

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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## PM for health sector reforms to meet global requirement of experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday emphasized the introduction of reforms in country's health sector with a view to meet the global requirement of health experts. The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the task force on reforms in medical education and patients care, said the reforms in the health sector was vital in current situation.

He also called for improving the standards of medical education in accordance with the contemporary requirements. The participants of the meeting were briefed on the strategy to uplift the health sector at par with international standards. The prime minister said that considering its significance, enhanced attention should be given on uplifting the nursing sector.

The meeting was also briefed on the steps taken for improvement in the health sector in coordination with the health ministry, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council,

Higher Education Commission and medical universities. It was told that a three-prong strategy had been formulated for health sector reforms to enforce the rules and regulations of international standards. The participants were also apprised of the reforms strategy for the graduate and postgraduate levels in the health sector. Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the performance of the task force working under Special Assistant Dr Amir Bilal for bringing in health sector reforms.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Kakar on Tuesday lauded the services of the Bohra community for the progress of the country and said the government and nation valued their positive contribution.

The prime minister was talking to the Spiritual leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin who led an eight-member delegation here at the PM House. PM Kakar felicitated Dr Saifuddin on being awarded the Nishan-e-Pakistan in recognition to his services for the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Taskforce for Strategic Reforms in Medical Education and Patient Care



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-i-Pakistan upon Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### Rs. 17.4 billion allocated for General Elections

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Ministry has allocated 17.4 billion rupees to Election Commission (EC) for the conduct of General Elections and more funds will be released.

It is told in an announcement by Finance Ministry that Finance Division has allocated required 17.4 billion rupees to Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the conduct of General Elections.

10 billion were allocated in previous month July 2023.

According to Finance Division, overall 27.4 billion rupees have been allocated to ECP regarding General Elections so far.

### President Alvi confers Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Bohra community head

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday conferred the civil award of Nishan-i-Pakistan on Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the Head of the Dawoodi Bohra Community, in recognition of his services for Pakistan in the field of spiritual guidance and social services.

The award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by the federal cabinet members as well as the representatives of the Bohra community.

According to the citation read out before the conferment of the award, Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin is the 53rd Dai-e-Mutlaq whose followers are spread across all continents with a large number of them being Pakistani citizens.

The Bohra community head has a special regard for Pakistan and is an advocate of peace, harmony and goodwill.

Recounting his services in the education sector, it was told that he had contributed to the building of

the School of Law at the University of Karachi and launched a university project. Multiple healthcare institutions are operating in the name of the Bohra community head providing affordable healthcare to people.

Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin has repeatedly emphasized the importance of conserving and protecting the environment. In the past few years alone, over 100,000 trees have been planted by his followers in different parts of Pakistan.

He also launched a global initiative named 'Project Rise' encompassing a range of areas, including healthcare, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, environmental responsibility and conservation, and education.

He urged his followers to contribute actively to Pakistan's socioeconomic progress and explore business opportunities in the country besides developing an extensive network of schemes offering interest-free loans.

### Caretaker Provincial Minister Information says: Manzoor Pashteen expelled from Balochistan; safely handed over to DIK police

Independent Report

QUETTA: The head of Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement (PTM) Manzoor Pashteen has been expelled from Balochistan and handed over to the police of Dera Ismail Khan.

This was announced by the Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while speaking to the media persons here on Tuesday.

The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information dispelled the impression of allegation of firing on PTM chief Manzoor Pashteen.

Jan Achakzai maintained that a guard of Manzoor Pashteen resorted to fire as a result a female and a child were injured.

The Minister Information said that Manzoor Pashteen has been taken into custody and expelled from the province to hand over to DI Khan police.

He said that the demand has been made by the youngsters and civil society of Balochistan to impose ban on the PTM.

The youth of Balochistan has been calling PTM as terrorist organization through social media and other means. The government is taking review of the situation very keenly and as such a tough decision can be made when the need arises, the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information maintained.

### 7 people including 3 children injured in blast

PESHAWAR (Online): An explosion left 7 people including 3 children injured on Warsak Road here on Tuesday morning.

Police said explosive was planted alongside the road near a private bank and a school. Glasses of nearby buildings splintered by the explosion.

Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to Lady Reading hospital. The age of children who were injured range between 7 years to 10 years. The blast is said to have taken place at 9:10 am. Four kilogram explosives were used. The condition of a nine-year-old child is stated to be critical.

The investigation into blast has been started.

KP Chief Minister Justice (retd) Arshad Hussain Shah condemned the incident and sought a report on the blast from the police. He prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured children besides directing the hospital management to provide them with the best medical treatment.

QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presiding over a meeting with police officers through video link regarding law & order and other situation

## Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan emphasizes: Provision of bailout packages not sustainable solution to financial issues of universities

Domki stresses that there is a need to establish Endowment Fund for resolving the financial matters of the public sector universities of the province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that provision of bailout packages to the public sector universities is not sustainable solution to the financial issues being faced by them (universities), as such there is a need to overcome the increasing expenditures by them.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting held to review the administrative and financial issues of the public sector universities of the province and find solution to their issues, here on Tuesday.

The care provincial

Minister for Education, Dr Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, Minister for Finance and Revenue, Amjad Rasheed, other provincial ministers, Chairman Higher Education Commission, administrative secretaries of provincial government departments were in attendance at the meeting.

The Chief Minister also stressed that there is a need to establish Endowment Fund for resolving the financial matters of the public sector universities of the province.

In this regard, the co-operation of federal government would also be sought, the Chief Minister maintained.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki

said said that the provincial government would put its share in the Endowment Fund according to the available resources.

He on the occasion also stressed the need to ensure improvement in the governance in the public sector universities. He directed the concerned authorities to conduct third party audit of the public sector universities in order to bring transparency in the financial and administrative affairs there.

Meanwhile, speaking on the occasion, Chairman HEC told that HEC has framed comprehensive plan to improve performance of the public sector universities.

## GoB decides to make them skilled Over 65 pc children are out of schools in Balochistan: Qadir

Caretaker Minister for Finance says children of province would be made skilled through different programmes

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch has stated that more than 65 percent children are out of the schools in the province, and the provincial government has decided to make them skilled.

Around 20,000 children have been registered for making skilled during last four days.

He said that there are least number of middle and high schools in the province.

The Minister for Education was addressing a press conference along with the Minister for Fi-

nance, Amjad Rasheed.

The caretaker Minister for Education said that Education Cards would be introduced for the out-of-school children in the province. He said that the technical training would be imparted to the children having interest in education through Education Card.

Dr. Qadir Bakhsh said that a total of 5,790 schools are operating with single teacher and some 3,000 schools have been closed during three months.

He also informed that vacancies of 14,000 teachers are vacant in the province.

