

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## PM for complete utilization of Balochistan's natural resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday stressed upon complete utilization of natural resources of the Balochistan province. He was talking to Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali who called on him, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said that progress and prosperity of the people of Balochistan were among the top priorities of the Federal Government. During the meeting, they also discussed different matters related to the province.

## COAS Munir, Azerbaijan top leaders vow to take military ties to new level

Army chief pays official visit to Azerbaijan, emphasises enhancing cooperation in fields of defence and training

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, who is on an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, called on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Defence Minister, 1st Deputy Minister and Chief of General Staff and Commander of Azerbaijan Air Force. According to a news release of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS' visit is aimed at enhancing military-to-military cooperation and defence collaboration between the two brotherly countries. During the meetings,

the COAS emphasized on enhancing cooperation in the fields of defence and training. He appreciated the high morale and remarkable standard of operational readiness of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces. During the meeting Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said that the friendly and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan were being successfully strengthened in various fields, including military cooperation. Appreciating the successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pa-

kistan in the defence industry, he emphasized the importance of conducting joint military training between the two countries. Regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries at the international level, the Azeri president reiterated that Azerbaijan always supported Pakistan on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. President Ilham expressed the confidence that the visit of COAS to his country would help in further stabilizing the cooperation between the two countries.

## CM directs to expedite pace of work on ongoing projects under QDP

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the concerned quarters to expedite the pace of work on the ongoing development projects under Quetta Development Package. He asserted that no carelessness and leniency would be tolerated in the early completion of the development projects included different roads under the Quetta Package. The Chief Minister was on visit to the development projects being executed under Quetta Development Package in the metropolis on Wednesday morning.

He announced to visit and inspect the development projects after one week. He strictly directed to the concerned authorities to make the construction companies bound to complete the work on projects as per their work plan and that within stipulated time. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister visited the Ansoomb road development project. During briefing, he was informed that the project would be completed by December 30, 2023. Mr. Domki on the occasion said that there's no issue of provision of funds, we have to provide necessary facilities to the masses. He said that the flow of traffic would reduce with completion of development projects in the Quetta city.

## PM invites Rwanda to open diplomatic mission for closer African ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, conveying Pakistan's desire to enhance multi-sphere ties with the African continent, invited Rwanda to establish its diplomatic mission in Islamabad.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the Senate of Rwanda, led by Senate President Dr. Kalinda Francois-Xavier, reiterated the desire to strengthen Pakistan's ties with Africa, particularly in trade, investment, IT (information technology), agriculture and people-to-people exchanges.

Pakistan has already opened its mission in Kigali in 2021, according to a PM Office news release.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction at the friendly and cordial relations between Pakistan and Rwanda. Emphasizing the significance of parliamentary exchanges, Prime Minister Kakar welcomed and appreciated the first-ever visit by the President of Senate of Rwanda.

He also appreciated Rwanda's remarkable economic growth achieved in recent years.

The President of the Senate of Rwanda expressed gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to his delegation. They had very useful meetings with parliamentarians, government officials and private sector during their stay in Islamabad.



BAKU: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir meeting with President of Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

## Over 35,000 immigrants repatriated to homeland so far: Jan Achakzai warns of stern legal action against illegal immigrants without any discrimination

CT Minister Information says illegal immigrants being deported to their respective countries after detention; Commissioner Quetta says benami properties of illegal immigrants to be confiscated by govt. after due process

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has reiterated the interim government's firm resolve for stern legal action against the illegal immigrants residing in the province as the deadline set for them is already over. He said that the crackdown has been started against the illegal immigrants and it would remain continued without any discrimination.

The action is being taken against all those residing in the province without any discrimination and any particular national is not being targeted in the drive against the illegal immigrants.

The caretaker Minister Information was addressing a press conference along with the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, here at the Quetta Press Club on Wednesday. Jan Achakzai asserted that while it is firm resolve of the government to repatriate the illegal immigrants

to their respective countries, however, those political parties are trying to exploit the situation should not do it. "I warn those parties who are trying to take advantage of the situation, they should not take any such step that may harm them in future," maintained the caretaker Minister Information.

About the repatriation of illegal immigrants, Jan mentioned that over 35,000 immigrants have so far been repatriated via Chaman border. He said that around 100 illegal immigrants have been detained in Quetta till now, and they would be duly deported to their homeland. He said that it is a complicated task to trace and identify the illegal immigrants, however, efforts are continued in this regard.

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## Nawaz Sharif to come to Quetta on 2-day visit: Ayaz Sadiq expects important political personalities may join PML-N from Balochistan



QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stated that some important political parties may join the party from Balochistan soon.

He said that the friends are being invited to join the party under leadership of Mian Nawaz Sharif. He said that it would be made clear today (Thursday) as who is going to join the PML-N from the province. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq was speaking to the media persons soon after his arrival in Quetta from Islamabad on Wednesday.

## SC dismisses review petitions about Faizabad sit-in case verdict

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday dismissed the review petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Defence Ministry about the 2017 Faizabad sit-in case after they were withdrawn by the petitioners. The court said that the Federal Government, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and Pakistan Electronic Media and Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) also requested to withdraw their review petitions. The three-member bench headed by Chief Jus-

## Naval Chief discusses naval collaboration with leadership of RSAF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf who is on official visit to Saudi Arabia called on the top leadership of Royal Saudi Armed Forces on Wednesday.

The Naval Chief during his meetings with Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces, Gen Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili at Ministry of Defence and Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahd Bin Abdullah al-Ghofaili at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters discussed matters of bilateral naval collaboration and regional maritime security, said a press issued here.



RIYADH: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanges views with Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili during meeting held at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters in Riyadh

Admiral Naveed Ashraf underscored the contribution of Pakistan Navy towards regional maritime peace and stability through its initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) and participation in Combined Maritime Force. The Commander RSNF appreciated Pakistan Navy's role in support of collaborative maritime security in the region and acknowledged the significance of strong bilateral defence collaboration.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed about Encomb Road construction project under Quetta Development Package

## Six terrorists killed in Zhub district

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least six terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in general area, Sambazza of Balochistan's Zhub district, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press release on Wednesday.

