

# Independent

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## Pakistan persistently raising Palestine issue; demands immediate ceasefire: PM Kakar

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday reiterated that Pakistan was persistently raising the Palestine issue at the global fora and recent horrible, condemnable and inappropriate aggression by Israel was leading to human catastrophe.

During an interaction with the media persons during his visit to Mayo Hospital, he said that recently Pakistan co-hosted the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Organization (OIC) emergency session along with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the issue.

The prime minister further said during his interactions with different global leaders, Chinese leadership and the international media, he had highlighted the issue and in unequivocal terms, conveyed the sentiments and stance of the government and Pakistani nation. Pakistan would continue playing its role over the issue till its resolution, he reassured.

Considering the current crises, he said Pakistan demanded immediate ceasefire and opening up of humanitarian corridor.

The caretaker prime minister said Palestine was a

historical and chronic issue but there was no reason for the inappropriate aggression exhibited by Israel.

To a question, he reiterated that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was a constitutional body that would give a specific date for holding of the general elections in the country. He said the delimitation process was a constitutional requirement and the previous parliament had done legislation over the issue while the Constitution mandated the procedure to be executed.

The prime minister assured that the interim set-up was ready to assist the ECP in the process adding it was the fundamental mandate of the ECP to give a date but the caretaker government could not dictate it in this regard.

About participation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the upcoming elections, he said neither the ECP had placed any restrictions on PTI nor there was any move to dismantle it as a political party.

Moreover, it was also the domain of the ECP to allocate election symbols, he added.



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Mayo Hospital in Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi viewing the handicrafts made by visually impaired persons, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## UN should take concrete steps for lasting solution of Palestine & Kashmir issues: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sajrani Tuesday called on the United Nations (UN) to take concrete steps for the lasting solution of Palestine and Kashmir issues as it was impossible to establish peace in the world without solving the two problems.

During a meeting with a parliamentary delegation, led by President of the Rwandan Senate Dr Kalinda Francois Xavier, he said, "No human being in the world can remain silent on the atrocities and human rights violations that are happening in Palestine.

The Senate chairman emphasized the universal nature of the issue.

"The cruelty and brutality going on in Palestine is not related to any religion; it is cruelty to humanity," he said, "according to a News release issued by the Senate Secretariat, Sadiq Sanjrani also stressed the importance of the Kashmir issue, stating, "The occupied Kashmir issue is a core issue of Pakistan," and called for its

resolution in line with the UN resolutions. He advocated for the right to self-determination for Kashmiris.

He urged the United Nations to adopt a common plan of action for immediate solutions to the two problems. He expressed the belief that negotiations were the solution to the problems and urged the UN to facilitate talks for resolving the issues.

In a show of Pakistan's commitment to international cooperation and diplomacy, he noted, "Wherever there is a problem of humanity in the world, Pakistan definitely raises its voice." The Senate chairman advocated for peace and harmony through parliamentary diplomacy.

He stressed the importance of collective efforts in removing obstacles to development and promoting regional peace, stating, "We have to step up collective efforts to remove obstacles and promote regional peace and harmony using parliamentary diplomacy."

## Solangi directs Equal coverage to all political parties should be PTV's priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said providing equal coverage to all political parties should be PTV's priority.

During a meeting with PTV News Current Affairs and Social Media teams, the minister was given a briefing about PTV News and current affairs programmes.

Participation of the leaders from various political parties in current affairs' programmes will increase PTV's credibility, Murtaza Solangi maintained.

He said Pakistan Television being the largest media organization in the country, had an important national role in elections.

The minister said that PTV's role in clean, transparent and impartial elections will be unforgettable. He was informed that news coverage and its scope has grown exponentially over the past few years.

## President for mainstreaming visually impaired persons through skill-sets, jobs

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said it was the collective responsibility of the society to mainstream the visually impaired persons by providing them with vocational skill sets and specialized jobs. Addressing an event held in connection with the White Cane Safety Day, the president stressed sensitizing the society towards blind and the visually impaired by identifying their special needs and accommodating them.

Begum Samina Alvi, members of the diplomatic community, and visually impaired children attended the event meant to raise awareness about the ways to address the challenges faced by persons with such disabilities, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The president said career education and vocational skills for visually impaired students should be started as early as possible in the mainstream school system. This will provide fellow students an opportunity to deal firsthand with persons with disabilities and learn to accommodate them in society, he said. President Alvi also emphasized improving the accessibility of visually impaired persons through assistive technological gadgets including the personal digital assistants that guide them as the sensory camera sees objects and describes them aloud.

He said the white cane was the tool for the visually impaired person to be identified in public, thus easing their mobility outdoors.

He said ending discrimination and helping such people to become self-reliant and useful members of society needed to be the goal of the State. Dr Alvi said the country's first visually impaired diplomat Saima Saleem made history by making a speech at the platform of the United Nations. He also mentioned Yousaf Saleem who became the country's first visually impaired judge and set a courageous example for other people with such disabilities.

## Decision to increase gas tariff taken in national interest: Ali

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali has stated that decision to increase gas tariff was taken in the greater national interest.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said the decision will not affect 57 percent of the gas consumers. He said 36 percent middle class consumers will pay the prices according to their gas consumption, while only 7 percent rich class will be charged with high prices.

The Minister said the government is also giving 139 billion rupees subsidy to the domestic gas sector, while 45 billion rupees subsidy is being given to Urea and fertilizer sector. He categorically stated that no increase in gas tariff has been made for Tandoors.

Muhammad Ali said there are several factors which compelled the government to increase in the gas prices.

## SC bars accountability courts to decide NAB references

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday barred the accountability courts from taking final decisions on NAB references and adjourned hearing of the appeal against the verdict regarding NAB law amendments. A five-member larger bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi heard the intra-court appeal against the judgment about amendments in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law.

During the course of proceedings, the CJP remarked that if the court should have declared all the three amendments null and void.

The third amendment came in May, and six hearings were held after that, he said, adding that the three NAB amendments were directly interconnect. He noted that the Federal Government had raised a point of the 'Practice and Procedure Act' in the appeal, which if it wanted to pursue then it would be decided afresh by a 5-member larger

## Interior Minister announces crackdown on illegal foreigners from tomorrow

Orders official to be respectful with undocumented immigrants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti announced on Tuesday that the provincial and federal authorities will begin a major crackdown on "unregistered migrants" in phases starting from November 2.

He also said that the government will decide the border of deportation for these migrants. In an interview with PTV news channel, Bugti said that authorities will strictly begin tracking and arresting foreigners staying in the country without registration or documents from November 2.

He added that migrants will be sent to temporary centers where they will be provided with basic needs such as medical care and accommodation. "All basic facilities will be provided at these centers to illegal foreign nationals," he reassured.

Bugti further clarified that the expulsion of illegal foreign nationals will be carried out in phases, and people with no travel documents will be deported in the first phase. He stated that all provincial governments would play an active part in the operation against illegal foreigners, adding that committees have been formed at the divisional and district levels.