He said that recruitments of teachers would be made on temporary to over-

come the shortage of teachers.

The Minister Finance said that the Hunarmand Development Programme is meant for imparting technical training to the children.

Amjad Rasheed said that the children would get livelihood in the foreign after getting technical training.

He also vowed that the children of province would be made skilled through different programmes.

The technical training would be imparted to the children of province in the federal training institutions, the caretaker Minister Finance added.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Vice Chairman Balochistan Bar Council Amanullah Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

### Pakistan Navy inducts 5th ATR aircraft into its fleet

KARACHI (APP): The induction ceremony of 5th ATR of Pakistan Navy was held at Naval Aviation Base PNS Mehran, Karachi where Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf was the Chief Guest on Tuesday.

The newly inducted ATR aircraft, acquired from PIA, is equipped with day and night flying capability to undertake ferry, logistics support, Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC), General Evacuation (GENEVAC) and training missions, a news release said.

Pakistan Navy is in the process of acquiring ATR aircraft from various sources and is modernising them to carry out maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare mis-

sions at sea. Being a commercial aircraft it has very low operating cost as compared to tailor-made military aircraft. This is the 5th aircraft which has been acquired for the purpose.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted the importance of evolving geo-strategic environment in the Indian Ocean Region and emphasized the need to have a potent naval force in order to counter emerging challenges.

He underlined the significance of strong maritime defence for Pakistan and reiterated that the induction of modern aircraft will enhance Pakistan Navy's capability of safeguarding maritime frontiers.

### Neptra hikes power tariff by Rs3.07 per unit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday notified Rs 3.0786 per unit increase in power tariff for consumers of XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs) under the fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism for October 2023.

The said adjustment shall be shown separately in the consumers' bills based on units billed to the consumers in October 2023, said a notification issued here.

XWDISCOs shall reflect the fuel charges adjustment in respect of October 2023 in the billing month of December 2023.

### Fazal questions polls feasibility amidst KP, Balochistan lawlessness

ISLAMABAD (INP): While noting that two provinces are still in a state of lawlessness and disorder, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman questioned on Tuesday whether the next general elections can be conducted under the present circumstances.

Interacting with media here, Fazl stated that his party was ready to contest elections at any given time, but stressed the need to ensure a conducive environment in all four provinces.

### Governor calls for taking concrete steps for finding permanent solution to problems of HEIs

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that all higher educational institutions present in the province are our joint assets and as such there is a need to take concrete measures to find out permanent solution to the problems being faced by them.

He said that we can't disassociate us from the future of our new generation anyway. We can make our universities economically self sufficient easily by adopting modern mechanism instead of settling their financial and administrative, adding he emphasized.

The Governor was

speaking to the Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed who called on him here at the Governor House on Tuesday. During the course of meeting, also present were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai and Secretary Education, Lal Jan Jaffar. The Governor stressed that we have to prepare comprehensive strategy for making them financially stable.

He also stressed that we have to demonstrate wise use of human resource and financial matters for getting to the destination.

### 'Tobacco smoking not an addiction, but a death pill,' says Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said tobacco smoking was not an addiction rather it was a death pill and a threat to human lives at the global level.

Delivering his speech at an event organised to educate children about the harmful impacts of smoking, he said like environmental destruction, smoking was also a threat to human lives.

At the outset, he said it was important to ask some important questions regarding the habit of smoking.

"Smoking is a disease that kills one person every six seconds on average", Murtaza Solangi said adding the habit of smoking takes the life of one person among ten.

Recounting the devastation caused by smoking, he said 100 million people lost their lives due to smoking in the 20th century and some five million deaths were caused by smoking every year worldwide.

He said it was feared that the number of people killed by smoking would increase from five to eight million per year by 2030 if the habit of smoking continued at this intensity.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Chilas bus attack**

Perhaps even more challenging than countering terrorism in urban areas is the threat posed by militants in remote regions of Pakistan. This is especially true in the rugged terrain of Gilgit-Baltistan and adjacent regions of KP. Here, in the shadow of towering peaks, tracing the perpetrators is arguably more difficult than it is in the cities.

However, terrorists cannot be given a free hand to stomp through the mountains, killing innocent people at will. In fact, the geopolitical and communal sensitivity of the area requires that strong counterterrorism measures be taken.

No group has as yet claimed responsibility for Saturday's atrocity, in which at least nine people were killed when terrorists opened fire on a bus travelling on the Karakoram Highway in GB's Chilas area. A number of suspects have been detained.

The authorities have ruled out a sectarian motive, while the fact that two of the victims were military men could explain a possible motive for the attack.

Diامر, where Chilas is located, as well as the adjacent Kohistan area of KP, have witnessed militant activity previously, while both areas are known for their ultraconservative mores. In 2012, at least 18 people were pulled off buses and massacred in a sectarian attack in Kohistan.

Later that year, a similar atrocity took place in Mansehra. In both attacks, most of the victims were Shia. In 2013, terrorists massacred 10 foreign climbers and one local at the Nanga Parbat base camp, while in 2021 nine Chinese nationals working on the Dasu dam project, along with four locals, were killed in a TTP suicide bombing.

Meanwhile, in September, a militant incursion from Afghanistan was thwarted in Chitral, which also borders GB, resulting in a number of soldiers being martyred. These events show that this particular region of Pakistan is not immune from the terrorist threat.

Complicating matters is the fact that militant activity in the area often has sectarian overtones. Also, GB borders Afghanistan and China as well as India-held Kashmir, making it a target for transnational militant activity.

The threat from militancy will also scuttle the state's plans to promote tourism in the area, affecting the livelihoods of the locals of this beautiful, but economically deprived region. Due to these reasons, it is imperative that the administration take decisive action to root out militancy.

Efforts should be headed by federal counterterrorism agencies, with the involvement of the GB and KP administrations. Locals, particularly in Diامر and Kohistan, need to be on board to ensure that militants have no place to hide. Meanwhile, transporters are of the view that the security provided even to convoys of vehicles is inadequate. This needs to be rectified to ensure the safety of those travelling to and from the region.

**New security threats**



Arifa Noor

The security situation in Pakistan continues to be of concern. And the decision to repatriate illegal migrants has done little to stem the tide. That the latter is a result of the increasing unease over the former is a message the caretaker governments have been at pains to disseminate.

The decision to zero in on the 'migrants' came shortly after the blood-bath in Mastung in the last week of September, in which nearly 60 people lost their lives. Within days of the attack in Balochistan, APP, the state-owned news agency, reported that "The caretaker government has decided to evict 11 laes foreigners living illegally in Pakistan because of their involvement in funding, facilitating terrorists and other illegal activities."