The IBO was carried out last night by the security forces on reported presence of terrorists. "During the conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between our troops and terrorists, resultantly six terrorists were sent to hell, while a cache of arms, ammunition and explosives has also been recovered," the ISPR said.

## Solangi takes part in 69th Japan Self-Defence Forces Day celebrations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday took part in the celebrations of the 69th Japan Self-Defence Forces (JSDF) Day.

The minister attended a reception arranged by the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad to celebrate the 69th anniversary. In the reception, military officials, caretaker ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and other individuals were also present.

On the occasion, the minister felicitated the people and the Government of Japan, and highlighted the growing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Japan in the area of defence.

## Caretaker FM says: No Afghan refugee having documents will be deported

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Foreign Minister (FM) Jilani Abbas Jilani has said no Afghan citizen having documents will be deported.

Self respect of Afghan citizens will be given due regard, he said this while talking to media men outside parliament house.

He held misconception has arisen with reference to Afghan refugees. We should inform media in this regard.

He stated there are several categories of Afghan refugees. The Afghan refugees who are holding registration cards are not being deported. Like this there are deprived sections of society who are concerned over it that they will have to face problems on their return to Afghanistan. Our attitude with them will be mild and



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Murtaza Solangi, Lt Gen Sarfraz Ahmed, HI(M), Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro along with other dignitaries cutting cake as the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro and Mrs. WADA Naoko hosted a reception to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the Japan Self-Defence Forces (JSDF) Day. Defense Attaché, Colonel ABE Kazuo represented the Japan Self-Defence Forces (JSDF) at the Embassy.

## Ejaz represents Balochistan in Kathmandu workshop: Rising population major hurdle in way of progress of developing countries

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering and Population Welfare, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar has stated that rapidly increasing population is major hurdle in way of progress of the developing countries, and as such there is a dire need to make comprehensive planning to control population. He said that if comprehensive planning was not made, then not only the developing countries, but the developed countries can also face

problems. The caretaker Minister was addressing the workshop held regarding planning 2030 in Kathmandu, Nepal on Wednesday. Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar represented the government of Balochistan in the important workshop. The population welfare experts from all over the world participated in the workshop, he caretaker Minister highlighted the role of population welfare department saying that the department is playing important role for family planning.



# Daily Voice of Masses Independent

## Cricket drama

Much has happened off the field in the last few days and much is expected in the coming days, but at least on the pitch, Pakistan showed no ill effects in the match against Bangladesh yesterday.

After four successive World Cup defeats, the cobwebs were finally dusted off — even as pressure mounted on other fronts, including in the form of some distasteful manoeuvres by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

A convincing seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in Kolkata has kept alive Pakistan's faint hopes of reaching the semi-finals. And yet, while the team turned a corner, it would be unrealistic to expect it to be affected by the events back home.

Pakistan cricket has been nothing short of a circus, with information and disinformation spreading like wildfire, thanks to a plethora of live transmissions. Given the team's earlier losses in the contest, criticism had been fierce.

The PCB decided to act — issuing a statement to clarify that it had merely supported captain Babar Azam and chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq, enabling them to pick the team of their choice. It was the sort of statement which exposed the Zaka Ashraf-led cricket board as averse to taking any responsibility.

Public sentiment seems to matter a great deal to Mr Ashraf, who is nearing the end of his term as interim management committee chief. Whether or not he remains PCB chief, depends on the result of the election his committee has to hold.

A good run for Pakistan at the World Cup would have tipped the scales in his favour. Instead, the team's performances have given rise to claims of a rift between the chairman and captain, with former skipper Rashid Latif alleging that Mr Ashraf was not taking Babar's calls.

An attempt to refute that went horribly wrong, with Mr Ashraf forwarding a screenshot of a conversation between Babar and PCB chief operating officer Salman Naseer, which was leaked on a private news channel. It raised questions about consent.

These incidents are made particularly cringeworthy by the fact that the entire drama played out in front of the cricketing world during the sport's most high-profile event. They raise serious questions about the PCB leadership.

An issue over central contracts, which saw players unpaid for five months due to disagreements, was resolved only a few days ago. The PCB also acted on reports from certain quarters claiming favouritism in team selection, with an alleged link uncovered between Inzamam and an agency representing most of the players. On the eve of the Bangladesh match, Inzamam resigned from his position but vowed to return if cleared of wrongdoing in an investigation initiated by the PCB. There is a time for everything, but this was certainly not the time for domestic theatre in the midst of the World Cup.

Press Secretary to the President (Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

# Shifting the burden of incompetency

By Qamar Bashir

claimed economic wizard, Mr. Ishaq Dar, a man whose wealth has grown to such astonishing proportions that he himself may not possess an accurate account of it. If even a fraction of the wealth amassed by individuals like him could be repatriated to our country, it could potentially transform our economic and financial landscape, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future.

This callous narrative reveals a shocking lack of compassion and an outrageously irrational approach. It implies that the government's solution is to either slash pensions, impose a time limit on disbursements, freeze adjustments for inflation, or even strip surviving spouses of their rightful pension benefits after a pensioner's passing.

In this grim scenario, it seems that if these measures fail to miraculously fix the government's financial outlook, the next steps could entail extreme and unthinkable actions. The government might instruct the defense forces to auction their weapons, insist on our soldiers to stop wearing their uniforms, close down our diplomatic missions abroad, halt government operations, extinguish traffic lights to save electricity, cease fuel purchases for vehicles to cut fuel costs, shut down power and gas production, and ground planes.

In the eyes of our ruling class, the answer to our financial and economic hardship is to strip away the very means of survival from the salaried, working, and middle-class citizens, and now even the pensioners.

Pensioners, in their post-retirement years, often find themselves in the twilight of life. Many have already experienced the erosion of their physical and mental faculties. Despite these personal challenges, they continue to grapple with daunting burdens. They strive to keep the home fires burning, en-

deavor to fulfill their commitments, such as educating their children, supporting their daughters' marriages, and securing a peaceful place to reside.

Additionally, they must navigate the financial maze, endeavoring to meet essential needs while coping with the weight of utility bills that have grown burdensome. Yet, what keeps them up at night are not their personal struggles, but the distressing and insensitive remarks of government ministers, amplified by the media. These comments label them as a strain on the national economy and a drain on the government's treasury.