The minister said that the government will decide the border of deportation for "undocumented migrants," adding that any migrants in Pakistan illegally should go back to their countries voluntarily to avoid mass arrests and forced deportation. In response to a query, Bugti said that Pakistan has generously hosted the world's largest protracted refugee population for over three decades, in line with Islamic values of hospitality and generosity.

Meanwhile Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday directed officials and agencies to be respectful with undocumented immigrants while detaining them in holding centers after the deadline. Talking to media persons here, he said strict action would be taken against officials found involved in mishandling of the immigrants and including Afghans while transporting them to the holding centers.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti exchanging views with Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner during meeting held in Islamabad.

## PM pays respects at Allama Iqbal's mausoleum

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday visited the mausoleum of Poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal and paid his respects. The prime minister, who is on a two-day visit to Punjab capital, offered Fateha at the mausoleum and paid tribute to the great poet.

He said that the Muslims of the subcontinent made collective efforts to realise the dream of Allama Iqbal. "However, Allama Iqbal's dream will be truly realised when we as a nation will strive for the better future of the country," he remarked.

The misperception created regarding Army Act and military judicial system by the Advocate Inamur Rehman Colonel (Retd) and other critics like him has caused resentment among masses.

These elements are presenting fabricated facts and maligning the military courts with the beshal military courts. As a result, it caused fear that the basic human rights may not be violated.

However, such statements are mockery and far from reality and have no legal base.

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## Misunderstanding being created about military courts & Army Act causing resentment among masses

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The military courts established under Pakistan Army Act 1952 can hear the cases of common civilians.

On May 9, 2023, certain specific elements targeted the significant military and civilian installations of national interests and security for their nefarious designs and that under pre-planned conspiracy all over the country. It was planned and conspired to harm the country's very interests and nothing else.

According to the official secret Act of Pakistan Army Act's article (12) (D), the hearing of only those common civilians would be done in the military courts, who are practically found involved in the attacks on the military installations or other military affairs or in subversive activities.

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These elements are presenting fabricated facts and maligning the military courts with the beshal military courts. As a result, it caused fear that the basic human rights may not be violated.

However, such statements are mockery and far from reality and have no legal base.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Dr. Kalinda Francois-Xavier, President of the Senate of Republic of Rwanda signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU), at Parliament House in Islamabad.

## Bloodshed in Turbat once again: Four labourers, one police cop shot dead by armed assailants

Independent Report

QUETTA: Five persons including four labourers and a police constable were shot dead by unknown armed men in Nasirabad area of Turbat on Tuesday.

According to the official reports reaching here, some unknown armed assailants attacked the police station located in outskirts of Turbat and restored to indiscriminate fire on the labourers staying there.

Although police personnel present in the police station retaliated, but four labourers were hit by the in-

tense fire. Besides four labourers, a police cop guarding them was also killed.

Meanwhile, the bodies of all five deceased were shifted to the Teaching hospital Turbat by the police and rescue teams reached there after the firing incident.

In the meantime, other police force and Frontier Corps rushed towards the spot and controlled the situation.

The reports suggested that the labourers killed belonged to Muzaffar Garh area of Punjab.

Two of them are stated to be real brothers

namely Shahbaz Ahmed and Shehzad Ahmed.

While the investigations have been started into the gory incident of labourers assassination, the necessary arrangements are being made to shift their bodies to their native area.

On the other hand, the area has been cordoned off and hunt has been started for the culprits involved in the brutal killing.

It may be mentioned here that six labourers were also killed by unknown armed men in Turbat last month.



LANDIKOTAL: A large number of unregistered Afghan refugees families are willingly enroute their homeland with their homes necessities after the government of Pakistan decided in the apex committee meeting to return all those Afghans who are living in Pakistan unlawfully, at Machini area in Landikotal.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Global impotence**

As Israel continues its extermination project in Gaza, the global community — particularly the UN, OIC and Arab League — have displayed a shocking inability to stop the slaughter. While these multilateral bodies issue statements of outrage, Israel has murdered over 8,000 Palestinians, many of them children, since the outbreak of hostilities on Oct 7.

There appears to be no one on the global stage with the moral courage to take Tel Aviv to task for its barbaric violence targeting Palestinian civilians, especially with the US and other Western states shielding it from all censure.

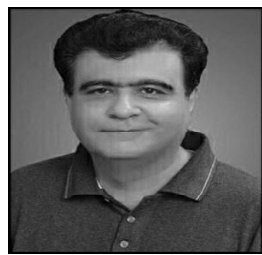
Within the hallowed halls of the UN, the US, using its veto power, has thwarted calls for a ceasefire in the Security Council, while also voting against a Jordanian resolution in the General Assembly demanding a humanitarian truce. Meanwhile, Israeli leaders and diplomats have openly expressed disdain for the UN. With regard to the Arab/Islamic world, the paralysis is even more glaring. Apart from a few voices — Iran, Qatar, Turkiye — that have forcefully demanded an end to the slaughter in Gaza, the Arab League and OIC are barely audible. For many Arab states and Islamic countries, it is business as usual as Israel unleashes hell upon the Palestinians. A similar disinterest has been witnessed for decades as India pummelled the Kashmiris in the occupied territory. The resource-rich Arab states are not without agency. Recall the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, when Arab petroleum producers deployed the 'oil weapon' against all those states that supported Israel. Oil prices went through the roof, as many Western states realised that there were costs to pay for blindly supporting Israel. Can such an economic boycott be considered today in solidarity with Gaza's defenceless people?

With most Arab rulers supported either economically or militarily by the West, such a proposition would not be endorsed. Moreover, Muslim states that have established diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv have not even considered suspending these until the Gaza massacre stops.

When it comes to the elites in the East and the West, cruel realpolitik trumps human empathy. However, for many common people across the globe, the tragedy in Gaza is an unmitigated humanitarian disaster, and Israel is clearly the guilty party, responsible for the mass murder of Palestinian innocents.

Hundreds of thousands have marched in Europe and North America demanding an end to Israel's vicious military campaign. This is despite the fact that many of these 'democratic' states have threatened to take legal action against supporters of Palestine, while witch-hunts of pro-Palestine activists have also been reported. Yet the bravery of the common citizen marching in support of justice for Palestine and demanding an end to the slaughter, needs to be saluted, while the global elite's shameful inaction on the Gazan massacre deserves nothing but opprobrium.

**A racist liberalism**



Dr Niaz Murtaza

The post-1945 liberal world order based on human rights and democracy is unique in history given its wide coverage of key issues and global acceptance. Many philosophies had earlier given similar ideas but had left out key issues and groups, such as women and slaves, or lacked global acceptance.

The adoption of this order in the UN conventions with its near-global membership make it the first globally dominant liberal order even if not all states accept all UN tenets. Even autocratic states are judged against, and have to defer partially to, them. It is intellectually simple. Unlike copious metaphysical edicts, all its detailed clauses can be derived from two moral tenets: don't harm anyone and help those in need. Given these two, a secular person like me doesn't need even a third one, let alone numerous tenets, to guide my life. Clearly, this order emerged, at least immediately, from the West though it absorbed the earlier ideas of other cultures.