"In the first phase, illegal residents, in the second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in the third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled. 'Illegally [sic] resident foreigners pose a serious threat to the security of Pakistan', said a source privy to the development."

A day later, the interior minister briefed the media after the apex committee meeting. Announcing the Nov 1 deadline he said, "The most important thing that was decided was that the welfare and security of a Pakistani are most important for us over any country or its policy." Once again, he seemed to link the decision to the security situation.

At the same time, there is a growing debate about the challenge of militancy and its growing complications (compared to what Pakistan dealt with the last time).

For instance, there are increasing reports of the TTP's expansion into Balochistan and what this means for the insurgency there, especially as some reports suggest there may even be cooperation between the

The caretaker prime minister also expressed similar views.

Such statements, which were repeated more than once, were sufficient to link the decision to the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan. And as the focus shifted to the administrative preparations and movement of the migrants, it appeared that the number of attacks also came down. But this was not a permanent shift. By November, it appeared that the attacks were increasing again.

Unfortunately, the caretaker government's constant efforts to link the deportation/return of the migrants with the security situation means that the policy is now being seen as ineffective, coupled as it is with portrayal of the migration as having caused human suffering. This perception is going to be hard to change, especially as the ministers seem unaware of the consequences of their statements.

However, outside of the caretaker set-ups, the matter has set off a larger debate on Islamabad's policy towards Afghanistan and the militancy within, especially by the TTP.

The tense relationship with Afghanistan has now laid to rest all earlier assertions of a better regional environment with the change of regime in Kabul. And it is also leading to serious questions about the larger policy towards the western neighbour.

At the same time, there is a growing debate about the challenge of militancy and its growing complications (compared to what Pakistan dealt with the last time).

For instance, there are increasing reports of the TTP's expansion into Balochistan and what this means for the insurgency there, especially as some reports suggest there may even be cooperation between the

former and Baloch separatist organisations.

Similarly, the TTP has changed its tactics and is now trying to reach out to the people, instead of solely relying on violence. Its use of social media, for example, and outreach on interests of public importance will need a response, which seems to be missing at the moment. The strategy of simply constraining coverage on mainstream media may not prove enough.

On the other hand, what is even more serious is the absence of a clear strategy on the part of the state. After all, there is little space — fiscal or otherwise — to carry out large-scale military operations as in the past.

And frankly, there is little clarity on how effective they may prove this time around, especially as ordinary people are wary of military operations because of what they entail for residents. What are the options in this case and will they prove effective, especially as civilian law-enforcement personnel continue to be short on resources?

A consensus which includes a debate and public buy-in, without getting the political leadership within parliament and outside on board. And it will also require brainstorming on the evolution of the threat and how to address it.

But before any of these steps can be taken, we will need to acknowledge that security issues cannot be viewed as simply administrative matters, where state force will prove sufficient.

The political context in which they arise has to be recognised. Take Balochistan, for example; a political process has to be initiated there. Without that, little will be achieved just through the use of force. — Courtesy Dawn

**Bridging Horizons: Economic Strategies and Geopolitical Dynamics**

By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Have you ever pondered how economic strategies and geopolitical maneuvers shape the world's future? In a landscape where nations grapple with challenges, China seems to be orchestrating a different symphony. Let's embark on a journey through the maze of global infrastructure competition, where economic uniqueness, strategic initiatives, and collaborative endeavors intertwine. In a recent East Asia Forum

article, a striking revelation emerges—China's economy dances to its rhythm. While the rest of the world battles inflation, China tactically cuts interest rates to ward off deflation. This distinctive economic strategy showcases China's prowess in navigating global financial currents.

Traditional geopolitics often spawned arms races, but China is charting a new course—an infrastructure competition that diverges from the norm. The global stage witnesses major powers initiating substantial infrastructure projects, challenging conventional paradigms. It's a novel approach that beckons a redefinition of global power dynamics.

Enter the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), a memorandum signed by eight nations responding to China's Belt and Road Initiative. This ambitious project aims to connect half the world's population and 40% of the global

economy, unfolding as a potential game-changer. It signifies a strategic response to the evolving infrastructure narrative.

The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), an initiative by G7 countries, takes center stage. With a commitment to mobilize \$600 billion for developing nations by 2027, the US State Department deems projects like the Lobito Corridor and Zambia-Lobito railway in Africa as significant contributors to global progress.

Responding to the Belt and Road Initiative, the EU unveils its \$340 billion Global Gateway investment plan. Positioned as a credible alternative, this plan doesn't merely mimic but introduces a distinctive approach to address global infrastructure gaps. Beyond megaprojects, a tapestry of regional initiatives unfolds. Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific and Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, along with India's regional connectivity endeavors—these smaller strokes contribute to the evolving landscape of global infrastructure development.

Despite geopolitical tensions, collaboration emerges as the defining theme. Organizations like McKinsey and the Asian Development Bank view these projects not as rivalries but as collaborative efforts. The \$26 trillion global infrastructure gap necessitates collective action, fostering a sense of partner-

ship. China's proximity to investment-focused regions and its status as the world's largest trader amplify its influence in the global infrastructure race. The trend initiated by China propels major powers to allocate substantial capital, transforming the global infrastructure landscape.

As investments surge to address the infrastructure gap, opportunities unfold for widespread development and collaboration. Regardless of the financier, these megaprojects promise benefits that extend to various nations, promising a shared journey toward progress. The prevalence of terms like connectivity, corridors, infrastructure, and Belt and Road echoes a trend set by China. This marks a paradigm shift in great power politics, with a significant allocation of capital toward global infrastructure and connectivity projects initiated by China. In the grand symphony of global infrastructure development, China's unique notes resonate, steering the world toward a future where collaboration, innovation, and connectivity redefine the very fabric of progress.

— [The writer, serves as Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. With a passion for fostering international bonds, he also lends his expertise as a Senior Media Consultant based in Peshawar, can be contacted through syeed.gilani@gmail.com.]

**Commerce News**

**Planning Minister reviews power sector's progress**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the power sector of the ministry. The Chief Energy Section gave a detailed briefing on current statistics, prevalent policies and new initiatives of the power sector, a news release said.

The Power Section of the Planning Ministry is assigned the tasks of

technical appraisal of the Sector's development projects to be considered by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC). The Power Section is also involved in planning, policy-formulation process and furnishes comments on CCI, Cabinet, ECC summaries and other reports/intergovernmental agreements. The minister

was also briefed about the prevalent policies in the power sector. In this regard, National Electricity Policy, 2021 was approved in June 2021 by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) which laid down six principles for the growth of the power sector including Efficiency, Transparency, Competition, Financial Viability, Indigenization and Environmental Responsibility. To meet policy goals, principles and underlying directives in the

respective areas as provided in the National Electricity Policy, an objective-oriented National Electricity (NE) Plan has recently been approved by the CCoE in August 2023. The NE Plan envisaged 20 priority areas of intervention including Integrated Energy Planning, System & Market Operations, Electrification, Tariff Design and Subsidy Rationalization. Among the new initiatives being undertaken in the Power Sector.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

**Dr Kausar elected President of PAS**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik has elected as the 20th unopposed President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS).