In their wildest dreams, these retirees might never have anticipated that, after dedicating four decades of their prime years in service to the government, they would be met with anything other than gratitude. Instead, they now face the heart-wrenching reality of being labeled as burdens on the system, with proposals that threaten to strip them of their only means to make ends meet.

It's become abundantly clear that the path to financial and economic improvement does not hinge on the cruel act of depriving citizens of their right to a dignified life. Instead, it lies in a concerted effort to enhance our systems and invest in vital areas. We should channel resources into education and research and development, promoting innovation and nurturing creativity.

We need to create an environment where people can fully unlock their potential. The solution lies in expanding our exports, enticing foreign investment, fostering entrepreneurial ventures, establishing industrial hubs, enhancing the efficiency and productivity of our businesses, and elevating the quality and demand for our products and services, improving the quality and quantity of our products and services. By adding value

to our offerings and creating our own brands, we can tap into new markets and boost our competitive edge. Facilitating easy access to loans for startups will nurture fresh business niches, invigorating our entrepreneurial spirit.

Indeed, the path to financial and economic prosperity also involves a shift in our national focus. Instead of positioning ourselves solely as a security state, we should adopt a stance that seeks peace and cooperation with every nation worldwide. By doing so, we can redirect resources towards building a modern agricultural sector, establishing thriving industrial zones, and enhancing the security and safety of travel to attract global tourism.

Additionally, the creation of a pension fund and investment in saving schemes can not only generate reasonable profits but also serve the nation's broader financial needs.

Furthermore, emulating successful models like France, where pension reforms raised the retirement age and adjusted qualification criteria, can help manage pension costs effectively. Gradual increases in retirement age, changes in contribution rates for employees and employers, and the implementation of partial pensions or delayed benefits for those choosing to work beyond the standard retirement age can all contribute to a sustainable pension system.

Encouraging government employees to participate in voluntary retirement savings plans and streamlining the consolidation of multiple pension plans into a more efficient system will further reduce administrative burdens and enhance fund management.

These insensitive statements disregard the specific provisions of the Civil Services Act of 1973. According to Section 13 of this act, a civil servant's retirement from service occurs after completing

twenty years of service, thus qualifying for pension and other retirement benefits. Furthermore, Section 19 outlines the entitlements upon retirement, including the right to receive a prescribed pension or gratuity. In the unfortunate event of a civil servant's passing, whether before or after retirement, their family is entitled to receive a pension, gratuity, or both. These legal provisions are in place to safeguard the welfare and financial security of civil servants who have dedicated their careers to public service. Any attempt to deviate from these established rights would not only be legally questionable but also ethically unjust.

Caring governments prioritize the welfare of not only their retired employees but the entire population, providing unemployment allowances for those temporarily out of work. For instance, in France, every unemployed individual is entitled to receive a consistent amount, such as Euro 900, until they secure gainful employment. Countries like England and France have well-structured pension systems encompassing several key benefits, including the main pension benefit, calculated based on an employee's salary and years of service. Supplementary pensions are provided by employers, varying according to job titles and years of service. Reversion pensions support surviving spouses, usually amounting to 50% of the deceased spouse's pension. In cases of disability, invalidity pensions are provided to government employees unable to work. Additionally, governments offer a range of social welfare programs and allowances, such as Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Winter Fuel Payment, free healthcare services, vision care, dental treatment, travel cost assistance, disability sup-

port, free bus passes, and special considerations for those with disabilities, including free passports.

Pensioners, many of whom are at an advanced age, have shouldered responsibilities and contributed their skills and dedication to the nation. They are owed respect, dignity, and honor, not derogatory labels like "burden" or "parasites." The pensions they receive are not hand-outs but were part of a solemn job agreement signed even before their entry into government service.

When government employees embark on their careers, they willingly accept substantially lower salaries compared to their private sector counterparts, fully aware that these reduced wages are offset by the promise of pension and retirement benefits in the future. It's a mutually agreed-upon arrangement that provides financial security in exchange for their commitment and dedication.

If the government is intent on shifting the burden of its own shortcomings to retired civil servants, it should commence this effort with fresh entrants. The onus is on the government to be transparent, fully disclosing the terms and conditions of employment. It should offer every candidate the opportunity to sign a job contract with a comprehensive understanding of the contract's provisions, including pension and retirement benefits.

This approach should be consistent and applied uniformly to all state employees, including the judiciary, parliament, and armed forces. No exceptions. We can be certain that without the assurance of pension and retirement benefits, no sane individual would willingly choose government service. It is high time we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our civil servants and afford them the respect and security they have earned and deserve.

# Commerce News

## SBP & CDC launched RAAST payments facility for mutual funds

ISLAMABAD (APP): Central Depository Company (CDC) has collaborated with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to allow investors to purchase mutual funds units using SBP's RAAST Payment Gateway.

CDC has developed a framework where it acts as an "Aggregator" and issues a Raast Payment ID, enabling investors to digitally transfer funds, using Raast, to the respective Asset Management Company (AMC) for the purchase of mutual fund units said a

news release. The facility was launched in an event at CDC House with Saleem Ullah, Deputy Governor SBP as the Chief Guest.

While officiating the event, Deputy Governor SBP, Saleem Ullah expressed his heartfelt appreciation for CDC's unwavering efforts and initiatives for digitalization and customer facilitation.

He emphasized that the core objective of all digitalization efforts is to improve customer convenience and satisfaction.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chairing a meeting of All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association at Ministry of NFS&R.

## SECP to establish online dashboard 'ESG Sustain'

ISLAMABAD (APP): He pointed out that Pakistan is one of the 10 most climate-vulnerable countries in the world and has experienced the most devastating impacts of climate change in the form of catastrophic floods last year that affected 33 million people with a loss of approx. PKR 3.3 trillion.

Akif said, "One of the main ingredients for achieving long-term value for stakeholders is inclusivity. To address this area, not only has the SECP mandated female representation on companies' boards, but we are also actively striving towards creating conducive work environments by encouraging companies to implement gender diversity policies.

