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

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

RISALPUR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said peace in the region could not be guaranteed till the resolution of the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir between Pakistan and India.

"Let me make it clear that there can be no peace without the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue," he said in his address

at the graduation ceremony of the officers here at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy Asghar Khan.

PM Kakar said Pakistan was a peace-loving nation and wished to maintain friendly relations with all countries, especially its neighbours.

He, however, categorically stated that the country's desire for peace "must not be understood

as weakness".

The prime minister strongly condemned the ongoing grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan, he said, would not indulge in any arm race but would continue to enhance its capability in line with evolving technology to deter any aggression.

The prime minister highlighted that the rapidly changing geo-strategic environment had a profound impact on Pakistan and rest of the region.

"Therefore, the situation demands advancements in space networks, cyber technology, nano technology and artificial intelligence," he said.

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



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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday declared the notification for conducting former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's jail trial in the cipher case illegal.

The ruling came as a division bench comprising Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz announced the verdict it reserved earlier in the day on the intra-court appeal filed by the PTI chief against his jail trial.

The Ministry of Law issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) for the jail trial of former prime as requested by the Interior Ministry and special court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain on August 29. A short order has been issued by the IHC,

while the detailed verdict will be issued later.

In the verdict, an IHC division bench, comprising Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz, declared Imran's intra-court appeal maintainable.

The court also upheld the appointment of Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who is conducting Imran's trial under the Official Secrets Act in the cipher case. Earlier, the Islamabad High Court reserved its verdict on the intra-court appeal filed by former premier and PTI Chairman Imran Khan against the jail trial and appointment of the judge in the cipher case.

At the outset of the hearing, the PTI chairman's lawyer Salman Akram Raja argued that a judge should pass a clear order based on reasons for the jail

### Governor reaches Khuzdar on two-day visit

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar reached Khuzdar on Tuesday.

Upon arrival, the Vice Chancellor of Engineering University Khuzdar, Professor Dr. Maqsood Ahmed, Deputy Inspector General of police, Munir Sheikh, Deputy Commissioner, Muhammad Arif Khan Zarkoon, DPO, Mir Hussain Lehri and pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Sohrah Bizenjo welcomed the Governor.

During his visit, the Governor would be meeting with political leaders, tribal elders and other elites.

Moreover, the Governor would also be attending a ceremony at the Khuzdar Engineering University. He would distribute laptops among the male and female students of the university.

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

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The founding day of Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) would be observed in Quetta on November 30.

The Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would address the public gathering to be held marking the founding day of the party.

This was announced by the provincial General Secretary of PPP, Sarbuland Khan Jogezi while addressing press conference here at Quetta press club on Tuesday.

Sarbuland Khan said that the party Chairman would announce launch of the party's election campaign on the founding day of party.

The party Chairman would also be meeting important personalities during his visit to Quetta, Sarbuland Khan informed.

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

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



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

### Work continues on project of Green Bus Service Project expansion

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The work is in progress on the expansion of Quetta Green Bus Service as summary has been sent to the concerned authorities for purchase of 12 more buses.

This was informed by the Managing Director of Mass Transit Authority (MTA), Shafiqat Shahwani while speaking to media here.

The Managing Director MTA pointed out that the immediate expansion could not be done in the Quetta Green Bus Service Project due to the financial issues in the province.

However, the work has been started on expansion of the Green Bus Service Project now, Mr. Shahwani mentioned adding that the new eight routes have been identified for the project.

The Green Buses would be plied on the new routes once the same reached, he added.

In addition to this, the Green Bus Service Project is also under consideration for different other cities of the province, he informed and said that steps would be taken in view of the financial situation of the province.

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday while interacting with the troops participating in the exercise said only realistic, mission-oriented training in peacetime could guarantee excellence on the battlefield should the need arise.

The Army Chief visited Corps Level Collective Training exercise of Strike Corp aimed at validating offensive operational concepts, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

He witnessed an impressive display of complex manoeuvres under-

taken, led by Armoured formation equipped with state of the art Vt-4 tanks.

The COAS met the troops participating in the exercise and commended their verve, operational efficiency and professionalism.

The Army Chief highlighted the importance of combat readiness and mental agility to respond to multi-spectral threat paradigm.

He dilated upon the significance of achieving synergy among various arms in view of rapidly changing threat environment. He also appreciated the proficiency gained in night operations.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Tuesday called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf.

In the meeting, the upcoming general elections and other important issues were discussed, said a press release issued here.

They emphasized the need for a free, fair and

transparent election process in the country.

The Caretaker government was committed to conduct free and fair elections, Solangi added.

He said the government would provide all necessary resources and support to the Election Commission of Pakistan. The minister reiterated the commitment that elections would be ensured in a transparent and credible manner.

### Interim cabinet of Balochistan meets, makes important decisions: Ours' utmost endeavour to bring improvement in governance, maintains caretaker CM

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

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim government is endeavouring hard to dispose off the important urgent matters and resolve the issues being faced by the common men in the province.

He said that it is our utmost endeavour to bring improvement in the governance and performance by making service delivery system effective in the public and private institutions.

This is just for saving the general public from day to day issues.

This was stated by the caretaker Chief Minister while chairing the provincial cabinet meeting here on Tuesday.

The caretaker provincial ministers, Mir Zubair Jamali, Jan Achakzai, Dr Qadir Baksh Baloch, Prince Ahmed Ali, Dr Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezi, Amanullah Kanrani, Sheikh Mehmood Ul Hasan Mandokhail, advisors to CM, Mir Umair Muhammad Hassani and Mir Danish Langove, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan and administrative secretaries of the provincial government departments were in attendance.

different important matters and made decisions on them.

The cabinet approved to increase the annual grant of Thalassemia unit in Teaching Hospital Gwadar from existing Rs. 1 million to Rs. 10 million.

Moreover, the cabinet also approved payment of the prescribed relief amounts to the Zakat deserving persons through digital system transparently, demanding of particulars of experts of the relevant sectors for selection on two honorary seats of legal wing of advisory council of Balochistan Rev-

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jalil Abbas Jilani on Tuesday informed the Senate that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has busted two-three gangs of beggars who were trying to travel to Saudi Arabia under the garb of Ummrah.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that around 2.5 million Pakistanis were working in Saudi Arabia. Round the clock helpline has been established in the Pakistani Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate General in Jeddah to address their complaints, he added.

He said hundred of thousands telephone calls received which were not only noted but also making all out efforts to address it.

He said some 500,000 visas were issued to Pakistani last year for employment. The Saudi authorities have also given the assurances to provide jobs to those facing employment related problems at alternative companies, he added.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jalil Abbas Jilani Tuesday affirmed Pakistan's support for a two-state solution to address the Palestinian issue, emphasizing the importance of resolving it in alignment with the wishes of the Palestinian people.

He made these remarks in response to concerns raised by PPP Senator Mian Raza Rabbani during Senate session regarding a press statement issued by

the President Secretariat on the Palestine issue, which was subsequently contradicted.

The minister clarified that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had no input in the initial statement issued by the President Secretariat.

He acknowledged being unaware of the context in which the statement was made but reiterated Pakistan's stance in favor of a two-state resolution for the Palestinian issue.



QUETTA: Former Federal Minister Sardar Fateh Muhammad Hassni meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai

### Bilawal says PPP wages fight against unemployment, poverty

Benazir Labour Card to be extended to all provinces

DIR UPPER (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here Tuesday said that his party has no rivalry with any political party, and its struggle was against unemployment, poverty, and price hikes.

Addressing a mammoth gathering of people here, the PPP leader said that his party strongly believed in the power of people, and after winning the 2024 General Election would serve the masses without any

discrimination. Like Sindh province, he said Benazir Mazdoor (labor) Card would be provided to poor laborers of all provinces of Pakistan enabling them to get free treatment and education services for their families.

The assistance and scope of the Benazir Income Support program would be enhanced and the houses constructed for flood victims would be provided on an ownership basis like those of Sindh province.



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



## Education sector totally ignored in past: Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi on Tuesday apprised the Senate that the education sector was ignored in the past and many private universities were allowed to operate in various parts of the country. Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, he said that even some universities were set up in few rooms. The chairman Higher Education Commission has been tasked to improve the standard and quality of education, he said.

To a question, the minister said Ms Lubna Said, an officer of the Pakistan Administrative Services serving in BPS-19 was appointed on the vacant post of Deputy Permanent Delegate of Pakistan to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris. The officer has earned academic degrees in MSc in the discipline of International Relations from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and Masters degree in Business Administration in Financial Management from the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi. He said the vacancy announcement of the post of Deputy Permanent Delegate of Pakistan to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris was advertised in the

national dailies on 10th March, 2023. The then prime minister appointed Lubna Said from a panel of three candidates, he added. To another question, he said that in pursuance to Section 40 and 5(b) of ICT - PEIRA Act No. XI of 2013, ICT-PEIRA has been empowered to regulate and fix the fees of private schools in Islamabad. However, the enabling Rules of Private Educational Institutions (Registration and Fee Determination) Rules, 2016 for fee fixation and determination i.e. Rule 36 and Rule 37 and mechanism defined as criteria and financial model as set out in Schedule-V and Fee increase proposal (FIP) are struck down by

Honorable Islamabad High Court (IHC), he said. He said in this regard, ICA has been filed and still not decided. The ICA is fixed for a hearing on November 11, 2023. He said in pursuance of the Judgement of IHC, ICT-PEIRA has formulated and issued a Fee Determination Policy for PEIs in ICT, while seeking a benchmark guideline from the Judgements of the August Supreme Court of Pakistan and Islamabad High Court. However, the said policy has also been challenged by private schools in the IHC and the matter is subjudice with the directions that no coercive measure shall be adopted, according to the policy impugned, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar awarding trophies to the distinction holders at the graduation ceremony held at PAF Academy Asghar Khan



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Ministers meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

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

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has urged the Australian High Commissioner to employ diplomatic influence to halt the bloodshed in Gaza, emphasizing the need for an urgent ceasefire in the war-torn area. He was talking to Australian High Commissioner Mr. Neil Hawkins who called on him at Mansoorah on Tuesday. The two sides discussed Pak-Australia relations and matters of mutual interest. JI Foreign Affairs director Asif Luqman Qazi was also present. Sirajul Haq expressed confidence in Australia's capacity, as a nation that upholds justice and human

rights, to play a pivotal role in putting an end to the violence in Gaza. He handed over a letter to Mr. Hawkins addressed to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese, outlining the dire situation in Palestine and seeking Australia's intervention. The JI chief highlighted that Israeli forces were responsible for the killing of civilians, including children and women, resulting in a staggering death toll of 13,000 people in Israeli attacks. He asserted that Palestinians have the right to resist against the occupiers of their land, citing the rights granted to them under international law.