This order had the potential to give a just world after 1945. But it has slowly lost its appeal. Il-liberal ideologies such as fundamentalism and populism are now firing the imagination globally given its failure to fulfil its promise. While the acts of autocratic states have undercut it too, a bigger cause has been its hypocritical and racist use by its Western author states such as the US. On issue after issue, they have conjured up excuses for why these te-

nets can't be applied when white Western states fight other races — on immigration, trade, global governance or in actual wars.

High racist walls are being erected around Fortresses Europe and US to exclude coloured immigrants, both documented and undocumented, on the openly racist pretext of protecting racial dominance and cultures. The logic is often couched in terms of economic burden, though studies show that immigrants of all status boost economic growth.

The plan to have rules-based global trade via the WTO remains unfulfilled. Western states have exacted concessions from weak southern states on issues beneficial to them such as foreign investment and intellectual rights but refuse to lower barriers in areas critical for southern ones like agriculture. Western states have stubbornly refused to democratise the IMF, World Bank and the UN. The US has shamelessly aided megalomaniac autocrats in many southern states despite the abuses it was inflicting locally. Even within Western states, coloured people are often treated as second-class citizens.

But this racist liberalism has unleashed its powers most destructively in wars pitting Western powers against hapless southern peoples, as in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. Elaborate UN, and their own, laws on protecting civilians are tossed into the trash bin as the US and its Western allies pursue their military interests. The aim of eradicating terrorism has been used as free licence to inflict grievous harm on southern civilians without remorse.

Nowhere is this done more viciously now than by Israel in Gaza. We are told ad nauseam that

Israel has the right to defend itself even though it's an occupier. A rational view on this right would cover Israel beefing up its air, land and sea border security, eliminating attackers from its land and strengthening its intelligence against future attacks. These steps alone can pre-empt a similar Hamas attack, which too was wrong in targeting Israeli civilians. But only a highly racist view would include under this right indiscriminate bombing of a dense civilian area to destroy Hamas when it also kills thousands of Gaza women, kids and elderly.

The Israeli attacks are more about revenge and repairing bruised egos. Gazans are being treated like sheep locked in a small pen, not allowed to leave while being butchered brutally by a mass murderer. Yet racist Western liberal conscience remains unmoved by the sight of such ghastly suffering. Coloured lives matter less than white ones is the clear message from the West.

These actions of domestically democratic Western states globally mirror those of unaccountable autocrats. Liberalism, though, is not inherently racist, only so in the hands of Western elites who adopted liberalism as it aided capitalism to spread nationally. While capitalism exploits weaker classes in markets only, racism exploits weaker ethnicities in all facets of life. But the entire West is not complicit in this hypocrisy as the marches of hundreds of thousands in Western cities against Israel show. Resistance to Western racist liberalism exists among many whites too. The path forward is for southern progressives to link with Western ones to challenge racist liberalism and pursue a global liberalism. -- Courtesy Dawn

**All hail the king**



Syed Saadat

Democracy in a country with very little self-accountability and conscientiousness among the movers and shakers in government is nothing less than a curse. Our political leaders behave like kings from the Dark Ages who would assert undue power over the weak and, at the same time, show extraordinary servitude to kings more powerful than themselves.

One example of this observation involves a government servant, who once belonged to the powerful military, being given a clean chit in 'assets beyond means' allegations, after a reportedly short meeting with the then prime minister, while another government servant, a former principal secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, who belonged to the beleaguered civilian bureaucracy, spent years in jail before being acquitted.

When kings are happy, they shower their courtiers with gifts and honour as in the case of a former prime minister who decided his principal secretary was worth his weight in gold. He was granted an extension in service upon retirement and later nominated Pakistan's executive director to the World Bank for a term of four years.

Ironically, the incumbent executive director was appointed for three years instead of four, apparently to bring the appointment period in line with the election cycle in Pakistan, which now seems an exercise in futility as the outgoing government made the appointment for the next four years as well. Who said that the retirement age is 60 years

in Pakistan? Apparently, with the right connections, one can keep on serving indefinitely.

According to reports, another appointment made a day before the dissolution of the National Assembly last August was that of Pakistan's deputy permanent delegate to Unesco in Paris for three years. There was reported evidence that in making this appointment the former prime minister had used his discretion in the manner of an unprincipled king rather than a custodian of the public trust. A legal battle ensued and currently a couple of civil servants, who are both aspirants for the position, are fighting a legal battle in the Islamabad High Court.

Whether or not the individuals in these appointments are qualified and the most suitable for the role is a separate debate. Even, if some believe they are the best candidates for the job, an outgoing government has no moral justification to use its own discretion in making these appointments.

In such cases, the Pakistan Administrative Service seems to be acting like a clique in winning these positions by allegedly manipulating the PM Office. Everything cannot be prescribed by rules and procedures; there are certain things that one would expect senior bureaucrats, who are supposed to be highly educated, to stay away from on the basis of their own understanding and experience.

But such cultured behaviour remains, unfortunately, a highly utopian idea among the movers and shakers in the corridors of power in Pakistan.

Hence, we need a law to do away with the discretion of the prime minister in all such appointments, especially in the matter of foreign postings, as the office has repeatedly failed to uphold merit in the face

of manipulation. Secondly, the process of selection should be transparent and public. Corrupt practices are often concealed under the cloak of secrecy and security in this country.

One would not be surprised if in a few years from now, international organisations start selecting the appropriate candidates for these positions on their own. This might be a blessing in disguise as doing away with the discretion of Pakistani governments to make these appointments would mean a triumph of talent over sycophancy.

The only reason these positions are left to the discretion of the Pakistani government is to create a sense of ownership and representation among these international institutions for all member states. Sadly, here too we come across as manipulative, opportunistic and selfish.

Lastly, while we were busy making these controversial appointments, an international organisation appointed a former Nadra chairman as technical adviser; ironically it is the same individual who was forced to resign as chairman Nadra by the PDM government a few months ago. Now, a global organisation is set to benefit from his advice while we choose to ignore what he said in his resignation letter — to avoid appointing a bureaucrat to the position of chairman Nadra and to choose a professional instead.

Maybe, the caretaker government thought that by professional he meant a professional soldier which is perhaps the reason the cabinet has recently paved the way for the appointment of a serving military officer as chairman Nadra. All hail the king. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif addressing event titled "Internet Governance in Pakistan" in Islamabad.

**Pakistan's internet vision shines at regional governance conference**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Internet Governance Conference, a pivotal event focusing on addressing the pressing issues in Internet governance and resource allocation within the Asia-Pacific region, was held on Tuesday. The conference was attended by industry leaders, experts, government officials, and national and international stakeholders from the telecommunication and information technology sector.