He was speaking at the 2nd Pakistan Climate Conference organized by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

Akif talked about recent developments in the ESG framework in Pakistan and SECP's vision of its governance framework, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with Parliamentary delegation of Rwanda.

## Rwanda delegation explores bilateral cooperation opportunities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Parliamentary delegation from Rwanda, led by Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier, President of the Senate of Rwanda has explored bilateral cooperation opportunities in various sectors during their visit to Pakistan.

The delegation is currently on a four-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani. The delegation held significant meetings aimed at strengthening bilateral relations, with a focus on Information Technology (IT) and economic collaboration,

said a press release.

During the visit, the delegation met with key Pakistani officials and organizations to discuss potential areas of collaboration. Notable engagements included meetings with the Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif, a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI), and discussions with the Secretary General of the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC), Sitara Ayaz.

In the meeting with the Minister for IT and

Telecommunication, Dr. Kalinda emphasized the importance of Pakistan establishing a presence in Rwanda and exploring investment opportunities, particularly in the IT sector.

Minister Dr. Umar Saif highlighted Pakistan's robust IT market, with millions of cellular users and significant cellphone manufacturing capabilities. He also mentioned plans to export cell phones to African countries, fostering growth in the sector.

The Ambassador of Rwanda stressed the

necessity of creating a comprehensive framework for cooperation, including cross-ministerial collaboration. Dr. Kalinda implied the signing of MoUs in the fields of Defense and Health with Pakistan, with negotiations underway for agreements in other sectors and desired to sign MoUs with Pakistan also in the IT Sector. The delegation's visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries was marked by discussions on enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation.

## Any kind of seeds not allowed to import; rules & regulation is our priority: Dr Kausar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik Wednesday said that any kind of seeds will not be permitted to be imported, rules and regulation is our priority and according to our law, no seed can be imported.

He said that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research will provide all the possible support to the industry, said a press release issued here. The Minister said that technical and commercial research reports should be submitted in a week

regarding Soybean (Glycine max), it is our vision to solve livestock and poultry problems on a priority basis.

He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting of the All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association regarding reducing the price of chickens and importing soybeans. Secretary, Minister of National Food Security & Research Captain Muhammad Mahmood and Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali were also present.

Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik said that complete work should be done on

## SM Tanveer chairs 15th PPPA session

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired the 15th session of the Executive Committee of Punjab Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) here Wednesday.

The primary agenda consisted of a comprehensive review encompassing 15 key points. During the meeting, the committee approved the initiation of three pivotal projects i.e. establishment of five underground parking facilities in the vicinity of the walled city area, Thokar Niaz Baig to

Mohlanwal Canal Road sewerage initiative and the waste recycling project.

In addition to the project greenlight, the committee took a significant stride by authorizing the allocation of funds through the Project Development Fund (PDF), marking a pivotal step in advancing these initiatives. Further strategic moves were made as the committee sanctioned the initiation of a commercial bank account and approved the procurement of new vehicles, aligning seamlessly with the Authority's overarching goals.



CEO of E-Commerce Enablers Saqib Azhar and Sardarzada Usama Khan Tareen meeting with Federal Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti.

## CPI inflation recorded at 26.9 in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 26.9 percent during the month of October 2023 as compared to the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Wednesday.

The inflation had increased to 31.4 percent during last month (September) whereas it was recorded at 26.6 percent during October, 2022, according to the PBS data.

On a month-on-month basis, the inflation increased to 1.1 percent in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 2.0 percent in the previous month and an increase of 4.7 percent in October 2022. The urban CPI inflation increased to 25.5% on a year-on-year

(YoY) basis in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 29.7% in the previous month and 24.6% in October last year. On a month-on-month (MoM) basis, it increased to 1.1% in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.7% in the previous month and an increase of 4.5% in October 2022.

On the other hand, the rural CPI increased to 28.9% on a year-on-year basis in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 33.9% in the previous month and 29.5% in October 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, it increased to 1.1% in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 2.5% in the previous month and an increase of 5.0% in October 2022.

## Brutal killing of innocent Palestinian citizens is actually genocide of humanity: Baligh

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the inauguration ceremony of "Tabeer" Project at LUMS University National Incubation Center Lahore as Chief Guest.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the brutal killing of innocent Palestinian citizens is actually a genocide of humanity. He said that the martyrdom of Palestinians by the bombing at the civilian settlements and hospitals in Gaza strip is painful. Governor Punjab said that the international community must come together to end the brutality and tranny and play a role in stopping the massacre of innocent citizens, women and small children in Gaza strip.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the purpose of "Tabeer Project" is to hone the entrepreneurial skills of students. He said that the incubation center in the university is an excellent initiative, adding that it will boost the on going efforts to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic prosperity in the province. He said that

Incubation centers in universities across Punjab are already working towards empowering the youth by providing them with the necessary resources, guidance and opportunities to turn their entrepreneurship dreams in to reality. Tabeer will enhance these efforts through collaborative engagements with university faculty, the NICL team.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurating Department of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAWW) Studies in Peshawar University. Vice Chancellor Dr. Idrees and Ulama are also present.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants of an inaugural ceremony of "Tabeer" project at LUMS University National Incubation Center.

### AJK PM emphasizes equal importance of ministries

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has stated that all departments and ministers are of equal importance.

During a meeting with a public delegation in the federal metropolis on Wednesday, the Prime Minister emphasized that there is no difference in the weightage and status of all ministries and portfolios. He underlined that the most crucial factor is the hard work and dedication of those in leadership positions, as per a press release.

He further mentioned that it is high time for the youth to focus on IT instead of wasting their

time on unproductive activities. The Prime Minister pointed out that idleness can lead to anxiety and chaos in society.

He indicated that he has given special instructions to the Minister for IT to utilize all available resources to attract educated youth towards IT and skill development. He also stressed the need to prioritize agriculture and livestock. The Prime Minister assured that his government will allocate all available resources to public welfare projects. He mentioned that the government is planning to launch a significant welfare project worth 5 billion rupees for widows.