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

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

The president talked to the families of Subedar Ubaidullah, Naik Muhammad Sajjad, Shahzad Qamar, and Sepoys Shahbaz, Faizur Rehman, and Zahid Hussain. "The sacrifices of martyrs will not go in vain and terrorism will come to an end," he said. Dr Alvi also paid tribute to the martyr of the North Waziristan incident, Sepoy Abdullah. The president extended condolences to the family of the martyred troops and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant an elevated place for their souls.

## Ghafoor Haideri demands resignation of President

ISLAMABAD (Online): Secretary General of JUI Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has demanded resignation of President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi regarding his statement on Palestine. JUI Secretary General Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri while reacting to the statement of President said that he condemns the statement given by the President on the one state formula of Palestine. This statement is tantamount to rubbing salt in

the wounds of Palestinian Muslims. This statement also denies stance of Quaid-e-Azam and state of Pakistan. The President of the State is not qualified to be the head of a nuclear state. The President of Pakistan should resign from his post as soon as possible. Pakistan as a state was discredited by this statement. President is from leadership of PTI and is still following the Israel-Nawaz policy.

## Court grants bail to Sheikh

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

## Umar Gul, Saeed Ajmal appointed as bowling coaches of Pakistan Cricket Team

LAHORE (INP): Former test cricketers Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal have been appointed bowling coaches of Pakistan cricket team. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday announced that former test cricketers Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal have been appointed as the bowling coaches for the Pakistan Men's National Cricket Team. Gul will be the fast bowling coach, while Ajmal will be the spin bowling coach. The duo will join the team on its upcoming tour of Australia and New Zealand, which begins in December. 39-year-old Umar Gul has served as bowling coach in the T20 series against Afghanistan in Sharjah this year.

He has also been the bowling coach of Quetta Gladiators in the last PSL season and the bowling coach of Afghanistan in the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2022. Umar Gul has said that Pakistan will try to take the fast bowling of the team to new heights. Former world number one ODI bowler Saeed Ajmal will take over as spin bowling coach. Saeed, who made his international debut in 2008, represented Pakistan in 35 Tests, 113 ODIs and 64 T20s, taking 447 wickets across the three formats. He also served as spin bowling coach with HBL PSL franchise Islamabad United. 46-year-old Saeed Ajmal has said that he is grateful to Zaka Ashraf for providing the opportunity.



ISLAMABAD: Players of Tajikistan's and Pakistan Football Teams are playing during the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier football match between Pakistan and Tajikistan at the Jinnah Sports stadium in Federal Capital.

## Three terrorists killed in separate IBOs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Three terrorists have been killed during two separate Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) conducted to eliminate inimical elements in the areas of Dera Ismail Khan and South Waziristan whereas a soldier of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom after an improvised explosive device went off in the area of North Waziristan. Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday that an IBO was conducted in general area Kulachi of Dera Ismail Khan District on November 20 and after intense exchange of fire, two terrorists were sent to hell. In a separate operation conducted in general area Kot Azam, South Waziristan District, one more terrorist was killed. The forces also recovered

weapons and ammunition from all three killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as the innocent civilians. In another incident that occurred in general area Gharyoum, North Waziristan District, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded and resultedantly, Sepoy Shahzeb, 26, resident of Rawalpindi district embraced Shahadat (martyrdom). "The sanitization operations are being carried out to eliminate terrorists present in the area as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Punjab government has filed appeal against Supreme Court (SC) decision for nullifying trial of civilians in military courts. It has been prayed in the appeal that SC decision about military courts be declared null and void. The petitioner has taken plea in the petition military courts matters should have gone to high court under article 199. SC exercised its constitutional powers under 184/3.

As per constitution if other forms are there then jurisdiction of 184-3 cannot be used. SC decision is against law and constitution. Different courts are working in the country on the pattern of army act. Military courts and general courts are working since 1947. Trial of accused is conducted in military courts as per rule. The appeal has been filed by Advocate General (AG) Punjab.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Director General National Institute of Management Muhammad Aslam Ghani photographed with officers who got training

## No peace without settlement...

Continued from page 1  
He expressed satisfaction that the PAF modernized itself through smart induction of cutting-edge niche technology and achieved great progress in cyber space and non-contact warfare through indigenous means. PM Kakar termed the armed forces of Pakistan as professionally competent and well-trained to cope with all internal and external challenges. "The nation holds our armed forces in high esteem for the sacrifices they rendered for national defence and for their contribution towards nation-building," he said. He mentioned that the country's brave armed forces always showed great courage during testing times to keep the national flag high. "I assure you that as a nation we have surmounted challenges in the past and Insha'Allah, we will do so in future and make the country prosperous," he said. The prime minister congratulated the cadets graduated from the colleges of flying training and aeronautical engineering, and expressed confidence that they would give their best professional performance with commitment and diligence.

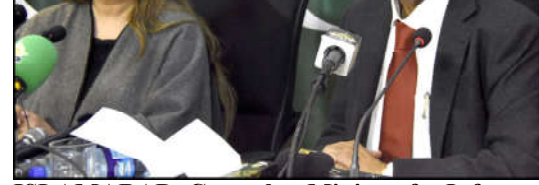
must work hard to keep abreast with modern technology and trends related to modern warfare," he told the graduates. A total of 131 Aviation Cadets, eight Gentleman Cadets and three Naval Cadets graduated during the ceremony. The prime minister awarded Branch insignias and trophies to the distinction holders. Earlier, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Babar Sidhu received the prime minister on the venue. Bugles were blown when PM Kakar as chief guest of the ceremony entered the arena. The prime minister onboard a PAF jeep inspected the formation of the smartly turned out contingents of the PAF falcons. The prime minister awarded the prestigious Quaid-e-Azam Banner to the Champions No. 3 Squadron on its consistently best performance in all semesters. He also pinned badges on the professionally distinguished graduating cadets. The Chief of the Air Staff trophies for best performance were given to Muhammad Moosa Jawad (best pilot), Muhammad Ali Gohar (general aviation), Sajid Sikandar Abbas (air defence), Syed Saad Ali (combat support) and Sohab Saeed (aeronautical engineering).

## Murtaza Solangi says First Pakistani Astronaut Namira Salim - a torchbearer for youth, inspiration for women

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that first Pakistani Astronaut Namira Salim was pride of the nation, and a torchbearer for the youth and inspiration for women. Addressing a press conference along with Namira Salim, the minister said that the government was proud that it had supported Namira's space mission. "Those parents who encourage their daughters are a source of pride for the nation," he added. Speaking on the occasion, Namira Salim said she was grateful to the Ministry of Information for introducing her to the whole country as the "First Pakistani Astronaut" in 2006 and she finally made it true after 17 years. It was her childhood dream and the country had supported her a lot in the journey to space, she added. "It was my dream to represent Pakistan," Namira Salim said, "and I proudly carried the Flag of Pakistan to space." The first Pakistan astronaut said through space diplomacy, she was giving the message of peace in the world.