Notable speakers included the CEO Asia-Pacific Network

Centre (APNIC) Foundation, Sylvia Cadena, who shared the Foundation's particular focus on Pakistan for projects in the social sector; and the Director General of APNIC, Paul Wilson among others. On the occasion, Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif, shared his insights and vision for the future of Internet governance. He appreciated the efforts of PTA and other stakeholders such as APNIC for contributions

in this domain. The Federal IT Minister emphasized the urgency of addressing the challenges related to Internet Governance. He underscored the importance of overcoming these challenges to enable businesses to flourish. He also highlighted the potential of 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT) in Pakistan, stressing the need to evolve the internet architecture to align with the demands of the contemporary era and enable Pakistanis to become first-class internet users.

**ECC approves gas price revision**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Tuesday approved revision of the natural gas sale pricing for different categories of consumers for the fiscal year 2023-24, with effective from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar presided over the ECC meeting, which among others was attended by the Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hassan Fawad; Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saad; Minister for Power & Petroleum, Muhammad Ali; federal

secretaries, and other senior government officials of the relevant ministries.

According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, the cabinet committee during its meeting considered the single item agenda regarding the revision of the natural gas sale pricing for different categories of the consumers for the FY 2023-24.

The ECC earlier on October 23, 2023, had considered the summary submitted by the Petroleum Division and approved the increase in the natural gas prices, however the Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on October 30, 2023.

**Dr Kausar calls for effective steps to command area expansion programme in rainy areas**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Food Security and Research, Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik Tuesday called for executing the second phase of the command area expansion programme and water conservation in rainy areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, prior to opting for next phase of national programme or improvement of waterways in country.

He said maximum resources and effective measures should be employed to achieve the targets and goals and added there should be no delay in the timely completion of these projects.

He said that the Ministry of Food Security and Research would provide maximum support and assistance in this regard.

Highlighting the main features, he gave a briefing on the National Programme for the Improvement of Waterways in Pakistan, Phase II, Command Area Expansion Program in Rainy Areas and Water Conservation in Rainy Areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on behalf of the Federal Water Management Cell.

Director General Federal Water Management and National Project Coordinator Mohammad

Asif Kakar were also present on the occasion.

Federal Minister for Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, informed that the total cost of the three projects under the Federal Ministry of Food Security and Research was 194.066 billion rupees.

The federal government has Rs 61.624 billion rupees (32 per cent), all provinces except Sindh along with Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have 76.227 billion rupees (39 per cent), while farmers have a share of 56.214 billion rupees (29 per cent).

**Gold rates up by Rs.900**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 31 (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.900 and was sold at Rs.213,000 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.212,100 the previous day of trading. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.771 to Rs.182,613 from Rs.181,842.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$3 to \$2,015 from \$2,012, the Association reported.

**Significant amendments to market treasury bills, 1998, & Ijara Sukuk Rules, 2008**

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the increasing demands of the financial market in general and Islamic financial institutions in particular for introducing new instruments, the Finance Division moved a summary for the Cabinet for amendment in the existing Government of Pakistan Market Treasury Bills 1998 and Government of Pakistan Ijara Sukuk Rules 2008.

In a landmark

decision, the Federal Cabinet has granted its approval to the summary presented by the Ministry of Finance, leading to substantial amendments to the subject legal instruments, said a press release issued here.

The amendments aim to enhance efficiency and provide flexibility for issuing, registering, trading and transferring Government Securities through any institution.

**Economy yielding positive results due to stabilization measures: Report**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The economic indicators of first quarter of the current fiscal year (2023-24) show Pakistan's economy had set the growth momentum and was yielding positive results owing to government's stabilization measures, the finance ministry said in its recent report released here on Tuesday. "Hard earned gains on the fiscal and external accounts have started to translate into a pick-up in economic activity," said Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr.

Shamsad Akhtar in foreword of the monthly Economic Update and Outlook for October 2023.

She said, markets have rallied on positive economic data and signs of an emerging recovery, adding the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has rallied 11% in October and has crossed the psychological barrier of 51,000 points, for the first time since May 2017. The international and domestic bond markets have rallied around 8% in October on expectations of ease in inflationary pressures and a positive

expectation for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff review in November. The rupee (PKR) recovered 9% in October due to reforms initiated on the exchange companies and crackdown against illegal transactions.

The recent release of Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) data showed a positive growth of 0.5 percent during July-August FY2024 against the contraction of 1.3 percent last year. The month-on-month (MoM) and year-on-year (YoY) basis growth trajectory is

encouraging, as LSM grew by 8.4% and 2.5% in August 2023, respectively. In agriculture sector, the cotton production showing a bumper increase of 126.6 percent (estimated at 11.5 million bales) for 2023-24, compared to last year. Rice production is also showing a surge of 18.0 percent compared to last year.

The increase in these main crops is encouraging for the exports and overall economic outlook in FY2024. Moreover, input situation is positive as farm tractors production and sales show a steep

growth of 45.0 percent (11,586) and 64.1 percent (12,090), respectively during July-September FY2024 over the same period last year.

During Q1 FY2024, the strong revenue performance led to a primary surplus of Rs 417bn (0.4% of GDP) against the target of Rs 87bn under the IMF Standby agreement (SBA). FBR revenues clocked in at Rs 2,042bn compared to the target of Rs 1,978bn during Q1, with a strong 37% y/y increase in direct taxes.



Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad holds a stakeholder meeting for privatisation of HFBCL in Islamabad.

## Caretaker PM gets briefing on SL-3 Lahore Ring Road

70pc construction work on Imamia Colony flyover, Shahdara completed: PM told

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday received briefing regarding the construction of the southern portion (SL-3) of Lahore Ring Road. The prime minister was apprised that 8kms long southern portion of the SL-3 would be completed by January 30, 2024 which would significantly ease vehicular traffic coming from South Punjab, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The caretaker prime minister appreciated the provincial government's efforts to expedite the uplift projects.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq

Kakar on Tuesday was apprised that 70 percent construction work on Imamia Colony flyover, Shahdara was completed. During a briefing on his visit to the site, the caretaker prime minister was apprised that Imamia Colony flyover was being constructed over Lahore-Faisalabad railway line, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

It was a 18-month project which would be completed with the cooperation of the provincial government in six and half months till December 2023, it was added. The prime minister lauded efforts of the provincial government for accelerating pace of the

construction work on different development projects.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday visited the Mayo Hospital here and reviewed the reconstruction of the emergency block as well as other facilities. The prime minister inspected the ongoing construction work in the hospital as well as the nursing counter and consultant room established at the emergency block.

He appreciated the Punjab Government's program for reconstruction and rehabilitation of hospitals under Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar receives briefing regarding the construction of the southern portion (SL-3) of Lahore Ring Road, in Lahore.

## Punjab ready for deportation of Illegal foreigners: Mohsin

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has announced the completion of all preparations for the deportation of Afghan nationals residing illegally in the province.

With the looming deadline of October 31, directives have been issued to the Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police to ensure the swift evacuation of illegal foreign residents from Punjab, he added.

Mohsin Naqvi has said that preparations have been completed to send back the illegally residing immigrants from the province. He said that

instructions have been issued to the chief secretary and inspector general (IG) in view of the October 31 deadline given to the illegally residing foreigners.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that there will be no leniency granted to any foreigner staying unlawfully in Punjab.