After scrutinizing and counting the ballot paper, the members of the Ballot Opening Committee formally announced the election of Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik as the President on December 1, 2023, and the other council members as well, said a

press release issued by the Ministry on Tuesday.

Apart from the President, Dr Muhammad Ashraf elected as Vice President, Dr Muhammad Qaiser Vice President, Dr M. Aslam Baig Secretary General, Dr Abdul Raouf Shakoori Associate Secretary General, Dr Saleem Asghar Treasurer, Dr M. Raza Shah Secretary for Sindh, Dr M Waheed Akhtar Secretary for Punjab and Dr Sardar Khan elected as Secretary for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

**Dr. Umar holds various meetings in Qatar**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif held a meeting with CEO of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) Mansoor Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud in Qatar. They discussed opportunities and mutual collaborations across various sectors during the meeting, said a news release received here on Tuesday. Faisal Al-Thani, QIA CIO of APAC & Africa was also present in the meeting. Meanwhile, Dr. Umar Saif

visited the Qatar Free Zones Authority to explore how Pakistan's IT companies can register in Qatar and use it as a hub for regional business opportunities. During his visit, Dr. Umar Saif met with the CEO of Qatar Free Zones Authority Sheikh Mohammed Al-Thani. Ambassador of Pakistan to Qatar Muhammad Aejaz was also present in the meeting. Dr. Umar Saif also visited the Qatar Science and Technology Park and met with its management to explore how Pakistani

startups can benefit from their incubator and Startup Fund. The two sides agreed to sign an agreement to establish a startup exchange program between Ignite and Qatar Science and Technology Park. The Caretaker Federal Minister for IT Dr. Umar Saif also met with the authorities of Qatar National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) to explore a partnership with Pakistan's newly created National Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT).



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review progress of Power Sector at the Ministry.

**Currently rice export third largest sector in country's economy: REAP leaders**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rice Export Association of Pakistan (REAP) on Tuesday said that rice export is currently the third largest sector in the country's economy, which should be given the status of an industry.

According to the rice exporter organization, REAPs leaders, Pakistan has an export potential of rice worth \$4.5 billion, which can be further improved through the use of technology and modern methods. According to the REAP leaders, government support is necessary to

increase the production of rice in Pakistan and to find new markets, which if fully available, rice export can become the largest sector in Pakistan's economy.

Leaders of REAP in National Press Club Islamabad, including Chairman REAP Chela Ram Kelwani, Group Chairman Sindh Abdul Rahim Janu, Group Chairman Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik, Senior Vice Chairman Haseeb Ali Khan, Vice Chairman Habibur Rahman and other leaders including President National Press Club.

**PSX gains 462 points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 462.67 points, a positive change of 0.74 percent, closing at 62,956.03 points against 62,493.05 points the previous trading day.

A total of 765,418,288 shares valuing Rs 30,858 billion were traded during the day as compared to 734,294,598 shares valuing Rs 31,641 billion the last day.

Some 382 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 187 of them recorded gains and 177 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 18 remained unchanged.

**Economy steadily progressing towards recovery, revival: Report**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The national economy is steadily progressing along a promising path toward recovery, propelled by the momentum of economic revival initiatives that are fostering a significant surge in economic activity.

According to the "Monthly economic update & outlook November 2023," released by the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday, the positive economic signals and recovery indicators have triggered the market sentiment, propelling the KSE-100 index of PSX by 33% in November, surpassing the 58199-point

mark for the first time in history.

The sustained monetary policy stance and successful International Monetary Fund staff review in November drove the market confidence. Owing to reforms in exchange companies and a reduction in illicit transactions, the exchange rate remains stable thus exerting a positive impact on overall economic activity.

The Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) sector demonstrated a positive trend for the second consecutive month while posting a growth of

1.0 percent in September 2023.

After several months of decline, the industry has been on the path of recovery since August 2023.

The stability in the exchange rate, ease in supply disruptions due to the removal of import restrictions, and improved dollar liquidity contributed to this economic upswing.

Meanwhile, in the agriculture sector, the input situation shows positive signs, whereas the farm tractor production and sales witnessed the growth of 55.1 percent (17,098) and 86.8 percent

(17,296), respectively during July-October of fiscal year 2024 over the corresponding period last year.

During October 2023 the 6.8 percent growth in urea and 122 percent in DAP off-take compared to October 2022, indicating a positive growth in Rabi crops.

On the fiscal front, healthy growth in revenues outpaced the growth in expenditure during the first quarter of current fiscal year. Both tax and non-tax collection attributed to a significant rise in total revenues, however, a substantial increase in non-

tax collection on the back of higher receipts from petroleum levy remained the major source of the increase.

With healthy growth in revenues relative to expenditures, the fiscal deficit reduced to 0.9 percent of GDP during the period from July-September 2023-24 from 1.0 percent of GDP last year.

Primary balances continued to be in surplus and improved to Rs.416.8 billion (0.4 percent of GDP) in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023-24 from Rs.134.7 billion (0.2 percent of GDP) last year.



## CM Naqvi chairs cabinet meeting, approves reforms

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, chairing the 33th provincial cabinet meeting at the Civil Secretariat on Tuesday, addressed crucial matters. The cabinet approved an increase in driving licence fees effective from January 1. Until this date, driving licences will continue to be issued at the existing rates. Starting January 1, the learner fee will surge from Rs 60 to Rs 1000, alongside an increase in LTV, HTV, and PSV licence fees. Residents of the US, Canada, and other countries can obtain a licence online by paying \$100.

During the meeting,

the cabinet endorsed a transparent lottery system for allocating government land to landless farmers in Cholistan. A substantial 3,44,000 acres of land will be allocated to landless farmers at subsidized rates. Additionally, the cabinet approved the transfer policy for MBBS and BDS students in government medical and dental colleges, allowing transfers only from high-grade merit to low-grade institutions. The management of prison hospitals will be entrusted to the health department and a healthcare system for prisoners was also approved. Funds were greenlit

to double the number of nursing students, and a management committee for the Institute of Public Health Lahore was established. The cabinet renewed the agreement between the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department and the Recep Tayyip Erdogan Health Trust for the operation of Regional Blood Centers in Multan and Bahawalpur. Decisions were made to elevate Children's Hospital Faisalabad to the status of a medical institute under the Punjab Medical and Health Institutions Act 2003. The establishment of PKLI-2 for South Punjab in Multan Institute of Kidney Diseases was also confirmed.