### DC chairs meeting on Smog Control in Jhang

JHANG (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi chaired a meeting here on Wednesday to review steps for controlling smog in the district. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Agriculture, Health, and Environment Protection departments, as well as other concerned stakeholders. During the meeting, officers of the Environment Protection department briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the concrete steps that are being taken to control smog. Deputy Commissioner Niazi emphasized the need for strict implementation of smog control measures and zero tolerance for violations.

### Governor inaugurates Dept of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) Studies

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday visited the University of Peshawar and inaugurated Department of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) Studies.

Former Provincial Ministers, Syed Zahir Ali Shah and Moulana Amanullah Haqqani, Sheikh-ul-Hadees, Moulana Muhammad Idrees, Sheikh-ul-Hadees, Moulana Mufti Ghulamur-Rehman, Mufti Shahabud-Din Poplazi, Dean Islamic Studies, Dr.

Muhammad Salim, faculty members and students were also present on the occasion.

Speaking as the chief guest, the Governor said Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) is the best way of life for all of us and we should follow the life of the holy Prophet (PBUH) to achieve success in the world and life hereafter.

He said the factors that have created rift in society can be overcome by following the principles preached by the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

### Naqvi chairs marathon meeting to take stock of smog situation

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a marathon meeting stretching for many hours at CM office with regard to take stock of the smog situation. The government and specialists mulled over various steps to be taken for the eradication of smog.

The environment specialists relating to smog apprised during the meeting that it will make no difference by granting leave in schools and closing down a transport. CM chaired a meeting

in which smog emergency has been enforced across Punjab and wearing a mask has been declared mandatory for male and female students in all government and private schools for one month.

CM while addressing the participants in the meeting said that mask wearing has been declared compulsory for the health of male and female students. We also appeal to the general public to use mask while going out of their houses. CM directed the

Provincial Ministers to visit government and private schools from tomorrow. Mohsin Naqvi stated that a stern action will be taken against those who during the construction of houses fail to sprinkle water on dust, sand and debris. CM issued directions to Commissioner Lahore division, Local Government department and Lahore Waste Management Company in this regard. CM ordered withdrawal of challans against farmers during smog.

### KP Caretaker Minister boosts industrial growth in Mohmand District

PESHAWAR: Dr. Aamir Abdullah, the Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, and Newly Merged Districts Affairs in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, embarked on a one-day visit to the Merged District of Mohmand. During his visit, he inaugurated the operations of two newly established industrial units and laid the foundation stone for another.

The industrial zone in this district, developed

under the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC), witnessed the formal inauguration of two oil units that became operational within a remarkably short period of one month. Additionally, the foundation stone was laid for a new flour unit. These projects have attracted a total investment of 1.2 billion rupees and are expected to create employment opportunities for 1,100 individuals.

### NH&MP launches awareness drive for smog, fog

MULTAN (APP): National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) M4 has launched an awareness campaign about smog/fog.

According to details, a seminar was also held in collaboration with a private company to create awareness about smog/fog in Beat No. 22. DSP Zargham Atta, Admin Officer Muhammad Kamran, Inspector Gul Hameed Khan, Inspector Gulzar Hussain, civil society members, drivers and lawyers were in attendance.

### Punjab still in grip of dengue; 214 new cases reported

LAHORE (APP): Punjab is still in the grip of dengue fever, with 214 new cases reported on Wednesday.

According to the latest data from the Health department, a total of 9,512 confirmed dengue cases were reported across 36 districts in Punjab this year.

Leading the unfortunate tally is Lahore, reporting a staggering 4,032 cases, followed closely by Rawalpindi with 2,287, Multan with 968, Faisalabad with 431 and

Gujranwala with 780 cases. The situation is still continuing, with Lahore reporting an additional 124 new dengue cases, Rawalpindi with 25, Multan with 16, Gujranwala with 24, Faisalabad with 04 while Narowal reported 04 cases in the last 24 hours. Sahiwal reported 03 cases of dengue virus whereas Sheikhupura, Chakwal and Sialkot each recorded 02 new cases of dengue in the same time frame. Kasur, Attock, Sargodha.

## International News

### Desperate Israel erases 50 lives in Jabalia camp strike

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA STRIP: Palestinian fighters offered stiff resistance to invading forces, but the relentless Israeli bombing of the besieged enclave claimed at least 50 lives in the Jabalia refugee camp, on Tuesday. This takes the total number of those killed in Israel's brutal bombing campaign to 8,525, including 3,542 children, according to the latest count by the health ministry. The director of Gaza's Indonesian Hospital told Al Jazeera that more than 50 Palestinians were killed and 150 wounded in Israeli air strikes on a densely populated area of the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza.

AFP video footage from the scene showed at least 47 bodies recovered from the rubble after the strike hit several houses in the densely crowded camp. Dozens of onlookers could be seen standing on the edges of two vast crater as people searched for survivors. Ragheb Aqal, a Jabalia resident, described the strikes as "an earthquake" which shook the entire refugee camp. "I went and saw the destruction... homes buried under the rubble and body parts and martyrs and wounded in huge numbers," the 41-year-old told AFP. "There's no exagger-

ating when they talk about hundred-reds of martyrs and wounded. People were still "transporting the remains of children, women and elderly", he added. The Jabalia camp is Gaza's largest refugee camp. According to the United Nations agency for Palestinian Refugees, the densely populated camp is situated in the north of the besieged enclave and covers an area of 1.4 square km. There are approximately 116,000 registered refugees in the camp. The camp also housed three UN-run schools, which had subsequently been converted into shelters for hundreds of displaced families.



Palestinian fighters offered stiff resistance to invading forces, but the relentless Israeli bombing of the besieged enclave claimed at least 50 lives in the Jabalia refugee camp.

### Seoul believes North Korea sent Russia over a million artillery shells

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korea's top spy agency believes North Korea sent more than a million artillery shells to Russia since August to help fuel Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, according to a lawmaker who attended a closed-door briefing Wednesday with intelligence officials.

North Korea and Russia have been actively boosting the visibility of their partnership in the face of separate, deepening confrontations with the United States. Their diplomacy — highlighted by a summit between North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un and Putin in September — has triggered concerns about an arms arrangement in which North Korea supplies Russia with badly needed munitions in exchange for advanced Russian technologies that would strengthen Kim's nuclear-armed military.

