





## NAB distributes cheques worth Rs 600mIn among Arian city victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Deputy Chairman, Sohail Nasir Monday handed over cheques worth Rs 600 million to 450 affectees of Arain City scandal.

Commencing with the recovered sum obtained through a plea bargain with the management of Arain City, Fateh Jang, Rawalpindi, the funds were distributed among the victims in a simple ceremony held at NAB, Rawalpindi.

This returned amount, a product of meticulous scrutiny, is being distributed among the victims.

Addressing the cheque distribution ceremony here, the deputy chairman stressed the importance of ensuring social justice and

self-accountability in resolving the issues faced by the society.

NAB is actively conducting an awareness campaign through the media to educate the public about precautionary measures before investing in a housing society.

It was emphasized that people should invest only in societies that are legal and registered.

He committed to returning every penny to the victims of fraudulent housing societies, seeking the public's support in honoring this commitment.

This aligns with the bureau's responsibility to protect the rights of investors and others.

He urged individuals to carefully assess the le-

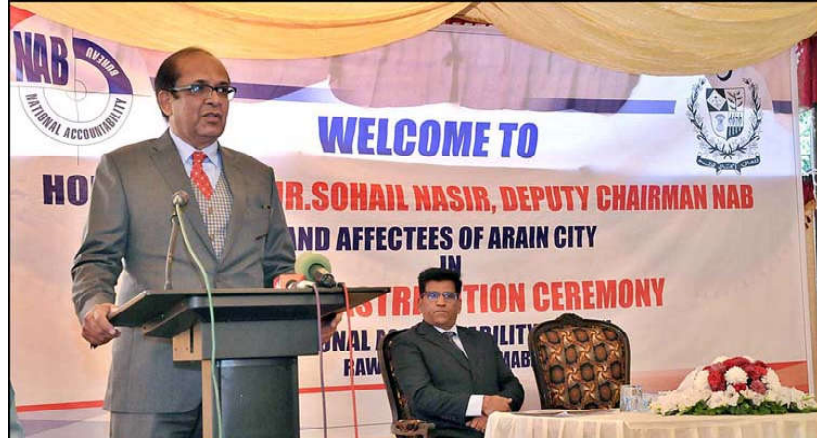
gality of a society before investing in it.

Additionally, he recommended consulting the relevant regulator to verify the authenticity of any housing society before making an investment.

"We must prioritize respecting the rights of others and honoring our commitments," he added.

He highlighted the presence of mafias in the housing sector, advising people not to purchase files without verifying their legality and authenticity.

He commended the Arian City investigative team led by Ms Beenish Javed for successfully recovering Rs 600 million from the owners of Arain City, and rejecting incentives.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir addressing during ceremony of cheque distribution among affectees of Arain City at NAB Headquarters.

## Tarbela 4th Extension Project delivered 22.56b to national grid so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): Tarbela 4th Extension Project has contributed 22.56 billion low cost hydel units to the national grid system since its commissioning in 2018.

Official sources told APP here that 1410 MW Tarbela 4th Extension Project has been completed in 2018 with financial assistance of the World Bank. Before commissioning of 4th Extension project the total hydel generation capacity of Tarbela power house was 3,478 MW, they said.

They said that three

turbines having 470 MW each capacity were installed at Tunnel 4 of the Tarbela dam. Now, Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is executing Tarbela 5th Extension Project with the financial assistance of WB. The project being set up at tunnel of 5 of Tarbela Dam would further add 1530 MW to the existing 4,888 MW, they said.

They said the project would complete in 2025 and the total hydel generation capacity of Tarbela power house would jump to 6418 MW.

## ICP launch special drive against menace of narcotics; educate youth on drug prevention

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a special awareness campaign to eradicate use of narcotics from the federal capital and ensure the safety of the youth from the curse of drugs. Police teams have conducted special lectures in various edu-

police teams have delivered lectures in various educational institutes in the Sihala, Humak, Lohi Bher, Koral, Khanna, Kirpa, Shahzad Town, Bani Gala, Nilore, Bhara Kahu, Phulgran, Industrial Area, Sabzi Mandi, Noon, Shams Colony, Shalimar and Ramna police stations ju-



national institutions to educate students about the harms of drugs and preventive measures.

The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted that Islamabad Capital Police has launched a special awareness campaign to rid the federal capital of narcotics and safeguard the young generation from the curse of drugs.

During this campaign, jurisdiction about the harms of drugs and preventive measures, emphasizing that drug abuse is detrimental to the health and future of students.

Students are urged to protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse of drugs.

Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to drugs.

## CDA introduces state-of-the-art fast-track services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Building Control Directorate of Capital Development Authority (CDA) has introduced state-of-the-art fast-track service by modernizing the system of providing amenities to the citizens. In this context, on Monday, CDA started to ensure the approval of the building plan in the facilitation centre on the fast track.

Under this modern and fastest system, residential buildings of 356 yards will now be approved with an additional fee of Rs 20,000 thousand with required documents within two days, while residential buildings larger than 356 yards will be approved with

## FGEHA says: No plot in G-14/1 sector canceled

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) Monday on clarified that no plot in Sector G-14/1 of the federal capital has been canceled.

According to information available with the APP, there were circulating rumors on social media in recent days suggesting that FGEHA had canceled eleven hundred plots in the mentioned sector, causing concerns among allottees.

Regarding the alleged cancellation of plots, the FGEHA said that there is no truth to the rumors. The facts are that the layout plan for the sector was prepared by the Capital Development Authority (CDA), excluding five small graveyards within the sector. Subsequently, a land possession issue arose, leading to a review of the plot acquisition process.

In response to the plot acquisition situation, the FGEHA has revised the layout plan and renumbered the plots accordingly.

The authority emphasized that no plots have been canceled; rather, a re-numbering process has been implemented.

## CTD Islamabad conduct mock exercise near Diplomatic Enclave

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a mock exercise at an under construction building near the diplomatic enclave with a purpose to deal with any possible emergency situation and to ensure the safety of life and property of the citizens, a police public relation officer said.

According to detail, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the mock exercises by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) are being conducted in different areas of the city in order to prepare the force to deal with any untoward situation.

Officials from counter terrorism department (CTD) and Bomb Disposal squad of Islamabad capital police participated under the supervision of SP CTD.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah inaugurating National Music Academy at PNCA.

## G77+ China countries need to unite for indigenous financial solutions for just energy transition: Suleri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri on Monday while attending various sideline events at COP-28 global conference underscored that the developing countries, G-77 plus China need to establish unity for working out indigenous solutions as just energy transition without proper finances was elusive.

The SDPI Executive Director is participating in the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP-28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as special delegate in various plenaries, group discussions and other important deliberations taking place at the critical environmental mood of the world.

In his exclusive chat with APP, the SDPI Executive Director said that the G-77 plus China countries should revive the same spirit as it was demonstrated at the previous COP-27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Dr. Suleri noted that it should be floated as a proposal for the next or the other successive COP meeting to achieve tangible results. "This requires some sort of financing that I call DAI (Data, Action and Investment). So, when we have investment then we require data to understand investment prospects and action again not only by the development partners but also by the recipient country and the people working on it," he added. The SDPI head hoped that the COP-28 would come up with some kind of oil and gas initiatives and climate funds of its own helping in transition as just energy transition to clean energy is important.

