to be restrained for the time being, they have abandoned their cherished ideals.

Today, it may be one segment of society; tomorrow, more excuses will be found to extend such restrictive laws to other sections of society as well. Civil society must respond more robustly to defend against the gradual encroachment of constitutionally given rights. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Baligh-ur-Rehman says: Stability of economy vital for development of the country

**Governor meets National Security Workshop's participants**

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman met the participants in the 25<sup>th</sup> National Security Workshop, organized by the National Defence University (NDU) Islamabad, here at Governor's House on Saturday. The delegation was led by DG Institute for Strategic Studies Research and Analysis (ISSRA) Major General Raza Aizad. The governor welcomed the delegation to the historic building of Governor's House Lahore.

Balighur Rehman said it was heartening to note that people from diverse backgrounds, including senators, parliamentarians, military and civil officers, participated in the training workshop. He said the training course would have enabled the participants to grasp the geo-strategic and socio-political dynamics of the country as well as fully understand the challenges confronted by the country. He said continuity of policies was very important in development of any country. The governor said that in developed countries, policies continue for many years. He said that stability of economy was vital for development of the country. He said that the government was particularly focusing on improving regional trade, investment, and economic connectivity. In the recent past, a Special Investment Facilitation Council has

been established to increase foreign direct investment, he added. Balighur Rehman, while paying tribute to Pakistan Army and security forces, said that "those who embrace martyrdom for defence of motherland are our heroes, and their honour and respect is binding on all of us". He also informed the participants in the workshop about the launch of guided tours at Governor's House Lahore. He said that in the past, the Governor's House had been opened to the public for a short period of time in an unorganised manner, and the visit of interior side of the Governor's House was also not allowed.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the steel fixing works of Ghora Chowk Defence Morr Flyover Project.

## Health minister praises government's cardiology facilities

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Prof Dr Javaid Akram commended the government's efforts in providing cardiology facilities to the public during an awareness workshop organized by the Punjab Institute of Cardiology on Saturday. He congratulated the administrative team of the institute for holding the event. Dr. Akram highlighted the positive outcomes emerging from the initiation of Cardiac Emergency Clinics in various government

hospitals across Punjab. He emphasized that patients in cardiology hospitals in Punjab now receive free primary angioplasty services. The workshop was attended by various healthcare professionals, including Shahdra Teaching Hospital, Sayd Miha Hospital, Yaki Gate Hospital, Kot Khawaja Saeed Hospital, and Mian Munshi DHQ Teaching Hospital, demonstrating collaborative efforts to improve cardiology services in the region.

## 4 mega projects in Lahore nearing completion

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) said on Saturday that provincial government's four mega projects would be opened for traffic this month. A senior LDA official told APP on Saturday that Bedian Road Underpass, Akbar Chowk Flyover, Shahdara Flyover and Khalid Butt Chowk Underpass would be opened for traffic in November, as more than 95 per cent work on all these projects had been completed. With the continuous follow-up by the Punjab chief minister, development projects were

being completed in record time. The entire LDA team and contractors are working day and night to complete the projects, added the sources. Akbar Chowk flyover project is being completed in a short period of six months instead of 10 months. Apart from two flyovers, the project also includes 10 U-turns and remodeling of Maulana Shaukat Ali Road. On the directions of Punjab chief minister, not a single tree was cut during the remodeling of the Akbar Chowk flyover project. Meanwhile, regular work on the project started on May 26 this year.

## Shuffle in bureaucracy after permission from ECP

PESHAWAR (APP): After the permission of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the important positions in the bureaucracy of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) were shuffled wherein the Department of Administrative Affairs Saturday announced the transfer and posting of more than a dozen officers. Among those who have been transferred are senior officers of Grades 18, 19 and 20 including Amir Afaq of Grade 20 was

instructed to report to the Managing Director (MD) of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority, KP and Engineer Abdul Ghafar Khan to Industries, Commerce from Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TE&VTA). Deputy Commissioner Khyber Abdul Nasir Khan as Additional Secretary Home, Additional Secretary Home Captain retired Sanaulah Khan.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman and IG Police Dr. Usman Anwar in a group photo with participants of 25<sup>th</sup> National Security Workshop.

## Baqar directs establishing portal for redressal of public grievances

KARACHI (INP): Chief Minister Sindh Maqbool Baqar on Saturday chaired a joint meeting of the Chief Minister Inspection Team and Anti-Corruption Department held in Karachi. On the occasion, Chairman CM Inspection Team Rafiq Burro briefed the Sindh Chief Minister. Maqbool Baqar directed the inspection team to establish a complaint portal for the redressal of the grievances of the public. He directed the Chief Secretary to take strict action against the treasury officers, involved in the pension scam.

## Intra court appeal filed by Pervez fixed for hearing

LAHORE (Online): Intra court appeal filed by Former Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi against single bench decision has been fixed for hearing. A 2-member bench of LHC will hear the appeal of Pervez Elahi on November 07 seeking nullification of single bench decision on suspending magistrate decision for discharging him from the case. A two members bench presided over by Justice Shehram Sarwar will hear the case.

## 9 illegal housing societies demolished

RAWALPINDI (Online): An operation has been launched against illegal housing societies by Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA). According to RDA, boundary walls, entrance gates and site offices of housing societies including constructions in 9 illegal housing societies were demolished during operation. According to RDA, owners of illegal housing societies are also accused of land encroachment.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori along with Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar, Consul General of Russian Federation Karachi, Andrey V. Fedorov and others Jointly Cutting Cake during People's Unity Day Ceremony at the Russian Consulate.

## CM directs inspection, inquiries team to start 100-day inspection plan for all govt offices

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar, while presiding over a joint meeting of Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) and the Chief Minister Inspection and Inquiries Team (CMIIT) at CM House here Saturday, observed that both the agencies were understaffed and directed them to abolish their non-technical posts and appoint investigators and technical persons so that performance of their organizations could be improved. The chief minister ordered the CMIIT to start a 100-day Inspection Plan for all government offices including hospitals,

schools, municipalities, and development authorities. Chairman E&ACE Zulfiqar Shah while briefing the CM said that anti-corruption was a special agency for the investigation of certain offences relating to corruption, by or inquiry into misconduct of public servants and holding preliminary inquiries against such servants in the province. The other functions of anti-corruption include inquiring and investigating cases of corruption in government departments, the public sector, corporations and semi-government organizations. The CM was told that the total sanctioned

strength of the anti-corruption establishment was 1416 against which only 679 were working and 742 posts were vacant. At this, the CM directed Chairman Anti-Corruption to abolish non-technical posts and, in their place, create posts of investigators, and technical officers who can investigate the cases, prosecute them properly in the courts and prepare proper files. The chief minister said that he was not satisfied with the recruitment being made through a third party. "I want you to send a request to the Sindh Public Service Commissioner and make its recruitment through them," he said.

## PPP to contest general election with full preparations: Kundi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): PPP Information Secretary and former Minister of State Faisal Karim Kundi has said "PPP welcomes the announcement of election date on Supreme court intervention". He said that Pakistan People's Party has been calling for holding timely elections, and as now the ECP announced the date, PPP would contest the general elections with full preparation. He expressed these views during a conversation with the divisional senior vice president of the party, Sardar Malik Iqbal Khan

Esar. He said that the People's Party will bring its candidates in all the constituencies of Dera Ismail Khan and will fight the elections vigorously. We want all the political parties to agree on the Charter of Democracy for transparent elections and sustainable real stable democratic system in the country. He said that this time if the selection process is adopted instead of transparent elections, the nation will not accept it because now there is a majority of young people who are conscious and they will not accept the selection.