Both Pyongyang and Moscow have denied U.S. and South Korean claims that the North has been transferring arms supplies to Russia.

According to lawmaker Yoo Sang-bum, the South Korean National Intelligence Service believes the North shipped more than a million artillery shells to Russia

through ships and other transport means since early August to help boost Russia's warfighting capabilities in Ukraine. Those shells would roughly amount to two months' worth of supplies for the Russians, Yoo said. The agency believes North Korea has been operating its munitions factories at full capacity to meet Russian munition demands and has also been mobilizing residents to increase production, Yoo said. There are also signs that North Korea dispatched weapons experts to Russia in October to counsel Russian officials on how to use the exported North Korean weapons.



ASTANA: French President Emmanuel Macron meeting with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, in Kazakhstan.

### 4 former Hong Kong student leaders jailed over their praise of a knife attack on a police officer

**Monitoring Desk**  
HONG KONG: Four former student leaders from the University of Hong Kong were sentenced to two years in prison on Monday for inciting people to wound others through their praise of a man who stabbed a police officer before killing himself in 2021. Kinson Cheung, Charles Kwok, Chris Todorovski and Anthony Yung are being held responsible for their roles in passing a motion in the students union council. The motion expressed "deep sadness" and appreciated the "sacrifice" of the man who took his own life. The resolution came against the backdrop

of widespread public anger against the police, who were condemned as being heavy-handed in quelling the 2019 pro-democracy protests.

Handing down the sentences, Judge Adriana Noelle Tse Ching said the words they used were likely to incite hatred against the police. The charge the four were facing was a serious offense and a lenient sentence would send "the wrong message" to society, she said.

Leung Kin-fai stabbed a police officer with a knife before turning the weapon on himself on July 1, 2021, the anniversary of the former British colony's handover to Chinese rule in 1997.

### Police shoot at unarmed, veiled woman in Paris

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French police on Tuesday shot and seriously wounded an unarmed woman at a train station in Paris during morning rush hour.

The incident came with the country on its maximum alert for potential attacks but with the police also under scrutiny over recent fatal shootings of suspects.

Witnesses said the 38-year-old woman, who was wearing a hijab, recited "Allahu akbar" and said "you will all die," a police source said, adding that "police fired because they feared for their safety."

After passengers on a suburban train travelling from the eastern suburbs to Paris alerted police, agents managed to "isolate" the woman at the Bibliotheque Francois Mitterrand station on the capital's south bank which was evacuated, the source said.

They ordered her to sit on the ground and stop moving, Paris police chief Laurent Nunez told reporters.

### 2 killed in Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine that also damage Kherson city center

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: A Russian attack on Kherson in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday killed one person and caused serious damage in the city's center, the region's governor said, and a Russian drone strike killed another civilian in the frequently targeted city of Nikopol.

The attack on Kherson, which Russian forces seized early in the war but then abandoned a year ago, also wounded two people. Despite the withdrawal, Russian attacks from the other side of the Dnieper River persist.

"Again an apocalyptic scene," regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said on the Telegram messaging app. "Broken glass, torn window frames, ruined homes. People with trembling voices telling about what they have been through."

In Nikopol, which is on the opposite bank of the Dnieper from the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

### Blinken to visit South Korea; North Korea, Russia on agenda

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit South Korea on Nov 8 and 9 to discuss North Korea and alliance issues with Foreign Minister Park Jin, South Korea's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

Park and Blinken will also discuss economic security, cooperation on industrial technology and regional issues of mutual interest, the ministry said. The visit marks the first by a US secretary of state in two and a half years.

### Germany's Scholz says his country, EU to help boost West Africa security

**Monitoring Desk**  
ACCRA: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday said his country and the European Union as a whole were committed to boosting security in West Africa, and could provide training and equipment to support operations against a jihadist insurgency spreading through the region.

Speaking in Ghana on the last leg of his third trip to sub-Saharan Africa, Scholz said a recent string of coups in West African nations had stalled cooperation between countries and could play into the hands of militants.

West Africa is grappling with an insurgency that took root in Mali in 2012 and has since spread across the Sahel region south of the Sahara, killing

thousands and displacing over six million. Militants with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State have also encroached south towards the Gulf of Guinea, staging attacks in the north of coastal countries such as Benin, Ghana and Togo.

Military takeovers in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger and Gabon since 2020 have only added instability. Scholz stressed the importance of restoring "democratic order" and said Ghana was a "beacon of hope" for the region and a close partner for Germany.

He noted that Germany was ready to support cross-border cooperation and that an upcoming EU mission to the Gulf of Guinea could provide training and equipment.

### White House will develop an anti-Islamophobia strategy but faces skepticism from Muslim Americans

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration is preparing to announce that it will develop a national strategy to combat Islamophobia, according to people briefed on the matter, as it faces skepticism from many in the Muslim American community for its staunch support of Israel's military assault on Hamas in Gaza.

The White House announcement had originally been expected to come last week when Biden held a meeting with Muslim leaders, but was delayed, three people said. Two of them said the delay was due in part to concerns from the Muslim American community that the administration lacked credibility on the issue given its robust support for Israel's military, whose strikes against Hamas militants have also killed thousands of civilians in Gaza. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the White House

plans. The launch of the anti-Islamophobia strategy has been anticipated for months, after the administration in May released a national strategy to combat antisemitism that also made passing reference to countering hatred against Muslims. The formal strategy is expected to take many months to formalize, following a similar process as the plan to counter antisemitism involving various government agencies. Incidences of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hate have skyrocketed in the U.S. and abroad since the surprise Oct. 7 attack by Hamas militants on Israel that killed over 1,400 and saw hundreds taken hostage, and Israel's response in Gaza, where it has pledged to use force to "destroy" Hamas. One of the most prominent attacks was the killing of 6-year-old Wade Al-Fayoume and the wounding of his mother in an attack prosecutors allege was driven by Islamophobia.

## IG Police for enhancing capacity of police to curb terrorist activities in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Inspector General (IG) Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Shaikh said on Wednesday that steps were being taken to provide latest training to police and other law enforcement agencies (LAEs) to enhance their capacity to curb terrorist activities and maintain durable peace in the province.

