

# Independent

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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 179, Jamadi-ul-Awwal 13, 1445 AH Tuesday November 28, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15

## Pak deeply values its strategic and brotherly ties with KSA, says COAS

**Saudi Commander, Army Chief discuss matters of defence cooperation, military training; lieutenant General Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Mutair appreciates Pakistan Army's role in fighting menace of terrorism**

RAWALPINDI (APP): The COAS thanked the dignitary and said that, "Pakistan deeply values its strategic and brotherly ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." Earlier on arrival at GHQ, a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary. Meanwhile Lieutenant General Fahad Bin Abdullah Muhammad Al Mutair, Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi today. During the meeting, both sides deliberated upon various areas of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation including defence and security.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Nigeria, Major General (ret) Sohail Ahmad Khan, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President for enhanced trade, cultural ties with Nigeria

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for further improving trade, economic and cultural cooperation with Nigeria, besides increasing the bilateral trade volume for the mutual benefit of the two countries. The president expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Nigeria, Major General (ret) Sohail Ahmad Khan, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. Talking to the high-commissioner designate, the president said that Nigeria was the largest economy in Africa, and Pakistan should explore opportunities for advancing trade and economic relations with it. He opined that economic diplomacy was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Nigeria, especially in the field of economy. President Alvi asked the newly appointed high commissioner to work for promoting cultural linkages and people-to-people contacts to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries. He also congratulated Major General (ret) Sohail Ahmad Khan on his appointment and expressed the hope that he would work to further enhance bilateral ties with Nigeria in all domains of mutual interest.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

## Preparations finalized to observe PPP's 56th foundation day

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is set to observe its 56th Youth-e-Tasees (Foundation Day) in Quetta on Thursday (November 30) for which the leadership and workers of the Balochistan Chapter finalized the preparations. "The main function will be held in Quetta for the first time, where Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other party leadership will address a grand rally," party sources told APP here on Monday. They said that the Chairman PPP has directed all party leadership and workers to observe the Foundation Day enthusiastically by organizing public meetings across the country. It is pertinent to men-



ABU DHABI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meeting with President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

## Dec 12 last date for Applications for Hajj 2024

ISLAMABAD (Online): The application process for Hajj 2024 under government scheme has been started. According to spokesperson of Ministry of Religious Affairs, the collection of Hajj application in 15 designated banks under official Hajj scheme will continue till December 12.

According to announcement of Ministry of Religious Affairs, almost about 89605 Pakistanis will perform Hajj under government scheme next year.

In case of receiving more than prescribed number of applications, lucky draw will be held. Women will be able to perform Hajj without Maharram for the first time.

According to spokesperson, applications can be submitted on valid Pakistani passport till December 16, 2024. Hajj applications can also be processed on passport apply token.

Spokesperson of Ministry of Religious Affairs said that quota of 25000 has been allocated under sponsorship scheme. During the course of



QUETTA: A delegation of Coalition for Inclusive Pakistan Balochistan chapter led by Ms. Sadaf Ajmal meeting with Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Prof. Sajida Noreen removed from post of VC SBKWU

Independent Report QUETTA: Professor Sajida Noreen has been removed from the post of Vice Chancellor, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (SBKWU). This was announced in an official notification issued here on Monday.

According to the notification, Professor Dr. Zainab Bibi has been given the charge of Vice Chancellor of SBKWU. Dr. Zainab has been serving as the head of IMS in University of Balochistan.

## Governor Kakar to visit Chaman on Wednesday

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar is scheduled to visit Chaman city on Wednesday (November 29) (Wednesday).

According to the official sources, the Governor would meet the participants of dharna being staged in Chaman city for several days.

During his visit, Mr. Kakar would also hold dialogue with the leaders and traders.

Needless to mention here is that the Governor would make his endeavour to end the protest sit-in staged in the border town after hearing the protestors.

## Pakistan, UAE reaffirm resolve to further strengthen economic, strategic cooperation

**PM Kakar expresses profound gratitude for the UAE's firm support to Pakistan in the economic and financial domain; Terms the signing of MoUs as a historic event that will usher in a new era of Pak-UAE economic partnership; Pakistan's support for a just and durable solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions.**

ABU DHABI (APP): Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates on Monday reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen economic and strategic cooperation.

This reaffirmation was expressed during a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and the UAE President, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan here.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) was also present on the occasion.

The two leaders under-



RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Mutair, Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

## Pakistan, UAE sign MoUs worth multi-billion dollars

ABU DHABI (APP): Pakistan and United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed several multi-billion dollars Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in a range of areas here on Monday to boost economic and strategic cooperation between the two countries. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said in a video message.

The prime minister, who is on a two-day visit to the UAE, said with the signing of the MoUs, the bilateral economic and strategic relations had entered into a new era of bilateral cooperation.

Congratulating the people of Pakistan and the UAE, he said foundation of friendship with Pakistan that was laid by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in the 1970s, had been taken forward by his son Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to a new era.

Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir and the federal ministers were present on the occasion while on the other side, all the important ministers of UAE were also present.

He expressed the hope that the MoUs that were signed by the two countries would turn into tangible projects very soon.

## Suicide bomber hits security forces' convoy in Bannu

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two innocent civilians have embraced martyrdom while three soldiers of Pakistan Army along with seven civilians got injured after a motorbike-borne suicide bomber hit the security forces convoy in Bakka Khel area of Bannu District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, on November 26, a motorcycle borne suicide bomber, affiliated with Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group and later identified as an Afghan national, exploded himself on a security forces' convoy in general area Bakka Khel, Bannu District.

Sanitization operation was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

## Avenfield, Al-Azizia reference case hearing adjourned till Nov 29

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Amir Farooq and Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb heard the appeals against Nawaz Sharif's sentence. Nawaz Sharif appeared in court along with his legal team.

PML-N leader's lawyers Azam Nazir Tarar and Amjad Parvez were present on the rostrum.

Lawyer Amjad Parvez started the arguments in the Avenfield reference, the court inquired whether these facts were given before the filing of the reference. On which Amjad Parvez said that 3 facts are before the reference and the rest are after.

Justice Mian Gul Aurangzeb inquired that the facts before the references are very important. Where are the TORs of the JIT? Advocate Amjad Parvez said that a full investigation is needed on the said matter.