## WWF doubles marriage, death grants of its registered workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has doubled the marriage and death grant for the registered workers of Federal Capital territory.

An official source told APP here on Monday that the grants had been increased in pursuance of the decision of governing body of the WWF. The previous amount of the marriage grant was Rs 200,000 and the amount allocated as grant for death was Rs 400,000. But now, new revised amount of the marriage grant has been fixed at Rs 400,000 and death grant Rs 800,000 respectively. The transport amount has also been increased from Rs 1500 to Rs 6000 and ambulance services are also being provided to all newly merged districts in Khyber Pukhtunkhaw. The official said that the Finance Section of the WWF was playing a key role in providing and managing different services and activities for which funds are generated through the contributions by employers under various laws.

## IHC seeks record pertaining to appointment of PIMS' ED

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought record pertaining to the appointment of Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Inrnan Sikandar.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the petition against the appointment of the ED.

The court also instructed the Ministry of Health and Establishment Division to present the list of most senior doctors to the bench in next hearing.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking interest in posters during Posters Exhibition regarding the 100 Years of Cinematic Artists, at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Federal Capital.

## Indonesia-Pakistan collaboration: Religious diversity, youth initiatives, and economic ties take center stage

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia facilitated a panel discussion titled 'The Role of Youth in Religious Diplomacy and Interfaith Dialogue', fostering dialogue between the visiting delegation of prominent religious scholars and intellectuals from Pakistan, the Santri Diplomacy Academy, and the Indonesian Christian Youth Movement the other day.

In the discussion, a representative from Pesantren (madrasa) highlighted the Santri Diplomacy Academy's efforts in building a peaceful world free from violence. He shared that Indonesia boasts 39,000 madrasas promoting interfaith dialogue through diverse 'Youth Exchange Programs' across various nations.

The representative from the Indonesian Christian Youth Movement provided insights to the delegation, outlining the movement's objectives of fostering spirituality, nationalism, and a sense of national identity among Christian youth.

Shedding light on the strength of Indonesia's cultural and religious diversity, the movement successfully addresses conflicts by adhering to the principles of Pancasila, he added.

He, acknowledging their collaborative role, mentioned active participation in government consultations, with a designated representative conveying the priorities and concerns of the youth to the government. The Pakistani delegation, consisting of Ulama and scholars, conveyed their appreciation for the invaluable opportunity of mutual learning. Emphasizing that Pakistan, with 65 percent of its population under 35 years, is a youthful nation, they underscored the pivotal role played by the country's youth in advancing peace and progress.

In a similar vein, they expressed their commitment to drawing inspiration from the Indonesian experience and the model of religious moderation, acknowledging the significance of such practices in fostering harmony.

## WIPO high level delegation to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) Pakistan will organize a series of events from tomorrow on Tuesday in connection with the closing ceremony of WIPO's project on 'Intellectual Property and Women Entrepreneurs in Embroidery' and related crafts business.

The closing ceremony of the events will be held on December 7, in which Caretaker Minister for Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz will be the chief guest, said a press release issued here on Monday. A three-member WIPO delegation is visiting Pakistan to attend the events. The delegation comprises of Hasan Kleib Deputy Director General WIPO, Ms. Yaning Zhang and Dr David Simmons Counsellors Division for Asia and the Pacific Regional and National Development Sector WIPO.

On the first day of the visit on December 5, the WIPO delegation will visit Foreign Service Academy and Pakistan Institute for Trade and Development (PITAD). On the second day, the delegation will visit the Foreign Office.

## USAID launches strategic planning at Pakistani universities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Higher Education System Strengthening Activity, organized a five-day workshop to launch strategic planning at Pakistani public sector universities. University administrators and faculty learned how to develop and implement strategic plans to improve their universities' management, market-relevance, and student support services. These strategic plans will support universities to increase students' employability after graduation.

USAID Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri addressed the university leaders, saying, "Higher education institutions are central to Pakistan's development. Your universities shape future leaders, said a press release issued here on Monday. Your degree programs give youth the skills to benefit from and drive Pakistan's economic growth." She also commended the partnership between the University of Utah and the Pakistani universities for collaborating, exchanging ideas, and thinking strategically to solve shared challenges.

In his address, Higher Education Commission Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated the collaboration with USAID to support higher education in Pakistan. He said, "Strategic planning is essential for universities to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and service." He urged the participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the workshop to their institutions and contribute to the national development agenda.

USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity, implemented by the University of Utah, partners with the Higher Education Commission and 16 Pakistani universities. It strengthens higher education management.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria, Mrs. Andrea Wicke calling on Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue.

## BISP-UNICEF collaboration takes center stage to uplift Pak vulnerable communities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and UNICEF Monday pledged to continue collaborative efforts to provide financial relief to vulnerable segments of the society, making them self-reliant.

This was expressed during a meeting held between Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad and UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, Sanjay Wijesekera, here at the BISP Headquarters.

The meeting aimed to strengthen the ongoing collaboration between BISP and UNICEF in their collective mission to uplift the lives of most vulnerable communities in Pakistan.

Other participants from BISP included Additional Secretary BISP, Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor, and DG NSER, Naveed Akbar whereas Country Representative, Abdullah Fadih, and Chief Social Policy, Sadaf Zulfiqar from UNICEF were also present in the meeting. In his opening remarks, the secretary BISP highlighted the pivotal role of BISP in making a significant impact on the lives of the beneficiaries.

He emphasized the collaborative efforts that have evolved over the 15 years, resulting in BISP currently serving 9.3 million deserving families, identified through the advanced Proxy Means Test (PMT) targeting individuals under 32 PMT.

## PBM to highlight anti-poverty initiatives with children's performances

ISLAMABAD (APP): PBM's event 'Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal at a Glance' is set to showcase anti-poverty initiatives, featuring children's performances and diverse guest participation, while emphasizing thorough preparations and open involvement. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is organizing the special event, on December 6 at Fatima Jinnah Park here.

The event is designed to spotlight Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal's endeavors and initiatives in the fight against poverty, featuring various stalls. The main proceedings will unfold at Aiwan-e-Quaid Hall.

The agenda features presentations by children from Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Sweet Homes and Child Labor Rehabilitation Centers, showcasing various tableaus, dramas, and musical performances.

Notable guests, including media figures, diplomats, parliamentarians, multinational companies, and representatives of national and international NGOs, have received special invitations.

## Punctuality of trains reached 93 percent in last three months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The overall punctuality ratio of trains has improved from 76 to 93 percent in three months owing to close monitoring and stern measures taken by Pakistan Railways at the divisional and ministry levels.

"With the punctuality of trains and concrete measures taken by the department in last three months, the number of passengers has increased by over 20 million, which is ample proof of the department's achievement," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said that Pakistan Railways is also set to introduce the 'Train Driver Assistant System' (TDAS) to help train drivers a clear view of the railway tracks up to an impressive distance of 700 meters.

"The technology aims to enhance the safety, punctuality and efficiency of train operations during adverse weather conditions, particularly in the presence of dense smog and fog," he added.