Namira said she was grateful to the Government of Pakistan and her parents who had played an important role in facilitating her journey to space. She said after commercialization, the cost of space travel had decreased and aspiring Pakistani astronauts would be able to fulfill their dream of space tourism in near future. She said that the cost of building satellites and space ships might be far less in Pakistan than many countries. As the cooperation in space industry had increased all over the world, the Pakistani private entrepreneurs should venture in this sector too, she added. She stressed the need of introducing a space curriculum in educational institutions so that the new generation should pursue career in the vital field.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi speaks along with the Pakistan's first astronaut Namira Salim (L), during a press conference, in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi speaks along with the Pakistan's first astronaut Namira Salim (L), during a press conference, in Federal Capital.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad emphasized the crucial role of scholars in fostering communal harmony and building a violence-free society. Recognizing the strength of national institutions, he highlighted the army chief General Asim Munir's commitment to promoting Islamic values and unity within the Muslim Ummah. Addressing the media on the occasion of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan Conference" here on Tuesday Maulana Azad stated Pakistan is a gift of Allah. It was achieved in the name of Islam and thousands of people sacrificed their lives for their dear homeland. Now, it is the collective responsibility of all of us to forge unity in our ranks and foil the nefarious designs of enemies. He added that the enemies wanted to create division amongst the masses to weaken Pakistan. Ulama and civil society should play a role in propagating a message of peace, brotherhood and unity. The whole nation is standing by the armed forces in their struggle to eliminate terrorism from the country. He also commended the

## Scholars role vital in fostering harmony, making violence free society: Abdul Khabir

MULTAN (APP): Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad emphasized the crucial role of scholars in fostering communal harmony and building a violence-free society. Recognizing the strength of national institutions, he highlighted the army chief General Asim Munir's commitment to promoting Islamic values and unity within the Muslim Ummah. Addressing the media on the occasion of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan Conference" here on Tuesday Maulana Azad stated Pakistan is a gift of Allah. It was achieved in the name of Islam and thousands of people sacrificed their lives for their dear homeland. Now, it is the collective responsibility of all of us to forge unity in our ranks and foil the nefarious designs of enemies. He added that the enemies wanted to create division amongst the masses to weaken Pakistan. Ulama and civil society should play a role in propagating a message of peace, brotherhood and unity. The whole nation is standing by the armed forces in their struggle to eliminate terrorism from the country. He also commended the

media's significant role in the country's stability and development. Reflecting on recent challenges in Gilgit, he expressed satisfaction with the successful dialogue that contributed to restoring peace in the region. Concerning local issues like the Jaranwala situation a few months back, he stated that the government took timely action. He urged people not to take the law into their own hands. It is only the responsibility of the State to act. The wrong use of social media should be discouraged, he maintained. Maulana Azad asserted there is no room for terrorism and extremism in Pakistan, emphasizing the country's dedication to spreading a positive message globally. He underlined Pakistan's support for Palestine, condemning the ongoing violence and calling for international intervention to stop the bloodshed. In a gesture of solidarity, he revealed Pakistan's commitment to sending food aid to Palestinian brothers and sisters. Expressing concern for human rights violations, he urged the international community, including the OIC and UNO, to intervene and bring an end to the conflict.

## Govt decides to elect new PHF president through polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday informed the Senate that the government had decided to elect a new person for slot of president Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) through elections. Replying during Question Hour, he said that under the National Sports Policy, the tenure of president PHF was four year and a person could not remain in the office for more than two terms. The minister said issue of suspended PHF president Brig. (Retd) Muhammad Khalid Sajjad Khokhar had been settled last week adding that committee had been set up to hold election for the new president. Regarding cricket team performance, he said interim committee had been set which had limited powers. The committee could not change name of FATA Cricket Team due to its limited power, he added. To another question, the minister said National TB Control Program (NTP) was working under the Common Management Unit, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.

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

LAHORE (INP): Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has accused PML-N of using police and administration in their favor ahead of general elections. In his information media talk outside the Judicial Complex, Parvez Elahi urged the Election Commission of Pakistan to take notice of 'pre-poll' rigging by PML-N. The former chief minister said PTI will move Supreme Court after the announcement of the election schedule. He claimed that no one will accept the election if PTI is barred from taking part in the process. "PTI candidates will come to the scene after the announcement of the sched-

ule." Elahi announced that he would contest general elections from Attock, Gujrat, and Mandi Bahauddin. Like the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the PTI president also demanded "level playing field" in the election. The Election Commission of Pakistan has 'finalised' the code of conduct for the general elections, which are scheduled to take place on February 8. According to sources, the Election Commission of Pakistan has drafted a code of conduct in consultation with political parties in connection with the general election. The suggestions of the political parties have also been included in the Code of Conduct draft.



## Indonesian ambassador advocates women's education for Muslim nations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio on Tuesday emphasized the crucial role of women's education, especially for Muslims, during a pre-departure meeting with Pakistani delegates heading to Indonesia.

He urged the incorporation of advanced education alongside religious teachings, highlighting Indonesia's commitment to empowering women in various Muslim nations through progressive social and economic programmes, focusing on modern education. Ambassador Tugio voiced concerns about girls' education in Afghanistan, highlighting the Indonesian government's commitment by allocating scholarships specifically for Afghan girls in their educational institutions to elevate their standards to an international level.

He advocated for educational reforms in both public schools and madrassas across Muslim nations, aiming to enable them to compete with advanced countries at the forefront of science and technology.

Recognizing the inherent significance of religious scholars and leaders within the global Muslim society, Ambassador Tugio emphasized their crucial inclusion in national policymaking.

He advocated for the government's active engagement with them to formulate policies that serve the nation's best interests, citing family planning as a pertinent example. Additionally, he underscored the importance of involving leaders from other faiths to foster an atmosphere of interfaith harmony.

Meanwhile, President Muhammad Israr Madani of the International Religious Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA), leading the delegation to Indonesia, highlighted that this visit would facilitate the exchange of exemplary democratic practices, alongside addressing key concerns such as education and social cohesion within the framework of the 'Religious Diplomacy Programme.'

He expressed that this collaborative initiative in Indonesia would bolster the ties between Pakistani

and Indonesian institutions and experts.

Israr expressed optimism that democracy and the democratic system would be effectively addressed, empowering participants to actively promote democratic ideologies and values within their respective communities.

The delegation includes Muhammad Israr, president, IRCRA, Khurshid Ahmad Nadeem, Chairman, Rahmatulil Aalamin Authority, Islamabad, Maulana Muhammad Tayyib Tahiri, Head, Jamat e Ishaat wa Tauheed, Barrister Zafarullah Khan, a politician, and writer/author, Mufti Nouman Naeem, Head, Jamia Binnoria, Karachi, Maulana Rashid ul Haq Sami, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Darul Uloom Haqqania, Akora Khattak, Senator Barrister Muhammad Ali Khan Saif, Beenish Irfan Khan, a social activist, Malik Habib Orakzai, Chairman, Pakistan International Human Rights Organization, Mujtaba Muhammad Rathore.



ISLAMABAD: Shafiqat Abbas Joint Secretary, Ministry of I&B presenting a bouquet to newly appointed Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting Ms. Shahera Shahid upon her taking over charge of the office of the Secretary.

## Zong 4G, knowledge platform launch "Zong Digital Scholars Program"

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications company with the collaboration of Knowledge Platform, a prominent education technology company have launched the "Digital Scholars Program," an innovative initiative aimed at transforming education in 60 schools, benefiting 3,000 students across Pakistan.

Zong Digital Scholars Program is a key component of Zong's Sustainability Initiative to improve education in remote and under-resourced areas across Pakistan.

The schools were selected across the country in marginalized areas to provide technology-driven

education. Previously, Zong 4G has worked with organizations such as PAGE, HANDS, and PBM to set up digital labs across the country to better equip and digitalize schools and vocational centres, said a news release. At the heart of the Zong Digital Scholars Program is the Math Tutoring Program for Grades 9 and 10, developed in collaboration with Knowledge Platform and school teachers.

Additionally, the English & Sciences Self-study Program covers a comprehensive range of subjects, including Biology, Chemistry, English, General Science, Mathematics, and Physics for Grades 9 and 10.

## Re-registration of Al-Qadir trust IHC orders AG to decide within 2 days about application

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered Advocate General (AG) to decide within two days about application seeking re-registration of Al-Qadir trust.

The case regarding Al-Qadir trust charity registration case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb Tuesday. AG Islamabad Ayaz Shaukat appeared in the court IHC expressed annoyance over attitude of director labor and Industries.

The person appointed as director labor is who. This man should not be on this seat. We have said since October to decide on his application. Accept the application or reject it. Decide it whatever it is. We are also making decisions by sitting here.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb while moving to AG remarked have you to run Pakistan this way. What is this. Director labor devours money. Either he obtains salary or not. Salaries are paid out of public money.

I should see him what type of man he is who is not complying with court's order. We are saying since several months, decide it, decide it.



ISLAMABAD: Participants are competing each other during 4th Islamabad Wheelchair Marathon 2023, in Federal Capital.

## Pak designated Envoy to Bulgaria meets President

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's designated Ambassador to Bulgaria; Mudassar Chaudhry met with President Dr Arif Alvi.

During the meeting President emphasized on increasing economic, commercial and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Bulgaria.

President congratulated Mudassar Chaudhry on his appointment as Ambassador of Pakistan to Bulgaria and expressed his best wishes. President said that Pakistan values relations with Bulgaria.

Pakistan is keen to strengthen relations with Bulgaria in all areas of mutual interest.

## SC rejects plea of killer of two persons against his death sentence

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court has rejected the plea of Wakeel, killer of two persons against special court's decision on awarding him death sentence.

Court has expressed strong displeasure over investigation by KPK Police.

Trial Court has been directed to decide case without adjournment.

It is said in written decision issued by Supreme Court that 3-member bench heard the case under Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa. CJP Qazi Faez Isa remarked during hearing that 2 people were killed and 3 were injured. What did the police investigate in such big incidents? We have heard much about reforms in KPK Police. The quality of investigation by KPK police is worst.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bulgaria, Mudassar Chaudhry called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aitwan-e-Sadr.

## Women's role vital for sustainable development: Mushaah Mullick

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaah Hussein Mullick on Tuesday highlighted the crucial role of women in driving sustainable development. She emphasized that women are not just beneficiaries but pivotal agents of change in this trajectory.

Addressing as a keynote speaker at the 26th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, she said that investment in education and the empowerment of women is pivotal for the sustainable development of communi-

ties and nations, said a press release.

She stated that such empowerment acts as a catalyst for economic growth, societal advancement, and environmental sustainability. "No society can genuinely progress if it sidelines its women," she asserted during the conference.

The SAPM said that women's empowerment is not merely an option but an absolute necessity for societal advancement. "As we look towards the future, fostering partnerships becomes the cornerstone of our efforts," she added.