Justice Mian Gul Hasan said during the hearing that show the portion of the judgment where the reference was ordered to be filed, they want to see what the Supreme Court (SC) had ordered to NAB.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice IHC



QUETTA: Managing Director OGDCL Ahmed Hayat presenting a souvenir to Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

## Special polio immunization drive begins in 33 districts of Balochistan province

Independent Report QUETTA: The special polio immunization campaign commenced in 33 districts of Balochistan province on Monday.

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication, the polio campaign was already launched in other three polio high risk districts including Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah.

Needless to mention here is that the anti-polio campaign is already continued in the polio high risk districts of the province.

The EOC sources said that it was the third day of campaign concluded in Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah. The anti-polio campaign was started in these districts on November 24, 2023. According to EOC, it has been targeted to vaccinate over 2.5 million children below five years of age during the campaign being run all over the province. More than 1100 teams have been formed to vaccinate the children during the campaign.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and leader of PML N Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif leaving after his hearing at Islamabad High Court in Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Unite against VAW**

November 25 marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The day also marks the start of the 'UNITE' campaign: 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. According to the UN, an estimated one in every three women across the world has been subject to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their lifetime, making violence against women and girls (VAW) one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. One must also reckon with the fact that violence against women is chronically under-reported, with many women who experience violence often not seeking help due to legal, social or cultural constraints. And yet, the behaviour of governments across the world would lead one unacquainted with the facts of gender-based violence to believe that it is not such a big deal after all. Only 0.2 per cent of government aid is focused on preventing violence against women and girls while 86 per cent of women and girls live in countries that lack legal protections against gender-based violence.

While there are several laws criminalizing violence, harassment and other forms of abuse against women in Pakistan, they have not had the impact in terms of reducing the crimes they seek to prevent that one would desire. Reports reveal that around 40 per cent of Pakistani women have experienced physical or emotional violence in their lifetime, with around 63,000 cases of gender-based violence reported over the last three years alone.

Laws alone can only do so much. If women who experience physical or sexual violence at home or elsewhere fear being ostracized by their family, friends or community for speaking out or somehow being blamed for their situation, cases of gender-based violence will never reach the stage where the law can take action. A first step towards getting the most out of the laws that seek to protect women is to then challenge and change the culture that seeks to disempower women by legitimizing or rationalizing gender-based violence. This is not solely a gender-based violence issue but one of social justice as well, with poorer women less likely to be able to afford the costs that come with filing a case and hiring the legal help needed to prosecute it, highlighting the need to provide legal and financial resources to victims of gender-based violence.



By Umair Javed

Large parts of Pakistan are currently engulfed by toxic air, amounting to nothing short of a public health catastrophe. The onset of 'smog season', Pakistan and north India's substitute for autumn and early winter, seems to be worsening with each passing year, and cities in the region regularly top the charts for the worst air quality anywhere in the world.

For the first few smog seasons, public authorities chose not to pay much attention, instead highlighting their own 'data' that showed the air wasn't actually as poisonous as environmentalists were making it out to be. Once this make-believe data was thoroughly debunked, authorities gradually stepped into action with a range of seemingly haphazard measures.

Clampdown on stubble burning during the Kharif season has reportedly produced some results. Data shared by environmental policy specialist Dawar Butt shows that till Nov 20, crop fires in Pakistani Punjab were down by nearly 60 per cent compared to the average for this period between 2016 and 2020.

Some of the punitive and administrative measures taken by local officials have induced behavioural change in farming populations, thus contributing to lower frequency of crop burning.

However, clamping down on crop burning addresses a relatively small segment of the problem, given the widespread and multifaceted nature of poor air quality. The fact

**Smog season**

of the matter is that crop fires only emerge ahead of winter sowing, while air quality is poor pretty much the year round. It becomes more visible during the last quarter of the calendar year because of changes in climatic and meteorological conditions.

To date, all existing work on toxic air quality in Pakistan has shown that vehicular emissions are a central part of the problem. Even when smog is not functionally visible, air quality indicators continuously show high levels of particulate matter and toxicity. This means that any interventions designed to clean up the air will also have to address these year-round causes, rather than just tackling time-bound issues.

A recent article by Pakistani scientists Abdullah Bajwa and Hassan Sheikh, based at Oxford and Cambridge respectively, in the journal Air does a comprehensive job of summarising the literature and evaluating the contribution of road transport to urban air pollution.

Their analysis of existing source apportionment studies shows that vehicular emissions are responsible for anywhere between a third to more than half of poor air quality, depending on the parameters of evaluation.

While existing research may be insufficient to provide more precise estimates, there is a general consensus among environmentalists that a) vehicle emissions are a major part of the problem, and b) within emitting vehicles, two- and three-wheelers are likely responsible for most of the issue.

As per the authors mentioned, "The emissions profile presented for Pakistan's urban automotive fleet identifies two- and three-wheelers, almost all of which are carburetted and a significant fraction are powered by 2SC engines, as the largest (36-64 per cent) vehicular pollution source."

High sulphur content in fuel (especially diesel) and lube oil, poorly tuned and maintained engines that burn rich, and lack of exhaust after-treatment systems are recognised as reasons for Pakistan's disproportionately high vehicular emissions.

Given what needs to be done to clean up Pakistan's air, the scale of the task is daunting for several political and institutional reasons. It is true that many cities around the world have cleaned up their air, contributing to better public health outcomes for their citizens.

London, Chicago, Los Angeles, and a host of other Western cities have all done remarkably well on this front. Closer to home, the example of Chinese cities and their ability to improve domestic environmental conditions over the preceding three decades is frequently cited as an example worthy of emulation.

The issue of using China as a model for environmental policies is a complex one. Recent analyses by environmental economist Dr Sanval Nasim identifies exactly why: China is a high-capacity, well-resourced state, with a bureaucracy and local governance apparatus that can take a range of difficult, often very costly, steps to control local populations.

Given the political system in China, administrators have the capacity to absorb political and social blowback with little consequences. Simply put, they have a centralised, disciplined governance apparatus that can successfully ban old vehicles, sanction polluters, impose heavy fines etc.