The system, he said the TDAS is set to revolutionize the way trains navigate through foggy landscapes. It promised not only to avert potential accidents but also to facilitate smooth train travel when visibility is severely compromised.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan-Ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education & Professional Training presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.





## German Dev. Bank boosts support for Pakistan's Power Transmission & Health Sectors

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Ministry of Economic Affairs and KfW, the German Development Bank, solidified their partnership with the signing of agreements aimed at enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's power transmission sector and supporting the health sector, particularly in areas affected by floods on Monday.

In a ceremony held in Islamabad, Mr. Sebastian Jacobi, Country Director of KfW and Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs inked agreements that signify Germany's commitment to furthering the development goals of Pakistan. Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan was also present on the occasion.

Under the accompanying Measures support to the "Promotion of Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency" program, KfW, representing the German Government, will provide an additional grant of Euro 2.5 million to the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC). This funding will assist NTDC in ensuring the effective operation and maintenance of installations, incorporating robust environmental and social management systems. The initiative is poised to enhance the integration of needs-based renewable energy into the transmission system, thereby contributing to sustainable economic growth and climate protection.



ISTANBUL: Caretaker Minister of Commerce and Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz meeting the Turkish Trade Minister H.E. Dr. Ömer Bolat on the sidelines of the 39th Ministerial of COMCEC.

## Minister, CCIs presidents visit Business Facilitation Center

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister of Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer along with presidents of various chambers of commerce and industry (CCIs) visited Business Facilitation Center (BFC), where the business community's representatives were briefed about the center's operations and facilities.

Punjab Industries Department Secretary Ehsan Bhutta, Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) Managing Director Asim Javed and other relevant officers were also present. On this occasion, Provincial Minister SM Tanveer highlighted the Business Facilitation Center as a revolutionary initiative by the caretaker provincial government to bolster investment. Completed within a month under the efficient leadership of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the center is poised to significantly benefit the business community and accelerate the pace of industrialization, he added.

SM Tanveer mentioned that the center houses officers from 17 to 20 departments of both federal and provincial governments, ensuring a comprehensive and streamlined service to the investors and business community.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Javed Balwani addresses to media persons during press conference held at SITE Association office.

## NEPRA says: DISCOs, KE deliberately committed malpractices to coverup inefficiencies

ISLAMABAD (APP): DISCOs also failed to collect electricity bills as per tariff terms and conditions approved by the authority, according to the report issued by NEPRA here. The report said that the companies sent false detection bills to the customers in violation of provisions of the consumer service manual.

The NEPRA had constituted an investigation team comprising three senior officers after receiving a large number of complaints from the consumers.

## Services' exports increase by 3.34% to \$2,416 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of services increased by 3.34 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The services exports during July-October (2023-24) were recorded at \$2,416 million as compared to the exports of \$2,338 million during July-October (2022-23). The services' imports into the country also increased by 19.57 percent by going up from \$2,729 million last year to \$3,263 million during the first four months of current fiscal year. Based on the figures, the services' trade deficit increased by 116.66 percent during the period under review by going up from \$390 million last year to \$847 million this year. Meanwhile, on year on year (YoY) basis, the services' exports from the country increased by 5.63 percent by going up from \$621.07 million in October.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI) calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House.

## Sanjrani recognizes role of business community in driving economic progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday recognized the pivotal role of the business community in driving economic progress and affirmed the Senate's dedication to creating an enabling environment for sustainable economic growth.

During meeting with a delegation from the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI) who called on him, he expressed unwavering commitment to supporting

the chamber's endeavors in promoting economic growth and displayed keen interest in understanding the challenges and opportunities facing the business community in Gwadar. The discussions focused on fostering collaboration and addressing key economic issues, providing a platform for GCCCI officials to share insights on regional economic development and trade dynamics, said a press release.

The economic policies, infrastructure

development, and strategies to boost trade and investment in the Gwadar region were also discussed in detail.

He highlighted the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port as driving forces behind future economic initiatives in Pakistan. He emphasized that Gwadar Port is not only important for Pakistan but for the entire region.

The Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and

Industries, represented by its officials, expressed gratitude to Chairman Senate for his time and attention to the economic concerns of Gwadar.

They underscored the importance of collaboration with the government to promote economic prosperity, attract investments, and facilitate a conducive business environment in the region.

Senator Palwasha Muhammadzai Khan and Senator Prince Ahmed Omer Ahmedzai were also present during the meeting.

## Energy minister participates GRA session at COP 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Energy Mr Muhammad Ali participated in a session organized by the Renewable Energy Alliance (GRA) between the government of Pakistan and Renewable Energy Investors at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28).

Minister for Energy led the Pakistan delegation to discuss the investment potential for Renewable Energy in Pakistan, according to a statement received from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) here Monday. The opportunities regarding solar, wind, hydel, geothermal and green hydrogen were presented. The Investors shared their deep interest in investing in Pakistan in several projects.

## Baba Fareed Hotel's owner again pilfers electricity

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) inspection team caught Baba Fareed Hotel's owner once again stealing electricity in Dholanwal Sub-Division.

The company's spokesman said here Monday that SDO Dholanwal along with his staff found that the owner of a locally well-known Baba Fareed Hotel at Yateem Khana Chowk, was once again pilfering electricity. The accused was not only using the stolen electricity but also supplying it to residential quarters.



HYDERABAD: Labourers women busy in packing fresh tomatoes in the wooden boxes at Vegetable Market.

## Blue Carbon, PNG Govt unite for Paris agreement projects at COP28

ISLAMABAD (APP): Blue Carbon, partnering with the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG), is actively engaged in projects aligning with the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

During COP28 in Dubai, Blue Carbon, a UAE-based environmental asset developer, and PNG marked a significant milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU reflects their dedication to advancing cooperative climate solutions at the conference.

The signing ceremony in Dubai featured Minister Simo Kilepa, responsible for Environment, Conservation, and Climate Change in PNG, along with Josiane Sadaka, Blue Carbon's CEO.

This notable event witnessed the presence of James Marape, the Prime Minister of PNG, and Sheikh Ahmed Dalmouk Al Maktoum, a distinguished member of the Dubai

Royal family and chairman of Blue Carbon.

The updated and refined MoU strengthens the collaboration between Blue Carbon and Papua New Guinea, enabling a more in-depth exploration of projects, especially those associated with the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The MoU represents a noteworthy achievement in global collaboration, establishing a foundation for bilateral discussions that promote a cooperative approach across diverse sectors of the economy.

This includes the application of best practice methodologies for the removal and reduction of GHG emissions, aligning with the evolving provisions of Article 6.

A significant facet of this initiative involves evaluating Papua New Guinea's extensive mangrove areas, pivotal for sequestering CO2 and delivering essential services to local communities.

## Pakistan emerging as hub of ICT, digital innovation in the region: Dr.Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT), Dr. Umar Saif, has said that Pakistan is emerging as the hub of information and communication technology (ICT) and digital innovation in the region.

During his address at the Pak-Qatar IT Conference in Doha, Qatar, he highlighted Pakistan's abundance of talent and success stories in innovation and entrepreneurship.