Mushaah further asserted that partnerships that transcend borders, ide-

ologies, and sectors are the driving force behind sustainable development. She emphasized the need for governments, non-profits, businesses, and individuals to join forces, pooling resources and expertise to address the multifaceted challenges obstructing progress.

Mushaah also said, "When we specifically talk about women's rights, these partnerships become even more critical. It's not just about giving women a seat at the table; it's about ensuring they have an equal voice, equal opportunities, and equal representation. It's about dismantling the barriers that have held back generations and stifled the potential of half of humanity."

## IIUI's core aim is to promote Islamic values; Spokesperson clarifies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Spokesperson of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), Nasir Farid Tuesday said that IIUI is an international seat of learning that has been serving the Muslim world for more than four decades in terms of promotion of Islamic values, Islamic character building in youth and dissemination of the Islam's message of peace.

Referring to the queries of some media quarters about international stature and Islamic character of the university, the spokesperson IIUI in a statement said

the Islamic character is the first core value of the University and there had been a lot of focus in the past few years on nurturing the quality and improving the standards of those academic programs dedicatedly aligned with the Islamic Character (Usuluddin, Shariah, Arabic, Islamic Economics etc.) of the University. He informed that for the first time in the history of the University, IIUI is placed as 51-100 for Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies in QS World Subject Rankings and IIUI is number one in the subject.

## Fog/smog likely to develop in plain areas of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fog/smog is likely to develop in plain areas of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at morning hours during the next 24 hours according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

Mainly dry weather is expected in most parts of the country, while cold in the upper parts.

As per the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. A westerly wave was likely to approach the upper parts on Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference holds placards and shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands outside Foreign Office in Federal Capital.

## Senate body on Rules of Procedure, Privileges convenes

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges under the Chairmanship of Senator Tahir Bizinjo, was held today here at the Parliament House.

The Senate Committee met to discuss a Privilege Motion moved by Senators Naseeb Ullah Khan Bazi and Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen against the President, National Bank of Pakistan on

his non appearance before the Senate Special Committee meeting held in NBP head office Karachi.

The Special Committee meeting was held on the problems of the employees of the National Bank of Pakistan belonging to Balochistan on 12 October, 2023 at 12 noon at NBP Head Office at Karachi, however the meeting was delayed for 40 minutes due to absence of the president NBP while he was present in his office within the same

building and even after passing of 40 minutes did not care to appear.

The committee members were of the view that this behaviour of a President of an organisation is thoroughly unbecoming. Senator Naseeb Ullah Bazi maintained that if such is the seriousness to deal with matters tabled on the country's highest forum, let alone any chance public grievances would be addressed he further said.

## PIDE chief for attracting foreign investment instead of getting loans to improve economy

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: PIDE Vice Chancellor and PSDE President Dr Nadeem Ul Haque has stressed the need for giving due attention to attracting foreign investment instead of getting loans to achieving sustainable growth of the national economy.

He said the economic system in Pakistan was on a "life support system", and emphasized on exploring measures to tackle confronted challenges like the surge in the exchange rate of the rupee with other currencies, unemployment, and the aid-debt trap.

He was addressing the inaugural session of a 3-day Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference the Pakistan Society of Development Economists

(PSDE), hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in collaboration with Bahaduddin Zakariya University (BZU), held at the BZU's Jinnah Auditorium



of the University in Multan, a news release said here on Tuesday.

PIDE & PSDE's role in asking pertinent questions and engaging in impactful research exploring the country's wide-ranging socio-economic issues, stressing the need for a paradigm shift in thinking and the importance of asking critical questions.

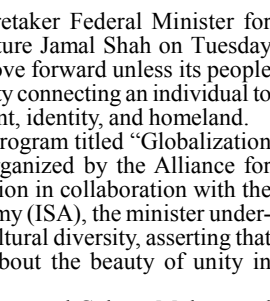
He also highlighted the focus should

## No country can move forward unless its people have a strong cultural identity: Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Tuesday said that no country can move forward unless its people have a strong cultural identity connecting an individual to the surrounding environment, identity, and homeland.

Addressing a cultural program titled "Globalization and Pakistani Cultures" organized by the Alliance for Good Governance Foundation in collaboration with the Information Service Academy (ISA), the minister underscored the importance of cultural diversity, asserting that it enlightened the youth about the beauty of unity in diversity.

Adviser National Heritage and Culture Muhammad Kashif Irshad, Ms. Zubaida Birwani, Panah Baloch, Dr. Hanif Khalil, Mazhar Arif, Dr. Humaira Ashfaq, Professor Saeed Ahmad, Aamir Haider, representatives of academia, civil society were also present on the occasion.



Highlighting his ministry's initiatives, Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said the culture ministry was about to launch a heritage channel, dedicated to showcasing folk heritage of the country.

He emphasized the pivotal role of folklore and national heritage in educating the younger generation and shaping societal values.

He revealed plans for the revival of cultural sites in Islamabad, providing artists with platforms to showcase their talents through performances and fostering cultural promotion.

## Islamabad intensifies anti-dengue efforts with fumigation, sanitation drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a concerted effort to combat the rising dengue fever cases in Islamabad, health teams under the supervision of the Director of Health Services Metropolitan Corporation Director Health Services are spearheading an intensive anti-dengue fogging campaign across various areas of the city. Guided by the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, the fumigation operation has targeted key locations, including the CDA weekly market and slum G.S.O. Islamabad. ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said.

This comprehensive drive involves close collaboration among DHS, DHO office, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates, Health Department teams, MCI, UCI teams, and other relevant institutions.

Emphasizing the importance of proactive measures, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad highlighted the necessity of adhering to precautionary practices to prevent dengue virus transmission. He further directed the authorities to enhance sanitation arrangements in different areas of the city to eliminate potential breeding grounds for dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

## Students facilitation is our motto: VC AIOU

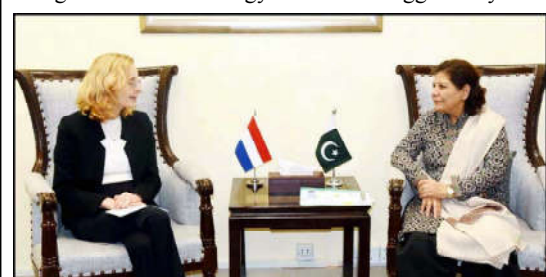
ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on Tuesday said it was our motto to facilitate the students by using all means of technology.

While chairing the Regional Directors Conference yesterday, the Vice Chancellor presented his roadmap, vision, and mission regarding the regional network. Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan hosted the meeting while all the regional directors participated online.

During the conference, Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized the importance of using modern technology

by the regional directors and their staff to meet the modern requirements of education. Dr. Nasir emphasized the solution to the problems of students at their doorstep. He stressed that minor issues should not require students to come to Islamabad for their resolution. Dr. Nasir further stated that the provision of a conducive environment and facilities for students is essential to boost their confidence in the university.

He assured that the university will ensure transparency in administrative, teaching and examination matters. In the second week of December, Regional Directors will gather in Islamabad to discuss and suggest ways.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Netherlands, H.E. Mrs. Henny De Vries, called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar at Finance Division.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Wednesday November 22, 2023

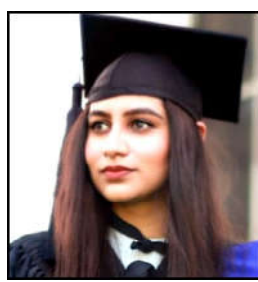
## Innocence robbed

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

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

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

## Behind the headlines: Israel's Propaganda against Palestinian Journalists



By Nimra Atiq

In an effort to control the narrative in Western media, Israel is increasingly dismissing and marginalising journalists and pro-Palestinian commentators. An enemy that uses a military strategy that can be summed up as destroying as much civilian infrastructure as possible and then denies that the "targets" are civilians or that the actions are civilian in nature heavily relies on state media that is sympathetic to its goals in order to distort the obvious and present it as something other than what it seems. Many fronts are integrated in a resistance movement that is successful. Palestinian journalists are crucial to presenting the truth in the face of this enemy.

Israel's strategic use of propaganda indicates that Western media manipulation has become vital to the nearly four-week confrontation between Israel and Palestine. Social media and alternative perspectives became essential in providing a multi-voiced viewpoint on Israel's atrocities in besieged Gaza and the humanitarian crisis amidst mainstream failures.

Israel declared war on Hamas following the attack on October 7, 2023, closing off Gaza's borders and subjecting Palestinian civilians to collective punishment that included preventing the entry of fuel, food, medicine, and water. Over 11,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed by Israeli airstrikes in the last four weeks, despite Israel's assertions that it only targets Hamas and avoids targeting civilians. There are two battlefields where the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine is being fought as it approaches its second century. The first is the on-the-ground violence, which has escalated dramatically in recent weeks. The second is the less evi-

dent but no less fierce conflict in North America and Europe's media and public information domains, where Israel and its proxies have intensified their efforts to intimidate journalists who voice pro-Palestine or impartial, historically contextualised opinions. Many journalists have faced similar situations since the beginning of the most recent Israeli war on Gaza, including suspension or termination.

Zahraa Al-Akhrass's employment, Global News in Canada, fired her because of her social media posts that highlighted the plight of the Palestinian people. When Kasem Raad questioned the organization's internal pro-Israel policies, Welt TV, a division of German media giant Axel Springer, fired him.