While no system is entirely free from leakages, the Chinese have the ability to coordinate across multiple governing tiers and departments to produce desired outcomes. — Courtesy Dawn

**Invisible women**



By Dr Farzana Bari

The recently released UNDP 2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) reveals the shocking persistence of gender biases globally. The index tracks people's attitudes towards women across four dimensions — political, education, economic and physical integrity in both lower and higher HDI countries.

Covering 85 per cent of the world's population, the GSNI reveals that a staggering nine out of 10 men and women still hold gender biases against women, indicating that 90 per cent of the world's population holds at least one bias against women. Twenty-five percent of the population believe it is justified for a man to physically harm his wife.

Nearly half of the respondents believe men are better suited for political leadership, and 43 per cent hold the belief that men make better business executives compared to women. Furthermore, 28 per cent people think that higher education is more important for men than for women. Despite the global and national-level commitments to gender equality, there is not a single country in today's world that can truly claim itself as a gender-just society. The GSNI claims that women spend twice as much time on average on domestic and care work as compared to men. Women's time spent on unpaid care work accounts for most of the recent variation in the gender gap in income. Women account for 28 per cent of managers and 31 per cent of top leaders in public ad-

ministration globally. Women hold just over a quarter of parliament seats and 22 per cent of ministerial positions. Heads of states or women in government have remained around 10 per cent since 1995.

The global presence of gender biases demands a more profound analysis of the underlying causes that perpetuate these biases and reinforce gender stereotypes, hindering the equal access to opportunities and resources for women to fully develop their human capital.

The woman question is intertwined with the broader global systems of social and economic production processes that are historically based on exploitation and oppression along the lines of class, gender and race and other social divisions. Patriarchy as a pre-historic phenomenon has been changing with the mode of production and relations of production from primitive to slave, feudal, capitalist and socialist formations in human society. It is indeed not surprising that in the patriarchal neo-liberal capitalist world of the 21st century, progress towards achieving gender equality promised in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is frustratingly slow. As gender inequality is one of the organizing principles of capitalist production, it is impossible to achieve gender equality in class-based societies.

Political rights and civil liberties have been in decline worldwide. Global space for freedom is shrinking, and polarization, militarization, fundamentalism, extremism is on the rise. Increasing poverty and high unemployment accompanied by conservative backlash is putting democratic practices under stress in general and women's rights for equal participation in economic, politics and civic spaces in particular.

Gendered social norms are deeply rooted in the ideology of sexual division of labour (SDL), which assigns distinct roles to men and women in society. Men are expected to be the primary breadwinners, occupying positions in the public sphere, while women are assigned the primary role within the private arena of homes as mother, wives and caretakers. The public-private divide forms the basis for investing less resources to build women's human capital as they are not expected to be economically independent.

The gender role ideology serves as a smokescreen to not only invisibilize women's role in the public sphere but also undermine the economic value of women's reproductive labour within the domestic sphere. Reproductive labour is essential for the productive sphere. The unpaid domestic labour of women keeps the living wages of productive labour low for the capitalist class and contributes to increased profit margin and capital accumulation. Within this socio-economic formation, gender equality is no more than a rhetoric at the domestic and global levels. The trajectory to gender equality proposed in the GSNI is education, recognition and representation. The index proposes two key blocs of action. The first block aims to shape gender-sensitive policy interventions and institutional reforms and the second block focuses on the significant role of the social context in shaping attitudes and behaviors. While there is nothing wrong with this proposed way, it cannot be achieved through reformist interventions within systems of exploitation and oppression. Gender social norms are embedded in institutional arrangements and social practices. —Courtesy The News

**Commerce News**

**Fawad stresses for revamping taxation system, privatizing SOEs**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hasan Fawad on Monday highlighted the flaws in the country's taxation system by informing that around 93 per cent of the collected tax revenue is either voluntary or withholding; whereas, only 7 per cent is actually collected by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad informed the audience that the current state of the public sector is unsustainable and

contributes to the deterioration in the business environment in the country, according to a press release issued here.

Federal Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hasan Fawad, said this while speaking at the 3rd "Pakistan Prosperity Forum" organized by the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME).

In 3 years from 2018-2021, the government spent Rs. 2.54 trillion in terms of subsidies, grants,

and loans to keep commercial SOEs operational, he said.

He informed that the size of the government has increased by more than three times in the last couple of decades.

Fawad said that moreover, FBR sends recovery notices to individuals worth billions of rupees while the actual collection is a mere few hundred million.

Since 2016, the tax burden on corporate taxpayers has increased by more than 40 per cent

average, he said.

Such a burden has contributed to encouraging people to stay out of the tax system and corporatization.

The public sector reforms should include bureaucratic reforms and taxation system reforms. These two areas are crucial for improving the performance of the state.

He stressed that the reform should not increase in the size of the federal and provincial governments, and the power of state functionaries.



Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, chaired a strategic meeting to discuss the prospective trajectory of Economic Development within a robust policy framework.



KARACHI: Chief Statistician Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Dr. Naeem-uz-Zafar gives shield to Head of Office Sindh (UNFA), Ms. Bayramgul Garabayeva at a workshop on data users and data producer's dialogue organized by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA).

**PRMI for modernization of local business to enhance FDI**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiatives (PRMI) was a major plan of the Board of investment (BOI) for the modernization and regulation of local business to enhance the foreign direct investment in the country.

Implementation of these reforms, initiated by BOI, was part of the broader strategy of the government aimed at improving productivity and enhancing exports to achieve the objective of sustainable economic growth in the country, Federal Secretary, Board of Investment (BOI),

Muhammad Sohail Rajput told APP here.

The Secretary BOI said the main objective of PRMI reforms strategy was to improve the entry and operation environment for business, focusing on the simplification and automation of the regulatory framework at all three government levels including federal, provincial and district level. He said the vital success indicator of the initiative would be increase in the overall private sector and foreign direct investment level without compromising the effectiveness of the various regulatory regimes.

**Rupee shed 27 paise against Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed 27 paise devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.64 against the previous day's closing at Rs285.37.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.2 and Rs 288.8 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.41 to close at Rs312.72 against the last day's closing of Rs311.31, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen gained one paise to close at Rs1.91; whereas an increase of Rs2.06 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.25 as compared to the last closing of Rs358.19.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 07 and 08 paise to close at Rs77.77 and Rs76.16 respectively.