He said Qatar is home to abundant Pakistani knowledge workers, urging Pakistani IT companies to leverage this resourceful Qatar diaspora to establish a foothold in the Qatari market.

Earlier, Dr. Umar Saif inaugurated the Pak-Qatar

IT Conference, a collaborative effort mainly involving the Ministry of IT and Telecom (MOITT), the Embassy of Pakistan in Qatar, and Pakistan Business Council Qatar with support from the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), said a news release received here on Monday.

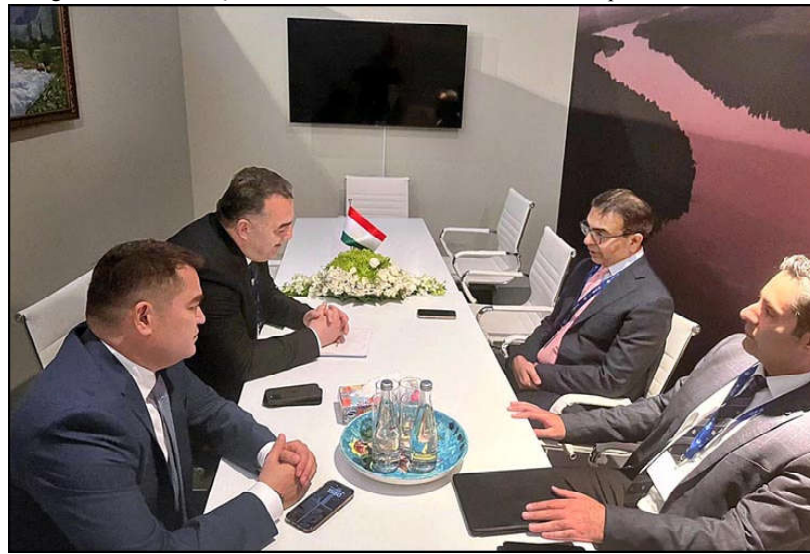
This conference featured esteemed speakers from the public and private sectors, along with representatives from IT companies of both countries, showcasing their expertise and strengths.

Dr. Saif also shared Qatar's forward-looking vision in expanding its knowledge economy, underscoring the potential for Pakistani businesses to not only offer tech solutions but also collaborate in global ventures.

The Minister further said that Qatar has taken a big leap in establishing data centres, bringing Microsoft Azure Cloud here, and Pakistan has a lot of capability in cloud management, data center operations, and cloud applications.

Dr. Saif encouraged investments in Pakistani startups, expressing confidence that the country is poised to produce the next billion-dollar unicorn.

The Pakistani IT delegation to Qatar, led by IT Minister Dr. Umar Saif, comprising representatives from the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), and 30 leading IT companies.



UAE: Energy Minister Muhammad Ali held a meeting with Minister for Energy of Tajikistan H.E Daler Juma Shofair on the sidelines of COP28.

## Senate body discusses strategy to resolve issues of debt payment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Commerce Monday discussed a strategy devised to resolve the issues of debt payment by the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to various government entities, including the payment of commercial bank loans and their markup.

The committee was informed of the current status of debts and liabilities, with a principal amount of Rs 105,512.73 million and Rs 153,744.06 million in markup, totaling Rs 259,256.78 million in debt.

The meeting of the committee was held at Parliament House with Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the chair. The TCP Chairman briefed the committee on the efforts for recovery, stating that third-party audits on subsidy payments had been conducted, and regular reminders to recipient agencies were being issued.

It was explained that directives had been sent to the concerned ministries, urging them to submit summaries to the Finance Division reflecting the payables to TCP in their financial demands for FY 2013-2024.

The committee was apprised that ongoing efforts include holding

repetitive meetings with the Finance Divisions and the concerned federal and provincial recipients.

The matter was deferred for further reporting and the speedy resolution of the dilemma.

The committee decided that matter would be discussed until its resolved. The Senate Committee discussed a Private Member's Bill titled the "Imports and Exports (Control) Amendment Bill, 2023. [Amendment of section 3 of Import and Export (Control) Act, 1950 (XXXIX of 1950)] introduced by Senators Zeeshan Khanzada, Faisal Saleem Rehman, and

Muhammad Abdul Qadir.

The movers presented that amendment in the act imposes a bar on the export of raw salt and directs the government to impose conditions upon its export.

The ministry argued that Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950, was primary legal instrument providing basis for regulating international trade in Pakistan.

Moreover, the imports and exports of all goods are regulated through export orders (EPO) and import policy orders (IPO), respectively, issued under these act after seeking approval of the Federal Government.

## Chairman PCGA says: TCP intervention will boost farmers' confidence

MULTAN (APP): Chairman, Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) Chaudhry Waheed Arshad has called for intervention by Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to procure one million bales of cotton saying that it would spread positivity across the entire cotton belt and encourage farmers to more to reach a bigger cotton production figure next year.

The Chairman PCGA said that cotton production this year was going to be far better than previous year and it could do wonders next year if TCP intervenes the market and continues to make its presence felt in the years to come.

Meanwhile, the recent PCGA fortnightly report put the total arrival figure at 7.753 million bales including over four (4) million bales from Sindh and 3.736 million bales from Punjab, he expressed.

Out of total, he said 7.53 million bales have been pressed into bales. He said the exporters have bought 290626 bales, adding that textile mills continued to maintain its position as the major buyer with procurement figure of over 6.755 million bales.

Punjab showed a percentage increase of over 48 percent while in Sindh,

## KPTMA delegation calls on KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association (KPTMA) led by Ex-Senator, Salim Saifullah Khan called on the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah here Monday.

The delegation apprised the chief minister of the problems faced by the textile industries of the province with special focus on the exorbitant price hike of gas for industrial sector.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries, Aamir Abdullah, Secretary Industries, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Secretary Energy and Power Nisar Ahmad and other relevant authorities were also present on the occasion.

The delegation expressed serious reservations on the recent decision of Economic

Coordination Committee with regard to increase the price of gas for industrial sector and appealed to the chief minister to take up the issue with the federal government on urgent basis.

The ECC had taken a decision to enhance the price of industrial gas from Rs. 1238/MMBTU to Rs. 2400/MMBTU and that it had also taken a decision to supply blended gas to the industries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under which 80 percent natural gas and 20 percent RLNG will be supplied to the industries of the province which will further increase the price of industrial gas to Rs. 3100/MMBTU.

The KPTMA remarked that if the decision was not reverted, then they would be left with no other option but to close down the industries in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Florence Rolle, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan called on Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research at Minister Office.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

## Turkey's Erdogan says Israel's Netanyahu 'will be tried as war criminal'

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would eventually be tried as a war criminal over Israel's ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip, while slamming Western countries supporting Israel.

Turkey, which supports a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict, has sharply criticised Israel over its campaign in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas' rampage on Oct. 7. More than 15,500 people have been killed in the Israeli air and ground attacks, according to Gaza's health ministry.

In a speech to an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) com-

mittee meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan said the Western nations supporting Israel were giving it "unconditional support to kill babies" and were complicit in its crimes.