When it comes to censorship, the Israelis always try to achieve it permanently. Since the beginning of their attack on Gaza nearly four weeks ago, they have killed twenty-five journalists and injured eight others. Eight are in custody or missing. The objective of Israeli attacks on journalists

never changes: fabricated agreement for the "removal" of a people whose memory and very presence Israel perceives as an existential threat.

Israel came out and said in an article published "The Jerusalem Post" that the main reporters everyone's been paying attention to Motaz Azaiza, Plestia Alaqaad, Wizard Bisan are all a part of the Hamas's propaganda team which means they are a part of Hamas and this is a lot more dangerous than the regular misinformation, propaganda that we have seen already like the soldier on IDF's TikTok who was trying to rebrand Girmath to Hamas math by saying that these reporter are part of HAMAS is labeling them as terrorists for recording their lives in Gaza. A lot of you have probably saw the video on Instagram where Bisan was reacting to the bombing outside the hospital doors that she had just been at two minutes ago and I think it's also really important to remember Israel can see exactly who they are target-

ing, every single rocket, every bomb is intentional and I honestly believed it really not a coincidence that they

bombed rightly where Bisan was after labeling her a terrorist. The warfare is all around the journalists reporting from the Palestinian enclave. Even going out for a simple interview or to get lunch means risking everything. When the casualties of the war are their own family members and colleagues, the stories they write and the agony they depict often become personal. Living and working in the midst of a humanitarian disaster in the besieged enclave means journalists are emotionally invested in the topics they cover. Some have become part of the story.

In the face of the Western media's inability to capture the subtleties of the Palestinian narrative, alternative global media and the widespread impact of social media have arisen as the spearhead of a variegated counter-narrative.

"Most journalists do not investigate this issue as deeply as they do others they cover, such as Black Lives Matter." When they are bombarded with emails, social media critiques, or threats to cancel subscriptions as a result of their more balanced coverage, they tend to choose the easier option and maintain the mainstream media's pro-Israel slant.

This fear culture is also reflected in who media outlets select to comment on events in Israel and Palestine. As Israel's war in Gaza goes unabated, the ongoing human misery is eclipsed by a mainstream media that emphasizes a single point of view. The biased coverage not only adopts one side's propaganda as the dominant narrative, but it also calls into question the professed "journalistic objectivity." Western media not only embraced one side's propaganda as its narrative and vocabulary, but they also jeopardized their claim of "journalistic objectivity," potentially leading to a loss of credibility in the eyes of the public.

## Violence on borderlands



Arifa Noor

The ongoing deportation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has stirred a debate, within and without. But this is a debate which involves little nuance. Overall, this policy of the great push westwards is to be supported and cheered because in a country where we have perfected the art of "othering" even our own, there has been little effort to even understand outsiders, such as Afghan refugees who have been in and out of the country for decades now.

However — without going into the details of the decision and its implementation — this is not the first time the state has decided that its hospitality and generosity have run their course. A quick Google search shows similar decisions were made during the time of Gen Qamar Bajwa and earlier,

when refugees were sent back after the APS attack. Our habit of using old scripts and tricks is not limited to politics. It extends to all fields, which is why textiles continue to be the sector which is expected to perform a miracle for exports and the economy.

To return to the issue, the deportation of refugees is a decision we return to again and again. We do so because it appears that security concerns drive decision-making. This time around, it was no different. The decision came after an uptick in terrorist attacks. More than one government functionary has been at pains to point out the involvement of Afghan nationals in terrorist attacks while others argue quietly that this is a way to put pressure on the government in Kabul.

Questions, however, have been raised about how effective this policy can be. Some wonder if a harsh drive to send people back will help improve the security situation while others ask if antagonising Kabul is the way forward. Others still have simply returned to the fall of Kabul, shaking their heads

disapprovingly over Pakistan's calculation of expecting happier times once the Taliban took over. But at the risk of inviting the wrath of many, I wonder why our raking up the past simply stops with the change of governments in Kabul. Why does it not compel us to debate or question a bit more?

For instance, it is hard for people such as myself who know little of military strategy or conflict to understand why the stupendous effort we put in to defeat the TTP in the northwest of the country seems, in hindsight, to have simply pushed them out of Afghanistan. With a change of regime in Afghanistan, the TTP's relative freedom there has led to a deteriorating security environment in Pakistan. Would it be fair to think we were wrong to announce the defeat or elimination of the TTP earlier? Frankly, it wasn't mission accomplished, was it?

Perhaps I fail to understand the complexity of the matter, unversed as I am in security issues. But it does remind me of a Sri Lankan friend, who, over a decade ago, said while

speaking of how the insurgency in his country had been eliminated, that it would prove far more difficult for Pakistan. His country was an island while we had porous borders, he said.

I was sceptical of his argument and more confident of our own abilities, but he had a point it seems. As our caretaker government blows hot and hotter at Kabul, I wonder if we need to go back further in our introspection and ask if we should have treated this as a more complex issue than simply a military one.

Before anyone points to the much-discussed but least-implemented NAP, it is noteworthy that with our third hybrid set-up in place, no one seems to be interested in implementing it. Perhaps because no one is convinced of NAP, and because as a state and society, political approaches to complex issues is a strategy we abandoned a long time ago. Indeed, as a society we have developed a consensus that organisations such as the TTP have to be eliminated through force.

However, it is important to take into consider-

ation how such groups came around. For too long, not only did the state encourage radicalisation of ordinary citizens, it also managed large parts of Balochistan and KP through local strongmen and groups. It was perhaps cheaper to do this than incorporate these areas into the state structure, as were the mainland areas of Punjab. When some of them turned rogue, the solution was to use force to eliminate them and/or replace them with others. This is as true of the tribal areas of Balochistan as it was of former Fata. This is how the original distinction between good and bad Taliban came into being; because the state was and is so used to the cooperation of local strongmen.

However, what was not addressed was the larger, illegal economic network in which these people operated — which also illicitly involves some administrative arms of the state — or the issue of extending a more "normal" state apparatus in the shape of law enforcement, a judicial system, etc. The economy in the periph-

eries continued to run along the bad old ways. This continues to be the case, even after the military operations.

As a result, each time there is anger or consternation at an attack, the reaction is a crackdown, which ends up punishing people whose livelihood is dependent on the economic activity on both sides of the border. However, there is little debate on why this entire ecosystem, so to speak, exists in the first place, and whether or not it can be eliminated through the use of force and administrative actions.

It is simply easier to turn entire regions into no-go areas and control the flow of information from there, so those living on the mainland can pretend the only problem we face is one of violence by terrorists and that if we can somehow kill them or throw them out of the country, Pakistan can go back to happier times. But the day we realise the real culprit is the 'war economy' running in these areas, we will come closer to finding solutions. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Beyond Handshakes:

# Business, Backlash, and the Bottom Line

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

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Looking ahead, China is not only poised to exceed its 2020 renewable ca-

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

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

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

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

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

The writer, serves as Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. With a passion for fostering international bonds, he also lends his expertise as a Senior Media Consultant based in Peshawar. He can be contacted through the following email: [syed.aligilani@gmail.com](mailto:syed.aligilani@gmail.com)

## LETTER TO EDITOR

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

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

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

**Naqvi also unveils healthcare improvements in Gujranwala**

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

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

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

During the meeting, Commissioner Gujranwala Division Naveed Haider Shirazi provided a briefing on the ongoing public welfare projects in the

Gujranwala Division. The Punjab cabinet approved setting the minimum support price of wheat at Rs 4,000 per maund, a decision aimed at providing relief to farmers.

Further decisions included an increase in the financial assistance package for the family members of government employees who died during service. The cabinet also greenlit the provision of funds for the establishment of an endowment fund for the welfare of artists, designed to support deserving artists.

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

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

Other approvals included the revision of inspection fees for transport vehicles and additional funds from the Punjab government's resources for the construction and maintenance of Sargodha-Mianwali Road under the PSDP scheme. The cabinet expressed dissatisfaction with the recovery efforts of the irrigation department, directing effective management and planning to improve recovery.

Provincial ministers, advisors, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Advocate General Punjab, and senior officials attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, accompanied by his cabinet, conducted a comprehensive visit to Gujranwala Teaching Hospital, marking a series of significant announcements and inspections.



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

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

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

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

Referring to Bilawal

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

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

He said that since peace has restored in Afghanistan now, therefore the refugees should go back to their country.

## Provincial Ombudsman institution setup to help common people

**LARKANA (APP):** Regional Director of Sindh Ombudsman, Larkana Ali Akbar Jagirani Tuesday said the institution of provincial ombudsman has been established to help common people.

In his press briefing held at his office, he said that the people who were worried about the mismanagement and wrong behavior of provincial department officials.

He said the Regional Director office of Sindh Ombudsman also organized an open courts in District Accounts Office

Larkana and Kamber, where sufficient relief has been provided to the complaints of common people, retired employees and their families on the spot. Apart from this, several seminars and rallies have been organized on the issue of girl child education and out-of-school children, he said and added relief has been provided to those complaining of non-receipt of appointment orders especially on death quota.

The Regional Director of provincial ombudsman visited and inspected Larkana District.

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

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

This he said while speaking at a seminar organized by the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) to commemorate World Fisheries Day at Bahria University.

He said that he was happy for the professionals and policymakers on this significant occasion of World Fisheries Day 2023, marked by the theme

"Conservation through Collaboration: Developing Fishing Communities." Today, I am privileged to share this moment with you, a gathering that highlights the heartbeat of our celebration—the vibrant and resilient fishing communities along the Pakistan coast.