**GILGIT:** Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan addressing during the 27th session of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly under the chair of Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmad Advocate.

## OEK's Korean language Centre generating manpower for Korea: Dr Aamir

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Technical Education, Industries, Commerce and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamer Abdullah has termed the provincial government and Overseas Employment (OEK) collaborative efforts of imparting the skilled force of the province on Korean language training, a very

important and useful. He said that the manpower of the region could be able to gain more opportunities available in various professional and technical fields in Korea through this project. He said that as a result of this effort, hundreds of trained and skilled people of the province can get honorable employment in various fields in the Korean market every year.

## Governor inaugurates swimming pool

**BAHAWALPUR (APP):** Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed swimming pool of Bahawalpur Gymkhana. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the swimming pool was a good addition for the club members.

The governor said that a committee had been formed to affiliate Lahore Gymkhana with Bahawal Gymkhana. He appreciated the efforts of office bearers of Bahawal Gymkhana in making the club more beautiful. The governor said that Bahawal Gymkhana was a useful recreational facility for the people of the area. Deputy Commissioner Zaeer Anwar Jappa briefing the governor told that the funds of the gymkhana had been used transparently and all office bearers had performed their duties with dedication. Commissioner Bahawalpur, Dr Ehtesham Anwar, General Secretary Ejaz Nazim and others were also present.



**LAHORE:** Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with position holders of Flower Show organized by Horticulture Society of Pakistan at Jilani Park.

## CM KP Arshad chairs meeting Meeting deliberates on strengthening police force in merged districts

**PESHAWAR (APP):** An important meeting to review law and order in the province, and deliberate upon the matters related to strengthening of police force in merged districts, was held here on Tuesday with the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @

Syed Arshad Hussain Shah in the chair. Besides, Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr Aamir Abdullah, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary

Home Muhammad Abid Majeed, and other senior officials attended the meeting. Divisional Commissioners and Regional Police Officers participated in the meeting via video link. The meeting was briefed in detail on the overall situation of law and order, challenges.

## KP Caretaker Minister lauds collaboration with overseas employment corporation

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: The caretaker minister for Technical Education, Industries, Commerce, and Newly Merged Districts Affairs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, has commended the joint initiative between the provincial government and the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) for Korean language training. He emphasized the significance of this collaboration, stating that it opens doors for the region's workforce to access numerous

opportunities in various professional and technical fields in Korea. Dr. Abdullah expressed confidence that, as a result of this effort, hundreds of trained individuals from the province would secure honorable employment in the Korean market annually. During a visit to the Government Technical and Vocational Centre (GTVN) in Peshawar, the minister proposed the establishment of a provincial organization or cell, modelled after the OEC, under the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA).

## KPCS condemns Warsak Road blast

**PESHAWAR (Online):** Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Tuesday condemned the blast on Warsak Road and promptly sought a detailed report from authorities. He directed district administration, police, and other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to maintain heightened vigilance in the area. The Chief Secretary prayed for swift recovery of the injured and instructed hospital administration to provide the best possible medical care to them. The Chief Secretary highlighted the sacrifices rendered by the general public and LEAs in establishing peace and tranquility in KPK.

## Punjab Governor says: Govt is committed for promotion of health activities

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman distributed shields and trophies to the prize winners of flower show, organized by the Horticultural Society of Pakistan at Jilani Park, in a ceremony held at Governor House Lahore. Vice-Chairman Horticulture Society of Pakistan, Abrar Muntaz, Secretary General, Tariq Jilani, Convener Sajid Sambal, Marketing Head Shaista Khawar, Chairman Millat Tractor Limited Sikandar Mustafa Khan and others were present in the event.

Balighur Rehman said that the government is committed to the promotion of healthy activities. He said that the Walled City of Lahore under the leadership of Director General Walled City of Lahore Authority is doing a good job by promoting cultural activities and tourism in Lahore. Governor Punjab said that public private partnership is a successful model in Pakistan, adding that PHA and other institutions can work on various projects through public-private partnership. Governor Punjab said that flowers are one of the beautiful and priceless gifts of nature.



**LAHORE:** Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi enquiring about medical facilities from mother of under treatment children at Children Emergency during his visit to Mayo Hospital.

## Doctors' protest against attack on clinic of Dr. Ranjeet

**Independent Report**  
MIRPUR MATHALO: Mirpur Mathelo doctors' protest against the attack on the clinic of child specialist Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, all private hospitals closed, doctors' protest ended on the assurance of SSP Ghotki, demanding the arrest of the attackers, Dr. Meher Chand, Dr. Sativaan, Dr. Om Prakash, Dr. Jai Kishan, Dr. Bhajanlal and others held a press conference with Dr. Ranjit Kumar against the alleged attack on the clinic of child specialist

Dr. Ranjit Kumar in Mirpur Mathalo. While saying that yesterday, a man named Shahid came to Lady Dr. Sapna for an ultrasound due to the premature delivery of his wife, on whose normal report he left, returned in the evening with four colleagues and rushed to the private hospital. They tortured me mercilessly and ransacked the hospital and ran away. Clinics have been opened so that ordinary patients do not have to face difficulties.

# International News

## Gazans running out of safe places: UN official

**NORTHERN (Online):** Palestinians in Gaza have been left with virtually nowhere to go as the Israeli army continues its offensive in the enclave following the end of a truce with Hamas, a UN official has said.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is shifting its focus to the southern part of Gaza and has urged the population to evacuate. However, Palestinians and human rights groups have condemned the move after the area was initially declared a safe zone when Israel launched retaliatory strikes following the Hamas attack of October 7.

The head of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Gaza (UNRWA), Thomas

White, said on Monday that "people are pleading for advice on where to find safety. We have nothing to tell them."

According to media reports, heavy fighting has taken place near the largest city in southern Gaza, Khan Younis, around 10km from the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

The IDF warned Gazans on Monday that some areas in the north and east of Khan Younis are "extremely dangerous," offering them a way to reach refugee camp in the Rafah district.

The same day, White said the humanitarian situation "worsens by the hour" as another wave of displacement was underway and the roads leading

toward the border crossing were "clogged with cars and donkey carts." He added that even in Rafah "the sound of airstrikes punctuates the day."

The UN official declared on Tuesday that Rafah, which normally has a population of 280,000, "will not cope" with the influx as it is already hosting around 470,000 displaced persons. Meanwhile, Palestinian telecom provider PalTel announced "a complete disruption of communication services" in Gaza due to Israeli bombing.

The company later reported that services in the central and southern regions of the enclave were gradually being restored "after being cut off from the Israeli side."