"Beyond being a war criminal, Netanyahu, who is the butcher of Gaza right now, will be tried as the butcher of Gaza, just as Milosevic was tried," Erdogan said, in reference to Yugoslav ex-President Slobodan Milosevic who was tried for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes at a tribunal in The Hague.

"Those who try to skip over the deaths of all those innocent people by using the excuse of Hamas have nothing left to say to humanity," he added, refer-

ring to Western powers, which he said were "blind and deaf".

Unlike most of its Western allies and some Gulf states, NATO member Turkey does not view Hamas as a terrorist group and hosts some of its members. Erdogan, whose ruling party has Islamist roots, said a so-called contact group of Muslim countries, which was formed by the OIC and Arab League last month to hold talks on Gaza with Western countries and others, would continue discussions until the fighting in Gaza stopped, but added more must be done.

"We must absolutely evaluate the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court (ICC) within this framework," he said.



**RAFAH:** An elderly woman, injured in an Israeli strike, appears to be in shock as she sits amid the rubble of her bombed-out building in the southern Gaza Strip.

## Nowhere safe as Israeli army overruns Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Israeli forces overran nearly all parts of the Gaza Strip on Sunday, as more than 700 Palestinians were reported to have been killed after Tel Aviv ended a week-long truce.

A statement from Israeli Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevi said that his forces were operating across north and south Gaza, with tanks and soldiers seen moving through the besieged territory over the weekend.

The death toll from Israel's relentless bombing has climbed above 15,500, including 280 medical staff, in more than eight weeks of Israeli aggression.

United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk voiced alarm that hundreds of thousands of Gazans "are being confined into ever smaller areas" in the southern of the territory.

"There is no safe place in Gaza," he said.

UN-OCHA said at least 160 Palestinian deaths were reported in two incidents in northern Gaza on Saturday: the bombing of a six-storey building in Jabalia refugee camp, and of an entire block in Gaza City.

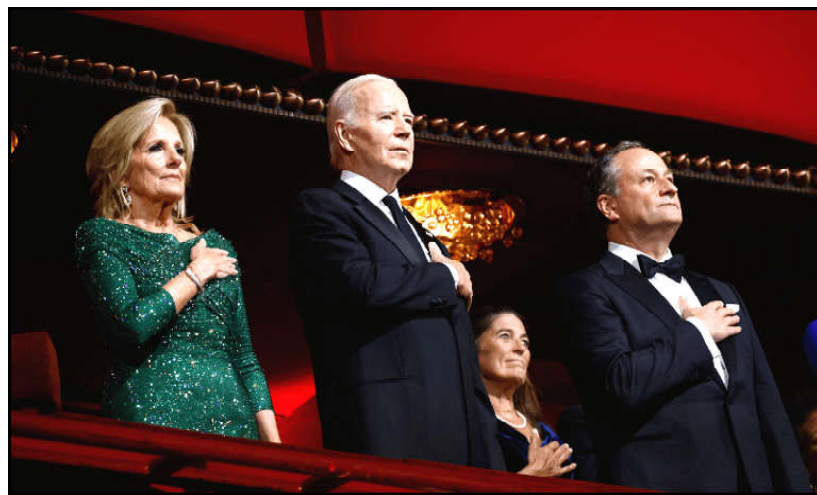
In a new estimate, OCHA said around 1.8 million people in Gaza, roughly 75 per cent of the population, had been displaced, many to overcrowded and unsanitary

shelters.

Jumana Murad said her son Mohammad, 19, was killed as he tried to help women and children out of a tent inside a school.

"A piece of shrapnel hit him in the head," she told AFP before bursting into tears. Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis overflowed with both the wounded and the dead.

Hospitals in the southern Gaza Strip have descended into chaos since the resumption of hostilities, and WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that some patients there were being treated on the floor, in conditions "unimaginable for the provision of health care".



US President Joe Biden and Jill Biden attend the 46th Kennedy Center Honors at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

## Cyprus pushes Gaza corridor idea; leader to visit Egypt, Jordan

**Monitoring Desk**  
NICOSIA: Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides will visit Egypt and Jordan on Tuesday as part of an initiative to establish a humanitarian aid corridor to Israeli-besieged Gaza.

Cyprus, the closest European Union member state to the Middle East, has offered to host and operate facilities for sustained aid directly into the Gaza Strip once hostilities between Israel and the Palestinian militant Hamas group cease.

Christodoulides planned to meet Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and King Abdullah of Jordan. There were "technical discussions" on the matter between Cypriot and Israeli officials on Sun-

day. The Cypriot plan is aimed at expanding capacity for humanitarian relief directly to the coastal Gaza Strip beyond limited deliveries being made through the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Palestinian enclave.

Such an aid corridor faces logistical, political and security challenges - Gaza has no port and its waters are shallow.

Britain, which sent 80 tonnes of Gaza-destined aid in the form of mostly blankets and tents to Cyprus last week, has offered watercraft able to access the coastline without the need for special infrastructure if the corridor ever materialises, a source with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

## Four killed in Philippines bomb attack

**Monitoring Desk**  
MARAWI: At least four people died and several others were wounded on Sunday in a bomb attack on a Catholic mass in the insurgency-plagued southern Philippines.

The blast, claimed by the militant Islamic State group, happened during a morning service at Mindanao State University's gymnasium in Marawi, the country's largest Muslim city, which was besieged by militant groups in 2017.

Police Lieutenant General Emmanuel Peralta said four people were killed and around 50 wounded in the blast from an improvised explosive device.

Photos posted on the Lanao del Sur provincial government's Facebook page showed several overturned plastic chairs, shattered glass and debris around a black patch on the floor of the gymnasium.

University student Chris Jurado, said that the explosion happened during the first Bible reading of the morning mass at 7am.

## Ukraine accuses Russia of killing surrendering soldiers

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine launched an inquiry on Sunday into what it said was an "execution" by Russia forces of two unarmed Ukrainian soldiers who had signalled their intention to surrender.

Ukrainian officials condemned the reported incident as a "war crime". There was no official reaction from Moscow.

On Saturday a short video, whose authenticity could be confirmed, was posted on Telegram showing two men coming out of

a shelter, one with his hands above his head, before lying on the ground in front of another group of soldiers.

This is followed by what appears to be gunfire, and rising smoke, before the video cuts off abruptly.

The public prosecutor's office in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donetsk said that according to "preliminary data", the images were filmed near the village of Stepevo, close to Avdiivka, an eastern town where fighting is raging.

## Palestinian student shot in US is paralysed, says family

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: One of the three college students of Palestinian descent who were shot in Vermont last month is paralysed from the chest down after a bullet lodged in his spine, the student's family said.

Hisham Awartani, a 20-year-old student at Brown University who grew up in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, was walking with two friends near the University of Vermont campus in Burlington on Nov 25 when police say 48-year-old



People move in a boat past partially submerged vehicles in a residential area following heavy rains ahead of Cyclone Michaung in Chennai, India.

## 'Failure' in psychiatric care of Paris attacker: French interior minister

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: There was a clear failure in the psychiatric care of the radicalised individual suffering from mental troubles who stabbed a German tourist to death in central Paris at the weekend, France's interior minister said on Monday.

The attack close to the Eiffel Tower has increased concerns in France over the risk of extremist attacks, particularly with the French capital now barely half a year away from hosting the 2024 summer Olympic Games.