**VEON wins award for crisis response**

ISLAMABAD (APP): VEON, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services has won the Crisis Response Award for its group-wide emergency response initiatives.

The World Communications Awards, presented in Amsterdam and hosted after the conclusion of the Total Telecoms Congress, is adjudicated by over 90 independent industry experts, academics, and CTOs; and is widely recognized as one of the most prestigious awards in the telecommunications industry, said a news release issued here on Monday. VEON was recognized for its "comprehensive approach to some of the most difficult operating

environments on Earth, both due to natural disasters and man-made conflicts" including a focus on network resilience, early disaster-warning apps, and humanitarian aid."

During the past two years, VEON's digital operators have prioritized putting technology to the use of the most vulnerable people and communities who fell victim to the war in Ukraine, devastating floods in Pakistan, and cyclone Mocha in Bangladesh.

While no humanitarian situation is comparable in terms of devastation, these disasters have all affected and continue to affect millions of people, exposing them to disease, hunger, and displacement, with women and children being the most vulnerable.



KARACHI: People are buying woolen clothes from vendors after increasing coldness.

**Pakistan, China hold meeting to promote agri-forestry economy**

BEIJING (APP): The third Science and Technology Exchange Conference on China-Pakistan Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest is being held both online and offline from November 26 to 28 in Zhengzhou, China, and Gwadar, Pakistan simultaneously.

The exchange conference aims to showcase achievements and research progress of both nations in the field of economic forestry. It also seeks to facilitate academic exchanges of woody medicinal herbs and active substances between China and Pakistan.

The event, co-hosted

by the Chinese Society of Forestry (CSF) and Central South University of Forestry and Technology (CSUFT), drew over 220 officials, scholars, students and business representatives from both countries, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

In 2021, to enhance the economic and ecological development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), CSUFT, China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), and Yulin Holdings collaborated to establish an Engineering Research Center for Tropical Arid

Non-wood Forest.

The center aims to showcase a green and sustainable development approach, focusing on the non-wood forest industry and its compatibility with ecological, economic, and social benefits in Gwadar.

During the review and discussion of the progress made over the past years, Zhang Baozhong, chairman of COPHC, introduced the impact of eco-economic forest construction on the business environment in Gwadar. Focusing on the collection and utilization of germplasm resources of arid- and salt-tolerant and non-wood barren forests.

**All Pakistan Kisan Ittehad delegation meets S.M Tanveer**

Independent Report

LAHORE: A delegation of All Pakistan Kisan Ittehad here on Monday met Caretaker Punjab Minister for Agriculture S.M Tanveer and apprised him about the problems of farmers.

Speaking on the occasion the minister said, "Agriculture sector has a key position in the national economy and its development can help in overcoming the country's economic crisis." New investment of billions of dollars was underway in the agricultural sector and in order to address black marketing of fertilizers the crackdown in this regard had been intensified, he added. He further said that canal water theft was also being addressed with the support of irrigation and other allied departments.

The government of Punjab had raised its voice before the federal government regarding the purchase of cotton at a fixed price, he added.

SM Tanveer said that effective measures were being taken to increase per acre production of wheat.

## Hard work imperative for attaining glory in education: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Monday said that hard work and professional dedication were imperative to achieve glory in all sectors including education.

Despite payment of about Rs 97 Billion to government schools under the head of salaries in the last four months, he said the children did not achieve the desired education results and many failed.

He was addressing students and teachers at University of Chitral. "It was very heartening for me when an M.Phil passed student asked for a Class-IV job," he said, adding

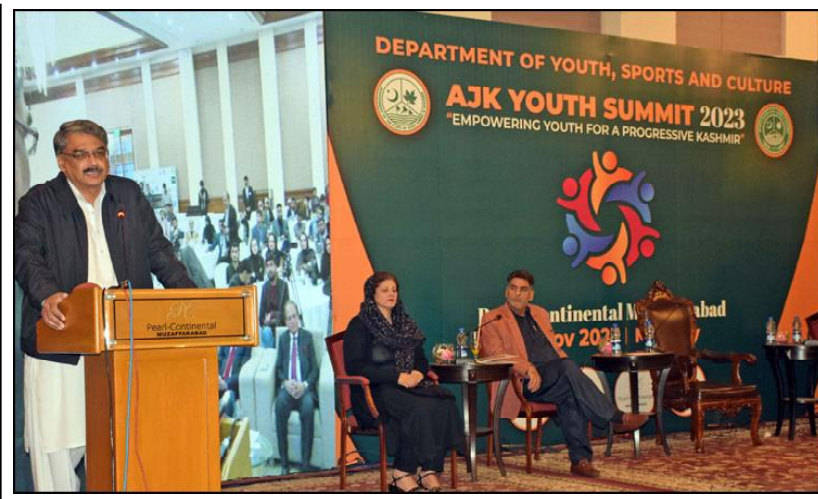
every effort including the construction of universities and investment in the education sector would be a futile exercise if quality education was not provided to students.

The governor said there was no dearth in talent in our students and we need to focus on their professional education training and career counseling. He questioned the reasons behind 100 per cent results of private educational institutions and poor results of public sector schools.

The Governor said funds for educational institutions showing poor results would be stopped. He said funds of

universities with no ranking would also be stopped. Haji Ghulam Ali said the education standard of Govt College Peshawar was very low in Peshawar in the past. The Governor said when he took over as district Nazim Peshawar, he was surprised after seeing in the newspaper that three students of Government College Peshawar had topped the examination in the province and became very pleased.

The governor said the students were the future of Pakistan and great responsibility rested on their teachers and parents to focus on their studies so that they could effectively shoulder the future responsibilities.



MUZAFFERABAD: Prime Minister AJK Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq addressing during the "Kashmir Youth Summit 2023" in the Capital.

## Ministers attend central event of Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Information Minister Amir Mir and Auqaf Minister Barrister Azfar Ali Nasir participated in the central event commemorating the 554th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak, the revered spiritual leader of the Sikh community, held at Gurudwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib.

The ministers engaged with thousands of Sikh pilgrims hailing from across the globe, including the UK, Australia, USA, Canada, and India, said a press release issued here on Monday.

Minister Amir Mir meticulously inspected the arrangements at Gurudwara Janamasthan, focusing on cleanliness, security, and overall logistics. Both caretaker ministers actively participated in the

Nagarkirtan procession and other festivities.