**GAZA:** A man carrying dead body of a child who martyred during Israeli attack.

## Qatar pushing to repair truce, bring comprehensive end to Gaza war

**Monitoring Desk**  
DOHA: Qatar is pressing for a comprehensive end to the war in Gaza and is working to repair a collapsed truce agreement between Israel and Hamas, its emir said on Tuesday. "We are constantly working to renew (the truce) and to alleviate the burden of our people in the Gaza Strip, but truces are not an alternative for a comprehensive ceasefire," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said in a speech to Gulf leaders gathered in the Qatari capital Doha.

Qatar, where several political leaders of Hamas are based, has been leading negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian militant group.

Those talks led to a truce that ultimately lasted for seven days before hostilities resumed on Friday. During the truce, Hamas released dozens of hostages held in Gaza in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and Israel allowed humanitarian aid to flow into the coastal enclave.

## Former US ambassador charged with spying for Cuba

**Monitoring Desk**  
MIAMI: A former US ambassador to Bolivia and member of the National Security Council has been charged with spying for Cuba for 40 years, the Justice Department announced on Monday.

The charges against Victor Manuel Rocha, 73, "exposes one of the highest-reaching and longest-lasting infiltrations of the United States government by a foreign agent," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement explaining the charges.

Rocha, a naturalised US citizen originally from Colombia, allegedly began aiding Havana as a "covert agent of Cuba's General Directorate of Intelligence" in 1981, and his espionage activities continued to the present, the statement said. "Those who have the privilege of serving in the government of the United States are given an enormous amount of trust by the public we serve," Garland said.



**BEIJING:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a group photo with Ambassadors of European Union and its member countries.

## Israel mulls flooding Hamas tunnels - WSJ

**NEW YORK (Online):** Israel is considering using seawater to flood the extensive network of tunnels under Gaza, according to WSJ sources said. They noted that no final decision on its execution has yet been made and that it is unclear how ready Israel is to implement it.

The plan, the report says, could drive Hamas fighters out of the sprawling system of tunnels, which span hundreds of kilometers, with some passages reaching into Egypt.

The network also provides Hamas and other local Islamist groups with formidable cover from missile strikes and allows them to evade Israel's blockade. Some tunnels are tall enough for an average man to stand up in, are built from reinforced concrete, and boast a network of communication lines. However, some US officials are said to have serious doubts about the plan. "We are not sure how successful pumping will be, since nobody knows the details of the tunnels and the ground around them," one source said.

Meanwhile, Jon Alterman, a senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, warned in a WSJ interview that it was hard to estimate how much seawater would seep into the ground or what impact the pumping would have on water and sewage infrastructure. This sentiment was echoed by Wim Zwijnenburg, an environmental expert, who noted that the flooding could wash hazardous materials out of the tunnels, further contaminating the soil.

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## 11 hikers die as volcano erupts in Indonesia

**Monitoring Desk**  
AGAM: Eleven hikers were found dead on Monday and another 12 were missing after a volcano erupted in Indonesia, with rescuers racing to carry injured and burned survivors down the mountain on foot. Rescuers worked through the night to find dozens of hikers stranded on Mount Marapi on the island of Sumatra after it spewed an ash tower 3,000 metres (9,340 feet) — taller than the volcano itself — into the sky on Sunday.

The dead hikers were found near Marapi's crater after the 2,891-metre volcano rained ash on nearby villages, according to a local rescue official. Twelve were missing, three more were found alive and 49 had safely descended from the crater, some with burns and fractures, the official said. "Until now I have not received any information," said Dasman, father of missing hiker Zakir Habibi, who made a two-hour drive from Padang city to the base of the mountain last night in hope of good news.

## Putin to visit UAE, Saudi Arabia this week

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia this week, Russian news outlet Shot reported on Monday, citing Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov. The reported visit comes after the OPEC+ group of oil producers, which includes all three countries, agreed last Thursday to voluntary output cuts totalling 2.2 million barrels a day.

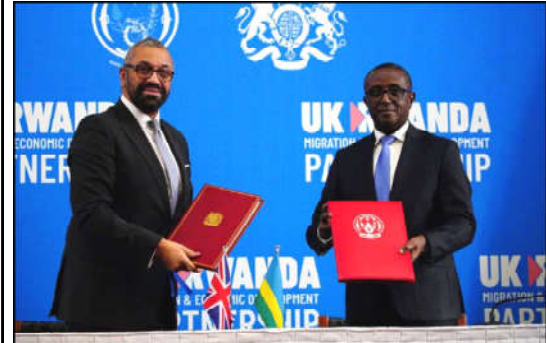
## China says Afghan Taliban must reform before full diplomatic ties

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China said on Tuesday Afghanistan's Taliban government will need to introduce political reforms, improve security and mend relations with its neighbours before receiving full diplomatic recognition.

Wenbin said on Tuesday when asked if China would now recognise the Taliban government. "We hope that Afghanistan will further respond to the expectations of the international community, build an open and inclusive political structure (and) implement moderate and stable domestic and foreign policies," he said.

Beijing does not formally recognise Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, although both countries host each others' ambassadors and have maintained diplomatic engagement. "China has always believed that Afghanistan should not be excluded from the international community," foreign ministry spokesperson Wang

Wang also said China urged Kabul to "resolutely combat all types of terrorist forces, live in harmony with all countries around the world, especially neighbouring countries, and integrate with the international community at an early date".



**British Home Secretary James Cleverly and Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs Vincent Biruta sign a new treaty, in Kigali, Rwanda.**

## Senior EU official warns of huge security risk in Europe over Christmas as Israel-Hamas war rages

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: Europe faces a "huge risk of terrorist attacks" over the Christmas holiday period due to the fallout from the war between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, the European Union's home affairs commissioner warned Tuesday.

The warning came as French investigators probe a fatal weekend attack near the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Questions were raised about the mental health of the suspect, who swore allegiance to the extremist Islamic State group before

stabbing a German-Filipino tourist to death and injuring two other people with a hammer. "With the war between Israel and Hamas, and the polarization it causes in our society, with the upcoming holiday season, there is a huge risk of terrorist attacks in the European Union," EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told reporters. "We saw (it happening) recently in Paris, unfortunately we have seen it earlier as well," she said, as EU interior ministers gathered in Brussels.



## Harassment-free workspace vital for women's financial empowerment: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday termed financially-empowered women an important contributor to socio-economic development and their emancipation necessitated a harassment-free environment at workplaces.

"The State and the society need to provide every woman a safe and secure space in public and domestic domains where they could thrive amid equal opportunities," he said in his address here at an event organized by the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAAH).

President Alvi said it was the responsibility of both the State and society to bring a change in attitudes that promoted gender-based harassment.