The attacker was a Frenchman in his mid-20s born to a non-religious Iranian family but who had already done prison time for planning an attack and was known to the authorities as a radical with mental troubles. "There was clearly a failure, not from the point of view of his monitoring by the intelligence services, but a psychiatric failure," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told BFM TV, adding the attacker had an "acute mental illness".

## Afghan women protest against sectarian attacks

**Monitoring Desk**  
HERAT: Several women demonstrated in western Afghanistan on Sunday against sectarian attacks at the funeral of members of their community killed days before.

The women shouted, "Death to the murderers" and "We need security" during the funeral in Herat city's Jebrael area, Hussain Azimi, a member of the ulma, or council of religious scholars, said.

They were among several hundred people gathered to mourn six victims of the attack in Herat on Friday.

## Tens of thousands march for climate in Brussels

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: Tens of thousands of protesters marched in Brussels on Sunday to demand urgent action against climate change as world leaders gathered for crunch COP28 talks in the United Arab Emirates. "No to climate change, yes to system change" and "We want a liveable and healthy planet" were among the slogans on posters and placards.

The crowd braved low temperatures in the Belgian capital to the sound of drums and other musical entertainment following a call by the Climate Coalition, which brings together 90 civil society organisations.

## Karabakh refugees in Armenia face uncertainty and poverty in exile

**Monitoring Desk**  
MASIS: For the third time in her life, Elada Sargsyan is a refugee. Born in the Azerbaijani capital Baku, Sargsyan fled her hometown in 1988, aged 19, as the Soviet Union began to fall apart.

The city's once-large Armenian minority were driven out in violence triggered by the outbreak of ethnic conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous, primarily Armenian Christian territory within the mostly Muslim Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, which was soon to become an independent country.

Sargsyan and her family fled to Soviet Armenia,

then set up home in the village of Aknaghbyur in Nagorno-Karabakh, known as Agbulaq in Azerbaijan, despite the fact that the mountain region was in Azerbaijan and at war with the government in Baku.

In 2020, they lost another home, when Azerbaijan - by now closely allied with Armenians' bete noire, Turkey - reconquered much of Karabakh including their village in a second war. In September 2023, after Azerbaijan retook the remainder of Karabakh in a lightning offensive, prompting an almost total exodus, Sargsyan, by now 54, fled her home for a third time.

## China says a US Navy ship 'illegally intruded' into waters in the South China Sea

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: The Chinese military said that an American naval ship had "illegally intruded" on Monday into waters near the Second Thomas Shoal, the site of a hot territorial dispute between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea. A Chinese naval force was mobilized to track the USS Gabrielle Giffords during the operation, according to a statement from the People's Liberation Army Southern Theater. The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said the ship "was conducting routine operations in international waters ... consistent with international law." Chinese and Philippine naval and coast guard

ships have confronted each other repeatedly around the shoal in the Spratly Islands in recent months as China tries to prevent the Philippines from resupplying and repairing a rusting warship that it intentionally ran aground in 1999 to serve as a military outpost.

Dwarfed by China's military might, the Philippines has sought America's help in its multiple territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. agreed to an expansion of the U.S. military presence in the country early this year and launched joint sea and air patrols with the United States late last month.

## Floods kill more than 20 people in northern Tanzania

**Monitoring Desk**  
DAR ES SALAAM: At least 20 people have been killed by floods after heavy rain in the Manyara region of northern Tanzania, the ministry of health said on Sunday.

Severe flooding caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon has killed hundreds of people in Kenya and Somalia in recent weeks. The rains have also left a trail of destruction, ruining infrastructure like roads and submerging towns in East Africa, displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

"We are very shocked by this event," President Samia Suluhu Hassan said in a video message posted online by the Tanzanian ministry of health.

She directed security

agencies, the ministry of health and other relevant bodies to put in all efforts into ongoing search and rescue efforts to prevent more deaths.

The more than 20 people were killed in Katesh village in the Hanang district of Manyara, the president said. The heavy rain on Saturday night caused landslides in some areas of Mount Hanang, domestic media outlets reported, adding that the waters also swept away livestock.

Climate change is causing more intense and more frequent extreme weather events, scientists say.

In response, African leaders are pushing for new global taxes and changes to international financial institutions to help fund climate change action.

## Turkey's Erdogan says Israel's Netanyahu 'will be tried as war criminal'

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would eventually be tried as a war criminal over Israel's ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip, while slamming Western countries supporting Israel.

Turkey, which supports a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict, has sharply criticised Israel over its campaign in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas' rampage on Oct. 7. More than 15,500 people have been killed in the Israeli air and ground attacks, according to Gaza's health ministry. In a speech to an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) committee meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan said the Western nations supporting Israel were giving it "unconditional support to kill babies" and were complicit in its crimes.

"Beyond being a war criminal, Netanyahu, who is the butcher of Gaza right now, will be tried as the butcher of Gaza, just as Milosevic was tried," Erdogan said, in reference to Yugoslav ex-President Slobodan Milosevic who was tried for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes at a tribunal in The Hague. "Those who try to skip over the deaths of all those innocent people by using the excuse of Hamas have nothing left to say to humanity," he added, referring to Western powers, which he said were "blind and deaf".

Unlike most of its Western allies and some Gulf states, NATO member Turkey does not view Hamas as a terrorist group and hosts some of its members. Erdogan, whose ruling party has Islamist roots, said a so-called contact group of Muslim countries, which was formed by the OIC and Arab League last month to hold talks on Gaza with Western countries and others, would continue discussions until the fighting in Gaza stopped, but added more must be done.

"We must absolutely evaluate the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court (ICC) within this framework," he said, adding Israel's nuclear arsenal must not be forgotten.

Erdogan, who has long called for the United Nations Security Council to be reformed to be more inclusive, also said that the U.N had failed the test in Gaza and called for an urgent reform, repeating that the Security Council's five permanent members - the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France - did not represent the world.

"The sincere efforts of Secretary General (Antonio) Guterres were sabotaged by the Security Council members," he said.

## Eleven climbers killed as Indonesia volcano erupts, search on hold

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Eleven climbers were found dead in Indonesia on Monday following the eruption of the Marapi volcano in West Sumatra, a rescue official said, as a search to find 12 more missing was temporarily halted over safety concerns.

Three survivors were found on Monday along with the bodies of the 11 climbers, among 75 in the area at the time of Sunday's eruption, said Jodi Haryawan, spokesperson for the search and rescue team.

The 2,891 metre (9,485 ft) high volcano spewed ash as high as 3 km into the sky on Sunday.

Authorities raised the alert to the second-highest level and prohibited residents from going within 3 km of the crater.

Video footage showed a huge cloud of volcanic ash spread widely across the sky and cars and roads covered with ash.

A small eruption on Monday prompted the search to be suspended, Jodi said.

"It's too dangerous if we continue searching now," he said.

There were 49 climbers evacuated from the area earlier Monday and many were being treated for burns, he said.