Expressing a warm welcome to pilgrims from around the world at Nankana Sahib, Minister Amir Mir extended congratulations on Baba Guru Nanak Dev's birthday. He emphasized that Pakistan is a bouquet of diverse religions, where Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Christians, and Parsis bloom as its vibrant flowers. Amir Mir highlighted the beauty of religious diversity in the country and underscored that followers of all faiths enjoy absolute freedom in Pakistan. "The provision of essential facilities to both local and international pilgrims ranks as the top priority for the Punjab government," he stated. He urged the continuation of Baba Guru Nanak's message of peace, love, harmony, and goodness.

## ANF recovers 420 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover over 420 kg of drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that in

an operation, ANF recovered 800 grams of Ice drug from a parcel booked for Bahrain at a courier office in Rawalpindi.

100 intoxicated tablets (ecstasy) were recovered from an accused netted from Bhara Khau in Islamabad.

## Meeting to review AIP ongoing projects in NMDs held

**Independent Report**

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce, and Technical Education, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, chaired a meeting at his office here on Monday to review the funding status for ongoing projects under the Accelerated Implementation Program (AIP) in Newly Merged Districts.

During the meeting, discussions centered on the allocation of funds for ongoing development projects across various departments, including Communications and Work, Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries, Forestry and Environment, Food, Primary and Secondary and Higher Education, Public Health Engineering, Sports and Youth Affairs, and the Board of Revenue.

The meeting involved a comprehensive review of each project's status and the necessary funds essential for their timely completion. Secretary Communication and Works Idris Khan Marwat, Secretary Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Muhammad Asrar, Secretary Food Zariul-Maani, Special Secretaries from the Interior and Tribal Affairs Department Muhammad Zubair.

## LHC accepts petition about cases registered in May 09 incident for hearing

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Bench Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz has accepted the petition filed for hearing regarding the details of the cases filed on May 9 incident.

While issuing a notice to the parties, Inspector General (IG) Punjab and Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi have been asked for a report within two weeks.

Former Member of National Assembly Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, through Abdul Raziq Advocate, made the IG Punjab and RPO Rawalpindi a party and took a stand in the petition filed that 6 months after the May 9 incident, the petitioner is being involved in various cases through the by-laws. Whereas the petitioner has nothing to do with any incident anywhere, nor is there any evidence of the petitioner's presence, nor is he named in any case other than the City Police

Station case. The police is maliciously nominating on the basis of supplementary statements after 6 months, although the Supreme Court has also made it clear that delayed supplementary statements have no status nor can they be considered as admissible evidence, so the petitioner is merely anonymous.

Thus far, the petitioner's name has been mentioned in 13 cases and now it has been found that the petitioner is being implicated in more cases at different places.

It has been requested in the petition that the court should seek the details of the cases against the petitioner and also seek an explanation as to which case petitioner is being implicated in and on what basis.

After the preliminary hearing of the petition, the court has asked the IG Punjab and RPO Rawalpindi to respond within two weeks.

## CM takes notice of girl killing incident in Kohistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah here Monday took strict notice of killing of a girl allegedly on order of a local jirga in Kohistan and directed the authorities concerned for immediate inquiry of the incident.

He contacted Additional Chief Secretary Home and directed for taking all necessary measures for conducting of an immediate inquiry of the incident and submission of report at earliest, says an official statement here.

The chief minister also directed KPK Inspector General of Police for immediate arrest of all the culprits involved in the gory incident.



LAHORE: People are taking interest in paintings during exhibition regarding the "Ghaza" at Khana-e-Farhang (Iran) in Provincial Capital.



CHITRAL: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali performed ground breaking ceremony of the University of Chitral main campus during his visit to district Chitral.

## Working group formed for artificial rain in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): As part of efforts to control smog, the Punjab government has formed a working group comprising representatives of relevant federal, provincial departments and military organizations to execute the project of artificial rain in Lahore.

The decision to establish the working group was made in a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman here on Monday.

The meeting reviewed progress on the projects of artificial rain and installation of smog reduction towers in Lahore. The administrative secretaries of various departments including environment protection, agriculture, finance and officers concerned attended the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman said that the Punjab government was taking practical steps to prevent smog, adding that joint efforts were needed to control environmental pollution. He said that the cooperation of federal and military institutions in efforts to prevent smog in Punjab was commendable.

Officials of the Environmental Protection Department gave a briefing on cloud seeding and cloud ionization methods for artificial rain. They said that the first trial for cloud seeding was expected in four to six weeks. They mentioned that the cloud seeding through a chemical process using aircraft was highly dependent on weather conditions and cloud formation.

## International News

### Negotiators close to agreeing extension of Gaza truce, say Egyptian security sources

**News Desk**

GAZA/JERUSALEM: Egyptian, Qatari and US negotiators closed in on an extension of a four-day truce in Gaza that expires on Monday, Egyptian security sources said, amid rising international pressure to roll over a deal which has paused seven weeks of fighting.

Palestinian group Hamas is seeking a four-day extension while Israel wants day-by-day extensions, with negotiations continuing over which Palestinian prisoners would be freed, the sources said.

An Israeli official earlier reiterated Israel's position that it would agree to an extra day of truce for each additional 10 hostages freed and to release three times the number of Palestinians each time. The number of additional days is capped at five, the official added.

A Palestinian official, familiar with the truce talks, said both Hamas and Israel had shown a positive attitude to requests to extend the pause in fighting, but added that "a final decision hasn't yet been reached".

On Sunday, Hamas freed 17 people, including a 4-year-old Israeli-American girl, bringing the total number of the militant group has released since Friday to 58, including foreigners. Israel freed 39 teenage Palestinian prisoners on Sunday, taking the total number of Palestinians freed under the truce to 117.

Under the terms of the current deal, Hamas is due to

release in total 50 Israeli women and children held hostage in Gaza, which means that 11 remained to be freed on Monday. There is no limit in the deal on the number of foreigners it can release.

An Israeli government spokesperson said on Monday that the total number of hostages still held in Gaza was now 184, including 14 foreigners and 80 Israelis with dual nationality.

Both Israel and Hamas raised concerns over Monday's lists and Qatari mediators were working with them to resolve the issues and avoid delays, an official briefed on the matter told Reuters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said it was reviewing the list of Palestinian prisoners it had received from Hamas for release on Monday and would provide further information when possible.