## Foreigners applying for visas abroad are exempted from arrest

PESHAWAR (Online): Exemption has been granted to illegal residents applying for visas abroad from Pakistan. According to announcement of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) government, some illegal foreigners have been exempted from arrest. People who have applied for visas in embassies of other countries should not be arrested. It has been said in statement that illegal residents do not want to go to their homeland due to some reasons while some illegal residents have applied to the embassies for visas to other countries.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan witnessing the MOU of Thak Hydel Power between the Wapda and Power Department GB.

## Haseeb Iqbal holds 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the int'l writing competition

ATTOCK (APP): In the annual international essay writing competition organized by the Goi Peace Foundation Japan and the Ministry of Education Japan, a Pakistani youth made the country proud by winning the second position. The purpose of the competition was to hail the efforts of the youth for the establishment of peace in the world. The competition was organized in two categories for children and youth in which a total of 20,674 students and youths from 168 countries of the world participated. Haseeb Iqbal from Pakistan made the country proud by securing the second position in the youth category. He belongs to Dhoke Garhi Alizai, a backward village of Hazro tehsil district Attock. He is the only Pakistani position holder in this competition. The Ministry of Education of Japan has announced a prize money of \$50,000 for them, as well as certificates, awards, and gifts, which will be

presented at a grand ceremony held in Japan. Haseeb Iqbal is doing BS (Hons) English at University of Education Attock Campus. Expressing his happiness on this wonderful achievement, he said, "It is an honor for me to represent Pakistan at the international level and I hope my success inspires others to pursue their passions with dedication." The Chief Petron CMC & famous writer Muhammad Khalid Khan, Chairman Chhaahh Muhafiz Committee and well-known journalist Nisar Ali Khan, writer Arshad Ali Arshad, President of Literary Organization Bihar-E-Nou Sultan Mehmood, President Chhachi Baitak Umar Farooq Khan congratulated Haseeb Iqbal and expressed their best wishes for him. Nisar Ali Khan said, "Haseeb Iqbal's outstanding accomplishment not only marks a significant personal milestone,

## Police raid illegal LPG refilling point, arrest two

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police on Saturday raided an illegal liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refilling point and seized equipment, a police spokesman said. Those who were arrested during raid were identified as Muzamil Khan and Sami Khan. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress. SP Potohar Muhammad Waqas Khan commended police team said that the accused who endanger the lives of citizens by illegally refilling gas cylinders cannot escape from the grip of the law. He made it clear that strict action will be continued against such elements. Meanwhile, Police have arrested five illegal arm holders and liquor suppliers during crackdown. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress.

## CM praises security forces for foiling terrorist attack

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid rich tribute to the brave sons of homeland for foiling a terrorist attack at Mianwali Training Air Force Base. In a statement issued on Saturday, he acknowledged that the security forces, by taking timely action, foiled nefarious designs of terrorists and consigned them to hell. "We salute the brave sepoys of security forces," he said and extolled that the brave sepoys of security forces, by timely foiling the assault of terrorists, proved that they are heroes of the nation, and the whole nation takes pride in their bold actions. Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab

Mohsin Naqvi ordered on Saturday strict implementation of one-dish and working hours restriction at the wedding ceremonies. According to a letter, issued to the district administration, the CM took notice of violation of one-dish and working hours restriction at wedding functions. The letter called upon commissioners and deputy commissioners to ensure implementation of one-dish and working hours restrictions at weddings. Naqvi said that one-dish and 10p.m. closing timing at wedding halls should be strictly implemented throughout the province, including Lahore. He said indiscriminate action should be taken against the violators of orders.



PESHAWAR: Mian Iftikhar, Sardar Hussain Babak and others are sitting on the stage during the book launching ceremony of Journalist writer Shams Mohmand, held at Peshawar press club.

## Forensic science plays vital role in criminal investigation: Hariz

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Home Minister Brig. (Retd.) Haris Nawaz here on Saturday said that forensic science played a critical role in criminal investigation and scientific analysis could be the piece of the puzzle that helps unravel the mystery of what happened. During his visit to the Sindh Forensic DNA and Serology Laboratory (SFDL), established at the premises of Karachi University he appreciated the role of Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD) for extending significant support. The minister

observed that "SFDL delivering precise, accurate and timely analysis results, supporting towards the delivery of evidence-based justice system", he appreciated. Haris Nawaz also stressed on the importance of collection of evidences from a crime scene and said that the collection and packaging of evidence effectively was critical in a forensic investigation as this contributed to the successful completion of a case. "Capacity building measures for the police investigators including proper training and necessary equipments are prerequisites to successfully solving a criminal case", he added.

## Electing Shahzad is revolution sign for justice system: Shaukat Virk

LAHORE (Online): Founder and General Secretary of Dr. AQ Khan Hospital Trust, Dr. Shaukat Babar Virk has said that electing Shehzad Shaukat for the post of President in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) election is a promising revolution for justice and fairness. On behalf of myself and my trustees, I congratulate the newly elected president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Shaukat Shaukat, Secretary Ali Imran and their other team

members on this historic success and leadership with sincere wishes and sincere feelings, said Shaukat Virk. In his congratulatory message to Shaukat Shaukat, Dr. Shaukat Babar said that our professional lawyers are playing a leading role for the supremacy of the elected house, the supremacy of the constitution as well as the strengthening of democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan. He expressed hope that prominent jurists of Pakistan will continue.



HYDERABAD: Activist of Awami Jamhori party and others Political party solidarity rally in the Israeli bombing of Gaza hospitals outside.

## Turkish delegation visits girls school

SARGODHA (APP): An NGO delegation from Bursa, Turkey, visited Khubaib Girls School and College to meet orphaned girl students here on Saturday. The delegation consisted of Mr Burhan Sayligan, his wife and Mehmet Karakoyun, which was welcomed by Chairman/ Director Khubaib Girls School and College, Nadeem Ahmad Khan, Maliha Nadeem, Project Director/Principal, Sarwat Ansar and Vice Chairman Col (retd) Mazharul Islam. The delegation visited the school, hostel and

newly-established Begum Bashir Girls Complex and planted a sapling. The students presented a tableau in which they presented the burning issues of Palestine in a heart-touching way through their amazing performance. Mr. Burhan said he was very much happy and satisfied to see the efforts and quality of hard work done by all team of Khubaib Foundation under the leadership of its chairman. He appreciated the achievements of the students in academics as well as in Taekwondo and co-curricular activities.

## Pakistan stock market set a new record last week

KARACHI (Online): The positive hope of loans for Pakistan from the IMF, the prevention of smuggling from Afghanistan by the government, the crackdown on hawala hundi and the announcement of the election date in Pakistan have restored the confidence of investors in Pakistan.

A new record was set in the stock market last week. The index crossed the high level of 53 thousand points with an increase of more than 2 thousand points, while an increase of more than 2 trillion 53

billion rupees was also recorded in the market capital, as a result of which the total volume of capital increased from 74 trillion rupees to 76 trillion rupees and exceeded the level of 58.70%. Share prices also rose.