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Delegates walk at the Dubai's Expo City during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education Qadri Bakhsh Baloch, DG NAB Zafar Iqbal Khan and other participants addressing at ceremony of speech competition about anti-corruption

## PM invites Emarati investors to explore Pakistan's conducive business market

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East North Africa region with an average annual trade of \$9 billion and urged the UAE investors to explore Pakistani market for new avenues.

In an interview with Gulf Today, he said Pakistan is planning a comprehensive investment promotion strategy in major countries including the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

PM Kakar said Pakistan's exports to the UAE include agriculture products, textiles and manpower, while the UAE exports petroleum, petrochemical products and hi-tech equipment to Pakistan.

The two countries also exchange services with each other. Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Financial technology are new areas of collaboration with much greater potential.

Pakistan-UAE bilateral trade during 2022-23 amounted to \$9 billion, he said.

He expressed satisfaction that Pakistan's exports to UAE surged to \$1.4 billion in fiscal year 2022-23, highest in the last five years.

On prospects of UAE's investment in Pakistan, he said attracting foreign investment in all sectors of Pakistan's economy was the government's top priority.

"Pakistan's Investment Policy has been designed to provide a comprehensive framework for creating a conducive business environment for attraction of Foreign Direct Investment from all parts of the world including the UAE," he said.

Currently, he said, there are over 1,000 multinational companies profitably operating in Pakistan, and for many, Pakistan is the most profitable part of their franchise.

Foreign companies, individuals, multinational corporations can own 100 per cent shares in locally incorporated or unincorporated firms, he added.

Stressing enhanced investment cooperation, the prime minister said the two countries could explore the areas such as agriculture, energy, mining, information technology, logistics and defence.

## Report on the state of women's shelters launched in Quetta

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George said that in every report published on the situation of human rights, Pakistan is far better than our neighbour country. He said that violence against women, violation of minorities' rights and child abuse in India are worse than any other country.

Khalil said like Pakistan no country exists in the world where women's rights have been ensured and also provided equal opportunities in every field.

The minister said we should learn from these reports and work jointly to move the country forward. He said that further efforts should be taken to provide an environment like home in Dar ul Amans. He said that women's right is equal across the globe and Islam is also talking about animal rights.

He said the Ministry of Human Rights would initiate training programs for staff deputed in Dar ul Amans to protect the rights of residents. Minister Khalil George said that women's shelters are an essential component of a comprehensive response to violence against women.

"The NCHR report on Dar ul Amans has revealed some very urgent issues. The availability and accessibility of women's shelters is an urgent matter," he added while stressing collaborative efforts to address these issues.

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and UN Women, launched "More than Shelters, Needs Assessment of Dar ul Amans and Shelters in Pakistan" - a comprehensive report on the state of women's shelters, in Dar ul Amans, in Pakistan.

## President stresses upon attitudinal change as key to growth of any sector in economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday emphasized that attitudinal change in any sector of the economy could lead to its growth and development including the production and export of world famed Pakistani indigenous Basmati rice.

The president, elaborating his viewpoint, said that technological and scientific research and inputs would pave way for the latest innovations in the agriculture sector and the rice exporters should utilize all available tools to enhance their yield by supplementing the country's exports.

He was addressing the Biryani Festival and presenting of REAP journal organized by the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The event was attended by the REAP office bearers, members of the diplomatic corps, exporters, traders and mediapersons.

The president underlined the need for inclusion and encouragement of women in the agriculture sector as the country was looking towards such initiatives, leading towards further women empowerment. "With such changes in attitude, they can stimulate changes in the country's economy," he added.

The president said that with proper scientific tools and knowledge, Pakistan could attain food autarky and cited Netherlands that was 19 percent smaller than Pakistan in size but had become the second largest food exporter in the world owing to usage of latest technology and research.

Appreciating the role of REAP in boosting country's exports and the national economy, the president said that with organizing of festivals and road shows in different countries, they were providing huge business opportunities to the local Basmati rice growers and exporters.

He also suggested for exploring the organic cultivation of rice crop as the world including Pakistan were facing water scarcity.

He opined that if the world resources were properly utilized, about 7 billion world's population could be fed properly and regretted that along with the global trade, the exploitation of population and accumulation of wealth also continued.

He said that hoarding of food stuff was also a reason which led to food crises and it could be ended if priorities across the globe were set, adding that only \$1 trillion could be suffice to address the food scarcity in the world.

Contrary to it, the Islamic teachings had made the wealth a source for channeling the uplift of entire community, leading to well being of the human beings, he added.

The president also stressed upon measures to water conservation in the agri-sector, particularly during the rice cultivation as it was a water intensive crop. Besides, value addition products based upon rice crop, the exporters could increase Basmati outreach to different parts of the world, he said, and lauded REAP for projecting the soft image of Pakistan and promoting their culture, industry and livelihood. He said that certain things in the agriculture sector were possible and doable and expressed the optimism that the country would soon rise economically.

Earlier, Chairman REAP, Chela Ram Kelwani, in his address, highlighted the contribution of the association in the country's exports.



GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardani Khan Domki presenting souvenir to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar.

## Nutrition Directorate set up to tackle food related issues in Balochistan: Security Health

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan here on Monday said that Balochistan was the first province where a nutrition directorate has been established to handle nutrition related issues. He expressed these views while chairing the meeting regarding World Food Program (WFP). The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Health Arif Khan, Provincial Head World Food Program Dr. Faria Ehsan, Program Policy Officer World Food Program Dr. Shahid Riaz Baloch, Mazhar Baloch, Planning Officer Dr. Shakir, Program Associate Ahsan, World Food Program Security and Liaison Officer Ghulam Haider and Staff Officer Secretary Health

Shaukat Baloch. Provincial Head World Food Program Dr. Faria Ehsan gave a comprehensive briefing to Health Secretary on the ongoing projects in Balochistan and told that the WFP was focusing on strengthening health systems through community midwives through unique development programs and nutrition (Preventive and supplementation). The WFP is expanding its unique development program from the existing 72 state-of-the-art facilities across Balochistan by 31 March 2024, she said. The Secretary Health said that there was a need to integrate the initiatives of various UN agencies related to nutrition in Balochistan.

## MQM delegation meeting with CEC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) expressed concerns on constituencies and level playing field before Election Commission (EC). A delegation of MQM met the Chief Election Commissioner here in Islamabad and expressed their concerns. The visiting delegation included Farooq Sattar, Khalid Maqbool, Javed Hanif and Abdul Hafeez. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that under the supervision of Sikandar Sultan Raja.

## Member CMIT Umeed visits ongoing development projects in Naseerabad

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Member Chief Minister Inspection Team, Umeed Ali Khokhar visited several ongoing development projects in Naseerabad district on Monday.

During the visit, he inspected Mir Hasan road, new hospital, Public Health Engineering scheme of Goth Kora Khan, Dera Murad Jamali Eastern bypass road, tough tiles, street lights, on farm water management and other schemes in the area.

Executive Engineers Abdul Rehman Kakar, Chakar Khan Khataq, Muhammad Kazim Luni, Assistant Director Local Government Ahmed Nawaz Jatak and Sub-Engineer Syed Haider Shah briefed the member CMIT about details of the projects of their respective departments. The Member CMIT directed them to complete the projects ensuring quality of work.