He said the empowerment of women had several facets including the right to ample representation in financial, political, and leadership spheres.

The president said denial of property and inheritance rights to women was against the injunctions of Islam and the country's law and needed to be reported at legal forums such as FOSPAAH.

He said Islam enunciated equal rights to women some 1,400 years ago and supported their participation in all fields of life.

The president quoted the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as saying "No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you."

He termed 'honour killings' of women a criminal act that required a change of behaviours against several social taboos.

Dr Alvi emphasized the role of media in promoting awareness about gender harassment through talk shows, television dramas and cultural programmes.

He proposed that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority could be

taken on board for relaying short messaging services to cellular phone consumers on awareness about gender harassment.

State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Deputy Governor Saleem Ullah said women could prove themselves as a productive workforce in achieving the goals of a stable economy.

He mentioned that SBP in three years provided training to women on digital finance at their doorsteps and was endeavouring to open accounts for 9.3 million women in collaboration with Benazir Income Support Programme.

Chairperson FOSPAAH said the organization was redressing the grievances about harassment at workplace and the women's property rights within 90 days and without any fee.

She said since its establishment, FOSPAAH dealt with 8,000 cases of women's harassment and property matters and provided speedy justice to aggrieved persons.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing an awareness event "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and Harassment of Women" organized by the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAAH).

## Power companies should face action for overcharging consumers: Rabbani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani on Tuesday castigated country's power distribution companies (Discos) for overcharging consumers, saying that action should be initiated against them for the 'criminal activity'.

The statement came after the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) exposed the "most controversial power theft drive" of the power distribution companies (Discos), defrauding consumers of billions of rupees by overcharging them as much as 100 percent.

The regulatory authority, in its inquiry report, claimed that the dis-

tribution companies were intentionally engaging in such malpractices to conceal their inefficiencies, causing thousands of consumers to suffer from higher electricity bills.

In a statement, the PPP Senator said that the NEPRA's inquiry had revealed the "mother of all scams, as power firms have been skinning alive users through inflated bills".

Raza Rabbani noted that the inquiry report had called into question the integrity of Discos' entire revenue stream.

"The report found that the actual amount charged to users differed from the snapshot of the meter reading available on the bills," he added.

## DRAP approves registration of life-saving medicines

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the direction of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan, major progress has been made to ensure the availability of life-saving medicines.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, Dr Nadeem Jan had issued orders for the registration of medicines on an emergency basis to improve the supply of these medicines.

He said that on the in-

structions of the Minister for Health, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved the cases for registration on a priority basis.

The registration will help supply diabetes and anticancer drugs in the market. He said that the DRAP approved the registration of anesthesia injections and anti-cancer drugs.

He said that the authority also approved anti-cancer drugs for import and

local manufacturing. He said that the registration board approved the registration of influenza vaccines, heparin and enoxaparin injections.

He said that the registration of the new anti-diabetic drug Semaglutide injection was also approved.

The registration of these drugs will significantly improve the provision of anti-cancer, diabetes and life-saving drugs.

## Sanjrani, Iraqi Ambassador discuss bilateral relations, current situation in Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Mohammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Ambassador of Iraq, Hamid Abbas Lafta, on Tuesday discussed bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest, and current developments, including the situation in Palestine.

respect, highlighting shared values.

He said that Pakistan attached great importance to the long-standing brotherly relations with Iraq. In the meeting, there was also a detailed discussion regarding the further enhancement of bilateral trade.

dressing their challenges. He stressed the need to enhance direct air links between Pakistan and Iraq.

The chairman asked international powers to put pressure on Israel to stop the genocide of innocent Palestinians and end the siege of Gaza immediately, facilitating the supply of food and medicine.

The ambassador reciprocated the sentiments, affirming Iraq's perspective on its friendly relations with Pakistan. He called for expanding economic and trade ties between the two nations. The envoy commended the contributions of Pakistani expatriates working in Iraq, assuring them of every possible facilitation.

He also praised Pakistan's efforts towards unity in the Muslim world.



Chairman Sanjrani said that the ties between Pakistan and Iraq were rooted in religion, brotherhood, Islamic culture, and mutual respect, highlighting shared values.

The chairman expressed admiration for the resilience of the Iraqi people, acknowledging their steadfastness in ad-



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting of Secretaries Committee

## BNP condemns arrest of Manzoor Wadh situation created to keep away BNP from political process: Sajid

QUETTA: The senior leader of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sajid Tareen has condemned the arrest of head of Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement (PTM), Manzoor Pashteen and said it was an attempt to stop him from going to Turbat.

Sajid Tareen was addressing a press conference here at the Quetta press club on Tuesday.

Other BNP leaders were also present on the occasion.

Sajid Tareen said that Manzoor Pashteen was not allowed to proceed for Turbat where he wanted to express solidarity with bereaved family of the young-

ster Balach Baloch who was killed in an alleged encounter.

Sajid Tareen also said that extra judicial acts are being done under a pre planned conspiracy.

He said that he has reservations about holding free and fair elections.

He alleged that Wadh situation was an attempt to keep the BNP away from the political process.

He said that such tactics are being used to keep away from the political and democratic process.

However, the BNP is a political and Democratic Party and it would take wholehearted part in the general elections, he asserted.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Education Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch and Minister for Revenue, Finance Amjad Rasheed addressing a joint press conference at Quetta Press Club.

## Secretary Info directs DGPR to expedite work on Digital Lab

QUETTA: The Secretary Information Department, Imran Khan had directed the Directorate General of Public Relations (DGPR) authorities to expedite work on the digital lab in view of importance of the digital era.

The Secretary Information was on the visit to DGPR on Tuesday.

He was welcomed by the Director General Public Relations, Muhammad

Noor Khetran and other officers.

The Secretary Information reviewed different sections of the DGPR including electronic media monitoring system.

Mr. Khetran briefed the Secretary Information about the overall performance of the Directorate.

He particularly informed about the assistance for establishing digital lab from the Chinese embassy.

## Step afoot to improve quality of education in Pishin: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pishin Captain @ Juma Dad Khan Mandukhel on Tuesday said that measures were being taken to improve the quality of education in the district. He said that special directives had been issued to the District Education Officer to take immediate action against all absent teachers and submit a report in this regard.

He expressed these views while talking to the delegation led by the Dis-

trict President of the Government Teachers Association Arif Tareen.

The Deputy Commissioner said that his door is open for the legitimate work of every person, saying that hundreds of primary and higher secondary teachers have been absent this year, absentee employees are nothing less than a burden on the exchequer. He said that legal action would be taken against the absent teachers and show-cause notices would also be issued.

## PTI leader Gandapur declared PO

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has declared former minister and PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur proclaimed offender in possessing illegal arms and liquor case.