Hamas spokesperson Osama Hamdan, speaking to Lebanon's LBC broadcaster, said the group would try to find more hostages to release and thus prolong the truce. Hamas has previously said it is not holding all the hostages who were brought to Gaza.

Once the truce ends, Netanyahu said at the weekend, "we will return with full force to achieve our goals: the elimination of Hamas; ensuring that Gaza does not return to what it was; and of course the release of all our hostages."



Palestinians eat outside amid the destruction caused by Israeli strikes in the village of Khuzaa, east of Khan Yunis near the border fence between Israel and the southern Gaza Strip



WELLINGTON: Former airline boss Christopher Luxon formally took office as New Zealand's prime minister vowing to tame inflation and bring down interest rates

## Luxon sworn in as New Zealand PM

WELLINGTON (AFP/APP): Former airline boss Christopher Luxon formally took office as New Zealand's prime minister on Monday, vowing to tame inflation and bring down interest rates.

Luxon took over six weeks after his conservative National Party won national elections, ending a six-year Labour Party reign ushered in by Jacinda Ardern.

Luxon, 53, once chief executive of Air New Zealand, was sworn in as head of a new coalition government by New Zealand's governor-general in a ceremony in the capital Wellington.

"It is an honour and an awesome responsibility," Luxon told reporters.

"The number one job is to fix the economy. We have to reduce the cost of living and get inflation under control so we can lower interest rates and make food more affordable."

Luxon said his new government would also focus in its first few months on restoring law and order and improving public services.

"We need to go to work," he said. The former Labour government struggled to control the rising cost of living, a global issue blamed in part on pandemic-related supply issues and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

## Satirical Putin play stirs emotions in Bulgaria

SOFIA (AFP/APP): A highly acclaimed satirical play about President Vladimir Putin and his allies facing a war crimes tribunal is making waves in Bulgaria, a country historically close to Russia.

Titled "The Hague", the play by Ukrainian author Sasha Denisova recounts the story of an orphaned teenager from Mariupol who imagines how Russia's top brass is brought to justice over its devastating war in Ukraine.

After premiering in Poland and the United States earlier this year, celebrated guest director Galin Stoev adapted the play for a Bulgarian audience, seeking to challenge the Balkan country's pro-Kremlin sentiment.

In the drama currently staged at Sofia's National Theatre, Putin is portrayed by a woman—Bulgarian actor Radena Valkanova—donning a sleek black suit and red shoes.

"If we can't watch the Hague trial in real life, let's watch it in the theatre," Denisova said of the scene she penned before the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for

Putin over the alleged unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children.

In the same way, as Charlie Chaplin mocked Nazi leader Adolf Hitler on screen, "Putin must be laughed at without mercy," she told AFP, stressing the power of satire.

Historically close to Russia, EU and NATO member Bulgaria still has many citizens nostalgic for what they see as the glory days of the Russian empire and the Soviet Union.

The nostalgia also refers to Russia as a protector for the Slavic people of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule.

Studies suggesting that 30 percent of Bulgarians are pro-Putin—despite Moscow's relentless war on Ukraine—encouraged Stoev in his determination to stage an "eye-opening" adaptation of the play in Sofia.

And he seems to have hit a mark.

"The audience is deeply moved and asks questions," Stoev told AFP, after the actors received another round of standing ovations from the crowd.

## China's top diplomat to visit UN for Israel-Hamas talks

BEIJING (AFP/APP): China's top diplomat Wang Yi will visit New York this week to hold a United Nations Security Council meeting on the Israel-Hamas conflict, Beijing's foreign ministry said on Monday.

"As it holds the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council this month, China will hold a high-level meeting on the Palestinian-Israeli issue on November 29," spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

Wang Yi will preside over the meeting, he added. Hamas poured across

the border on October 7, killing 1,200 people, according to Israeli officials.

In response, Israel launched a military campaign to destroy Hamas, killing nearly 15,000 people, mostly civilians and including thousands of children, according to Gaza's Hamas government.

China said last week it welcomed a truce between Israel-Hamas, which began Friday and led to dozens of hostages being freed and the release of more than 100 Palestinian prisoners.

The deal entered its fi-

nal 24 hours on Monday.

Beijing hoped this week's UN talks would achieve "a ceasefire and an end to the fighting" and make "contributions to alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza", Wang Wenbin said.

China has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and supportive of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for an "international peace conference" to resolve the fighting.

## US President Biden to miss COP28 climate summit

WASHINGTON (INP): President Joe Biden will miss the latest UN climate summit in Dubai, after two years of attending the talks in hopes of highlighting US leadership, a US official said.

Some 70,000 people including national leaders and Pope Francis are expected at COP28 as it opens on Thursday, in what could

be the largest United Nations climate summit ever. Schedules released by the White House for Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris showed neither heading to Dubai this week.

Biden's engagements include a trip to Colorado to highlight US investment in wind energy, a meeting with the president of Angola and the lighting of the na-

tional Christmas tree. A US official confirmed that Biden was not planning to attend COP28 this week or during a second window close to the end of the talks on December 12.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Biden administration was still discussing whether to send a top-level official to Dubai.

## Caretaker FM says Welfare of overseas Pakistanis, resolution of issues among govt's top priorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani said that welfare of the overseas Pakistanis and the resolution of their issues on a priority basis, were among the top priorities of the interim government.

Jilani further said that the European Union (EU) was an important partner of Pakistan and welcomed the continuation of GSP Plus status for Pakistan, adding these steps would further promote bilateral economic links with the EU.

The minister expressed these views during his visit to the Pakistan Embassy in Belgium where he was warmly received by Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Amna Baloch and other members of the diplomatic staff, a press release said.

The caretaker foreign minister visited different sections of the embassy including the consular section and expressed his satisfaction over the facilities being provided to the Pakistani community.

On the occasion, he also penned down his expressions in the visitors' book placed in the embassy.



RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Fahad Bin Abdullah Muhammad Al Mutair, Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces called on General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

## Strengthening & empowering women: Balochistan women summit to be held in Quetta today

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The first Balochistan Women Summit 2023 is scheduled to be held under the auspices of Provincial Information Department in Quetta today (Tuesday).