According to stock experts, the expectation of good news regarding getting loans from the IMF is continuously increasing in the market capitalization, while the good performance of listed companies in the stock market, especially investment in the banking, energy and oil and gas

sectors, has boosted the market and played an important role in keeping the trend in a positive direction.

Pakistan stock market may also touch new highs during the new business week. Last week in Pakistan Stock Market, KSE 100 index recorded an increase of 2179.2 points from 50943.84 points to 53123.04 points.

The KSE All Shares Index closed at 35,434.61 points, up from 33,906.14 points.

Due to business boom, an increase of 2 trillion 53 billion 720.5

billion was recorded in the market capital during one week, as a result of which the total volume of capital increased from 74 trillion 22 billion 840.976 to 76 trillion 76 billion 574.9 million.

In the Pakistan Stock Market last week, the index had touched a high level of 53263.07 points at one point, but due to the wave of depression, the index was seen trading at a low level of 50971.84 points at one point.

In the Pakistan Stock Market last week, 520.64 billion shares worth 16 billion rupees were traded.



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed is addressing a meeting of business community at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Trade and Industries SM Tanveer presides over the meeting to review progress of Business Facilitation Centre.

## LESCO detects 261 power pilferers on 57<sup>th</sup> day of campaign

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 261 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 57<sup>th</sup> day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Saturday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against 260 electricity thieves, out of which 173 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 17 accused have been arrested.

Grand anti-power theft operations are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations. The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft. The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and

employees who facilitate them are also being brought to justice.

On the 57<sup>th</sup> consecutive day (Nov. 4) of the anti-power theft campaign, the spokesman added, large commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and all of them were also disconnected and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections 06 were commercial, 01 industrial and 254 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 324,326 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 13.266 million.

He explained that LESCO charged Rs 250,000 detection bill against 4,900 units to an electricity pilferer in Fazal Colony; Rs 200,000 fine in the form of detection bill against 4,000 units to a customer stealing electricity in Sadiq Colony; Rs 200,000 detection bill against 5,895 units to another power thief in Ram Gali areas; and Rs 158,046 detection bill against 2,190 units to a power thief in Mustafa Abad.

## Pakistani rupee under pressure against USD in interbank

KARACHI (Online): During the past one week, the Pakistani rupee was under pressure against the dollar in the interbank and local open currency markets.

According to the report of the Forex Association of Pakistan, during a week, the dollar became more expensive by 3.50 rupees against the rupee, which increased the value of the dollar from 281 rupees to 284.50 rupees.

Similarly, with the increase of 2.50 rupees, the value of the dollar increased from 282.50 rupees to 285 rupees in the open market.

According to the forex report, the euro became expensive by 7 rupees while the British pound became expensive by 11.50 rupees, after which the value of the euro increased from 300 rupees to 307 rupees and the British pound.

The value increased from Rs.343.50 to Rs.355.

According to the forex report, the value of the dollar remained stable in the open market on Saturday, while the euro rose by Rs.3 and the British pound by Rs.5.50.

## All support would be extended to Pakistani businessmen want to do business with US : Ramos

### NY State Assembly deputy speaker-led US delegation visits LCCI

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Speaker of New York State Assembly Phillip Ramos, along with members of American Pakistan Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), paid a visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), here on Saturday.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Advisor to Deputy Speaker Ather Tirmizi and Chairman American Pakistanis Public Affairs

Committee Dr. Ijaz Ahmad spoke on the occasion, while LCCI Executive Committee members were also present.

The NY State Assembly deputy speaker said the objective of his visit was to establish sister-state relationship and to build collaboration between the two respective regions in various sectors including agriculture, education, health, trade, and culture. He said that geopolitics keeps happening, they should think outside of it and talk

about economic developments. He said that all support would be extended to Pakistani businessmen who want to do business with US. He also assured his help for trade shows, exhibitions and dialogues.

He added that United States can cooperate in the fields of IT, pharmacy, agriculture and various others. "Our main objective is to promote small businesses. We want to deliver and bring you together with the market," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Workers are unloading the cauliflower from truck at Fruit and Vegetables Market of the Federal Capital.

## FCCI inks MoU with ICMA

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) and Institute of Cost & Management Accountants (ICMA) have inked an MOU to encourage international accounting standards in the corporate sector of Faisalabad by organizing training courses for the capacity building of directors and board members.

Dr Khurram Tariq, President FCCI, and Mr. Zia-ul-Mustafa, Chairman Strategic Board of the ICMA, signed the document on behalf of their respective organizations.

Mr. Zia-ul-Mustafa briefed about the ICMA and said that its main campus is in Karachi in

addition to its presence in seven major cities of Pakistan including Faisalabad, Lahore, Islamabad, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta and Hyderabad. He said that ICMA has affiliation with five globally acknowledged organizations while 25% of its fellows out of ten thousand are working abroad. He said that ICMA was establishing its own tailor-made campus in Faisalabad near FCCI. He said that they are also arranging a "job fair" on November 30, and he invited President Dr Khurram Tariq to formally inaugurate it. He said that ICMA has also arranged a training programme for the SDOs of FESCO which played a key role.

## This week, one tola of gold Rs.2500

KARACHI (Online): During a week, one tola of gold became expensive at Rs 2500 and ten grams of gold became expensive at Rs 2143, after which the price of one tola of gold increased from Rs 2 lakh 12 thousand 100 to Rs 2 lakh 14 thousand 600.

Similarly, the price of ten grams of gold increased from 1 lakh 81 thousand 842 rupees to 1 lakh 83 thousand 985 rupees.

With the increase of 20 dollars in the world market, gold per ounce increased from 1992 dollars to 2012 dollars.

According to the report of All Pakistan Supreme Council Jewelers Association, the price of one tola of gold and 172 rupees in the price of 10 grams of gold.

## Ambassador of Vietnam vows to increase trade with Pakistan

SIALKOT (APP): Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong has said that lack of information was one of the major reasons for low growth in trade and relations between Vietnam and Pakistan.

He stated this while addressing an important meeting of Sialkot exporters held at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here today.

President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) SCCI Wahub Jahangir and Sialkot business community attended the meeting.

The ambassador of Vietnam urged the Sialkot exporters to come forward and tap and explore the untapped international trade markets of Vietnam to promote the

strengthened bilateral trade between Pakistan and Vietnam.

He vowed to make sincere efforts to boost trade ties between Vietnam and Pakistan, saying that the time was ripe to further strengthen mutual trade relations. He also pledged full support and technical assistance to ensure the easy access of Pakistan business community to international trade markets of Vietnam. "The main reason for low bilateral trade between Vietnam and Pakistan is lack of information about each other. Vietnam is very keen to establish stronger business-to-business contacts between the two countries besides strengthening bilateral trade relations. Bilateral trade and business relations should be further promoted with the exchange of trade delegations," he added.

## Supply, wholesale rates being monitored to check price hike: DC

FAISALABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh said that supply and wholesale prices of fruit and vegetables were being supervised minutely for keeping balance between supply and demand in order to discourage the negative trend of the price hike.

He stated this while examining the auction process of fruit and vegetables during his visit to the fruit and vegetables

market (Sabzi Mandi), Sadhar, early in the morning. He visited different sheds of the fruit and vegetable market and reviewed the auction process. He warned that unwarranted and unfair increase in auction would not be tolerated. He said that fair profit was a right in business but exploitation of consumers would not be allowed. He directed the Market Committee staff for keeping a vigilant eye.