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

Baqar said that Pakistan was blessed with a coastline stretching over 1,000 km and an expansive Exclusive Economic Zone

(EEZ) covering 290,000 sq. km, including the extended continental shelf. "This endowment positions Pakistan with significant potential for the development of the Blue Economy," he said and added our marine fishing activities were concentrated along the coasts of Sindh and Balochistan, constituting 30 per cent and 70 per cent of Pakistan's total coastal area, respectively.

The CM said that for periods, fishing has been a vital source of sustenance for communities along the Indus River and the Arabian Sea. "Our waters harbour approximately 70 commercial fish species," he disclosed and said that the fisheries sector not only significantly contributes to our economy but also forms the backbone of livelihoods for our coastal communities.

## IGP visits injured constable at hospital

**KARACHI (APP):** Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Tuesday visited Aga Khan Hospital to inquire about the health of constable Mir Dost Jakhri of Kashmiri Police. According to spokesman for Sindh Police, the IGP consoled the injured constable's nephew and family. He also talked to the doctors of Aga Khan Hospital about the constable's treatment.

The IGP asked the doctors for provision of all possible medical facilities and care. He directed AIGP Welfare that no effort should be spared in the treatment of the injured policeman.



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

## Chairperson BISP urges its manpower to serve poor with dedication & empathy

**OKARA (APP):** Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has urged BISP employees to serve needy and poor people of society with utmost dedication and empathy so that BISP may be portrayed as one of the premier organizations of the country.

While addressing a gathering of BISP staff at Jamia Islamia Haq Town in Okara, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib stressed the need to encourage donations for the welfare of the needy, reinforcing the program's commitment to transparency and social responsibility.

BISP employees from Okara, Pakpatan, and Sahawal participated in the gathering, according to a news release.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that the

database of BISP's National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) is authentic and transparent, under which 9.3 million needy families are granted financial assistance every three months.

Dr. Amjad Saqib emphasized the profound significance of mosques as essential centers of governance. "Mosques not only serve as places of worship but also play an important role as an influential entity in promoting ethical values and fostering social cohesion," he stated.

Later in the day, Dr. Amjad Saqib also visited the BISP office in Okara. He urged BISP staff to provide facilities to elderly needy women. He directed the staff to ensure cleanliness in BISP offices, envisioning them as models of efficiency and service delivery.



**OKARA:** Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib addressing a gathering of BISP staff at jamia Islamia Haq Town.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SSP operation told the court joint teams have been set up and operation is underway in this regard. The court inquired during hearing of the case what steps have been taken for creating awareness to stop running the vehicles without licenses.

CTO told the court awareness campaign is underway in this regard through communication sources. The court remarked police men should not harass any one unnecessarily. If it is done so then stern action will be taken. The counsel for the accused told the court police have arrested Ibrahim associate of the accused.



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

## Bangash emphasizes development, teamwork

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

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

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ahmed Rasool Bangash highlighted

the collective responsibility of steering the province towards progress.

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

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

"We respect every individual, and our goal is to ensure that officials and drivers of all departments.

## Feroze pays tribute to late CMAzam Khan

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

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

Highlighting Azam Khan's leadership, wisdom, and dedication, the minister commended his efforts in ensuring transparency, meritocracy, and efficient governance during his active tenure, from the establishment of the caretaker government until his passing.

The minister concluded by noting that Azam Khan's remarkable contributions to the country and the province will always be remembered.

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

**LAHORE (Online):** Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has indicted PTI leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid and Ijaz Chaudhry in the case of setting ablaze police vehicles on May 9.

The court has summoned prosecution witnesses on next hearing. The case came up for hearing before Adm judge of ATC Amber Gul Khan on Tuesday.

The jail authorities presented the accused persons before the court.

During the hearing of the case the court indicted Dr Yasmin Rashid, Ijaz Chaudhry and Robina Jamil. The accused pleaded not guilty.

The court while summoning statements of prosecution witnesses against the accused persons adjourned the hearing of the case till December 16. The accused are charged with torching Police vehicles in front of Rahat Bakery on May 9. Several new clauses including treason clause have been included in the case.



**LAHORE:** Indian Sikh Pilgrims are enjoying the historical sightseeing of the Provincial Capital besides their religious rituals, in the buses of Punjab Tourism Department as every year millions of Sikh Pilgrims visits Pakistan as their spiritual Journey.

## Education minister reaffirms commitment to quality education

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

The conference was organized by the Sindh Education Foundation's Public-Private Partnership modality. Presently, 34 PSP schools are functional in diverse districts.

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



**KARACHI:** Pakistani policeman checks the identify card of illegal immigrants in Karachi.

## DC cracks down on fruit, vegetable price gougers

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

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

During the inspection, the magistrate identified several shops that were blatantly overcharging customers. In one instance, a shopkeeper was caught charging an exorbitant price for tomatoes. He immediately ordered the shopkeeper's arrest and transfer to the Tarnol police station. The magistrate also said that any violator would not be spared either, meanwhile, he imposed fines of Rs 25,000 on each of them and issued stern warnings as per law. The crackdown has sent a strong message to the fruit and vegetable vendors in the Sadar subdivision.



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

## PMLN to win polls with thumping majority: Abid

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

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, he said the PMLN was a pro-people party which always preferred public welfare. He said that the party had not only overcome the menace of loadshedding and terrorism but also put the country on the road to progress and prosperity during its previous tenure but unfortunately, Mian Nawaz Sharif's

government was terminated under a calculated move.

He said that after the PMLN government, the country plunged into multifaceted crises and the people had to face severe poverty and economic instability. [The PML-N not only constructed motorways across the country but also launched the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which was imperative to make Pakistan an economic tiger of the region," he added.

He said that the people were aware of the public welfare policies of the PML-N and now they would reelect the party.



## Finance minister reviews projects funded by ADB, WB

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

This significant extension, as outlined in a Federal Register Notice, extended the deadline for comparability findings for commercial fishing operations exporting fish and fish products to the U.S. to December 31, 2025, said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

This extension represents a notable revision to the regulations implementing the import provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), initially introduced in 2016.

The regulations initially granted foreign nations a five-year exemption period to develop regulatory programs addressing marine mammal bycatch comparable to U.S. standards. Originally set to conclude on December 31, 2023, this exemption period has now been extended.

NMFS, entrusted with evaluating each nation's regulatory programs, acknowledges the complexity of assessing the incidental and intentional mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in fisheries exporting to the U.S. The Department of Commerce and NMFS, in a strategic move, have determined that additional time is necessary to ensure fair and consistent comparability determinations across harvesting nations.

This achievement is not just about securing an extension; it's a testament to country's commitment to aligning its fishing practices with the highest international standards.

The extension underscored Pakistan's dedication to upholding the objectives of the Marine Mammal Protection Act while navigating the practical challenges of evaluating regulatory programs in foreign countries.

## SECP takes notice of surrogate ads by cryptocurrency exchanges

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

Surrogate advertising is the promotion of banned products, digital coins, and betting platforms as substitute goods, often through indirect means like sponsorship of sports events, aiming to implant the brand in consumers' minds, said a press release issued here.

It has also been observed that various online platforms, disguised as sports blogs and news websites, are promoting illegal digital coins, online betting, and cryptocurrency investments.

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

SIALKOT (APP): Ambassador of Algeria in Pakistan Dr. Brahim Romani has said that his country was keen to promote trade and economic ties with Pakistan as Pakistan was a huge market for business relations.

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

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, SVP Wahub Jahangir, VP Amer Majeed Sheikh and business people were also present on the occasion.

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

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

"However, it is the need of the hour that both countries focus on improving trade and economic relations to achieve more beneficial results for their economies," he added.

He said that Algeria is very keen to establish stronger business-to-business contacts between the two countries besides strengthening bilateral trade relations. "Pakistan has great potential to enhance trade relations with the African region and its close cooperation with Algeria would help it increase its outreach to Africa."



SIALKOT: President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik presenting a shield to H.E. Mr. Brahim Romani, the Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan, at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

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

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

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

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

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

The minister underscored the pivotal role of DCO in enhancing the investor network for the upcoming Pakistan Startup Fund, a move set to elevate the startup ecosystem in the country.

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

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



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

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

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

He expressed these views during a meeting with business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) where the Chamber's President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Chaudhary and representatives of Pakistan Goods Transport were also present. Problems of transporters, overloading, warehousing and other issues came under discussion.

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

He said that 80 percent of the trucks are small and there are also very old model trucks, production of which has been stopped, but they are still plying roads.

He said that it is a good suggestion to set the specifications for the vehicle body. The DIG said that Punjab has a good vehicle fitness system. The Motorway Police has signed an MoU with the Punjab government to share vehicle fitness data. He said that due to heavy traffic at Thokar and Ravi, extra staff has been deployed.



LAHORE: Women are buying woolen clothes from vendors at flea market of the Shadman area, during winters in Provincial Capital.

## Cars' sale drops 47% during Jul-October

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of cars during the first four months of the current financial year 2023-24 has dropped by 47.4 per cent as compared to the same months of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said.

According to the data, as many as 20,871 cars were sold during the months under review as opposed to 39,700 units in the same months of last year.

The breakup figures showed that 2,239 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during July-October 2023-24 as compared to the sale of 6,416 units during July-October 2022-23.

Toyota Corolla and Yaris car sales also declined by 51 per cent as it went down to 4,032 units from 8,253 units in the previous year. Suzuki Swift's sales also decreased by 55 per cent as its sales went down to 1,576 units from 3,466 units last year.

Sale of Suzuki Cultus declined to 1,142 units during the first four months of the current year, whereas during the same months last year, the sale was recorded at 2,952 units while the sale of Suzuki WagonR also decreased to 1,160 units from 2,181 units last year.