According to an official handout issued here on Sunday, the Women Summit would be held in collaboration with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund for strengthening and empowering women of the province.

The Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar would be the chief guest at the event while the provin-

cial ministers and advisers would also be participating in it. The prominent YouTubers, singers and personalities belonging to different sections of life would also be participating in the summit. The awards would also be conferred upon different personalities in recognition of their invaluable services.

The summit is also aimed at recognizing the invaluable services and important role of women in different sectors.

This platform would also promote the culture of praise and recognition of services of others.



NANKANA SAHIB: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed addressing on the occasion of 554th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

## Interim Govt determined to resolve basic problems of masses; Danish Langove

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Advisor to caretaker Chief Minister for Irrigation, Mir Danish Langove has stated that the interim government knows well about the issues of masses.

The government is determined to resolve the basic issues of health, education, employment and others being faced by the general public.

He said that it is our

## LHC reserves decision on petition to remove Caretaker PM from office

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has reserved its decision on the petition filed to remove Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar from his office.

Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan of LHC heard the petition of Advocate Muhammad Muqasit.

During the hearing, the government lawyer argued that there is nothing in the constitution that the caretaker government is only for 90 days, if there is no executive of the country, how will the country run?

The petitioner's lawyer said that my request is that everything should be in accordance with the law, the main job of the caretaker prime minister is to conduct elections, which he is not conducting, the prime minister has lost his sanctity, the BBC contacted me regarding this matter.

Court remarked that the BBC is not a party to

this petition, what does it have to do with us? You should go and find out why Pakistan was created, who created it, you are lying in these circles, I did not like your reference to BBC.

Later, the Lahore High Court reserved its decision on the petition to remove the Caretaker Prime Minister from office.

Earlier, in the petition filed in the LHC, the position was taken that the appointment of the caretaker prime minister has become ineffective after the completion of the 90-day period, the caretaker prime minister's term has been completed on November 15. Anwar Ul Haq Kakar is no more prime minister.

Petitioner further said that the election commission or any constitutional court did not extend the caretaker prime minister's term, requesting the court to issue an order to remove the caretaker prime minister from office.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan chaired an Inter Ministerial meeting on health and population participated by all provinces Ministers and their representatives.

## Senate told Pakistan has sufficient stock of wheat to cater country needs

Administrative measures stabilized rupee's value

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information, Murtaza Solangi on Monday said Pakistan currently had ample wheat stocks and concrete measures would be initiated to address any flour shortage due to supply chain problems.

Responding to a motion under Rule 218 by Senator Sania Nishtar, focused on addressing gaps in the wheat supply chain that may lead to flour shortage, the minister stated that currently there was no wheat shortage in the country. Senator Nishtar had pointed out the specific lacuna in wheat policy, citing the conversion of green bags to white bags at the retail level. She also hinted at the smuggling as a factor, contributing to wheat shortages in addition to creation of systematic arti-

cial shortages and hoarding. The minister emphasized that there was an adequate stock of wheat in the country as public wheat stock included 39,24,367 metric tons in Punjab, 8,17,394 metric tons in Sindh, 2,15,082 metric tons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 89,354 metric tons in Balochistan. Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation Ltd (PASSCO) accounted for 17,18,177 metric tons, he added. Private wheat stock comprises 3,37,270 metric tons in Punjab, 93,165 metric tons in Sindh, 14,918 metric tons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 4,157 metric tons in Balochistan.

The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said that Pakistan had over seven million (7,213,884) metric tons of wheat, with an additional imported stock of

10,33,845 metric tons, ensuring there was no shortage. He said the support price for provinces differed, being Rs 4600 in Punjab and Rs 4700 in Sindh.

During discussions on the motion, Senator Dilawar Khan said that Pakistan should export wheat rather than its import and called for concessions to the agriculture sector.

Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday informed the Senate that the value of rupees has stabilized owing to the administrative measures of the incumbent government.

Winding up the discussion on the motion raised by Kamran Murtaza regarding the devaluation of the Pakistan Rupee and

shortage of US dollars in the market resulting into high inflation, the minister said that the government controlled the informal channels/hundi business in the country. He expressed the hope that the value of the country's currency would further improve after receiving a second tranche from the IMF after its review.

## Governor grieved over death of Ismail Lehri

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of former Nazim Chiltan Town, Mir Muhammad Ismail Lehri.

In a condolence statement issued here on Monday, the Governor said that the late Ismail Lehri was a thorough gentleman and a kind person.

He said that the services of Mir Ismail Lehri for the poor people would be remembered for a long time.

The Governor prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough patience and strength to the bear the tragic loss.

## DG NAB to hold open court in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: Director General, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan Zafar Iqbal will hold an open court here at the regional office on November 30.

Following the directives of the chairman NAB, the anti-corruption watchdog has decided to hear public complaints with regard to corruption and corrupt practices, NAB officer said on Monday.

He noted that NAB will take action against complaints falling within the jurisdiction of the NAB Ordinance 1999.



QUETTA: Accountant General Balochistan Hassan Saqlain meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

## Senate passes resolution Asking for addressing concerns in Dasu, Diamer Bhasha Dams regions

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday passed a resolution expressing deep concern over the present situation emerging in the areas of the Dasu and Diamer Bhasha dams and asked for recruitment in the said projects as per the quota fixed for them. The resolution was tabled by Muhammad Talha Mahmood. The resolution further said that the salary of persons working on the said projects should not be less than the minimum wage, i.e., Rupees thirty-two thousand per month, as fixed by the Government in the budget for the current fiscal year.

It also emphasized that the laborers working on those projects should be paid at least Rs. 1500 per day, following the Government policy.

Additionally, the resolution urged the government to provide compensation to all the affectees of those projects under the "chola package".

It further said that the Government should take all necessary steps to utilize the amount allocated for the construction of roads, schools, and other facilities in the affected areas in consultation with local elders of Kohistan on a merit basis.



QUETTA: Funeral prayers of BAP leader Mir Ismail Lehri being offered.

## Dashti for timely completion of development schemes in Makran

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Secretary Communication and Works (C&W) Department, Qambar Dashti has directed all the concerned officers to mobilize all available resources to complete the ongoing development projects in the Makran division.