## FCCI making strenuous efforts to resolve problems of business community: Dr Khurram

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Dr Khurram Tariq has said the chamber is making strenuous efforts to resolve the problems being faced by its members and the business community in addition to contributing to CSR activities and infrastructure development of Faisalabad. Addressing participants in the 38<sup>th</sup> Mid-Career Management Course of the National Institute of Management (NIM), Islamabad, he said that FCCI had 8,500 members belonging to more than 100 sectors and subsectors. "The FCCI has to establish working relationships with the federal, provincial and local administration to resolve their issues at three tiers", he said and added, "We give our input in budget formulation and policy making at the

federal level."

He said that they have close liaison with the provincial caretaker government and successfully convinced it to release withheld funds for the uplift projects of Faisalabad.

He said that FCCI was helping local administration in the fields of education, health and environment protection by adopting schools and hospitals and establishing Miyawaki forest in addition to the beautification of the city.

He expressed concern over uncertainty and said that fluctuation in PKR has made it difficult for the industrialists and exporters to fix the prices of their exportable surplus.

He contradicted the government's claim that it was providing subsidies to the textile sector. He said that the recoveries of FESCO are 99.2% and we

are bearing the financial burden of other inefficient discos. It is an issue of cross subsidies and exporters could not export the cost of inefficiencies of the government departments and wrong decisions of the previous governments, he added.

Responding to a question about the gap between import and export, he said that the main reason is the difference between exchange rates. He further said that we had deregulated our export sector in haste without waiting for the development of the import substitution industry.

He said that the smuggling has been plugged and if this momentum persists, we are expecting growth of the SME sector in 2024. He said that FCCI is part of various boards of the government departments.

## Rs 439m fine imposed on 3,503 power pilferers

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) caught 3,503 power pilferers during last 57 days and imposed a fine of over Rs.439 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company during the ongoing special anti-power theft drive.

Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Saturday that over 9.432 million detection units were charged. A sum of over Rs.254.5 million was also recovered from the defaulters.

He said that 3330 cases were registered

against power theft in various police stations whereas the police also arrested 2822 pilferers so far. He further said that the FESCO teams detected electricity theft at 1133 points in Faisalabad district and imposed a fine of Rs.141.8 million on them under the head of 2.03 million detection units.

In Jhang district, the FESCO teams caught 364 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs.53.5 million under 1278,000 detection units.

Similarly, 372 cases of electricity theft were detected in Bhakkar district and the company.

## Canton Fair: a golden chance for trade

BEIJING (APP): Business is good this time. I'm here to find out more possibility of doing business with China as well as the whole world", said Chief Manager Exports, Piano Exports FZCO, Pakistan Safdar Fayyaz while attending the 134<sup>th</sup> China Import and Export Fair held in Guangzhou, China.

The 134<sup>th</sup> China Import and Export Fair, known as Canton Fair, kicked off on October 15 and entered its third and final phase on October 31.

The event, which will end on November 4, has attracted exhibitors and buyers from across the globe, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday.

It is Fayyaz's 2<sup>nd</sup> time attending the fair. This year he had dazzling stationery products with price & quality combination with him. He told CEN that they have some unique colored pencils from Pakistan that might interest international buyers. According to the organizer, during the first two phases.



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing used items from a roadside vendor at Khanna Pull.



ISLAMABAD: A girl takes an interest in the handmade item in Balochistan pavilion during the 10-day annual Lok Mela at Lok Virsa.

## PAJCCI hails appointment of DG TDAP KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Coordinator of Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) Ziaul Haq Sarhadi has welcomed the appointment of Director General (DG) Pakistan Trade Development Authority (TDAP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

According to a press release issued here on Saturday, a delegation of traders led by Ziaul Haq Sarhadi met with newly appointed Director General (DG) of TDAP in KP Noman Bashir in his office.

Ziaul Haq Sarhadi expressed the hope that DG TDAP would play an important role in resolving issues that were being faced by the business community.

He also apprised DG TDAP about reservations of the business community about lack of facilities at Aza Khel Dry Port.

He also highlighted the need to restore export cargo trains from Peshawar to Karachi. He said that transportation of export goods through trucks has impacted stakeholders besides incurring revenue loss to Pakistan Railways.

## PU department organises training workshop for farmers

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab University Department of Plant Pathology (DPP) Saturday organised a training workshop on smart agriculture transformations in which around 100 farmers from all over Punjab and Sindh participated physically, whereas more than 500 farmers were also taken online during the event.

The basic purpose of the event was to provide our farmers a forum where they can interact with agriculture experts to learn new technologies of farming and also can get answers of their queries. Moreover the workshop provided a forum to the students and researchers of the Department of Plant Pathology to listen to farmers and agriculture experts.

Dean Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Haider, Chairperson Department of Plant pathology Prof Dr Tehmina Anjum, Director Soil and Water testing laboratories Dr Muhammad Akram Qazi,

Director Wheat Punjab AARI Dr. Javid Ahmad, National Agriculture Expert Sajid Iqbal Sandhu, Dr. Shahzad Basra a Professor & Advisor Virsa forms, Chief Executive Officer Agri-tourism Tariq Tanveer, Hammad Mian from FertiScience, Yahya Hussain Wahla from Bank Alfalah and Chief Executive Officer DTL Ahsan Rana, faculty members and students were present.

In her address, Dr. Tehmina welcomed the participants and introduced objectives of the event. She also thanked FertiScience, Bank Alfalah and DTL for sponsoring the event. Dr Muhammad Saleem Haider appreciated the efforts of the Department of Plant Pathology for organizing this workshop. The workshop covered topics including importance of soil and water testing and balanced fertilizers for good yield, Use of mobile App "Khad Hisaab", how to improve wheat yield, tunnel farming, value addition in agricultural crops, credit facility for farmers at Alfalah Bank.

## Turkiye's Erdogan says post-war Gaza must be part of sovereign Palestinian state

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Gaza must be part of an independent, sovereign Palestinian state once the Israel-Hamas war is over, and Ankara will not support any plans "gradually erasing Palestinians" from history.

Turkey, which has sharply escalated its criticism of Israel as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has intensified, supports a two-state solution and hosts members of Hamas, which it does not view as a terrorist organisation, unlike the U.S., Britain and others in the west. Turkey has called for an immediate ceasefire and offered to set up a system to guarantee it. Speak-

ing to reporters on a return flight from Kazakhstan on Friday, Erdogan repeated his criticism of Western countries for their support of Israel, saying Ankara's trust in the European Union was "deeply shaken".

"Once all of this that is happening is finished, we want to see Gaza as a peaceful region that is a part of an independent Palestinian state, in line with 1967 borders, with territorial integrity, and with East Jerusalem as its capital," Erdogan was on Saturday cited as saying by broadcaster Haberturk and others.

"We will support formulas that will bring peace and calm to the region. We will not be supportive of

plans that will further darken the lives of Palestinians, that will gradually erase them from the scene of history." He also said his intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin was in contact with Israeli and Palestinian authorities, as well as Hamas, but added that he would not regard Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - who Erdogan said was the sole perpetrator of the situation in Gaza - as a counterpart.

"Netanyahu cannot in any way be taken as a counterpart for us anymore. We have erased him, thrown him out," he said. "But otherwise, there can be no such thing as completely severing ties, especially not in international diplomacy," he was cited as saying by Haberturk.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attend a press conference, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

## Bangladesh arrests more opposition leaders as PM rejects dialogue

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Bangladesh's main opposition party said on Friday that three more of its senior leaders had been arrested, after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ruled out talks with adversaries demanding her resignation. Hasina has been accused of ruling the South Asian nation with an iron fist and the United States has sanctioned some of its most senior police figures for widespread human rights violations.