The provincial government is unwavering in its approach, and stringent action will be taken against those found harboring illegal refugees, he said adding that no exemptions will be made.

The Chief Minister also called upon unregistered Afghans to voluntarily depart from

Punjab, as all necessary steps have been taken to facilitate the repatriation of illegal Afghan citizens.

CM Naqvi warned of action against those who provided refuge to the illegally residing foreigners and no tolerance would be shown.

He reiterated that the illegally residing foreigners should leave the country by themselves, otherwise, the government completed arrangements for their repatriation starting from November 1.

CM Mohsin Naqvi said that temporary camps and holding areas have been established in different districts for the illegal immigrants.



LAHORE: Former Federal Minister Zahid Hamid is casting the vote during the annual election of Supreme Court Bar Election, in Provincial Capital.

## Afghan family in Jhelum approaches IHC against eviction notice

JHELUM (INP): As the government's deadline for the evacuation of illegal Afghan immigrants has reached, an Afghan immigrant family from Jhelum has approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the eviction notice issued by the institutions. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition of the Afghan national.

"According to the notification of the Government of Pakistan, only the illegal

Afghan nationals have been asked to go back," the petitioner's lawyer said.

"The petitioner and his wife have Afghan Citizen cards. Their three children are minors and studying in school," he added. Meanwhile, lawyers and activists have said the scale of the crackdown is unprecedented, appealing for more time for Afghans—some of whom have lived for decades in the country—to be given more time.

## Two camps established in Attock for Afghan refugees

ATTOCK (Online): The provincial government has established two repatriation camps in Attock where as

deadline for illegal immigrants to leave the country sets in. These camps were established in Government College of Technology Attock and Degree College Hazro where the illegal and undocumented immigrants would be kept before reinterpretation or deportation. Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khurram Ali along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chattha visited these temporary camps on Tuesday. Deputy commissioner Rao Atif Raza along with SP Investigation Javeria Muhammad Janil separately briefed them about the boarding, lodging and security arrangements at these camps. On this occasion, RPO Syed Khurram Ali checked the security arrangements of the campus and issued appropriate orders to the concerned officers in this regard.

## Minister attends oath taking ceremony of PCE

LAHORE: The oath taking ceremony of the General Council of Pakistan Chamber of Education was held in a private hotel in Lahore on Tuesday. Provincial Minister of Livestock, Transport and Mines and Minerals Ibrahim Hasan Murad specially participated in the ceremony. Chairman Pakistan Chamber of Education Ali Raza, President Pakistan Chamber of Education Bashir Ahmed Hattar, President Lahore Chamber of Commerce Sheikh Kashif

and members of various divisions also participated in the ceremony.

Chairman Pakistan Chamber of Education Ali Raza welcomed the guests and expressed his thoughts about education and its importance. Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad administered the oath to the members of the Executive Council and congratulated and expressed best wishes for the future. Addressing the ceremony on this occasion, Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that he welcomes the school leaders.

## May 9: Lahore police summon Asad Umer

LAHORE (INP): The Joint Investigation Team on Monday summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Asad Umar related to May 9 riots.

In this regard, he was asked to appear at the DIG Investigation office Lahore to record his statement in five terror cases pertaining to the May 9 mayhem.

The JIT was constituted by Punjab government following the May 9 violence. Meanwhile, an anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended the judicial remand of PTI leader and former Punjab.

## PM hails CM Naqvi's outstanding performance as a beacon for governments

LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar lauded the rapid and commendable efforts led by Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi for the welfare of the province's residents. He emphasized the exceptional pace and high quality of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's initiatives, surpassing those of other provinces. The performance of the Punjab government, undoubtedly, sets a benchmark for other provincial administrations.

During a meeting with Punjab cabinet ministers, Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar praised Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's swift actions in promptly passing on the benefits of reduced petroleum prices to the people of the province. He personally took to the field, providing relief to the citizens - a gesture that set a significant example.

Under Mohsin Naqvi's leadership, progress is not only being made in Punjab, but it is also evidently visible. The chief minister's exceptional capacity to deliver results sets him apart at every level.

Punjab cabinet ministers, Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar praised Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's swift actions in promptly passing on the benefits of reduced petroleum prices to the people of the province. He personally took to the field, providing relief to the citizens - a gesture that set a significant example.



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Muhammad Ballegh-Ur-Rahman, Governor Punjab during meeting held in Lahore.

## Dr. Javed says: Pakistan is witnessing an alarming increase in the rate of genetic diseases

LAHORE (Online): Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram participated as a special guest in awareness seminar about breast cancer and dengue at Fatima Jinnah Medical University. On this occasion Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Medical University Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal, Prof. Majeed Chaudhry, Principal Prof. Dr. Noreen Akmal, Founder of Breast Fellowship Program Prof. Dr. Ayesha Shaukat, Prof. Andilb Khanum, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kamran Khalid, Prof.

Balqis Shabbir, a large number of faculty members and female students participated. He also led an awareness walk on the occasion.

In his address to the participants of the awareness seminar, the caretaker provincial health minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram said that it is very important to spread awareness about breast cancer in the society. The burden of breast cancer has shifted from West to East. Pakistan is witnessing an alarming increase in the rate of genetic diseases.

## International News

## Gaza now a 'graveyard' for thousands of children: UN

UNITED NATIONS: The Gaza Strip has become a graveyard for thousands of children, the United Nations said on Tuesday, as it feared the prospect of more dying of dehydration.

Israel has heavily bombarded Gaza since Hamas fighters stormed across the border on October 7. The health ministry in the Gaza Strip said the strikes have killed more than 8,500 people, mainly civilians.

The UN children's agency Unicef said there was a risk that the number of child deaths directly from bombardment could become

eclipsed. "Our gravest fears about the reported numbers of children killed becoming dozens, then hundreds, and ultimately thousands were realised in just a fortnight," Unicef spokesman James Elder said in a statement.

"The numbers are appalling; reportedly more than 3,450 children killed; staggeringly this rises significantly every day."

"Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children. It's a living hell for everyone else." He said the more than one million children living in the Gaza Strip were also suffering from a lack of clean water.

"Gaza's water production capacity is a mere five per cent of its usual daily output. Child deaths — particularly infants — to dehydration are a growing threat," he said.

Unicef is calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, with all access crossings into Gaza opened for safe, sustained and unimpeded access to humanitarian aid, including water, food, medical supplies, and fuel. "And if there is no ceasefire, no water, no medicine, and no release of abducted children? Then we hurtle towards even greater horrors afflicting innocent children," said Elder.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, center left, reviews the honour guard with Montenegro's President Jakov Milatovic in Montenegro's capital Podgorica.

## Singapore defense minister calls on China to take the lead in reducing regional tensions

BEIJING: Singapore's defense minister urged China as a dominant power in Asia to take the lead in reducing tensions in the region, warning that a military conflict like the one in Ukraine or the Israel-Hamas war would be devastating for the continent and its future.