He also directed them not to make any compromise on quality of work on the projects besides asking them to issue notices to the contractors who stopped work on the projects.

If they didn't resume work on the projects even

then, the process of blacklisting should be initiated against them, directed the Secretary C&W while presiding over the meeting held to review progress of work on the ongoing development schemes in Makran circles, at Kechn on Monday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included Chief Engineers Faiz Mohsin and Iqbal Kasi besides other concerned officers.

The Secretary C&W was briefed by the concerned engineers about progress of the schemes being executed in their re-

spective districts.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary said that it is our endeavour to take immediate steps for the schemes which are going to complete this year.

He was critical of the contractors who have stopped work on the schemes and are not working there saying that the action of blacklisting should be initiated against them.

He said that it is our priority to complete the development schemes in time so that the general public may benefit from them.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Caretaker Sports and Culture Minister Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani.

## Govt to launch national program on hepatitis, diabetes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The inter-ministerial meeting chaired by caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Monday decided to launch National Diabetes, Hepatitis and National Health Support Programs.

The meeting was attended by all provincial ministers and their representatives. It took major decisions taking up ten point major reform agenda for the transformation of the health sector in the country.

It was decided to launch National Diabetes Program costing Rs. 6.8 billion in view of the high prevalence of this non-communicable diseases in the country.

The program will have a major impact on arresting the high incidence of the disease in Pakistan.

Free screening and diagnosis facilities will be provided to the patients under this landmark initiative.

It was also agreed to launch National Hepatitis Program at the cost of Rs. 34.5 billion under which free screening, diagnoses and treatment facilities will be

provided across the country. To strengthen primary health care it was decided to launch National Health Support Program at the cost of Rs. 430 million.

Around 500 BHU will be refurbished and will be made functional across the country. The provincial governments will bear the recurrent cost including the appointment of human resource. To decrease neonatal morbidity and mortality newborn strategy was endorsed, which will be implemented throughout the country.

It will ensure the supplies and availability of medicines at the primary health care level.

National Behaviour Change Strategy will be introduced to equip the population with the necessary knowledge to practice health behaviours.

Consonant with this responsibility Federal Ministry of Health has been striving to provide suitable platforms to ensure harmonization of various areas in health and population, particularly those which require a coordinated national approach and face common critical challenges.



QUETTA: Central leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Nawab Sanaullah Zehri being briefed about security arrangements of PPP's 30th November public gathering during his visit to CPO.

## WB to launch 'Policy Notes' for Pakistan's key-area reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB) will present a series of 'Policy Notes' on Tuesday outlining the most critical policy shifts for Pakistan's key areas including achieving fiscal sustainability.

The policy notes have been compiled after months of dialogue, under the initiative "Reforms for a Brighter Future: Time to Decide," which focuses on fiscal sustainability, private sector growth, energy, stunting, learning poverty, agriculture, and climate change.

The launch event would present the findings from outreach and engagements conducted across the country, and inform the public policy dialogue on moving towards a productive, sustainable, resilient, and healthy Pakistan.

## Fawad Ch. gets B-class facilities in jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has been granted B-class facilities in jail on Monday.

In compliance with a court directive, Chief Commissioner Anwarul Haq appeared before the High Court in a case involving the prison facilities of Fawad Chaudhry.

During the court hearing, the Chief Commissioner presented an implementation report on Fawad Chaudhry's requests.

The report revealed that former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has been granted B-class facilities in jail, and as per the court's directives, he has been permitted to meet with family and legal representatives.

Additionally, the court granted permission for a separate meeting between Fawad Chaudhry's wife and him within the prison premises.

During the conversation with the Deputy Superintendent of Jail, Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb emphasized the need to provide medical facilities to Fawad Chaudhry in accordance with the jail manual.

The court directed the jail authorities to show respect and dignity to the petitioner.

## 8 under-construction WAPDA projects completed

MANGLA (APP): As a result of the completion of eight under-construction water and hydropower projects of WAPDA, the carry-over water capacity in the country will increase from 30 days to 45 days with an addition of 9.7 MAF water storage, while hydel power generation of WAPDA will also be doubled to more than 18,000 MW with an increase of 9,043 MW, it was officially said.

This was briefed to a delegation of PAF Air War College Karachi during their visit to WAPDA House on Monday, media wing of

WAPDA said in a statement released on Monday. Headed by Air Commodore Raja Imran Asghar, Deputy President of the College, the delegation was comprised of Pakistani and allied officers from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Zimbabwe, the press statement said. Secretary WAPDA Fakharuzzaman Ali Cheema welcomed the guests while Advisor (Hydrology and Water Management) Shahid Hamid briefed the delegation about role, functions and development plans.



QUETTA: Residents of Satellite Town are blocked road and burn tires as they are holding protest demonstration against low pressure of sui gas in their area.

## Ex-bureaucrat Ahad acquitted in assets beyond means reference

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (Online): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) acquitted Ahad Cheema, former adviser to the caretaker prime minister, of the charges in the reference of assets beyond means.

In the report submitted by NAB on Ahad Cheema's acquittal plea, it has been said that there is no reference to assets in excess of income against the former bureaucrat, all his assets are in line with his

income.

In the NAB report, it has been said that the alleged benami (Without name) institutes of Ahad Cheema have built properties from their personal income, the properties of their alleged benami institutes cannot be linked to Ahad Cheema, their relatives Sadia Mansoor, Mansoor Ahmed and Nazia Ashraf's accounts are not Ahad Cheema's benami accounts.

## Tandoors of those selling less weight naan on high rate to be sealed: ADC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Quetta, Muhammad Anwar Kakar has warned that the Tandoor shops of those selling less weight naan (bread) on high rate would be sealed and the owners would be sentenced to imprisonment in jail.

The Additional DC General was addressing the meeting with office bearers of Tandoor Association here on Monday.

It was unanimously decided that the Tandoors of those owners found selling less weight roti on the rate over the prescribed rate

would be sealed forever cancelling their licenses.

The Additional DC warned the Tandoor Association of stern action against those violating the agreement reached with it about selling of the naan.

It was mentioned that the administration issued revised rate list of the naan in view of the problems of Tandoor Association.

But, still the violation of agreement is continued by the Tandoor Association, the ADC regretfully pointed out.

He asked the Tandoor Association to abide by the agreement.