Hundreds of senior cadres and supporters of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) have been arrested, with former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury among those taken into custody overnight.

"Police arrested my dad from my aunt's home in Gulshan at around midnight," Chowdhury's son Israfil Khosru said.

The party also confirmed the arrests of BNP spokesman Zahir Uddin Swapan and Aminul Haq, a former national football captain and a Dhaka unit

chief of the party. The latest arrests come just days after police detained Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, one of the BNP's highest-ranked leaders.

Alamgir was charged with the murder of a police officer who was killed during clashes between security forces and opposition activists on Saturday. He and Chowdhury have helped lead the party since the 2018 jailing of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, with her son and heir apparent exiled in London.

Police have yet to comment on the latest arrests but said in an earlier statement that at least 2,113 people had been arrested over those taken into custody overnight.

"Police arrested my dad from my aunt's home in Gulshan at around midnight," Chowdhury's son Israfil Khosru said.

The party also confirmed the arrests of BNP spokesman Zahir Uddin Swapan and Aminul Haq, a former national football captain and a Dhaka unit

## Israeli forces strike at news agency's office in Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA CITY: Agence France-Presse's Gaza City bureau was significantly damaged by an Israeli strike on the building, according to a staff member who visited on Friday as its military relentlessly pounds the territory.

This French news agency is the only one of the world's three major international news agencies currently operating a live video feed from Gaza City, which has not been interrupted despite the damage.

The unmanned camera broadcasting live 24/7 captured the moment of the strike, a few minutes before midday (10pm local time) on Thursday.

An employee who visited the office on Friday said an explosive projectile appeared to have entered the technician's office in the bureau horizontally from east to west.

The strike destroyed the wall opposite the window and caused significant damage to the adjacent room and other doors.

## Muslim anguish over Gaza holds electoral risks for Biden

**Monitoring Desk**  
FALLS CHURCH: Hairdresser Linda Shawish cuts to the chase when asked about President Joe Biden's decision to unequivocally back Israel's bombing and ground invasion of Gaza.

"They're standing for genocide," the 45-year-old Palestinian American who previously voted for Democrats said outside the popular Halalco grocery in Falls Church, Virginia.

"I definitely won't be voting Democratic, and if Trump is the Republican candidate, I probably won't vote at all." With a year left until the 2024 presidential election, Arab and Muslim American support for Biden threatens to plummet over his Middle East policy — a factor that could even swing certain states. Some voters said Israel had a "right to respond", but all half-dozen who agreed to be

on the record, and several more that did not for fear of professional repercussions, agreed that the United States had failed to exercise its leverage over its ally Israel to curtail Palestinian civilian deaths.

"Something has fundamentally broken in the hearts of many Muslim and Arab American Democrats," Waleed Shahid, a Democratic strategist and former spokesman for Senator Bernie Sanders said.

"They don't see the president treating Palestinian lives and Israeli lives equally." While Muslims account for a small fraction of the US population — 4.5 million people, or 1.3 percent, according to the unofficial US Religious Census — the election "will be decided by a couple of hundred thousand votes in a handful of states."

## Two women charged with UK terrorism offences after pro Palestinian protest

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Two women have been charged with terrorism offences after allegedly displaying pro-Hamas imagery at a London demonstration, police said, as they warned about possible radicalisation as a result of the Israel-Gaza conflict.

There have been growing tensions in Britain and elsewhere since a deadly Hamas attack on Israel last month and Israel's retaliation on Gaza, with tens of thousands of protesters taking part in pro-Palestinian marches demanding the British government call for a ceasefire. The women allegedly wore stickers with images of paragliders at a protest in London on Oct 14. They were charged under the Terrorism Act and are due to appear at London's Westminster Magistrates' Court on Nov 10.



Palestinians pull an ambulance after a convoy of ambulances was hit, at the entrance of Shifa hospital in Gaza City.

## Blinken to hear call for Gaza ceasefire from regional ministers in Jordan

**Monitoring Desk**  
AMMAN: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will hear demands for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza when he meets Middle East foreign ministers in Jordan on Saturday, Jordan's foreign ministry said.

Saudi, Qatari, Emirati, Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers as well as Palestinian representatives will stress the "Arab stance calling for an immediate ceasefire, delivering humanitarian aid and ways of ending the dangerous deterioration that threatens the security of the region", the ministry said in a statement on Friday.

In a meeting with Blinken in Amman early on Saturday, Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib

Mikati stressed the importance of working towards a ceasefire in Gaza and stopping what he described as Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon, Mikati's office said in a statement.

Lebanon's Hezbollah has been clashing with Israeli forces across the frontier with Israel since the Hamas-Israel war erupted on Oct 7.

Israel has attacked Hamas-controlled Gaza in retaliation for the Oct 7 raid on Israel by Hamas that killed 1,400 people and took more than 240 hostages.

The civilian death toll in Gaza has surpassed 9,000, and humanitarian conditions in the enclave have grown dire.

Blinken, who arrived

in Jordan on Friday after earlier meeting Israeli leaders, said the US was determined that there should not be a second or third front in the conflict. He also appealed to Israel to take steps to protect civilians in Gaza.

King Abdullah told German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in a phone call on Friday the international community urgently needed to push for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to protect civilians, the royal court said.

The monarch said Israel's military campaign would not succeed and the only path to permanent peace was revived negotiations on an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

## US imposes sweeping sanctions on Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States on Thursday imposed sweeping new measures against Moscow over the war in Ukraine, targeting Russia's future energy capabilities, sanctions evasion and a suicide drone that has been a menace to Ukrainian troops and equipment, among others, in sanctions on hundreds of people and entities. The latest measures target a major entity involved in the development, operation and ownership of a massive project in Siberia known as Arctic-2 LNG, the State Department said in a statement. The project expected

to ship chilled natural gas, known as liquefied natural gas to global markets.

Washington also targeted the KUB-BLA and Lancet suicide drones being used by the Russian military in Ukraine, designating a network it accused of procuring items in support of their production as well as the creator and designer of the drones.

The Biden administration on Thursday added a dozen Russian companies to a trade blacklist for supporting Russia's military with drones that could be used to aid in Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

## Japan to provide \$65 million additional humanitarian aid to Palestinians

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japan will provide \$65 million in additional humanitarian aid to Palestinians out of concern over the conflict in Gaza, foreign minister Yoko Kamikawa said during a tour of Israel and Jordan on Friday. Speaking to reporters in Jordan after meeting Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and Palestinian counterpart Riyad al-Maliki, Kamikawa also said Japan was planning to provide material aid to war-torn Gaza.



King Charles III and Queen Camilla sit in an electric tuk-tuk with Euniee Karanja, a driver from the British High Commission in Kenya, during a visit to Fort Jesus, a world heritage site in Mombasa.

## Questions over colonial past nag Charles in Kenya

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOMBASA: King Charles and Queen Camilla toured East Africa's oldest mosque and an ancient fort on Friday as they concluded a four-day state visit to Kenya marked by questions about Britain's colonial legacy.