Speaking Tuesday on the third and final day of an annual defense conference held by China, Ng Eng Hen stressed the importance of military-to-military communication to manage crises, expressing hope that the United States and China would resume the use of their

military hotline. Peace is precarious and never a given anywhere in the world, Ng said. "What has happened in Europe and the Middle East must never occur here. ... We must do all we can to avoid it."

The Xiangshan Forum brought together defense officials from dozens of countries and organizations. China, which recently sacked its defense minister, was represented by Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu used the forum to highlight Russia's deepening ties

with China as it faces isolation from the West over its invasion of Ukraine.

Shoigu was given a military honor guard reception before a meeting with Zhang on Monday. The Russian Tass news agency quoted Zhang as saying that China is ready to respond with Russia to security threats and challenges and "jointly maintain global strategic balance and stability." Ukraine's defense attaché took issue with the conference giving the floor to Shoigu and the defense minister of pro-Russia Belarus on Monday, followed by an Iranian official who defended Russia's invasion on Tuesday.



U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas testifies next to FBI Director Christopher Wray and National Counterterrorism Center Director Christine Abizaid during a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing on threats to the United States, on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S.

## A UN report urges Russia to investigate an attack on a Ukrainian village that killed 59 civilians

KYIV: U.N. investigators on Tuesday urged Russia to acknowledge responsibility for a missile strike on a Ukrainian village that killed 59 civilians, conduct a transparent investigation into what happened, provide reparations for victims and hold those responsible to account.

The strike on a cafe in the village of Hroza on Oct. 5 was one of the deadliest strikes since the Kremlin's forces launched a full-scale

invasion 20 months ago. Whole families perished while attending a wake for a local soldier who died fighting Russian troops.

The blast killed 36 women, 22 men and an 8-year-old boy. Numerous bodies were found torn to pieces, and it took nearly a week to identify all the dead. The U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said in a report published Tuesday it "has reasonable grounds to believe" that a Russian Iskander missile.

## Two killed in anti-government protest in Bangladesh

DHAKA: Two people were killed and dozens injured in clashes in Bangladesh on Tuesday between anti-government protesters and police on the first day of a three-day protest to push for the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) called for the blockade of roads for three days in response to clashes between party supporters and police on Sunday in which one policeman was killed and more than 100 people were injured.

The party has been calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign to allow elections scheduled for January to be held under a neutral caretaker government. Her government has rejected the demand. A police official in the central district of Kishoreganj, where the clashes took place, said two protesters were killed and dozens of people, including 15 policemen, were injured.

## Spain offers drones, reinforcement to help Senegal tackle migration crisis

DAKAR: Spain has delivered six new multicopter drones to Senegal and plans to reinforce its deployed security personnel to help the West African nation tackle a migration crisis, Spain's acting Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said.

Grande-Marlaska is in Senegal where he met his Senegalese counterpart, Sidiki Kaba, as the number of would-be migrants from West Africa,

especially Senegal, to reach Spain's Canary Islands this year is near a record high.

Grande-Marlaska said the drones delivered to the Senegal Police are designed to detect vessel departures so that they could be intercepted.

He added that Spain had also deployed a civil guard aircraft to help patrol the coasts of Senegal and Mauritania, in addition to 38 troops equipped with four boats.

## Kremlin keeps Putin's ambitions on presidential election shrouded

MOSCOW: The Kremlin, asked about President Vladimir Putin's political ambitions, said on Tuesday that the campaign for next year's presidential election in Russia had not yet begun and that there could be a varying number of candidates in the contest. Putin, in power as either president or prime minister since 1999.

## Italy drafts plan for direct election of prime minister

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and top ministers backed a constitutional reform proposal introducing the direct election of the prime minister, in an effort to end the country's chronic political instability.

Meloni made constitutional reform a key policy plank of her right-wing coalition after winning power in September last year.

Italy has had almost 70 governments since World War Two, more than twice the number in Britain and Germany. Repeated attempts to produce a more robust system, the last in 2016, have always floundered amid myriad, competing visions.

Government officials said that under the pro-

posed reform coalitions will have to put forward premier candidates at the election, in a bid to enhance stability by forging a stronger bond between the government and voters.

The government also intends to change the electoral law to ensure that elections produce workable majorities, avoiding the kind of hung parliaments that emerged from ballots in 2013 and 2018, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

"We have taken a big step towards the 'reform of reforms', which will give stability to the country and restore centrality to the popular vote," Reforms Minister Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati said in a statement.

## Two dead, dozens of homes destroyed as bushfires rage across eastern Australia

SYDNEY: Two people have been killed and dozens of homes destroyed in bushfires raging across Australia's northern Queensland state, as firefighters travel from across the country and from New Zealand to try and contain the out-of-control blazes.

Residents have been told to evacuate from two massive bushfires in the southeast portion of Queensland, even as dozens of fires continue to burn across the state where at least 45 homes have been destroyed and two people killed since last week.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called the fires "devastating" in a visit to the state on Tuesday and said the federal government would provide extra support to deal with what it estimates will be at least 42,000 claims for assistance as a result of the destruction.

breaking scenes when people lose their houses," Albanese said from the town of Bundaberg, near one of the large fires. "This is a difficult period and it's going to be a difficult summer.

Firefighters from the neighbouring state of Victoria and New Zealand were on their way to help, Albanese added. The early start to fire season comes as Australia recorded its driest September on record and the weather bureau forecast months of hot weather and below average rainfall ahead.

More than 7,500 hectares (18,500 acres) are burning out of control in the neighbouring state of New South Wales, only 40 kms (25 miles) from one of the Queensland fires. Firefighters said a 100-hectare (247 acre) blaze near Ulan, roughly 200 kms (125 miles) northwest of Sydney, was "impinging" on a facility where explosives were stored and warned those nearby to leave.

# Entire Pakistani nation stands united on Palestine issue: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that the entire Pakistani nation stood united on the issue of Palestine. "There is no division on this (Palestine) issue. From Senator Mushtaq Ahmed to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, we all are united. Let me reiterate here that the winding up speech will be made by the foreign minister or any other minister assigned by the prime minister," he said while taking part in the debate on Palestine issue in the Senate.

The minister said the Upper House of Parliament, with its honourable members including Senator Raza Rabbani who had drafted the landmark 18th Constitutional Amendment, had raised its voice in favour of Palestine and its people. Since the establishment of Pakistan, its every head of state and government – from Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali

Jinnah to the incumbent Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar – had expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, he added. Solangi recalled that at the age of 22, he was for the first time arrested for standing up and collecting donations for Palestinian brethren after the massacre of Palestinian women and children in Lebanon by Israel. The minister said the Pakistani nation had unshakable faith that the struggle and voice of the

Palestinian people could never be suppressed. He said PM Kakar had telephoned Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to express solidarity with the people of Palestine. He said the speech of Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram, had perturbed the Zionists. Pakistan had always raised its voice for the right of self-determination of the people of Palestine and would continue to do so, he vowed.



Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing the Seminar regarding the World Stroke Day.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan H.E. Nawaf Saeed Al-Malikiy called on Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori.