## Customs Quetta seizes smuggled goods worth Rs 10 bln

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Customs recovered goods of smuggling worth 10 billion rupees after foiling bids of smuggling during the last 5 months in respective areas of Balochistan.

Spokesperson of Pakistan Customs Balochistan Superintendent Dr. Atta Bareach on Monday said that the value of the goods seized during the entire period was 10 billion rupees, never before has such a large amount of contraband been recovered in such a short period.

He said that about Rs 2.22 billion worth of goods were seized in October, seizure of smuggling goods worth Rs 3.40 billion were recovered in November by respective areas of Balochistan.

These seized smuggling goods including Chalia, Panprag, cloth, tires, cigarettes, non-customs paid vehicles, sugar, urea, auto parts, medicine and other things, he said.

## Masood calls Pak, American physicians 'valuable asset'

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, has lauded the immense contributions made by the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) towards strengthening Pakistan's healthcare system as well as in dealing with other challenges, including floods.

"Our doctors have succeeded in the United States beyond imagination—it is a matter of pride for Pakistan and the diaspora community," he said at the 10th annual banquet of APPNA's Delaware Valley Chapter, which represents Pakistani doctors' of Eastern Pennsylvania, Upper Delaware and South New Jersey.

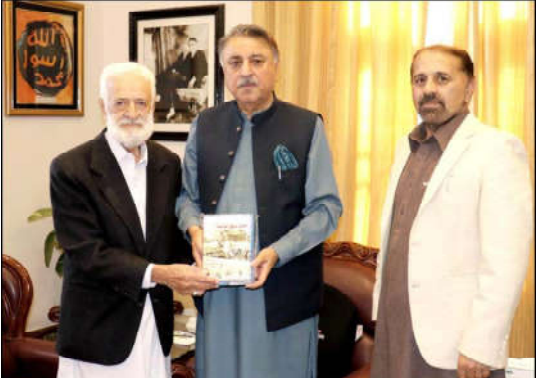
The ambassador said Pakistani-American physicians were a valuable asset of Pakistan and the United States.

Pakistan, he said, has problems, but they will be just a blip in the country's long history. "We will negotiate a transition. We have the wherewithal to do that."

While Pakistan had lagged behind in some areas, it had also progressed in many walks of life, Masood Khan pointed out.

"Our human capital is increasing," he said, adding this was not the time for the Pakistani community to be polarized. This, he added, was a moment to consolidate gains and to be part of the United States' mainstream.

"You should not be on the fringes. You should be in the mainstream because you have the requisite competencies to do that," he told the gathering.



QUETTA: Writer Arbab Usman Khan Kasi presenting his book to Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

## People get benefits after completion of projects in Balochistan: Dashti

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Secretary Communications and Works (C & W) Kamber Dashti on Monday said that people of the province would get benefits soon after the completion of ongoing projects in Quetta and other areas.

He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting held regarding reviewing the progress of ongoing development projects in Quetta District Building Sector.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Building Quetta Zone Ayub Khan Deputy Secretary Technical Nimatullah, and Engineer Officers of Quetta District Building Zone.

In the meeting, the Engineer Officers of Quetta District gave a detailed briefing to the Secretary, Communications and Works regarding the progress of the ongoing projects.

Secretary C & W Kamber Dashti said that the development projects of Quetta city have been stalled due to various reasons, saying that projects are in the final stages of completion due to strict continuous monitoring.

He said that the people of the entire province would get the fruits of the ongoing projects after their completion.

He also directed to accelerate works of ongoing projects to complete them with standard soon.

The Secretary also instructed that all the financial and technical problems related to the ongoing development projects should be resolved as soon as possible.

## Rana says: PML-N ready for seat adjustment with JUI-F, other parties

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab President Rana Sanaullah Khan has said that his party is fully prepared to contest upcoming general elections as its workers, voters and supporters are excited to actively participate.

Talking to media here on Monday, he said "We are ready to fulfill the promise of country's development made by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Oct 21".

## Justice Mazhar Akbar Naqvi submitted reply to Registrar's notice

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court Justice Mazhar Akbar Naqvi has submitted a reply to the notice of Registrar Supreme Court on the matter of complaint in the Supreme Judicial Council.

Justice Mazhar Naqvi also sent the copy of the reply to the 3-member committee of the Supreme Court, in which it has been said that the registrar should not have the authority to follow the case or not. Registrar's notice has no constitutional or legal status.

He said that I had filed two constitutional petitions in the Supreme Court on November 20 and 30 but my petitions have not been numbered so far.

Justice Mazhar Naqvi said that a miscellaneous application was also filed to set the constitutional petitions early but the case was not filed. Not setting the constitutional petitions is a violation of the Practice and Procedure Law. These constitutional petitions should be placed before a 3-member committee and both my constitutional petitions should be fixed for hearing.

## ANP informs CEC about political transfers and postings, code of conduct violations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Seasoned politician and ANP leader Mian Ifthikhar Hussain on Monday said they had informed Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja about the repeated code of conduct violations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying any continuation of the ongoing practices would be considered as pre-poll rigging.

He was talking to reporters after a meeting with the chief election commissioner (CEC) on a day which also saw the MQM presenting their case about alleged injustices in the new delimitations and the support being extending to the PPP by the caretaker government in Sindh.

Hussain said his party had especially pointed to the transfer and posting of district administration officers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which, according to him, were politically-motivated and being carried out under a special agenda.

The deputy commissioners were pressing politicians for joining the particular parties to get favourable transfers and postings, he mentioned.

Demanding posting of impartial officials, he said the ANP wanted free and fair polls according to the schedule announced by the ECP (Election Commission of Pakistan).

## Senate committee approves student union bill

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senate Committee for Education on Monday approved the bill for the restoration of student organizations in the federal educational institutions. Irfan Siddiqui presided over the Senate Committee for Education and approved the bill for the restoration of student organizations at the federal universities and colleges. The meeting members considered a bill for the legislation on the student union in the education institutions in the federal.

The chairman committee expressed displeasure over the absence of the education secretary and education minister and warned them to attend.



QUETTA: Balochistan Civil Secretariat Officers Welfare Association President, Abdul Malik Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

## Shehbaz promises equitable development, argues for Charter of Economy

LAHORE (INP): Shehbaz Sharif – the PML-N president and a former prime minister – on Monday promised an equitable development across Pakistan and again presented the proposal of signing a Charter of Economy – an idea that is based upon the Charter of Democracy (CoD) inked for two political rivals Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif back in 2006 to jointly fight for civilian supremacy in Pakistan.

Only a consensus-based national manifesto can rescue Pakistan from the prevailing quagmire, he said about the suggestion he introduced as the leader of opposition during the PTI government while noting that the entire had reached an agreement on the offer.

The former prime minister asked the people to give a clear mandate [majority] in the February 8 elections and said they would work under the leader of Nawaz after a successful campaign as he had always delivered on the economic front.

Shehbaz mentioned that economy would be vitalised through policy actions, not political and emotional statements, as he promised that the marginalised segments of the society – workers, daily-wage labourers, women and others – were to be the PML-N focus, if voted into power.



QUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan presiding over a meeting regarding World Food Program.