He expressed these views while addressing the passing out parade of the 98th batch of police officers at the Police Training College (PTC), Quetta. The batch consisted of 839 officers, including 11 assistant directors, 38 sergeants, 790 corporals, and 33 lady officers.

IG Shaikh said that the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) was an agency that was capable of collecting intelligence, investigating terrorist incidents, and punishing criminals. He said that Balochistan was the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area and was important in the world in view of its geographical location and importance, and that maintaining peace and order in the area was

no less than a challenge. He added that establishing sustainable peace in the province was the top priority of the current government.

IG Shaikh said that the Balochistan Police had played a valuable role in maintaining law and order despite the lack of resources by making many changes and adopting new strategies.

He said that the Balochistan Police had decided to recruit separate corporal staff in the CTD according to international standards using a new strategy to prevent terrorist activities. He also said that the police uniform was a symbol of trust and that officers should never let its sanctity be violated. He urged them to restore their trust in the hearts of the people by their behavior.

IG Shaikh said that the responsibilities of the police had increased compared to the past and that young people needed to be motivated and inspired. He said that the police would continue to fulfill the duty of bringing terrorists to justice.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Mr Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel (r) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak A.E. Al-Khater, presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President denounces use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians

World must act urgently to stop Israel's war crimes in Gaza: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday denounced use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians, and called for the lifting of the siege and opening of a humanitarian corridor for Palestinians. He said that Pakistan was seriously concerned at the incessant Israeli aggression against civilians, which had killed thousands of people including women, children, and the elderly.

He stressed that the international community should condemn the continued Israeli aggression in Gaza. The president stated that Pakistan stood for a total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as well as the establishment of an independent homeland for Palestinians with Al-Quds Sharif as its capital.

He gave these remarks during a presentation of diplomatic credentials ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Those who presented

credentials to the president include Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel (r) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak A.E. Al-Khater.

## Lawyers defenders of democracy, human rights, Constitution: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that lawyers were defenders of democracy, human rights and the Constitution.

This he said in a congratulatory message to newly elected office bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

The minister congratulated the newly elected SCBA President Shahzad Shaukat, Secretary Ali Imran Syed and other newly elected office bearers.

The minister lauded the historic role of lawyers in promoting the rule of law,

the supremacy of the Constitution and democratic traditions. Murtaza Solangi opined that lawyers act as the bridge between the bar and the bench and it was not possible to establish a developed society without justice. The minister expressed the hope that newly elected office bearers of SCBA will continue to play their key role for the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law.

He hoped that the winning panel of the Supreme Court Bar would play a positive and effective role in solving the problems of the lawyers' community, including in important judicial matters.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Bugti says: Govt to launch crackdown against fake CNIC holders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti on Wednesday said that the caretaker government would launch a crackdown against the holders of fake Computerized National Identity Cards.

Serious action would be taken against those persons who had attained the CNICs and passports through illegal ways, he said while talking to a private television channel.

He said the law enforcement agencies were taking action against non-registered and illegal foreigners living in Pakistan since long.

"We will welcome

foreigners in Pakistan with valid documents," he added. To a question about incidents of terrorism in Pakistan, he said many illegal Afghan people had been found involved in the terrorist acts and street crimes. "We can achieve maximum success in curbing terrorism after sending all such non-registered and illegal foreigners to their countries," he added. Bugti said Pakistan was a nuclear power state, and anti-state elements were trying to destabilise through conspiracies. As regards detention centers, he said all the required facilities were being provided to Afghan families at the detention centers.

## Treatment & transplant of liver patients: MoU to be signed between GoB & Gambat Institute soon: CM Domki

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki has announced that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) would be signed between the Government of Balochistan and Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) soon for treatment and transplant of poor patients suffering from liver diseases.

Under the MoU, the patients belonging to Balochistan would be provided medical treatment and transplant facilities on the expense of provincial government.

He also announced that the marked reforms would be brought about in the health sector after making the Balochistan Healthcare Commission functional.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the former Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi who called on him here on Wednesday. Domki said that we are determined to provide healthcare facilities to the people in remote areas of the province. He said that the ongoing approved projects of the collective nature would be completed within stipulated time.

QUETTA: Voice for Baloch Missing Persons leaders, Mama Qadeer Baloch, Nasrullah Baloch and Hurain Baloch address to media persons during press conference, held in Quetta.

## Concerted efforts being made for fair distributions of ads among newspapers: PIO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan on Wednesday said concerted efforts were being made to ensure fair distribution of advertisements among the newspapers.

The PIO, in a meeting with the delegation of Capital Union of Journalists (CUJ), said action would be taken against the fake newspapers.

The CUJ delegation led by Syed Mujtaba Rizwan congratulated Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan on assuming the charge of the PIO and appreciated his efforts to resolve the problems faced by newspapers and journalists. The delegation in-

formed the PIO about the non-professional individuals who had joined as the publishers leading to some issues in the newspaper sector. Likewise, they highlighted the issue of dummy newspapers, and asked for measures to encourage small newspapers over their performance. On the occasion, PIO Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan assured the delegation that the problems faced by journalists would be solved on priority. Ghulam Farid Anjum, Zaki Dogar, Rao Ahsan, Sardar Fayyaz Anjum, Muhammad Maqsood, Haji Dawood and Naeem Rouhani and others were also included in the delegation.

## Balochistan to be tourism hub after inauguration of CPEC airport project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province has the potential to become a hub of domestic and international tourism after the inauguration of the New Gwadar International Airport, a donation by the Chinese government under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a Pakistani official said. "In recent years, Balochistan has experienced a notable surge in domestic tourism and with the commencement of the airport operations, geographical distances are expected to diminish, paving the way for an influx of tourists into Gwadar and its surrounding regions," Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Atab ur Rehman Rana said in an interview with Xinhua.

To facilitate tourism, the PTDC will establish a tourist information center at the airport to provide them with comprehensive information about hotels, tourist sites, and all other basic information, the officer said. He added that in order to tap the potential of the airport, the Balochistan Coastal Development Authority has made a master plan, and marked the areas along the coast on which tourist sites will be developed.