## Sanjrani says: Connectivity, an indispensable element for modern economies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Tuesday highlighted that connectivity was an indispensable element for modern economies, playing a vital role in socio-economic development and the empowerment of communities. He said this during a meeting with Chairman of the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) Foundation, Danish A. Lakhani, and Director General of APNIC, Paul Wilson.

platform for meaningful dialogue on the role that internet connectivity play in today's world, emphasizing the need to extend this essential service to remote areas of Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan. Sadiq Sanjrani underscored the significance of IT infrastructure development as a fundamental driver for the nation's progress, stating that it was crucial to equip the youth with IT-related skills to foster innovation and economic growth. He commended the tireless efforts of APNIC in strengthening connectivity in Pakistan, recognizing the organization's commitment to bridging the digital divide. The chairman high-

lighted that Pakistan was currently in the process of rolling out 5G Spectrum, expressing hope that this significant advancement would contribute significantly towards generating the much-needed economic activity in Pakistan. Danish A. Lakhani and Paul Wilson expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to engage in such a constructive dialogue. They affirmed APNIC's commitment to furthering internet development and connectivity in the Asia Pacific region and assured the chairman that APNIC would remain dedicated to working alongside the Government of Pakistan to achieve the objectives.

The discussion revolved around critical issues pertaining to internet development and connectivity in Pakistan and the broader Asia Pacific region. The meeting served as a

## IHC seeks answer regarding appointment of judge in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday sought the answer from Ministry of Law and Justice regarding the appointment of special judge Abul Hasanat Muhammad Zulqarnain in the cipher case against the PTI Chairman.

appeal of PTI Chairman against the jail trial and appointment of special judge in the cipher case. The court summoned a joint secretary the ministry on November 2, to reply on the matter.

The court adjourned the further hearing of the case till next Thursday.

A two-judge bench, comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, heard the intra-court

He said that they had also raised these points before the single bench.

In Balochistan, about seven hundred eighty thousand children up to the age of five years will be administered anti-polio vaccine drops.

## Swat Police seized 660 liters of liquor, over 10 Kg hashish



**By Haroon Siraj**  
SWAT:- A raid was conducted by city police on an illegal liquor factory located in Mingora, where more than 660 liters of alcohol and drugs were seized. On a tip off, DIG Muhammad Ali Khan Gandapur, DPO Swat Shafiuallah Khan gandapur assigned the task to DSP city and SHO Mingora to conduct a raid and arrest those involved in bootlegging activities. In this regard, DPO Swat constituted a team under the supervision of DSP city

going anti-narcotics operation. Mingora police station raided the alcohol factory and recovered 660 liters of alcohol, alcohol-making equipment and several bottles. Factory owner Rehmat Ali son of Qamar Zaman resident of Rang Mohalla Mingora other two associate's liquor sellers Jahanzeb son of Gul Mukhtiar resident of dakhkhana road Mingora and Sulaiman son Anaat resident of Fizeghat were arrested and FIR was registered against them and imprisoned, he said. DPO said that city police have also recovered 10 kg of hashish, 02 kg of heroin and 0.544 kg of ice while carrying out successful operations against the accused involved in the heinous drug trade.

Amjad khan, SHO Mingora Mubej Alam Khan and others. This team conducted a raid on an illegal alcohol factory located at Kas road, Mingora city and recovered 660 liters of liquor, a huge quantity of bottles, 10 kg of hashish, 2 kg of heroin and 0.544 kg of ice and other material liquor equipment used in the manufacturing process. Addressing a press conference at Mingora police station, DPO Swat Shafiuallah Khan gandapur has said that under the on-

## 22 outlaws including 5 professional beggars held; drugs, weapons recovered

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 22 outlaws including five professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown

against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city. Following these directions, the Aabpara police team arrested two accused namely Abdul Ul Rehman and recovered 1070 gram hashish from their possession. Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Dani Ahil and recovered six wine bottles from his possession. Kohsar police arrested an accused namely Mehmood Masih and recovered one 12 bore gun from his possession.

## Dengue patients surpass 2000 in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Online): Dengue patients have surpassed 2000 in Islamabad amid the reports that 22 new cases were reported in federal capital on Tuesday. According to DHO dengue patients include 66 percent male and 34 percent female. Total dengue patients stand at 2237 in federal capital. In rural areas of Islamabad 10 percent dengue cases were reported while the number of dengue cases in urban areas of Islamabad has reached mark of 816.

## Health Minister says: 90% of strokes can be avoided through preventive measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Tuesday said that 90 percent of strokes can be avoided by taking preventive measures. He was addressing the event held in connection with World Stroke Day at the Ministry of National Health Services in collaboration with the World Stroke Society. The minister said, "We should ensure coordinated measures to promote public awareness." He added the Ministry of Health will ensure all necessary steps in this regard. The minister said measures will be taken at primary and secondary levels for prevention of stroke.

Paramedical staff and doctors will also be trained in various hospitals to combat stroke disease. The Minister said, "We are implementing a reform agenda in the health sector during the short tenure of the incumbent government." He said practical steps are being taken to strengthen the primary health care system. He said 460 primary health centers will be revamped across the country with WHO support and no expense from government exchequer would be used. The Minister said the government was promoting the referral mechanism to reduce the burden on big hospitals.

## Court extends bail of Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana, 190 million pounds cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has extended bail of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI till November 15 in Toshakhana and 190 million pound case. The bail petition of Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana and 190 million pound scandal came up for hearing before Judge Muhammad Bashir of AC Islamabad Tuesday. NAB prosecutor stated before court Bushra

Bibi has filed petition for third time in the court while previous two bail pleas of Bushra Bibi were wrapped up. NAB had said arrest of Bushra Bibi is not wanted. She has filed bail plea twice on one ground. The counsel for Bushra Bibi requested the court Bushra Bibi should at least be issued notice beforehand. NAB investigation officer filed his reply in the court.

## Centers of Excellence to be established at National Skills University, PITHM: Madad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi on Tuesday announced the establishment of Centers of Excellence at National Skills University and Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (PITHM) with the support of Finland. The minister was speaking with the Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan Hannu Ripatti, along with a delegation, in a meeting held here. Madad Ali Sindhvi welcomed the delegation and said that the exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding Vocational and Technical Training between the two countries can upgrade existing institutions in Pakistan. The minister and the ambassador agreed in prin-

ciple to establish a center of excellence at National Skills University which will focus on the Hotel and Restaurant Industry in addition with Construction, IT, Teachers Training and Engineering Studies with the help of the Turku Municipality of Finland. Similarly, a centre of excellence will be established at the Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management in collaboration with the Turku Municipality of Finland. The minister said that in the field of Non-Formal Education, National Skills University (NSU), Islamabad is providing Technical Skills to the Pakistani youth, which can be enhanced to be a Skill Learning Centre for current and aspiring Pakistani youth to work abroad.

The Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan, Hannu Ripatti informed the minister about the ongoing collaboration between the government of Finland and Pakistan and stated that they are already providing vocational training at NUTECH and NUST. The ambassador told the minister that two Finnish universities are already providing technical and human expertise to these institutions. He informed the minister that approximately 500 people were already under training. He informed the minister that with the help of the government of Finland NUTECH has already expanded its one-year diploma course to 3-year course in the field of hotel and restaurant management.