Charles met Muslim, Christian, Hindu and African traditional faith leaders in the coastal city of Mombasa and toured Fort Jesus, built by the Portuguese in the 16th century. Heavy rain prevented the royal couple from riding an electric tuk-tuk between

venues. The visit, Charles's first to a former British colony since ascending to the throne in September last year, focused on the two countries' close cooperation on economic development, climate change and security issues. He expressed his "deepest regret" for violence endured during Kenya's independence struggle, but did not offer the apology that many victims and their descendants had called for. British forces killed, tortured and detained tens of thousands of Kenyans during the 1952-60 Mau Mau revolt.

## South Korea's Yoon eyes trade, investment boost with Ireland

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol on Friday said he hoped for a significant increase in trade and investment with Ireland as the two countries work to strengthen cooperation in bio-technology and education.

Yoon, speaking at a bilateral summit with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in Seoul, said the visit by Irish delegation should be used as an opportunity to strengthen partnerships, his office said in a statement.

## WHO chief 'shocked' by Israeli strike on Gaza ambulance

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA STRIP: World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he was "utterly shocked" by a deadly Israeli strike on an ambulance near Gaza's largest hospital on Friday.

An AFP journalist saw multiple bodies beside a damaged ambulance outside Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, which is overcrowded with civilians seeking shelter from Israeli bombing as well as those wounded.

Ghebreyesus said he was "utterly shocked by reports of attacks on ambulances evacuating patients close to Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza, leading to

deaths, injuries and damage".

"We reiterate: patients, health workers, facilities and ambulances must be protected at all times. Always," the WHO chief wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

The Hamas government said Israeli forces hit "a convoy of ambulances which was transporting the wounded" from Gaza City towards Rafah in the south of the territory.

In the aftermath of the strike, the AFP journalist saw a child being carried away and a dead horse tied to a cart beside a blood-splattered Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance.

## France frets as China strengthens ties with allies in South Pacific

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: France will host an international humanitarian conference for the civilian population in Gaza on Nov. 9 as it looks to coordinate aid for the besieged Palestinian enclave, four diplomatic sources said. While Paris has offered its support for Israel over a deadly Oct. 7 attack by Hamas Islamists, there has been growing concern over civilian casualties that have soared under Israel's retaliatory bombardment that has seen thousands killed, wounded and displaced in Gaza.

at the head of state, government, and foreign minister level. Key regional stakeholders such as Egypt, Jordan, and the Gulf Arab countries will be invited as well as Western, and European powers and G20 members, excluding Russia.

International institutions, including the United Nations and Arab League, and non-governmental organisations operating in Gaza will also be present, the diplomats said.

The Palestinian Authority would be present, but Israel was not set to be invited, they said, adding that Paris would inform Israel of the initiative and the work carried out at the conference.

President Emmanuel Macron confirmed to reporters in Brittany that the conference would take place. The conference will be

## UAE says US should push for quick end to war in Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
ABU DHABI: The diplomatic adviser to the president of the United Arab Emirates on Saturday said the United States needs to push for a quick end to the Israel-Hamas war and that a new process must be found for the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian issue or the United States would be seen as ineffective.

Anwar Gargash also said that Israel's policy of containment that has been the "hallmark" of the Palestinian issue for the past two decades had failed and called for a new approach that addresses refugees, borders and East Jerusalem.

"US involvement will be seen by when we end this war, the quicker the better, and whether

we can have another you know, sort of process at problem solving, at issue solving," he said at a policy conference in the capital Abu Dhabi.

"If this crisis continues, and especially the humanitarian side, and if this crisis, brings us back full circle, to the old containment policy of pre-September of October, I think the American role here is not going to be, forget right and wrong, is not going to be seen as effective," he added. The UAE was the most prominent Arab state to sign the 2020 Abraham Accords, a pact brokered by the U.S. to establish diplomatic ties with Israel that broke with decades of pan-Arab policy that called for a Palestinian state before normalisation.

## Philippines military remains loyal to the president, says national security adviser

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The Philippines' National Security Adviser on Saturday rejected talk of a plot to destabilise the government of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, saying the military and entire security sector were loyal to the commander-in-chief.

"Yes, there were healthy and passionate exchanges (and) debates among some retired or former military officers and even some criticism against certain policies of the current administration, but they are within the bounds of our democratic space," National Security Adviser Eduardo Año said.

"There is no destabilisation plot (and) movement against the government," Año said in a statement.

Año's remarks came after Philippine military chief Romeo Brawner was quoted in the media as telling troops on Friday that he had heard of "destabilisation efforts," with some military officers saying "the president

should be replaced for many reasons" and "there should be another coup d'etat."

Año said Brawner was "misquoted or misinterpreted" by the media.

"The security sector shall remain vigilant and ready to take immediate action against any sinister group that will undermine our national security," Año said.

Marcos, the son and namesake of the late Philippine's strongman deposed in a 1986 "people power" uprising, won office in a landslide in last year's presidential elections.

However, he has suffered a "significant" drop in his approval rating, based on an opinion poll in September, as soaring consumer prices in the Philippines undermined his support.

There was no immediate comment from Marcos' office.

The Philippines has seen more than a dozen coup attempts since the overthrow of President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

## US airs concerns to China about 'dangerous and unlawful' South China Sea actions

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States and China held "candid" talks on maritime issues, including on the contested South China Sea, and the US side underscored its concerns about "dangerous and unlawful" Chinese actions there, the US State Department said.

The talks took place in Beijing between the department's China Coordinator Mark Lambert and China's Director-General for Boundary and Ocean Affairs Hong Liang, the State Department said in a statement. The meeting follows recent high-level diplomacy ahead of an expected meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the mid-November APEC summit in San Francisco.

The US statement said the talks were part of "efforts to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage the US-China relationship" and that the US side reiterated the need to resume military channels, "to avoid miscommunication and miscalculation." It described the talks as "substantive, constructive, and candid" and said they covered a range of maritime issues, including the South China Sea and East China

Sea, which are contested by China and other nations.

"The United States underscored concerns with the PRC's dangerous and unlawful actions in the South China Sea," it said, referring to the People's Republic of China.

Such actions included China's obstruction of an Oct 22 Philippine resupply mission at Second Thomas Shoal and its "unfused" intercept of a US aircraft on Oct 24, the statement said.

China said on Monday after a visit by Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Washington that the US and China would hold "consultations on arms control and non-proliferation" in the coming days, as well as separate talks on maritime affairs and other issues.

A State Department spokesperson said the US Assistant Secretary for Arms Control Mallory Stewart would host Sun Xiaobo, head of the arms-control department at China's Foreign Ministry, at the State Department next week. "We have continually called on the PRC to substantively engage on arms control issues and reducing strategic risk," the spokesperson said, a reference to US concerns about China's nuclear weapons build-up and frustration that Beijing has shown little interest in discussing this.



Volunteers perform during opening of the International exhibition "Russia" at VDNKh (The Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy) in Moscow, Russia.

# Pakistan to Israel: 'Stop the genocide' of Palestinians in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan told in a U.N. meeting Friday that an immediate ceasefire was critical to meet immense needs in the besieged Gaza, and called on Israel to stop its ongoing "genocide" of Palestinian people.