Balochistan boasts a stunning coastal stretch, and there are ongoing efforts to develop eco-tourism resorts, beach parks, floating jetties, and relaxation spots along this coastline to cater to both domestic and international tourists, including those visiting Gwadar for business reasons," Rana added. Talking about the security of the tourists, he said that in the initial stage,

group tourism will be permitted, primarily driven by security considerations. "Tourists will be required to share their travel plans with a dedicated tourism police force, which will be established to enhance safety and support tourism activities. During this phase, tourists will receive security provisions as they travel in organized groups," Rana said. Subsequently, in the second phase, individual tourists will have the opportunity to explore the area independently when tourism becomes more common, and a comprehensive security plan is established in the area, he added.

Lauding CPEC for playing a great role in promoting tourism in his country, Rana said that its road network passes almost through the whole of Pakistan, and all major tourism sites are around the CPEC route.

He highlighted that Pakistan had consistently supported the Palestine cause, and wanted a comprehensive resolution of all outstanding Arab-Israeli disputes to ensure lasting peace in the region.

He said the law enforcement agencies were taking action against non-registered and illegal foreigners living in Pakistan since long. "We will welcome

## Pak embassy joins Tehran charity bazaar for Palestinian aid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Embassy in Tehran on Wednesday participated in a three-day charity bazaar organized by the Diplomatic Ladies Association of Iranian foreign ministry to generate funds for the suffering people of Palestine.

The opening ceremony was attended by the spouses of the heads of the different organizations and diplomatic missions accredited to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The spouse of Iran's foreign minister visited the Pakistani stall and praised Pakistani handicrafts and cuisine as she also tasted the traditional food.

The Pakistani Lok music was also played at the interval which was enjoyed by the audience.

## Indian troops martyred 17 Kashmiris in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their continued acts of state terrorism martyred 17 Kashmiris including a woman and a child during the last month of October in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those martyred, 11 were killed in fake encounters and custody by Indian troops and police in different districts of the territory. The killing by the Indian forces' personnel in the month rendered 2 women widowed and 10 children orphaned.

Information Minister, Jan Achakzai, will be the keynote speaker at this summit.

## Political, tribal personalities from Balochistan meet Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Executive Officer of U.P.H. Biopharma, Lue FENG called on Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Several political and tribal personalities from Balochistan met the senior leader and former Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the provincial president of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Nawab Jangez Marri, Jamal Shah Kakar and other leaders of the party were also present.

## GoB to host all Pakistan VCs' summit at UoB

QUETTA: The Balochistan government is hosting all Pakistan Vice Chancellors' Summit in Quetta. According to an official hand out issued here on Wednesday, this prestigious event will take place at Balochistan University, serving as the perfect venue for this gathering of esteemed individuals.

Through the Pak-US University partnership grants Programme (2020,2023), the US mission in Pakistan funded

UoB's Management Science department. The summit aims to share a vision for youth engagement and discuss the future trajectory of higher education in Pakistan. Additionally, it will elaborate on how Pakistan can enhance cooperation with the United States in the field of education and improve the plight of higher education. Information Minister, Jan Achakzai, will be the keynote speaker at this summit.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh giving away shields to police officers on their best performance during 98th Corporal Course at Police Training College.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Caretaker Sports Minister Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

## Praises standard of Sandeman High School: CT CM directs to make govt. teachers bound on their respective duty places

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the concerned authorities to make the government teachers bound to perform duties on their duty places, otherwise stern action should be taken against those remain absent from there.

The Chief Minister was on visit to the Government Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital

Quetta on Wednesday. The Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Secretary Education, Commissioner Quetta and other high ups were also present.

The Principal of Sandeman High School, Dr. Naseer Shah briefed the Chief Minister about the overall working of the Hospital.

The Chief Minister visited the classrooms as well as computer and science labs in the school.

He inspected the facilities made available at the class rooms and labs for the students. The Chief Minister on the occasion praised standard of the Sandeman School and described it an exemplary school. He directed to the concerned authorities to develop other government educational institutions on pattern of the Sandeman school. He also directed to the Secretary Education to visit the schools operating in rural areas of the province.

## Senate adopts resolution seeking end to Israeli hostilities in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate of Pakistan at its emergency session on the Gaza genocide on Wednesday strongly condemned the Israeli crimes against humanity and State terrorism being perpetrated against the innocent children, women, and men of Palestine living in the occupied strip of Gaza, the World's biggest open prison.

The resolution moved by the leader of the House in the Senate Mohammad Ishaq Dar said, "Since the Holocaust of the 2nd World War, no State has committed such mass killings, carnage and war crimes with such an unprecedented barbarity and brutality."

## General elections to be held in January: Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Khwaja Muhammad Asif, announced on Wednesday that the general elections are scheduled to take place in January next year. Speaking to a private television channel, Asif emphasized the crucial role of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in ensuring transparent elections.

Asif expressed the PML-N's full preparedness to participate in the upcoming general elections and expressed optimism about forming the next government with a majority of votes. Touching upon the pressing issue of illegal Afghan immigrants, Asif pointed out that Pakistan is grappling with terrorism stemming from militants operating from Afghan territory. He stressed the need to repatriate all illegal and non-registered Afghan individuals to their home country.

On the other hand, Deputy Commissioner Chaman Captain Retired Raja Athar Abbas has issued instructions to all administrators to be vigilant to maintain law and order and no one will be allowed to disturb the peace.

## Bulking camp set up in Chaman for Afghan refugees

By Sardar Khondai

CHAMAN: A bulking camp has been established for Afghan refugees in the

cal doctors and people related to the health department are actively engaged in serving the Afghan brothers.

## C&W's official inspects works on Hub Bypass Link Road

QUETTA (APP)-On directive of Balochistan High Court (BHC), Xen Department of Communication and Works (C&W) Hub has started implementation on priority basis and visited Eastern Bypass to inspect development work of Hub Bypass Link Road on Wednesday.

Xen C&W Hub along with field officers visited Hub East Bypass Project site and Sakran Road which work was final stage.

Xen Communications and Works (C&W) Department Hub Jamal Bugti said in a media briefing that under the light of Balochistan High Court's orders, in public interest, the construction work of Eastern Bypass Bridge has been completed on war footing.

He said that the eastern bypass bridge linking the RCD highway would be