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

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

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

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

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

## Rs 55 bln recovered in last 73 days in ongoing anti power theft, recovery drive: Langrial

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary, Ministry of Power Division Rashid Langrial on Tuesday said that a sum of Rs 55 billion had been recovered from the power pilferers since September 7 during the ongoing anti power theft and recovery drive. "Rs 46 billion from 7<sup>th</sup> of September till 31<sup>st</sup> of October and Rs 9 billion in November have been recovered so far," he tweeted on his social media handle. The secretary said November data included detection charges and arrears recovery but did not include financial impact of theft reduction.

"In this recovery effort, LESCO leads with Rs 10 billion, followed by PESCO with Rs 9 billion," he added.

He said in the process, we arrested 29,541 delinquent consumers and 20 employees while 272 employees including officers had been suspended. "We have also raised detection charges of Rs 5 billion plus," he said.

Langrial said, "Most of the theft variance in large swathes of Indus plain is associated with cooling load and local sense of impunity."



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

## POL import bill shrinks by 16.93% in four months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall petroleum group contracted by 16.93 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the petroleum group during July-October (2023-24) stood at \$ 5,029.011 million against the imports of \$ 6,054.086 million during the same period of last year. Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 23.99 percent, from \$ 2,844.091 million last year to \$ 2,161.833 million during the period under review. Likewise, the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) declined by 7.10 percent from \$ 1,266.662 million last year to \$ 1,176.718 million this year whereas petroleum crude dipped by 13.92 percent from \$ 1,727.344 million to \$ 1,486.957 million. The import of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) went down by 5.75 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal year.

## CDNS realizes Rs 715b targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained a target of Rs 715 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to November, 20.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Tuesday.

He said this was Rs 200 billion additional annual targets that the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

"The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said.

In view of the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he said.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced.

## SNGPL disconnects another 54 meters on illegal gas use

LAHORE (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) intensified its efforts to combat gas theft with a recent crackdown, and disconnected another 54 illegal connections across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad. During the operation, fines totaling Rs 2.2 million were imposed, and 217 cases of under-billing were addressed.

According to a spokesman for the SNGPL, in Lahore the regional team took swift action by disconnecting 8 connections involved in illegal gas usage and an additional 10 for the use of compressors. A fine of Rs 0.67 million was imposed against gas theft cases. Bahawalpur saw one disconnection due to compressor usage.



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

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

Dozens more were wounded and around 700 people trapped inside the "besieged" medical centre. The hospital, set up in 2016 with funding from Indonesian organisations, is located near the Jabalia refugee camp. Like all other health facilities in the northern half of Gaza, the hospital has largely ceased operations but is still sheltering patients, staff and displaced residents. Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on Monday condemned Israel's "attack" on the Indonesian Hospital in Gaza.

The head of the World Health Organisation also said he was "appalled" by the attack on the Indone-

sian Hospital in Gaza that he said had killed 12 people, including patients, citing unspecified reports.

Also on Monday, the Gaza administration updated its death toll from the invasion of Israel to 13,300. The death toll includes 5,600 children and 3,550 women, the statement said, adding that at least 6,500 people have been reported as missing, 4,400 of whom are women and children. At the other end of the Gaza Strip, health officials said at least 14 Palestinians were killed in two Israeli air strikes on houses in the town of Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

In Deir al-Balah south of Gaza City, rescuers searched through the debris for survivors and bodies, using the lights of their mobile phones in the rain. "There are only children and women in the house and no one else," ex-

claimed one resident. "How can that give them (the Israeli army) an excuse to hit it? ... We don't have any equipment to pull people out from under the rubble."

The UN humanitarian agency OCHA has described a "collapse of services" at hospitals across northern Gaza, amid shortages of electricity, fuel and medical supplies.

Meanwhile, reports that a Jordanian field hospital had entered the Gaza Strip, offered some cause for optimism. Mohammed Zaqout, director-general of Gaza hospitals, said the field hospital will be established in Khan Yunis, in the south, "to receive the wounded and the sick". Hospitals in the area were experiencing "catastrophic" conditions, he said, "with the influx of hundreds of wounded each day and continued aggressive aerial and artillery strikes".



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

## North Korea launches suspected spy satellite

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the US military, including some facing Taiwan.

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

The patrol would take place off of the island of Mavulis, according to Eugene Cabusao of the Northern Luzon command. The island is the northernmost point of the Philippines, located about 100 km (62 miles) off Taiwan.

## US to announce global nuclear fusion strategy at COP28

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The US will lay out the first international strategy to commercialize nuclear fusion power at the upcoming UN climate summit in Dubai, US Special Envoy on Climate Change John Kerry will say on Monday, two sources familiar with the announcement said. Fusion could have an important advantage over today's nuclear fission plants that split atoms, as it does not produce long-lasting radioactive waste. If deployed successfully, it could also provide a cheap source of carbon-free electricity.



Members of the Royal Air Force (RAF) welcome South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife Kim Keon Hee, as they arrive at Stansted Airport, near London, Britain.

## Argentina elects libertarian Javier Milei as president

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUENOS AIRES: Libertarian outsider Javier Milei pulled off a massive upset on Sunday with a resounding win in Argentina's presidential election, a stinging rebuke of the traditional parties that have overseen decades of economic decline. The political newcomer surged from obscurity to oust the long-dominant Peronist coalition and its candidate Sergio Massa, who as economy minister has overseen inflation of 143 per cent and record poverty levels. Massa conceded defeat as provision results showed Milei had won with 56pc of the vote to his 44pc, with almost 90pc of votes counted.

"Obviously the results are not what we had hoped for, and I have spoken to Javier Milei to congratulate

him and wish him well, because he is the president that the majority of Argentines have elected for the next four years." Celebrations erupted in Milei's campaign headquarters. The 53-year-old economist with wild hair and thick sideburns has drawn comparisons with former US president Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, for his abrasive style and controversial remarks.

His main platform has been to ditch the ailing peso for the US dollar and "dynamite" the Central Bank to do away with the "cancer of inflation". He is against abortion, pro-gun, vowed to cut ties with Argentina's key trading partners China and Brazil, insulted Pope Francis, questioned the death toll under Argentina's brutal dictatorship.

## Houthi seize Israel-linked ship in Red Sea

**Monitoring Desk**  
HOEDEIDA: Israeli ships are a "legitimate target", Yemen's Houthi warned on Monday, after their seizure of an Israel-linked cargo vessel opened a new dimension in the ongoing unrest in the region.

Sunday's capture of the Galaxy Leader and its 25 international crew came days after the Houthis threatened to target Israeli shipping over the Israeli aggression against Gazans. The Houthis, declaring themselves part of the "axis of resistance", have also launched a series of drones and missiles towards Israel.

"Israeli ships are legitimate targets for us anywhere... and we will not hesitate to take action," Major General Ali Al-Moshki, a Houthi military official, told the group's Al-Massirah TV station.

## New Zealand PM-elect says 'significant milestone' reached in forming govt

**Monitoring Desk**  
WELLINGTON: New Zealand's Prime Minister elect Christopher Luxon said on Monday that a "significant milestone" had been achieved in forming a government overnight with the National Party, ACT New Zealand and New Zealand First agreeing on policy programmes.

National won the largest share of votes in New Zealand's Oct 14 general election but needs both NZ First and ACT to form a government. The three parties are currently negotiating coalition agreements.

Luxon told reporters in Auckland that National had agreed their policy programmes with ACT and NZ First.

There was no immediate confirmation from ACT or NZ First.

## Hundreds of OpenAI staff threaten exodus in support of ex-CEO

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAN FRANCISCO: Hundreds of staff at OpenAI threatened to quit the leading artificial intelligence company on Monday and join Microsoft.

They would follow OpenAI co-founder Sam Altman, who said he was starting an AI subsidiary at Microsoft following his shock sacking from the company whose ChatGPT chatbot has led the rapid rise of artificial intelligence technology.

In a letter, some of OpenAI's most senior staff members threatened to leave the company if the board did not get replaced. "Your actions have made it obvious that you are incapable of overseeing OpenAI," said the letter, which was first released to Wired.

Included in the list of names of signers was Ilya

Sutskever, the company's chief scientist and one of members of the four-person board that voted to oust Altman.

It also included top executive Mira Murati, who was appointed to replace Altman as CEO when he was removed on Friday, but was herself demoted over the weekend. "Microsoft has assured us that there are positions for all OpenAI employees at this new subsidiary should we choose to join," the letter said.

Reports said as many as 500 of OpenAI's 770 employees signed the letter. OpenAI has appointed Emmett Shear, a former chief executive of Amazon's streaming platform Twitch, as its new CEO despite pressure from Microsoft and other major investors to reinstate Altman.



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

## Taiwan presidential front-runner picks former de facto ambassador to US as vice president candidate

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: The front-runner in Taiwan's presidential race has picked the long-term de facto ambassador to the United States as his vice presidential candidate.

Vice President William Lai announced Monday on his Facebook page the nomination of Hsiao Bi-ki — who was born in Japan to a Taiwanese father and an American mother — as his running mate in January's elections. His choice would likely bolster support among backers of his ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which has long defied Beijing's demands to return the island under the rule of the authoritarian Communist Party.

Lai and Hsiao face a divided opposition, led by the Nationalist Party, also known as the Kuomintang or KMT, that has sought to draw independent candidates to their ticket. Polls show Lai is ahead, but China is believed to be seeking to influence business groups and media.