The case of possessing illegal arms and liquor against Ali Amin Gandapur came up for hearing before district and sessions court Islamabad Tuesday.

Prosecutor and investigation officer reached the court with case record. However Ali Amin Gandapur and his counsel Raja Zahoor ul Hassan did not appear in the court.

The court upon it declared Ali Amin Gandapur proclaimed offender.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till January 04.

## Solangi grieved over demise of Ustad Gullu

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Ustad Hussain Bakhsh Gullu, a famous singer of the subcontinent. In a statement, he condoled to the family saying he was deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of Ustad Hussain Bakhsh Gullu.

Ustad Gullu, who performed all over the world, left his singing footprints everywhere, Murtaza Solangi maintained.

He also performed on Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television and with his death, a brilliant chapter of classical music has closed today.

## ECP reserves Judgment in Imran' disqualification case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reserved its verdict in the disqualification case of Imran Khan, the former Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), from holding the position of party chairman.

A five-member ECP bench, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, resumed the case hearing and reserved a decision on the disqualification of the former Chairman of PTI.

Appearing before the Election Commission, Shoaib Shaheen, the lawyer for the former PTI Chairman, argued that the party has submitted records of its intra-party elections.

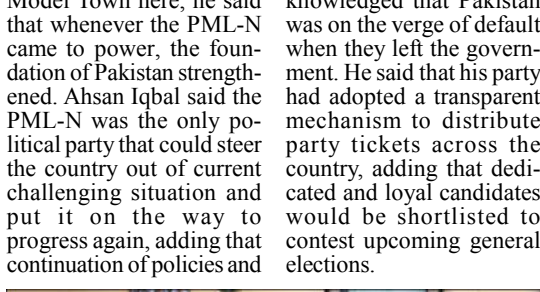
## Pakistan needs stable govt to get rid of prevailing crises: Ahsan

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan needed a stable government that can fix and revive the national economy and put the country again on path to progress and development.

Talking to media at Model Town here, he said that whenever the PML-N came to power, the foundation of Pakistan strengthened. Ahsan Iqbal said the PML-N was the only political party that could steer the country out of current challenging situation and put it on the way to progress again, adding that continuation of policies and

stability were vital for the country's development as it was the need of hour.

When compared to the governments of other political parties, the PML-N's performance appeared superior and everyone could acknowledge that easily, he said and added that PTI ministers themselves acknowledged that Pakistan was on the verge of default when they left the government. He said that his party had adopted a transparent mechanism to distribute party tickets across the country, adding that dedicated and loyal candidates would be shortlisted to contest upcoming general elections.



QUETTA: Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazir Muhammad Baloch Advocate presenting annual report of department to Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Amanullah Khan Kanrani

## COP-28 negotiations enter tense mode, Loss & Damage Fund secretariat notified: Dr Suleri

DUBAI (APP): Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri Tuesday said that after five days of constant negotiations at the COP-28, the excitement of the international forum had converted into a tension on the negotiating text based on diverging opinions of different delegates.

In his online interaction with media persons here from Dubai, Dr Suleri, who is regularly sharing his views on the official discussions at the COP-28, said tension prevails among the negotiators this time especially on the global goals and means of adaptation not only between the developing and developed countries but also between G-77 states and China.

However, he said, the Santiago Network, which was set up to provide technical support on the imple-

mentation of Loss and Damage Fund, finally decided its secretariat to be placed under the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

"This was a tie between the Caribbean Development Bank and UNDRR but on developing countries emphasis, it was not placed under the multilateral development bank but the UN office," he added.

Commenting on the Clean Energy Transition, Dr Suleri said negotiations on energy to phase out fossil fuels by 2050 were also held.

The developing countries are agreeing on the harmful impact of fossil fuels but they are asking for some sort of just energy transition because it will be impossible for them to switch alternate energy solutions if imposed abruptly in the next 27 years, he said.

## PML-Q eyes 'seat adjustment' with PML-N

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) is eyeing 'seat adjustment' with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the general election 2024.

Sources said the PML-Q is considering seat adjustment with the PML-N on more than two National Assembly and Punjab Assembly seats in Gujrat.

It emerged that Chaudhry Shafay Hussain wants to contest the election on both MPA seats from Gujrat. PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain is expected to meet former three-

time prime minister Nawaz Sharif to discuss the 'seat adjustment'.

It is to be noted that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Parliamentary Board has already opposed seat adjustment with the PML-Q.

## PTI intra-party elections challenged in EC

ISLAMABAD (INP): A member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has filed petition against Intra-party elections of the party in the election commission.

The application has been filed by Raja Tahir Nawaz, a resident of Islamabad and a PTI member, in the Election Commission of Pakistan today.

Petitioner pleaded that the PTI's constitution was not followed in intra-party elections. "A dummy panel was floated to conduct the party elections," according to the plea. "The responsibility was upon the party's secretary general to hold intra-party elections," he said. The party member has sought the election commission's order to declare recently held party elections.

## Balochistan Information department to organize women summits in 20 dists

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Information Department has completed all arrangements to organize Women Empowerment Summits (WES) in 20 districts of the province to empower and facilitate women enabling them to play a role for the development of the province.

The purpose of organizing summits was to encourage and provide a platform to women who had excelled in various fields so that they could play a role in the development of the country and province by using their talent in a better way.

According to the plan, the summits would be held in the districts including Khuzdar, Awaran, Dera Bugti, Sibi, Kharan, Noshki, Lasbela, Musakhel, Naseerabad, Zhob, Kohlu, Pashin, Quetta, Chaman, Killa Abdullah, Jafferabad, Kech, Kachi, Sohbatpur and Panjgur.

The women empowerment summits in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) would be held during the current month.

## Zehri condemns incident of terrorism in Chillas

QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Tuesday expressed extreme anger and outrage over the incidents of terrorism in Chillas and other parts of the country.

In her condemnation statement issued here, she said that the purpose of consecutive incidents of terrorism in Pakistan is to prevent Pakistan from the upcoming elections and economic stability.

While expressing her condolences to the families of the martyrs on the martyrdom of army personnel and innocent civilians in the incidents of terrorism, she prayed that Allah Almighty

grant the martyrs a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give patience to the bereaved. She said that the blood of the martyrs would not go in vain and the terrorists to be chased to the last extent and they would be sent to hell.

She said that the purpose of the cowardly incidents of terrorism was to sabotage the process of holding the upcoming elections in Pakistan and to create instability in the country, very soon these cowardly terrorists would be brought to their end.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that cowardly enemies could not shake our firm resolve



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali in a meeting with QESCO Chief Shafiqat Ali



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan inspecting different sections during his visit to Directorate of Public Relations. Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran is also present