## Sherry opposes increase in gas prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Vice President Sherry Rehman on Tuesday opposed gas price hike. She said exorbitant increase in the prices of Sui gas at a time when the people were facing the worst inflation was condemnable and unjustifiable. The interim government has given approval to increase the gas prices and the decision will be implemented from Nov 1.



Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan, Mr. Hannu Ripatti called on Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhvi in Islamabad.

## Milad e Mustafa seminar held at NARC

*Life of the Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) is a source of guidance for mankind, Allama Saqib Raza Mustafai*  
**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) Islamabad organized the "Milad e Mustafa Seminar" on 31st October, 2023. The seminar aimed to shed light on the teachings of Holy prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) and their significance in our lives. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman of PARC, graced the occasion as the guest of honor and commended the Milad Committee NARC for their efforts in organizing the seminar. Renowned scholar Allama Pirzada Saqib Raza Mustafai, while addressing the seminar emphasized the importance of implementing the teachings of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) and highlighted differ-

ent aspects of his life. He said that the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) is a beacon of light, guiding us through the darkest of times. His teachings are not bound by time or place but are universal and everlasting. They are a source of wisdom, compassion, and a pathway to leading a just and fulfilling life. At the end of the seminar, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali thanked all the honorable guests and participants for their participation in this gracious occasion.

## Statements of witnesses could not be recorded in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): The statements of witnesses could not be recorded in cipher case and Special Court established under official secret act adjourned the hearing till next Tuesday. The case came up for hearing in special court led by judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain in Adiala jail Tuesday. During the hearing of the case FIA team presented 10 more witnesses. Chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi were taken to court room.

State counsels Umar Ishfaq and Muhammad Sharjeel were also present in the court. During the hearing of the case 10 witnesses were presented. The witnesses include Imran Sajjad deputy director, Aqeel Haider deputy director, Shamoon Qaiser deputy director, M Faisal SO, Nadir Khan deputy director, Iqra Ashraf from ministry of foreign affairs, Farrukh Abbas, Haseeb bin Aziz, IO Shabbir and investigation officer Khushnood.

## 11 absconders involved in heinous crime held

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have arrested 11 absconders involved in heinous crime during the last 48 hours, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, special tasks were assigned to all seniors' police officials to ensure the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in heinous crimes.



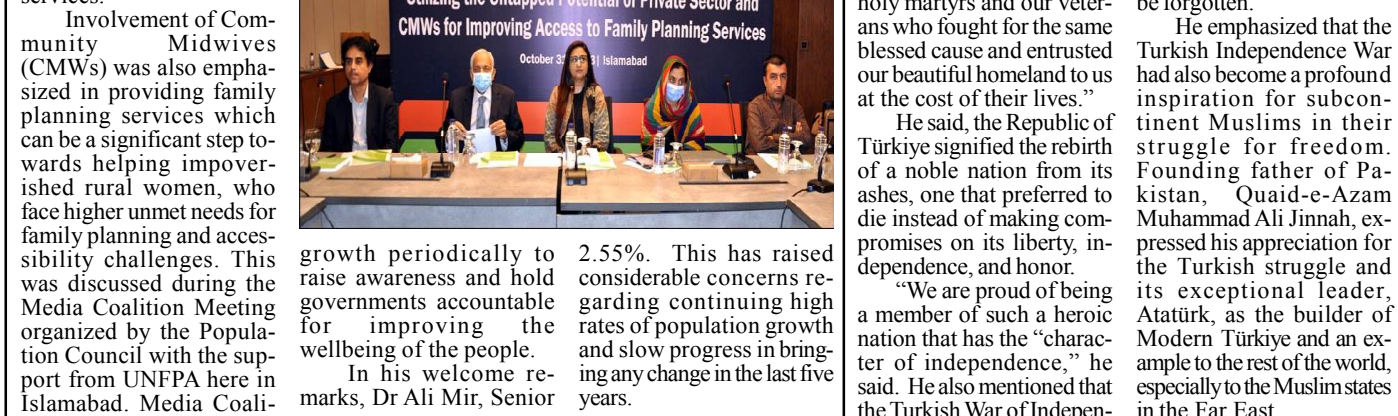
ence was not only the success of the Turkish nation but also a well-documented part of our shared history with Pakistan. He added, "The sacrifices and selfless support by the South Asian Muslims during the Khilafat Movement, and their political and financial contributions to the Turkish sacred cause, have and will never be forgotten." He emphasized that the Turkish Independence War had also become a profound inspiration for subcontinent Muslims in their struggle for freedom. Founding father of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, expressed his appreciation for the Turkish struggle and its exceptional leader, Atatürk, as the builder of Modern Türkiye and an example to the rest of the world, especially to the Muslim states in the Far East.

## Involving Private Sector, CMWs can be a game changer in improving access of family planning services

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The media has been called upon to play a pivotal role in urging federal and provincial governments to collaborate with family physicians and pharmacies in order to enhance access to contraceptives and family planning services. Involvement of Community Midwives (CMWs) was also emphasized in providing family planning services which can be a significant step towards helping impoverished rural women, who face higher unmet needs for family planning and accessibility challenges. This was discussed during the Media Coalition Meeting organized by the Population Council with the support from UNFPA here in Islamabad. Media Coal-

ition comprises of media persons from all provinces representing all major media outlets of Pakistan. The coalition highlights the cross sectoral impact of rapid population growth periodically to raise awareness and hold governments accountable for improving the wellbeing of the people. In his welcome remarks, Dr Ali Mir, Senior

Director Programs, Population Council said that recently concluded 2023 Census has counted 241.9 million people in Pakistan with an annual intercensal growth rate of 2.55%. This has raised considerable concerns regarding continuing high rates of population growth and slow progress in bringing any change in the last five years.



## Embassy celebrates 100th Anniversary of Proclamation of Republic of Türkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Türkiye in Pakistan celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye here the other day. Türkiye Ambassador in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Paçacı on the occasion said, "I commemorate Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, and express our gratitude to our holy martyrs and our veterans who fought for the same blessed cause and entrusted our beautiful homeland to us at the cost of their lives." He said, the Republic of Türkiye signified the rebirth of a noble nation from its ashes, one that preferred to die instead of making compromises on its liberty, independence, and honor. "We are proud of being a member of such a heroic nation that has the 'character of independence,'" he said. He also mentioned that the Turkish War of Independ-

ence was not only the success of the Turkish nation but also a well-documented part of our shared history with Pakistan. He added, "The sacrifices and selfless support by the South Asian Muslims during the Khilafat Movement, and their political and financial contributions to the Turkish sacred cause, have and will never be forgotten." He emphasized that the Turkish Independence War had also become a profound inspiration for subcontinent Muslims in their struggle for freedom. Founding father of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, expressed his appreciation for the Turkish struggle and its exceptional leader, Atatürk, as the builder of Modern Türkiye and an example to the rest of the world, especially to the Muslim states in the Far East.