## Indian researchers find no link between sudden death and COVID shots

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Indian researchers found no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination was behind "unexplained sudden deaths", a medical organisation said on Tuesday, instead pointing to the disease itself, binge drinking and intense exercise as risk factors.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) conducted a study following what it called "anecdotal reports about sudden unexplained deaths among apparently healthy adults" aged 18 to 45 between October 2021 and March 2023. "We found no evidence of a positive asso-

ciation of COVID-19 vaccination with unexplained sudden death among young adults," the research group said in a study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research. "At the same time, family history of sudden death, hospitalisation for COVID-19 and lifestyle behaviours such as recent binge drinking and vigorous-intensity physical activity were risk factors for unexplained sudden death."

ICMR researchers identified 29,171 sudden deaths and scrutinised the records of 729 of the cases as well as 2,916 "control" subjects as part of their investigation, the group said.

## Germany arrests suspected antisemite who threatened killings - police

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

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia has placed a Ukrainian singer who won the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest on its wanted list, state news agencies reported Monday. The reports said an Interior Ministry database listed singer Susana Jamaladinova as being sought for violating a criminal law. The independent news site Mediazona, which covers opposition and human rights issues, said Jamaladinova was charged under a law adopted last year that bans spreading so-called fake information about the Russian military and the ongoing fighting in Ukraine.

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

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

The leaders of fellow BRICS members Brazil, India and South Africa, as well as of Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, which are set to join the bloc in January, will also take part, according to the office of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa will chair the "extraordinary meeting" because of South Africa's position as current chair of BRICS, his office said. It said the leaders are expected to deliver statements on the "humanitarian crisis" in Gaza and will likely adopt a joint statement. The meeting comes a day after China's top diplomat hosted the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Indonesia in Beijing, their first stop on a tour of U.N. Security Council permanent members. The meeting underlined China's longstanding support for the Palestinians and its growing geopolitical influence.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russian drones targeted Kyiv on Sunday as the British Defense Ministry said there were "few immediate prospects" for major change along the Ukrainian front line as the war enters its second winter.

Russia launched 20 Iranian-made Shahed drones overnight, targeting the Ukrainian capital and the Cherkasy and Poltava regions, according to a military statement. Ukrainian anti-aircraft systems shot down 15 of the drones.

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

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

The U.K. Defense Ministry said Sunday that there were "few immedi-

ate prospects of major changes in the front line," with neither Russia nor Ukraine having made meaningful progress on the battlefield.

In a statement, it said that intense fighting was concentrated near Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region, Avdiivka in the Donetsk region, and on the left bank of the Dnieper River, where Ukrainian forces have established a bridgehead.

Meanwhile, five people were injured in Russian shelling on the Ukrainian city of Kherson, including a 3-year-old girl. Aleksandr Prokudin, head of the Kherson region administration, said the strike damaged a residential apartment block.

Russian air defenses also downed a Ukrainian drone over the Moscow region Sunday night, local officials said.

In a statement, Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that debris had hit the Bogorodskiy area bordering the Russian capital.

## China warns Argentina severing ties would be 'serious mistake'

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China said on Tuesday it would be a "serious mistake" if Argentina were to cut ties, after the weekend presidential election victory in the South American country of a right-wing libertarian who has said he will not deal with communists.

Argentinian president-elect Javier Milei has criticised China as well as Brazil, which are among his country's most important trading partners. A few months ago, Milei even likened the Chinese government to an "assassin" and said the people of China were "not free".

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular news briefing that the development of relations with Argentina had been showing good momentum, and it would be a "serious mistake" for Argentina to cut ties with countries such as China and Brazil.

Milei's tough talk on China stands in sharp con-

trast with a vow of cooperation by the outgoing president, Alberto Fernandez, who visited Beijing last month and hailed China as a "true friend" of Argentina.

Fernandez also pledged coordination with China under frameworks such as the G20 and BRICS.

Diana Mondino, an economist tipped to become foreign minister in the Milei administration, said Argentina would not join the BRICS grouping, which includes China and Russia, Russia's RIA Novosti news agency cited her as saying.

Argentina was among six countries invited to become new members of BRICS, a bloc whose members also include Brazil, India and South Africa.

Mondino told RIA Novosti that Argentina would "stop interacting" with the governments of China and Brazil, when asked whether Argentina would encourage exports and imports with those countries.

## UN report says world is racing to well past warming limit as carbon emissions rise instead of plunge

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: The globe is speeding to 2.5 to 2.9 degrees Celsius (4.5 to 5.2 degrees Fahrenheit) of global warming since pre-industrial times, set to blow well past the agreed-upon international climate threshold, a United Nations report calculated.

To have an even money shot at keeping warming to the 1.5-degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) limit adopted by the 2015 Paris climate agreement, countries have to slash their emissions by 42% by the end of the decade, said the U.N. Environment Programme's Emissions Gap report issued Monday. Carbon emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas rose 1.2% last year, the report said.

This year Earth got a taste of what's to come, said the report, which sets the table for international climate talks later this month. Through the end of

September, the daily global average temperature exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius above mid-19th century levels on 86 days this year, the report said. But that increased to 127 days because nearly all of the first two weeks of November and all of October reached or exceeded 1.5 degrees, according to the European climate service Copernicus. That's 40% of the days so far this year.

On Friday, the globe hit 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees) above pre-industrial levels for the first time in recorded history, according to Copernicus Deputy Director Samantha Burgess.

"It's really an indication that we are already seeing a change, an acceleration," said report lead author Anne Olhoff of Denmark's climate think tank Concito. "Based on what science tells us, this is just like a whisper. What will be in the future will be more like a roar."



Colombian singer Shakira waves as she arrives with her lawyer Pau Molins at court for her trial facing allegations of tax fraud in Barcelona, Spain.



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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan has said that there exists highest level of resolve and a strong political will to address the challenge posed by malnutrition in Pakistan.

Addressing the global Food Security Summit in London on Tuesday, the minister said that on the whole equation of malnutrition, Pakistan offers a clear vision, firm political will, reasonable capacities, a trained community-level workforce and a whole governance approach to address this issue.

"The Government of Pakistan welcomes the initiative for enhanced global partnership on tackling global under-nutrition issues and finding new ways of working to deliver results."

He expressed gratitude to the British government, Somali government, UAE government, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation and other partners for organizing the Global Food Security Summit.

Dr. Nadeem said that

despite some significant progress that Pakistan made in several social sectors, the country was still battling with very high levels of under-nutrition. He added, that one in five children in Pakistan was wasted, while one in ten children was severely wasted, a condition that increases a child's risk of death by over 10%.

Pakistan was also among the countries with the highest burdens of low birth weight babies, with a national average of 22.7%. The high population growth, rapid urbanization, market price inflation, global crises, and socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, compounded by suboptimal feeding and caring practices were driving child wasting in Pakistan.

The health minister said, "We have deficiencies in supply inflows for turning the tide of this malnutrition in Pakistan 150 million USD per year minimum is required to meet the challenge."

He extended special thanks to Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) for support of USD 10 million.

## DCC renews commitment from international development partners

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Donor Coordination and critical support of development partners in support to 2.5% in fiscal year 2024, up from 0.5% in fiscal year 2023. Japan, WFP, IsDB, IFAD, and others expressed con-



Committee (DCC) meeting on Tuesday witnessed renewed commitment from international development partners to foster Pakistan's economic growth.

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

The Federal Minister highlighted the steadfast

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

The Minister reported positive signs of economic recovery, expecting GDP growth between 2

2023. She stated that the government is actively pursuing reforms in fiscal consolidation, monetary policy, currency market sustainability, energy, business environment, and social safety nets.

She acknowledged the challenges faced by vulnerable households due to fiscal belt-tightening and highlighted the government's commitment to addressing poverty and improving economic conditions.

Representatives from the World Bank, EU, ADB, USAID, UNDP, Germany,

gratulations on the successful IMF review. The development partners pledged continued support to the Government of Pakistan and acknowledged the importance of transparency, alignment with government priorities, and the need for timely disbursement of committed support.

The Minister expressed gratitude for the support received and emphasized the need for cooperation to track off-budget support. Drawing attention to the devastating floods in Sindh and

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

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

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

former Information Secretary Zahoor Ahmed who met him here.

The minister opined that in this challenging environment, the main focus should be on strengthening the Pakistani media industry.

"We should project the positive image of Pakistan, our rich cultural heritage and socio-economic achievements to the world," Murtaza Solangi added.

The minister reaffirmed that the freedom of media and protection of the rights of journalists was a firm commitment of the present government.



Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Mohammad Sami Saeed meets with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong at Planning Ministry, Islamabad

## Planning minister, Chinese envoy discuss progress on CPEC

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The areas where relief goods were distributed were

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary Minority

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chief Minister

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

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

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

The meeting was attended by the caretaker

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

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

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



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

## Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan in high gear

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

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

Work has been completed on various water

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

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

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

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

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

## 30 NHA employees to proceed for Hajj

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

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

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

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

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

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

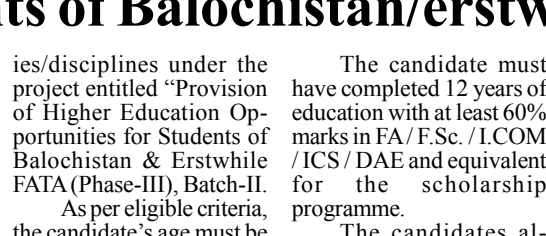
He was accompanied by Additional Director DHS Dr Shokat Baloch,

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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