"We cannot mince our words; we have to tell the Israelis: stop the genocide," Ambassador Munir Akram said during a briefing on the "Humanitarian Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

UN Humanitarian Coordinator Martin Griffiths, fresh from the war-torn region, and Lynn Hastings, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, were among those who briefed the mem-

ber states about the latest developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Both officials called for humanitarian ceasefires to ensure safe delivery of food, fuel and other essential items.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy said that the Israelis, having suffered the Holocaust, were now committing the "modern genocide" against the Palestinians, and "we must call it for what it is". In this regard, he called for respecting and adhering to the international humanitarian law that forbids attacks on civilians and civilian objects. "Let us, as the international community, adhere to what the General Assembly has said. Let us adhere to what the international

humanitarian law says," Ambassador Akram said.

"This is what we expect from all those who are leading the United Nations, all those who are speaking for the conscience of the international community."

The Pakistani envoy said that the deadly Israeli strikes against schools, hospitals and civilian sites in Gaza on the pretext that there were military targets in those facilities were a gross violation of international law and norms as well as a "collective punishment" of a helpless people.

"Where does international law justify this?," Ambassador Akram asked, pointing that under the terms of that law civilian sites and facilities, espe-

cially the hospitals, cannot be targeted.

"Even if there was a target, a military target that which is not proven; How did the Israelis ever prove that any of the schools that they (Israelis) have bombed; any of the hospitals that they have destroyed; any of the refugee camps which they have bombed, has Israel proved that there was a military target remotely? There they are doing this as collective punishment," he added. Responding to Canadian Envoy Robert Rae's call for a humanitarian truce, Ambassador Akram said that the General Assembly has already called for a truce, leading to the cessation of hostilities.



LAHORE: Traders holds protest at Hall road to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine in Provincial Capital.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education Madada Ali Sindhi inaugurating the 4th Art and Literature Festival 2023 under the theme of "Redefining Shah Latif" organized by Siraj Institute of Sindh Studies at Arts Council of Pakistan.

## Minister stresses unity for national progress

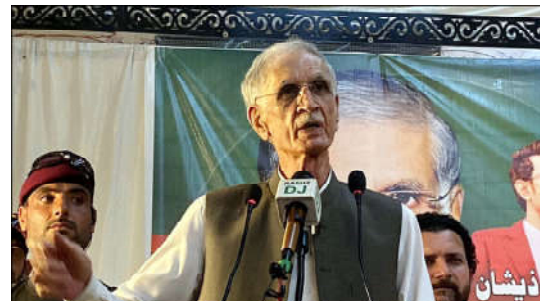
FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed has said that mutual cooperation is imperative for national progress and prosperity.

Addressing a "Seerat Conference" at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here on Saturday, he stressed the need for unity among all ranks of the Muslim Ummah and said that Allah Almighty and his beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) want to see us united which is prerequisite for success in this world and hereafter. He said that the Quran is a complete code of life and we should study Seerat-e-Mubarak so that we could adopt Islamic teachings in true spirit. "Although our past is very bright, yet now we are facing severe setbacks. Hence, heads of all Islamic countries including members of the OIC should convene a meeting on the eve of Hajj and evolve a comprehensive

strategy for the betterment of the Muslim Ummah and prosperous future of our coming generations", he added. The minister said that in the past, Muslims used to decide the future of the world, but now their future is decided by others. "We could attain this status again if we devote ourselves for research," he added.

Later, the minister also distributed shields among seminary students who had completed their Hizf-e-Quran course whereas Mufti Mustafa Aziz, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Seerat Institute & Research Center Faisalabad, presented a shield to the caretaker minister.

Later, the minister also held a meeting with the business community at FCCI Complex and urged the businessmen to play their role in promoting inter-faith harmony which is imperative for national progress and prosperity. FCCI President Dr Khurram Tariq presented an FCCI shield to Aneeq Ahmad, who also recorded his impressions in the FCCI visitors' book.



MALAKAND: Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Parliamentarian) Pervaz Khattak addressing the party joining program.

## Court sends Asad to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (Online): Local court of Islamabad has sent former speaker National Assembly (NA) speaker Asad Qaisar to jail on judicial remand.

The court has ordered Anti corruption KP to complete legal proceedings within one week.

Asad Qaisar was presented in the court of Judicial Magistrate Qudratullah by Banigala Islamabad Police.

SHO Banigala police Ashfaq Warrach took the plea that Asad Qaisar has been arrested in corruption case.

He should be sent to jail on judicial remand so that Anti Corruption KP could take Asad Qaisar into its custody after completing legal proceedings.

PTI lawyers, Shoaib

Shaheen, Barrister Gauhar Ali, Sardar Maroof and others appeared in the court.

Counsel Shoaib Shaheen said why is Islamabad police in hurry. Who gave powers to Islamabad police to arrest in some one other case. A day before date of election was announced and Asad Qaisar is being subjected to political vengeance. He should be released in this case. Asad Qaisar continues to go to KP. Why anti corruption did not arrest him there.

Shoaib Shaheen told the court we are filing petition in connection with protective bail of Asad Qaisar.

The court remarked protective bail cannot be granted to Asad Qaisar at this stage.

## Seized smuggled goods for sale: Customs to set up sasta bazaar in Quetta today

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Quetta Customs Enforcement has planned a sasta bazaar in the provincial metropolis today (Sunday).

According to an official statement issued here on Saturday, the sasta bazaar is being set up in collaboration with the provin-

cial government near Benazir bridge, Spinny road. Different smuggled goods seized by the customs in different raids would be made available for sale at affordable prices to the general public.

The goods are included blankets, sugar, ghee, tea, drinks, etc.

## Mild earthquake shakes Lasbela, adjoining areas

LASBELA (INP): An earthquake measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale jolted Lasbela and its adjoining areas in Balochistan province in the wee hours of Saturday.

People came out of their homes in panic and started reciting verses from the Holy Quran. No loss of life and property was reported from any part of Lasbela.

According to National Seismic Monitoring Centre, Islamabad, the epicenter of the earthquake was located 16 Km north of Bela at the depth of 22 kilometers.

## ANF seizes huge quantity of charas from vehicle at Lakpass

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered huge quantity of charas from a vehicle during checking at Lakpass area of Mastung on Saturday.

According to the ANF spokesman, the ANF team recovered over 156 kilograms of charas from a car. The charas was hidden in secret parts of the vehicle.

An accused was arrested and case registered against him under the Anti-narcotics Act, said the ANF spokesman.

## Country needs honest people for crucial decisions: Khattak

MALAKAND (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian chief Pervaz Khattak said on Saturday the country needed honest people due to crunch economic and political situation. He said should his party was aware of the problems of people and wanted to give them rights people at their doorsteps.

Speaking at the induction ceremony in Malakand, Khattak highlighted that reforms were made in the province during his five-year rule adding Khattak said that PTI chairman's promise of a new Pakistan was just an eyewash.

## Robber killed in alleged police encounter in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): One robber was killed and two others got injured in an alleged police encounter in Satellite Town Quetta on Saturday.

According to police, the robbers opened fire on police while they were looting a shop. Police also retaliated. During the exchange of fire, one alleged robber was killed, while two others got injured. Police arrested the injured dacoits.

Police said that a security guard was also hurt in the firing by the robbers.

## All political parties have uniform opportunities to take part in elections: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said there is no favourite of government in forthcoming elections.

In an interview with a private TV channel, he said mandate of the caretaker government is to provide support in electoral process.

He said all political

parties have uniform opportunities to take part in the elections.

The Prime Minister said international observers have also been invited to witness the election process.

He further said all political parties can take part in the election activities according to rules and regulations.

## Consistently ruling parties provided unjust advantages in pursuit of power: Siraj

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has said that the political parties belong to two families, have been consistently provided unjust advantages in their pursuit of power, demanding fair and level playing field for all political entities in the upcoming elections.

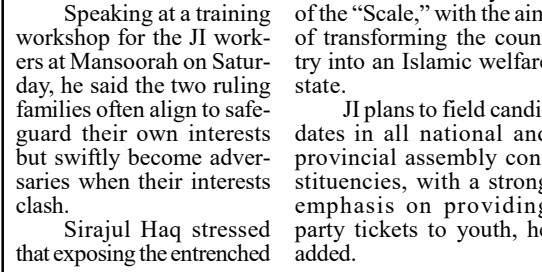
Speaking at a training workshop for the JI workers at Mansoorah on Saturday, he said the two ruling families often align to safeguard their own interests but swiftly become adversaries when their interests clash.

Sirajul Haq stressed that exposing the entrenched

ruling elite would serve the cause of democracy and the national political landscape. Instructing party members to intensify their election campaign, he urged them to educate the public about the poor performance of the former rulers.

He stated that JI would be contesting the election under the symbol of the "Scale," with the aim of transforming the country into an Islamic welfare state.

Ji plans to field candidates in all national and provincial assembly constituencies, with a strong emphasis on providing party tickets to youth, he added.



LAHORE: Chief Coordinator International Affairs PML-N barrister Amjad Malik meeting with Former Finance Minister and PML-N Senior Leader Ishaq Dar.

## SC gives chance to Imran to appear in NAB law review hearing

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan in its written order in the NAB law amendments case has provided opportunity to PTI Chairman Imran Khan to appear in the court.

Chairman PTI has been the main petitioner in the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) amendments case. The court in its written order stated, it is issuing notices to all parties in the case.

"A copy of the delivered to the Chairman PTI who has been imprisoned in Adiala Jail," according to the written order. "The Jail Superintendent should make arrangements if he intends to appear in the court," order read.

"The appeals against the supreme court verdict in NAB law amendments case, have been conditioned with the detailed verdict of the Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act, 2023," according to the written order.

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"The appeals against the supreme court verdict in NAB law amendments case, have been conditioned with the detailed verdict of the Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act, 2023," according to the written order.

## Mushaal urges world to act promptly to stop bloodbath of Kashmiris in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Assistant on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mallick has urged the world community to act promptly to stop bloodbath of Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at a seminar on human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

(IIOJK) in Oslo, she warned unresolved Kashmir dispute will remain a threat to regional peace. She said steps need to be taken on war-footing basis to find out durable and lasting solution to the Kashmir conflict. The special assistant said the fascist Indian government has turned the scenic valley into a killing field and unleashed a wave of state terrorism to muzzle.



QUETTA: A woman filling water cans from public tap as they are facing shortage of drinking water in their area, at Anscorb road.

## Madad stresses need to spread message of Shah Latif Bhattai

### Announces to waive off the tuition fees of Palestinian students studying in country

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi on Saturday stressed the need to spread the message of Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai to overcome the re-emerging terrorism incidents in the country.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 4th Latif Art and Literature Festival -2023 under the theme of "Redefining Shah Latif" at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi.

The two-day festival is organized by Siraj Institute of Sindh Studies (SISS), which will continue till November 05.

Madad Ali Sindhi said that Latif gave us the message of love and peace. He said that the caretaker government had started crackdown on illegal immigrants to restore law and order situation in the country as the illegal immigrants were responsible for creating law and order situation.

He said that the people of Sindh should be given rights to live peacefully and action must be taken against settlers, as they use the resources of the province and the real owners of the province were deprived of their rights. The minister said

that the immigrants could come and visit the Sindh province but they must return to their own homelands.

Commenting about the festival, he said that such kind of the events would be held in Islamabad, Lahore, and Multan. Sindhi said that he had directed Higher Education Commission (HEC) to only permit University of Karachi (KU) and the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, to produce PhD scholars on Shah Abdul Latif. He said that a number of books had been written on the poetry of Shah Abdul Latif.



LORALAI: Inspector General Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh talking to tribals elites of the area during his visit to Loralai.

## Solangi pays tribute to brave soldiers for foiling airbase attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting on Saturday paid tribute to the brave soldiers of the security forces who thwarted the terrorists' attack at a training airbase in Mianwali.

The minister, in a news statement, also lauded the security forces for foiling the nefarious designs of terrorists by responding to the situation immediately.

"We salute the brave young men who successfully foiled the attack and they are the heroes of the nation," he remarked.

The minister said the armed forces and the people fully knew the evil intentions of terrorists and would never let them succeed.

## BTTN's Head calls on Chinese Consulate Gen. for Sindh, Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN)'s Head, Brig Agha Ahmad Gul, called on the Chinese Consulate General for Sindh and Balochistan in Karachi.

The primary topics of discussion included the overall security situation, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and enhancing collaboration between BTTN and Chinese think tanks and universities. Brig Gul proposed the development of the Bostan industrial zone as a pilot programme.

Both parties agreed to maintain communication and cooperation on academic, socio-economic, and research-related matters.

ority as Pakistanis hold deep respect and admiration for China. He underscored that both the countries enjoy cordial relations.

BTTN expressed its desire to establish collaborative initiatives with Chinese universities and think tanks, focusing on matters of mutual interest and strategic importance.

Brig Gul suggested that China's support in promoting socio-economic development in southern Balochistan could help deter militants with hostile intentions.

Both parties agreed to maintain communication and cooperation on academic, socio-economic, and research-related matters.

## Dar appointed as chairman PML-N election cell

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif has appointed former finance minister Ishaq Dar as chairman election cell.

Former information minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said on social media website "election activities of PML-N will be accelerated with appointment of Ishaq Dar as chairman election cell."

She said the process of receiving applications for party ticket, monitoring election rules and regulations and all other matters will be completed on fast track basis.

Senator Ishaq Dar was chairman of parliamentary committee that prepared election act 2017.



NOKUNDI: A view of long queue of vehicles owing to strike on Quetta-Taftan highway.

## Nawaz to visit Sindh, KP soon

LAHORE (INP): Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who recently returned to Pakistan after four years in exile, is likely to visit Sindh, KP and Balochistan province to mobilise his party ahead of polls.

Sources privy to the matter stated that the PML-N supreme is likely to visit cities in Sindh, KP and Balochistan at the end of this month.

## General election 2024: PEMRA issues directions for TV channels

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has issued instructions for the national media ahead of the upcoming general elections, outlining various guidelines they are required to adhere to during the campaign and polling of general elections scheduled for February 8, 2024.

The directives released on Friday apply to all satellite TV channel licensees (News and Current Affairs and Regional Languages Channels).

The notification said that in order to strengthen democracy, democratic norms, and the electoral process, it is the national obligation of all the citizens of Pakistan, institutions, organizations, and entities to extend utmost support and facilitation for conducting free, fair, and trans-

parent elections.

In this connection, electronic media has a pivotal role in educating the masses, building and shaping fair opinion, and strengthening the democratic process required for the establishment of a democratic government in the country.

Therefore, all the licensees while airing their transmission prior to the General Elections must be mindful of the fact that no such content is aired which may create doubts in the minds of the general public with regard to the conduct of the general elections 2024 or sabotage elections through any negative, false news, information or report. Airing of any such news/content would be deemed in violation of PEMRA Laws including the Code of Conduct 2015 and its provisions as follow: